

# **Pro fireworks show - let's go!**

Almaden Lake Fireworks Show offers alternative to illegal fireworks By William Bellou

*Publisher* 

Rines for setting off illegal fireworks, even "safe and sane" fireworks, could put a dent in family pocketbooks. Fortunately the professional Almaden Lake Park Fireworks Show is an alternative to fireworks block parties.

The Almaden Family Fun Festival will be held at Almaden Lake Park on Independence Day from 2 to 10 p.m.

The fireworks start after dark and will last nearly 30 minutes starting at approximately 9:16 pm.

Families can walk or bike to the park, bring blankets and enjoy the lake, the park and nature.



"I hope to get as many sponsors as possible because I don't want to use any taxpayer funds," Khamis said. "I'm very excited to continue the District 10 Family Fun Fireworks Festival. It is important to recognize and celebrate the unity of being an *See FIREWORKS, page 5* 

# LEE BRANDENBURG A modern day Andrew Carnegie

#### **By Lorraine Gabbert** Senior Staff Writer

ee Brandenburg has a passion for philanthropy, and believes in using his wealth to improve society and make a real difference in the world.

"Brandenburg is our modern day Andrew Carnegie," says Denelle Fedor, Council Assistant to Councilmember Johnny Khamis. "His graciousness and unconditional giving...are lifelong gifts that make for a better community."

Through the Brandenburg Family Foundation, Brandenburg and his wife Diane, and their children Karen, Eric, Gary and Bill; grandchildren Diana Lee, Brenten Lee, Taylor Ann, and Jackson Lee; and *See BRANDENBURG, page 12* 



After he serenaded **Diane**, **Lee Brandenburg** was presented with a white fire chief's helmet. *Photo courtesy of the San Jose Fire Museum*.

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PAGE 2 ALMADEN TIMES JULY 3–JULY 16, 2015

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REVIEW





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#### ALMADEN TIMES JULY 3-JULY 16, 2015 PAGE 3







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# **This Week:**

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# Valley Currents

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

# Ali Barekat of Almaden receives 'Jefferson Award'

lmaden resident Ali Barekat has received a Jefferson Award for service to the community through his work as Executive Director of Sunday Friends.

Jefferson Awards is the nation's largest media partnership highlighting service to America. Locally, CBS San Francisco Bay Area (KPIX-TV) selects and profiles "quiet heroes" whose work in their communities addresses the core issues of impact, inspiration, sustainability, innovation, and need.

Sunday Friends, "The Working Alternative to Charity," provides very low-income families the means and community to break their cycle of helplessness and poverty. Children and their parents gather at three schools in lowincome neighborhoods of San Jose, Calif. to earn basic personal and household necessities (and toys!) while contributing to their community and learning life skills. Barekat became "interim" execu-



Ali Barekat is consistently clear that his dedication will be to the nonprofit world.

tive director in 2012.

"Sunday Friends' program has grown and expanded in every way possible since Ali assumed the leadership role," says Sunday Friends founder, Janis Baron. "His passion for education has led to significant increases in program-

based academic education, utilizing computers, volunteers and hands-on activities including STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) projects.

Barekat came to Sunday Friends with 25 years of business leadership and product development experience at start-up companies focused on web, enterprise, and mobile software products and services. He was a Co-Founder of 2Cast, a leader in Mobile Interactive Marketing. Ali held executive management positions at Tesaria and CyberBills. Barekat has been a Boy Scout volunteer and leader for the past 12 years.

"Ali may speak fondly of his years in high tech," continues Baron, "but he is consistently clear that his dedication will be to the nonprofit world - specifically, Sunday Friends - from now on. He will tell you that his heart has never been happier and he has never been more certain that he is doing the right thing - making a profound difference, changing lives and creating futures for thousands.'

The Jefferson Awards profile of Ali Barekat aired on CBS San Francisco Bay Area and KCBS radio and may be found online at www.kpix.com/hero.

#### **AVCA** meeting scheduled July 13

next meeting of the Almaden Valley Community Association (AVCA) on Monday, July 13th, from 7-9 pm.

Kurt Elvert from the San Jose Water Company and Rachael Gibson from the Santa Clara Valley Water District will discuss rate increases and water conservation requirements. The meeting will be held at the group's new meeting location at WestGate Church, 6601 Camden Ave

Complimentary refreshments will be served.

#### Mystery shooting on Almaden Expressway

A shooter is still at large after a man was apparently shot at the intersection of Almaden Expressway and Highway 85 Monday night.

The shooting was reported at 10:42 p.m. June 29 in the 5700 block of Via Monte Drive near Pioneer High School.

San Jose Police Officer Albert Morales said the man was suffering one gunshot wound and he was immediately transported to a hospital. Police said there is no motive for the shoot-

ing, and no suspects have been identified. Police detectives are looking for evidence

such as shell casings on Almaden Expressway.

Police records show that shots were fired into an occupied dwelling on Oct 31, 2012 near the same 5700 Block of Via Monte Drive location where this week's shooting was reported.



#### State law will expedite the development of water supplies

The Santa Clara Valley Water District commended Governor Brown for his leadership and recognizing the urgency of the need to develop drought-proof water supplies in an expedited faction.

In a statement to the media, the Water District also thanked Senator Jim Beall for his leadership in the Senate and Assembly Member Nora Campos for her leadership in the Assembly for ensuring the success of the proposal.

The new law, Senate Bill 88, will pave the way to build purified recycled water pipelines and related groundwater replenishment infrastructure to minimize future drought impacts in Santa Clara County.

The water district has strongly advocated for ways to streamline the California Environmental Quality Act for recycled water projects during the drought.

The new law is expected to shave about a year off of the timeline to expand the production and use of purified recycled water to replenish our groundwater basins, which are showing the effects of four years of drought.

The Water District began planning for the development of purified recycled water in Santa Clara County 10 years ago. The facility is currently producing 8 million gallons a day of purified water. While this is helping us with the current drought, the Water District has a plan to produce up to 14.6 billion gallons of additional purified water during the next six years.

A just-released survey shows that 58 percent of Bay Area residents support adding appropriately treated recycled water to the water supply.



#### Times **Community News**

### **Fireworks**

#### Continued from page 1

American with family, friends and our overall community every day, but especially on July 4."

Small donations to pay for the fireworks show are streaming into the District office. So far, Signature Flight, Yellow Checker Cab and Naprotek have contributed, and many individuals have made smaller donations.

All of the money goes through the Almaden Valley Women's Club, which is acting as the event's fiscal agent. All donations are tax deductible.

Nonprofits will be setting up information booths and local food and business vendors are will be offering their products and services.

District 10 officer personnel want to make sure that everyone adheres to the no alcohol policy at Almaden Lake Park. People also are asked not to bring pets and urged to pick up trash during and after the event.

To volunteer, contact Edmunds at Rayshelle.edmunds @ sanjoseca.gov or Denelle Fedor atdenelle.fedor@sanjoseca.gov or call the office at 408.535.4910.

Crackles and booms

There have been a few reports of crackles and booms of fireworks being heard around the City.

The San Jose Fire Department is reminds residents that all fireworks are illegal within city limits and fines are now set at \$350 for the first violation, \$700 for the second and a whopping \$1,000 for each subsequent offense.

The fire department says that most fire-

works injuries are not caused by bottle rockets, but rather sparklers that can reach more than one thousand degrees. Approximately 10 percent of all fireworks-related injuries involve young children playing with sparklers.

Of course this year's worsening draught and three day weekend holiday is the main reason the city increased the fines for illegal fireworks. Each year there is always a few blazes attributed to fireworks. Last year the fire department responded to 13 blazes that were linked to use of fireworks in the few days prior and during and shortly after the holiday.

Three Fourth of July shows:

#### Almaden Lake Park

Almaden Lake Park's Fireworks Family Fun Festival begins 2 p.m., 15652 Almaden Expressway, with music, vendors and kids' activities. The fireworks display is scheduled to begin at 9:15 p.m.

Downtown San Jose

Rotary of San Jose brings back a show to downtown's Centennial Fireworks Show at Discovery Meadow, 180 Woz Way. The show begins at 9:28 p.m. Residents are encouraged to take public transit. Bus and light rail schedules will be modified to accommodate the celebration. Visit **rotaryfireworks.org** for more information on schedules.

#### San Jose Municipal Stadium

The sky lights up following the Independence Day game between the San Jose Giants and Visalia. The game begins at approximately 6:30 p.m. and players will be dressed in stars and stripes. For ticket information visit atmilb.com/1Te8fUL



So-called "Safe and Sane" fireworks such as those pictured above are illegal in San Jose city limits.







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# Sonya Huang takes second place: Leland Speech and Debate finishes season with Stellar National Championship Tourney

eland Junior Sony Huang finished second at The National Speech and Debate Association (N.S.D.A.) National Tournament held in Dallas, Texas June 14 to June 19.

Leland High School qualified a total of 13 students in six different events for N.S.D.A, which is the final speech and debate tourna-

ment of the 2015 season.

Competition began Monday with approximately 250 entries in each event. After preliminary competition concluded, five Leland students advanced to elimination rounds.

Seniors Cameron Loftis in Lincoln Douglas debate, Aayush Kumar in Humorous Interpretation, and Ann-Kathrin Merz in World Schools debate saw their season come to a close in the first round of eliminations.

The tournament would stretch much longer for Senior Ethan Hu and Huang. Hu, competing in Domestic Extemp, advanced to the semi-finals and finished 10th overall.







Leland coach Chris Wardner (right) and Sonya Huang.

Huang, competing in Lincoln Douglas debate, advanced to the Championship round. After a heated debate on the moral culpability of inaction in the face of injustice, Huang finished second on a split decision.

When asked about Huang's final round performance, Lincoln-Douglas Coach Chris Wardner said "Sonya has impressed all season and had more than earned the right to debate for a national championship."

The final debate featured an audience of over 3,000 and includ-

ed the Director of Debate for Team USA. Immediately following the round Huang was asked to submit her application for Team USA. The performance also earned the junior an automatic entry to the 2016 National Tournament in Salt Lake City, Utah.

A season that included winning the 2015 State Tournament in April, was among the best in the schools storied history.

The squad's performance at the National Tournament served as a fitting close to the year of debate competitons.

# Tax rate on gasoline drops

he California State Board of Equalization (BOE) announces the state excise tax on gasoline has been reduced by six cents per gallon on July 1.

The ruling lowers the excise tax rate from 36 cents to 30 cents per gallon. The 30 cent per gallon rate will remain in effect until June 30, 2016.

While Californians will pay less in state excise tax on gasoline, this may not necessarily translate to lower overall prices at the pump. Other factors, such as world crude oil prices and supply and demand, also affect gasoline prices.

The BOE is tasked with annually adjusting the state excise tax rate on gasoline by March 1st of each year, after passage of 2010 laws known as the "fuel tax swap."

The new laws lowered the statewide sales tax rate on gasoline to 2.25 percent and raised the

While Californians will pay less in state excise tax on gasoline, this may not necessarily translate to lower overall prices at the pump.

excise tax rate so that the total amount of tax revenue generated is equal to what would have been generated had the sales and use tax and excise rates remained unchanged.

The excise tax rate for the coming fiscal year is based on estimates of the projected average price of gasoline and number of gallons to be purchased. The difference between the projected and actual revenue collected from the prior fiscal year is then subtracted from the coming year projection to arrive at the upcoming rate.

# Happy Independence Day



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#### Times Features

# DAZZLE GUESTS WITH A

through August 15. All SCCLD libraries are offering special programs for youth ages 13-18, including tech workshops, henna art, and graphic novel making workshops. For a full schedule of events, visit our online calendar or check in with your local teen librarian.

Are your teens bored this summer? Library District

ccording to a recent report,

"authored by the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) and funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the summers before and after middle school are some of the most critical transitions in a young per-

The transition from eighth to ninth grade is one of the most pivotal phases in a student's education, and one of the most treacherous. In fact, according to a 2011 Education Week article, a ninth grade student is three to five times more likely to fail a class than students in any other grade. Teens who continue to read and learn over the summer are better prepared

Santa Clara County Library District's Summer Challenge provides teens with fun, entertaining and educational ways to con-

tinue learning over the summer. Unmask! Every Hero has a Story, the theme of this year's Summer Challenge for teens, runs

Achievement,

says: 'No excuses'

"Accelerating

son's academic career.

for these transitions.

"According to the NSLA, only about one-third of households participate in a summer learning opportunity," said Emily Lo, Chair, Joint Powers Authority of Santa Clara County Library District and Saratoga City Council member. "We challenge all households with school age children to try at least one new summer program this year. Not only are these activities fun, but they are free!"

"SCCLD has worked to create distinctive programs and activities that are part of the Summer Challenge that teens will find appealing," stated Nancy Howe, County Librarian. From knitting classes, programming courses, and Zumba exercises to movie matinees, Teen Lockins and even Minecraft, teens have plenty from which to choose.

SCCLD also provides online tools and resources accessible on tablets and smartphones that can help teens continue learning over the summer. LearningExpress is an interactive online learning program that helps build skills in math, social studies, writing and reading comprehension; BrainFuse is a program that provides realtime, online homework assistance and skill building.

Teens also have access to thousands of resources at their local libraries that can help them stay engaged this summer, including movies, books, music CDs, language courses, and eBooks. Should they have extra time to spare, teens (14-17) are welcome to volunteer at their local libraries; applications are accepted on a rolling basis as space becomes available. Contact your local library for schedules and volunteer opportunities.

To find out more about these programs, go to www.sccl.org.

```
Red, White and Blue
Watermelon Cake
        1 seedless watermelon

1 cup low or no fat

natural vanilla

flavored yogurt

1 cup sliced almonds

1 cup blueberries
```

#### **Patriotic and Perfectly Sweet** This July Fourth, serve watermelon. This yummy fruit boasts sweetness and nutrition at a great value. Loaded with vitamins A, B6 and C, as well as antioxidants and heart-healthy amino acid it's a welcome addition to your summer spread. For more recipes, visit www.watermelon.org.

elebrate warm weather, abundant outdoor activities and all the fun of July Fourth with

a flavorful and festive gathering. Independence Day only comes once a year, so make

it count and invite your favorite guests over for a memorable event. You'll go out with



- when finished, it will look like piecrust of almonds around watermelon slices. Frost top of reassembled watermelon with remaining yogurt and decorate top with berries. Serve cold.
- a bang when you serve up these palate-pleasing dishes at your patriotic party acids.

ILY 4<sup>th</sup> FEAST

#### Fresh Off the Grill

Servings: 6-8

cup blueberries cup sliced strawberries

"For a red-white-and-blue burger that tastes as good as it looks, I use ground bison on a brioche bun topped with Castello Burger Blue Cheese," says celebrity chef Michael Symon. For more recipes, visit castellocheeseusa com

**Bison Burger with Blue Cheese** Recipe courtesy of Michael Symon Servings: 4

Kosher Salt

- Kosher Salt Freshly ground black pepper 2 tablespoons olive oil 1 pound ground bison, loosely packed into burger patties 4 slices Castello Burger Blue cheese 4 bisices totle soft bemburger burg togeth

- brioche-style soft hamburger buns, toasted small red onion, very thinly sliced into rings cup arugula
- Heat your grill to medium-high heat. Season burgers with salt and freshly ground black pepper on both sides. Drizzle with olive oil, then place on grill. Cook 3 minutes, then flip. Add slices of blue cheese (1 slice
- r burger), and let cook anothe 2 minutes. Remove burgers from grill and place
- Top each burger with slice of red onion and 1/4 of arugula. Serve



#### **Star-Spangled Dessert**

Add color and crunch to your cones with a dip in red, white or blue melted Candy Melts candy and a variety of patriotic sprinkles. The Cone Cakes baking rack holds the cones for drying and serving. For more recipes, visit www.wilton.com.

#### **Dipped Ice Cream Cones**

Yield: 12 ice cream cones be of context context
 bag (12 ounces) Bright White Candy Melts Candy
 Sugar ice cream cones
 Jimmies 6-Mix Sprinkle Assortment Rainbow Jimmies

Inch deep around opening of cone. Cut small hole in tip of bag and drizzle melted candy 1 inch deep around opening of cone. Tap cone lightly to smooth, and sprinkle with jimmies. Position cone in cone rack. Let chill, about 10–15 minutes. Add ice cream scoops at party and serve in cone rack.





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**BLOSSOM VALLEY** \$640.000 4 BR 2 BA Blossom Valley home has an open floor plan with dual pane window and beautiful hardwood floors. Bill Robertson,

CalBRE #01362607 408-314-7070 SAN JOSE ALMADEN

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#### Times Feature

### **NEW START TIME 4:30PM Charlie Wedemeyer High School All-Star** Game now coupled with 49ers practice

he kickoff for the 41st annual Charlie Wedemeyer AllStar Football Game at Levi's Stadium has been changed so that fans can also enjoy a 49er practice night. The game's new start time is 4:30 pm Saturday, August 1.

Presented by the Rotary Club of Almaden Valley, the game features standout class of 2015 seniors from 46 Santa Clara County High Schools divided into North and South squads. The game has been a tradition for more than 40 years and has had a quite a few participants that have been collegiate standouts and NFL stars.

This year's event will be played at the largest stadium to ever house the all-star game which honors former Los Gatos High coach Charlie Wedemeyer who died five years ago from ALS.

"This is an awesome opportunity to carry on a 41 year tradition and take it to the next level," said Mike Carrozzo, game publicist. "The 49ers and Levi's have wrapped their arms around this and it's going to be a heck of a show and I just hope a lot of people come out and witness a historic football game!"

Carrozzo said there are a number of surprises expected this year including two legendary San Francisco 49ers assisting as guest coaches during the game.

The South Head Coach will be Eric Perry, head coach of Pioneer High School in Almaden. The North All Star Head Coach is Jake Messina, head coach at Fremont High School in Sunnyvale.

Jersey No. 1 was retired in memory of Charlie Wedemeyer for both North and South teams and No. 42 was retired in memory of Pat Tillman for the South team

Head Football Coaches Eric Perry for the South and Jake Messina for the North have made their final selections from the list of players nominated by the head football coaches of all Santa Clara County high schools. See the final rosters at http://youthclassic.org/.

Tickets are now available online through Ticketmaster at www.santaclaraallstar.com. or call Ticketmaster 1-800-745-3000, or call 415-GO-49ERS. The event will feature general admission seating in the stadium's lower bowl at a cost of \$20 for adults and \$10 for youth up to 18 years old (must show student ID). You can also visit the Levi's Stadium Box Office at 4900 Marie P. DeBartolo Way in Santa Clara to purchase tickets in person Suite rentals are also available. For questions, comments, or additional information, please visit the youthclassic.org website

#### LELAND AND PIONEER ALL-STAR PLAYERS



College or University: University of Santa Clara Football Honors: Honorable Mention All

Mercury News (QB) First Team All League (QB) League Co-Outstanding Offensive Back SF 49er Player of the Week



ADRIAN CERVANTEZ High School: Pioneer College or University: Mission College Football Honors: First Team All League (RB) Sports Focus MVP of the Game of the Week



CHUCK CULBERSON High School: Leland College or University: Colorado University, Boulder

Football Honors: Senior Year: Honorable Mention

All Mercury News (RB); First Team All League (RB); Team Back of the Year; Team Captain. Sophomore Year: First Team All League (JV); Team Most Valuable Defensive Player (JV). Freshman Year: Team Lineman of the Year (Frosh) Scholastic Honors:

Presidential Award for Academic Excellence



**BRANDEN KEDING** High School: Pioneer College or University: Foothill College Football Honors: First Team All Mercury News (OL)

First Team All League (OL) League Most Outstanding Offensive Lineman



MICHAEL KELKER High School: Pioneer College or University: Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Football Honors: First Team All League (LB) Coaches Award

Scholastic Honors: National Honor Society California Scholastic Federation Jefferson Service Award



High School: Leland University of California,

Football Honors: Senior

Second Team All Mercury News League Defensive Player of the Year Team Most Valuable Player Team Captain Junior Year First Team All League



ZACH SILVA High School: Pioneer College or University: Undecided Football Honors: Senior Year

Honorable Mention All

Mercury News (OB) First Team All League (QB) League Most Outstanding Back of the Year Junior Year First Team All League

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TAE KIM

College or University:

Santa Barbara Year

First Team All League



**KEVIN CANCE** High School: Leland

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# Community **Calendar**



The Almaden Summer Concert Series will kick off July 9 with San Jose-bsed band **Free Fahlen** (above).

# Greystone Park to host Almaden Summer Concert Series starting July 9

he Almaden Community Center will be holding their annual Almaden Valley Summer Concert Series July 9 at 6:30 p.m. at Greystone Park featuring the band Free Fahlen.

The free community event and families are welcomed to bring their lounge chairs and picnic baskets to enjoy music in the park.

Free Fahlen and OTR are new to the concert series and have band members who grew-up in Almaden Valley and are still very much part of the community. The concert series is scheduled weekly on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8.00 p.m.

This year's music line-up includes Free Fahlen (7/9), Houserockers (7/16), OTR (7/23), and Sage (7/30).

Houserockers and Sage are two popular returning bands that get the crowd dancing with their soulful sounds. This will be the 12th year that the concert series will be held thanks to the sponsorship of the City of San Jose, Almaden Community Center, Sereno Group, and Buffalo Wild Wings.



Sat. July 11, 9 am - 12 pm

The Guadalupe River is a wildlife corridor, connecting resident birds to many different ecosystems throughout the South Bay, and also serving as a winter or summer refuge for migrating species. Learn how to identify the many interesting species that call the Guadalupe River home on an outdoor birding excursion led by naturalist Greg Kerekes. Greg will teach participants how to identify bird species by sound and sight, using binoculars, keys, guidebooks, and birding techniques. No prior birding expe-



rience is necessary, but experienced birders are welcome to attend and refresh their knowledge and help fledgling learners. Make sure to bring proper clothing, sturdy walking shoes, a sack lunch, and some binoculars if they are available.

Ages 16 and up. \$10/members, \$15/non-members

This program takes place at the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy Visitor & Education Center, 438 Coleman Ave., San Jose. Pre-registration is required, and space is limited. For more information, visit www.grpg.org or call 408-298-7657.



. . . . . . . . . . . .

# Attorney-client relationship is a very important one

By Donald J. DeVries Special to the Times

This week's question:

I have been reading your articles for years and I have noticed at the end of each one a certain phrase. It always says, "No attorneyclient relationship is created by these arti-Why do you say that each and every cles." time?

Bonnie B.

Almaden Valley

#### Dear Bonnie,

You emailed in a very good question, Bonnie. And the answer requires a little explaining.

First of all, thank you for reading these articles for years. I started writing this column in 1986, enjoyed it then, and still enjoy writing it now for my Almaden Times readers.

And I hope that the quoted phrase you mentioned appears in each and every one of these articles. It is important for you, the reader, and it is important for me, the attorney writing these articles.

Now, let me respond to your question. When a person submits a question to an attorney, it could well be seen as seeking legal advice. That would not be surprising at all. However, there are many responsibilities undertaken by the attorney at the very beginning of any attorney-client relationship.

A contract is usually created between the attorney and the client. This contract could be in writing and therefore express or it could be implied, as in an oral contract or agreement. Your attorney could well be your agent and you the principal, in agency law. Of course, a key component of that relationship is consent in that contract

setting. In our office setting, a rather formal agreement is usually prepared and signed by our client and me, confirming the essential aspects of that contract in a letter. However, a formal written agreement is not necessary for the formation of that relationship.

An attorney-client relationship could be found to exist when an attorney volunteers his or her time to help someone in need. It could also be found to

exist from a pattern of custom and practice between the attorney and the person. And I believe it could be found to exist in my answering questions in this newspaper.

If an attorney-client relationship is found to exist, very significant duties arise. The attorney is in the same category of other professionals who are considered to possess knowledge, skill, and ability for a higher minimum standard of conduct than "ordinary care." Similar standards are required for doctors, dentists, engineers, and many other professionals.

An attorney has a clear duty to represent his or her client to the best of the attorney's



ability. That duty is difficult, if possible at all, to perform when answering a question emailed in by a reader. Often key facts are omitted and only one side of one part of the full

So, you can see very quickly that the attorney's advice could well be incorrect if he or she did not have a complete picture of the facts at hand. That could well lead to a malpractice case against the lawyer for substantial monetary damages.

Also, if I were a client, I would not appreciate my case being judged on incomplete information. That would not be fair to me and I certainly would not, as a client, put

much value in a response to a legal question appearing in a newspaper, as good as the newspaper is, and as good as the attorney is.

### Brandenburg

#### Continued from page 1

great-grandchildren Bella Grace, and Aidan Christopher support local non-profits.

Brandenburg and Diane have also served on many boards of civic and charitable organizations, and received numerous recognitions, including "Silicon Valley's Outstanding Philanthropists," and "Most Outstanding Community Volunteers."

In 2006, when the Almaden Business Association "Texas Hold'em Fundraiser" was deemed illegal by the attorney general's office, the Brandenburg Foundation stepped up, donating \$10,000 towards furniture for the children's story room at the Almaden Library.

In February. The Brandenburg Foundation donated \$1 million to purchase Old Fire Station 1 for the San Jose Fire Museum. After he serenaded Diane with "Smoke Gets in your Eves" and "I Don't Want to Set the World on Fire," Brandenburg was presented with a white fire chief's helmet and a "Muster Team Exemption Certificate" which was used long ago to exempt firefighters from poll taxes, jury duty, and serving in the military.

"We've been involved in downtown San Jose a long time," says Brandenburg. "History matters. As soon as we heard about the fire museum, we decided to buy the property for them. We saw the fire equipment they had stored, and we wanted to help them find a home."

"It's Lee's dream," says Willliam B. Baron, partner at Brandenburg Properties, "to see thousands of school-aged children learning about fire, and life safety issues while having fun sitting in historic fire apparatus and sliding down a fire pole with grins on their faces."

Due to their donation, the Brandenburg family is a lifetime Founding Partner of the museum. "I was honored to meet Lee and Diane and get to know them," says Fire Museum President John McMillan. "They will always hold a special place in the heart of our San Jose Fire Museum Board. We have one of the best historic fire collections in the country, and because of Lee and Diane's wonderful donation, we now have a great historic downtown fire station to complement it."

In all, The Brandenburg Family Foundation has contributed more than \$20 million to charitable causes throughout the South Bay including: Camp Campbell, Children's Discovery Museum (Brandenburg Theatre), Downtown Streets Team, Martin Luther King Library

Many other aspects of the attorney-client relationship come into play as well, such as the attorney having a fiduciary relationship with the client, one of the very highest character. One aspect of that is to preserve all client confidences, and that certainly is not true when the response to a question appears in a newspaper.

So, Bonnie, you can begin to see why I have that note at the end of each and every article. It is very important for the client to understand that and it is very important for me to point that out. And if I ever forget to state that "No attorney-client relationship is created by these articles", you please let me know!! Thanks.

Donald J. DeVries

Almaden Valley

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



Lee Brandenburg believes in taking risks and following your passion

(Brandenburg Browsing Room), Montalvo Arts Center, Ronald McDonald House, Sacred Heart Community Service, San Jose Medical Center Foundation, San Jose State University, and Stroke Awareness Foundation.

"The City of San Jose is very fortunate for The Brandenburg Foundation's unconditional giving," says Councilmember Khamis. "They are an example of the true meaning of being an American; working hard and sharing that wealth through giving."

"We both had mothers that gave during their lifetime," says Diane, "so they taught us the gift of giving. We started out with less than \$100 and a lot of optimism, and built it from there. We found out how important it was to address the youth in our community to give them feelings of self-worth and self-esteem."

Through the years, Diane served on the council of the Martin Luther King Library, PTA, Girl Scouts, Almaden Swim Club, Mid-Peninsula League of the San Francisco Symphony, and opened their home to their children's friends who stayed with them for periods of time when they had nowhere else to go.

The Brandenburg's have also reached out to help international charities, assisting in building walls and bringing fresh water to villages in need, giving to the Forgotten International Children's Fund, and adopting eight children from India and Ghana, including Priyanka, Fati, Asana, Avisha, and Solomon,

They found some of these children, like See BRANDENBURG, page 14

# story is told.

Ask The Lawyer ald J. DeVries

For past articles. visit our web site at almadenvalleylawyers.com

ALMADEN TIMES JULY 3–JULY 16, 2015 PAGE 13



Almaden Times Guide

#### Times Cover Story

## **Brandenburg**

Continued from page 12 Solomon, scavenging at the dumps in India where they'd pound computers apart to get copper wire and chips to support themselves. The Brandenburg's saw to the children's medical attention for malaria, nourishment and education; and several currently attend boarding school.

"Lee has often observed that there is something to be said for those that have deep pockets: trouble is many have short arms," says Baron. "It's clear that the Brandenburg Family arms are quite long indeed.'

In addition to philanthropy, Brandenburg has had a lifelong passion for golf. He was a founding member of the Almaden Golf and Country Club, Spyglass Hill at Pebble Beach, and created Cinnabar Hills Golf Club.

"It was a dream of Lee's for some time to find the right site in his hometown to build a great golf course for the public," says Baron. "In continued recognition of his vision, execution, and customermanagement acumen, first. Cinnabar Hills regularly earns awards of distinction. The jewel inside of the Cinnabar Hills clubhouse is the Brandenburg Historic Golf Museum; likely the best golf history museum outside of the PGA World Golf Hall of Fame on the east coast."

As soon as he saw the property, Brandenburg realized he had to have it. It was a cattle ranch at the time and going for \$11 or \$12 million. After verifying with the City of San Jose's Planning Department that the property had more than a 15 percent slope, which made it impossible to build homes on, he talked down the price, buying it for \$3.7 million.

"It was a great piece of property," says Brandenburg, "And I always wanted to build a golf course."

The Brandenburg Historical Golf Museum, founded in 1998, features photographs and memorabilia of celebrities and golf legends including Johnny Miller, Clint Eastwood, Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, President Eisenhower, Chip Beck, Walter Hagen, Bobby Jones, Gene Sarazen. Sam Snead, Mac O'Grady, Ben Hogan and Ken Venturi. Many of the photos depict Brandenburg with these icons. Of special note is the collection of fully engraved, solid sterling silver golf trophies of the four major PGA Championships and the US Open.

Brandenburg and Diane had the pleasure to meet and/or golf with most of those depicted in his museum, as well as Glen Campbell, Alan Shepard, Arnold Palmer, Billy Mayes, Fred MacMurray, Tony Jacklin, Frank Sinatra, Lawrence Welk, Andy Williams, Jack Nicholson, Johnny Miller, and Samuel Jackson.

They met Chip Beck when he was playing in the Bing Crosby Masters Golf Tournament in Augusta, Georgia.

"I've been out here for 11 years and never won a golf tournament," Chip told them. "Well, Chip, you're about to

win," said Diane. And he did. Making his fortune

Brandenburg has worked for decades in real estate and development. The founding partner of Brandenburg Properties, he began his career in the mid 1950's after graduation from San Jose State University and two tours of duty for the United States Army. He started in real estate sales, moving to entitle and develop custom home and multifamily subdivisions. He expanded into commercial, retail and office building development, and, through the partnership Brandenburg, Staedler & Moore, entitled and developed 17, five-star mobile home communities.

He has developed large-scale residential golf and resort communities in Northern and Southern California, southeastern United States and British Columbia, as well as other residential and commercial developments in California, Georgia, South Carolina, Louisiana and Texas.

"He's a wonderful man, and a true gentleman," says Baron, "whom I've had the blessing of working with over the past 32 vears."

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, Brandenburg pursued residential subdivision development, including Wooded Lake Estates in Almaden, developments in Willow Glen, and the first residential subdivision in Saratoga.

In the mid 1970's, his son, Eric, joined Brandenburg Properties.

Silver Creek Valley Country Club was a Brandenburg vision, and they also converted a former quarry into nearly 1,200 residential units, a Home Depot and Lucky Food Store along Capital Expressway.

Brandenburg Properties recently received approval from the City of San Jose to establish Hertiage Oaks Memorial Park by Cinnabar Hills.

"There is only one memorial park in San Jose, so there's a real need for another one," says Brandenburg. "Lee instilled in all of us that

good business is done from both the head and the heart," says Baron. Looking Back

Brandenburg was born on June 8, 1930, to Jessie and Melford Brandenburg. His father was a manufacturer's sales rep selling boats and other marine products. Brandenburg grew up in Lynbrook, New York. The family moved to Rockville Center, New York, where he attended South Side High School.

Although his first job was delivering newspapers, at age 12, Brandenburg caddied at the Country Club Rockville in Rockville center. In high school, he sometimes would sneak on the golf course to play.

After his parents moved to San Mateo, he attended San Mateo Jr. College and San Jose State, where he majored in psychology and trained to be a ROTC Second Lieutenant and a military police. While at San Jose State, he met Diane and the two eloped to Reno on March 1, 1952. She continued her studies at San Jose State when he left for Camp Gordon in Augusta, Georgia for officer's training, driving across the country in his old Studebaker.

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One day while at Camp Gordon, Brandenburg was amazed to read, 'Ike to play Masters at Augusta National' on the front page of the Augusta Chronicle. Without a second thought, he drove out to the golf course. When he arrived, there were security vehicles and highway patrol flashing lights at the front gate, so he drove 386 yards, followed a path, parked, and walked out to the first fairway.

"There were two guys teeing off," says Brandenburg, "and I knew it was President Eisenhower. He was playing with golf pro Ed Dudley. There were two caddies, and a secret service guy on my side said. 'What the hell are you doing here? Wait 'til the president putts out, and then get the hell out of here.'

If he had been 20 minutes earlier or later, he would've missed him. When Ike finished putting, he was facing Brandenburg, and he smiled and crossed the green.

"I said, 'Congratulations, General,' and we shook hands. I guess he couldn't resist a Second Lieutenant."

Another time, at the Augusta National Golf Club, Brandenburg noticed a man pushing a wheel barrow filled with green members jackets. He was going to burn them because the golf club was getting new jackets. Brandenburg asked to look through them and to his surprise discovered Eisenhower's green jacket. He immediately asked if he could have it. The man said he could as long as he didn't sell it. That same jacket is now proudly on display at The Brandenburg Historical Golf Museum.

Brandenburg and Diane were reunited when he served at the Presidio in San Francisco, where he played on the officer's golf team. When he received an early discharge from the military in 1954 after serving for 15 months, he realized he'd have to earn a living, so he decided to sell houses in San Jose.

One day, he walked into Stone & Schulte, and said, "Hi, I'd like to sell rea1 estate for you." That's great," replied Schulte, and hired him on the spot. Brandenburg worked for him for three years before founding Empire Realty to develop real estate and his career.

Through the years, Brandenburg has learned to take risks and advises others to do the same. "If you don't take chances, you won't do anything new, or accomplish anything," he says. "And, curiosity is the one thing that makes everything happen. This wonderment...you wonder why, and try to find the answer...

"Lee is a renaissance kind-ofguy," says Barton. "He's always creating, always innovating. He's a movie producer, an author, a



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that said about Lee, without Diane, there would be no 'Lee' as we know him. Diane has been a marvelous life partner of Lee's and the two make an absolutely lovely couple and team."

"It's been a wonderful, remarkable journey," says Diane, "I'm married to a man who never accepts the word 'no.' He won't quit. What he's accomplished in his lifetime ... We've been very blessed. There have been challenges, but we marched through them.'

	Ricces of Worsbip
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#### 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-si.org

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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 praverful and joyful liturgies; evangelization, fellowship, and service opportunities to the community. We offer spiritual opportunities for all ages, including children's liturgy, dynamic E.C.H.O - Jr. High, IGNITE - High School and North Star -Young Adult Ministries, along with small faith communities and opportunities to help the poor and marginalized of San Jose. Our Preschool is the only Catholic Preschool offering quality family oriented service in the Evergreen and Silver Creek areas. Our Chapel, Gathering Hall, Parish Office. Mission Center, Parish Gift Shop, Memorial Garden and Preschool are all located at 5111 San Felipe Rd. Please come join us to worship at one of the following times and locations: St. Francis of Assisi Chapel Saturday 5:00PM, Sunday 8:30 AM,

10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 4:00 PM (Mass in Vietnamese), 6:00 PM Youth Mass St. Francis of Assisi Gathering Hall Sunday 9:00 AM, 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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