

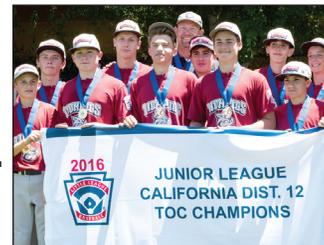
**VOLUNTEERS  
PLANT TREES AT  
TJ MARTIN AND  
JEFFREY FONTANA  
PARKS - PAGE 4**



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**ALMADEN 'IRON  
PIGS' JUNIOR  
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CHAMPIONSHIP -  
PAGE 19**



JULY 1-JULY 14, 2016 ■ VOL. 29, NO. 14

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# Almaden Times

SERVING ALMADEN VALLEY SINCE 1986 ■ ALMADENTIMES.COM

## Regoli takes over as commanding officer of VP-9 Golden Eagles

By William Bellou  
*Publisher*

Commander Beth Regoli, an Archbishop Mitty High School Graduate, who serves as a Commander in the United States Navy, recently took over as the Commanding Officer of the VP-9 "Golden Eagles."

Family and friends recently flew out to Hawaii for the special ceremony and celebration afterwards. VP-9 is a naval squadron which flies P-3C Orion aircraft which is home ported in Kaneohe Bay, HI.

Commander Regoli attended Archbishop Mitty High School before leaving the Bay Area to attend the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD.



Commander Beth Regoli

After graduating in 1999, she went on to earn her "wings of gold" as a Naval Aviator.

Throughout her career, Commander Regoli has deployed numerous times while serving

See REGOLI, page 6

## BUILDING BRIDGES



Slavyanka's mission and has been building bridges of understanding between Russians and Americans for more than 35 years. Inset below: Artistic Director Irina Shachneva poses with the chorus. Photos by Lorraine Gabbert

## Almaden resident Irina Shachneva shines as Slavyanka's Artistic Director

By Lorraine Gabbert  
*Senior Staff Writer*

With great emotion, the voices of the Slavyanka Russian Chorus rang out filling the First Lutheran Church in Palo Alto under the direction of Almaden resident Irina Shachneva.

Slavyanka's performance entitled "Reaching Towards Heaven: Sacred Hymns and Songs of Hope from Russia and America," lifted the hearts and spirits of the audience and performers alike. Artistic Director Shachneva shone as chorale conductor, joining in an emotive dance with the singers, evoking their soaring vocals.

With sweeping arms and heartfelt expression, Shachneva led the choir's buoyant voices. Shachneva says she conveys her feelings and how the music speaks to her through her hands. "I never keep anything inside," she says. "I give everything I am to these people and the music."

Shachneva has worked as a musician, director and teacher for more than 25 years. When she became Artistic Director of the Slavyanka Russian Chorus in 2012, it was a men's choir. With the addition of the

women singers, the vocals grew richer in tone and range.

Working as an artistic director and conductor is hard work and a process of learning, she says. "I have to consider the composer, analyze and interpret the music and teach them how to sing to reach this level. I have to be emotionally strong and control pitch and technique. There are things that can't be explained by words; it's the beauty and energy of the performance. Magic happens that can never be exactly repeated."

Slavyanka is the name early 19th century Russian settlers gave the Russian River. Like the river, the a cappella choir's sound flows with vibrancy, strength and purpose. While singing, the bodies of the vocalists rise to meet Shachneva's energy, their voices resonating in harmony.

The chorus' repertoire included songs sung in Russian, English and both, ranging from Orthodox Christian hymns and 18th century Russian kants to folk songs and spirituals. Sometimes ethereal like "Abide with Me" and sometimes a celebration of life like "Vive L'Amour" or

See CHORUS, page 6

## July 4th Fun Festival at Almaden Lake Park

By Sean Eastwood  
*Times Staff Writer*

Celebrate America's Independence at the Fun Festival at Almaden Lake Park on the fourth of July.

The Fun Festival begins at 3 p.m. with the fireworks getting underway at approximately 9:15 p.m.

This year's event features the Snarky Cats Band, comfort foods from trendy food trucks, arts and crafts, a parade, children's safety demos and more. Also performing are the School of Rock, Pete the Magician, and Lyric Theater.

The annual event will include community and vendor booths, live music, kids' games, a parade, food trucks, and a fireworks display.

The afternoon begins with live music, safety vendors, local businesses and artists, booths, food trucks, and kids' activities.

A Kids' Parade is scheduled at 5 p.m. including a costume contest, based on best family, most patriotic, funniest, most original, craziest, most colorful, most unusual, and a judges' choice.



Fireworks display July 4, 2015.  
Photo by Paul Adolph

The festivities are completely free to the public. Carpooling and public transit is encouraged. No alcohol or pets are allowed in the park for this event. Bring a blanket for comfort and a flashlight for safety.

For more information, visit [sjd10.com/4th-of-july-annual-event.html](http://sjd10.com/4th-of-july-annual-event.html).

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

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## CONCERT CALENDAR

- JULY 7th — Old School Rock & Roll
- JULY 14th — The Houserockers
- JULY 21rd — Free Fahlen
- JULY 28th — Sage

Join us at Graystone Park in  
Almaden Valley (Mt. Carmel  
@ Camden Ave., San Jose)  
**6:30 – 8:30 PM**



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Showing dedication to the dance of Bharatanatyam: **PAGE 14**

### COMMUNITY

Almaden Lake Park fireworks show needs volunteers: **PAGE 17**



Lisa Vroman

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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.



June 18 marked the date that volunteers planted 17 new trees at TJ Martin and Jeffrey Fontana Parks.

## Volunteers plant trees at TJ Martin and Jeffrey Fontana Parks

By Sean Eastwood  
Times staff writer

Our City Forest (OCF) along with many volunteers planted 17 trees on Sat. June 18th at TJ Martin and Jeffrey Fontana Parks.

OCF worked with the City's Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services Department to determine the planting locations.

All trees planted were on PG&E's approved tree list for trees under power lines.

Twelve trees were planted in east TJ Martin Park near Meridian Ave. Two trees were planted along the curb of Oakglen Way in Jeffrey Fontana Park, Jeffrey Fontana Parks.

OCF worked with the City's Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services Department to determine the planting locations. All trees planted were on PG&E's approved tree list for trees under power lines.

Twelve trees were planted in east TJ Martin Park near Meridian Ave. Two trees were planted along the curb of Oakglen Way in Jeffrey Fontana Park, two were planted along the curb south of the dog parks, and one was planted near the Fontana statue.

Funds were provided by a grant OCF had for tree planting and watering. Thanks so much for all the hard work provided by the volunteers. This will help to replace some of the many dead trees felled by the drought.

## Almaden Library seeks volunteers for Summer Reading Challenge program

The Almaden Library, along with other San Jose Public Library branches, is seeking teens to help with its Summer Reading Challenge program.

If you are 15 years or older, you may volunteer in providing information on how the program Challenge program works, register children for the program and award prizes.

Challenge volunteers earn community service hours toward their high school requirement. Volunteers who complete the required training can sign up for one-hour shifts at their local branch library.

The summer Reading Challenge helps younger students avoid the "summer slide," or forgetting what they've learned, by encouraging them to read with their families. Children can earn points for books read and activities completed.

For more information about the Summer Reading Challenge, visit [sjpl.org/summer](http://sjpl.org/summer).



### OP ED

## Now the silence

Frankly speaking the Orlando atrocity created a stunning silence. It is too painful to mention.

It is incomprehensible that anyone would want to kill, hurt, maim anyone let alone the LGBTQ community. Everyone I know who tries to speak is stunned by the enormity of the offense. Words don't flow.

'America the Beautiful' is such because we focus on freedom of life and liberty. We learn from each other. The miracle of the constitution is that it allows us to recreate the meaning of democracy in each generation upholding basic princi-

ples that feed each generation. But this type of behavior...?

The pundits will come up with fancy words to help ameliorate what has happened. Words like 'deranged', 'terrorist', 'homophobic'. This might make us all feel better. But the words are meaningless. We don't need explanations nor excuses nor defense of our Rights. We hunger to rediscover the simple basic human tenet of love for God and respect for each other. They are pretty synonymous in many ways.

Jesus said: 'Peace I leave with you'. Peace to appreciate who "you" are. Peace to appreciate the distinctiveness of your neighbor. Peace to share beneficial wisdom. Peace to comprehend the difference between right and wrong. Peace to comprehend that some ways of living are better than others. Peace to forgive the sins and shortcomings of neighbor. Peace to forgive yourself

for your own shortcomings. Peace to live with yourself and the memories of past actions that you may want to erase from personal history. Peace to celebrate the wondrous gift of life. Peace opens up life opportunity.

Life opportunities change whenever we meet and talk with each other. The world is transformed through a humble acceptance that we are all tenants on this planet. It is loaned to us by God.

Some humility and sharing between us never hurts. Thoughts, prayers, tears are with the LGBTQ community in Orlando as they sort through this horrid experience. May we discover the commonalities between us so we can all appreciate each other in all our idiosyncrasies and differences. Who knows. Perhaps you and I will change through the experience?

And for our elected leaders: There is no reason that persons cannot have the right to bear arms. And

there is no reason that a Congress elected by the people cannot come up with a gun control law that restricts access to these deadliest weapons to protect us all. 99.9% of us don't want to walk around with arms to protect ourselves from our neighbor. We want to enjoy our days with our neighbor! America is the country that went to the moon and is exploring beyond the limits of space. We have the capacity to create a meaningful law and process. Our elected leaders need the will to do it. And if they don't want to do this. We don't need them. We need leaders with a passion and commitment to serve the common good. To serve the people so we may live in peace.

Now the Silence. Now the peace. Now the empty hands uplifted.

Now the kneeling. Now the plea. Now God's arms in welcome...

Reprinted courtesy Grace Church of Evergreen



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# Happy Fourth of July!



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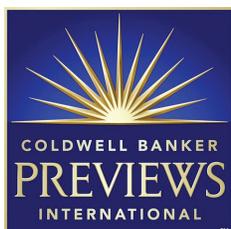
Your career has you so focused on being a matchmaker for your clients (finding the right home), you hardly have time to think of yourself. So, we decided to take it upon ourselves to be a matchmaker for you. Here's your Knight in shining armor! He's a bit shy, so take it slow. He likes long walks on the beach and movies about medieval times. Take good care of him and he'll take good care of you.

Thanks again for your help selling our LG house. We're excited to move into the neighborhood, meet new people, and build new friendships.

Sincerely,

Mike & Trish  
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## Times News

## Chorus

Continued from page 1

hopeful like "Somewhere" from West Side Story, the songs started out softly and built with power as the singers sang. In a "Cossack Medley," the men expressed the Cossack's love of freedom and their fearlessness. With deep resonant voices, the soloists led the charge, singing and stomping their feet, and before long, Shachneva joined in. She chose to include "Shenandoah" after seeing the beauty of America on her family's cross-country move from Boston. "I chose pieces that touch my heart," she says.

Although the choir sings many of their songs in Russian transliteration, it remains an additional challenge beyond learning the music. "It amazes me," says Shachneva. "Why do people want to learn to move their tongues in a strange language? It's the power of Russian music, especially spiritual music calling to their hearts and souls."

Shachneva is proud of Slavyanka's diversity as well as its accomplishments: The choir is made up of people of all ages, religions and ethnicities. "Music can bring people together," she says. "It's a light from the heart." Uniting different kinds of people is Slavyanka's mission and it has been building bridges of understanding between Russians and Americans for more than 35 years. "When our governments are at odds, that's when we most need voices to remind us of what we share," notes Slavyanka's website.

As 'Ambassadors of Peace,' Slavyanka is representing America at St. Petersburg's finest concert hall celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in October. They are raising \$12,000 to offset travel expenses for singers who may otherwise be unable to go. To donate online visit their website: [www.slavyankachorus.org](http://www.slavyankachorus.org), or mail a check made out to: Slavyanka Russian Chorus to their treasurer, Tom Warrington at 128 H Lane, Novato, CA 94945.

Past performances include Rachmaninov's "All-Night Vigil" sung in the Russian liturgical tradition at San Francisco's Grace Cathedral and a collection of sacred music sung at the Museum of Russian Icons in Boston. In 2014, Shachneva conducted the first Bay Area International Russian Music Festival, held in Berkeley.

Slavyanka's next concert will be held at The Star of the Sea Catholic Church in San Francisco on July 23, and will include Russian food. Slavyanka invites Bay Area residents to "hear music they have never heard before and discover a whole world of spirit and feeling well beyond their familiar experience."

#### Looking back

Shachneva was born in the old town of Pemca, Russia to Valentina and Serafim Shachneva. She sang in a children's choir at an early age and attended music school through



Irina Shachneva (conducting), Slavyanka's Artistic Director, says she conveys her feelings and how the music speaks to her through her hands.

eighth grade. Since a teen in Russia, Shachneva hoped to become a choral conductor. She received her Bachelor of Music from Penza Music College and a Master of Music from Nizhny Novgorod State Conservatory.

At age 19, the music industry brought her to the little town of Dubna, which boasts six music schools and is home to the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research. "It's a beautiful place with a forest near the Volga River," she says, "filled with scientists and intelligent people who care about their education." It was there that she met her husband, Peter Kulnich, a nuclear physicist.

Upon completing her studies, Shachneva was invited to serve as choirmaster and teacher in the Dubna children's choir studio. At age 26, she founded and was the first artistic director of the Municipal Choral School, Rhapsodie, based on her own philosophy and approach to music. She taught piano, music theory and chorale singing. Within a year, her nine- and ten-year-old students showed such promise that she brought them to perform in Bulgaria. They also toured in France, Poland and Russia.

When in 1994, her husband's new job at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology took them and their young son, Yakov, to the Boston area, Irina had to start over. "I came from another country and had to learn a new language," she says. "It was hard to find a job being a foreigner. I was kind of depressed and isolated."

She decided to continue her education at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, taking three years of conducting classes. There she met Tamara Brooks, Head of the Conducting Department, who invited her to work as a guest conductor of the Conservatory choir. Leading the choir in a performance of Alfred Schnittke's "Requiem" was a dream come true for Shachneva. "Schnittke has a very special style of composing," she says. "When I was in my first year at the Conservatory in Russia, he worked with us and we performed his music. His personality and high level of spirituality deeply affected me." Eighteen years later, at age 33, rather than singing to his music, Shachneva conducted his piece at Jordan Hall in Boston.

"Thank God, I met Tamara

Brooks," says Shachneva. "She helped me to continue with music."

In addition, Shachneva acted as guest conductor of the Jordan Hall Festival Chorus and the Plymouth Festival Chorus. She also worked as an organist, pianist and conductor while Music Director at Mt. Calvary Church in Acton, MA, where she led its choir and orchestra in performing pieces by Bach, Faure and Mozart. The ensemble performed at the International Music Festival in Wurzburg, Germany in 2011.

Shachneva founded and became Artistic Director of the International Rachmaninoff Russian Music Festival in Boston in 2010. Its success led to an invitation to perform at the International Choral Festival celebrating the 450th anniversary of St. Basil's Cathedral on Red Square.

In 2011, her husband's work with Rapiscan Systems brought their family to San Jose. With the births of their sons, Daniel, Anton and Michael, they were now a family of six. "It was like a second emigration and an even harder move from our previous one," says Shachneva. "I left everything I established there: friends, jobs and students to come to California where I didn't know anyone."

In Almaden, Shachneva started a new life for the third time, raising her sons and teaching piano, theory and voice at Avloni Academy of Music in Saratoga and Pacific Music Academy in San Jose, as well as teaching music from her home. Shachneva still loves teaching piano, voice and music theory to children as well as adults from her home studio.

Shachneva says that Slavyanka is "a close-knit family of wonderful people coming together with new ideas." In the future, she'd like to create additional interesting programs and take Slavyanka to the highest level, challenging them to become even better singers.

"I just love music," says Shachneva. "I love to think about it and create it. The interpretation and performance... the beauty of the music speaks through you and that's what's driven me for years, that emotional satisfaction." With Slavyanka, a group she says is moved by their hearts, she's found her home.

For additional information, contact chorus president Paul Andrews at: 510.798.7966 or email: [info@slavyanka.org](mailto:info@slavyanka.org).



The VP-9 is a naval squadron which flies P-3C-Orion aircraft.

## Regoli

Continued from page 1

three tours of duty flying the P-3C Orion. She had six successful deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom with the "Old Buzzards" Special Projects Patrol Squadron One. Commander Regoli also served one tour of duty as an Instructor pilot in the T-34C teaching prospective Naval Aviators to fly for the first time.

Outside of the cockpit, she served on the USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN 74) as the Flag Lieutenant for Commander, Carrier Strike Group THREE. Additionally, she spent two years as the Naval Military Aide to the Vice President for Vice President Biden which Beth says offered her many more unique experiences that she could ever have dreamed of as a Naval Officer.

While pursuing excellence in her professional life, Commander Regoli furthered her education. In 2007 she earned a Master of Science Degree from the School of Business Administration at the University of San Diego with an emphasis in Global Leadership.

Commander Regoli is a 2009 graduate of the Naval War College, having earned a Master of Arts Degree in National Strategic Studies.

Commander Regoli says in being a leader, "Never forget where you came from, be humble, and most importantly always do the right thing even when no one is looking."

Commander Regoli's personal decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Air Medal (6 strike flights awards), Navy Commendations medal (3 awards), Navy Achievement medal (2 awards), as well as numerous commendations.

#### About the VP-9 Golden Eagles

Patrol Squadron NINE (VP-9) was commissioned at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Washington in 1951. VP-9 provided support for night combat operations in the Korean War. In 1963, the squadron deployed to Okinawa; the Philippines; Kam Ranh Bay, Republic of South Vietnam; U-Tapao, Thailand, Guam, and other operations during the Vietnam War. In 1970, while deployed to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, VP-9 earned its third Meritorious Unit Commem-



Commander Beth Regoli is a 2009 graduate of the Naval War College, having earned a Master of Arts Degree in National Strategic Studies.

dation for patrolling more than nine million square miles of ocean. The "Golden Eagles" made a fifth homeport change to Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH), Kaneohe Bay in May 1999. The "Golden Eagles" flew more than 3,000 flight hours in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, to include over 100 combat missions. Two of such missions were strike missions directly targeting Taliban and al Qaeda forces, which was a first for a MPR aircraft in that AOR. VP-9 flew 1,100 missions with an amazing 99.5 percent mission completion rate. They earned the 2001 Battle "E" for all their accomplishments, and were also the recipient of the CNO Retention Excellence Award that same year. Joining the Global War on Terrorism, VP-9 provided near real-time imagery to the intelligence community during Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. Concurrently VP-9's extensive support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF) was also critical. More than 230 hours of support was provided for the USS CONSTELLATION and USS KITTY HAWK Battle Groups, USS BOXER ARG, PACSAG, and JMSDF surface vessels as they transited through the Straits of Malacca in Southeast Asia. Throughout their rich history, VP-9 has been recognized with nine Battle Efficiency Awards, four Meritorious Unit Commendations, five Coastal Command Trophies and three Captain Arnold J. Isbell Trophies for ASW/ASUW Excellence, two Golden Wrench awards for aviation maintenance excellence, the Arleigh Burke Award, the Navy Unit Citation, and the Golden Anchor Award.



**OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY  
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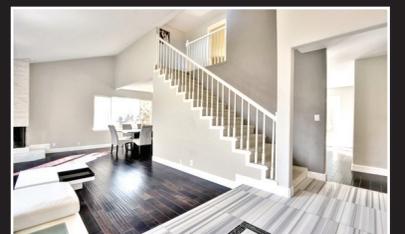
Stunning Holiday Lake Estates home has remodeled throughout with a contemporary flair and an Open- concept living style, promoting grand everyday living. This amazing home offers 2,592 square feet of living space, 4 gracious bedrooms, 3 lavish baths with one bedroom and full bath on lower level for guest or in-law quarters situated on 20,000 square feet of park-like grounds. \$1,198,000



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Times News

### Tax rate on gasoline to be reduced effect July 1

The California State Board of Equalization (BOE) announces that the state excise tax on gasoline will drop by 2.2 cents per gallon on July 1, 2016.

The reduction will lower the excise tax rate from 30 cents to 27.8 cents per gallon for the 2016-17 fiscal year, effective July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017.

"California requires the BOE to adopt a revenue-neutral excise tax rate for each fiscal year, and when the selling price of gasoline falls, we are legally obligated to reduce the excise tax accordingly," said Chairwoman Ma. "This is a mathematical formality and not a policy matter within the discretion of the Board."

to gasoline price website GasBuddy.com. Including the change in gas prices in San Jose during the past week, prices yesterday were 44.1 cents per gallon lower than the same day one year ago and are 6.5 cents per gallon higher than a month ago. The national average has decreased 1.3 cents per gallon during the last month and stands 47.2 cents per gallon lower than this day one year ago.

Areas nearby San Jose and their current gas price climate:

- Oakland- \$2.89/g, up 2.1 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.87/g.
- San Francisco- \$3.03/g, up 1.9 cents per gallon from last week's \$3.01/g.
- Salinas- \$2.90/g, up 2.1 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.87/g.

"The national average price of gasoline has now slipped nearly 10 cents lower than the 2016 peak, to-date, of \$2.39 per gallon, bringing greater likelihood that prices for the Fourth of July weekend will be even lower than where they now stand," said Gregg Laskoski, senior petroleum analyst for GasBuddy.

"And if there was any doubt about the direction of retail gasoline, 'Brexit's impact -strengthening the U.S. dollar; weakening European currencies and weakening global crude oil prices-- is expected to add even more downward pressure to summer gas prices despite record-setting demand (9.81 million barrels per day for the week ending June 17)."



### Gas prices up locally; down nationally

Average retail gasoline prices in San Jose have risen 3.4 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.93/g yesterday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 427 gas outlets in San Jose.

While local gas prices have risen, the national average that has fallen 2.4 cents per gallon in the last week to \$2.31/g, according

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To obtain tickets, get more info, or to make a donation, email [SJGiantsPackThePark@gmail.com](mailto:SJGiantsPackThePark@gmail.com). Following the game please join us for a Lumunaria lap around the bases!

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## Hot San Jose Nights S.T.E.A.M. charity event returns to Reid-Hillview Airport July 9

By Sean Eastwood  
Times staff writer

Hot San Jose Nights eighth annual charity car and airplane show returns to Reid-Hillview Airport on Saturday, July 9 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and promises to be everything needed for a great day of family fun. The event and parking are free.

The opening ceremony at noon includes a flyover and a parachute Flag Jump.

There will be lots of booths featuring vendors and non-profits and S.T.E.A.M. related activities.

Aside from the cool cars and great aircraft displays you've come to expect, there will also be the "Festival of Wings" BBQ wing cook off that is generating lots of excitement. Live music will take center stage all day with performances by *Big Mike & the HartBeats*; *Rockin' Blues Express*; & *Bi-Polar Bears*.

Also featured at the event is the Baylands RC Airshow which will put on for a fantastic airshow that is a delight for all to see. Military tanks will not only be on display, but will also be offering rides.

Aerial Sports League will be having caged Drone Wars. Fire engines and police cars will be on display.



Local photographer and author, Dennis Mattish will debut his brand new "History of San Jose Racing Part 2" and has offered to do a book signing.

A number of notable citizens and organizations including Second Harvest Food Bank, Sal Pizarro, Kathy Jackson, Rich Alvari, Dick King, Ken Palmer, Dan Montsier, and Steve Angus will be presented with awards for their contributions to the community. Food collection barrels from Second Harvest will be on site.

This event is open to all vintage, classic, hotrod, street rod and new model special interest cars and aircraft of all kinds. Cars registration will continue up to 9:30 a.m. the day of the show, July 9th or until the holding capacity of 200 cars is reached.

Hot San Jose Nights presents S.T.E.A.M. and Airport Day is sponsored in partnership with Chris Wilder, CEO of Valley Medical Center Foundation, County Supervisor President, Dave Cortese & 2nd District County Supervisor, Cindy Chavez. 100 percent of the proceeds will benefit charities.

*Editor's note: Registration forms for the car and airplane show, which will run from 10 am to 4 pm, can be found on-line at [www.hotsanenights.com](http://www.hotsanenights.com).*

## JetSuiteX introduces Montana Service at San Jose Airport

Want to explore Montana? Here's your chance.

New public charter service JetSuiteX is introduced seasonal June-September service between San Jose, CA and Bozeman, MT starting this week.

JetSuiteX will connect Mineta San Jose International Airport with Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport with four weekly roundtrip flights on luxuriously configured Embraer 135 aircraft.

"We are very pleased to have JetSuiteX begin non-stop service between San Jose, CA and Bozeman, MT with their unique private jet style experience," said Brain Sprenger, Airport Director at Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport. "San Jose and Bozeman share a diverse technology sector and now residents of Silicon

Valley have easy access to the many outdoor recreation areas in Southwest Montana including Yellowstone National Park.

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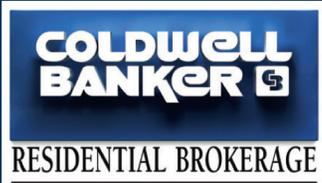


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Times Features



Aastha Shah, Aditi Sheth, Anushna Patel, Poojya Krishnamurthy, Pratima Manga and Priya Padmanabhan have been attending weekly classes to learn Bharatanatyam, a classical Indian dance. Photo courtesy Silicon Photography

## Dedication to the dance of Bharatanatyam

By Sandhya Iyer  
Times staff writer

Friday nights are generally reserved for going out or lazing around, so it's hard to imagine anyone being dedicated enough to attend a class every Friday evening for more than 12 years.

But for a group of six dedicated teenage girls, they made a decision to allocate their time in meaningful way. The girls, Aastha Shah, Aditi Sheth, Anushna Patel, Poojya Krishnamurthy, Pratima Manga, and Priya Padmanabhan have been attending weekly classes to learn Bharatanatyam, a classical Indian dance.

Poojya explained that she has been dancing for 14 years, and that it has really changed the way she looks at fine arts in general. Typically, at the end of one's Bharatanatyam career, there is an arangetram, or a final performance, and most people regard it as an ultimatum.

As Anushna mentioned, it's "an arangetram or nothing." But Arangetrams are very expensive, with the least expensive starting at around \$15,000, and although it's fulfilling for the dancer and her family, it doesn't do much to empower the community. That's what these girls set out to change. They still wanted a final performance, to conclude the end of 12 years of learning the exquisite art form, but decided that it could be used to benefit those in need as well.

Aastha volunteered with an organization called SEWA Rural that helps poor tribal people by providing health and educational services in South Gujarat, India. SEWA Rural maintains a hospital that provides free services to the tribes, in addition to sewing classes for women, classes for children whose parents work in the fields and an adolescent camp that allows teenagers to specialize in a vocation and helps them break the cycle of poverty that they were entrapped in before.

Because Aastha's family has been involved with the group for many years, she was able to contact them and arrange for the proceeds from the arangetram to be donated to SEWA Rural and its powerful cause.

The immense planning required to execute the arangetram began more than six months ago. Even though the girls thought of the idea themselves, their parents and teacher, Suganda Sreenath who is the lead artistic director of the dance school Jayendra Kalakendra, eagerly jumped in to support.

The practices increased significantly, adding up to more than five hours every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Because arangetrams are generally designed for one girl, all the dances had to be amended to include six dancers. It was grueling but worth it. Pratima explained that Bharatanatyam "filled in many blank spaces regarding my Indian heritage." Aastha added that bharatanatyam taught her dedication and discipline.

Organizing an entire Arangetram in six months is a difficult feat, and there were times when not all the girls were on the same level. Through the course of their bharatanatyam journey, they became not only partners, but also close friends, so they pulled each other through every obstacle.

"Our show allowed me to not just connect on a whole new level with my classmates that I've been dancing with my whole life, but also submerge myself completely into the art form as we prepared continuously," said Priya.

The performance, called Nrithyarpanam, was held in late May. There were six parts to the show, each dedicated to a particular god, each flawlessly executed. The theater was filled to capacity, and the six girls raised more than \$3,000.

Arangetrams are an important milestone, but instead of choosing to make it about them, they extended its impact throughout the community. Through all the effort that was put in together, their bharatanatyam sisterhood shines through.



Photo courtesy Silicon Photography

## Cambrian Carousel eligible for landmark status

The historic evaluation of the Cambrian Park Plaza Carousel is complete, making the iconic "Merry-Go-Round" sign eligible as a permanent Santa Clara County historic landmark.

The 50 plus year-old carousel is a unique example of Roadside Vernacular architecture and retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic identity.

"This is great news," said Santa Clara County Supervisor Ken Yeager. "Because the shopping center is under new ownership, I was heartened to learn that any future development will preserve the carousel, which is part of our community's heritage."

With the evaluation done, the County's Historical Heritage Commission can now consider a historic recommendation at their next meeting on July 21. Their recommendation will go to the Board of Supervisors for a final vote in August.

The report finds that the Cambrian Park Plaza was first constructed in 1953 during a period of profound change in the Santa Clara Valley. Until the end of World War II, most of the surrounding area was planted with orchards. With the return of many US servicemen, suburban neighborhoods began to replace these farms and the City of San Jose grew from 17 to 137 square miles during this period.

"While this action confirms what many who grew up with the revolving sign already knew, the report is a necessary step towards protecting the carousel as a Santa Clara County historic landmark," added Supervisor Yeager. "Though change in our region is



inevitable, I believe it's important to protect the landmarks that make our communities unique and hold memories for all of us."

The Cambrian Park Plaza's merry-go-round sign embodies the distinctive characteristics of American architecture at that time. "With its whimsical kinetic sculpture depicting a carousel in motion, the unique sign is an eye-catching example of Roadside Vernacular architecture," said the report.

Furthermore, the report concludes, "The carousel sign is one of the largest and most distinctive signs designed within this context (no other local examples are known to incorporate mechanical moving parts). It is also an important monument for the Cambrian neighborhood, which lacks a downtown business district and other traditional landmarks for wayfinding and community identity."

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# Happy 4th of July

## INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mark your calendars for the 3rd Annual Family Fun Festival and Firework Show at the Almaden Lake Park. Given the city's safety-related ban on the use of personal fireworks, this public event offers families and people of all ages and backgrounds a safe place to celebrate the birth of our nation. This patriotic, fun-filled, family-friendly event (no alcohol is served or allowed) is a great way to spend July 4th celebrating the United States of America and recognizing our Veterans and active duty Soldiers.

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### Write a Letter:

Write a letter to a USA soldier in Afghanistan. Support San Jose Veterans Center

### Transportation:

Parking is limited! Ride, bike or take public transportation. Be sure to bring blankets and especially a flashlight.

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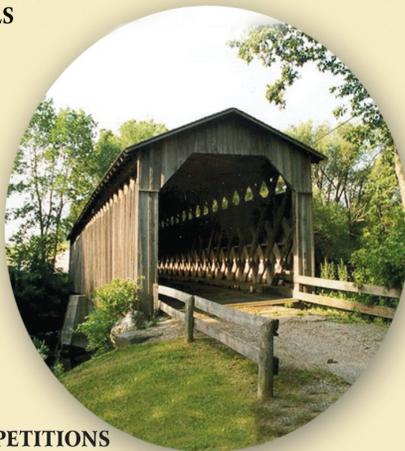
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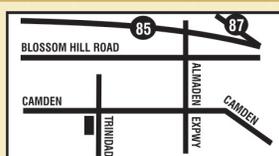
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Times **Feature**



# Firework show needs volunteers

By Councilmember  
**Johnny Khamis**  
*Special to the Times*

The July 4th Family Fun Festival and Fireworks Show at Almaden Lake is less than two weeks away! This is your last chance to sign up to help our District 10 team, and our fantastic sponsors to have a hand in putting on this popular celebration of our nation's independence. Please see below on how you, your family, and your neighbors can help!

**July 3 — Set Up (Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.)**



**District 10 Report**  
**Johnny Khamis,**  
City Councilmember

Help in the late afternoon/early evening on July 3rd - set up: tables, tents, sand bags, signage, etc.

**July 4 — Entrance / Exit Locations (Between 12 p.m. until Fireworks start)**

If you are comfortable searching bags/coolers as people enter the park, we need you! Prior experience helpful. Security will also be present at each entrance, but we need volunteers to assist.

**July 4th — Checking Parking Passes for Winfield Street closure / (7 a.m. 9 p.m.)**

We are closing Winfield at Coleman to Quarry Road (where Winfield ends). Only vehicles with a parking pass will be allowed to enter Winfield at Coleman - volunteers needed to verify passes. Security/Police will be present at this location.

**July 4 — Cleanup Team During the Event (3 p.m. until Fireworks Start)**

We need help picking up litter during the event and ensuring trash receptacles do not overflow. This is a perfect opportunity for community service hours for young adults who need them for a graduation requirement.

**July 4 — Lights After the Fireworks (Immediately after**

**Fireworks)**

We have three generator-powered lighting units that need to be turned on IMMEDIATELY after the fireworks. These lights are essential for a safe exit from the park for spectators.

**July 4 — Letters to Soldiers Tables (1 p.m. until 8:45 p.m.)**

Staff tables set up with stationery, envelopes, crayons, and other items for attendees to write letters to our active military personnel throughout the world.

**July 4 — Tear Down / Disassembly (Post-Fireworks)**

People needed to stay after the fireworks to help take down and stack tents, tables, chairs. With enough help, this will only take about 30 - 45 minutes.

**July 4 — Miscellaneous Help (2 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.)**

If you do not see an area where you feel you could help out, but you want to help, we can find a job for you!

**July 5 — Park Clean Up (9 a.m. - Finish)**

We need volunteers to meet us at the park on Tuesday morning, **July 5** pick up any litter left behind after the Festival. We provide bagels, cream cheese, Danishes, coffee and juice! This is a fun, energetic morning activity and good for students who need community service hours.

**Transportation:** We support and encourage everyone to walk, bike, use public transportation like VTA light rail, which drops off a short ways from the event, or VTA buses! Parking is extremely limited. Parking is available at Oakridge Mall and you can take light rail or make the walk to the lake.

For more information on volunteering, contact Councilmember Johnny Khamis' District office at sanjoseca.gov@mail4.atl111.rsgsv.net.



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 Church Office: 378-3472.  
 www.campbell-umc.org. E-mail us at: campbell\_umc@earthlink.net.  
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 408 268-0243  
 www.AlmadenCongregational.org  
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 VBS: June 13th – 17th (5:45-8:30pm) & Sports Camp: July 18th – 22nd (9am -12:30pm) For more details or to register please visit our website  
 Senior Pastor – Pastor Ron Johnson, Community-Life Pastor – Pastor Patrick Boyd, Children's Ministry Co-Directors – Alyssa Friend and Kristen Pearson  
 We are located at 2827 Flint Ave (Between Tully & Norwood) San Jose, CA 95148, Phone 408-238-0231, e-mail info@eastvalley-church.com  
 We are associated with Converge Worldwide www.convergeworldwide.org

The Episcopal Church in Almaden 6581 Camden Ave. San Jose, CA 95120. The Rev. Shelley Booth Denney, Rector Phone:408-268-0243 Web:www.eca-sj.org  
 At the Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA), we are joyful followers of Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, fellowship and outreach, we strive to nurture and grow a strong faith community of believers, a family of all ages, where each member feels welcomed, loved, valued and empowered to serve. Children are especially welcomed and cherished as an important part of God's family. All junior high and senior high students are welcome to participate in our Youth Groups. During the school year we have joint Sunday School with our sister church, the Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, UCC. The Episcopal Church in Almaden offers the following regular opportunities for worship: Sunday at 7:30AM and 10:30AM, Holy Communion service. Each Sunday service is followed by a coffee hour for friendship and conversation.

**Evergreen Valley Church**  
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 2750 Yerba Buena Rd. San Jose, CA 95121. Phone: 408-274-7422.  
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 Telephone: (408) 294-7254 x310.  
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 Worship services are at 10:00 AM at the Horace Mann Community Center (7th and Santa Clara Streets). Worship includes both contemporary and traditional music, a message that is relevant to real life, based in the Bible, and meaningful to people of all ages and backgrounds. We work in our community to provide real assistance and long-term, life-saving solutions: food, housing, counseling, and spiritual direction. Our children's & families' ministries include Sunday classes, outdoor family activities such as bike rides and fishing trips. Come, Make a Difference and feel the difference God can make in your life!

**Holy Spirit Catholic Church**  
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Monday - Friday. Our weekend Mass schedule is Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Rite of Reconciliation is every Saturday at 4 p.m. or by appointment. Our Parish Office is open Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Call 408-997-5100 for recorded information or 408-997-5101 to speak with someone in our parish office. Information on Faith Formation for children and adults can be obtained by calling our Catechetical Office at 408-997-5115. Get in the loop with our 3sixty High School Youth Ministry by calling 408-997-5106. Holy Spirit School serves grades Pre-K through 8th, and is located at 1198 Redmond Avenue. You can reach the school office at 408-268-0794.

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 3695 Rose Terrace Circle. San Jose CA 95148  
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 10:30 AM English, Mandarin, Cantonese and Cambodian.  
 Spanish at 1:00 PM.

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

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

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

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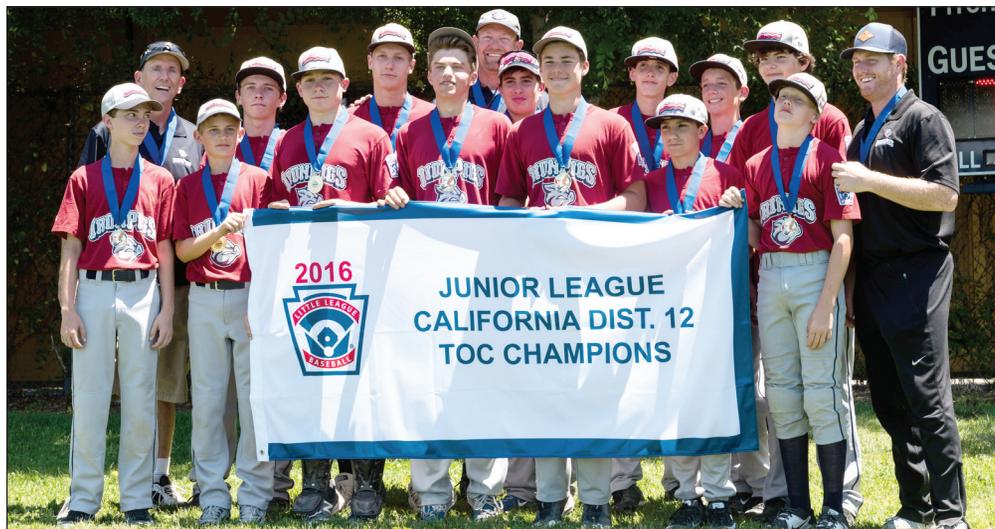
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Times Sports



The Almaden Iron Pigs are pictured with the championship banner: (front row): Ryan Martin, Jaylen Bodemar, Reese Burrill, Lucas Mirizzi, Gabe Vado, Joey Contini and Corbin Yates; (back row): Manager Nick Blozan, Zach Blozan, Carson Yates, coach John Yates, Jacob Lazaga, Joe O'Keefe, Zach Rios, Iggy Chardos and coach Shawn Sanford.

## Almaden 'Iron Pigs' win TOC Championship

For the second consecutive year, the Almaden Iron Pigs won the District 12 Juniors TOC Championship defeating the Cambrian Park A's 7-1 in the final championship game.

The end of season single elimination tournament crowns the top team in the Juniors Division.

After a great regular season of 17 wins and only 3 losses, the Pigs wanted nothing less than to win another championship.

The Pigs soundly defeated the Lincoln Glen

Giants 14-4 on Monday, the Almaden River Cats 15-5 in the semi-final on Wednesday and then suffocated the Cambrian Park A's in the final game.

Zach Blozan threw a 95-pitch complete game in the final against the CP A's who came in with a record of 21-1 prior to the championship game. Carson Yates had another monster play-off run batting .615 with eight runs and 8 RBIs. Blozan, Yates, Jacob Lazaga and Lucas Mirizzi handled the pitching duties through the three games and Gabe Vado, Joey Contini and Reese

Burrill helped to power the dominating Pigs offensive machine.

"This was such a fun season because all the boys committed themselves from the beginning to this goal of winning the TOC championship," said Nick Blozan manager of the Iron Pigs. "The team earned run average was 2.52 and the on-base percentage was over 500 for the season so we got contributions up and down the lineup. Most importantly this team is not only made up of great baseball players, but they are also a fine group of young men that are respectful, great teammates and on the path to promising futures."



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# Dangers with becoming too friendly with your lawyer

By Donald J. DeVries  
*Special to the Times*

This week's question:

I was wondering if it is possible to become too friendly with your lawyer. Aren't you guys supposed to follow strict rules of ethics?

**Ruben R.**  
*Almaden Valley*

Dear Ruben:

Yes, Ruben, we are supposed to follow strict rules of ethics and I would say that 99.99% of us do. However, every now and then one of us goes astray and difficulties arise.

Take, for example, a brand new case that was just reported in the "advance sheets" as we call them, out of Santa Barbara. The case is entitled "Butler v. LeBouef" and the case came down from the Court of Appeal, State of California, Second Appellate District, on June 20, 2016, about one week ago.

In that case, an older and infirm man, John A. Patton, had left his sizeable estate to his two nieces, Kim Butler and Julie Black and a family friend, Wendy Greenstein. Ms. Butler and Ms. Black are the decedent's last known heirs.

However, some time after he signed his new will and an amendment to his trust wherein he was persuaded to leave \$5,000,000 of his estate to his attorney, John LeBouef. This came after Attorney LeBouef

befriended the elderly and sick Patton and visited him frequently, more often as Patton's health deteriorated.

When Patton died, a 2006 will and trust were found, naming Attorney LeBouef as the principal beneficiary of Patton's estate.

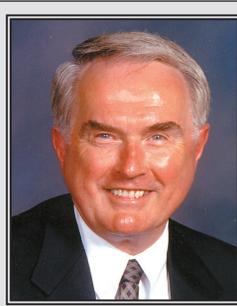
The two nieces learned about being disinherited and filed a petition to invalidate the will and trust in Probate Court, alleging that LeBouef drafted the documents to enrich himself.

At trial, the two nieces offered evidence to show that Attorney LeBouef drafted two prior, different, trusts, the Cook trust, and the Grant trust, also after LeBouef befriended elderly trustors (trust makers). *In both of those cases, the decedents' estates also passed to Mr. LeBouef or to his close friends.*

A forensic expert examined the linguistic idiosyncrasies in the Patton and Cook trusts and concluded that they were drafted by the same person.

At trial, the Probate Court deemed the John A. Patton testamentary documents invalid, based on LeBouef's participation in their drafting.

After the case went up from the trial court to the Court of Appeal, the Court of Appeal



## Ask The Lawyer

Donald J. DeVries,  
Attorney at Law

For past articles,  
visit our web site at  
[www.almadenvalleylawyers.com](http://www.almadenvalleylawyers.com)

for the Second Appellate District held that substantial evidence supported the Probate Court's finding that Patton's will and trust were the product of fraud or undue influence.

The evidence included the expert's assertion of "virtual certainty" that the Cook and Patton trusts were prepared by the same entity.

The Probate Court also heard evidence concerning the Patton Trust and Grant Trust to the effect that LeBouef befriended an elderly person and drafted or helped draft documents that had benefited himself or his associates. This evidence was admissible to

show a *common plan or scheme* and to *impeach* LeBouef testimony that he did not know who drafted Patton's will and trust.

In this particular case, the Court of Appeal found that this case was not only one where an attorney took advantage of an elderly and infirm man, but it *suggested criminal culpability*. (We do not know what happened if criminal proceedings were filed.)

In a Supplemental Statement of Decision, the trial court factually found that Appellant LeBouef caused the loss of the original trust instrument with the help of a fake staged burglary, which made it impossible for the

court to determine the true terms of the trust.

*Almaden Times* readers can read one of the key statutes for themselves by going to their favorite search engine, like Google, and by entering California Probate Code Section 21380, entitled *Presumption of Fraud or Undue Influence; Costs and Attorney's Fees*.

The Court of Appeal also adds that an ethical estate planning attorney will plan for his client, not for himself. And that a license to practice law is not a license to take advantage of an elderly and mentally infirm client.

So, there you have it, Ruben. I hope you have found this article interesting.

Just to repeat, attorneys are absolutely supposed to follow a strict code of ethics. There is no doubt about that and there are no exceptions, once those rules are adopted by the State Bar of California. I am very proud to be a member of this State Bar and have been a member for 46 years as of June 26, 2017. And I just hate it when our fellow members go wrong.

**Donald J. DeVries**  
*Almaden Valley*

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

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## Symphony Silicon Valley Summer Pops to perform at world-class fireworks show

The Rotary Club of San Jose has announced that Symphony Silicon Valley will offer a Summer Pops performance prior to and during the world-class fireworks display on Monday, July 4.

The Summer Pops performance will begin at approximately 5 p.m. at Discovery Meadow in downtown San Jose. The fireworks will light up the sky at approximately 9:30 p.m.

The meadow area between the museum and W. San Carlos Street will be open to the public. This is a free, family-friendly event, and seating is on a first-come basis.

Conductor **Peter Jaffe** (left) will conduct Symphony Silicon Valley. **Lisa Vroman**, Soprano, is the featured soloist (at right).



## San Jose business tax may be initiated to avoid ballot measure

By Sean Eastwood  
*Times staff writer*

San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo is proposing a plan to increase the city's business tax. While most businesses reject the proposal, the tax would likely be less costly than a proposed ballot measure.

The business tax has not been updated for the past 30 years, so Professor Scot Meyers-Lipton filed a ballot initiative earlier this year that would remove a \$25,000 a year cap and tie business tax to gross receipts.

Revenue, the initiative author suggested, would pay for police, fire and road repairs. But wait a minute, didn't voters just pass Measure B to take care of these basics.

Business groups say the ballot measure is a jobs killer, especially after the recent stock market crash and the slowing global economy.

The city plan would raise business tax revenue from \$12 million to \$25 million starting next year.

Times Feature

# County supervisor outlines recent investments and initiatives to benefit the community

By Ken Yeager  
Special to the Times

## Support for disabled athletes

Power Soccer is the first competitive team sport designed and developed specifically for power wheelchair users. These participants include persons with quadriplegia, multiple sclerosis, and other disabilities.

I have proposed funding that will provide the San Jose Power Soccer program with two specialized wheelchairs to be shared among its three teams. The wheelchairs will help the athletes improve their skills and become more competitive against the other teams they face who are currently utilizing this equipment.

## Health and wellness for local seniors

Bay Area Older Adults (BAO) provides 3,000 seniors in the County with physical activities, lifelong learning, nutrition, health and social support programs. These programs ensure the physical and emotional needs of seniors are addressed early to prevent future illnesses and stabilize existing chronic diseases.

I have proposed funding for BAO's Healthy Living Programs that will make up for other sources of financial support that are no longer viable. This will provide local seniors with uninterrupted access to the services they need and enjoy, such as hiking activities, health

education, and more.

## Investments in community health solutions

In order to continue providing residents with some of the best healthcare services in the country, the County Public Health Department must be able to bring in experts and foster innovative ideas and approaches. I am proposing that the County fund two cutting edge health conferences in the coming year for this purpose.

The Healthy Innovative Practices Conference will bring together diverse leaders from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to create and share innovative solutions to complex health challenges facing our communities.

The Healthy Cities Conference will bring together local city leaders and recipients of Partnerships to Improve

Community Health (PICH) project grants from the 2015 "Healthy Cities Forum" to leverage these diverse partnerships and achieve organizational and policy solutions to address pre-diabetes and other chronic diseases.

## Funding for childcare services

Due to its recent merger with the San Francisco branch of the United Way, the United Way of Silicon Valley will not be awarding new grants to local nonprofits after June 30th. This is an effective cut to over two-

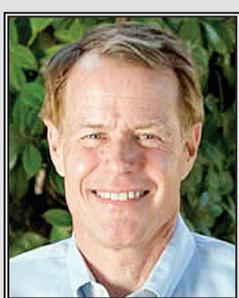
dozen local nonprofits, including many of whom provide critical childcare and family support services.

Two of these organizations, San Jose Day Nursery and Estrella Family Services, are vulnerable and in need of financial support to continue serving local families. I have proposed funding for these organizations that will go a long way towards securing access to affordable childcare and early education for low-income families.

See COUNTY, next page



Supervisor Ken Yeager with representatives from Bay Area Older Adults



## County Report

Ken Yeager,  
County Supervisor

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Times Feature

County

Continued from page 21

Support for LGBTQ youth

The County always strives to more be competent and comprehensive in providing outreach and services to LGBTQ residents. One of the region's primary centers for LGBTQ youth, the LGBTQ Youth Space in San Jose, needs critical funding to continue providing programs and services for youth ages 16-25

The funding I have proposed for the Youth Space will allow it to continue offering peer

mentoring services, outpatient counseling, skills for independent living, access to community resources, and engagement opportunities. By investing in this organization, we are ensuring that local LGBTQ youth have a safe, supportive environment in which they can grow and connect for years to come.

Healthy Food Incentive Grocery Project

Last year, I was proud to lead the creation of the the Urban Agriculture Incentive Zone (UAIZ) program in the unincorporated County. It provides tax breaks for landowners who use vacant, unimproved, or blighted

lands for small-scale agricultural production and animal husbandry with the goal of expanding residents' access to healthy, affordable food in urban areas. I am proud to announce that the San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR) will further this goal with the upcoming launch of its Healthy Food Incentive Grocery Project.

The project will provide matching funds on grocery store purchases of local fruits and vegetables by families and individuals participating in the CalFresh program. For example, a

shopper who spends \$10 of CalFresh benefits on California-grown fruits and vegetables at participating stores will get an extra \$10 to spend on any fresh produce in the store. This integration of healthy food incentives into the CalFresh program will help make produce more affordable for low-income residents and increase the economic viability of our local agricultural economy.

SPUR is leading the project in coalition with the County's Social Services Agency, Public Health Department, FIRST 5, and Second Harvest Food Bank.

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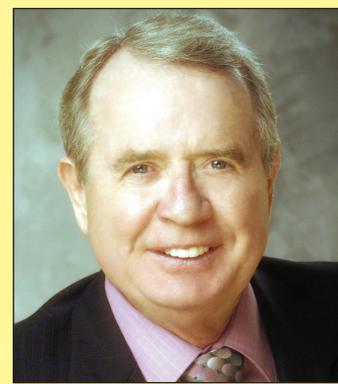
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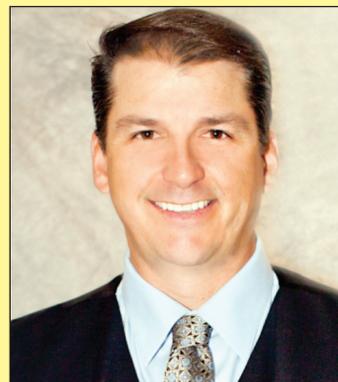
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