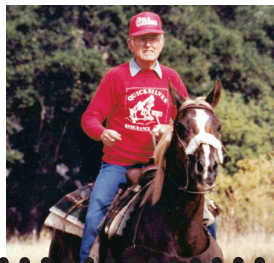


REMEMBERING LONG
TIME ALMADEN
RESIDENT JAMES
CLARENCE 'JC' GREEN
- **PAGE 4**



LOS ALAMITOS
STUDENTS ENJOY
THE GREAT
OUTDOORS AT CAMP
CAMPBELL - **PAGE 16**



ALMADEN VALLEY
YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE
HIRES HICKER AS
DIRECTOR OF SPORTS
PERFORMANCE - **PAGE 17**



OCT. 9-OCT. 22, 2015 ■ VOL. 28, NO. 20

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SEEING IN A NEW WAY



Beth Anstandig Killough and Susan McCusker have a unique understanding of horses, people, and each other. Photo courtesy of Cassie Green Photography

Almaden Lake Park open Mondays after being closed for more than six years

By William Bellou
Publisher

Johnny Khamis, District 10 councilmember, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, city parks staff, and local residents celebrated the grand re-opening of Almaden Lake Park on Oct 5 near the newly refurbished bocce ball courts.

The grand re-opening signified the park's official return thanks to \$60,000 that Khamis secured from the District 10 budget. The park is now open every Monday.

"The re-opening of Almaden Lake Park on Mondays will improve the quality of life for the many residents throughout San Jose who use the park on a regular basis," said Khamis.



District 10 Councilmember **Johnny Khamis** tries his hand at bocce ball and won his first game. The bocce ball courts have been refurbished. They are located at the Winfield Blvd entrance to the park.

Khamis said he is working on a project to connect Almaden Lake Park to the Guadalupe trail. "Last year I convinced other council members to use more than \$120,000 from

their park budgets to pay for a study," said Khamis. "We have had our first meeting and I am hopeful we can start work on the project as soon as possible. Interested residents can get involved by contacting our office.

Khamis' chief of staff, Shane Connolly, said the councilman's office worked with the city's Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department to determine the budget required to operate Almaden Lake Park again.

Khamis said the funds secured from the Recreation Department will be used to pay park staff to keep the park open once per week. "It's a combination of part

See **PARK**, page 5

Seeing yourself through the eyes of a horse

By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

"When we see ourselves through the eyes of a horse, we are seeing ourselves as others see us." This belief is at the heart of Beth Anstandig Killough and Susan McCusker's Circle Up Experience, a horse-assisted learning and leadership program.

"My hope for the work we do is to offer people a chance to see themselves in a new way," says McCusker. "The horses allow people to practice making subtle changes in their body language,

energy, and mood, and get an immediate response. It's a very visceral experience."

At Anstandig Killough's Take a Chance Ranch in Morgan Hill, and McCusker's Cinninnati, Ohio location, people are partnered with horses to create a deeper understanding of self, team dynamics, and leadership styles.

"Because horses mirror back to us our own energy, leadership, and emotion, they quickly and clearly show us how we operate in our daily lives," they say. "To spend a day with horses is to

See **CIRCLE UP**, page 15

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This Week:

LOCAL SPORTS

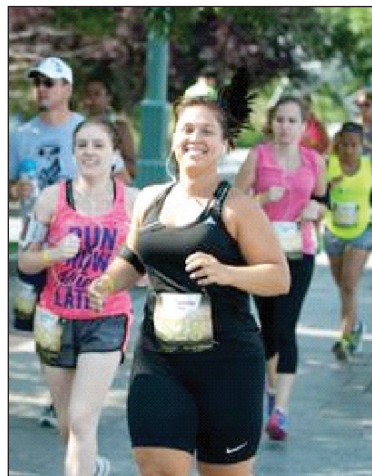
Almaden Valley Youth Soccer League hires Hicker as Director of Performance: **PAGE 17**

COMMUNITY

Los Alamos students experienced nature at Camp Campbell: **PAGE 16**

ADVICE

Transferring estates of smaller value in California: **PAGE 12**



↑ CALENDAR

Quicksilver, Chardonnay runs to be held in October: **PAGE 8**

ALSO

Realtor Guide: **PAGE 18**

Worship Guide: **PAGE 19**

Valley Currents

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

Remembering long time Almaden resident James Clarence 'JC' Green

By Skip Lightfoot
Special to the Times

Long time Almaden resident James Clarence "Jim," JC" Green took his last trail ride into the sky on Thursday, September 10, 2015.

Born July 2, 1917 and raised in Arkansas with two brothers and two sisters, he took off west as a young man and came to Los Gatos, California, where he worked as a carpenter in his early years, building many homes in The Valley and even helping to build Mt. Umunhum Observatory.

He later put roots down in Almaden, building a home for himself and his wife of 60 years, Coleen, in 1968. They were there together when he passed peacefully, at home on his ranch in the pastoral hills above Old Almaden.

It was on that ranch in the Almaden Hills that Jim spent his adult life pushing his cows and working his horses, getting them ready for the famous 100 mile Tevis Ride across the Sierras from Truckee to Auburn. Jim attempted Tevis 13 times and finished 11 times, earning his 1000 mile belt buckle in 1988.

In 1984 he led a group of his grandchildren and close friends through Tevis with 9 out of 10 finishing, three of them his grandchildren. Jim ended every Tevis ride with more in his group than at the start, picking up stragglers and guiding them to the finish. Jim was always about helping others get through an endurance ride, whether it was Tevis or the many other endurance rides he participated in. He was always there to help,



James Clarence Green put roots down in Almaden, building a home for himself and his wife of 60 years, Coleen, in 1968.

and would give you the shirt off his back. He was never in a hurry but always wanted to finish. "To finish is to win" was definitely a motto he adopted.

If he wasn't working his cows or horses, he was helping others work theirs. When gathering cows for his friends he was the one sent to the highest hill tops to bring the cows down. That's because his Arabian horses never got tired.

"JC" used to joke privately about how those fat quarter horses couldn't keep up with his Arabian athletes. Jim said we were getting two important things done when gathering cows: Helping friends and giving the horses a good workout.

He was the best horseman I've ever met, always passing along his expertise and ideas whether you wanted to hear them or not. One of his favorite things to do at the end of a long day of gathering the cows or working the endurance horses, was to ride over to what used to be the Calero Inn near Calero Reservoir, tie up the horses and have a cold beer and a cheeseburger, claiming they had the best burgers in town.

Some of the best years of Jim's riding life were on his longtime partner Little Dude, a purebred Arabian that he raised himself. Little Dude carried him through Tevis for 6 of his finishes. Jim was

proud to show people how he taught Little Dude to jump in and out of a pickup truck. When he first told me about it, I didn't believe him. But I'll be damned if he didn't end up teaching my horse how to do it too! The last year Jim rode Tevis he was 74 years old and had started having blackout spells. He had a spell during that last ride and Little Dude responded by circling around to try and keep Jim in the saddle until I realized what was happening and grabbed him. It was just one of the many examples of the special connection Jim had with animals, as well as with people.

I first met Jim Green July 2, 1977. He had heard from his friend Ad Vandahogen, that a guy had taken over a business in Almaden who liked to hunt, fish, and ride horses. I remember someone coming to get me to say there was an old cowboy in an old Volkswagen here to see you. I can still see him today standing beside his Volkswagen in that old straw cowboy hat. After talking for awhile, he told me a bunch of guys got together for coffee every morning, and invited me to join them. The next morning I showed up for coffee. There they were, gambling with dollar bills and rolling dice, the loser had to buy coffee and breakfast. If Jim lost, he always went for double or nothing, and generally was pretty lucky.

The coffee club consisted of local legends Viri Norton, Richard Vargas, and Ad Vandenhooen, plus Jim among others. We would meet there for coffee every day for the next 20 years or so. The venue

See JC GREEN, page 6

Alpha Kappa 75th year celebration held in Almaden

Local women educators recently gathered at The Villas Clubhouse to celebrate the 75th organization of the Alpha Kappa chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma (DKG).

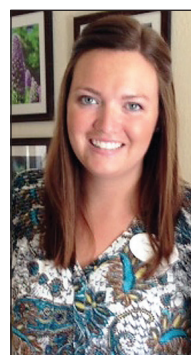
DKG is an international society of women educators dedicated to impacting education worldwide. The organization sponsors desirable educational legislation and promotes the professional growth of its members.

Scholarships are endowed to aid outstanding women educators in pursuing graduate study. Fellowships are granted to women educators from other countries.

Alpha Kappa chapter here in San Jose has members from SJUSD, Union. Alum Rock, and Evergreen school districts. The chapter

has varied programs. Grants are given to beginning teachers such as Hannah Baxter (pictured, inset) who is in her first year at Gardner Academy.

Members volunteer many hours in the classrooms of beginning teachers. A "Read to Your Baby" program informs young high school parents on the importance of early reading to babies. A bag of new books is also donated to them. Boxes of fun materials are given to children at Valley Medical. Alpha



Kappa chapter of DKG serves the community in many ways.

Almaden Times

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Times **Community News**

Following his remarks during the “re-grand opening” of Almaden Lake Park, District 10 Councilmember **Johnny Khamis** shook the hands of every employee working at Almaden Lake Park. Pictured from left to right are: Khamis, Troy Trede, Jorge Ramirez, Eddie Moreno, Adriel Castro, Robert Rearden, and John Keltner.

Park

Continued from page 1

maintenance staff and ranger staff,” said Khamis. Khamis is especially proud of the refurbishment of the bocce court, and he won a game, playing with several residents prior to the ceremony.

Khamis transcript in his address to the audience:

“I want to thank everyone for coming out today to celebrate the re-grand opening of Almaden Lake Park on Mondays,” said Khamis in his opening remarks. “This is the first time in six years that this park has been open, and I want to thank our park staff for quickly answering our request to re-open the park. The city council budget did not have the money to pay for the re-opening the, it was an extra \$60,000, but since I have been somewhat frugal with in my own council budget, I used the money to make sure that Almaden Lake

Park is open every single Monday this year. Not only is the trail open, but the refurbished bocce ball courts are also open, for use by our residents. I also want you to know that I will be fighting hard to get all of the regional parks to be open in our budget this year, including Lake Cunningham Park, to be open for everyone on Mondays.”



Arizona Olympics Champions play bocce ball at the newly refurbished courts. **Victor Padel** (right) finished second place in the Olympics, and **Ramesh Mody** placed third.



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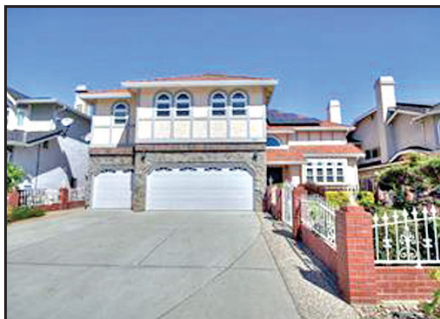
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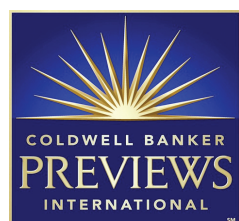
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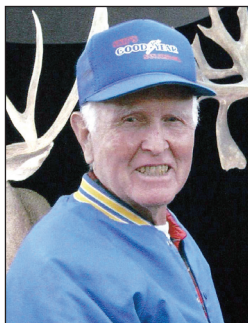
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Times **Community News****JC Green***Continued from page 4*

would change, but the group of friends stayed strong. As time went on, friends would pass away with Jim outliving them all. I learned a lot from this crowd over the years. I learned about cows and horses, hunting and fishing, camping and dancing, friendship and honesty. It was our own private club, and a great bunch of men.

Jim liked to tell the story of how his friend once saved his life while he was branding cows at what is now Cinnabar Golf Course. As Jim told the story, he was in a pen separating cows on foot when a bull pinned him in the corner of the pen and was working him over. Jim's friend jumped in and got the bull off him and lifted Jim over the fence. He took him to the hospital where he was diagnosed with a broken leg. But I can tell you the real story. I was the one that jumped in to save



that bull! Even though Jim was down he wasn't out, and I knew that as soon as Jim recovered he would make bullsh*t out of that bull.

Jim became, and up until his passing remained, the oldest member of the Santa Clara County Horseman's Association. He was constantly working on the grounds and was always trying to get new members to join the Horseman's Association, as it was one of his favorite organizations. Jim was also a member of the Santa Clara Cattleman's Association, and Quicksilver Endurance Riders Association. He loved horses, people and parties. The Horseman's was a great venue for all of these passions. Jim and Coleen were always the first ones to get up and dance at events as Jim loved to dance. Jim had this get-a-long step that reminded me of a proud rooster running around the hen yard.

Jim and Coleen kept an open door policy for friends to come by and visit. Best friends

before their passing, Barbara and Gene Carroll, along with nephew Ron and Ron's wife Cindy used to love to ride their horses over to the Greens hoping they weren't home. They would sneak in and drink all his wine and leave a note that he was out of wine.

Jim was always trying to pull pranks on people, especially Barbara and Gene, who would work together to get the best of him. It would end up two against one, because Coleen was too smart to get involved. Jim was always a good sport. When Jim got to where he couldn't get on his horses anymore he got a 4wheeler. He was having so much fun on his 4wheeler that he got one for Coleen. When he could no longer shift his 4wheeler with his legs, he hooked up a rope shifter to the handle bars. The couple continued to ride their 4wheelers for a year or so, until Coleen got into a bad accident while riding her quad

which put her in the hospital. The 4 wheelers were confiscated by friends and family. Jim was 94 and Coleen was 84 at the time. Upon arrival at the hospital with my 94year old friend Jim to see his wife, I was asked by the doctors and nurses what had happened. When I told them that they were out riding their quads, they looked at me like, "WHAT!?"

Jim Green was a hardworking man all his life. Up until "JC" was 82, I would rather have him help me out with ranch duties than anyone else, because he always would give you a full, hard day's work.

Jim was a man of his word and his handshake was better than any contract. He was among the last of a dying breed of honest, hardworking, salt of the earth men.

I love you, Jim. We all love you. We'll all miss you...until we ride again!

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Centennial celebrating ol' blue eyes Oct 10

Stroke Awareness Foundation will welcome Frank Sinatra Jr. to a benefit gala commemorating his father's Centennial birthday celebration on Oct 10 at the California Theater at 7 p.m.

Frank Sinatra Jr. will be joined by a 45-piece orchestra from Symphony Silicon Valley to memorialize Ole Blue Eye's 100th Birthday with an evening of great music and one of a kind nostalgia.

Premier sponsorships are available which includes VIP seating at the performance followed by a fabulous birthday bash gala including celebrity chef Michael Mina's choreographed late night supper.

After you danced the night away to the sounds of the Big Band- era ensemble led by Fil Lorenz, you may retire to your room at the newly renovated Marriott Hotel.

For additional information please contact Noemi Conway at (408) 370-5282 or email her at noemi@strokeinfo.org.

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- St. Katharine Drexel

CommunityCalendar

Oct. 12

AVCA to address homeless issues

The Almaden Valley Community Association (AVCA) will address San Jose's homeless issues at its Oct. 12 meeting. A guest speaker had yet to be named at press time. The meeting is set for 7-9 p.m. at the South Hills Campus of the Westgate Church, located at 6601 Camden Ave. The association has posted a link to a planning/zoning report presented to the county Board of Supervisors at a Sept. 15 meeting. The report, which addresses homeless issues in the county, can be accessed at bit.ly/AVhomelessreport

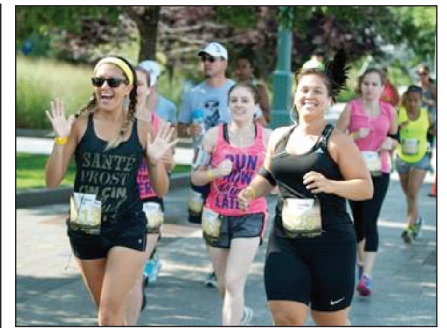
Oct. 17

Quicksilver Trail Challenge to be held

The Quicksilver Trail Challenge, to be held on October 17th, offers 2 race distances for all runners and one free race for kids. The event includes: a 10K, a Half Marathon, and a one mile Kids Race run on single track trails and fire roads. Participants will see many parts of the park and the historic quicksilver mines while running through peaceful oak forests, wide-open meadows, and along ridges with spectacular views of the Santa Clara Valley and the Santa Cruz Mountains. Although the course is challenging, the friendly aid stations and beautiful scenery make the Quicksilver Trail Challenge an excellent choice for both novice and experienced trail runners.

About Quicksilver Running Club

The Quicksilver Running Club of San Jose was



The Chardonnay Run is an athletic social event that rewards runners with wine at the finish line!

formed in the late 1970 and has been hosting trail races on the scenic trails of Almaden Quicksilver County Park in South San Jose since 1983. If you want more information, you can check out their website at: quicksilver-running.com.

Oct. 25

Chardonnay Run scheduled

The Chardonnay Run is an athletic social event that rewards runners with wine at the finish line! It's coming to the Arena Green East in San Jose on Sunday, October 25th. This untimed run focuses on serving up fun to all its participants with a post-race bash featuring wine, food, live music and more fun festivities. For running enthusiast and reluctant runners, this buzzworthy 5K is a must-do, whatever your fitness level. For more information, visit the Chardonnay Run website: <http://www.thechardonnayrun.com>

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Dan Schutte

S.A.S./Saint Anthony Seniors Group is celebrating 30 years of fellowship, social and education events, Mother's Day Bake Sales, gifts to our parish, as well as our annual outreach dinner at Julian Street/InnVision

Shelter Network. In recent years, S.A.S. has sponsored a Care package drive for our troops, a CPR course, and a Workshop for Advance Healthcare Directives for our parish community.

To celebrate this milestone, S.A.S. is honored and delighted to bring Dan Schutte to perform his music in concert at Saint Anthony Church for all to enjoy. Dan has been composing music for over 30 years, including his extensive collaboration pieces with the St. Louis Jesuits. We sing some of his most famous pieces, including "Here I Am Lord," "Gather the People" and "Sing a New Song" during our weekend Masses. He is one of the best known, most prolific and influential composers of music for the liturgy today.

Please join us on Friday, October 23, 2015, from 7:00 to 8:45 p.m., as we welcome Dan Schutte to perform at Saint Anthony Church located at 20101 McKean Road, San Jose, CA 95120. We look forward to an evening of joyful, inspiration music and reflections suitable for all ages. Admission is Free, although donations will be gladly accepted to offset costs. In order to facilitate planning, please sign up, or ask questions, at:

stanthony.danschutte1023@gmail.com



Amy McCafferty

408.387.3227 | amccafferty@apr.com | amccafferty.com | CalBRE#00967324



Selling During the Winter Months

The winter months can be one of the best times to sell. Although the weather is often cold, wet and dreary, there are several reasons that make selling during this season a perfect time. Generally, buyers looking during the winter are serious about purchasing. These buyers are not looking because they want to move, but because they need to move. They may be looking to purchase quickly and that could be reflected in their negotiations. In general, there is less housing inventory on the market during this time of year which means less competition. With fewer homes to look at, the homes that are on the market have a better chance of attracting a buyer. Additionally, without the sometimes frenzied environment of the spring market, sellers may have more time to evaluate offers and possibly negotiate more favorable terms.

As always, pricing is important. If the price is too high, buyers will look elsewhere. However, some sellers have found that they were

able to price more ambitiously during the winter months having less competition. As with any time of year, first impressions are very important. Unfortunately, dealing with winter weather can, at times, be challenging when you are trying to maintain the curb appeal of your property. While the cold weather may prevent exterior painting, power washing is a great alternative. Power washing with warm soapy water makes a big difference by removing the dirt and grime. Your windows will need to be cleaned more regularly as well, but it is well worth the additional expense to keep things looking fresh.

Play up the season with festive greenery and a warm, welcoming entry. Make sure you keep the shades open, lights on and the thermostat to a comfortable temperature. With the right steps to prepare your home, prospective buyers will have a favorable impression and hopefully reward you with an attractive offer!



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Times Feature

Transferring estates of smaller value in California

By Donald J. DeVries
Special to the Times
This week's question:

My parents who live in California have a very modest estate and they do not want to spend a lot of money with an estate planning lawyer or Probate Court later on. Do you have any ideas what they can do in their situation?

Jack J.
Almaden Valley

Dear Jack,

I can understand their dilemma, Jack. Sometimes it is a fine line to walk between doing what is right and being able to afford it. Let me offer a few ideas for you and the family.

First of all, you might have them visit with a lawyer after all about a living trust, just for ideas. This is often the best way to go. You and they might find that it would work from a financial point of view.

If that is out of the question,

there are a few provisions in California law that may help them. By the way, most states have different laws, so these comments pertain to California law only. (And I am not licensed to practice law in any other state.)

Some of these procedures are called "summary procedures" and are not always available. If they work, they can serve as an expeditious transfer of a decedent's assets without formal probate proceedings. They are elective in nature and work best when the estate is small, when there are no adverse tax consequences, the number of successor beneficiaries is small, where the decedent had few debts or liabilities and where there is no fighting.

The California Probate Code has a few helpful provisions for smaller estates and how to pass on the asset to the successor person without a formal probate court process.

If the total gross value of the

decedent's real and personal property is less than \$150,000, the personal property can be transferred by affidavit. Also, a petition may be used in that situation to transfer real property or real and personal property. That procedure is sometimes called a "small estate affidavit".

Regardless of the total value of the estate, if the value of all of the decedent's real property in California does not exceed \$50,000, an affidavit to transfer the real property can be filed with the probate court.

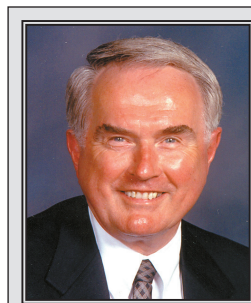
Also, there is a set-aside procedure to the surviving spouse or registered domestic partner or minor children for estates not exceeding a net value of \$20,000.

One needs to keep in mind that several types of property are excluded from the value limits mentioned above. For example, joint tenancy property *automatically* passes to the surviving joint tenant,

and a life estate passes to the beneficiary. Also, property in a pay-on-death account *automatically* passes to the person designated to receive the money, and life insurance and retirement benefits *automatically* pass to the beneficiary named in the documents.

I need to note also that the mere size of the estate is not the only factor to consider. Sometimes a probate court proceeding is needed to protect beneficiaries from creditors of the decedent or if there are disputes among the beneficiaries, family members, or others. Tax benefits also need to be considered.

These procedures can be used by the sole beneficiary or all of the



Ask The Lawyer

Donald J. DeVries,
Attorney at Law

For past articles,
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beneficiaries who succeed to a particular item.

Attorney's fees for summary procedures are set by private agreement of the attorney and client involved, and are not set by law, such as the California Probate Code. If the fees will exceed \$1,000, the agreement needs to be in writing.

So, you can see, Jack, that there may be other options available to your parents. I would encourage them to see their own attorney about this whole topic in view of its importance. Ask them to bring a list of their assets and liabilities to that meeting, a list of their intended beneficiaries, and a list of questions so they can be addressed. Copies of account statements are also very important, so the attorney can see just how the assets are owned at the present time.

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.

Empowering the community to 'Excel'

By Pankaj Tyagi and Staff
Special to the Times

A big deterrent to success for underprivileged children is a lack of resources and facilities especially when it comes to education. Empowering these children with the right resources and enabling them to excel is the goal of "Empower And Excel," a community based volunteer organization.

The organizations youth wing provides educational resources such as books, school supplies, and educational classes to the schools and children in need.

Founders Ayesha Charagulla and Rajani Priya say that "one of the key goals of the organization is to empower youth volunteers and provide a framework to build their communication and leadership skills as well as serving the communities in the need. We strive to identify the areas in which our organization's youth can help with. After all, it takes a community to raise a child! We appreciate and thank all the supporters."

During the summer of 2015, the 'Youth Wing' of the E&E organized several book collection events and collected crate loads of books ready to be shipped.

The group distributed 1,500 books to international schools and the rest to local shelters. A couple of those schools in India started their first ever libraries, where kids can borrow books to build reading skill and improve knowledge. Two of the youth volunteers also visited these schools in India and were thrilled



In addition to helping the needy children, E&E youth volunteers also serve at community shelters by shopping, preparing, cooking and serving meals at the "Family Supportive housing" on monthly basis under the adult supervision.

to see their hard work coming to fruition. They shared with the local students some basic skills such as maintaining a reading log and writing book reports to maximize the benefits of their reading. The students and staff of the schools are very appreciative of the support and guidance they received from E&E, and are looking forward to further support and collaboration. The local Indian community praised the efforts by E&E in an article in the district newspaper.

To help reduce the 'digital divide', E&E is also organizing free programming classes to kids in need in local libraries. Volunteers, including some young programmers, organized classes in HTML, Python, Java and Scala languages. The classes were very popular and their effort caught the attention of the local KCBS radio station, where they aired an interview with youth volunteers. In addition to the local Evergreen libraries, E&E also collaborat-

ed with "iGebra" and "American Society of Engineers of Indian Origin" to work on similar projects in San Lorenzo and Castro Valley city libraries. There was an amazing response from the community, and the students totally enjoyed these hands on programming workshops. In the future, E&E has plans to bring more creative and hands on workshops for the kids in need.

In addition to helping the needy children, E&E youth volunteers also serve at community shelters by shopping, preparing, cooking and serving meals at the "Family Supportive housing" on monthly basis under the adult supervision. Along with that E&E joined hands with the "CityTeam" shelter kitchen which prepares more than 600 meals a day. Youth Wing also lend hands at "CityTeam" and Sacred Heart shelters in collecting the donations, sorting them and then organizing the clothes into community closets.



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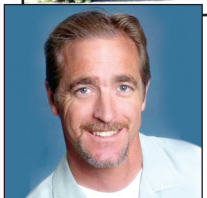
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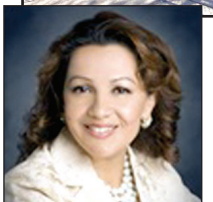
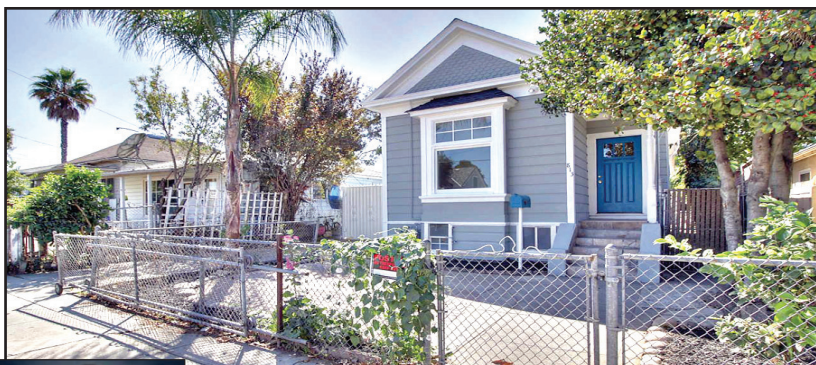
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Times Feature



"I've worked out a lot of my own growth through my relationships with animals," says **Beth Anstandig Killough**, pictured with her horse, Sally. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert

Circle Up

Continued from page 1

learn exactly how the rest of the world experiences you."

Marion Creusat visited the ranch with members of her high-profile Silicon Valley tech company. In one exercise, individuals worked with a horse in a small arena. The goal was to have the horse trot, or stop and turn around.

"The horse kept following me instead of changing direction," says Creusat. "But just before me, a person had exactly the opposite situation and the horse wouldn't follow her. It speaks to our leadership skills and relationships; even though your intentions or message may seem clear to you, they may not be to others."

After Creusat conveyed her frustration at not being able to make the horse move away from her, Anstandig Killough asked if it was difficult for her to create boundaries.

"I realized that it was quite often true," says Creusat, "but I didn't want to push people away. From the horse experience, I realized that sometimes at work, maybe I'm not clear enough that I need personal space. But after realizing it through the exercise and our conversation, I was able to act on it."

"We've been doing this work for years, and it still blows me away every time what comes up with people in just a few minutes with the horses; it cuts through things so quickly," says McCusker. "It shifts the way human beings learn. In the process of making those connections, you don't just see it or hear it, you feel it. That for me is the piece of this work that's so different than any other development experience."

Creusat says that she found the relaxed pace of the exercises valuable as she had time to reflect on the experience. "Emotionally, it allowed me to go deep inside myself and think about how I interact with people," she says. "What emotions you feel are more intense,

because there's more space for those emotions. It was like two hours out of the world."

Although she arrived feeling energetic, Creusat says she was surprised how quickly she slowed down due to the environment, the coaches, and the horses. "That almost never happens in my life," she says. "I still think of it a lot, and try to capture that feeling again; that slow feeling of really seeing what's happening around me."

Creusat says she found the experience extremely helpful with personal growth. "It was helpful for work, but went much further than that for me," she says. "Taking the time to think about leadership skills reminds me that you need to take time to reflect on things in general, like your behavior with your children, and how you spend your time. It's in me now to make small changes. I always keep this experience in mind, and try to apply it to other things in my life."

For Jennifer J. Hagan, a partner at The Hagan Law Firm, the ranch felt like a sanctuary. "The experience was very rewarding in a way that talking to someone in an office on a couch is limited," she says. "When you can get out in the fresh air and interact with a horse, you can't help but feel good to be alive."

Hagan says she enjoyed the team spirit of the group setting and their attempt to lead a horse through an obstacle course without touching him. With two horses of her own, Hagan spends a lot of time with horses, but she still found working with unfamiliar horses to be an experience in building trust and understanding.

"It allowed them to show me things about myself that I wasn't aware of," she says. "Having the

horses be part of the process allows you to let your guard down, and accept insights and suggestions for transformation."

She also appreciates Anstandig Killough's approach. "I saw Beth really get to the heart of several issues for people in a thoughtful manner," she says. "Beth is incredibly insightful and observant. She is gentle in how she interacts with people to help them understand themselves, and how they are in relationships."

Hagan says that by the end of the day, she felt relaxed, happy, and rejuvenated. "Beth gave me a few ideas and I'm looking forward to seeing if I can weave them into the way I move through the world," she says.

For many years, McCusker felt lost about who she was, and what she wanted to do with her life. But the first time she stepped into an arena with a horse and a coach was an experience she says she will never forget.

"It was absolute clarity that this was what I was meant to be doing," she says. "I think that's why Beth and I met, because we both feel the same way about this work. We were aligned on so much, including a passion for horses and the magic that they offered our clients. We

knew we'd work together. I also knew that this kind of friendship was something that doesn't happen very often."

For a year-and-a-half after her life-changing experience, McCusker immersed herself in the world of horses, attending clinics, taking riding lessons, and learning how to handle horses. She even bought a horse. "I knew it would take an understanding of

the animal to be able to translate what's happening with our clients," she says.

Anstandig Killough believes that animals teach us how to be better human beings. "I've worked out a lot of my own growth through my relationships with animals," she says. "There's a blank slate with an animal you don't know, so it becomes your projected story that plays out. How we present ourselves, how we communicate, what it feels like to be with us—they'll mirror that back to you."

During exercises with the horses, Anstandig Killough describes with words what she sees happening and asks people what they want to do about it: what they'd like to change, what they want to keep, what they like, and what they dislike.

"The wonderful thing about this experience is that it taught me a lot about myself," says Craig

Waterman, CEO of Universal Power. "My experience with horses was putting quarters in them in front of the drug store."

Waterman noticed that when he entered the arena with some anxiety, the horse was very sensitive to his movements. "It really showed me what I was bringing to the experience," he says. "I was concerned about the horse, and it turned out that the horse was concerned about me."

In an exercise where he and two women were asked to catch and bridle the horses in a corral, he watched as one of the women who had a lot of horse experience, easi-

ly caught her horse. He noticed the third person was having difficulties and attempted to help her, revealing that part of his personality.

"It's quite a moving experience," he says. "Working with the horses showed me a lot about myself and my personality. In the end, I found that being with horses is quite soothing. Running a couple of different companies, I'm always on the move, and it calmed me down. I thought of them as majestic animals to be feared because of their size, and now I see them as loving creatures who are willing to give love if love is offered."

See CIRCLE UP, page 17

Are you 9–11 years old?

Become a Junior Ranger



FREE!

Join us to explore your County park's wildlife, habitats, cultural history and resource protection. Jr. Rangers hike, play games and do activities to nurture a budding relationship with nature.



• The Hellyer County Park session is four days, 4-6pm: **Thurs., Fri. Oct. 8, 9 & 15, 16**

• The Calero County Park session is four days, 4-6pm: **Mon., Tues. Oct. 19, 20 & 26, 27**

These FREE programs are limited to the first 20 applicants.

At a Typical Wildlife Session:

- Meet at Park Visitor Center
- Identify local wildlife by examining animal pelts
- Explore Park to find animal signs such as tracks & scat
- Examine owl pellet contents
- Play Web of Life and other outdoor games
- Discuss how animals become endangered and extinct
- Learn about how conservation efforts succeed

At an Overnight Campout November 7-8:

(Campout not required, more info provided to registered Jr. Rangers.)

- Eat good food in the great outdoors
- Explore nature through hikes and games
- Take a night hike, Make and eat s'mores around a campfire
- Learn how to pitch a tent and sleep under the stars



For registration information and placement on a mailing list call (408) 918-7770 or visit parkhere.org and click on "education" and "Jr Ranger Program".

Times **Feature**

Los Alamitos photo montage of students experiencing nature at Camp Campbell

Almaden Times featured a story about Los Alamitos students experiencing the thrills of nature through hands-on lessons and activities at Camp Campbell in the Sept 25 issue.

A number of parents were kind enough to allow the Almaden Times to publish candid photos of their children participating in camp activities at Camp Campbell, but due to space limitations, we were not able to run all of the photos with the story.

The Almaden Times thanks the many volunteers who made Los Alamitos students visit to Camp Campbell a great success and allowing the Times to cover the trip and visit by Los Alamitos students.

Here were present some photos of Los Alamitos students enjoying their week at Camp Campbell.



Hannah and Ariella Just Milender preparing for a river study. Above right: Nisa Pradhan and Anya Mody.



Christina Zarrelli working in the garden.



Group of students preparing to taste herbs, vegetables, and fruit from the garden; above right: Holding a snake from the animal lab.





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Charles and Max Valine ready for the climbing wall; above right: Students taking river samples to study invertebrates.



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

Pettis memoirs available at St. Basil’s

As we reported in the last issue of the Almaden Times, Aristeia Pettis’ memoirs “Courage for Survival” is a fascinating read, which was celebrated with a launch party that drew a crowd of local dignitaries, neighbors and family to celebrate her achievement. Due to overwhelming interest, we are pleased to report that “Courage for Survival” can be purchased at St. Basil’s Greek Orthodox Church, located at 6430 Bose Lane, San Jose. It can also be purchased on Amazon.com. –Editor

Times Features

OFF THE SHELF: Fall brings fun to the Almaden Library

By Ed Koetitz

Special to the Times

9th Annual Harvest Festival at the Almaden Library and Community Center On Saturday, October 24, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Almaden Community Center and Library will host their ninth annual Harvest Festival. Join us as we celebrate local artists, tasty food and creative costumes. You can pick a pumpkin from our Pumpkin Patch, get spooked in the spine-tingling Haunted Hallway, enjoy a farm animal petting zoo 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and be amazed by our guest magician, Phil Ackerly, at 1:00 p.m. This festival is funded, in part, by the Friends of the Almaden Library.

Almaden's Fall Book Sale

On Saturday, Nov. 14, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Almaden Branch Library is having its hugely popular Fall Book Sale. At this book sale, there will be a large selection of gently used and sometimes new books covering a wide range of topics and interests. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Almaden Library and will be staged in the large community room next to the library's entrance.

Library events

- **Heavenly Story Time and Star Party** –

On Thursday, November 19, 6 to 8 p.m. the San Jose Astronomical Association will bring their huge telescopes for an awesome star party. The library will present a "Heavenly Story Time" at 6 p.m. in the children's area and at 7 p.m. the star party will commence (weather permitting). Dress warmly, it may be cold outside.

• **Preschool Story Times** will be held on Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. in the Children's area. There will be age appropriate stories, finger plays, songs and puppets, for children ages 3-5 and their caregivers. Following the story time, there will be a 30-minute "Stay and Play."

• **Toddler Story Time** is held on every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. for children ages 24 to 35-months in the Children's area. Following the story time, there is a 30-minute "Stay and Play."

• **Reading Buddies** is held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and on Thursdays 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Children's area. In this program, local teens read to children preschool through third grade and if the child can read, the child can read to the teen.

• **Reading to Children** is held on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 12:30 p.m. in the Children's Area.

• **ESL Conversation Club** is held on Thursdays at 1 p.m.; join us and practice speaking English in a small group with other adult learners.

• **ESL Book Club** is held on the Thursday, October 22 at 11:45 a.m.

• **Reading to Furry Friends** is held on Wednesday, October 14 at 5:15 p.m.

For news of other library activities, including those at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, visit <http://www.sjpl.org/events>.

Almaden Branch Library is located at 6445 Camden Ave.; phone: (408) 808-3040. Our regu-

lar hours are: Monday 1 – 7 pm; Tuesday – Thursday 10 am – 6 pm; Friday 12 – 6 pm; and Saturday 10 am – 6 pm (closed Sunday). For questions, please call (408) 808-3040 during open hours. Email may be sent at any time ab.sjpl@sjlibrary.org. Ed Koetitz is a Librarian at the Almaden Branch Library.

Almaden Valley Youth Soccer League hires Hicker as Director of Sports Performance

Almaden Valley Youth Soccer League (AVYSL) in conjunction with Almaden Futbol Club (AFC) ffague (AVYSL) in conjunction with Almaden Futbol Club (AFC) has hired Daniel Hicker as their new Director Of Sports Performance.

Daniel currently works as strength and conditioning coach for the San Jose Sharks organization, as well as recently serving as a Sports Science Physiologist for US Youth Women's Nation Teams.

"I am very pleased to join AFC as Director of Sports Performance," said Hicker. "It's an exciting time for growth and maturation as the club looks toward the future of player development and success. In any language development is often presented as process," he said.

Hicker said implementing physical conditioning and regeneration programs result in a high performance culture for stronger, more resilient athletes. "It is vital to establish a framework that engages quali-

ty education and repetition to nurture physical, and psychological disciplines," said Hicker.

"We are pleased to welcome Daniel to our organization", said Director of Soccer, Neil Diaz. "His involvement at Santa Clara University as the Women's Soccer Strength and Conditioning/Director of Performance Analysis also provides us with great insight into the college environment".

About Almaden Futbol Club

The Almaden Futbol Club, or Almaden FC, is committed to advancing the personal and athletic development of youth to their highest potential; and we are doing just that for more than 500 players from communities all over the South Bay. Almaden FC has established affiliations with US Club Soccer, NorCal Premier's National Premier League (NPL), and the California Youth Soccer Association (CYSA).

Circle Up

Continued from page 15

Waterman says that The Circle Up Experience is valuable for team building because participants get to know each other, as well as themselves, better. He also appreciates the balance of coaching and personal experience.

"They offered just enough help to make you feel comfortable, but also gave us enough room so that we could have our own experience," he says. "After each session, we'd reflect and they'd help us get to the core of what our experience was and get the most out of it. I would recommend this experience to a family, a business group, or anyone who wants to get to know themselves better. The horses reflect your energy and I learned a few new things about myself that day."

Anstandig Killough says she asks clients what they'd like to create out of choice, rather than habit. "My work started with therapy, and I still do that," she says, "but I'm also focusing on what patterns people bring into their work environments."

While teams take part in various activities with the horses, Anstandig Killough and McCusker watch how situations play out and how they interact as a group. "We like to set what the human herd does," says Anstandig Killough, "how they move together or conflict and how they resolve or don't resolve it."

They recently worked with a group of 50 people from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, using a whole barn of horses. "We had worked with 15 people from there the year before, and they were so taken with it, they wanted to work with the whole executive team," says Anstandig Killough.

With the objects provided and horses in the midst of things, the team was asked to construct their university's departments in a

pasture and play out how their departments work individually and as a whole.

"It was incredible," says Anstandig Killough. "Herd lessons are about how leadership is collective. We're working on culture changes within organizations, illustrating a more personal type of leadership that focuses on your own clear stability and direction. When you're stable and clear, a horse wants to be with you. It's leading from that place, rather than being demanding and overpowering."

Anstandig Killough says that at the core of the activities is open and honest feedback. "What the university team found with the horses was authentic, transparent, vulnerable, open experiences and communication with each other, and they felt closer and more trusting."

After a day of activities, the coaches joined them to debrief in their office setting, and they had what the team described as their first honest conversation. "It feels good because they actually have a community they can trust," she says.

Anstandig Killough and McCusker are both inspired to work with companies and groups. "We want to try to help people bring more animal wisdom and their mammal bodies into their workplaces and their families," says Anstandig Killough, "and to let those two worlds meet in a practical, realistic way."

She hopes to help people be spiritually and emotionally awake and aware, and really feel their lives and their relationships everywhere they go.

"I see myself in every single client," says McCusker, "and she does, too. One of the reasons people relate well to us is because I can say, 'I understand what you're going through, because I have, too.' I'm honored to be part of the process of excavating your authentic self."



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We are a welcoming Church engaged in progressive approach to faith, worship and giving to our local community. We are proud to be UCC, Open and affirming (O&A) and welcome members of the LGBT community. We support local Invision Shelter Feedings once a month, San Francisco Night Ministry, Second Harvest Food Bank, Church World Service, and Communities Responding to End Poverty.
Worship 9:00AM, Sunday School 10:00 AM Sundays.
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Wednesdays, 9:30 AM., Women's Study Group

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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

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6581 Camden Ave. San Jose, CA 95120. The Rev. Shelley Booth Denney, Rector. Phone:408-268-0243

Web:www.eca-sj.org
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service is followed by a coffee hour for friendship and conversation.

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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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