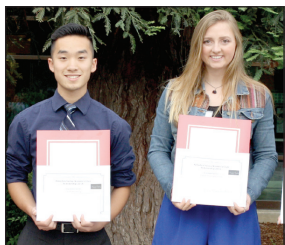
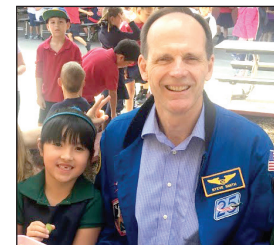


**ALMADEN VALLEY  
WOMEN'S CLUB  
ANNOUNCES  
SCHOLARSHIP, LOGO  
WINNERS - PAGE 4**



**PARENTS - LET THE ALMADEN TIMES  
PRINT A FREE CONGRATULATORY  
MESSAGE TO YOUR GRADS! SEE PAGE 4**

**SIMONDS' SCHOOL  
STUDENTS CELEBRATE  
SCHOOL'S 50TH  
ANNIVERSARY WITH  
'HERO DAY' - PAGE 17**



JUNE 3-JUNE 16, 2016 ■ VOL. 29, NO. 12

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## MEASURES FORUM

L-R: Moderator **Bob Strain**, **Jeff Cardenas** and **Mark Hinkle**: Jeff Cardenas spoke in support of the proposed \$12 parcel tax benefitting San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority. Mark Hinkle, president of the Silicon Valley Taxpayers Association, spoke against it. *Photo by Lorraine Gabbert*



## City council candidates debate local issues

By Lorraine Gabbert  
Senior Staff Writer

Councilmember Johnny Khamis debated local issues with challenger J. Michael Sodergren, recently at the Almaden Valley Community Association's Voters' Forum.

"I get up every day excited to go to work," says Khamis. Although he worked as a financial advisor for 19 years, Khamis says serving as a councilmember has been the most rewarding experience of his life. "I wake up trying to help the community and go to sleep thinking I did," he says, "and I hope I have."

While in office, Khamis says he



(l to r) AVCA Director **Bob Strain**, Councilmember **Johnny Khamis** and Challenger **J. Michael Sodergren**: The future of San Jose's police, jobs, homeless and infrastructure were discussed at an AVCA forum. *Photo by Lorraine Gabbert*

has concentrated on public safety, community pride and fiscal responsibility. He succeeded in attaining funding to open the South San Jose police substation, which is currently used as a site to train police academy officers. He

also supports the Community Service Officer Program, mobile fingerprinting and the Safe Communities MultiFamily Housing Pilot Program designed to reduce crime and promote a

See *DEBATE*, page 10

## Ballot measures strongly debated at AVCA forum

By Lorraine Gabbert  
Senior Staff Writer

Opposing speakers fervently debated local ballot measures at a recent Almaden Valley Community Association forum.

### Measure AA

Jeff Cardenas, Santa Clara County Coordinator at 'Yes on Measure AA,' spoke in support of the proposed \$12 parcel tax benefitting San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority. "The wetlands provide an important habitat to fish and wildlife. We have restored 40,000 acres and this parcel tax would restore 30,000

additional acres, leveraging federal, state and public dollars," says Cardenas.

Mark Hinkle, President of the Silicon Valley Taxpayers Association, spoke against it. "How many people think their taxes are too low, just right or too much?" says Hinkle. "If you think your taxes are too low, by all means consider voting for Measure AA, but if you think they're too much or just right, vote no." Hinkle believes that the San Francisco Bay Authority, rather than cleaning up the bay, will create some fancy new

See *MEASURES*, page 20

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## This Week:

### LOCAL SPORTS

Vision Girls soccer team brings home first place: **PAGE 8**

### ADVICE

Hopefully, your attorney won't need to withdraw from your case: **PAGE 14**

### COMMUNITY

Bus trip gives students, educators a voice in Sacramento: **PAGE 15**



### ↑ FILM REVIEW

Jean Grey is the real star of 'X-Men: Apocalypse': **PAGE 21**

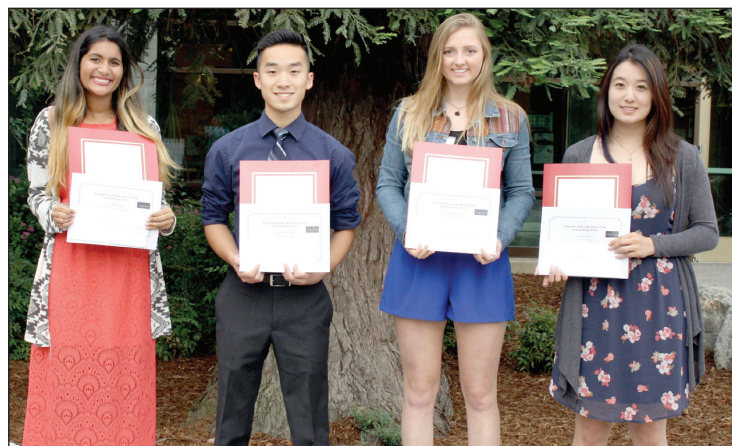
### ALSO

Realtor Guide: **PAGE 22**

Worship Guide: **PAGE 18**

# Valley Currents

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



Scholarship winners (l to r) Niveditha Lakshminarayanan, Jonathan Pang, Sierra Thompson-Klima, and Esther Wang.

## Almaden Valley Women's Club announces scholarship and logo award winners

By Linda Stone  
*Special to the Times*

Anticipation was high at the award ceremony for the winners of the Almaden Valley Women's Club scholarship and logo contest.

Proud parents and relatives filled the room at the Almaden Community Center on May 5. Competition was stiff with more than 100 logo design entries received and 25 scholarship applicants submitted, all from local area schools.

The scholarship awards are open to graduating high school seniors who will attend an accredited two or four-year university or college as first time freshmen in the fall of 2017. Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.3 and reside within the 95120 zip code. Winners are selected based on outstanding volunteer experience, academic performance, school activities, letters of recommenda-

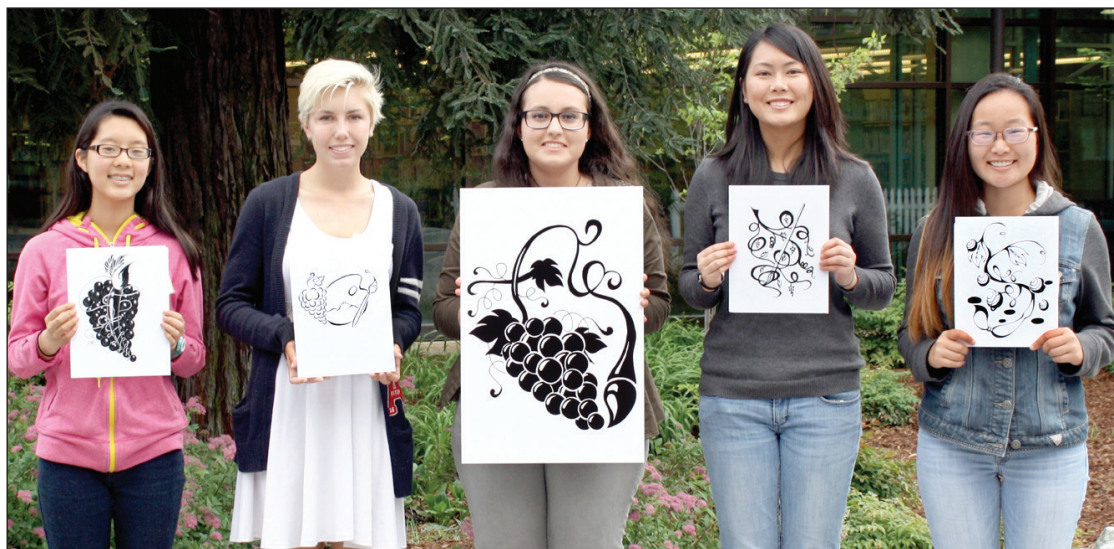
tion, and personal essay.

#### Scholarship winners

Sierra Thompson-Klima, a Leland High School student, saw a need for youth participation in community volunteer events and created a field hockey referee team. "It allows them to give back to community while their confidence level goes up," said Klima. "It challenges them to go out in the community," she said. The team has tripled in size since its inception.

Homeschooler Johnathan Pang, has a passion for helping special needs children. For the past two years, he has volunteered for Joni and Friends, a family day retreat in the Santa Cruz mountains. "We take the kids off their hands for the week," said Pang. "Parents can relax; go to boardwalk, and the beach," he said. Pang also travels to Mexico to build homes for the disadvantaged.

#### Logo contest winner



Logo winners (l to r) Jacqueline Toh, Galen Ducker, Tiffani Ebrahimi, (1st place winner), Diana Wong, and Miki Kinoshita.



## A message to the parents of graduating seniors!

Almaden Parents may submit a 25-35 word congratulations message for your graduating senior which will be included in the next issue of the *Almaden Times*!

Simply email your **FREE** congratulatory message to:  
[editorial@timesmediainc.com](mailto:editorial@timesmediainc.com).

This year's logo design competition winner is Tiffany Ebrahimi, a Leland High School senior. Her drawing will appear on festival posters and wine and beer glasses. Ebrahimi's logo was selected from more than 100 submissions received from local schools and studios.

Ebrahimi has been drawing and painting since the fifth grade. For inspiration, she searched online for ideas as well as reviewed prior year's entrants. Ebrahimi plans are to attend medical school and become an ophthalmologist.

In addition to the awards, State Senator Jim Beall, District 15, gave each student a Senatorial Merit Certificate of Recognition

for their commitment to learning and public service.

Of course none of this would happen if it weren't for the club's major fundraiser, the Almaden Valley Art & Wine Festival. It has the distinction of being one of the oldest, continuously held festivals in California attracting an average attendance of more than 20,000 people for the one day event.

Club president, Carina Johnson said that the club's goals for the festival are the same today as they were as its festival's inception in 1976, to have a place where family can spend the day together, a place for residents to come and be thankful for the Almaden community, a place where local talent is promoted and a festival that would generate funds for schools and provide grants for the Almaden and San Jose communities. "Attendance at our festival supports our club's mission to give back to our community," said Johnson.

This year's 40th Annual Almaden Valley Art & Wine Festival will be held Sunday, Sept. 11, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Almaden Lake Park.

*Editor's note: The Almaden Valley Women's Club is seeking women who live or work in the 95118, 95120 & 95123 zip codes to join for community support, networking, education, community involvement and friendship. For more information about the festival or club, visit [www.almaden-women.org](http://www.almaden-women.org).*

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Times Media, Inc. / (408) 494-7000

PUBLISHER / CEO: WILLIAM BELLOU  
[williamb@timesmediainc.com](mailto:williamb@timesmediainc.com)

SR. ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE: BRIGITTE JONES  
[brigitte@timesmediainc.com](mailto:brigitte@timesmediainc.com)

STAFF WRITERS: LORRAINE GABBERT,  
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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- Spacious dining area adjacent to kitchen with tile floors, recessed lighting and an arched doorway to Living room
- Open Living room with vaulted ceilings gives this room a grand appearance and features hardwood floors, recessed lighting, tile fireplace and windows on either side allow natural light to flood this room
- Powder room with stately pedestal sink and tile floors
- Oversized rear patio is beautifully manicured making this the perfect place for summer entertaining

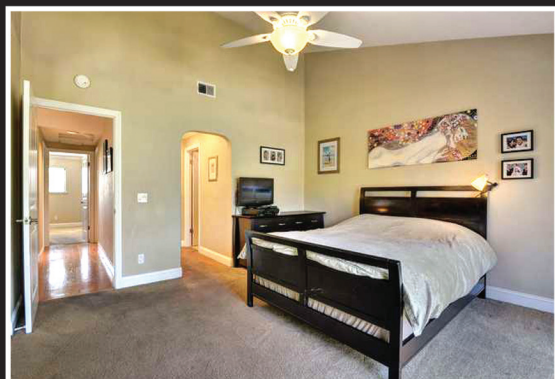
**Second level**

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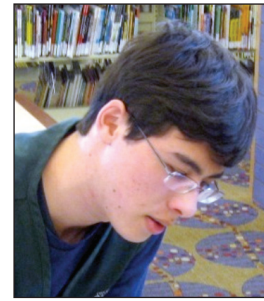
## Eric Wang voted 'Volunteer of the Year'

By Sean Eastwood  
Times staff writer

Eric Wang, Almaden Branch Library's math tutor has been nominated "Volunteer of the Year."

Every year, each of the twenty-four San Jose branches elects a volunteer they want to acknowledge as their Volunteer of the Year. From these nominees, one volunteer is selected for system-wide recognition as San Jose Public Library's Volunteer of the Year.

Eric helps K-12 students one-on-one every week with any of their mathematics chal-



Eric Wang

lenges. The library staff stated that he deserves special recognition due to his merits in versatility, dedication, and management skills.

Eric is a versatile tutor who helps in math subjects ranging from elementary to upper high school. Eric's pleasant personality makes customers of all ages feel at ease.

Eric offers tutoring year-round and recruits and selects other teen volunteers to assist in the library's tutoring program to expand the number of students for the program.



Vision Red Team Members: (Left to Right) - Back Row, Head Coach Lisa Lubke, Sophie Pace, Maddie Lewis, Lisa Lynn, Lauren Guerra, Callie Fitch, Jessica Simms, Thanairi Guzman, Amy Lynn, Rachel Welch, Sophie Guy, Front Row, Assistant Coach Greg Vasquez, Claire Amistoso, Faith Demaree, Leah Loftus, Emily Keller, Lindsay Arenson, Assistant Coach Frank Guzman (not shown Miranda Thompson)

## Vision Girls soccer team brings home 1st place

The U15 Girls Vision Red soccer team finished first place at the Rogue Memorial Challenge held in Oregon during the Memorial Day weekend.

They fought their way to the final championship game through several tough teams. They went into the finals undefeated, winning all four of their preliminary games.

The final went into overtime and then

penalty kicks, and Vision was able to prevail. They capped off a great Spring season; second place in the Norcal Gold U16 bracket and semi-finals in State Cup.

The Vision 00 Girls are always looking for strong committed players to join the organization. Contact Amy Keller by email for additional information [Amykeller@hotmail.com](mailto:Amykeller@hotmail.com)



Left to right top row: Dwight Powery, Assistant Coach, Ethan Schweizer, William Whitman, Aiden Peck, Anthony Stoopenkoff, Alex Stoopenkoff, Assistant Coach, Chris Denker, Head Coach. Left to right front row: Keaton Cooper, Ethan Chang, Jack Olson, Rex Denker, Miles Robers.

## Almaden NJB All-Net team wins Championship

After facing a tough opponent in the final game of the season the Almaden 5th grade All-Net boys eaked out a win to secure the Silicon Valley Division 1 All-Net Championship. It was the perfect ending to a remarkable season - the team is undefeated with

14 straight wins. Says Coach Chris Denker, "I am so proud of these boys," said Coach Chris Denker. "We had to deal with some adversity, ups and downs, injury, fouls, missed shots, and a good opponent," he said. "We fought through it all and won a tough game."

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## Times Election 2016

## Debate

Continued from page 1

high quality of life in low-income neighborhoods.

Sodergren, a telecommunications specialist, says he joined the race because he feels strongly about banning the influence of money and powerbrokers on government. He envisions campaigns in which candidates take neither money nor endorsements from supporters. "The idea is to be accountable to each vote equally," he says.

However, money became an issue when Sodergren prepared to file his Candidate Statement of Qualifications for printing in the Santa Clara County Voter's Sample Ballot. For District 10, the deposit towards printing charges is \$2200, so Sodergren's remains blank.

"I'm very engaged in what's going on locally," Sodergren says, "and I really feel we can do much better than we've done."

Six questions were posed to the candidates by moderator Bob Strain focusing on police, homelessness, jobs/housing imbalance, unfunded liabilities and infrastructure.

**Q1: The San Jose City Police remain at about two-thirds their historic staffing. What would you do to solve this problem?**

Sodergren says that the city failed to work out a structural budget issue with its employees and it went downhill from there. "Unfortunately the process was pretty brutal and we damaged trust. We're down to 800 sworn officers on our streets. We don't have a problem—we have a crisis."

"The mayor and city council came up with an agreement and the unions accepted it," says Khamis, "Police officers were leaving...the tension...and their wages weren't as good as in other areas. All 11 unions are now onboard with fixing Measure B. We hope the situation with our police officers starts to get better."

To retain police officers, says Khamis, the city



Almaden residents turned out to hear Khamis and Sodergren state their positions on local issues.

has restored their 10 percent pay cut and granted them a five percent bonus for staying on the force this year. In addition, funding has been allocated for 56 community service officers and the police academy is accepting military service experience in lieu of a two-year college degree.

**Q2: A high concentration of homeless people represents a costly problem. What is your solution?**

Khamis says the city council has dedicated millions of dollars towards housing, in addition to having \$3.5 million allocated in this year's budget. The city has also purchased emergency shelters, like the Plaza Hotel downtown and initiated a trial program with churches to house 15 homeless people for 30-day periods. "It's been wildly successful," says Khamis, "and Pierluigi Oliverio, the mayor and I wrote letters looking to expand the program." Khamis says he's also pushing the county to institute Laura's Law.

Sodergren says that in addition to the city's current homeless population, people residing in mobile home parks will become homeless due to redevelopment plans. "If you live in a mobile home park near mass transit, you're in the crosshairs," he says.

**Q3: How will you restore an appropriate ratio of housing and jobs?**

"San Jose's a bedroom community," says

Sodergren, "From a tax standpoint, that's a burden on San Jose and we need to increase the business base. There's a new model in the 2040 plan, but it will be painful to get to the point where we have equity and it will look very different."

Khamis says that when corporations set up shop elsewhere, they pay taxes elsewhere. "The city only gets 12 cents on every dollar for property taxes, so houses actually lose money for the city," he says, "while corporations make money for the city." Khamis says that he voted for tax incentives to bring in Samsung, Apple and international flights. "We were very successful bringing in a lot of new companies during my tenure," he says, "and I want to continue to do that."

**Q4: A long-term problem for the city is unfunded pension and healthcare liabilities for thousands of retirees. How can we fulfill these commitments?**

Khamis acknowledges that even after Measure B is resolved, unfunded pensions will continue to be a liability. "There's \$30 million more in this year's budget to pay for pensions than last year," he says, "It was \$299 million last year, so our pension liability is still growing at a phenomenal rate." Khamis says that although the city has negotiated with the unions not to pay retiree healthcare in the future, there still will be a huge unfunded liability. "If our economy starts to tank, we're going to be back in the same place we were a few years back," he says, "and that's my biggest fear. I have been the voice for fiscal responsibility on the city council and will continue to look for ways to save money."

"There's a philosophy you have to have when dealing with negotiations," says Sodergren, "The reason we got into the problem we did is because negotiations broke down." Sodergren says he stands by the city council's decision to reverse its position on Measure B. "I think you have to have a council committed to never being at war with the people that serve the people of San Jose," he says. "I'm not going to go to the city attorney's office to solve problems."

**Q5: Our city infrastructure represents another unfunded liability. Most of the city streets have a major deficit in their maintenance. The sewer pipes are old and in some cases, crumbling. How will you address this set of liabilities?**

"We have an infrastructure that's going to fail," says Sodergren, "and we don't want a San Bruno. We can make sure we work with our business partners to enforce their responsibilities to fix their part of the infrastructures. But the part that's ours...we can't let our roads deteriorate and right now we're on an unsustainable path."

"We have more than \$500 million in unfunded street repairs," says Khamis, "There is no one who has fought harder for pavement than me." Regarding sewers, Khamis says that sewer fees probably won't go up this year, but will when they do larger projects.

**Q6: What are your prescriptions for eliminating the City's structural deficit?**

Khamis says he'd like to pay off the city's debts and sell properties such as the Hayes Mansion, which costs the city \$2.6 million a year in fees, as well as some golf courses. "There are programs I never would've agreed to," he says. "There's a new office of immigration. There are services we provide that frankly don't belong in the City of San Jose, or at least shouldn't be a core priority." Khamis says that his biggest con-

cerns are safety, streets, public libraries and parks. "I'll continue to push for funding for those first," he says, "before we fund any new community buildings or cultural centers."

"The city has done nothing but lose ground relative to tax revenues," says Sodergren. "A lot of us like to buy things from Amazon, so the box stores aren't able to contribute what they'd like to in sales tax revenue and that's not getting any better. We're okay with UPS delivering a six-ounce ink cartridge via a 20-ton truck. With all the state and federal taxes we pay, are we truly getting what we should be for this region given its immense contribution?"

Next, the candidates were posed questions from the audience:

**Q: How committed are you to Coyote Valley and the preservation of open spaces?**

"I hope we never develop that area," says Sodergren, "It's beautiful and there are wildlife paths. Sodergren says he's concerned that Gavilan College is constructing their North Campus there now and sees it as a tipping point to developing the area. "I don't want to see our hills with housing sprawling all the way up them," he says, "I don't want to see Coyote Valley developed. I think the city's relationship with developers is far too cozy."

"I have not allowed the urban reserve to be developed," says Khamis, "I am not in favor of developing foothills, but there is a piece of Coyote Valley we are developing into a college. There is an area owned by industry where they may be putting in marijuana collectives...and when it comes, I'll consider it then."

**Q: VTA's Hwy 85 policy board agreed to an exclusive transit lane for buses only. Do you support this? What will you do to get another lane for cars?**

"I'm the poster child for Hwy 85 expansion," says Khamis. "We're in back and forth lawsuits with VTA. We can tell them we're going to put buses on there, but in the future we can change the paint on it if it doesn't work out for us."

Sodergren says he doesn't see how there would be room on Hwy 85 to put in a bus lane.

**Q: What are your positions on the Guadalupe Mines Landfill being in a residential area?**

"We need to close it and I pledge to do that," says Sodergren, "It can continue as a recycling location, but not as a landfill." Sodergren suggests San Jose use Newbie Island Landfill instead. "Newbie Island is servicing Milpitas until 2017," he says, "and needs a permit to continue to after that."

"The landfill is operating legally and has been there since 1929," says Khamis. "If we close it, the garbage has to go elsewhere." Khamis says he doesn't want San Jose to end up like Milpitas, planning to truck their garbage 22 miles away.

**Q: Since mobile homes are a cheaper form of housing, are you committed to ensuring they're not converted to other land uses?**

"People have a right to do something with their land," says Khamis. "But compensation is something the city can do for the owner of the mobile home park."

"Anyone who reads the city's 2040 plan can see that all the mobile home parks are in the crosshairs," says Sodergren. "It does require the city to rezone it to convert it to other uses, so it's not that we have no power. We're talking about people's homes. We have to make sure we're not making people homeless by rezoning."

In their wrap-ups, the candidates both sited fiscal responsibility and public safety as their top priorities.

"We're in a real bind," says Sodergren, "We're spending overtime with our police officers right now to fill the gap. I don't want to see them stressed out and overtired and something bad happen."

"I'm working hard for you every day," says Khamis, "I love my job so I want you to elect me again." Khamis says he would also like to continue working on the roads budget and hopes to create more soccer fields near Pioneer High School.



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Times Feature

# Hopefully, your attorney will not need to withdraw from your case

By Donald J. DeVries  
*Special to the Times*

This week's question:

I have a court case going on and my attorney is very good. However, I am a little behind in my bill that I owe him and he is threatening to withdraw from representing me. Can he do that? That's just not right.

**Nikki N.**

*Almaden Valley*

Dear Nikki:

I am sorry to hear about your problem, Nikki, but maybe with a little extra effort you can both work it out. I'm sure he wants to retain a good client and you have already stated in effect that you want to retain him as your lawyer.

You did not specify what kind of court case it is, but many of these principles are the same in many different kinds of court cases.

I would suggest that you talk it over with him, at least by telephone but better yet in his office. And do this very soon. Be as forthright as you can be and as honest and straightforward as you can be. Perhaps a flexible payment plan will work.

You might also think about mediation, a topic that was covered in this column a few weeks ago.

If all settlement efforts fail, yes, he has a right to withdraw from representing you for your failure to abide by your fee agreement. I would assume that your financial fee agreement is in writing, since it ordinarily should be in writing. If you do agree to part ways, that agreement should take place by a written

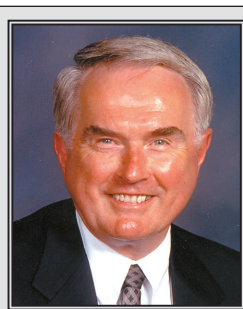
consent under California Code of Civil Procedure §284(1).

By the way, you can look up all of the references like the one in the last sentence by going to your favorite online search engine and entering the number after "California Code of Civil Procedure" and then the number. Make sure it is a California state form and not a county or "local" court form. They are quite different.

If you do not reach an agreement to go your separate ways, he can file a Motion to Withdraw with the Court. That motion would be set for a Court hearing and you would be provided notice to attend.

If the motion is granted by the judge, an "Order Granting Attorney's Motion to be Relieved as Counsel—Civil" would be signed after the hearing and filed with the Court. Notice of Order would be sent and filed so that all parties had official Notice of the Order. More about that below.

The Order Granting Attorney's Motion to be Relieved as Counsel—Civil would contain many key provisions, such as the motion coming on regularly for hearing at the Courthouse on that date and the names of the people present at the hearing. The Order would also state that the attorney has shown sufficient reasons why the motion procedure was utilized instead of a consent document having been filed.



## Ask The Lawyer

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

For past articles,  
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The Order Granting Attorney's Motion to be Relieved as Counsel—Civil would also provide for your last known address so that proper service of documents in the future could be given to you. If any future court dates are already set, they would also be stated and the nature of same. If a trial date is already set in your case, the date and time would be stated.

The Order Granting Attorney's Motion to be Relieved as Counsel—Civil would also state that if you are acting on behalf of one of the following types of parties you would need to find a new attorney for that party: a guardian,

a conservator, a trustee, a personal representative, a probate fiduciary, a corporation, a guardian ad litem, and/or an unincorporated association. In other words, unless you are

an attorney, you cannot represent any of those types of individuals since you are presumably not an attorney.

You and our other *Almaden Times* readers might very well review a complete sample order by going online to California State Court Forms and enter MC-053. Again, this is called "Order Granting Attorney's Motion to be Relieved as Counsel—Civil". This is a PDF form that often the Court will utilize in situations like this.

Best wishes in your working things out, Nikki. I believe with a little extra effort on both sides that you can reach a satisfactory compromise.

**Donald J. DeVries**

*Almaden Valley*

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

## Athenna sings the National Anthem at Padres vs. Giants baseball game

By Sean Eastwood

*Times staff writer*



Leland High School senior, Athenna Crosby, accepted an invitation to sing the National Anthem at the Padres vs. Giants game on May 19 in San Diego.

"It was an incredible opportunity," said Athenna. "How many people get to be that close to the field at a Major League baseball game?"

Athenna, a loyal Giants fan, said the Padres were welcoming and friendly. "I definitely became a fan of them as well. It was awesome getting to see those two teams play! It was a great game."

Athenna will be representing California at the 34th Miss Teen USA pageant, which will be held at The Venetian Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada on July 30, 2016.



Almaden Senior Program Spring Fashion Show models (l to r) are: Marlene Duffin, Diana Bluer, Geeta Maniar, Tess Crescini, Shyla Deshpande, Suvira Virmani, Marilyn McMahan, Bernice Duech, Georgiana Hobbs, Valerie Klaus, Josie Supencheck, Syamala Voruganti. Photo by Bill Hubka

## Almaden Community Center Spring Fashion Show recap

The Almaden Senior Program hosted the Spring Fashion Show on May 17.

The event, co-chaired by Jeanne Sanders, included 12 lady volunteers modeling an array of outfits from the Dress Barn in Almaden Center.

The multi-purpose room was decorated with sun yellow and lime green tablecloths. Each table had a centerpiece with beautiful

flowers that one lucky lady from each table got to take home.

The walls were decorated with hats, scarves, purses and jewelry loaned for the day by women from the center. A dessert of lemon cake, cookies and fruit was served along with tea and coffee. The guests were catered to by four gentlemen servers. It was a fun and enjoyable afternoon for all who attended.

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## Times Feature



Bus Trip for Education participants pose for a group photo at the end of the day. Photo by Sharat G. Lin

## 'We Made Our Voices Heard for Education in Santa Clara County'

By Supervisor Dave Cortese

*Special to the Times*

Her statement was simple and direct: "The quality of school food is not good. It tastes like rubber, and the majority of times it's microwaved. It's contradictory. Our First Lady is promoting healthy eating and fresh food."

Her question: "Why can't schools serve fresh food?"

That question from 12th-grader Victoria Nguyen of Oak Gove High School was just one of the concerns that students brought to legislators during our May 17, 2016, Bus Trip to Sacramento for Education, an annual event sponsored by my office and the Silicon Valley Education Foundation.

Our group this year – one of the largest in

recent history at 208 – included about 100 students from Oak Grove, Independence and Santa Teresa High Schools and LeyVa Middle School. Along with the adult advocates for education, we filled four buses on the journey to Sacramento and a large auditorium in the State Public Health Department Building once we got there.

Speaking to us this year were Senators Jim Beall, Jerry Hill, Bob Wiecekowski and Trevor Taylor from the Office of Senator Bill Monning; Assemblymembers Mark Stone, Kansen Chu, Evan Low, Richard Gordon and Kaitlyn Schultenhenrich from Assemblymember Nora Campos' office; and State Controller Betty Yee.

The students were prepared and their arguments clear. Quality school lunches aren't

important just because they taste better, but nutrition is important to growth and brain development, as well as replenishing our energy reserves so we can study and learn.

The answers from Assemblymember Mark Stone was supportive. "It's unacceptable to be living in one of the three largest agricultural areas and not have healthy food as part of the lunch program," he said. "But it's an initiative that kids could do in their schools. It's harder on the state level."

Another student asked about the rising cost of college tuition and why slots for California students are being given to foreign students. And why schools don't offer more career education or gender neutral bathrooms? Why haven't our textbooks been updated for 20 years?

Quipped Senator Jerry Hill, "Nothing has happened in the past 20 years you need to worry about."

But seriously, he said, the emphasis shouldn't be on textbooks anyway, but giving students more access to tablets and other electronic tools. "There should be a rechanneling with the electronic environment," he

said.

The adults, of course, also got a chance to ask their questions and raise concerns. But our legislators wanted to give a strong message to students to start getting involved in government now. Their concerns are important and what the legislators do has a bigger impact on them than anyone else in the audience.

"It's so important that you're here," said Senator Evan Low, who pointed out that he is closer in age to the students in the group than many of his peers in the State Senate. "We work for you. You are our bosses. It's important that you hold us accountable. But we ask for your help. Make sure you vote."

Senator Low echoed the message I delivered to students early in the day: The elected officials speaking to you today need to respond to your concerns or eventually, someone else will be elected to their offices.

For more information on the Bus Trip to Sacramento or any topic, please call my office at 408-299-5030 or email me at [dave.cortese@scc.gov](mailto:dave.cortese@scc.gov).

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Times **Feature**



Astronaut **Steve Smith** joins Simonds students for lunch. Pictured left to right: **Brody Boncher, Cecelia Lipman, Alexis Chu, Smith and Matthew Wheeler.**

## Simonds' students celebrate school's 50th anniversary with 'Hero Day'

By **Rachael Parakh**  
*Special to the Times*

To celebrate their school's 50th Anniversary, students at George W. Simonds Elementary, students were treated to the telling of two very important stories for 'Hero Day - Present and Past'.

Morning assemblies on May 12th were led by 6th grade alumni, and now astronaut hero, Steve Smith. Smith recounted having many a lunch inside Simonds cafeteria as a young student and dreaming of becoming an astronaut as early as third grade.

During his presentation, he inspired over 740 students by explaining the challenges he faced in applying to become an astronaut. Smith encouraged each and every student to follow their hearts, to not judge themselves or each other by the outside, but to look deep within, and let their passion for a profession or goal guide them.

It was Smith's own tenacity and vision that gained him entry into the space program and

led to an amazing four space flights and seven space walks. After the assemblies, Smith graciously posed for photos and even joined a few Simonds students for lunch in the outdoor courtyard.

Later in the afternoon, the anniversary celebration continued. All students received a paratrooper toy and were told the story of the school's namesake, George W. Simonds.

Simonds was himself a paratrooper in WWII, landing in Normandy and ultimately giving his life during the Battle for Hill 95. A war hero and true comrade, Captain Simonds received a Silver Star for gallantry in action and the Purple Heart for wounds received.

An added special touch was brought by Shelle' Thomas, Simonds niece, who toured the campus and engaged in question and answer sessions. She happily joined in a commemorative photo with 26 students, who each represented a class at Simonds, TK-5th Grade. 'Hero Day - Present and Past' was a truly memorable day for all and a fitting tribute to the school's 50th Anniversary.

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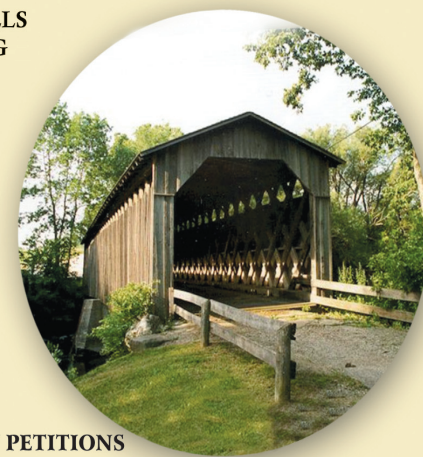
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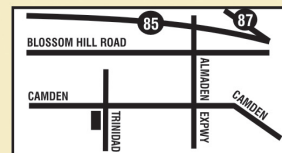
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[www.campbell-umc.org](http://www.campbell-umc.org). E-mail us at: [campbell\\_umc@earthlink.net](mailto:campbell_umc@earthlink.net).  
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 408 268-0243  
[www.AlmadenCongregational.org](http://www.AlmadenCongregational.org)  
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 Wednesdays, 9:30 AM., Women's Study Group

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**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](mailto:info@eastvalley-church.com)  
 We are associated with Converge Worldwide [www.convergeworldwide.org](http://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](http://www.eca-sj.org)  
 At the Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA), we are joyful followers of Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, fellowship and outreach, we strive to nurture and grow a strong faith community of believers, a family of all ages, where each member feels welcomed, loved, valued and empowered to serve. Children are especially welcomed and cherished as an important part of God's family. All junior high and senior high students are welcome to participate in our Youth Groups. During the school year we have joint Sunday School with our sister church, the Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, UCC. The Episcopal Church in Almaden offers the following regular opportunities for worship: Sunday at 7:30AM and 10:30AM, Holy Communion service. Each Sunday service is followed by a coffee hour for friendship and conversation.

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

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 Telephone: (408) 294-7254 x310.  
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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.

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

**SAINT ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
 We invite you to become a part of our hospitable, intimate Catholic parish. We are a caring community, promoting spiritual growth, reaching out to people in need and where you get to know people by name. We offer children's religious education (CREATE); Youth Ministry (BLAST & X-STATIC); Scripture Study (day & evening); Senior's Group and many other adult ministries as well. Saint Anthony parish is located in Almaden Valley at 20101 McKean Road, San Jose, 95120. Our weekend Masses are at 4 p.m. on Saturday at our historic church at 21800 Bertram Road in New Almaden, CA 95042 and on Sunday at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 5:30 p.m. at the McKean Road location. Our Parish Office is open Monday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and Tuesday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 - 4 p.m. For more information, stop by the Parish Office or call 1+ (408) 997-4800, or visit our website at [www.church-santhony.com](http://www.church-santhony.com). Fr. Larry Hendel, Pastor.

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

St. Francis of Assisi Chapel  
 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**



Left to right: **Terry Meyer**, Vice-President CSR Cares, **Landa** and **Mark Keirstead**, Founders One Step Closer, **Tony Odom**, President CSR Cares at CSR Real Estate Services. At right: Therapeutic riding session at One Step Closer Therapeutic Riding, Inc.

**CSR Cares donates \$5,000 to nonprofit One Step Closer Therapeutic Riding**

**C**SR Cares Foundation, a non-profit established by CSR Real Estate Services, donated \$5,000 to One Step Closer Therapeutic Riding, Inc.

One Step Closer offers therapeutic riding and other equine assisted therapy to children with physical and emotional disabilities.

This is one of the largest donations One Step Closer has ever received. Mark and Landa Keirstead are founders of One Step Closer. “We want to thank CSR Cares for their generous \$5000 gift to our School Readiness Program for children with special needs,” said Mark.

The School Readiness Program is an adaptive riding curriculum designed to help young children with special needs succeed in the classroom by developing attention span, eye-hand coordination, and appropriate behavior.

“When CSR Real Estate Services established CSR Cares, our goal was to donate funds to charities that

aligned with our mission of affecting positive change for children in our community,” said Terry Meyer, Vice President of CSR Cares. “One Step Closer is exactly the type of specialized program that we want to support, and more donations to local charities will be made throughout the year.”

**About CSR Cares**

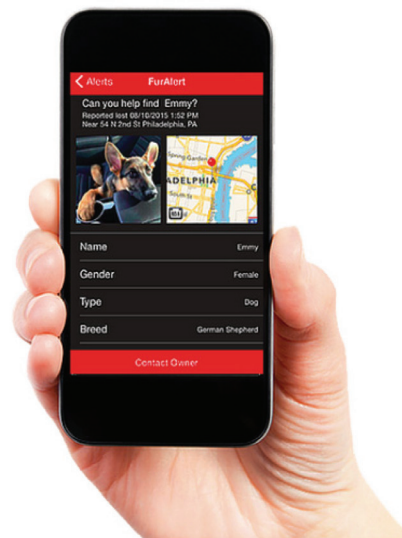
CSR Cares, a 501 (c) 3 charity established by CSR Real Estate Services, has promoted community based organizations and institutions since 2014.

**About One Step Closer**

One Step Closer Therapeutic Riding Inc. is an award-winning equestrian organization offering therapeutic riding and other equine-assisted-therapy to individuals with physical and/or emotional disabilities and to U.S. Veterans recovering from physical and emotional trauma of war.

*For more information, contact Mark and Landa Keirstead at (408) 778-3567 or email: one.step.closer@sbcglobal.net.*

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# Umunhum Radar Tower is a beacon for residents of Almaden Valley

By Mike Wasserman  
Special to the Times

The Radar Tower sitting atop Mount Umunhum played a significant role during the Cold War for the region's air defense network, and set the stage for the future of Silicon Valley. It is also a beacon for Almaden residents who hold it in high regard. That is why I was honored to make the motion to preserve the Mount Umunhum Radar Tower.

The action that my colleagues and I took added the Radar Tower to the County of Santa Clara Heritage Resource Inventory. This designation will preserve and protect a visual symbol of our historical heritage.

Between 1958 and the 1980 the Mount Umunhum Radar Tower served as a platform and housing for an AN/FPS-24 Long Range Search Radar within the former Almaden Air Force Station. The structure itself was designed to withstand a nuclear blast and according to a former Air Force radar operator who served at the Almaden Air Force Station, Robert Watts, the Soviets knew about and were afraid of the tower. The land underneath the tower was purchased by the



## County Report

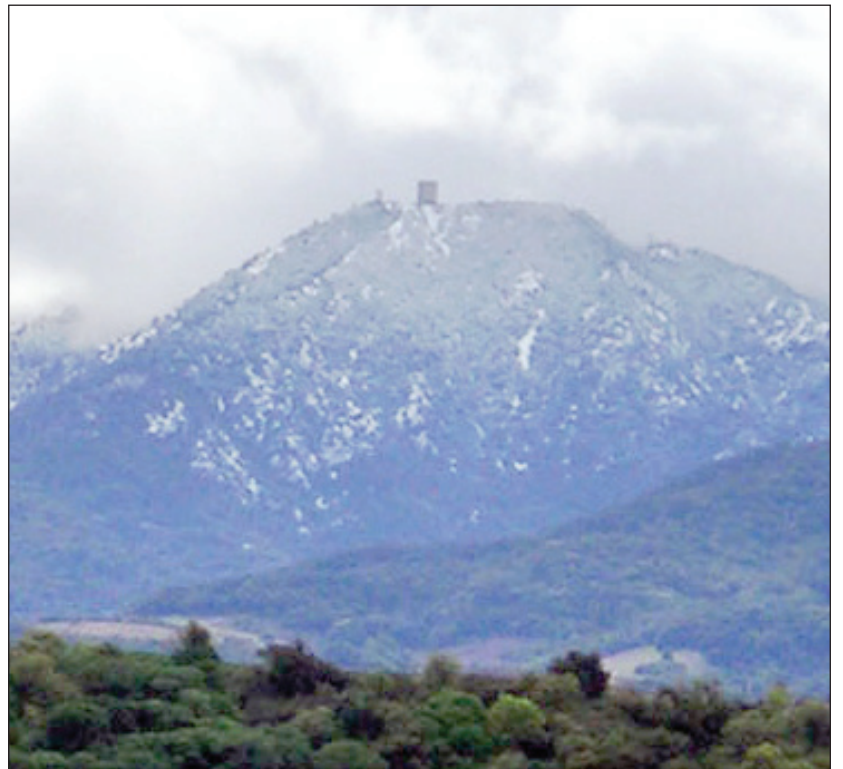
Mike Wasserman,  
County Supervisor

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District in 1986 and is now part of the Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve. The preserve is set to open to the public with an array of trails in October.

Both the Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commission and the County Department of Planning and Development recommended the Radar Tower be added to the inventory. The planning department based its decision on a report by JRP Historical Consulting. The report also mentioned that it may also be eligible for state or national designation as a historic landmark.

I'd like to thank all those involved with this happening, including Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, United Veterans Council of Santa Clara County, the County Planning Staff, the Historical Heritage Commission, and the Umunhum Conservancy and I hope you will join in me in celebrating this preservation of our past.

As always, you can reach my office at (408) 299-5010, or you can email me at [district1@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:district1@bos.sccgov.org) with your comments and concerns.



The Radar Tower played a significant role during the Cold War. Photo: Wikipedia

## Measures

Continued from page 1

buildings, hire some people, have company cars and go on junkets, all on the taxpayer's dime.

"After 20 years, will the bay be clean? Will their job be done? Will they dissolve? Of course not," says Hinkle. "As economic Nobel Prize winner Milton Friedman said, 'There is nothing so permanent as a temporary government program.' If people are interested in restoring the bay, there are already organizations doing that. This is an unneeded bureaucracy and it's a waste of money."

"Measure AA is an investment," says Cardenas. "If we don't pass it, we won't be able to fund 30,000 acres of wetlands that are currently industrial salt ponds. This is a nine-county Bay Area measure with all of us working together to restore the bay."

### Measure B

Vice Mayor Rose Herrera spoke in support of Measure B, a 0.25 percent increase in San Jose's sales tax, while Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio spoke against it.

"I don't have a history of supporting sales tax," says Herrera. "I support it now because it's part of the overall fiscal reform. We did a lot of cutting and reduced costs of city services. Now we need to increase sales tax because we don't have enough police officers and firefighters. It costs money to provide services and now we need to ask for your support."

"California is one of the highest tax states in the country," says Oliverio. "In this case, it's a blank check sales tax." Oliverio says that he favors specific taxes for law enforcement and roads, but not this tax that could go towards paying police officers' pensions. "We continue to subsidize a luxury hotel, three golf courses and programs that are not on the city charter that school districts, county, state, and federal governments should be funding. We found the city was able to be more efficient with competitive bidding for



(l to r): Moderator **Bob Strain**, Vice Mayor **Rose Herrera** and Councilmember **Pierluigi Oliverio**: Vice Mayor Rose Herrera supports a sales tax increase to pay for city police and firefighters. Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio believes the money will be misspent and more specific taxes are needed. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert

services, but we only did it with a few city services, and there is more we could do." Oliverio suggests the city sell its municipal water facility to San Jose Water Company and put that money towards road paving. He's also in favor of the city contracting with the sheriff's department and CHP to give out tickets.

"The CHP and sheriff's department don't have enough resources for their own departments, let alone to staff ours," says Herrera. "We lost a lot of quality officers during Measure B and I recognize it had some flaws we have to fix."

Oliverio believes that San Jose could save money with fewer firefighters. "Every fire engine in Santa Clara County has three people on it, but in San Jose we have four," he says, "That extra person costs \$23.6 million, which could be used to hire 118 more police officers. One person could drive that engine to bring over the water."

"It's easy to be against taxes," says Herrera. "I don't like taxes either, but services cost money. We need more police officers on the street. People are tired of burglaries and having calls go unanswered. We've made

a lot of tough decisions to save money, but we need to ask for a little more help. The first thing we'll do is hire community service officers to take reports and do fingerprinting. Having less than 900 police officers for a city of a million doesn't make for a safe city. We need firefighters, too. I don't know whether Pierluigi thinks he's an expert in firefighting... maybe he has some ideas about how many surgeons you need to perform surgery, too; take a few less and save some money. But, in order for these guys to be safe and do their job, they determined how many they need on those engines, and without those engines we have no water... and I don't think you want your house to burn down."

### Measure C

Sybil Vasche, spoke in support of Measure C, the San Jose Marijuana Collectives' zoning change, and Susan Ellenberg spoke against it.

"My son had Hodgkin lymphoma," says Vasche, and was nauseous and in pain from chemotherapy. If it wasn't for the cannabis, I don't think he would be made it through. It was the only thing that helped him." Vasche says that there are currently only 16 dispen-

saries in San Jose, one in San Francisco and Santa Cruz and none on the peninsula. "There is such a need for more of them," she says. "I think they should be treated like a pharmacy. It's for sick, injured people for pain relief."

"I'm a mom, too," says Ellenberg, "and I can understand doing whatever you can to support your child. Also as a mom, I understand convenience. However, we have to think of the needs of the community." Ellenberg says that Measure C would weaken the 2014 medical marijuana law. "Without a well regulated program," she says, "the U.S. Attorney General will step in and start shutting down dispensaries and confiscating properties." In addition, Ellenberg notes that the fines for violations currently range from \$2500 to \$5000, but Measure C would reduce those fees to \$100. Also, the distance from dispensaries to schools, childcare centers, community centers and substance abuse centers are currently regulated, but under Measure C those restrictions would be eliminated. "Right now San Jose is doing a good job of balancing the interests of the medical marijuana community and the paramount need to maximize our children's safety," she says.

Ellenberg became concerned with lessening of medical marijuana regulations when she learned that her son and his friends, all underage teens, were able to gain access to medical marijuana at a Rose Garden dispensary without showing any ID. "They were able to walk in and say they had anxiety and walk out with a prescription and a card," she says.

"I've never seen a child in a dispensary or the parking lot," says Vasche, "You have to show your driver's license, prescription and card every time you go in. This should be about safety and convenience to patients as well as the neighborhood. The City of San Jose needs money badly and they could make money with more dispensaries. Kids going into the dispensary is crazy. I've never seen that before. I believe we need more dispensaries."



Times **Local News**



Pictured: members of the cast of the X-Men trilogy of films.

**REVIEW:**

# X-Men: Apocalypse

By **Steven A. Leonard**  
Times movie reviewer

The name of this film should have been called *X-Women Apocalypse*.

As soon as Jean Grey made her appearance I knew that the screenwriters were up to something special. I remember her from *X-Men: The Last Stand*. In that alternative Universe she was Jean Grey – The Dark Phoenix. She was the Queen of Darkness with unlimited power.

The emotional impact of that film was felt when she asked Wolverine, “Will you die for them?” Wolverine responded, “I will not die for them, but I will die for you!” It was Wolverine’s willingness to die for her that changed her soul from dark to light. In this film, her power was not unleashed for darkness but for the light. In this timeline she uses her unlimited power for the light.

Every human on this earth has been given gifts and power from above. We all have been granted free will. We may use our gifts and power for good or evil; for freedom or slavery, for light or darkness.

The mistake that mankind makes is that they believe that death, pain, sickness and weakness is a curse. They begin to use their gifts and power for darkness when they can’t protect their loved ones or when they suffer the loss and death of a loved one. No one can appreciate how precious life is without death, pain, sickness and weakness. Death is an illusion. Time is an illusion. These are the great teachers of our reality. The reality of our universe is dependent on our perception and our position in the time space continuum.

The Great Dark One rises again in this film. He calls himself Elohim, a name for God in the Old Testament. Since the dawn of civilization, he was worshipped as a god. Apocalypse, the first and most powerful mutant from Marvel’s X-Men universe, amassed the powers of many other mutants, becoming immortal and invincible. Upon awakening after thousands of years, he is disillusioned with the world as he finds it and recruits a team of powerful mutants, including a disheartened Magneto, to cleanse mankind and create a new world order, over which he will reign.

The irony of the film is that he gets rid of all nuclear weapons on the planet and we call him pure evil. Let me get this straight. He gets rid of all nuclear weapons on the planet and the



Game of Thrones’ **Sophie Turner** plays a young Jean Grey in the 1980s-set *X-Men: Apocalypse*.

rest of humanity thinks that it’s a really bad thing to do. I must have fallen asleep during my ethics class in college.

Jean’s unlimited power was kept under lock and key by Professor Charles Francis Xavier’s mind control before she became the *Queen of Darkness in X-Men: The Last Stand*.

The Dark One didn’t see her coming until it was too late. When Jean’s power was finally unleashed by Xavier and she walked in and faced the Dark One, it created an emotional impact on me. She let go of all her fears and embraced her gifts and calling. It made me proud and brought tears to my eyes that Jean was finally able to reach her full potential. It made me leap for joy that the Queen of Darkness was now able to become the Queen of Light.

The Dark One’s eyes were opened and in the end he finally understood who had the real power all along. It was a surprise when it turned out to be one of the X-Women. It was a delight for me when Raven was able to remind Magneto who his real family was and it was his real family that he should be fighting for.

A key part of the film was when Storm pointed to a portrait of Raven and proclaimed, “She is my hero. I want to be just like her.” In this film, Raven proclaimed that she was not a hero. Many mutants that heard her speech being televised live throughout the world in the previous film (*X-Men: Days of Future Past*) said that it was her speech that changed their lives forever.

The movie never loses sight of the emotional stakes. Fassbender, Lawrence and McAvoy class up the proceedings, and along with a cast of younger mutants and a surprise cameo, make it a lot of fun. Best superhero stuff I’ve seen this year, full of character-building and quick action beats.

For the seventh in the X-Men movie series, and fourth he has directed, guru of all things mutant Bryan Singer has created something for everyone. *X-Men: Apocalypse* is highly entertaining for fans of the X-Men brand; one of Marvel’s most reliable.

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Times Media

# Wedding & Bridal Services Guide

A special advertising section featuring florists, caterers, dress sales and alterations, music and entertainment... All bridal services welcome.

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Times **Feature**

# Jinwoo Park: SJ Public Library ‘Volunteer of the Year’

The 2016 San Jose Public Library’s System Volunteer of the Year is Jinwoo Park from the Santa Teresa Branch Library’s CodeUCan program and teenReach member working with the Friends of the Library.

Every year, each of the twenty-four San Jose branches elects a vol-

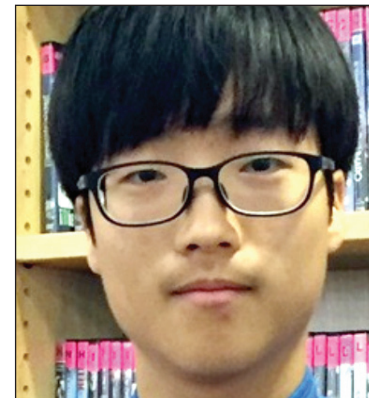
*Jinwoo is a highly self-driven volunteer taking on a number of responsibilities.*

unteer they want to acknowledge as their Volunteer of the Year. From these nominees, one volunteer is selected for system-wide recognition as San Jose Public Library’s

Volunteer of the Year.

Since becoming a teen Reach member in 2013, Jinwoo has been an engaged volunteer and leader with the library. Jinwoo helps with

the Summer Reading Challenges and various crafts and programs. Bringing confidence and leadership skills to his duties, Jinwoo is a highly self-driven volunteer taking on a number of responsibilities, including training incoming teens on library procedures and volunteer activities.



Jinwoo Park

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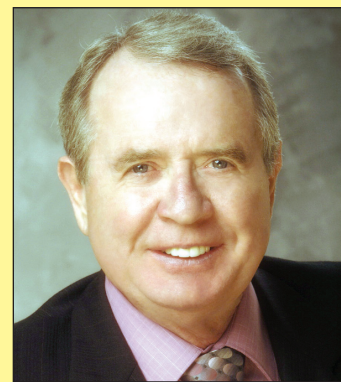
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