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SEPT. 23–OCT. 6, 2016 ■ VOL. 29, NO. 20

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Breakthrough Silicon Valley supports college dreams



Nearly 100 percent of the students in the Breakthrough Silicon Valley program gain acceptance into a four-year college and a percentage in the high 90s completes college. "The students are given the skills to succeed," says board member and Almaden resident Sharice Torres. *Photo courtesy Breakthrough Silicon Valley*

By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

Breakthrough Silicon Valley has a dual mission: to help high-potential students from underserved communities attend four-year universities and to train high school and college students to become educators of the future.

"It's a window into a world beyond the four corners of their neighborhood," says Breakthrough Silicon Valley board member and Almaden resident Sherice Torres. "When you're the first one in your family to go to college, there's a big risk. You're walking down a path nobody you know walked down, so you don't have role models to help you navigate. Breakthrough makes that difference."

Torres believes that for parents, Breakthrough Silicon Valley opens doors for a better future for their children. "It gives them an opportunity to give their children more and to connect them with a group

that may have more information or resources than they do," she says. "We can advocate for the students and teach them to be advocates for themselves."

Breakthrough Silicon Valley first invests in students in middle school, providing more than six years of assistance. "When you think about what's needed to get into a university, middle school is the absolute latest you should be getting to these kids, because they need to have the prerequisite classes to get into Advanced Placement courses in high school," says Torres. "It's a long-term investment in terms of time and resources, starting right when it's needed."

Some of the students attending Bret Harte and Castillero Middle Schools and Leland and Pioneer High Schools are served by Breakthrough Silicon Valley. "If the student is the first in their family to attend college, receives a

See BREAKTHROUGH, page 6

National Charity League chapter kicks off its new year at Bret Harte School

The Almaden Blossom Valley Chapter of National Charity League kicked off its new year at Bret Harte Middle School.

The League welcomed returning and new members, collected book, clothing and other much needed donations to benefit both the Children's Discovery Museum and CityTeam Ministries, two of the many local charities it serves.

The mission of the organization, which has been active in the local

community for 21 years, is to foster commitment to community service, leadership development and cultural experiences among mothers and girls in 7th through 12th grades.

The chapter currently serves more than 15 charities in the community with help from its 273 mother and daughter members.

For more information about the National Charity League visit the organization's website at <http://www.AlmadenBlossomValley.NationalCharityLeague.org>.



Photo: Lorraine Gabbert

A local tradition

Awonderful time was had by all at the 40th annual Almaden Valley Art & Wine Festival. Set inside beautiful Almaden Lake Park, the festival featured a large selection of local artisans, entertainment by popular bands, boutique wines, craft beers and more. *See photos, page 20*

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Valley Currents

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

Almaden Lake has a toxic algae problem

By Sean Eastwood

Times staff writer

More than 40 lakes in California, including Almaden Lake, have a toxic algae problem.

It's called cyanobacteria, a naturally occurring substance blossoms like a weed. The algae can cause gastrointestinal upsets, skin rashes and allergic reactions in people, and sickness or death among dogs, livestock, and wildlife.

California's ongoing drought has contributed to the toxic levels of the bacteria, which multiplies rapidly in hot temperatures, low water flows and stagnant water.

Due to these elevated levels, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services has announced the Almaden Lake is closed to all water activities until further notice. The park will remain open, however.



Almaden Lake Park was the location for the recent Almaden Valley Art & Wine Festival (see page 20). The lake itself remains off-limits pending further testing. *Photo courtesy Carina Ramirez-Johnson*

Lake Cunningham

Almaden's sister publication, Evergreen Times, reports that Lake Cunningham is now closed to boating and fishing for the first time earlier this month because of the toxic algae. This is disappointing to kayakers, paddle boaters and a local outrigger canoe club that may impact Family Festival: Day in the Park scheduled for Oct. 1.

The city of San José will continue testing water quality at both lakes at least twice weekly, and water areas will not reopen until two weeks after results show that the lake have returned to safe readings.

For more information and to monitor public health concerns regarding the algae problem, visit bit.ly/2cJcnPt.

'Battle of the Big Bands' with GLEE star set to perform Oct. 1

By William Bellou

Publisher

Relive the music of the 1940's when two big bands comprised of 30 musicians play a musical tribute to the 1940s big band kings of swing, Tommy Dorsey and Glen Miller, on Saturday, Oct. 1 at the Heritage Theater in Campbell.

Battle of the Big Bands, a Las Vegas production, will feature vocalist Bill A. Jones (also known to millions as 'Rod Remington' on FOX TV's "GLEE"). Bill, who sings songs made famous by Frank Sinatra and others, toured with The Glenn Miller Orchestra.

In the tradition of the Big Band battles from the '30s and '40s, the two bands take the stage in a back-and-forth competition that showcases jazz, swing and favorite standards from the glory years.

The live musical performance will run non-stop for two hours plus a 15 minute intermission. The audience will vote at the end of the evening for their favorite Big Band; but the clear winner is always the audience.

Tommy Dorsey was an American jazz trombonist, composer, conductor and bandleader of the Big Band era. He was known as the "Sentimental Gentleman of Swing," because of his smooth-toned trombone playing. Although he was not known for being a notable soloist, his technical skill on the trombone gave him renown



The show will feature vocalist **Bill A. Jones** (also known to millions as 'Rod Remington' on FOX TV's "GLEE").

amongst other musicians. He was the younger brother of bandleader Jimmy Dorsey. After Dorsey broke with his brother in the mid-1930s, he led an extremely popular and highly successful band from the late 1930s into the 1950s. He is best remembered for standards such as "Opus One", "Song of India", "Marie", "On Treasure Island," and his biggest hit single "I'll Never Smile Again." Dorsey passed away in his sleep on Nov. 26, 1956 at the age of 51 in his Greenwich, Connecticut, home.

Glenn Miller was an American big band musician, arranger, composer, and bandleader in the swing era. Glenn Miller made his first movie appearance in the 1935 Paramount Pictures release The Big Broadcast of 1936 as a member of

the Ray Noble Orchestra performing "Why Stars Come Out at Night." He was the best-selling recording artist from 1939 to 1943, leading one of the best known big bands. Miller's recordings include "In the Mood," "Moonlight Serenade", "Pennsylvania 6-5000", "Chattanooga Choo Choo", "A String of Pearls", "At Last". "(I've Got a Gal In) Kalamazoo", "American Patrol", "Tuxedo Junction", "Elmer's Tune," and "Little Brown Jug." While he was traveling to entertain U.S. troops in France during World War II, Glenn Miller's aircraft disappeared in bad weather over the English Channel on December 15, 1944.

The Heritage Theater is located at One W. Campbell Ave. Campbell, CA 95008. To purchase tickets, visit: BattleoftheBigBands.com.

LET THE ALMADEN TIMES HEAR FROM YOU!

Send your letters to editorial@timesmediainc.com or mail to: Almaden Times, Silicon Valley Business Center, 1900 Camden Ave., San Jose, CA 95124



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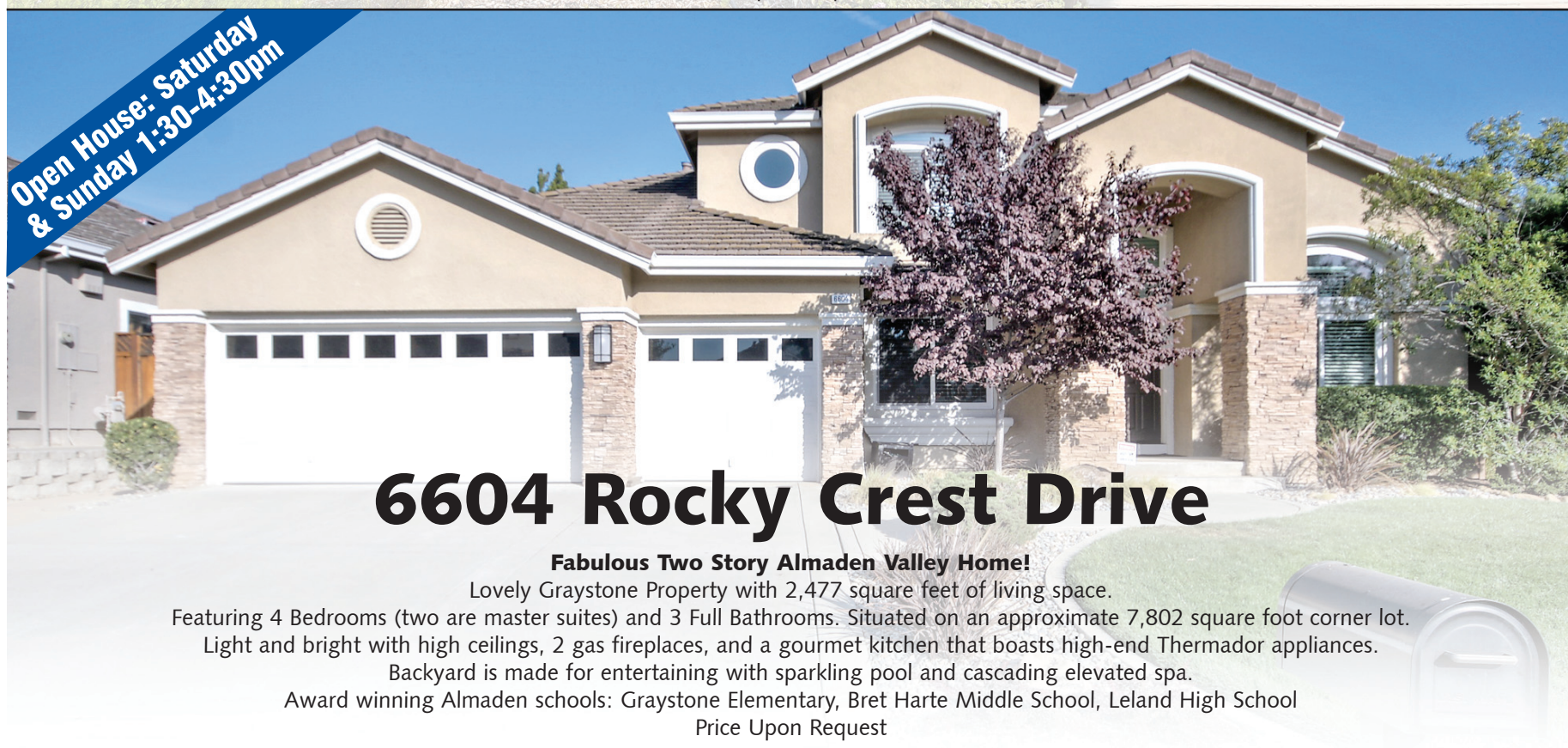


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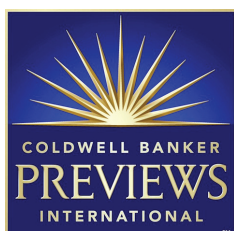
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Times Feature

Breakthrough

Continued from page 1

reduced or free lunch, or if English is a second language in their home, all of these are challenges that can make it harder to gain admission to, or graduate from a four-year college or university,” says Torres. “Regardless of where you live, there are people with different stories and socioeconomic backgrounds throughout Silicon Valley and Almaden.”

Breakthrough Silicon Valley works with highly-motivated students with immense potential, but due to risk factors would likely be unable to attend a four-year university without intervention, says Executive Director Melissa Johns. “They might come from a low-income family, a single-parent home, or live in a neighborhood impacted by gang activity. They’re kids who like school and want some extra enrichment to soar beyond the wildest expectations anybody has for them. They come to Breakthrough and have a new standard set for their academic excellence. We ensure they’ll have college readiness and college counseling so they can attend a four-year university.”

Through Breakthrough Silicon Valley, students learn creative problem solving with collaboration and a growth mindset, which Torres believes are critical skills for future careers. “The students are highly motivated to learn,” she says. “It takes a lot to give up a few days each week for six summers (the program is year-round) rather than hanging out with your friends. The program rounds out not only students’ educational skills, but also the confidence and growth mindset that makes all the difference in their current and future success.”

Former teaching fellow Ankit Mukherjee agrees. “Breakthrough Silicon Valley serves as an indispensable player in closing the inequality gap of the future by closing the inequity gap of the present,” he says. “It ensures that every student who participates in the program has access to the same education and inclusive communities they are so often excluded from. The program bolsters education and a work ethic, but also grants students a unique environment to explore their identity, talents and aspirations.”

Breakthrough Silicon Valley not only paves the way for students to attend college, but also trains high school and college students to serve as teachers and role models for younger students. “It creates dedicated, passionate instructors who see the impact they can make in the lives of the students,” says Torres. “The ‘students-teaching-students’ model is at the core of our success, because the students have role models showing it’s cool to be smart,” says Johns.

Mukherjee says that being an instructor for Breakthrough Silicon Valley was the most gratifying and impactful experience of his life. “I have never had a more rewarding summer nor experienced a community of so many loving, mature, caring and amazing people as the one I found at Breakthrough,” he says.

On the last day of the summer program, the teachers sat in a circle with their eyes closed with their students lined up behind them. An administrator instructed the students to tap a teacher on the shoulder who taught them something this summer...who changed their life...who made them laugh. “With every tap,” says Mukherjee, “I was truly able to realize the impact the program had, and that I had on the students.”

Breakthrough Silicon Valley is modeled after ‘Summer Bridge,’ a program that started in San Francisco in 1978 to provide lower income students with an academically rigorous curriculum in preparation of attending college prep high schools followed by four-year colleges. In the early 1990s a team replicated the program throughout the country calling it ‘Breakthrough.’ In 2002, Breakthrough Silicon Valley was formed when Applied Materials



Some of the Breakthrough Silicon Valley crew members pause to pose. Photos courtesy Breakthrough Silicon Valley

wanted to bring educational opportunities to students falling through the cracks in the San Jose Unified School District. In 2010, the program extended from middle schools to high schools, making it a six-year program. In 2016, Breakthrough Silicon Valley became its own independent non-profit in partnership with the school district.

Providing an accelerated teaching level for motivated students is what Breakthrough Silicon Valley’s all about, says Johns. “In 12th grade, our students have to compete with all the kids applying to college at the same time, and we want them to have a new level of expectations set for their academic success,” she says. “By their freshman year, we want all of our students to be on the honors and advanced placement track so we’re very careful about helping them choose their classes. By their senior year, we make sure they’ve created a very competitive college applicant resume.”

The process to apply to college starts the summer before a student’s senior year. Breakthrough Silicon Valley provides an overnight retreat for the whole class where they review the students’ personal statements. A college counselor works with the students and their families to review their list of potential universities and work on applications and financial aid forms. In Jan. of their senior year, the students have access to Breakthrough Silicon Valley’s scholarship database, which includes some scholarships solely offered to Breakthrough students.

Some Breakthrough Silicon Valley student’s families have income levels that are so low, that their family contribution is small. For example,

Agustin was accepted into the University of Pennsylvania and his mother, a single mom who worked in food service, had saved up \$2000 for tuition. For that school, the annual tuition, room and board tops \$65,000. But, after a Penn grant and work/study program, the requested family contribution was only \$50. His mom couldn’t believe it. “This is what your son’s been working so hard for,” the Breakthrough Silicon Valley staff told her. “We don’t just want to help them apply to colleges,” says Johns, “we want them to be competitive applicants for the schools that are the best match for them.”

Johns believes that Breakthrough Silicon Valley offers students not only a brighter future, but also a source of trusted information and guidance specific to what best applies to their families and their situation. “It’s the trust that’s built up over six years with our staff and knowing we have their best interest in mind,” says Johns, “and that we’ll be here for all the ups and downs. It’s what makes this place feel like a second family for our students. The program is completely free for families but we ask for a really big commitment. We don’t give up on them and they can’t give up on themselves.”

Each fall, Breakthrough Silicon Valley hosts an academic trivia contest *Are You Smarter than a Breakthrough Student?* which raises money to support existing Breakthrough Silicon Valley programs and fuel their expansion. This year’s event takes place at the Computer History Museum on Oct. 6 at 6p.m. Past teams of competitors have included local business executives from Applied Materials, Silicon Valley Bank, Google, eBay, Ooyala, and PwC. They invite



A Breakthrough teaching fellow and a student celebrate their success.

individuals and corporate teams to join in the fun and compete against the best and brightest of Silicon Valley.

“I’ve never seen a fundraising event like this,” says Johns. “People are bummed they can’t make it.” In addition to dinner and drinks, participants have the chance to meet students, learn more about the program and compete in the game with the help of student lifelines. “The audience leaves having a much greater understanding of why this organization’s important,” says Johns, “and the impact it has on the community.”

“I am certain someone was cutting raw onions underneath our table when those students took the podium,” says previous attendee Casey Robertson. “Their struggles are real, but their futures are so incredibly bright. Just thinking about it brought me to tears. Although we didn’t make it to the finals...the real winners had already been determined years ago, when these students walked through Breakthrough’s doors.”

Torres and Johns greatly appreciate the financial assistance Breakthrough Silicon Valley receives. “Every time we receive a check from a corporation,” says Johns, “I see it as validation for my staff’s hard work and the company’s recognition of the potential of the students they’re investing in.”

“The support of corporations, philanthropic organizations and individuals is critical for Breakthrough,” says Torres. “Without it Breakthrough wouldn’t be able to do the incredible work it does. I hope more people learn about the mission and want to support what we’re doing.”

Silicon Valley Cares is one such organization; it chose Breakthrough Silicon Valley as one of its recipients for its annual Broomstick Ball fundraiser on Oct. 15. “We love Breakthrough Silicon Valley,” says Silicon Valley Cares founder Kelly Dippel. “What an incredible organization. There are so many children struggling to get into college and even finish high school, facing poverty and other issues that take away their focus. When Breakthrough Silicon Valley spoke to our group about what they do, they had us in tears. They’re amazing.”

Breakthrough Silicon Valley staff provide students with hope for the future and a personalized program to help them reach their goals says Torres. “The Breakthrough staff are some of the most dedicated educational professionals I have ever met; they know each child personally. They know their story and their family. This isn’t just about giving them a set of tools; it’s about understanding the psychological or economic barriers they might face in getting through all the courses needed for college, applying for financial aid, or their concerns around leaving friends and family. It’s knowing which university will be the best fit for them so they’ll succeed. There’s no way these students can have the level of success they have without being so deeply known and understood by the staff. The support and personal attention each student receives is extraordinary.”

According to Torres, nearly 100 percent of the students in their program gain acceptance into a four-year college and a percentage in the high 90s completes college. “The students are given the skills to succeed,” she says. Breakthrough Silicon Valley also provides networking opportunities and ensures its students are striving. “A recent graduate told me she was looking for a job and was interested in marketing, so I connected her with a recruiter in Google’s marketing department,” says Torres. “That’s the power of Breakthrough. I know the training these students received and how serious they are about their future, so I feel confident recommending them. It’s not just about helping them get into college, but beyond.”

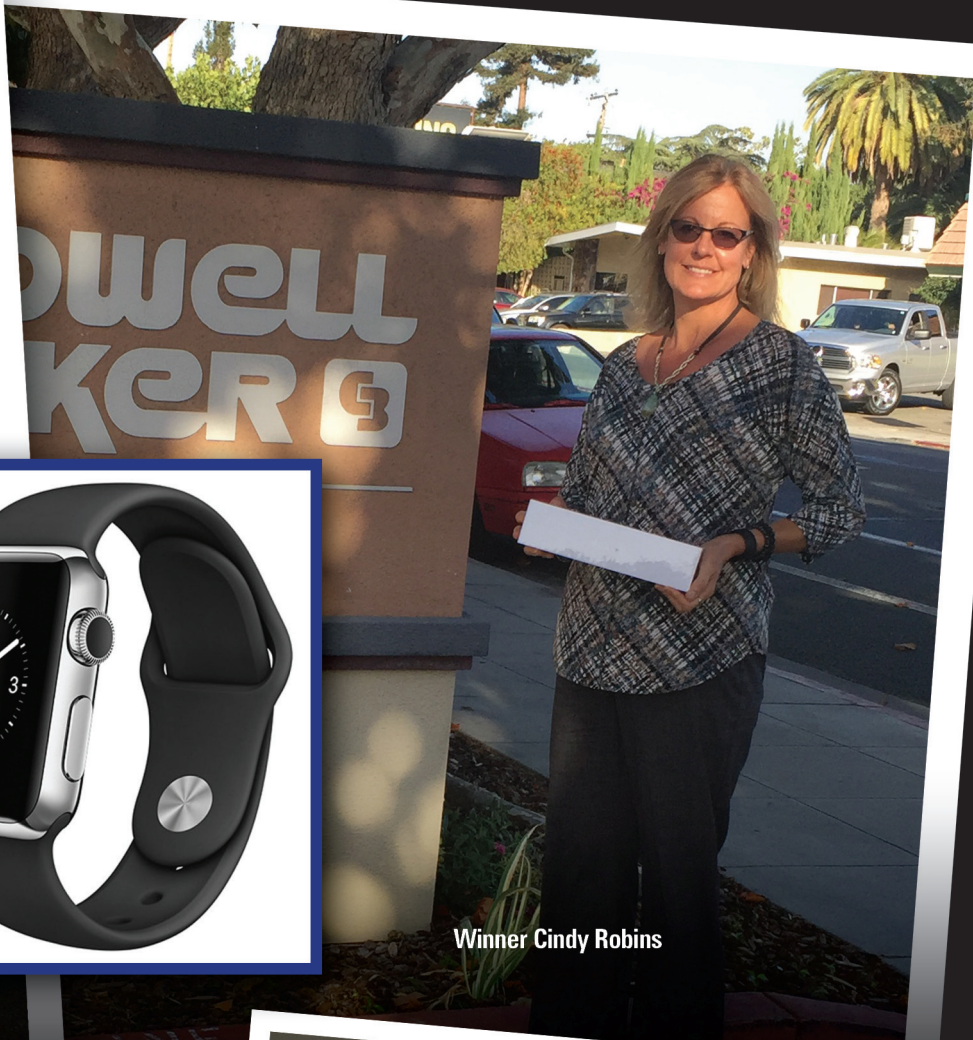
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Times Feature

How to find out basic information about attorneys before hiring them

By Donald J. DeVries

Special to the Times

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

I need to find an attorney to help me with a divorce case. A name was recommended to me by a good friend. How can I find out some basic information before I employ an attorney?

Jason J.

Almaden Valley

Dear Jason:

You emailed in a very good question, Jason. Let me see if I can provide a little guidance for you.

One way of finding out some good information is for you to go onto the State Bar of California website. This website is maintained by the State Bar of California and all of us attorneys need to be members of that group. No exceptions.

I would go into my computer search box and enter "State Bar of California". Under the various options, you would enter "Attorney Search" and then "Quick Search".

You would then enter the attorney's name and/or state bar number, if you happen to know it, in the box provided. Most of the time you would just have the name, which is OK. When the name pops up, double-click on the name and the attorney's "profile information" will appear on your screen.

When the profile information appears, you can see the full name and state bar number for that person. If you do this for my name, you will see that my current status is "active", and that I may practice law in the

State of California.

You will also see that my office address is 6475 Camden Avenue, Suite 200, San Jose, CA 95120. My telephone number and fax numbers are also shown. My email address is also listed as well as my undergraduate school, the University of Iowa. My law school is provided as well, Santa Clara University School of Law in Santa Clara CA. This same basic information is required of all lawyers who are admitted to practice law in the State of California.

"Status History" is also provided, which for me is "active" status since I was admitted to the State Bar of California on June 26, 1970. Any status change is also noted, such as any periods of suspension. (You would want to look into any periods of suspension, etc., in greater detail.)

Another area is "Actions Affecting Eligibility to Practice Law", such as disciplinary and related actions. Fortunately in my case, "this member has no public record of discipline." As with any change in status mentioned above, you would want to check further into any record of discipline as well as the next category, "administrative actions". These are possible warning flags in your search for information.

While on the State Bar website, you might want to review other information available,

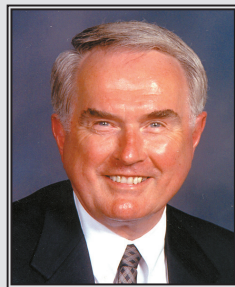
such as the "Overview" area. There are more than 250,000 members of the California State Bar now, the largest in the country. Of that number, 185,500 of us may actively practice law. We need to have passed the California State Bar Exam prior to being admitted to practice and we need to pay our annual dues each year, and maintain "continuing education" so that it is up to date.

You mentioned that you need help with a divorce case. When you enter the website, you can see if that attorney is a "certified specialist" in family law, one of 11 fields that the Board of Legal Specialization certifies.

You might also be interested in one or more of the 18 consumer pamphlets that are published by the State Bar, such as "Finding the Right Lawyer", "Do I Need Estate Planning", "Do I Need a Will", and many others. I have read several of these pamphlets and they are excellent.

Parents might especially be interested in "Kids and the Law", described as addressing a host of issues of interest to parents and kids, from curfews to safety on the Internet.

Other consumer pamphlets and legal guides focus on "Seniors and the Law—A Guide for Maturing Californians", and "When you Turn 18—A Survival Guide for Teenagers".



Ask The Lawyer

Donald J. DeVries,
Attorney at Law

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

I hope that the words above have been helpful, Jason. Finding the right lawyer is not an easy job. You will want to take your time and do the best job that you can. Best wishes in your effort and with your case.

Donald J. DeVries

Almaden Valley Times

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, 6475 Camden Avenue, Suite 200, San Jose, CA 95120. Your true name will not be used. No attorney-client relationship is created by these articles.

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Times Feature

1906 Ford Model N Runabout

Annual Antique Auto show brings out hundreds to San Jose History Park

By Allan J. Greenberg
Special to the Times

They don't make 'em like they used to, and that's the reason hundreds attended the 16th annual Antique Auto Show at San Jose's History Park on September 11.

The event has swelled in size over the years, as the show attracts more than 200 types of cars, not just Model T's and Model A's.

There was an impressive display of cars built from 1800s to 1945 that many have not seen for generations.

More than 100 antique clubs, plus many antique car owners were invited to participate in this year's event. Some very rare antique autos were on display in the Park, such as Stutz, Pierce Arrow, Mitchell, White, Stanley, Rio and Franklin to mention a few.

The event opened with a dancing pair from the Swing Cats Rhythm Revue performing Swing and Charleston dances.

Here some photos of the cars displayed at the event courtesy of photographer Lou Alexander.

Vintage fire trucks

1940 Packard 110 Station Wagon

Castillero Speech & Debate Club

Castillero Middle School's Speech & Debate Club begins its 9th year. Students participate in Speech on Mondays from 4-5pm and Debate on Wednesdays from 4-5pm.

Our Club exists to develop student's public speaking skills and debate critical thinking skills. It provides a great opportunity to belong and participate with other highly motivated students. Students who have been participants in the past, moved onto high school Speech & Debate and Mock Trial teams. Several of our alumnae have become national award winners in high school.

This year we have 40 new first time members and 20 members from last year. The Castillero Education Foundation supports our club and parents may register their students through their website. <http://sites.google.com/a/castillermiddleschool.net/foundation/>

For more information please contact Rebecca O'Connor reconnor@sjusd.org, or view our website at <http://castillerospeechanddebate.weebly.com>

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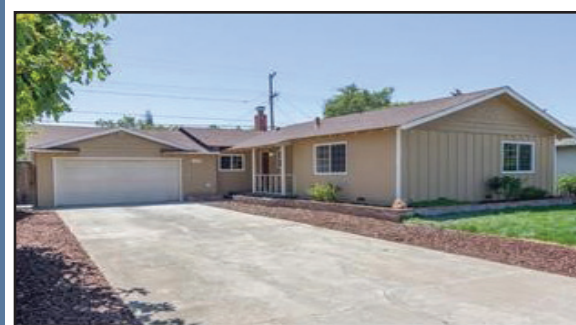
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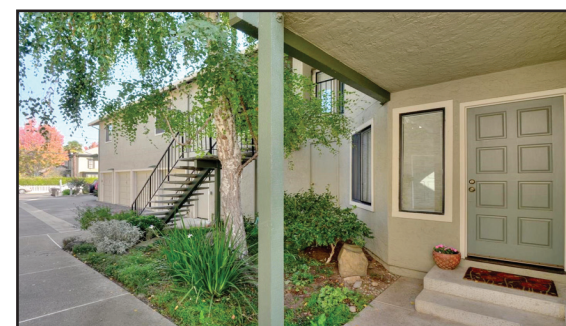
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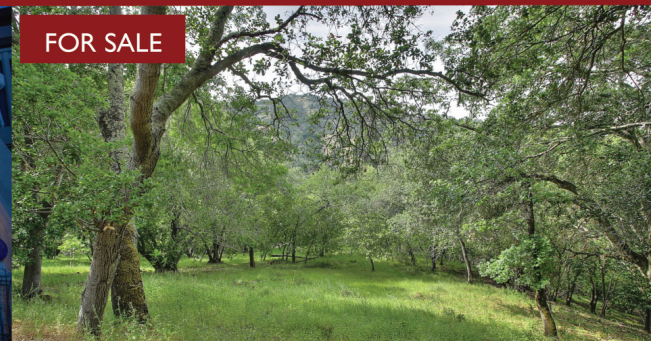
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Times News Briefs

Car shooter arrested

The San Jose Police Department has arrested **Michael James Lee Lewis** (inset), accused of randomly shooting at occupied vehicles on Blossom Hill Road.

Lewis allegedly shot at ten vehicles during a period of three months. Thanks to the alertness of Officer Mel Dunn his initial contact with the suspect led to a search warrant and the information needed for SJPD's Covert Response Team.



Lewis is booked into the Santa Clara County Jail on four counts of attempted murder and an outstanding felony warrant for felon in possession of a firearm.

Police Chief Eddie Garcia said, "The work that the men and women of this department have done in the last three weeks is nothing short of amazing! In light of everything this department is going through, our officers' dedication to the residents of this city is beyond reproach."

"I commend the San Jose Police Department for their exceptional work to arrest an extremely dangerous suspect without any loss of life — our officers continue to exceed expectations at a time when they remain historically shorthanded," said Mayor Sam Liccardo.

Operation Cruz Control nets 13 burglars

The San Jose Police Department Financial

Crimes Unit has been conducting a year-long investigation into an East Palo Alto criminal street gang committing more than 200 residential burglaries in the City of San Jose, including Almaden Valley.

More than 13 gang members were identified as being part of this burglary crew. High end vehicles were commonly used during the commission of the burglaries. Items stolen have included: firearms, cash, jewelry, and electronics.

Almaden pavement maintenance schedule update

Here's an update from the City's Department of Transportation on 2016 pavement projects scheduled for Almaden Valley.

Branham Lane from Vista Park Drive to Almaden Expressway: Slated for October 5 - October 21. Project will include street sealing, new markings, and green bike lanes.

Camden Avenue from Coleman Road to Almaden Expressway: Resurfacing complete. Green bike lane intersections in progress.

Santa Teresa Boulevard from Blossom Hill Road to Steinbeck Drive: Resurfacing and all markings work complete.

Calero Avenue (Blossom to Cahalan): Street sealing complete. Markings in progress.

Calero Avenue (Blossom-Snell & Cahalan-Alen): To be completed Spring 2017.

Almaden Road from Almaden Expressway to the City limit: Street sealing complete. Green bike lane intersections in progress.

Pavement maintenance work is divided into two broad categories: street sealing, and pavement resurfacing. Upon engineering analysis

Coldwell Banker residential brokerage launches 2016 'Give Where You Live' fundraising campaign

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Community Foundation has launched its 2016 community-wide fundraising campaign entitled "Give Where You Live." The campaign will provide much needed funding for local charities as well as the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford.

The major event of this year's fundraising effort, which runs through October 31, will once again be a companywide raffle in all Bay Area Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage offices. Proceeds will be split evenly between Lucile Packard Children's Hospital and local charities selected by each Coldwell Banker office in the region.

In addition to the companywide raffle, money will also be raised by local fundraising activities held by individual Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage offices throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

"Our annual fundraising campaign has been such a success over the years, and we're really excited to kick off this year's event," said Mike James, president of Coldwell

Banker Residential Brokerage. "Each year, this campaign gives our affiliated sales associates and staff a way to give back to the local communities that have been so supportive of Coldwell Banker all year long. We love the opportunity to reach out and make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves."

James said it was decided to divide the proceeds from this year's campaign evenly between the local children's hospital and other charities that are important to Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage's local offices and affiliated sales associates.

"There are so many non-profits out there in each of our local communities that truly need our help to continue helping others," he said. "With this year's 'Give Where You Live' campaign, we're really able to target our charitable dollars to very deserving charities right in our own backyard. The Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford is certainly one of those terrific charities and we're proud to continue supporting this organization."

and structural evaluation of the street and its current condition, DOT determines the appropriate treatment.

The street sealing work involves removing and replacing the failed pavement areas, upgrading adjacent ramps to ADA standards, replacing traffic detection loops, applying the sealing coat, and final striping. Pavement resurfacing work involves multiple phases including:

stabilizing the base layer by removing and replacing failed pavement areas, in-place recycling of the existing pavement material using the cost effective and environmentally-friendly process of cold-in-place recycling (CIR), grinding previous pavement layer, placing the final rubberized hot mix asphalt as the final wearing course, and placing the final striping after all pavement work is complete.

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Times **Feature****ALMADEN LIBRARY COLUMN****September marks Hispanic Heritage Month, commemorates banned books***Special to the Times***Hispanic Heritage Month**

During Hispanic Heritage Month, we celebrate the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America. The celebration started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson, and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on Sept 15 and ending on Oct 15. Sept 15 is the anniversary of independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico celebrates its Independence Day on Sept 16, and Chile celebrates on Sept 18. Come to the library and check out a book on the history, culture, or food of Hispanic Americans. *Vamos a celebrar!*

Banned Books Week Sept 25 – Oct 1, 2016

Celebrate your freedom to read! Banned Books Week was launched in 1982 in response to a sudden surge in the number of challenges to books in schools, bookstores and libraries. According to the American Library Association, more than 11,300 books have been challenged since 1982. Come to the Almaden branch to check out a display of books that have been banned or challenged for various reasons including homosexuality, religious viewpoint, political viewpoints, and language.

Diwali Rangoli Art Tuesday, Oct 25, 2016

Celebrate the ancient Hindu festival Diwali, "the festival of lights," and make a beautiful rangoli pattern art project. Diwali, arguably the most important festival in Hinduism, is celebrated in Oct or Nov each year. Diwali originated as a harvest festival that marked the last harvest of the year before winter, and spiritually signifies the victory of light over darkness. The festival gets its name from the row of clay lamps that are lighted outside homes to symbolize the inner light that protects us from spiritual darkness. Rangoli is the art and tradition of decorating the floors and walls of a home with elaborate designs to welcome guests and bring good luck to a family.

Read for the Record Thursday, Oct 27, 2016

Read for the Record is a national campaign launched over a decade ago to address educational inequalities that leave too many children unprepared for kindergarten. On Thursday, Oct 27, 2016 at 4 p.m. join us at the library for a



reading of this year's book, *The Bear Ate Your Sandwich*, a classic tale of a bear's epic journey and the mystery surrounding the disappearance of a delicious sandwich!

FAL book sale Saturday, Nov 5, 2016

Come check out the great bargains on books and media at the Friends of Almaden Library's annual November book sale! On Saturday, Nov 5, 2016 from 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. gently used books and media will be available for purchase. All book sale proceeds will benefit the Friends of the Almaden Library – and please, bring your own bag for all the wonderful items you are going to want to take home!

Stargazing Party Tuesday, Nov 29, 2016

Interested in astronomy, or looking for a special family activity? Come join the San José Astronomical Association and the Almaden Library for an evening of stargazing. Large, powerful telescopes will be set up behind the library on the border of Simonds elementary school pointed to the stars for those in second grade and up. Weather permitting, the show starts at 7 p.m. – please call the library at (408) 808-3040 the day of to check conditions.

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Love magazines but hate how they pile up on your desks and end tables? Check out Zinio, a free resource from the San José Public Library where you can download magazines right onto your PC, Mac, or any device where you can download the "Zinio for Libraries" app. Enjoy complete, full color magazines with no holds, checkout periods, or limits to the number of magazines you can download. Art and crafts, business, music, science, children's magazines and much more are available at your fingertips!

Harker School student selected for 2016-17 USA Debate Team

Aditya Dhar (inset), a student at Harker School, has been selected to participate in the National Speech & Debate Association 2016-2017 USA Debate Team.

Dhar is one of only nine high school students that were selected to represent the USA.

Throughout the year, the team will compete in nearly a dozen competitions across the globe from Los Angeles, to Bali and Europe.

"These students are some of the best debaters across our country," said Executive Director J. Scott Wunn. "We're excited to watch these students embark on an educational experience of a lifetime."

The team will compete in "World Schools" style debate, a unique format that combines the concepts of prepared topics and impromptu topics,



encouraging students to focus on specified issues rather than theory or procedural arguments. This highly interactive style of debate allows students to engage each other, even during speeches, requires excellent teamwork, and sparks in-depth quality argumentation.

New this year, nine underclassmen have been selected to the USA Debate Development Team. This group of underclassmen will train and practice with USA Debate coaches and alumni to learn more about World Schools Debate.

The mission of USA Debate is to join the global promotion of free and civil discourse, foster international cooperation and education, as well as demonstrate competitive excellence and national pride. To learn more about USA Debate, visit speechanddebate.org/usa-debate.

37 Almaden High School seniors among California's National Merit semifinalists

By William Bellou

Publisher

A total of 37 Almaden High School seniors qualified as semifinalists in the prestigious National Merit Scholarship competition.

Nearly 1.6 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools entered the 2017 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2015 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

One percent of the 1.6 million contestants are named as semifinalists (16,000). Of these about 15,000 will become finalists next February, with half of the students winning scholarships from the National Merit organization or from cooperating corporations or colleges and universities.

To become a finalists, semifinalists must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test.

Merit Scholar designees are selected on the basis of their

skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies, without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, or religious preference.

Here's the list of Almaden Valley semifinalists for the National Merit Scholarship from Leland High School, Pioneer High School, and home school.

Home School

Paul, Eleanor F.

Leland High School

Chang, Emily A.
Chen, Amanda V.
Chen, Christopher
Deshmukh, Yash A.
Ge, Aaron G.
Guo, Ruoyang
Haiwen, Charles M.
He, Yuqian
Im, Linus J.
Jang, Joyce
Jeong, Yoon S.
Ju, Andy Y.
Kalbag, Maya A.
Kalra, Shilpi
Kestur, Akhil K.
Kim, Young Woo
Kirby, Sarah A.
Ko, Woo Jin
Lee, Alex



Eleanor Paul is among the 37 Almaden High School students named as National Merit semifinalists. Paul is planning on majoring in Biomedical Engineering.

Lee, Kyung H.
Lin, Vincent S.
Lo, Isaac
Lu, Emily X.
Ryu, Je Min
Shieh, Laura
Smith, Steven
Song, Anthony
Sun, Stephanie S.
Tanaka, Ken G.
Tang, Andrew
Vo, Daniel D.
Xiao, Wesley
Xu, Calvin Y.
Yoon, Edward J.

Pioneer High School

Cheung, Samantha Y.
Hu, Tony

**PHOTO OP
Honoring
excellence in
Parks and Rec**

Dave Cortese, President of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, congratulates **Lisa Pappanastos**, a recipient of an "Employee Excellence Award." Lisa is a Park Ranger in the Parks and Recreations Department with more than 16 years of service.



CAMPBELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1675 Winchester Boulevard (near Hamilton), Campbell, 95008. Church Office: 378-3472. www.campbell-umc.org. E-mail us at: campbell_umc@earthlink.net. SUNDAY WORSHIP: 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. Handicapped, hearing-impaired friendly facility. (Nursery Care available). SUNDAY SCHOOL for every age at 9:00 a.m. WHAT YOU WILL FIND: Youth/Young Adult programs, Choirs for all ages, Active Senior Fellowship, a dynamic and diverse congregation of seekers motivated to explore the questions of faith and life; opportunities for fellowship, study, spiritual growth and outreach. Campbell UMC is a Reconciling Congregation ~ ALL ARE WELCOME! Campbell UMC sponsors Bright Days preschool, offering a play-based, developmentally appropriate curriculum. Call 378-8422 for information.

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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 (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. 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: Coffee and Conversation 9:15am Worship 9:45am, Sunday School for all ages 11:15am
Childcare is provided for all our Sunday Services. Our NEW Children's Building is Open!
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)
VBS: June 13th – 17th (5:45-8:30pm) & Sports Camp: July 18th – 22nd (9am -12:30pm) For more details or to register please visit our website
Senior Pastor – Pastor Ron Johnson, Community-Life Pastor - Pastor Patrick Boyd, Children's Ministry Co-Directors – Alyssa Friend and Kristen Pearson
We are located at 2827 Flint Ave (Between Tully & Norwood) San Jose, CA 95148, Phone 408-238-0231, e-mail info@eastvalley-church.com
We are associated with Converge Worldwide www.convergeworldwide.org

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

6581 Camden Ave. San Jose, CA 95120. The Rev. Shelley Booth Denney, Rector Phone:408-268-0243 Web:www.eca-sj.org
At the Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA), we are joyful followers of Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, fellowship and outreach, we strive to nurture and grow a strong faith community of believers, a family of all ages, where each member feels welcomed, loved, valued and empowered to serve. Children are especially welcomed and cherished as an important part of God's family. All junior high and senior high students are welcome to participate in our Youth Groups. During the school year we have joint Sunday School with our sister church, the Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, UCC. The Episcopal Church in Almaden offers the following regular opportunities for worship: Sunday at 7:30AM and 10:45AM, 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.

FIRST CHURCH DOWNTOWN

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.

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.

SAINT ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

ST. BASIL THE GREAT GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

6430 Bose Lane, San Jose, CA 95120
Church Office 408-268-3214
Clergy: Fr. Allan Boyd
Experience our Lord Jesus Christ, entering into His presence by wor-

shipping like the earliest Christians. The Orthodox Christian Church is evangelical, but not Protestant. It is orthodox, but not Jewish. It is catholic, but not Roman. It is NOT non-denominational, it is pre-denominational. It has believed, taught, preserved, defended and died for the Faith of the Apostles since the Day of Pentecost 2000 years ago. What happens when you reunite created matter to its Creator? Come and see!
All are welcome to our warm, multicultural Church community, where services are done primarily in English.
Services are every Sunday:
8:30 a.m. Orthros/Matins (morning prayers)
9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

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

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Times **Feature****Cottle Park newsletter will share insights, news**

By Mike Wasserman
Special to the Times

Santa Clara County's newest park just got its very own newsletter! The "Cottle Almanac" chronicles the journey from working family farm to historical agricultural park and shares insights into park programs, partners and events.

Kudos to the volunteers and community partners who worked to create the new newsletter; they make Martial Cottle Park such a special place for residents.

And speaking of Martial Cottle Park, please mark your calendar for Saturday, October 1st and join me for the Annual Harvest Festival!

Good old fashion farm fun with live entertainment and hands on activities for the kids including watermelon and costume contests, petting zoo, pumpkin bowling, corn maze, farm tours and more! There's a \$6 parking fee. For more information: parkhere.org.

We are working hard to prevent identity theft, as well as phone and internet scams in our community. Last month, I partnered

with the District Attorney's Office to host our 3rd Fraud and Identity Theft Prevention event. Of the 110 residents who attended, over half reported that they or someone they knew recently received a phone call or email from a scammer or were the victims of identity theft. Some had received "grandparent scam" calls, which is just one of many out there.

**County Report**

Mike Wasserman,
County Supervisor

I am grateful to the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office for the informational presentation and to the Los Gatos-Saratoga Recreation Department for helping to put this event together. By being informed, we can prevent identity theft and scams from happening. To learn more, please view the District

Attorney's helpful publications on their website.

As always, you can reach my office at (408) 299-5010, or you can email me at district1@bos.sccgov.org with your comments and concerns.

Latest Martial Cottle Park newsletter can be viewed here: sccgov.org/sites/parks/parkfinder/Documents/martial-fall-16.pdf.

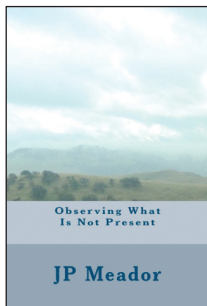
Poetry reading with Jon Meador Oct. 22

Jon Meador is hosting a poetry reading at his childhood home in Almaden Valley on Oct. 22, 2016 from 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Common themes in all his literary works are acceptance, understanding and love.

The reading will include excerpts from his latest books, *Observing What Is Not Present* and *Strada Almaden*, followed by book sales, signing and a barbeque.

Observing What Is Not Present is a collection of poems focusing on love, loss of inno-

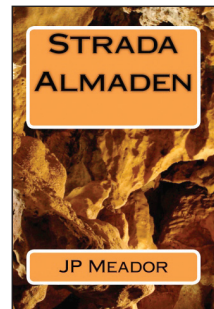


cence, hope and faith. *Strada Almaden* reveals the place where Meador grew up, the times he shared with family and friends and the constructing of the relationships that still matter to him.

About Meador

Meador has self-published eleven books and compiled a book of poems by his aunt titled, *All I Can Be Is Me*. He grew up in Almaden Valley and attended local schools and went to college in Cupertino. He now lives in Fresno, California with his wife Deborah and grandson Matthew.

Those who would like to attend and want more information can reach Mr. Meador at jonpmeador@gmail.com. Space is limited.

**Bach to Nature III: five pianos in five parks**

By Sean Eastwood
Times staff writer

Have you ever wanted to play your own piano concerto in a backdrop of nature?

For the third consecutive year Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation is placing five pianos in the most picturesque spots in five County Parks and they're there for your enjoyment now through Oct. 5.

Sunset Piano in partnership with County Parks is continuing to discover how placing pianos in an outdoor environment affects human behavior and spirit. Pianos in public outdoor settings provide musical engagement opportunities for people of all ages to enjoy including some that have never had access to a piano.

You might play in solitude or to an impromptu audience of hikers, bikers and joggers.

The pianos can be found in five iconic County Park locations: iconic Vasona Lake under the sycamore tree by the boat rental area, Historic Casa Grande/New Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum near the lushly renovated garden on the patio deck, Uvas Canyon near the waterfalls at the outdoor amphitheater, Coyote Lake-Harvey Bear Ranch's Anglers picnic area and Joseph D. Grant under the stars near the historic Grant house and rose garden.

Local schools, musicians, artists, poets, and all other user groups are encouraged to spread the word. Reserve a performance time at no cost by contacting Santa Clara County Parks reservations at 408.355.2201.

County Parks extends their sincere thanks to partners Dean Mermell and Mauro Ffortissimo of Sunset Piano and DC Pianos of Berkeley, which donated the instruments to make pianos in the parks possible.

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Times **Feature**

Highlights from the 40th Annual



Photos by Lorraine Gabbert



A wonderful time was had by all at the 40th Annual Almaden Valley Art & Wine Festival. Set inside beautiful Almaden Lake Park, the festival featured a large selection of local artisans, entertainment by popular bands, boutique wines, craft



Above photo courtesy of Carina Ramirez-Johnson of the Almaden Valley Art & Wine Festival



Almaden Valley Art & Wine Festival

beers and a Kids-Zone featuring rock climbing, gymnastics and hockey skills. Making the event even more special, all proceeds will be donated to non-profit organizations and schools in our community, as well as merit-based scholarships to deserving students.



Above left: Athena Crosby. Above right: Marizza Delgado. Photos this page courtesy William Bellou



Rockin' Blues Express Band rocked the festival.



Times **Feature**

Sunday mass under the oak tree Oct. 2

Saint Anthony's Catholic Church on McKean Road in south Almaden will conduct Mass on Oct 2 at 5:30 pm. under the oak tree.

Mass was held every Sunday under the oak tree in the 1980's. With just a small, historic church in New Almaden, Saint Anthony parishioners needed a larger place to worship. Since a physical church building was not in the budget at that time,

the large oak tree on the church property provided the perfect place for Sunday Mass. Children enjoyed the sounds of nature, parents liked the casual atmosphere and everyone prayed together, in the fresh air and sunshine.

During Mass, wildlife may appear—coyotes and deer gaze through the tall grass, birds of prey with massive wings soar overhead and smaller critters check out the activity, especially singing.

Saint Anthony Catholic Church is located at 20101 McKean Road. For more information, call 408.997.4800.



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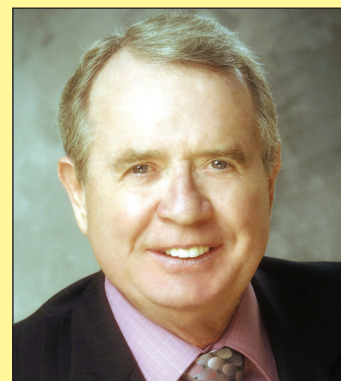
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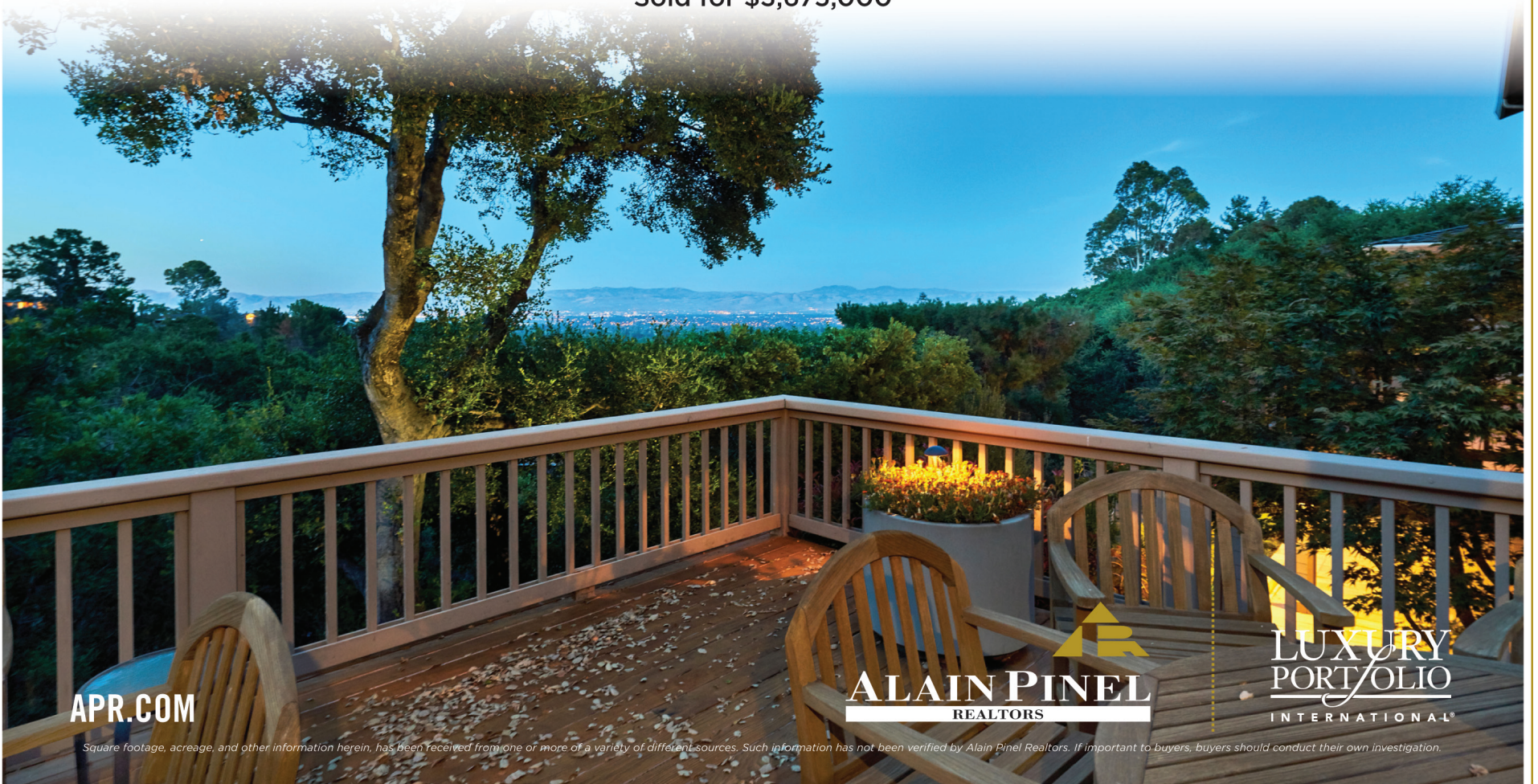
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