

ALMADEN VALLEY'S
HISTORY REACHES
ALL THE WAY TO
MEXICO AND SPAIN
- **PAGE 4**



LEIGH GRADUATE
ARRESTED, SUSPECTED
OF STEALING GIRL
SCOUT CASH BOX
- **PAGE 6**



STUDENTS INVITED
TO PARTICIPATE IN
ART & WINE FESTIVAL
LOGO DESIGN
CONTEST - **PAGE 15**



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FEB. 27-MARCH 12, 2015 ■ VOL. 28, NO. 4

BOUND FOR PEPPERDINE



Michelle Maemone signs a letter of intent to play soccer at Pepperdine University on Feb. 4. Pictured with Michelle are mom and dad **Anita and Joe Maemone** (Pepperdine shirts) and **Bob Kellogg**, principal of The King's Academy. Photo courtesy Maemone family

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COMMUNITY SAFETY Residents demand action to reduce crime

*Police union says no to negotiations,
throw out Measure B*

By **Jeanne C. Carbone**
Managing Editor

Close to a thousand residents attended the Community Safety Meeting with Mayor Sam Liccardo, Councilmember Johnny Khamis and police brass held at Bret Harte Middle School on Feb. 11.

With San Jose Police at a low of about 900 patrol officers for the entire city, Almaden has seen crime escalate to alarming numbers—between October 2014 to January 2015, 176 burglaries occurred compared to 55 in the same time frame a year. January has seen 82 burglaries

See **MEETING**, page 14

Almaden Senior Michelle Maemone signs with Pepperdine University

Almaden Resident and The King's Academy senior, Michelle Maemone signed a national letter of intent to play soccer at Pepperdine University earlier this month.

"Ever since I began playing competitive soccer at the age of 9, I dreamed of playing for a division I college," said Michelle. I am so thankful that my dream has come true. To be able to play for Pepperdine University and coach Tim Ward is more than I could have ever hoped for."

Although undeclared in her major, Michelle is interested in a career in physical

therapy, rehabilitative therapy, and athletic training. Michelle attended St. Timothy's Lutheran School on Camden Ave, Valley Christian Elementary, and has attended The King's Academy since 6th grade.

Michelle's interests include: playing guitar, spending time with friends and family, and going on short term mission trips with The King's Academy.

Pepperdine finished 10th in the final NCAA Coaches Poll for 2014, and coach Tim Ward, is has been named NSCAA West Region Coach of the Year. —Staff report



QUOTE OF THE WEEK: "If you skip dairy, you skip its nine essential nutrients." – Toby Amidor, author/dietitian See **HEALTH**, page 11

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This Week:

HEALTH

Dealing with food allergies, tips for preventing skin cancer: **PAGE 11**

FEATURES

California court finds Iranian courts are biased against non-Muslims and women: **PAGE 13**

COMMUNITY

Students invited to participate in Art & Wine festival logo design contest : **PAGE 15**



↑ ARTS

RAIN returns to the Silicon Valley: **PAGE 17**

ALSO

Worship Guide: **PAGE 19**
Realtor Guide: **PAGE 18**

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Valley Currents

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

Almaden's rich history reaches to Mexico, Spain

By Frank Shortt
Special to the Times

There is a rich history in the area south east of the town of Los Gatos and west of Santa Teresa is the area we know and love as the Almaden Valley.

Almaden got its name from the New Almaden Quicksilver Mine, which was named after the mercury mine in Almaden, Spain.

Operations at Almaden Quicksilver Mine in New Almaden first began in 1845 under the claim of Mexican Cavalry Officer Captain Andres Castillero. Castillero Middle School is named after the famous officer.

The red rock found on the site was cinnabar, an ore containing mercury. The valuable mercury was used to extract gold during the California gold rush in the late 1840's and 1850's, and is now known as the Almaden Quicksilver County Park.

American companies acquired ownership of the mines and the operations were managed by Captain Henry Halleck. Halleck had the Casa Grande mansion designed and built by architect Francis Meyers in 1854. Approximately 1,800 miners were provided housing during the mining operations.

For decades this classic revival-style mansion served as the official residence and office for a succession of mine superintendents, and as a country weekend retreat for wealthy mine investors. The six acre grounds were later landscaped by John McLaren, designer of Golden Gate Park in San Francisco.

Publisher of the Almaden Times, William Bellou, is part of the rich history of New Almaden.



The Senador Mine Trail continues west to the Senador Mines site at Almaden Quicksilver Park. The site is marked by 3 large concrete structures that are the remains of the mine's 40-ton Herreschoff Furnace, built in 1915.

His great grandfather, William Martin, served as superintendent at Almaden Quicksilver Mine during the late 1800's. Bellou's ancestors arrived in California in 1779.

In 1997, the Casa Grande was offered for sale, and the County Parks Department seized the opportunity to add the National Historic Site to Almaden Quicksilver County Park. A new exhibit, erected by park staff and

volunteers, was opened to the public on July 3, 1998. After an extensive building renovation from 2009-2010, the newly expanded museum once again opened in January 2011.

Where once busy miners trudged the outlying trails looking for more veins of mercury, only a few deer use the trails. Where once large ore wagons labored back and forth to downtown San Jose, mod-

ern streets and roads have taken preeminence.

The ore wagons sometimes carried payrolls back to Almaden from the banks of San Jose, becoming prey to such bandits as Tiburcio Vasquez. He is purported to have lain wait on the future Ben Mazzone fruit ranch where a natural cave probably still abides. Modern homes are now built on the Mazzone property.

Joaquin Murieta was said to have ventured into the Santa Clara Valley, hiding in the caves at Alum Rock Park in the east foothills of San Jose. He was given credit for having robbed a stagecoach, or two, and maybe as many ore wagons.

In the 1960's this writer used to take seven young African American males from the Tierra Nuestra housing project off McKee Road in San Jose, as well as my daughter Lori Jo, up to the fishing pond on the Mazzone Property. We would use the cave of Tiburcio Vasquez as a shelter from the hot sun and if it should rain suddenly.

We found no evidence of this cave having been occupied except for a few fire remnants and some smoked up walls. The fishing, I might add, was great. We caught large-mouthed bass as well as some of the largest Crappie I have seen in this valley.

The children were required to catch their own bait under rocks and logs. This sometimes led to exciting adventures.

On the corner of Kooser and Downer roads was the Old Almaden Elementary School. This was a two-story stucco building with a huge bell tower. In 1965 I was custodian there, along with Frank Kelly, and we had a joyful time keeping this large edifice clean.

Teachers would sometimes allow snakes and exotic animals to roam their rooms at night. This made for considerable excitement when an unwary custodian would

See HISTORY, next page

Clara the falcon returns to perch atop San Jose city hall

Clara has returned to San Jose city hall with her new mate Fernando. The famous peregrine falcon is perched on top of city hall.

This is the tenth year Clara has come to perch. She laid her first egg on the Lunar New Year, February 19. She has laid two eggs so far, and is expected to lay two more.

Peregrine falcons, considered an endangered species in California in the 1970s, have adapted well to urban settings and were first spotted flying near San Jose city hall in 2006; a year after the building was completed.

Once their fledglings hatch, they'll be named by local school children. —*City of San Jose*



LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

Send your letters to Jeanne Carbone, Managing Editor, at jeannec@timesmediainc.com or via postal mail to: The Almaden Times, Silicon Valley Business Center, 1900 Camden Ave., San Jose, CA 95124

Times **Feature**

The Casa Grande, built in 1854, was home for a series of nine superintendents that served from 1845-1927 at the Almaden Quicksilver Mine. William Martin, Almaden Times publisher William Bellou's great grandfather, was superintendent during the late 1800's. Courtesy of the Historic American Buildings Survey.

History

Continued from previous page

happen on some of them, especially if that custodian was already deathly afraid of snakes.

Steve Saunders was the last principal there and Bernice Kipp was his secretary. The last secretary there was Mrs. Clare Mancuso, wife of Al Mancuso who once owned the Chevron Station at the corner of Redmond

Road and Almaden Expressway.

When the old school building was finally torn down, because it was earthquake damage prone, the men who tried to use a large steel wrecking ball were unsuccessful in their attempts to knock it down. In fact, it was almost as if the building refused to be torn down. Finally, large equipment with steel jaws was used to pull it apart one piece at a time. This cost the contractor, who thought it would be a piece of cake, more than he bargained for. The New Almaden Elementary



Cinnabar, the ore found at Almaden Quick Silver Mine that contains mercury

School was built on Dentwood Drive in Almaden and still remains.

Blossom Hill Road used to go by three names — Downer Avenue, Kooser Road, and Blossom Hill Road. East of Almaden, it was Downer Avenue. Between Almaden and Meridian it was Kooser Road. Past Meridian it was Blossom Hill Road. On the corner of Blossom Hill Road and Almaden Expressway, a large busy shopping center now resides, complete with restaurants, Costco and bookstores. The Old Almaden School which once stood across the street is just a memory.

Casa Grande and the New Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum are located at 21350 Almaden Road.

Car thefts used for burglaries

San Jose police report that stolen vehicles in the city last week are being used to commit burglaries.

More than 90 cars were stolen by thieves who drive them around to commit burglaries and then abandon the cars in parking lots.

The Honda models are targeted because the cars are easy to hotwire to the ignitions. Of the 90 cars stolen, 44 have been recovered.

Mayor announces first steps for 'Youth Jobs Initiatives'

With a goal of addressing the critical challenges of economic disparity and public safety, Mayor Sam Liccardo today took the first steps in launching two signature initiatives, SJ Learns and SJ Works, announcing the co-chairs and initial meeting dates of the working groups for both.

The working groups will bring together experts from the community, education, philanthropy, labor, and business to tackle these challenges in a spirit of collaboration.

"We can arm every teenager with a job and a path to college, or we can let the gangs arm them with a gun and a burglar's crowbar," said Liccardo. "It's critical for San Jose's future that we reach our kids first."



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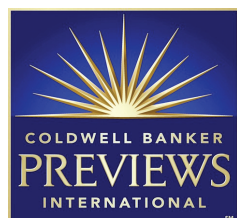
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Mayor sets date for Neighborhood Association Budget Meeting

Mayor Sam Liccardo today announced that this year's Neighborhood Association and Youth Commission Budget meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 7 at San Jose City Hall.

Neighborhood leaders, members of the city's Neighborhoods Commission, and Youth Commission will provide input on priorities for the city's 2015-2016 operating budget and, for the first time, discuss strategies for revamping the budget outreach process to better engage the community in the future.

"San Jose is your city, and it should work for you," Mayor Liccardo said. "That's why I'm asking our neighborhood leaders, commissioners, and our youth commissioners to help us redesign the com-

munity input process for future budget years."

As part of this transition year, neighborhood leaders will again be asked to prioritize spending on City programs. They will also spend time in a more focused meeting providing ideas and feedback on building future community engagement in the city budget process.

To ensure balance in representation between all neighborhoods in the city in the discussion, each neighborhood association may send one official representative. However, members of the public are welcome to attend and observe this discussion. The meeting will also be available for viewing online. To watch the meeting from a computer, visit www.sanjoseca.gov/civiccenrtv and click "Live Meeting Broadcast."

BOE lowers gasoline excise tax rate

Members of the California State Board of Equalization (BOE) today voted to lower the excise tax rate for gasoline by \$0.06 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-16 during their February meeting in Culver City.

Since 2010, the "fuel tax swap" law has required the Board to adjust this tax rate by March 1st of each year. With today's action, the excise tax rate on gasoline will be \$0.30 per gallon from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. The current excise tax rate of \$0.36 is in effect through June 30, 2015.

Drivers pay two types of state taxes on gasoline — sales tax and a per gallon excise tax. Before the "fuel tax swap" took effect, drivers paid the full sales tax rate (then 8.25 percent), and an excise tax of \$0.18 per gallon.

The excise tax on gasoline pays for public road

The excise tax on gasoline pays for public road improvements and mass transit.

improvements and mass transit. In FY 2013-14, the BOE collected nearly \$5.8 billion for the Motor Vehicle Fuel Account, Transportation Tax Fund. The sales tax on gasoline primarily funds local government programs.

The "fuel tax swap" lowers the sales tax rate to 2.25 percent on gasoline and requires the BOE to set the per gallon excise tax rate, so drivers pay the same amount of state taxes on gasoline as they would have paid under the prior tax structure.

In addition to projecting sales tax revenue that would have been generated under the old tax structure, the law also requires the BOE to review the actual excise tax revenue generated in the prior fiscal year and subtract that from projected revenue for the coming fiscal year. This calculation determines the coming fiscal year's excise tax rate.

Walker wins gold at girls CCS wrestling finals

Pioneer High School's Kayla Walker won the Central Coast Section girls wrestling championship competition held recently at Oak Grove High School.

Walker, a senior, nailed four straight pins to claim her section championship. She won against Natali Vasquez of El Camino before pinning Sheyla Zavala of Sequoia.

Walker had placed second at 103 pounds as a freshman and second again at 98 as a sophomore while at Leigh. Now she goes on to represent Pioneer at the state tournament.

Police arrest man suspected of stealing Girl Scout cash box

A San Jose man has been arrested by San Jose Police after he allegedly stole a cash box with more than \$300 from a 10-year old Girl Scouts from troop 601-60.

The incident happened in front of the Safeway Store on Branham Lane on Feb 22.

Police pulled over the suspect, Cody Phillip Gintz, after one of the Girl Scouts wrote down the license plate number of the robber and notified police.

After the incident, Police donated \$60 and purchased approximately \$240 worth of cookies.

Gintz appeared in an exclusive interview with NBC Bay Area and apologized for stealing the cash. He said he did it to support his heroin addiction.

Gintz, a Leigh High School graduate, works in construction.

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Times **Community News**

Agreement with Philips for SmartPole and LED Pilot

On Tuesday Feb 24, the San Jose City Council unanimously approved moving forward with a pilot project with Philips to install 50 of the company's SmartPoles in San Jose in exchange for converting an additional 750 streetlights to LEDs.

A SmartPole is an integrated unit manufactured by Philips that combines the equipment, cabinets, and meter equipment needed for small-cell cellular installations with a city's streetlights. The goal of the SmartPole is to both reduce clutter in the right-of-way and to increase the availability of sites for cell-phone carriers, improving phone and broadband coverage for consumers. The company has completed a pilot in Seattle and has approached San Jose about a larger project.

The Council will provide parameters so the city staff can conduct a competitive process and solicit proposals for replacements of the remaining non-LED lights citywide. This will allow the rest of San Jose's 40,000 streetlights to be converted to the brighter LED lighting, bringing safety improvements

to all of San Jose's neighborhoods and business districts.

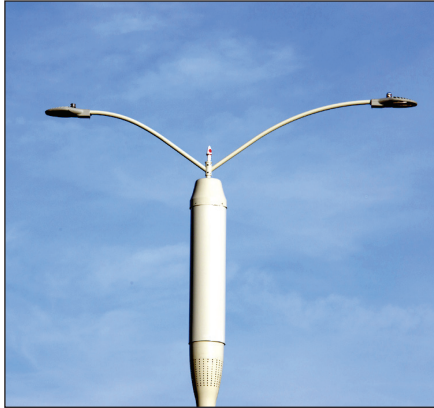
By this summer, San Jose will have converted 23,000 of its 63,000 streetlights from amber-colored, low-pressure sodium lights to brighter, whiter, energy efficient LED lights. These new lights increase visibility, improving neighborhood safety, and can be programmed and dimmed.

San Jose has been a pioneer in the development of LED street lighting, working with the industry on a number of pilots and demonstration projects. Many of the conversions done to date have not used San Jose tax dollars, but used grants and investments (such as federal ARRA stimulus funds)

or leveraging the future energy savings from converting the lights to finance the conversions.

"This is a unique opportunity to improve neighborhood safety and move San Jose forward at the front-end of an innovative wave of technology in the telecom industry," Mayor Liccardo said.

—Staff report



New San Jose ballpark in 'research phase'

The city of San Jose could get a new ballpark—just not one downtown, and not for the A's.

The San Jose Giants are reportedly exploring the possibility of building a new ballpark at the County fairgrounds property on Tully Road.

The San Jose Mercury News quotes San Jose Giants CEO Daniel Orum as saying that the team is in "The research phase" of building a stadium and youth sports complex on the site.

An off track betting facility and the annual county fair are the only regular current uses of the 150 acre land.

Possible road blocks for the proposed stadium include financing, county-city cooperation and the possible effects on San Jose's efforts to lure the A's south.

Seventh annual Crime and Gang Prevention Summit

The Mayor's Gang Prevention Taskforce presents the seventh Annual Crime and Gang Prevention Summit on Saturday, Feb. 28 from 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Mt. Pleasant High School located at 1750 S. White Road, San Jose. Youth and families are all welcomed to join this free event.

The summit will feature informational workshops, a community resource fair, children's activities, and a free lunch for participants. Workshop topics include: Gang 102 & A Way Out, Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force: Proving It Works, We're All In It Together: Servicing Our Youth & Families, The Power of Multi-Media (Youth Voice Initiative & Youth Digital Arts), and Re-Entry: The Process of Coming Home.

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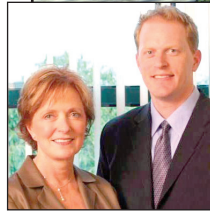
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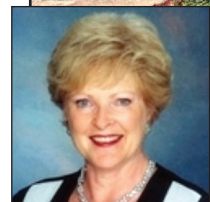
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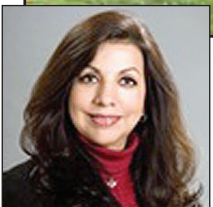
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Times **Health**

How to protect children during a measles outbreak

A measles outbreak that began in late 2014 in California has since spread to multiple states. Most of those who have gotten sick from this highly infectious disease were not vaccinated against measles.

Experts are calling the current outbreak an important reminder to vaccinate children fully against the disease.

"Vaccines are one of the most important ways parents can protect their children from measles and other diseases," says Sandra Hassink, MD, FAAP, president of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). "The measles vaccine is safe, necessary and effective."

The AAP is offering some fast facts about measles and the measles vaccine.

- Measles is a highly contagious respiratory disease that spreads easily through the air or on infected surfaces. It causes rash, high fever, cough, runny nose and red watery eyes. In rare cases it can cause encephalitis that can lead to deafness or mental retardation. Of every 1,000 people who get measles, one or two will die.

- The AAP, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the American Academy of Family Physicians all recommend children receive the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine at age 12-15 months, and again at four to six years old.

- It's best to protect children with MMR vaccine as soon as they are old enough to receive it. Delaying vaccination leaves children vulnerable to measles for a longer period of time. Vaccinating on time also protects other children in the community, including infants younger than 12 months who cannot be vaccinated and are most susceptible to serious illness, hospitalization and death due to measles.

- Getting the measles vaccine is much safer than getting the measles infection. Like any medicine, the vaccine is capable of causing side effects but usually these are mild, such as pain or swelling at the injection site and a fever that lasts a day or two. The risk of the measles vaccine causing serious harm is extremely small.

- If you are not sure if you or your children have been fully vaccinated against measles, talk with your doctor to see if anyone in your family needs to be vaccinated. There is no risk in receiving the measles vaccine if you have been immunized before. Your pediatrician is your best source of advice on vaccinations.

More information about the measles and the measles vaccine can be found by talking with your pediatrician and by visiting www.healthychildren.org.

When it comes to your children's health, take control when and where you can. Experts agree that a great place to start is by ensuring your children receive the measles vaccine, as well as the full range of vaccines recommended by your pediatrician.

— StatePoint

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Times **Health**

Food allergies can cause nutrition gaps

Special to the Times

The first mission in creating safe meals for children with food allergies is avoiding the offending ingredient.

But there can be a downside to diets that miss out on the nutritional value found in foods kicked off the menu, according to Carolyn O'Neil, a registered dietitian and nutrition advisor to Best Food Facts.

A study in The Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (JAND) cautions that such diets can induce vitamin and mineral deficiencies, anemia and other symptoms affecting a child's growth and nutritional status.

"Food allergies and intolerances are on the rise," said registered dietitian Vandana Sheth, spokesperson for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. "But it's important that we identify that kids are actually allergic (through proper testing) before we avoid those foods unnecessarily."

Common food allergies

The eight foods that account for more than 90 percent of childhood cases of food allergies include milk, eggs, soy, peanuts, tree nuts (such as walnuts, almonds, pecans), wheat, fish and shellfish. Food intolerances such as lactose and gluten add even more children to the at-risk list for nutrient deficiencies, added O'Neil.

"A parent should always offer a variety of different foods within a food group," said registered dietitian Cheryl Orlansky, president of the Greater Atlanta Dietetic Association. Gluten-free grains include rice, corn and quinoa. If a child is allergic to peanut butter, substitute sunflower seed butter, advised Sheth.

"If you skip dairy you skip its nine essential nutrients," said registered dietitian and author of "The Greek Yogurt Kitchen," Toby Amidor. "Studies show people with lactose intolerance may tolerate up to a cup of fluid milk, which has 12 grams of lactose. Cheeses, Greek yogurt and cottage cheese are much lower in lactose."

The food allergy study in JAND measured



Carolyn O'Neil, MS, RD

the benefit of dietary counseling in preventing and correcting nutrient deficiencies in children with food allergies. Results from the multi-center study in Italy showed that advice on what foods to eat to help fill in the gaps helped kids get enough calories, protein and other needed nutrients.

"I think it's fascinating," said Sheth. "They showed that dietary counseling really helped and growth patterns were improved."

Sheth added, "A lot of kids outgrow allergies to eggs and milk by age 16. But other allergies such as nuts may be life long." Her knowledge comes firsthand, as her own son was diagnosed with over 20 food allergies as a child.

"Now he's a healthy JV football player. He's down to four or five allergies including all nuts. I always feed the team so I can keep an eye on what he's eating."

When parents are equipped with the proper knowledge of common food allergies, they can help their kids enjoy a healthier childhood. To learn more about food allergies, visit www.bestfoodfacts.org.

—Family Features

Preventive care key to fighting skin cancer

Are you at risk for skin cancer? Do you know the signs? According to research published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, one in five Americans will develop skin cancer in their lifetime. That means odds are quite high that at least one in your circle of friends will face this dangerous disease. As the season for bare skin approaches, are you aware of the risks and preventative measures necessary to avoid sun exposure?

Approximately 58 million Americans are affected by actinic keratosis (AKs), the most common form of pre-cancerous skin damage known casually as "pre-cancers," according to a report published by The Society for Investigative Dermatology and The American Academy of Dermatology Association. An estimated 10 percent of AKs will become squamous cell carcinoma, the second most common form of skin cancer, within two years.

AKs are rough-textured, dry, scaly patches on the skin that are caused by excessive exposure to ultraviolet (UV) light such as sunlight. They occur most often on areas such as the face, scalp and ears. They can



range in color from skin-toned to reddish-brown. They can be as small as a pinhead or larger than a quarter.

AKs predominately affect people over 50, and slightly more men than women. Individuals who are most likely affected by AKs include those who have risk factors including: fair skin; blond or red hair; blue, green or grey eyes; a history of kidney disease or weakened immune system; daily, long-term exposure to the sun; multiple severe sunburns early in life; and older age.

Fortunately, skin cancer can be avoided with treatment, yet many patients fail to seek

See SKIN CANCER, next page



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St. Elizabeth's Day Home 'Day of Recollection' set for March 9

The Ladies of Charity has announced that St. Elizabeth's Day Home's "Day of Recollection" is set for March 9.

St. Elizabeth's Day Home serves children (ages 18 months to 5 years old) from a diverse range of cultural and economic backgrounds by fostering healthy social, emotional, intellectual and physical development.

St. Elizabeth's Day Home is a pioneer in early childhood education and was the first childcare center of its kind when the Sisters of the Holy Family established it in downtown San Jose in 1907. The Day Home's mission is to provide quality early education offering all children and families the first foundation for lifelong development.

Day of Recollection schedule:

Monday, March 9, 2015

9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Mass celebrated at 11:30 a.m. Facilitator: Father Tony Mancuso - "Searching for Lady Wisdom and the Holy Spirit"

Morning Refreshments and Lunch included at St. Elizabeth's Day Home, 950 St. Elizabeth Drive, SJ 95126

Donation: \$30 pp - proceeds to benefit St. Elizabeth's Day Home. Hostesses: Joan Arzino, Cathy De Maria, Jane Guerra

RSVP: 1345 Echo Valley Drive, San Jose 95120 with checks payable to Ladies of Charity

Supes approve proposal to curtail growth of Type 2 Diabetes

Recognizing that the development of type 2 diabetes among adults and children is growing at an alarming rate in Santa Clara County, the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to expand screening and strengthen education efforts to fight the chronic disease that affects 29 million people each year in the U.S.

The unanimous vote was taken at the Board of Supervisors meeting on Feb. 10, at the request of Supervisor President Dave Cortese, who also proposed the initiative during his State of the County speech on Jan. 27. Supervisor Ken Yeager is leading the initiative, which will be heard first by the

Board's Health and Hospitals Committee.

In Santa Clara County, 18 percent of adults have been told they are diabetic or pre-diabetic, and countless others could be at high-risk of developing diabetes.

"We can ensure that every one of our 1.8 million residents has access to screening and care that will prevent cases from getting beyond the pre-diabetes stage," Cortese said. "Valley Medical Center has more than 35,000 diabetic patients now, compared to 15,000 in 2011, representing a 123 percent increase in four years."

Diabetes care is one of the major drivers of increased health care costs. If an effective diabetes prevention program for patients of the local health care safety net system could be implemented on a large scale, the potential for financial savings is substantial.

For more information, contact Supervisor Dave Cortese at (408) 299-5030. Supervisor Ken Yeager's Office can be reached at (408) 299-5040, and Public Health Officer Dr. Sara Cody at (408) 792-5040.

SJ Learns: After School Program

SJ Learns proposes to expand after-school programs for children in kindergarten through fifth-grade. Emmett Carson of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

"Investing in our children is an investment in our collective future. By expanding high-quality after-school programs for elementary school children we can set them on track for future success," Carson said.

"All of San José's children deserve the opportunity to access quality academic and enrichment programs that provide a strong foundation for achievement," Carrasco said.

The SJ Learns Working Group will have 20 to 30 members with backgrounds in education and youth development including school superintendents, school board members, as well as representatives from foundations, nonprofits, and universities, including Councilmembers Carrasco and Donald Rocha. The Working Group will develop a roadmap that identifies best practices within after-school programs, and potential private investors to leverage an initial city investment and expand the number of high-quality after-school programs for students in grades K-5.

Skin cancer

Continued from page 11

treatment. What they may not realize is that there are actually many treatment options available, such as cryotherapy (freezing); topical medication; and photodynamic therapy. Additional treatment options include curettage, chemical peel, dermabrasion, surgical incision and lasers.

To reduce your risk of skin cancer you can take some precautions:

Regular skin evaluations by a dermatologist can catch the disease early so that it can be treated. Just as you schedule an annual physical or other routine checkups as part of your regular health routine, a recurring appointment with a dermatologist can significantly alter your chances of developing skin cancer.

In between visits to the dermatologist, perform thorough self-checks by examining your skin all over on a regular basis.

Avoid damaging sun rays and protect your skin by seeking the shade during high sun

hours (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.); avoiding sunburns; and covering your skin with clothing and hats.

Do not use tanning booths!

Understand sunscreen, and use a broad spectrum (UVA/UVB) sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher every day. For extended outdoor activity, use a water-resistant, broad spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher. Apply 1 ounce (2 tablespoons) of sunscreen to your entire body 30 minutes before going outside. Reapply every two hours or immediately after swimming or excessive sweating.

Do yourself a favor and get checked before the summer season to ensure you are properly caring for and protecting your skin from the sun's damaging rays. The skin is the largest organ of the human body. Make the call to your dermatologist today.

For more information, including additional details about AKs and how to identify the signs of skin damage, visit www.spotsofAK.com.

—Family Features

Photo courtesy of Getty Images



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Times **Feature**

California court finds Iranian courts are biased against non-Muslims and women

By Donald J. DeVries
Special to the Times

This week's question:

I have been following some of the news on TV, maybe too much, and am very concerned about ISIS and other extremists in the middle-east. I was wondering about the legal system over there as well. Do you know very much about that?

—Larry M.
Almaden Valley

Dear Larry:

You might be interested in a very recent court case that was just decided by the Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division 8, in Los Angeles. The case was released for publication on February 17, 2015.

In that case, the facts involved several properties that were left behind by an Iranian family when they fled from their Iranian homeland to the United States in 1978 after the overthrow of the Shah. Following their parents' death years later, their son and two daughters filed suit in California to recover the properties, based upon breach of fiduciary duty, accounting, and conversion.

The defendants filed a motion to have the law suit dismissed or stayed because of *forum non conveniens*, arguing that the suit must be brought in Iran since that is where the properties are located.

The trial court held in favor of the defendants and found that Iran was a suitable alternative forum and granted the stay (or hold) of the case in California. Plaintiffs filed a timely appeal of the trial court's order.

The Court of Appeal in Southern California overturned the trial court and held in part that in this particular situation, the Plaintiffs could sue in California, rather than Iran, because the Iranian system is biased against non-Muslims and women.

In this case, all three plaintiffs were non-Muslim, and two were women. The declaration from the plaintiffs' expert stated that in Iran, Islamic law would be applied to non-Muslims, and that Iranian law is biased against those who left Iran in or around the time of the Islamic revolution.

The Court of Appeal also found that Iran lacked an independent judiciary willing to apply due process of law. The Court explained that the Due Process Clause confers on individuals a constitutional right to be free from discrimination based on gender or religion.

Here, the Court of Appeal found that the defendants failed to provide evidence that the plaintiffs could expect fair treatment from the Iranian courts. Although the defendants presented a declaration from their expert witness about the Iranian judicial system, notably absent was any indication that the plaintiffs could receive a fair trial. Instead, the evidence was overwhelming that Iranian courts discriminated against women and non-Muslims. Thus, this case was one of the "rare circumstances" where an alternative forum (Iran) was found unsuitable if it provides "no remedy at all".

The Court of Appeal also noted that plaintiffs presented evidence that the testimony of a woman counts for half the value of that of a man, and that women are not treated equally before the courts, particularly in personal status matters relating to marriage, divorce, inheritance, and child custody, and only men can serve as judicial officers. And it is to be remembered here that two of the plaintiffs were women.

It was also noted that the judiciary in Iran is heavily influenced by religious authorities and that the law requires the head of the judiciary as well as the prosecutor general and all supreme Court judges to be high ranking clerics.

Reading this case makes me very, very happy to live in California and the United States of America.

You can read the case for yourself by heading for your favorite search engine, like Google. Enter the name of the case in your browser and it should be on your screen in a second: *Aghaian v. Minassian*.

You will probably see other commentators' articles as well who have written about the case already.

You will want to keep in mind that the case could be overruled by the California Supreme Court or the United States Supreme Court. Or even depublished. So, be patient about the final outcome of the case. It will take time. That's life.

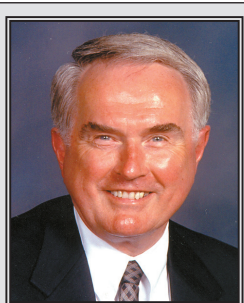
This is not to say that all of Iran is bad. I have several good friends from Iran that I see often who are good people and it would not be good to hold anything against them because of this court case.

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.

Seventh annual Crime and Gang Prevention Summit

The Mayor's Gang Prevention Taskforce presents the seventh Annual Crime and Gang Prevention Summit on Saturday, Feb. 28 from 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Mt. Pleasant High School located at 1750 S. White Road, San Jose. Youth and families are all welcomed to join this free event.

The summit will feature informational workshops, a community resource fair, children's activities, and a free lunch for participants. Workshop topics include: Gang 102 & A Way Out, Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force: Proving It Works, We're All In It Together: Servicing Our Youth & Families, The Power of Multi-Media (Youth Voice Initiative & Youth Digital Arts), and Re-Entry: The Process of Coming Home.



Ask The Lawyer

Donald J. DeVries,
Attorney at Law

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Times **Cover Story**

Meeting

Continued from page 1

in South San Jose with 56 robberies in December and 57 robberies in November.

Many break-ins occur during daytime hours with thieves casing neighborhoods looking for unlocked doors and windows or breaking in through garage doors and then gaining entry into the house stealing electronics, jewelry, etc. Police specify 53 percent are juveniles and 47 percent adults and there are about nine crews of three or more suspects perpetrating the burglaries.

Residents speak out

Almaden residents want answers and more important, they want to be safe. They've taken Neighborhood Watch meetings to a whole new level with social media—reporting on suspicious persons and vehicles in seconds and calling 911.

"We know it's a more affluent area," said Almaden Valley-resident Kent Yamada. "So we know we're a little more at risk," he said.

Resident Madeline Chiavetta said having your home broken into is unsettling. "It's such an invasion of privacy," she said.

There is one dedicated burglary detective for investigative work for all of San Jose, a city of 1 million. The once safe Almaden that more than one resident used to say "was like living in Mayberry R.F.D." with doors left unlocked is no more.

Nearly a hundred residents have hired TAPS Security to patrol their neighborhoods costing \$40 a month realizing that police patrol is stretched thin. They've purchased security cameras, dogs and some are now armed. And they're demanding the city fix the problem of the police shortage.

At the meeting, Mayor Liccardo announced and encouraged residents and



"The chief has instituted mandatory overtime across all divisions of the department moving 23 officers assigned to the Metro Unit into patrol services," said Councilmember **Johnny Khamis**, addressing the crowd. *Photos courtesy Rayshelle Edmunds*



businesses to sign up for the city's voluntary security camera registry and to be an extra pair of eyes. The San Jose Police will only access camera footage after an incident has occurred and with the permission of the camera owner. The police will not be able to access the camera remotely or in real time.

Truancy officers to help patrol Almaden Valley

The SJPd announced they have assigned truancy officers to help patrol Almaden Valley. There was some resistance from the East San Jose residents where the Truancy Abatement Burglary Suppression center is located. "They'll be out in Almaden Valley and as spikes occur throughout the city we will send them out to put out those fires," said Assistant Police Chief Eddie Garcia.

The city hired 25 community service offi-

cers last fall for lower-priority calls such as non-injury traffic collisions, vehicle theft, property crimes and vandalism.

Councilmember Johnny Khamis met with Police Chief Larry Esquivel to discuss the increase in crime in District 10.

"The chief has instituted mandatory overtime across all divisions of the department moving 23 officers assigned to the Metro Unit into patrol services," said Khamis. "The chief is also exploring the possibility of the Highway Patrol handling traffic enforcement on our major streets. The city recently hired 28 Community Service Officers to handle cold burglaries, evidence collection, the towing of vehicles, recovery of stolen vehicles, and minor traffic enforcement."

Proposition 47

Khamis also said that, "voters passed

Proposition 47 which changed some felonies to misdemeanors and has resulted in the release of many lower-level offenders. All of these changes come into play in our crime rates."

At the safety meeting, a petition was signed by residents requesting that the police substation at Westfield Oakridge Mall be reopened to hasten response times to District 10. The next day after the meeting, three suspects were arrested in Almaden for a series of burglaries. Also up for discussion at the meeting was hiring retired officers and how to retain the retention rate at the three yearly police academies.

"It's the same old thing," said one woman at the meeting. "No solutions."

On Feb. 11, the city manager sent letters to the 11 bargaining units. Specifically, City Council slashed savings expectations of Measure B from \$46 million to \$25 million and to bring police service levels to Jan. 1, 2011 numbers with an addition of 12 sworn officers bringing the total to 1,250. The plan would also bring a ¼ or ½ cent sales tax increase on the ballot for city voters to approve.

On Feb. 19, the police union answered says Michelle McGurk from Mayor Liccardo's office. The response was swift—no to negotiations and throw out Measure B. McGurk says the mayor is still eager to get back to negotiations and will be discussed in a closed session at city council on Feb. 24.



Mayor **Sam Liccardo** addresses the crowd.

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Times Feature

Ongoing drought impacts groundwater levels

By Dennis Kennedy

Santa Clara Valley Water District

One of the most difficult things about a drought is that we don't know when it will end. Our stormy December was followed by a bone dry January. We've had some rain in February, but no one knows what the rest of the winter will bring.

It is a welcome sight to see some local reservoirs begin to fill, but what is not so visible is the state of our local groundwater basins. A groundwater basin is an underground reserve of water which may take the form of a single aquifer or a group of linked aquifers. The Santa Clara Valley Water District monitors water levels at 225 wells to estimate the amount of groundwater storage we have.

Our groundwater basins are an essential part of our local water supply. In a typical year, about half the water we use is pumped from the ground. However, due to the drought, we actually used more groundwater in 2014 than the year before. Our measurements showed that the groundwater storage was reduced by almost 80,000 acre-feet in 2014. To put that in perspective, all ten of our local reservoirs combined held 68,000 acre-feet at the beginning of 2015.

It is not uncommon, especially in South County, to hear the statement: "I don't need to conserve, I'm on a well." How far from the truth this is. Well owners, especially need to conserve. Well owners, especially, need to understand how critical saving our precious underground water resource is. We cannot afford to continue to waste it.

In a normal year, the water district actively replenishes groundwater supplies year round. Water that originates as snowpack in the Sierra Nevada is imported through pipes and canals to Santa Clara County. It combines with local water stored in reservoirs and is released into streams and percolation ponds throughout the valley to replenish the groundwater basins. In 2014, the amount of water available for groundwater replenish-

ment was just 25 percent of normal.

As a result of using more groundwater and replenishing less, groundwater levels have dropped throughout the county. In southern Santa Clara County, groundwater levels are about 30 feet lower than average levels over the last five years. In the San Jose area, the difference is about 40 feet. Even with normal rainfall, it will take some time for our groundwater basins to recover.

It is important to recognize that our groundwater reserves are not unlimited. In fact, if we use too much, we begin to run the risk of land subsidence, which is the sinking of the ground surface as a result of over-drawing groundwater. Historically, land subsidence occurred in the 20th century until the early 1970s in our county. Up to 14 feet of permanent land subsidence was observed in San Jose due to groundwater overdraft. Subsidence often results in costly damage to infrastructure such as levees, canals, roads and sewer systems. It can also result in increased flood risks and saltwater intrusion to the groundwater basin.

Aggressively protecting groundwater quality, securing imported water supplies, promoting conservation and increasing the use of recycled water all contribute to protecting our groundwater basins. Through a groundwater production charge, well users pay for the active groundwater management services we provide.

If you are interested in learning more about the importance of our groundwater supplies, you are invited to join us at an open house during National Groundwater Awareness Week on March 12. The open house will take place from 4 to 8 p.m. at 5700 Almaden Expressway in San Jose. For more information or to RSVP, please email rsvp@valleywater.org.

I hope to see you there.

Submitted on behalf of the Santa Clara Valley Water District. For further information, contact your elected district representative, Dennis Kennedy, Vice-Chairman and District 1 Director at dkennedy@valleywater.org.

Students invited to participate in Art & Wine festival logo design contest

The Almaden Valley Women's Club invites students residing in the 95120 zip code to participate in the 39th annual Almaden Valley Art & Wine Festival Logo Design Contest.

The winning logo design will appear on festival merchandise and promotional materials at the event on Sunday, September 20, 2015 at Almaden Lake Park.

To qualify as logo contest entrants, students must be enrolled in a public or private school or a home school program and reside within the 95120 zip code. A maximum of two entries will be accepted from each entrant.

Entries will be picked up from participating schools (check with your art teacher). Alternatively, you can mail your entries to:



Almaden Valley Women's Club, Attn: Logo Contest, Logo Chair, P.O. Box 20084, San Jose, California 95160

The logo winner, finalists, and teachers will be contacted by April 28th, 2015 and will be invited to attend the Almaden Valley Women's Club awards presentation meeting on

May 7th, 2015, at the Almaden Community Center.

All entries must be received by April 17, 2015.

For more information and for the Guidelines for Logo submissions, visit almadenwomen.org under NEWS. For information about the Almaden Valley Art & Wine Festival, visit almadenwomen.org "Festival" page.

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Times **Local News**

For all the advancements of the 21st century, we still live in a world filled with senseless violence, cyber attacks, international arms races and racial intolerance. How can we individually and collectively work towards the true greater good?

The Ladies Auxiliary of the
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<http://my-spiritual-journey.eventbrite.com/>



Pictured (left to right) Rotary Speech Contest Chairman and president-elect **Ray Wong**, First place winner, **Laura Shieh**; second place winner, **Ann-Kathren Merz**, and third place winner **Akhil Kestur**.

HONORS

Leland sophomore takes first in Almaden Rotary speech contest

Leland High School sophomore Laura Shieh has won the Almaden Valley Rotary Club's local annual speech contest.

Next stop will be the Rotary's area contest and, if she wins there, on to the regional and district contests held by the service group.

Sheih won \$100 for her speech, which tied in Rotary's service work throughout the world and its actions to eliminate polio and give people a brighter outlook.

Also competing were Leland's Ann-Katherin Merz, a senior, who took second place and Akhil Kestur, a sophomore, who came in third.

Laura said she got involved in speech and debate in eighth grade when a friend needed a partner.

Free kids' vision and dental screenings

Healthier Kids Foundation FocusFirst and DentalFirst programs are conducting free (donor-funded) vision and dental screenings for children ages 6-months to 18-years-old.

Vision screenings are performed with a high-optic digital camera, and dental screenings are performed by a licensed dentist, Monday through Friday at your school, church, daycare center, community center, after-school program, or community-based organization. This program is done on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Schedule your screenings by calling Sunny Ochoa at (408) 564-5114 ext. 206 or email sunny@hkidsf.org.



Did You Know?

- A burglary occurs every **14.6 seconds**.¹
- **1 out of every 5 homes** will experience a break-in or home invasion.²
- A home without a security system is **3 times more likely to be burglarized**.³
- **85% of Police Officials surveyed** believe home alarms deter burglary attempts.⁴

1. Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2008 National Crime Report http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2009/june/ncr_stats060109 2. <http://fbi.cjic.usdoj.gov/content/pub/press/vdhlpr.cfm>
3. FBI, 2008 National Crime Report http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2009/june/ncr_stats060109 4. <http://www.beyondidentitytheft.com/home-security-statistics.html>

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CommunityCalendar



March 27-29

RAIN returns to Silicon Valley

Experience an all-new show when the internationally-acclaimed Beatles concert, RAIN: A Tribute to the Beatles, returns to San Jose's Center for the Performing Arts (255 Almaden Blvd.) for five performances only - March 27-29, 2015.

As "the next best thing to seeing The Beatles!" (Associated Press), RAIN performs the full range of The Beatles' discography live onstage, including the most complex and challenging songs that The Beatles themselves recorded in the studio but never performed for an audience.

In addition to the updated sets that include brand new LED, High-Definition screens and multimedia content, new songs have also been included with the launch of the 2015 Tour. Together longer than The Beatles, RAIN has mastered every song, gesture and nuance of the legendary foursome, delivering a totally live, note-for-note performance that's as infectious as it is transporting. From the early hits to later classics ("I Want To Hold Your Hand," "Hard Day's Night," "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band," "Let It Be," "Come Together," "Hey Jude" and more), this adoring tribute will take you back to a time when all you needed was love, and a little help from your friends!

Tickets for RAIN: A Tribute to the Beatles range in price from \$33 - \$83 and are available now by visiting www.ticketmaster.com or by calling 800-982-ARTS (2787).



March 15

RealOptions' upcoming Walk for Life & 5K Run will be held on Saturday, March 14, 2015 at Bellarmine College Prep. The event raises funds to support RealOptions' Pregnancy Medical Clinics. Proceeds will allow us continue to offer FREE professional medical services including: pregnancy testing, ultrasound imaging, prenatal care, adoption support, maternity clothing, baby clothing, as well as prevention services of our abstinence education program, and redemptive services of our abortion recovery programs. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/1z8Q0U3> or call (408) 229-9836.



Annette's quilt, titled "The Language of the Handkerchief" is hand-embroidered.

March 14-15

Quilt show: The weekend of March 14th and 15th brings to the Santa Clara Convention Center a beautiful display of quilts. This spectacular show is sponsored by the Santa Clara Valley Quilt Association. This year's show will have over 350 quilts by local artists on display; traditional, art, modern and innovative. In addition, there will be a selection of quilts from The San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles. Opening in 1977, this was the first quilt museum in the United States. During the two days of the show, there will be demonstrations, opportunity baskets and quilt appraisals. Many vendors will be in attendance for your shopping fun.

Whether or not you are a quilter, you can appreciate the artistic talents that will be on display. Jean Gillette, Carolyn Kuri, Annette Mach, Lorraine Navone, Roberta Pabst, Michiko Yonemaru, all from The Villages will have quilts on display.

The show will be at the Santa Clara Convention Center at 5001 Great America Parkway on Saturday March 14 10:00 am - 5:00 pm and Sunday March 15 from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. For the two day admission the cost is \$12.00 (children 12 and under are free) and the parking is free. For more information you can visit the web site: www.scvquiltshow.org or call Roberta Pabst 408-238-1904.

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Field. Full Details Online
at www.mhysl.org

Girls softball signups

Ages 4 to 14. 2015 Almaden Valley Girls Recreational Softball Registration is OPEN! Everyone is welcome in our league! Sign-up today at WWW.AVGSL.ORG.

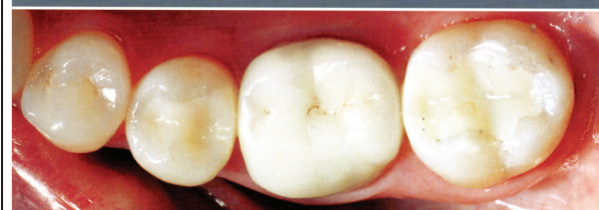
Spring Recreational Soccer Sign-ups

Ages 4-14, Registration for Almaden Valley Youth Soccer League Spring Recreational Soccer is now open! Visit: www.almadensoccer.org/spring for more information.

To advertise your sports-related event, call (408) 494-7000. Text-only listings are \$25 per issue.



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www.AlmadenCongregational.org
We are a welcoming Church engaged in progressive approach to faith, worship and giving to our local community. We are proud to be UCC. Open and affirming (O&A) and welcome members of the LGBT community. We support local Invision Shelter Feedings once a month, San Francisco Night Ministry, Second Harvest Food Bank, Church World Service, and Communities Responding to End Poverty. Worship 9:00AM, Sunday School 10:00 AM Sundays. 1st Sundays in Worship: Holy Communion
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3rd Sundays at Coffee Hour: Round Table Disc.
4th Sundays in Worship: Blessing of Birthdays/Anniversaries/other "joy" Occasions
Tuesday, AA Meetings, 8:15-9:15 PM.
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Community-Life Pastor (Youth/College & Career) – Pastor Pat Boyd, Community Life Pastor (Small Groups/Christian Education) – Pastor Alvin Lin, Children's Ministry Director – Julie Garcia, Celebrate Recovery Leader – Anne Friend
We are located at 2827 Flint Ave (Between Tully & Norwood) San Jose, CA 95148, Phone 408-238-0231, e-mail info@eastvalleychurch.com We are associated with Converge Worldwide www.converge-worldwide.org

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

6581 Camden Ave. San Jose, CA 95120. The Rev. Kate Flexer, Rector Phone: 408-268-0243
Web: www.eca-sj.org
The Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA) is a place where God stops for love and laughter. 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 and valued. Children are especially wel-

comed 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 10:30AM, Holy Communion service; Thursday at 7:30AM, short 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 10:45 am. Junior High students meet Sunday's at 9 am. Junior High and High School students meet on Tuesday's at 6:30 pm. College/Young adults meet on Sunday's at 6 pm. Casa de Oraci3n: Servicio en Espa3ol: Domingos 4 pm.

FIRST CHURCH DOWNTOWN

Worshipping at 55 N. 7th Street, in downtown San Jose. (Horace Mann school) www.firstchurchdowntown.com
Telephone: (408) 294-7254 x310. We are a community serving the Christ from the heart of the City, working to know Jesus and make Jesus known by serving, worshipping, and learning together. Worship services are at 10:00 AM at the Horace Mann Community Center (7th and Santa Clara Streets). Worship includes both contemporary and traditional music, a message that is relevant to real life, based in the Bible, and meaningful to people of all ages and backgrounds. We work in our community to provide real assistance and long-term, life-saving solutions: food, housing, counseling, and spiritual direction. Our children's & families' ministries include Sunday classes, outdoor family activities such as bike rides and fishing trips. Come, Make a Difference and feel the difference God can make in your life!

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SAINT ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Worship listing advertisements are \$495 annually. Please call Brigitte at (408) 558-3623.



Pictured is the 2015 Dodge Challenger SRT Hellcat with the 392 model.

Manual or Automatic? 2015 Dodge Challenger SRT Hellcat

By Sean Eastwood
Special to the Times

You may have noticed there is a war going on in the auto industry; horsepower wars.

According to auto enthusiasts, the 2015 Dodge Challenger and Dodge Charger are currently the cars with the greatest bang for the buck. The Dodge Brothers are offering muscular metal and with some seriously awesome engines.

The 6.4-liter Hemi V-8 makes 485 hp and 475 lb-ft; choose either a six-speed manual or eight-speed automatic. The aptly named Hellcat has a supercharged 6.2-liter V-8 good for 707 hp and 650 lb-ft, with either a six-speed manual or eight-speed automatic. The automatic is faster, hitting

60 mph in 3.6 seconds, while the manual is more fun and still quick doing 0-60 in 3.9.

If you are considering purchasing the Hellcat engine option for the Challenger or the Charger, should you opt for the automatic? The consensus is that the Challenger should be ordered with a manual and the Charger with the automatic. However, a number of auto publications are emphasizing the advantages of ordering the eight-speed automatic in both cars.

Most auto enthusiasts agree that the eight-speed automatic makes the Hellcat considerably easier to manage with or without the traction control engaged.

For more information and pricing, call Robert Mann (408) 592-5294.

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