**CAPITOL MAZDA DONATES \$11.000** TO CAMPAIGN TO FIGHT HEART **DISEASE- PAGE 4** 



**HOMELESS 'CAR CAMPING' CONTROVERSY SPURS HUNDREDS OF EMAILS TO OFFICIALS: PAGE 4** 

ALMADEN VALLEY YOUTH SOCCER **LEAGUE AFFILIATES** WITH BAYERN MUNICH **ACADEMY - PAGE 8** 



SEPT. 25–0CT. 8, 2015 ■ VOL. 28, NO. 19



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# Los Alamitos students experience the thrills of nature

By William Bellou Publisher

ore than 120 Los Alamitos students experienced the thrills of nature through hands-on lessons and activities at Camp Campbell last week.

Camp Campbell, an outdoor Science School located a love for nature and the out- that will take them to Camp Campbell. doors through the development of positive attitudes and practices that build character and awareness for the environment.

Environmental education at Camp Campbell Outdoor Science School is an extension of classroom curriculum. Just as students go to



in Boulder Creek, CA, fosters Parents wave to their students as they board the bus

the lab to study chemistry or to the gym to study physical education, students need to go the outdoors to learn best how the environment operates. Students see, feel, hear, and smell the realities of nature.

"From a school standpoint, students build a strong sense of community within their grade level as they prepare for middle school," said Tracey Ananmalay, fifth grade teacher at Los Alamitos. "Friendships are made outside of their regular social circles," she said. "As teachers, we gain a much deeper insight into them as individuals, noting strengths and areas for development that might otherwise be missed in a traditional classroom setting. Converse-

ly, students learn a lot about their teachers as multi-dimensional people with interests outside of the classroom."

Students also get a chance to participate in traditional camp activities See CAMP CAMPBELL, page 6

# Fun was had by all at the **Almaden Art & Wine Festival**

By Lorraine Gabbert

Senior Staff Writer

espite the heat, smiles shone from the faces of those attending the Almaden Valley Art & Wine Festival on Sunday. From enchanting art, to engaging entertainment, and enticing wine, there was something for everybody.

"It's fabulous," says Sharon Keefer. "It brings people togeth-

"And makes it like a small town," adds her daughter, Jessica Holey.

Picturesque Almaden Lake

Park serves as the setting for this annual event, which has been an Almaden Valley tradition since 1976. As the premiere fundraiser for the Almaden Valley Women's Club (AVWC), the festival raises funds for local non-profits from Alzheimer's to animals and supports merit-based scholarships.

"I really adore the Almaden Valley Women's Club for doing this." says Councilmember Johnny Khamis, "because they use all of the proceeds to help other organizations. I'm really proud of them for all of their efforts and for promoting local See FESTIVAL, page 15

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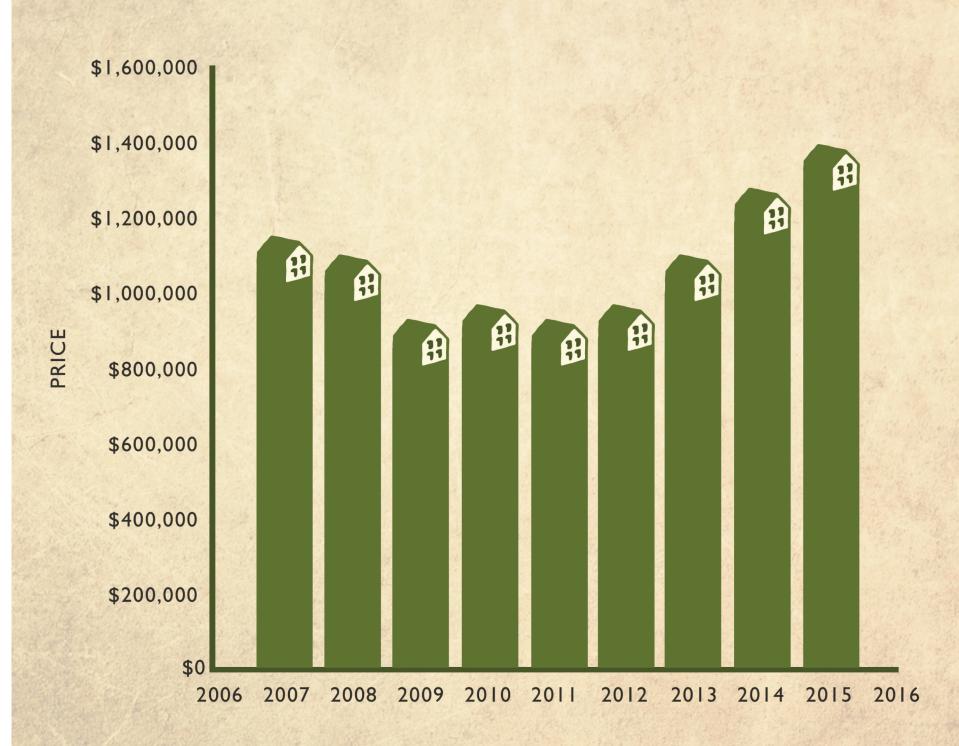
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polied by reliable sources. Sales Associate believes this information to be correct but has not verified this information and assumes no legal responsibility for its accuracy. Buyers should investigate these issues to their own satisfaction. Buyer to verify school enrolled

# This Week:

# **LOCAL SPORTS**

Almaden Valley Youth Soccer League affiliates with Bayern Munich Academy: PAGE 8

# **COMMUNITY**

Parking lot issue proves that civic advocacy works: PAGE 17

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What are your duties as trustee of your parents' trust?: PAGE 12



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Purple Stride Silicon Valley fights against Pancreatic Cancer on Nov. 7: PAGE 8

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# Almaden **Times**

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# Valley Currents

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

# Capitol Mazda donates \$11,000 to 'Go Red for Women'

apitol Mazda was celebrated by Mazda North American Operations (MNAO) for being the top volunteering dealer in the nation in 2014.

The Capitol Mazda staff volunteered more than 3,000 hours through their work with the Mazda Drive for Good program. Their commitment to the community is evident not only through their recognition from MNAO, but through their check donation to GO RED AMHA.

The Del Grande Group (Oak Tree Mazda, Concord Mazda and Capitol Mazda) surprised representatives from "Go Red for Women" with a donation of \$11,000 - monies that were generated and combined by the dealerships through Mazda Drive for Good community grants funds.



Mazda Drive for Good, on a national level, continues to give back to local communities across the U.S. throughout the year through volunteering and through community grant donations such as the one presented at Capitol Mazda.

The Silicon Valley Go Red for Women focuses on three areas to support the fight against heart disease in women: heightening awareness of the issue, creating a passionate call-to-action and generating funds to support education and research

# Homeless 'car camping' controversy spurs hundreds of emails

undreds of emails were sent to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and Council District 10 offices following an Almaden Times front page story (Sept 11, 2015) about the proposed conversion of a county-owned parking in Almaden Valley for homeless "car camping." A majority of the emails submitted were in opposition to the proposal.

The lot, at the corner of at the corner of Almaden Expressway and Camden Avenue was to be presented as a possible safe zone for the homeless.

Although some County officials claimed the proposal did not exist, The County Housing Task force presented an 11-page report with several possible recommendations to provide shelter for the homeless which included the "car camping" proposal on page 4.

The report mentioned a lot at Almaden Expressway and Blossom Hill Road, which was an error – the lot they were referring to was, in fact, the former VTA lot at Almaden Expressway and Camden Avenue. This now-County-owned lot was identified by County staff as a possible site for a Safe Park for overnight "camping" by homeless people with vehicles.

The Housing Task Force voted to have the County staff bring a package of recommendations to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors on September 15. The package included only some, not all, of the possible recommendations.

Supervisor Mike Wasserman, who represents the Almaden Valley area and is on the Housing Task Force, said he has not endorsed nor proposed this or any location for use as a parking lot for homeless who live in their vehicles. Supervisor and Board President Dave Cortese said he also has not endorsed nor proposed the use of this property. The erroneous quote in the Times article attributed to Cortese regarding the parking lot was made by an Almaden resident, not Cortese. The Cortese quote near the end of the article is correct which is in reference to the proposed utilization of the defunct Plaza Hotel near the Greyhound bus station in downtown San Jose. The Almaden Times regrets the error.

During the September 15 meeting, the county supervisors rejected and removed the Almaden parking lot "car camping" proposal.

For more information on homeless resources or reporting homeless encampments near your neighborhood, please visit the Housing and Homelessness resource page at my www.sjd10.com website, or call the City-funded Homeless Help Line: (408) 510-7600

# Mailbox

# Shadow Brook 2 dues questioned

Dear Editor,

I'd like the attention of all Shadow Brook 2 homeowners. When we purchased our homes; we were required to sign a homeowner association agreement we will pay annual dues to the Almaden Cabana Club Board of Directors. They received this authority on (1/8/68) for 35 years + 10 years. This authority expired

January 7, 2013.

Many times in 2012 the Board of Directors were told this authorization would expire on January 7, 2013 and did not apply for an extension. June 3, 2014 at Board of Director's meeting I requested they get a statement from an attorney stating they have authority to collect dues under HOA from us homeowners.

A document was issued August 29, 2014, and was sent to all Shadow Brook 2 homeowners telling us we are now Almaden

Cabana Club Proprietary members. We had no vote or say in this matter, but required to pay annual dues. If not paid, a lien would be put on our property.

An attorney wrote to Board President Brian Hennessy for the author of August 29, 2014 document; but he failed to send response to the attorney and/or to Lloyd Jungling.

An attorney in the District Attorney's office suggested I write to Johnny Khamis, Council Member District 10, City of San Jose. Johnny Khamis did send a letter to Board President Brian Hennessy to offer options to their seniors.

I suggest Shadow Brook 2 seniors exercise this option to opt out payment dues for years 2013, 2014, and 2015 in part or in total for refund and/or removal of lien on their property. If our Board of Directors refuse to refund dues; they collected, without legal See SHADOW BROOK, page 12

# ET US HEAR FROM YOU!

Send your letters via email to times@ timesmediainc.com or via postal mail to

**Times Community News** 

# Leland and Pioneer seniors named as finalists in the National Merit scholarship program

By William Bellou Publisher

eland and Pioneer seniors have been named as semi-finalists in the 2016 National Merit Corporation scholarship program. The 34 semi-finalists will compete for 7,400 scholarships totaling \$32 million

More than 1.5 million students in more than 22,000 high schools entered the competition last school year as juniors by taking the 2014 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

In the San Jose Unified school district, Leland and Pioneer are the only high schools that have qualified students competing for the Merit scholarships.

A semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT

The 34 semi-

finalists will

compete for

7,400 scholar-

ships totaling

\$32 million.

scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test.

These academically talented students then compete to become finalists. Recognition is determined by looking at the student's academic record, participation in

school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, and honors and awards received

The students will compete for three types of National Merit Scholarships to be awarded in the spring of 2016.

As part of this first step, the following 34 San Jose Unified seniors have been named 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program semifinalists:

#### From Leland High:

Zain R. Basit David Chong Kyle Cui Jaegin Eum Shannon S. Gu Ali-Asghar M. Heera James W. Kelbert Dong Yoon Kim Michael Ko Bill N. Lee Angela Li Isabel O. Llacer Sarika R. Madhvapathy Baolinh K. Nguyen Megan Y. Ryu Anuj N. Varma Alice Young

Jason Bi Derek R. Chu Prashant P. Desai Catherine W. Gau Dong Hee Han Caitlyn Huang Megan L. Khong Min Ki Kim Sohil S. Kshirsagar Justin Y. Lee Chris B. Li Alex T. Luo Sathvik Nair Viet Nguyen Nicole Smoot Alex Wang

# From Pioneer High:

Matthew Liu

For more information about the scholarships, visit nationalmerit.org



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#### **Times Community News**

# **Camp Campbell**

Continued from page 1

like sing-a-longs, bouldering/climbing wall, skit nights, arts & crafts, group games, BBQs, and science-based night hikes. Four Los Alamitos teachers also attended camp along with their students. Students also engage in a variety of formal and informal activities including gaga ball, basketball, music, soccer, archery, rock climbing, building a cob oven, and drama. Los Alamitos school Principal, Tom Rousseau, joined the students the second day of camp, and went on a full day hike with a group of students.

"I enjoyed doing all of the activities that we did, such as going on hikes and learning about different kinds of plants and animals,' said Brooklyn Felsoci, fifth grader at Los Alamitos Elementary. "I also enjoyed hanging out with my friends and singing songs around the campfire."

What do the students learn at the camp? From a strictly academic standpoint,



Students prepare to take the journey to Boulder Creek; Below right: fifth grader Brooklyn Felsoci is ready for adventure.

Camp Campbell offers students a myriad of opportunities to dig into concepts taught both in the 4th and 5th grade curriculum. "It's a perfect marriage of hands-on learning and important scientific concepts," said Ananmalay.

Here are some examples of the concepts learned at Camp Campbell: Photosynthesis and the role of producers in the food web (4th and 5th); Water cycle and the landscape in the watershed (5th); Constellations both from an academic standpoint and tied into legends and myths (5th); Rods & cones: specialized cells in the eves that handle shades of grey & movement vs. color (5th); and the impact on the environment by humans (4th

Students are responsible for many aspects of self-management including making food choices, keeping hydrated during busy days, and learning to sleep away from home. Many step outside of their comfort zone hiking at night, holding snakes, and pushing them physically.

Students and teachers always travel in groups of three, and every one quickly earns that one might need to set aside one's immediate interests to accompany a fellow camper to the bathroom, the health office, or to pick up needed materials. A strong sense of community and mutual assistance develops early on in the week.



For additional information, visit Camp Campbell's website:

http://www.ymcasv.org/ymcacampcampbell/html/outdooredu\_about.html



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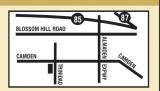
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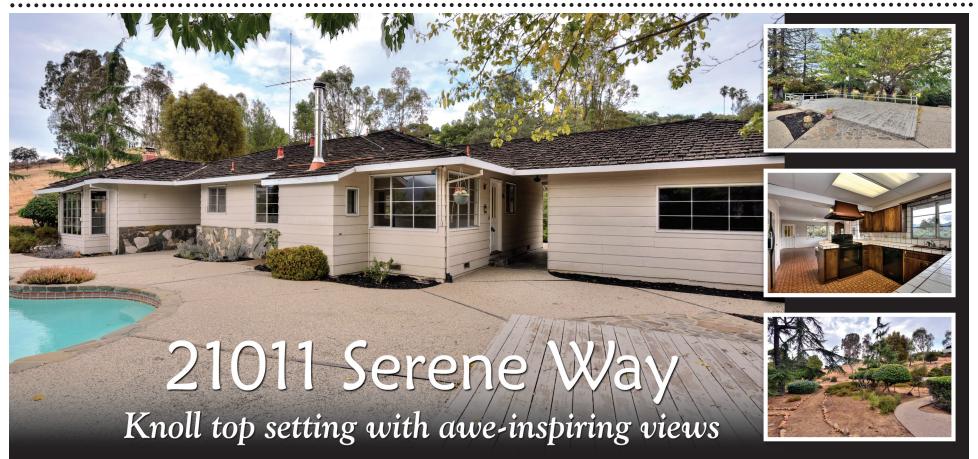
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# Thank you for stopping by my booth at the Almaden Art & Wine Festival!



Tackie Tones My Real estate experience is your advantage





# News Briefs

# Know Your Neighbor: Meet Renu R. Bhatia

By Nirban Singh Times Staff Writer

This column explores and reflects the lives of different Almaden Valley residents with the goal of introducing interesting perspectives and views. It raises awareness and appreciation for our neighbors through unique insights that would have remained unknown otherwise.

Nirban: How long have you lived in Almaden Valley?

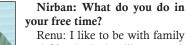
Renu: Almost 10 years.

Nirban: What do you do for a living?

Renu: I work in Business Development at Nvidia. I like to work on new initiatives and build big businesses.

Nirban: How is it like being a woman in the corporate workplace?

Renu: I have been very fortunate and I had a lot of support for my goals and my career, although I would like to see more women in technology companies in the Bay Area.



Renu: I like to be with family and friends. I also like to cook and read.

Nirban: What do you like about Almaden Valley?

Renu: I love the mountains, ranches, Almaden Lake Park, and the people.

# Nirban: How do you think Almaden Valley can improve?

Renu: It is a great place, however, if the traffic got better on Almaden expressway that would be an improvement.

Nirban: Where do you see yourself in ten years?

Renu: Having fun with a lot of my favorite projects and my son would have already graduated from college.

Nirban: If you had to describe yourself in two words, how would you do it?

Renu: Caring, hardworking.



# Oct. 7 Parent Night with author Tyler Durman

On Wednesday, October 7 starting at 6:30 pm, Castillero Middle School is proud to host a parent night with Tyler Durman, the author of Counterintuitive - What 4 million teenagers wish we knew. Tyler Durman is a former teacher and father of five, has spoken live to more than 4 million teenagers. Referred to as the Teen Whisperer, he uses comedic storytelling to break down barriers and connect with even the most hardened teens. (He also speaks extensively to educators and parent groups.) To attend this adults only pres entation, please RSVP on our Sign Up Genius link http://www.signupgenius.com

# Through Oct. 11 Walk for a Cause to benefit needy children

Our Walk for a Cause is a part of the larger Give-A-Thon that runs from 8/15/15 through 10/11/15. Location: 1260 Davis Street, San Jose, CA 95125

The proceeds benefit the hungry and needy children in India and Greece. We working to keep the Theotokos Girls Orphanage and the St. Ignatius School open in Calcutta, India. A portion of the proceeds will go to the IOCC food stamp program in Greece. The IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) is a first responder throughout the world to provide help. They have a matching fund for donations going to the food stamp program.

Don't walk or can't go? Participate online. You need not be there to be eligible for prizes. Go to www.fili-inc.com enter "Giveathon and your name" in the paypal special instructions. We will enter for

you. Download fundraising forms at www.saint-nichlas.org.



# Nov. 7 Purple Stride Silicon Valley

Pancreatic Cancer is the most deadly of all major cancers. As many will die from pancreatic cancer as breast cancer this year. The symptoms are vague and there is no effective screening. Our goal is to double the survival rate by 2020.

You can learn more and WageHope by joining us for the 4th annual PurpleStride Silicon Valley on Saturday, November 7th at 9:00 AM in Discovery Meadow, San Jose (next to the Children's Discovery Museum). This is a family-friendly 5K walk and timed run managed entirely by volunteers dedicated to ending this disease. There will be prizes for top teams and top fundraisers, a fun zone for kids, delicious continental breakfast included in the price of registration, a live band, visits from surprise guests, and more than 1,200 people fired up with the enthusiasm to fight back against this cancer killer.

Learn more and register at PurpleStride.org/siliconvalley

# **Pioneer's Steever named 'Teacher of the Year'**

ichelle Steever, one of the most popular teachers at Pioneer High School, has been named "Teacher of the Year" by Resource Area for Teaching (RAFT).

Known as a science rock star on the Pioneer High School campus, RAFT says she is committed to hands-on classroom instruction and her skill in engaging and inspiring students.

Steever joined the San Jose Unified School District in 1996 at Hoover Middle School. In 2012 she moved to Pioneer High, where she currently teaches all freshmen. She is a graduate of Cal Poly SLO with a degree in Engineering Science and a received a Master's Degree in Instructional Technology (SJSU). She spent 10 years as a Materials Engineer prior to becoming a teacher.

# Mt. Umunhum Needs Your Help SOS - Save Our Skyline! Local history. Local landmark. Without your support the historic Radar Tower atop Mt. Umunhum will be demolished! It protected us during the Cold War ... now we need to protect it! \$1.5 million is needed to preserve the Tower or it will be demolished. Learn more ... donate today!

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www.umunhum.net/times



# Almaden Valley Youth Soccer League affiliates with Bayern Munich Academy

Imaden Valley Youth Soccer League has announced that a new official affiliation for Almaden FC. AFC will be an extension of Bayern Munich academy to North America. There will be no re-branding or name change for AFC.

Almaden FC will also have access to the FC Bayern curriculum and the FC Bayern Academy player development methodology. This will include interaction with the Youth Academy Staff of FC Bayern on a monthly basis, as well as annual technical visits to FC Bayern

The affiliation will continue to further our goal of providing players with exceptional

coaches, player development and the best soccer experience in the bay area.

By promoting social interaction, good sportsmanship and delivering high-quality skill development, we will create healthful, responsible, memorable and valuable experiences for all who come to play in AVYSL.

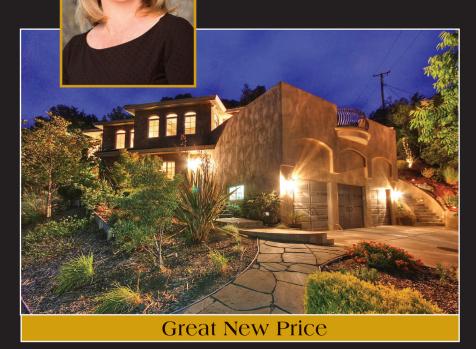
The mission of the Almaden Valley Youth Soccer League (AVYSL) and the Almaden Futbol Club is to advance the personal and athletic development of youth to their highest potential through the sport of soccer.

Editor's note: AVYSL is a non-profit organiza-

# Mmy McCafferty



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Times Feature

# What are your duties as trustee of your parents' trust?

By Donald J. DeVries

Special to the Times This week's question:

Both of my parents have now passed on and I was named as Successor Trustee of their family trust. I have two brothers and one sister and I am concerned about

doing a good job. We are all adults. Please let me know of a few good

Dear Bobbie,

Almaden Valley

Bobbie B.

Your duties as trustee of your parents' trust are many and varied. It is a very important job, one that cannot be taken lightly. A few ideas follow.

One of the first things I would do if I were you would be to employ an attorney to represent me as trustee of the trust. I would not try to do it alone if I were you.

This could be your family attor-

BUSINESS LINK

sible. Feel free to inquire about the attorney's experience in trust administration issues.

You as trustee of the trust may select any attorney and change representation at any time. At all times, you must act for the benefit of the trust estate and use "appropriate care, skill, and caution.'

You have a duty to administer the trust according to its terms. You have a duty to account to all of the trust beneficiaries. If I were you, I would seriously consider employing a CPA to assist you, as well as an attorney.

As Successor Trustee of your parents' trust, you have a duty to keep all of the beneficiaries of the trust informed and furnish a copy of the trust terms on request. You might even want to do that first on your own so your brothers and sister do not need to ask for a copy.

Along the way, you have a duty to furnish information as it required, on reasonable request by a beneficiary, to provide requested information to the beneficiary relating to the administration of the trust relevant to the beneficiary's interest.

If a beneficiary of the trust wants to review trust records, he or she usually may do so, but you as trustee should be present at that

If the assets of your parents' trust are substantial, you may want to consider an investment and management company to assist you. Of course, you as trustee are required to exercise prudence in the employment of all agents, attorneys, and others, and in establishing the scope and terms of the delegation. You could be held responsible in monetary damages for an improper delegation of authority.

You as trustee have a fiduciary duty to administer the trust solely in the interest of the trust beneficiar-

about any self-dealing with trust proper-

You also need to be very careful about conflicts of interest. By definition, conflicts of interest are presumed to be a violation of the trustee's fiduciary duties. Some, but not all, conflicts of interest can be "cured" by certain methods, but one must be very, very careful in that situation.

If the trustee is in a position of potential

conflict, the trustee should consider the risks of removal and liability. because the court will examine the circumstances of each transaction for breach of the duty of loyalty and good faith.

impartially, in relation to each other, both individually and by class.

Another of your duties is the duty to keep and render accounts and furnish information to the beneficiaries. Keeping detailed and accurate records is a must, sometimes referred to as a good "paper trail". Records should be thorough, legible, and easily accessible.

You as Successor Trustee of your par-

ents' trust may also have responsibility of filing state and federal tax returns. This may be quite involved, so the help of professionals in the tax area is essential, it seems to me.

A trustee has a duty to terminate the trust within a reasonable period of time. That, of course, depends on the circumstances. During the process of termination, trust assets are turned over to the beneficiaries with proper receipts being obtained.

Being the Successor Trustee of your parents' trust, Bobbie, can be a very rewarding task. A few points were discussed above. If you do your job well, you and your family will have a good sense of satisfaction in a job well done.

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





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# **Shadow Brook**

Continued from page 4

authorization you (homeowners) and I can file in small claims court and/or we can take other legal action. We homeowners are not interested in seeing the Almaden Cabana Club Facility shutting. Since we are no longer under HOA authority; meaning when we sell our home, the buyer is not required to sign an agreement to pay annual dues but have the option to be a Almaden Cabana Club Proprietary member.

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# Times Feature







Above left: MAY WE HELP YOU – The District 10 Council booth was kept quite busy during the Festival. Pictured (I to –r): **Denelle Fedor, Mike Bouland, Kitty Monahan,** and **Basin Jaber** answed questions about District 10 as well as the fund raising efforts of the Umunhum Conservancy, an organization working to save Mt. Umunhum with its historical Radar Tower. Above center: Almaden Art & Wine Festival Platinum Sponsor **Jackie Jones** answered Real Estate questions regarding prices and interest rates. Jackie said "I will definitely be back next year for the Festival's 40th Anniversary!" Above right: Almaden Valley Country Club presented their new pro golfer **Mr. James Monroe** at the Festival. Pictured (I to r) are: **Adrienne Simpson, Patti Miller, James Monroe, Tricia Amstrup, Kristine and Sterchi.** Photos by Bill Bellou

# **Festival**

Continued from page 1

art, culture, and food establishments."

"It's great fun to be able to do this for the community," says AVWC Festival Board Member Ellen Hudson-Snyder. "It feels great to be able to give something back to the community. We're incredibly grateful for our sponsors, because with their generosity, we're able to do this."

"It's such a great event," says AVWC Board Member Denise Myrick. "I love having it here at Almaden Lake Park. I hope people enjoy the amazing vendors. It's important to support local small businesses."

Arrayed in rows of white tents, artisan's creations, ranging from jewelry and fashion to wind chimes and fine art, beckoned, while aromatic wines from local vineyards tantalized passersby.

"I love wine, so for me the fun of it was finding great local wineries to work with, selecting the wines, and coming up with a good variety from Chardonnay to Zinfandel," says AVWC Festival Board Member Eileen Elam. "Also, we're raising money to benefit charities in the community," she adds, "It's a great cause."

The festive atmosphere was infectious as throughout the day the crowd was buoyed by popular bands and performances by local Cheer and Dance, gymnastics, and martial arts teams. Laughter rang out from the Kids' Zone as children raced through inflatable obstacle courses, bounded in the air on bungees, and reached for the stars while rock climbing.

"I love this festival," says Shamrina Mushell, who performed with Leland High School's Cheer and Dance Team. "The audience seems like they're enjoying all of the performances, and are really supportive. It's such a great time."

Emelia Cellura was delighted to watch her daughter Lily and the other five- and six-year-old members of Dance Attack's Repetoire Group dance. "It's fun to see them perform," says Cellura. "She loves being on stage; they all love it. The crowd went crazy because they're just so cute, and they're so happy to be there."

happy to be there."

"We decided to change up the children's

See FESTIVAL, page 16





Above left: **Brooklyn Felsoci**, a student at Los Alamitos Elementary School, has her hand decorated with a Henna tattoo applied by Silvana Piga owner of primal Henna Arts. Henna are the most popular temporary tattoos. Above right: District 10 Councilmember **Johnny Khamis** praised the Almaden Valley Women's Club, organizers of the Festival, for a well-run event which benefits a number of non-profit groups. Khamis is pictured here with a group of friends and supporters.





Above left: Bloomster's employee **Kristina Brown** passed out nearly half of the more than 5,000 sunflowers on Sunday. Bloomster's, a major sponsor of the event, has provided more than 120,000 sunflowers over the past 25 years. Above right: **Robert Tyler**, who has performed with great bands in the 80's and 90's, got people dancing with his soulful one man band show.



School of Rock band of Almaden Valley performed to an enthusiastic crowd with several original songs.

# **Times Feature**

# **Festival**

Continued from page 15

area this year to appeal to teenagers as well as kids," says AVWC Festival Board Member Christina Bullard. We have Kendama Syndicate doing contests and giveaways. We brought in another rock wall and orb balls, and Home Depot is creating projects. We're even having a DJ dance party. We hope it takes off."

Cindy Carpenter says she likes the friendly atmosphere of the festival and that the unique style of the Just Because booth caught her eye.

Just Because owners Julie Nesci and Brenda Addiego are celebrating their third year as vendors at the festival. "We absolutely love it," says Nesci. "It's beautiful and in our own backyard."

"It's so fun being here and seeing friends and community members," says Addiego. "And the whole staff of the AVWC has been extremely helpful. They're awesome."

"The festival is lovely," says resident Laura Liccardo, who purchased artwork from Ben Leone's booth. "The artwork's phenomenal—from paintings, to silk scarves, and beaded purses—and everyone's having a really good time."

Ben Leone has been manning a booth at the Almaden Art & Wine Festival for the last ten years. "Being down the block from my house, it's my home festival," he says with a grin, "plus, it supports the Women's Club."

Almaden residents Nicole Gill, Kimberly Hiatt, Jessica Reyes, and Monica Reyes enjoyed hosting their booth featuring products from Exotica Day Spa and Gunpowder & Lace. "It's our first time and we did really well," they enthused. "Next time we're renting two booths!"

Michelle Furman appreciated Traci Decastro's booth featuring silk scarves, handmade crafts, and wine caddies. "Anything that allows me to enjoy hands-free wine is always a plus," she says. "Mostly it's the wine and supporting local crafts that brings me to the festival."

"We're enjoying ourselves," says Amanda Vo. "There's good champagne, good local food from food trucks, and creative crafts I've never seen before."

"I love the wine and the setting," adds her friend, Ashley Eicknell.

Carol Vogel and her daughters Amanda and Sarah, have been attending the festival for 20 years. "We grew up here, so it's our family tradition," says Sarah. "We're here, as are our neighbors and friends."

"It's our community," agrees Carol. "It's a fun day."

"I love how the community all comes together and everybody gets the opportunity to see the crafts and art work displayed at the festival," says AVWC member Cheryl Ryan.

"The proceeds benefit our local nonprofits," says AVWC member Karen Zimmerman, "and helping the community is important to us. After 39 years, the Almaden Art & Wine Festival has become a tradition...one that will be here for many years to come."





"This booth brought me here," says customer Laura Liccardo, holding the piece she just purchased from Ben Leone's Flashback booth. Above right: Eacousa features souvenirs and gifts for all occasions.







"The setting's wonderful and gorgeous," says Josephine Kawanami, owner of the Jojoji Creations booth. "I love it." (I to r): Josephine, Kyle and Bruce Kawanami. Above center: The Vogel family found Fairy Dream Ceramics enchanting. (I to r): Amanda, Sarah, and Carol Vogel. Above right: The wineglass caddies at Traci Decastr.



Children laughed with delight as they rolled in balls, raced through inflatables, and climbed the rock wall.



"Next time, we're renting two booths!" says the owners of Exotica Day Spa and Gunpowder & Lace. (I to r): Nicole Gill, Kimberly Hiatt, Jessica Reyes, Monica Reyes.



"It's exciting seeing her perform," says Christina Carter with daughter Catherine and family.



"It was really fun to perform in front of the community," says **Shamrina Mushell.** 

# Times Features

# Parking lot issue proves that advocacy works

**District 10** 

Report

By Councilmember Johnny Khamis

Special to the Times

hen news broke out about the preliminary report from the County's Housing Task Force suggested using the empty parking lot on Camden and Almaden Expressway as a place for homeless

people to park, under their Safe Parking Program, residents flooded my office with phone calls and email.

My staff contacted the offices of several County Supervisors to find out what was going on and learned that their offices were also flooded with calls and email. As a result, the parking lot was not included in the staff recommendations submitted to the Board of Supervisors at their September 15 session.

Many people attended the Board of Supervisors meeting anyway, waiting 4-5 hours for their time to speak; in an effort

to make it clearly known that they did not want the Camden/Almaden parking lot considered at any time in the future. Board President Dave Cortese and Supervisor Mike Wasserman both clearly stated that the lot would not be recommended or considered. The Task Force made other recommendations for helping homeless people that I, and District 10 residents, agree with and support. These include Safe Parking locations nearer to County health and welfare services.

The remote, residential, Almaden location is clearly inappropriate and residents made sure their voices were heard. It was great to see so many people engaged on this issue and I encourage you to stay aware of this and other issues affecting our City and neighborhoods.

Mondays at Almaden Lake

I'm happy to announce that Almaden Lake is now open on Mondays!

Many people have asked for this to happen and this year I was able to fund the extra park maintenance staff from the District 10 budget allocation. As this is also a priority for the

Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) Department, they have assured me that they will be able to retain this employee past this year in order to keep the park open. Almaden Lake is one of four regional parks in San Jose, and PRNS hopes to open the others as part of next year's budget.

We will be hosting a Grand Opening celebration on Monday, October 5, 2015, at 10:00 AM, near the Bocce courts on the Winfield side of the lake. You are invited to attend and I look forward to

celebrating with you! Light refreshments will be served.

#### Internship opportunities

The District 10 Council Office is currently seeking responsible, civically-minded individuals for unpaid internship opportunities. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about public policy, city government, or community building, contact us about this great opportunity! For high school students, this is the perfect chance to earn community service hours and it is a great resume-builder for college students. For more information, email Shane Patrick Connolly at the District 10 Council Office at district10@sanjoseca.gov or call us at 408-535-4910.



89-year-old Aristea Pettis pauses to pose in her garden.

# **Aristea in bloom**

**By Brigitte Jones** *Special to the Times* 

It is a pleasant early evening of what had been a very hot day in San Jose, and I am doing my best to keep up with my walking partner – one Aristea

Her pace is quick and determined, that of someone who has taken this path many times before and is confident of her steps. Take note of this very telling aspect to this remarkable woman's character.

Ah, have I mentioned that Aristea is 89 years old and quite a dynamic personality.

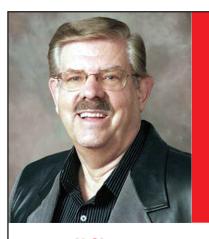
She is well regarded in her community as a gracious lady with a quick wit. A

fierce champion for a good cause, "I walked miles for Johnny Khamis' campaign" she proudly states.

Aristea and her beloved late husband Floyd, moved to San Jose in 1957 "when there were just 145,000 people living here" she says in her flowing Greek accent. They arrived after homesteading in Alaska for 10 years. It was so rural that Floyd actually built their first home – no running water or electricity included.

She was a new mother of her second child and not ready for this "pioneer" life at first. But her simple Greek upbringing made her fiercely dedicated to clearing the land (literally) or tackling the daily intrusion of various animals – while trying to keep everyone fed. Over the years the family would return to Alaska to

See PETTIS, next page



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#### **Times Features**

# **Pettis**

Continued from previous page

assure their 160 acres of land remain a family legacy.

But back to her life in San Jose. Aristea and Floyd had been active in St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church for 26 years until 1986 when their initial efforts helped build St. Basil's Church in Almaden, a bit closer to home. They even devoted years of work to building of St. Nicholas Ranch & Retreat up in Dunlap, California. And right from the start this family would spend all their spare time doing whatever was needed to make the place a success – let's just say Floyd knew how to find a deal or snag a barter opportunity.

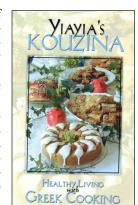
Over the years the many friends and neigh-



Aristea Pettis poses with Councilmember Johnny Khamis who holds a copy of her book, "Courage for Survival.

bors who had heard some of Aristea's adventurous tales, persuaded her to put these in writing – well she did. She actually published 2 books in 2014, "YiaYia's Kouzina" an extensive cookbook of Greek favorites. And the other, her memoirs "Courage for Survival" is truly a fascinating read. And what a launch party! Her home overflowed with a crowd of local dignitaries, neighbors and family to celebrate this achievement.

Her story begins on the Island of Crete, where as a 14 year old girl she witnesses the Nazi paratroopers' invasion and the subsequent ordeal of their occupation of her homeland.



The type of story an actress like Meryl Streep would be proud to tell.

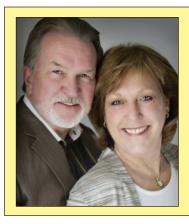
"I just finished reading you book. Wow! It was hard for me to put it down. You sure had an interesting, challenging, exciting life growing up. I'd say you were a survivor, even as a ten year old," said fellow writing classmate and long-time Almaden resident, Burt Corsen.

Aristea is 89 years old and full of life. That is why she can

conquer a rocky walking path with such determination and confidence. She had done it many times before.

Journey accomplished – dreams realized.

# Almaden Times Real Estate Guide



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# Places of Worship

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Table Disc.
4th Sundays in Worship: Blessing of Birthdays/Anniversaries/other "joy" Occasions

3rd Sundays at Coffee Hour: Round

Tuesday, AA Meetings, 8:15-9:15 PM.

Wednesdays, 9:30 AM., Women's Study Group

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6581 Camden Ave. San Jose, CA 95120. The Rev. Shelley Booth Denney, Rector. Phone:408-268-0243 Web:www.eca-sj.org At the Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA), we are joyful followers of Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, fellowship and outreach, we strive to

nurture and grow a strong faith community of believers, a family of all ages, where each member feels welcomed, loved, valued and empowered to serve. Children are especially welcomed and cherished as an important part of God's family. All junior high and senior high students are welcome to participate in our Youth Groups. During the school year we have joint Sunday School with our sister church, the Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, UCC. The Episcopal Church in Almaden offers the following regular opportunities for worship: Sunday at 7:30AM and 10:30AM, Holy Communion service Fach Sunday service is followed by a coffee hour for friendship and conver-

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# SAINT ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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www.churchstanthony.com. Fr. Larry

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St. Francis of Assisi Gathering Hall Sunday 9:00 AM, Sunday11:00AM, 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):

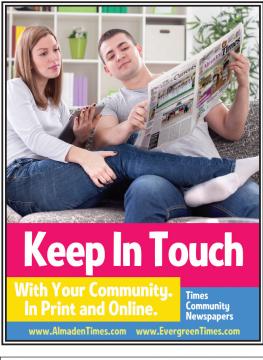
Sunday 8:15 AM
For more information, please call or visit us at the Parish Mission Center open M-F 9:00 AM -12:00 PM; 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Come join us and share your presence with us so that together we may grow and share our gifts to help build God's Kingdom!

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



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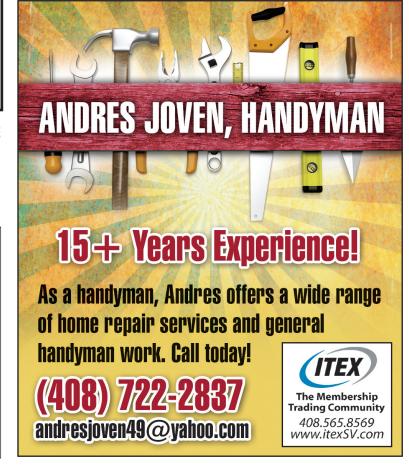
The Almaden Times.



# ALMADEN TIMES

# Classifieds

Handyman





This amazing Almaden Valley home will delight the new owner with its soaring ceilings, striking chandeliers and impressive columns. The 4724+/-sf home has 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths and a bonus room. One of the bedrooms is on the ground floor with nearby full bath. Kitchen has new quartz slab counters and backsplash, center island, plenty of cabinetry plus a separate pantry with built-in shelves. Spacious master bedroom suite with high-peaked ceiling, en suite with marble tile floor, dual sinks, Jacuzzi-style tub and a large closet/dressing room. Three car garage. Right across the street from Guadalupe Oak Grove Park with 63 acres, picnic sites, hiking trails and amazing views. Nearby Jeffrey Fontana Park has 10 acres, exercise course, playground and dog park.

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