

**TJ MARTIN PARK
REDWOOD GROVE
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DEPT. - PAGE 4**



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NOV. 6–NOV. 19, 2015 ■ VOL. 28, NO. 22

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LEARN THROUGH PLAY



Music Therapist **Karen Hook** enjoys collecting a variety of instruments to play with her clients. *Photo by Lorraine Gabbert*

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Nancy Pyle resting after suffering near fatal heart attack

By William Bellou
Publisher

Former Almaden District 10 councilwoman Nancy Pyle is resting in the hospital after suffering a near fatal heart attack during a luncheon Friday October 30 at the San Jose McEnery Convention Center.

San Jose Firefighters resuscitated Pyle after she went into cardiac arrest at approximately 2 p.m. Friday according to witnesses including San Jose Fire Capt. Mitch

Matlow.

The 77-year-old was taken to Santa Clara Valley Medical Center for observation. Pyle told NBC Bay Area that she was “weak” and “sore,” but resting comfortably. “San Jose Firefighters are the best in the world,” she said. “I want to thank everyone for their well wishes and prayers. It’s been a tremendous help...”

Pyle represented Almaden Valley on the San Jose City Council for eight years from 2004 through 2012.



Pyle

Therapist uses music to reach clients with autism, learning disabilities

By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

Specializing in clients with autism and learning disabilities, Registered Music Therapist Karen Hook uses music to address physical, cognitive, and social development in people of all ages.

“I believe that all students, regardless of their abilities, can engage in successful musical experiences,” says Hook.

Hook fell in love with children with autism for the first time when a five-year-old boy leaned over and gave her a hug while they were playing music together. “That just melted my heart,” she

says. “We have these stereotypes of autistic children being incapable of emotion...This same young man is now almost 14, and his communication has gone from nonverbal to singing his heart out, and he continues to melt my heart.”

More recently, while she was singing, “All You Need is Love,” by the Beatles, waiting for him to accompany her on the keyboard, he gently took her hand and put it on his chest, next to his heart. “When moments of connection and communication like that happen, it’s pure joy for me,” she says. “It’s very rewarding.”

See MUSIC, page 18

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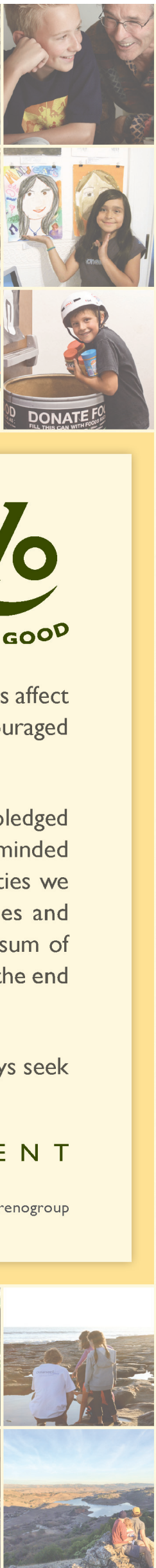
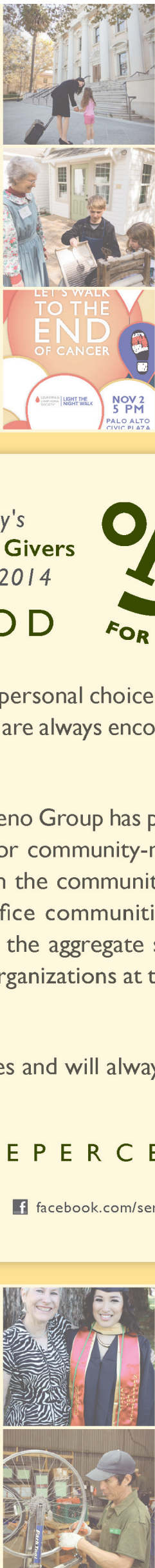
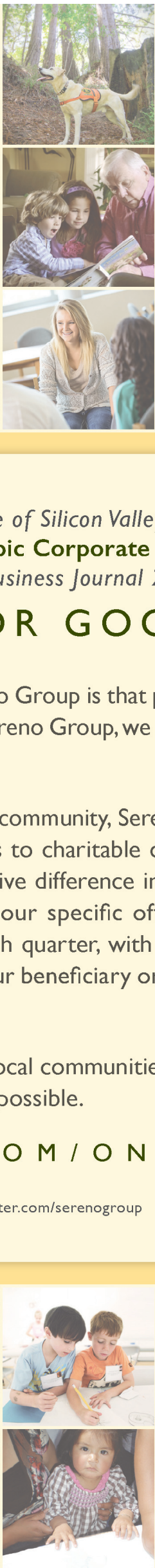
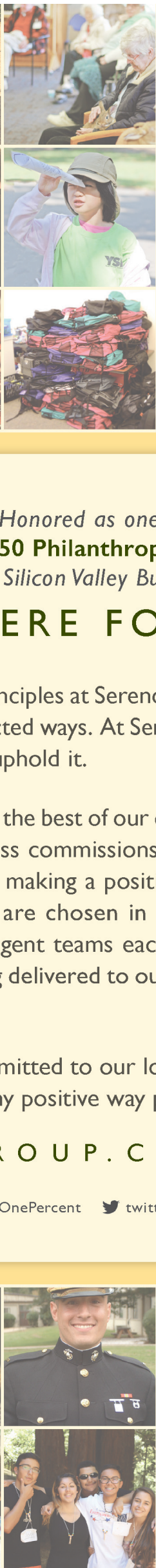
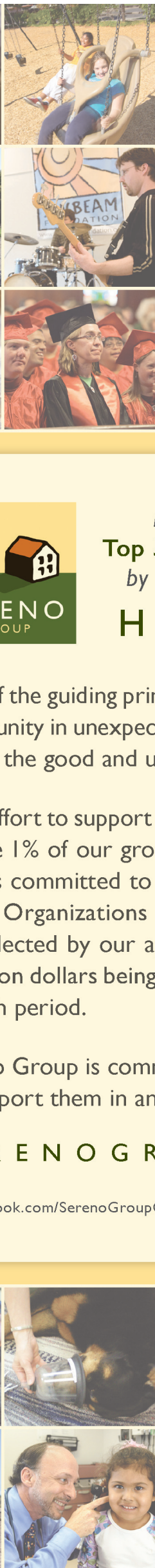
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This Week:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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↑ FEATURE

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Valley Currents

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

TJ Martin Park redwood grove gets needed water

By William Bellou
Publisher

A looming disaster with the demise of a "stressed out" grove of redwood trees at TJ Martin Park may be averted with a possible solution by park maintenance employees.

In a memo directed to park maintenance personnel dated Oct. 29 by Melody Goodwin, Gardening PMD1 states: "The trees are stressing out and can use some water. Also please assess the tree status in the neighboring areas and increase water in those areas as needed. Please book your time to work order #384222."

"A disaster has been in the making with our 'stressed out' redwood tree grove at Martin Park," said Linda Wilson, president, Martin-Fontana Parks Association (MFPA). We have been trying to get some action on our tree problem since last April," she said.

"The redwoods were planted in the early 80's and have provided a modicum of shade for the tot lot in TJ Martin Park for all these years," explained Linda. "Unfortunately, the ground around the trees is hard as concrete and cannot absorb moisture from the rains since the entire hill has never been prepped to hold water."

One of the problems associated with the redwood trees is that they were planted on a man-made hill, according to Tory Trede, Park Facility Supervisor, District 1.

"When the water was increased during the summer schedule, the trees in the flat area were helped, but trees on the hill have two major



"The trees are stressing out and can use some water," stated in a memo sent to City of San Jose maintenance staff from Melody Goodwin on Oct. 29.

problems: the irrigation to that side of the grove was not working and any water they did receive ran down the hill," said Trede. "In addition, the salt content of the recycled water used in the park has decreased the tree roots absorption of moisture."

"There has been no effort to pre-prepare the turf area under the grove of trees for subsequent water absorption should rains return," said Almaden resident Patrick Pizzo. "It would be tragic to unnecessarily lose those trees due to neglect of PRNS, the stewards of our parks."

Weekend rescue plan

There is plan in place by park maintenance staff this coming weekend to address the problem.

"We have scheduled a walk-along aeration procedure around the trees," said Trede. "The tree roots are very shallow, so we must take extra care as to not damage the

trees," he said. "We are also discussing the planting of native plants in the park with some community leaders this coming weekend."

The Parks Department has been following a "winter" watering schedule which usually begins in Oct. or Nov. and extends to June. Ordinarily the trees could withstand that, however due to last winter's lack of rain, the trees showed signs of stress in March.

Wilson said she contacted the District 1 maintenance crew to try to get someone to water the trees in early April. "One problem is that park maintenance crews were cut 50 percent during the recession, and the city has not been able to gain back the necessary employees to handle the load," she said.

"It is not the drought that is the real problem," said Pizzo. "It is the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department (PRNS)

- District 1 Maintenance Office - to cut off the water to areas of our two parks that is the problem," he said.

Pizzo said that California Governor Jerry Brown's concern for some greenspace in parks for residents is real and there was no intent to have such a drastic cut-back in park water as has been seen in the parks.

"The policy to cut off park water so severely to TJM and J. Fontana, is the reason for the demise of those trees," said Pizzo. "It is true the four-year drought has taken a toll on redwoods and pines, in particular in the South Bay, but there is no excuse for what has happened to these particular trees."

"All of us are very passionate about our trees, whether they are in our backyard, on the golf course, or under the jurisdiction of a homeowners' community association," said Trede.

"We enjoy working with the MFPA and other neighborhood groups, and we appreciate their input," said Trede. "But let's face the facts. Redwood trees need 100-125 inches of rain annually, and as we all know, we get an average of 13 inches per year in Silicon Valley. In their native coastal region, redwood needles absorb moisture from fog an average of 225 days annually. In Almaden Valley, there is only about 60 days of fog per year."

Trede said the park maintenance staff will continue to explore the best scenario for the healthy rehabilitation of the redwood trees.

The question remains, will the TJ Martin Park redwoods survive?

OP ED: Golf courses are important to Almaden residents

Johnny Khamis' recent column in the Almaden Times does not represent the views of many Almaden residents. It is "frightening" that Johnny and his peers are focused on the wrong things with respect to Rancho Del Pueblo and Los Lagos golf courses. Why use questionable figures for land use unless the goal is to force a decision? And why mislead constituents by stating how funds might be used for police and libraries, when there has never been any plan to use the proceeds of the sale that way?

And why not ASK the constituents what they want? When this issue was raised in 2011, District 5 organized extensive outreach, and the response was overwhelmingly in favor of retaining Rancho Del Pueblo. Los Lagos' district is less organized, and so less

aware of their councilman's agenda. But there has been no constituent input indicating that district is in favor of reducing open space or constructing another soccer field or sports complex. And where are the revenue figures showing the dollars these fields would bring into the city coffers? It seems that revenue is only a consideration for the golf courses.

As pointed out in Pat Pizzo's letter to the Mercury News, Measure P funds are available for new soccer/softball fields but have not been used. It is not necessary to sell the golf courses in order to fund these items.

However, it is clear that the original financing for the courses was expensive and should be reviewed. Selling the courses to eliminate debt is short sighted, especially when the debt

could be refinanced.

Finally, the courses were never intended to make a profit. Few municipal courses do, but many other municipalities are able to manage costs more effectively. Outsourcing management to a private firm would eliminate much overhead for the city and most likely increase the revenue generated.

It's time for the city council to realize the value and purpose of these courses. They provide a much needed opportunity to enjoy golf for all residents, but especially youth and seniors. The other courses mentioned in the auditor's report are either too expensive, too distant or already at capacity.

Let's not be short sighted.

Stephanie Blankenship
Almaden

Almaden Times

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Times **Community News****Soup Kitchen Dinner Nov. 5**

Family Supportive Housing provides families with warm shelter, goal-oriented services, and fresh healthy meals. As rents skyrocket, an increasing number of families are experiencing periods of homelessness. Please help by attending the main annual fundraiser, a soup kitchen dinner at Bellarmine College Preparatory/Liccardo Center at 960 W. Hedding St., San Jose at 6:00 p.m.

To make a donation, visit bit.ly/1KhqtzJ or call Bianca Vallorz at (408) 926-8885.

Almaden Thanksgiving feast Nov. 18

A Thanksgiving feast celebrating Thanksgiving will be held at the Almaden Community Center on Nov 18.

The event, sponsored by the Almaden Senior Association, will be held from 2-4 p.m. and musicians will be performing popular holiday tunes. Tickets go on sale beginning November 6th M-W-F from 8:40-10:00 a.m. in the lobby of the Almaden Community Center. Ticket prices are \$10 for members and \$12 for non-members.

Sign up early as the event is well attended and may sell out quickly. The Almaden Community Center is located at 6455 Camden Ave.

Star Wars themed Boeing 787 arrives in SJ

Star Wars fans take note. R2D2 is flying in the skies above Silicon Valley as part of All Nippon Airways' promotion of the upcoming sci-fi film, with San Jose being one of the first cities the aircraft will fly out of.

ANA is planning an entire "fleet" of Star Wars themed Dreamliners, including C-3PO and a new

droid character, BB-8, which will debut with the film in December.

Even the interior is tricked out with LED light shows along with music from the film played prior to takeoff. Every seat comes with R2-themed headrests to immerse passengers with a total Star Wars experience.

Veterans Day Celebration

Live Oak Adult Day Services announces a special Veteran's Day Celebration honoring Veteran and Active members of the military. Posting of the Colors by the Honor Guard will begin at 1 p.m. on Thursday, November 12, 2015. Prior to the program, please join us for lunch which will be served at noon. This special celebration will take place at the Willow Glen center of Live Oak Adult Day Services, 1147 Minnesota Ave., San Jose 95125.

Please RSVP to Colleen Hudgen, Executive Director, (408) 971-9363 or liveoakdaycare@att.net.

Veterans Day Parade to be held Nov. 11

Mark your calendars for the annual Veterans Day Parade in downtown San Jose honoring those who have served in the Armed Forces.

The ceremony begins at 11 a.m. on Nov. 11 at Market Street and Plaza de Cesar Chavez, followed by the parade at noon, from Delmas Avenue along Santa Clara Street to Market Street and ending at San Carlos Street.

The United Veterans of Silicon Valley, event sponsors, is also planning "Honor on the Row" from 2 to 6 p.m., at Santana Row at the corner of Stevens Creek and Winchester Boulevard. After the parade, historic military vehicles will be on display at the shopping center.

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Times **Community News**

Non-releasable crow stolen from Wildlife Center of SV

An American crow named Marley who may not be able to live in the wild was stolen on Oct. 24 from Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley.

Marley has orange bands on his legs and responds to "hi Marley"

The break-in is being investigated by San Jose police. The bird's enclosure is blocked from public access and not visible to the center's visitors. This is the second time someone has broken into the facility to steal a bird.

Marley requires special housing, food and behavioral care. The crow has been at the Wildlife Center since June 2011. He was previously kept illegally as a pet, resulting in losing his natural instincts.

Despite staff efforts to "wild Marley up," he couldn't be released into the wild, said wildlife rehabilitation supervisor Ashley Kinney. He became a permanent resident of the center when staff determined he couldn't survive if released.

There's a \$1000 reward for Marley's



return or for a tip leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or people involved. If you see Marley, do not attempt to capture him. Remain in the area to keep an eye on Marley and call the Center.

Anyone who sees Marley is asked to call (408) 929-9453.

Editor's note: Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley serves all of Santa Clara County and rehabilitates more than 5,000 wild animals each year, including birds, squirrels and other creatures.

Show me the money: city implements new Financial Transparency Portal

By Councilmember Johnny Khamis

Special to the Times

One of the goals I have had since taking office is to have the Employee Suggestion Program reinstated. When I discussed the idea with our new City Manager, Norberto Duenas, he immediately saw the value in the program. He worked with Joe Angelo, our new Director of Human Resources to bring forward a new, updated version of the program. I am proud to report that the first phase of the pilot program has just been completed!

The purpose of this program is to encourage innovation and creativity among City employees and to recognize those ideas that improve City operations through financial and other incentives. The Employee Suggestion Program empowers employees to submit ideas through a structured process. Employees may submit ideas individually or as a team and may submit as many ideas as they desire. The submittal period is once a year. Any idea that is submitted before September 15th of each year will be reviewed by the ESP Committee for consideration.

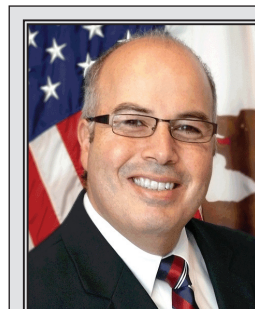
There was a very short window for submitting ideas this time around, but there were a handful of submissions, regardless of the short turnaround time, and those ideas are currently in the review process. Now that City employees are aware of the program, they have a whole year to come up with new ideas for how we can save money, save time, or improve customer service. If their ideas get implemented, they are eligible to receive a reward of up to \$5,000!

Another goal that we have recently achieved helps to make the City's finances more transparent. I first asked former Mayor Chuck Reed to include this item in the 2014/2015 budget and on Tuesday, November 3rd, we announced the City's new Financial Transparency Portal on the City of San Jose website. This new portal, powered by OpenGov, empowers residents to engage more effectively in discussions of the City's finances. It allows the public to see detailed information about where the City gets its money, where it spends it, and how actual spending is tracking against budgetary targets. The public and City staff will be able to view the City's financial data in graphical form, in table form, and drill down for more details. This new Portal takes budget transparency to a

new level.

Currently the Portal is in the pilot phase and I am committed to working toward its success. You can help by visiting the site, getting familiar with the data presented, and providing feedback. Good or bad, we need your feedback in order to continue to make improvements. The link to the Portal may be found on the Budget Office website at <http://bit.ly/FinanTran> and is also linked on my website at <http://www.sjd10.com/important-phone-numbers-and-links.html>.

Please join me in thanking City Manager Norberto Duenas, Human Resources Director Joe Angelo, Senior Deputy City Manager/Budget Director Jennifer Maguire, Assistant Budget Director, Margaret McCahan, and Chief Information Officer Vijay Sammeta for all their work in implementing these two, important pilot projects!



District 10 Report

Johnny Khamis,
City Councilmember

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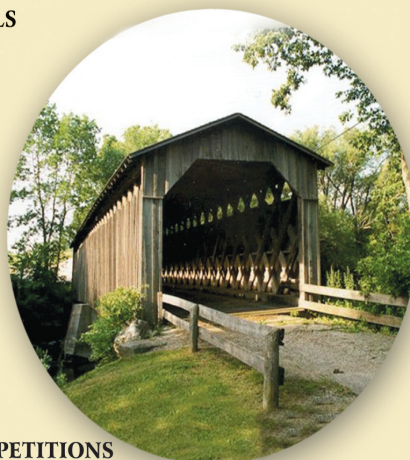
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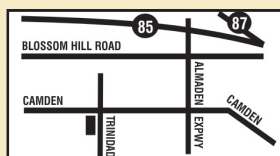
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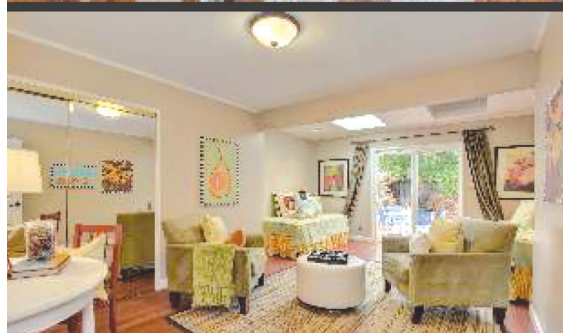
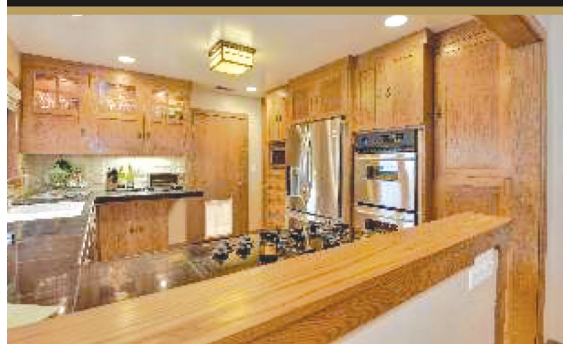
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Times **Local News**

Career Fair set for Nov. 11

Hire Live Career Fair is set for Nov. 11 from 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. for candidates seeking local employment. The event is free of charge.

Job Opportunities include Inside sales reps, outside sales reps, account executives, retail managers, account managers, insurance sales, customer service, technical sales, sales managers, pharmaceutical sales, telesales, sales trainer, merchandiser, mortgage brokers, financial planner, route sales, retail sales, retail management, and human resources.

Many of the companies at the Fair will offer the following benefits: base + uncapped commission pay structure, flexible work schedule, full benefits, 401K, stock options, company car or gas allowances, president club trips and other incentives, opportunity for immense growth, and a minimum of \$70,000 for first year salaries

Location: Embassy Suites Hotel, 901 East Calaveras Blvd., Milpitas, CA 95035. Parking is complimentary.

Editor's note: bring 10-15 resumes, and dress business professional.

Fines for illegal dumping approved by City Council

Individuals caught dumping illegally in San Jose will face hefty fines.

The new fines have been approved by the San Jose City Council and are much higher than the \$3,000 to \$4,000 recommended by staff.

First time offenders will now be fined \$2,500, second time violators \$5,000, and three or more violations will result in a \$10,000 fine.

The council ordered City staff to incorporate a reporting tool on the city's website to report any illegal dumping.

All drones to require federal registration

Thinking of buying a drone for Christmas?

The FAA predicts that more than 1 million drones will be sold this holiday season, but the U.S. Government believes they are not toys and must now be registered with the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The hobbyist drone community has been self-regulated for more than 30 years, but now the new law makes each drone a regulated flying technology and it's the first step toward alleviating fears from the public about drones' use in spying operations and about crashes.

"The law says drone operators can't recklessly endanger the public, but if you don't know who (the drone operator) is, you can't really enforce the law," said attorney Lisa Ellman. "People are buying these as toys and not realizing they need to be truly responsible."

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Times Feature



Pat Tillman (left) and his brother Kevin joined the military after 9/11. Photo courtesy Pat Tillman foundation

Pat Tillman honored by Arizona State University

By William Bellou
Publisher

Pat Tillman was honored by Arizona State University on Oct. 29 when the Sun Devils Football Team wore a PT-42 line of “Darks Ops” Adidas gear commemorating Tillman’s heroic sacrifice.

Arizona State Football Coach Todd Graham said the uniforms are designed to replicate those Tillman and the 1996 team wore for their 1997 Rose Bowl appearance, while honoring his military service. To finish off the look, ASU wore “Dark Ops” cleats and camo socks. This is the first time the Tillman Foundation has worked with ASU to design a uniform.

“This special tribute honors Pat’s example as an athlete, scholar and soldier, while raising awareness and academic support for the Tillman Scholars who are carrying on his legacy,” said Tillman’s widow, Marie Tillman, who heads the Pat Tillman Foundation. “We preach the value of passion and character to our players and no one embodies those qualities more than Pat Tillman,” she said.

Tillman excelled on the Leland Football Team, having led his team to the Central Coast Division I Football Championship. His considerable talent landed him a scholarship at Arizona State University (ASU), which he attended after graduating from Leland.

Tillman played linebacker for the Sun Devils from 1994 to 1997, before being drafted by the Arizona Cardinals. He gave up his

football career to enlist in the military in 2002, joining the Army Rangers. He was killed in Afghanistan in 2004.

Tillman, who graduated with a marketing degree and a 3.85 grade-point-average, was a seventh-round NFL draft pick in 1998. As an all-pro safety in 2002 for the Arizona Cardinals, he turned down a three-year, \$3.6 million contract and put his professional football career on hold to enlist in the U.S. Army with his brother, Kevin. The brothers completed basic training together and were deployed, but not until Pat Tillman married his high school sweetheart, Marie Ugenti Tillman.

A portion of all sales of Adidas’ Tillman-inspired gear goes to the Foundation, which offers scholarships to veterans and their spouses.



Marie Tillman



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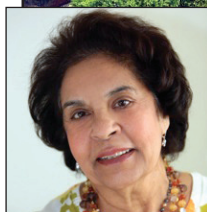
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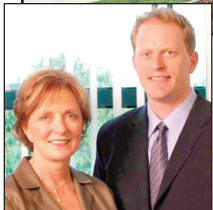
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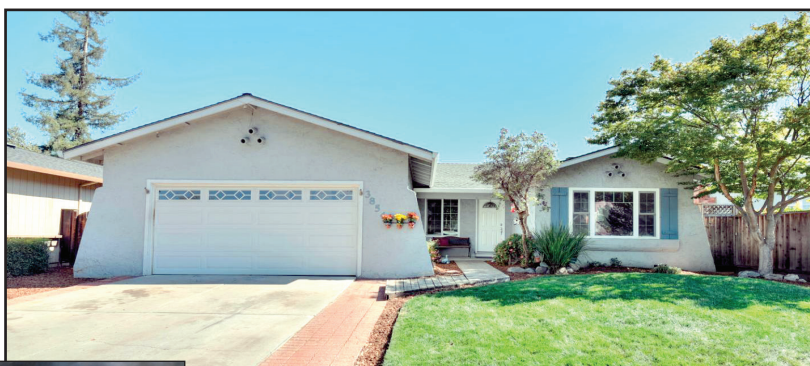
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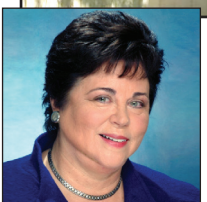
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CHRYSLER CALIF. 2016 BC CONSUMER CASH -\$1,000
CHRYSLER CALIF. BC 2016 RETAIL BONUS CASH -\$1,000
CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH* -\$500

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES
\$16,988

3 TO CHOOSE AT THIS NET PRICE #134781, 134784, 134785
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4 DOOR SUV 2.4L I-4 W/9-SPEED AUTOMATIC



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DEALER DISCOUNT -\$3,802
SALE PRICE \$20,488
CHRYSLER CALIF. 2016 BC CONSUMER CASH -\$1,000
CHRYSLER CALIF. 2016 BC RETAIL BONUS CASH -\$1,000
CHRYSLER CALIF. 2016 BONUS CASH -\$500

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES
\$17,988

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DEALER DISCOUNT -\$3,302
SALE PRICE \$18,388
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NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES
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CHRYSLER CALIF. BC 2016 RETAIL BONUS CASH -\$1,000
CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH* -\$1,000

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES
\$16,999

2 AT THIS NET PRICE #127941, 127939
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4 DOOR SUV 3.2L V-6 W/9-SPEED AUTOMATIC



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DEALER DISCOUNT -\$3,292
SALE PRICE \$31,188
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JEEP CELEBRATION CASH -\$500

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES
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CHRYSLER CALIF. 2015 BC CASH -\$1,000
JEEP CELEBRATION CASH -\$500

NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES
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CHRYSLER CALIF. BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH -\$3,500

NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES
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DEALER DISCOUNT -\$3,252
SALE PRICE \$28,238
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NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES
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2 TO CHOOSE AT THIS NET PRICE #127356, 946020

2015 JEEP RENEGADE



DEALER DISCOUNT OFF MSRP -\$3,500
CHRYSLER CALIF. BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH -\$500
CHRYSLER CALIF. BC RETAIL BONUS CASH -\$500
JEEP CELEBRATION CASH -\$500

NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES
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NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES
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SALE PRICE
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DEALER DISCOUNT -\$4,602
SALE PRICE \$24,388
CHRYSLER CALIF. BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH -\$1,500
CHRYSLER RETAIL BONUS CASH -\$1,000

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES
\$21,888

2016 DODGE CHALLENGER SXT

2 DOOR COUPE 3.6L V-6 W/8-SPEED AUTOMATIC



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DEALER DISCOUNT -\$3,491
SALE PRICE \$24,499
CHRYSLER CALIF. BC 2016 RETAIL BONUS CASH -\$500

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES
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Preparing for flooding during a drought is necessary

By Linda J. LeZotte, Director
Special to the Times

Who wants to think about flooding when we are in our fourth year of drought? We all should! With predictions of a strong El Niño this winter, we must all prepare for a high volume of rain, which, if it comes all at once, could lead to flooding.

Parts of Santa Clara County are susceptible to flooding and have been throughout history. The Santa Clara Valley Water District is the flood protection authority for the county, and so we work diligently to keep the community safe through ongoing stream maintenance and major flood protection projects. We also provide community members with tips and assistance before, during and after floods.

You may see our crews at work in streams as part of our Stream Maintenance Program. This program includes the removal of vegetation and sediment that can impede the flow of a stream, as well as repairs to stream banks and the removal of blockages from trash and fallen trees.

This work is generally scheduled to be completed in October,

though work can continue through November as long as no storms have occurred. If the rainy season starts early, our crews will go out after storms to clear debris. For significant blockages, they will even go out during the storm to clear creeks and streams to help prevent flooding by allowing water to flow to the bay.

The water district takes flood protection seriously; starting with our annual winter preparation meetings and coordination with

other jurisdictions in order to plan and train for storms and weather-related emergencies.

Residents and businesses can also do their part to help keep their communities safe in the event of strong rains, too.

Make sure you have an emergency plan and kit in case you are stranded at home. This way you'll have what you need to make it through until help arrives.

Also know your flood hazard, and if you are in a flood hazard

zone, be sure to purchase flood insurance, which is important in helping you recoup any losses after a flood. You can call your city to find out more.

A clogged storm drain can lead to street flooding. Clear the area around storm drains and be sure not to dump anything down them.

Don't drive through flooded areas. It only takes 2 feet of moving water to carry away most vehicles including pickup trucks and SUVs.

Know where your local sandbag distribution point is, and how to prepare a sand wall. The water district, as well as cities, frequently has them near areas prone to flooding.

If you see a blockage, such as trash or a tree down during a storm, let us know so we can send a crew to clear it! Call the flood hotline at (408) 630-2650, or report it online at www.valleywater.org and click on the Access Valley Water button.

This year, because of hardened soils compacted by four dry years, we may see greater runoff than normal from early season storms. So please be prepared and stay alert for potential flooding. Sign up to receive flood safety alerts and tips by texting the word "WATER" to short-code number 84444.

Visit <http://www.valleywater.org/Services/FloodSafetyTips.aspx> for flood protection information and safety tips that can help you before, during and after a flood.

If we all work together we can keep our loved ones, homes and businesses safe.

To reach Linda LeZotte, call (408) 265.2600 for suggestions and comments.

Gas prices continue to fall

Average retail gasoline prices in San Jose have fallen 1.9 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.78/g yesterday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 427 gas outlets in San Jose. This compares with the national average that has fallen 1.1 cents per gallon in the last week to \$2.18/g.

Including the change in gas

prices in San Jose during the past week, prices yesterday were 49.9 cents per gallon lower than the same day one year ago and are 10.2 cents per gallon lower than a month ago. The national average has decreased 10.9 cents per gallon during the last month and stands 79.0 cents per gallon lower than this day one year ago.

"The gas price slide across much of the nation has continued for the third straight week," said Will Speer, GasBuddy's senior petroleum analyst for the Midcontinent and Southwest.

"Planned fall refinery maintenance had put the Midwest in the spotlight as the region hardest hit with refinery rate reductions, but as we reach November, refinery maintenance projects are beginning to wrap up as evident in EIA's weekly report, which saw refinery utilization rates improve. Improving refinery rates paired with WTI-crude trading steadily around the \$46/barrel range will keep downward pressure on gas prices through November," Speer said.

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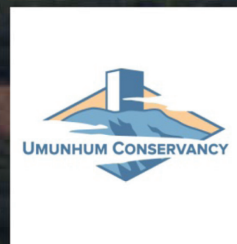


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Times **Feature***Mt. Umunhum Needs Your Help***SOS - Save Our Skyline!***Local history. Local landmark.**Without your support the historic Radar Tower atop Mt. Umunhum will be demolished!**It protected us during the Cold War ... now we need to protect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

The Umunhum Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Donations are tax deductible.

**Differences between mortgages and deeds of trust explored**By **Donald J. DeVries***Special to the Times*

This week's question:

I was just transferred into San Jose by my employer who is based on the east coast. When we went to buy our house here, the escrow company had us sign a deed of trust instead of a mortgage. The escrow officer said that is how it is done here. Is that true? Why is that? What is the difference between the two documents?

Jack J.*Almaden Valley*

Dear Jack:

That is a very good question, Jack. I would hazard a guess that many people from outside of California have wondered about that as well when they moved into this state and purchased property.

In order to make a long story short, a mortgage is very similar to a deed of trust (or "trust deed") with a power of sale. Let's discuss a little terminology first.

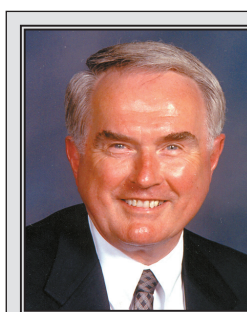
In California, the prevailing document that is utilized is the deed of trust. In a mortgage, the debtor is usually referred to as the borrower, instead of "trustor" as in a deed of trust. The lender or creditor in a mortgage is usually the "beneficiary" with the deed of trust.

The mortgage is a contract between two parties. One party is the mortgagor, the owner of the property subject to the mortgage. The other party is called the mortgagee, who is the creditor who receives a lien against the mortgaged property. The mortgagor is also called a debtor as to the transaction. The owner-mortgagor pledges the property as security for the debt involved.

A trust deed (also called a deed of trust) is a conveyance of real property to secure the payment of a debt. The debt is usually confirmed in a separate document called a promissory note. A deed of trust is just like a mortgage with a power of sale which is interpreted together with the promissory note.

In a deed of trust situation, the trustor-debtor conveys title to the subject property to a trustee. The trustee is a neutral third party who holds title to the property to secure the debt against the property that is owed to the beneficiary-lender, sometimes called a creditor or obligee.

For most of us, the difference between a deed of trust and a mortgage does not matter at all. That is because of the functional equivalent between a mortgage with a power

**Ask The Lawyer****Donald J. DeVries,
Attorney at Law**For past articles,
visit our web site at
www.almadenvalleylawyers.com

of sale and a trust deed. With a deed of trust, the trustee holds legal title but is not entitled to possession of the property nor any other incident of ownership, except for the power to sell the property if there is a default. More about that below.

The formal aspects of the two documents are quite similar. The deed of trust and the mortgage must be in writing, and they must clearly describe the property involved. Both types of documents must be signed by the mortgagor or trustor. Of course, the nature of the obligation involved must be spelled out clearly.

You mentioned, Jack, that you signed your deed of trust at

an escrow company. That is a very common practice in California, and many escrow companies and title companies utilize common filled-out printed forms with various provisions they deem needed.

When you examine your deed of trust, it will contain the name of the trustee. This is not a trustee in the strict sense of the word but a common term for the agent of the trustor (debtor) and beneficiary (lender). The obligations of the trustee are governed by agency rules and principles.

A trust deed is extinguished by the discharge of the underlying obligation, so that if one would refinance the property, the old deed of trust would be paid and cleared off the property and a new obligation would take its place.

Another standard provision in a deed of trust is an acceleration clause for any default. This type of clause is often activated when the trustor fails to make installment payments of principal, interest, insurance, and/or taxes on time. If these problems are not "cured" timely, one or more of them could lead to foreclosure proceedings and the property could be lost.

So, there you are, Jack. I hope these few words have helped you understand a little more about deeds of trust and mortgages.

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.

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Largest Christmas project opens local collection sites Nov. 16-23

Four locations in San Jose will serve as collection sites for Operation Christmas Child—the world’s largest Christmas project of its kind from Nov. 16-23.

The annual Samaritan’s Purse project is a favorite of many San Jose area residents, families, churches and groups who spread joy to millions of children around the world by filling shoeboxes with fun toys, school supplies, hygiene items and notes of encouragement.

"Through the simple act of filling a shoebox, someone here in San Jose can make a tangible difference in the life of a child halfway around the world. Anyone can participate and bring joy to a child facing difficult circumstances," said San Jose volunteer project coordinator Tess Shula.

The goal is to add 13,850 gift-filled shoeboxes to the 2015 global goal of reaching more than 11 million children in need. For many of these children a gift-filled shoebox is the first gift they have ever received.

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan’s Purse, an international Christian relief and evangelism organization. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has delivered gift-filled shoeboxes to more than 124 million children in more than 150 countries and territories.

With a computer or mobile device, anyone can conveniently pack a personalized Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift on the Samaritan’s Purse website. Go to [samartanspurse.org/occ](#) to select toys and gift

Collection sites:

Saint Timothy's Lutheran Church
5100 Camden Avenue
San Jose, CA 95124
Mon, Nov. 16: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Tue, Nov. 17: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Wed, Nov. 18: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Thu, Nov. 19: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Fri, Nov. 20: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Sat, Nov. 21: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Sun, Nov. 22: 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Mon, Nov. 23: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Blossom Valley Bible Church
6147 Purple Hills Drive
San Jose, CA 95119
Mon, Nov. 16: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Tue, Nov. 17: 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Wed, Nov. 18: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Thu, Nov. 19: 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Fri, Nov. 20: 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Sat, Nov. 21: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Sun, Nov. 22: 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Mon, Nov. 23: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

items, write a note of encouragement and “pack” them in a shoebox. These gifts of hope will go to children in some of the hardest-to-reach countries.



Yuliya and her puppy - Yuliya received her first shoebox with a stuffed dog from "Operation Christmas Child" that became her best friend when she was nine years old. Fourteen years later she still has her dog!

Using special tracking technology, participants can follow their box to discover where in the world their gift is delivered by using the donation form found at [samartanspurse.org/occ](#).

For more information about how to participate in Operation Christmas Child call (408) 209-1632.



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ALMADEN VALLEY, UCC
6581 Camden Ave., San Jose, CA 95120. Pastor, Rev. Dr. Michele Rogers Brigham. 408 268-0243
[www.AlmadenCongregational.org](#)
We are a welcoming Church engaged in progressive approach to faith, worship and giving to our local community. We are proud to be UCC, Open and affirming (Q&A) and welcome members of the LGBT community. We support local Invision Shelter Feedings once a month, San Francisco Night Ministry, Second Harvest Food Bank, Church World Service, and Communities Responding to End Poverty.
Worship 9:00AM, Sunday School 10:00 AM Sundays. 1st Sundays in Worship: Holy Communion; 2nd Sunday in Worship: Folk Choir; 3rd Sundays at Coffee Hour: Round Table Disc.
4th Sundays in Worship: Blessing of Birthdays/Anniversaries/other "joy" Occasions. Tuesday, AA Meetings, 8:15-9:15 PM. Wednesdays, 9:30 AM., Women's Study Group

CHURCH OF CHRIST
5351 Carter Ave., San Jose 95118 408.265.5837
[www.bibleroad.org](#)
We strive to be a group of Christians that love and honor God and Jesus Christ in our daily lives. We assemble each Sunday to encourage each other through singing, studying, praying and sharing in the Lord’s supper. Simple—just like what one reads about in the New Testament. Bible class at 9:30 AM Worship at 10:30 AM
Located in south San Jose near Kooser Rd. and Camden Ave. (behind the Almaden Valley Athletic Club). Come make new Christian friends!

EAST VALLEY CHURCH
We are a Multicultural Christian Community committed to making Christ known to our Neighbors, Community and World.
Sunday Schedule: Worship 10am, Sunday School for all ages 8:30am, Coffee and Conversation 9:30am
Childcare is provided for all our Sunday Services. Uplifting music, Biblical teaching, ministries for Children, Youth, College & Career, Small Groups for all adults, Ministries to Men, Women, Seniors, Celebrate Recovery (Please see website for details and meeting times [www.eastvalleychurch.com](#))
Community-Life Pastor (Youth/College & Career) – Pastor Pat Boyd, Community Life Pastor (Small Groups/Christian Education) – Pastor Alvin Lin, Children’s Ministry Director – Julie Garcia, Celebrate Recovery Leader – Anne Friend. We are located at 2827 Flint Ave (Between Tully & Norwood) San Jose, CA 95148, Phone 408-238-0231, e-mail [info@eastvalleychurch.com](#) We are associated with Converge Worldwide [www.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
Visit our Web Site at [www.evcsj.com](#)
2750 Yerba Buena Rd. San Jose, CA 95121. Phone: 408-274-7422. Saturday worship is at 5 pm. Sunday worship services at 9 am and 11 am.. Excellent contemporary Christian music and Bible-based teaching. Nursery care and Children’s Sunday School programs at 9 am and 11 am. Junior High students meet at 9am and High School students meet at 11am. Nuevo Comienzo: Servicio en espanol, Domingo 4pm.

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

Sunday classes, outdoor family activities such as bike rides and fishing trips. Come, Make a Difference and feel the difference God can make in your life!

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH
Faith.Knowledge.Community - this is our promise to our members. If you are looking for an active Christian faith community, we invite you to experience Holy Spirit Parish Community. All are welcome! We are located at 1200 Redmond Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120. Mass is celebrated at 8:30 a.m. 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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We invite you to become a part of our hospitable, intimate Catholic parish. We are a caring community, promoting spiritual growth, reaching out to people in need and where you get to know people by name. We offer children's religious education (CREATE); Youth Ministry (BLAST & X-STATIC); Scripture Study (day & evening); Senior's Group and many other adult ministries as well. Saint Anthony parish is located in

Almaden Valley at 20101 McKean Road, San Jose, 95120. Our weekend Masses are at 4 p.m. on Saturday at our historic church at 21800 Bertram Road in New Almaden, CA 95042 and on Sunday at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 5:30 p.m. at the McKean Road location. Our Parish Office is open Monday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and Tuesday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 - 4 p.m. For more information, stop by the Parish Office or call 1 + (408) 997-4800, or visit our website at [www.churchstanthony.com](#). Fr. Larry Hendel, Pastor.

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

Saturday 5:00PM, Sunday 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 4:00 PM (Mass in Vietnamese), 6:00 PM Youth Mass St. Francis of Assisi Gathering Hall Sunday 9:00 AM, 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!

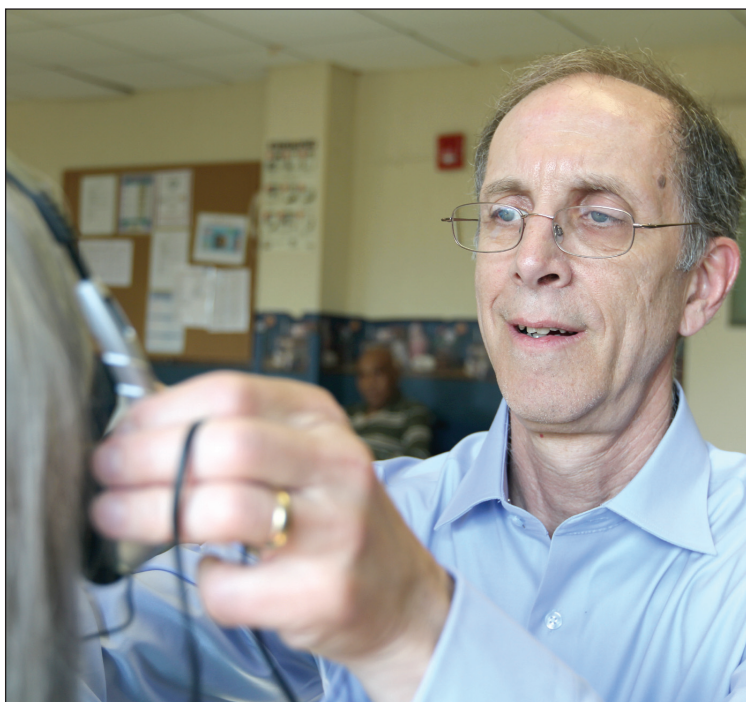
THE POINT CHURCH
[www.ThePoint.Church](#)
3695 Rose Terrasse Circle. San Jose CA 95148. Located at the top of Aborn Rd and Murillo Ave. Come be inspired and build your faith as we worship together this Sunday @ 10:30 AM. KidsPoint is our children's ministry, serving infants through 5th grade. It is a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

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

Times **Cover Story**

Drumming up some fun

Above: Music Therapist **Karen Hook** takes turns playing the HAPI drum with **Aidan Miller**. “Karen has a heart of gold and she is all about using music to better the lives of children, seniors, and really everyone that she touches,” says **Natalie Miller**, Aidan’s mother. *Photo courtesy of Karen Hook and Natalie Miller.* Below: **Dan Cohen** enriches the lives of individuals with Alzheimer’s and dementia through personalized music played on iPods. *Photo credit: Michael Rossato-Bennett; courtesy of Music and Memory.*



Music

Continued from page 1

“Karen has a heart of gold and she is all about using music to better the lives of children, seniors, and really everyone that she touches,” says Natalie Miller, whose son Aidan takes piano lessons from Hook. “She teaches in a therapeutic framework. It’s a rewarding way to work fine and large motor skills.”

Miller says Aidan has a very sweet singing voice, a good sense of rhythm, and responds well to music, grasping new concepts more easily and remaining more focused when being taught within a musical environment. “Today, he knows that listening to, or playing music will immediately calm his nerves,” she says.

As a parent, Miller also finds it gratifying to see a music education emerge for Aidan, along with life lessons for them both through music therapy. “I learned the technique of ‘your turn/my turn’ specifically from watching Miss Karen,” she says, “and I employ it in most aspects of our everyday life.”

The autism spectrum ranges from low functioning to extremely intelligent individuals with impairments in social, vocal, and sensory motor skills. Each person’s abilities and disabilities are unique. As noted autism activist Temple Grandin says, “If you’ve met one person with autism, you’ve met one person with autism.”

As a music therapist, Hook focuses on communication skills, cognitive skills, motor skills, movement to music, and balancing. She also works with her clients on sensory regulation, providing sensory input with instruments, such as the vibrations created by hitting a steel HAPI drum. “You’ll often see someone with

autism rocking back and forth, spinning, or flapping their hands,” she says. “They’re trying to make sense of their environment and give themselves sensory input.”

A child with autism often lacks spatial perspective, so executing movement can be difficult. “They might be thinking they’re walking across the room, and they end up walking into the wall,” says Hook. “It’s frustrating for them because it’s not their intention, and they can’t express it. I have children who want to sit next to me on the piano bench, and they end up sitting in my lap because they can’t place themselves properly next to me.”

Sensory input like vibrations, pressure, and music with a steady beat help organize sound environments. “Music is mathematical in the way it’s organized and structured measure-to-measure,” she says. “I’m giving children sensory regulation and helping them learn ways to take charge of that so they can participate in more activities.”

With affective or emotional development, the goal is to increase a person’s self-esteem. “I want them to participate in mainstream choir and play an instrument in band,” says Hook. “Several of my students do that.”

Last year, Hook was invited to view the documentary, “Alive Inside,” which features Dan Cohen enriching the lives of individuals with Alzheimer’s and dementia through personalized music played on iPods.

In the documentary, a man sits hunched over with his head hanging down, and doesn’t recognize his daughter, who is trying to talk to him. But when the nurse’s aide turns on the music on his iPod, he sits up, is animated, and sings along with the music. Ten min-

Times Cover Story

utes later, when she takes his headset off, he is able to converse with his daughter.

In another clip, a woman with tight limbs affected by cerebral palsy is restless in bed. When the nurse put earphones playing her music on her, the woman's limbs relax and she moves her head and legs in rhythm to the music.

"I was so moved and amazed by it," says Hook.

Through Music & Memory, a nonprofit organization founded by Cohen, personnel at nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, hospital staff, and hospices are trained to research what music each resident likes, and how to program iPods to help seniors trigger their forgotten memories.

"In people with Alzheimer's or dementia, musical memories are the last memories to be affected by the disease, and are often associated with a certain time in someone's life. Therefore, that person will associate a song with that time, and those memories will be sparked," says Alexis Gregos, Community Outreach Coordinator with Music and Memory. "Personalized music can also help lessen stress and agitation, sundowning, and overall help improve the quality of life."

"The beauty of it is that someone who knows the person, like a family member, knows what music the person listened to as a child, and in their courtship years," says Hook. "Someone with Alzheimer's may not remember the day, where they are, or their family, but when personalized music is turned on, they become animated and engaged again because the neurons in the brain are firing."

Hook was so impressed with the Music and Memory program, she started an iPod donation drive for residents of Lincoln Glen Manor, a local senior living facility. Through friends and family and the 2017 Almaden/Blossom Valley Chapter of National Charity League (NCL), she received more than 30 iPod players and \$300 in iTunes gift cards and was able to give Lincoln Glen \$600 in cash towards the \$1000 Music and Memory training and certification.

"NCL was amazing," she says. "They jumped all over it. Most of the donations came from them. They're a powerful group of volunteers."

"Kit Lurie brought it to our attention that Karen was interested in starting a Music and Memory program," says NCL Patroness Darcy Regan. "As our philanthropy focus last year was Lincoln Glen, she thought it would be the perfect segue. 'Alive Inside' is so inspiring. The girls saw a clip on YouTube and were very moved by it. With our donations, Lincoln Glen got up and running and we're proud to be a part of it."

Jessenia Zepeda, Activity Director at Lincoln Glen Manor, says that her staff was also inspired by the documentary and motivated to improve their residents' day-to-day lives. "Residents benefit from having personalized playlists on their iPods," she says. "The greatest results have been with residents who are agitated; it helps them relax and brings back old memories. Their favorite songs frequently are from when they were in high school and the fun times of their youth. Often, residents respond by tapping their feet, or singing along to the music. We have seen great results with the Music and Memory program here at Lincoln Glen."

Hook is interested in continuing the Music and Memory program at another senior living facility in the South Bay. The Atrium just

opened their memory care unit, but isn't certified in the Music and Memory program. In the meantime, Hook takes her music theory clients there to perform on a regular basis, from sing-alongs to concerts. "My students provide entertainment and the joy of seeing children of all ages perform," says Hook, "as well as showing the residents that they're not the only ones with a disability. Their bodies may not move as well as they'd like, and their eyesight may be failing, but there's a child with autism and look what they have to overcome. It gives them perspective. We're helping them, as well as my clients who need to be out in the community, and love to share their musical gifts. It's not often a child on the autism spectrum gets to do community service and the residents just love it. I hope The Atrium will be the next beneficiary of my iPod project."

A Musical Background

Hook grew up in a very musical family in St. Louis, Missouri. She says that her mother, Jan, is still a wonderful piano player, and her grandmother Rose played beautifully when she was alive. "It was assumed that my older sister, Margie, would play the piano," says Hook, "so some of my earliest musical memories are being dragged to her piano lessons."

Hook, then age four, had to sit quietly every afternoon while her sister practiced. "I just wanted to play the piano so badly," she says. "Finally, my grandmother told the piano teacher, who was her good friend, that her youngest granddaughter wanted to play piano, but she didn't think she had any talent."

But at age six, when she started playing, Hook could stretch an octave. She took piano lessons all the way through college, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Music Therapy with a minor equivalent in Piano Performance from the University of Kansas.

When Hook was in high school and considering what major to pursue in college, her close friend, Jane Gilbert, told her about music therapy. Hook thought it sounded really cool. Her father, Sid Schoenfeld, worked as an audiologist and ran programs for the hearing impaired for all of the St. Louis County schools. As there was one umbrella school district serving students with physical handicaps, developmental disabilities, and emotional handicaps, Hook remembers being around special needs children from a young age. "My dad taught me to treat all people with respect," she says.

The summer after her junior year of college was a turning point as she had the opportunity to work with special needs children at a camp in upstate New York and loved it. She completed her clinical internship working with developmentally disabled adults at the Alan Short Center and on the pediatric and crisis intervention units at St. Joseph's Hospital in Stockton. Hook received a Master's Degree in Special Education from San Francisco State University.

Hook later worked for The Learning Company and Academy in San Jose and taught Kindermusik for about 12 years. "I enjoyed seeing children interact and the moms and dads enjoying it, too," she says. "It was such a good curriculum with a strong emphasis on language development, communication skills, self-concept, and self-esteem." Through Kindermusik, she mainstreamed four- and five-year-olds with autism, working with them with self-regulation, attention skills, taking turns, and sharing. "Music is



Through Music & Memory, a nonprofit organization founded by **Dan Cohen**, personnel at nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, hospital staff, and hospices are trained to research what music each resident likes, and how to program iPods to help seniors trigger their forgotten memories. *Photo credit: Michael Rossato-Bennett; courtesy of Music and Memory.*

such a tool for young children to explore their world," she says.

She has worked with a variety of special education classrooms in Cupertino, Alum Rock, Oak Grove, Franklin McKinley, Gilroy Unified, Live Oak, and Santa Clara Office of Education classrooms, and provided Music Therapy services for the City of San Jose's Therapeutic Recreation Services.

Today, in addition to offering music therapy classes in her home office, Hook enjoys working at Creekside School as a music therapist consultant. With her younger students, she works with group music experiences, building engagement, interaction, relationships, and longer exchanges of music. In the motor room, she plays her keyboard while the children play with music happening

around them. Recently, while she was playing, she had a nice rhythm going and a boy on the scooter started repeating it. Their exchange continued for five minutes. "That's the goal for all children with autism," says Hook, "to relate to their world in a constructive manner and communicate, attending to the environment."

"I hope there will always be music in my life," says Hook. "It's just who I am. Music has given me a job that rewards me daily. It's given me a chance to share what I love with the community, and especially with children who really need it."

For more information, or to donate iPods or iTunes gift cards, please email Karen Hook at khookrmt@yahoo.com or see karenhook.com.

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Times Feature



Residents from all over San Jose come out to honor the dead



Dia de Los Muertos celebration held on Oct. 31

While colorful skull masks and skeletal costumes may remind some of Halloween, they were also used to represent a completely different holiday last weekend: Dia de Los Muertos, or the “Day of the Dead.”

Dia de Los Muertos is a holiday celebrated in Mexico that has made its way across borders to many other countries, and it represents a time when families gather to remember ancestors or members who have passed away, to honor their memories and to ponder their spiritual journeys.

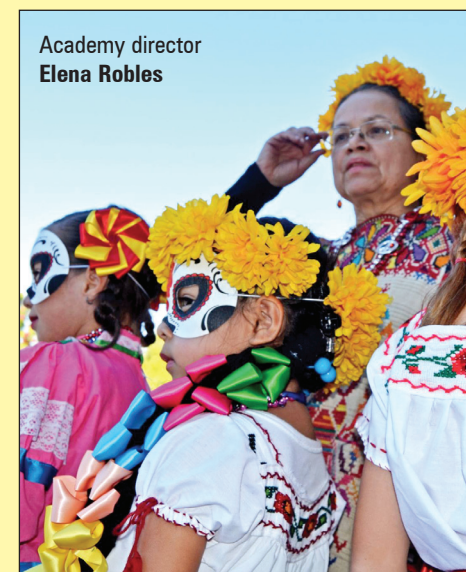
On Oct. 31, a number of Mexican dance troupes gathered at San Jose’s

Calvary Cemetery to celebrate Dia de Los Muertos. The festive activities included face painting, booths to purchase colorful sugar skulls and momentos, and a community altar for people to use to honor their deceased family members.

Pictured here are dancers from El Grito de la Cultura, a dance academy led by Elena Robles. The group performed before a celebratory crowd in the heat of an unusually hot Halloween day, before many of the younger members rushed home to change into different costumes for their annual chance to go trick-or-treating.

Learn more about El Grito de la Cultura at fnmjuvenil.weebly.com.

—Photos and text by Jeff Baham



Academy director
Elena Robles

Times **News**

Students Rhys Allison, Sean Sullivan and Jake Herreria are having a dandy of a day.

Los Alamitos Elementary hosts 'Dandy Day'

For more than 25 years, "Dandy Day" has been the major annual PTA fundraiser for Los Alamitos Elementary School and this year it was held on Oct. 17.

The event, which includes a walk-a-thon, is a fun-filled day spent with the entire family showing support for Los Alamitos through the funds raised for enrichment programs known as S.M.A.R.T. pro-



Bella Jalili and Lexi Muraco enjoy a sweet treat.



Los Alamitos students Erin Sullivan and Gabriella Herreria with Dandy.

grams that Los Alamitos offers - science, music, art, reading lab, and technology (including Robotics).

Dandy Day also featured a live DJ, opening day teacher dance, an extensive silent auction, cake walk, fun foods, Dutch raffles for kids, big raffles with prizes including GoPro cameras, and cape decorating for this year's "Superhero" theme.



Rebekah Haun, Rachel Haun, Brooklyn Riche, and Mia White are having fun.



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UNITED VETERANS COUNCIL
of Santa Clara County

www.uvcscc.org

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NOVEMBER 11, 2015

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Times **Features**

Almaden Brownie Troop hosts 155th birthday party for Low

The third grade Brownie troop #60469, at Graystone Elementary School, hosted a birthday party on Oct. 27 to celebrate the 155th birthday of Juliette Low, the founder of Girl Scouts of America.

The girls planned, organized and ran the event, which included games, crafts and teaching historical facts about Juliette Low, to more than 30 Girl Scouts in the kindergarten, first, and second grade Graystone troops.

Pictured at right, top row: Samantha Jeng, Stephanie Sheffield, Suhad Khayo, Erin Andrada, Cora Greene, Aliya Tapucu, Keri Parker. Bottom row: Selina Shih, Mika Casey, Olivia Hinh, Danielle Bellucci, Ella Fergason, Makayla Penner, Karina Pallikala, Mirei Takano.



AlmadenTimes Real Estate Guide



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Times **Features**

Almaden charity awards chopper to grand prize winner

Rory Whitehead, an Air Force Reserve member won the Grand Prize from a charity raffle in Almaden Valley through CSR Cares, a nonprofit foundation started by CRS Real Estate Services.

CSR Cares raised over \$80,000 from the raffle and charity

golf tournament (held earlier in the year). The charity supports local schools and programs for kids affected by autism.

The grand prize was a MidWest Chopper, valued at \$45,000. Whitehead is a motorcycle enthusiast who is ecstatic to win such a valuable bike.

"As a biking enthusiast, it was a win win to be able to support a great cause and have the chance to win my dream bike," said Whitehead. "The head of training in my squadron has a son affected by autism so I was glad to be able to make a contribution."

For additional information about CSR Real Estate Services contact Yana Whitman at 408-663-3005 or email yana@CSRteam.com. For additional information about CSR Cares contact Tony Odom at 408-558-5000 or email tony@CSRteam.com.

"The head of training in my squadron has a son affected by autism so I was glad to be able to make a contribution."



859 Blossom Hill Rd, San Jose, CA 95123



Pictured, left to right: **Tony Odom**, President CSR Cares, **Steve Bonafede**, CEO CSR Real Estate Services, **Dana Santos**, **Brian Bonafede**, CFO CSR Real Estate Services, **Chris Marr**, and raffle winner **Rory Whitehead** on bike.

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Enter through the gate towards the end of Whispering Pines Drive

Pierce Ridge is among the most beautiful land in all of Santa Clara County! Peaceful, natural setting with awe inspiring views overlooking Santa Clara Valley. A pristine parcel of 41+/- acres with abundant wildlife including deer, turkey and quail. Located in the heart of Almaden Valley, the land is in the county with city services at the street. Able to build estate home with all the amenities plus guest home, horse stables, arena, pasture, etc. Borders Almaden's Quicksilver County Park, at the end of McAbee Road and Whispering Pines. All of the land along Whispering Pines is part of the Pierce Ridge parcel.

In addition to seeking traditional buyers, we are also looking for individuals, corporations and foundations who may be interested in purchasing this land in order to keep it in its pristine condition as a gift to the community. For more details, please call or email me.

Please check out the aerial video using drone technology at:
AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com/PierceRidge

Offered at \$2,950,000

Please join us in encouraging Santa Clara County to purchase this beautiful, pristine land in order to make it part of Almaden Quicksilver Park.

Go to: PierceRidgePetition.org



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