BELLARMINE'S MICALLEF PROVING HIMSELF TO BE MORE THAN A RUNNER – P6



FRIENDS OF THE ALMADEN LIBRARY DEDICATED TO BUILDING A BETTER COMMUNITY – P4



PASTA
POMODORO'S
MYSTERIOUS
CLOSING CAUSES
CONCERN - P17



JAN. 13–JAN. 26, 2017 ■ VOL. 30, NO. 2



Almaden Valley since 1986 Almadentimes.com Almadentimes.com

Two agencies share visions for Bay Area transportation, regional planning

By Lorraine Gabbert Senior Staff Writer

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) shared their visions of the Bay Area's future at a recent Almaden Valley Community Association meeting.

District 10 Chief of Staff Shane Patrick Connolly and MTC Policy Advisory Councilmember Randi Kinman touched upon the importance of both agencies, as well as the need for public input into their planning.

MTC is the transportation planning, financing and coordinating agency for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area (including Santa Clara, San Mateo, Marin, Napa and San Francisco). "The public has a critical role to play here," says MTC Executive Director Steve Heminger, "if for no other reason than it's their money we're talking about. Anyone who wants to start making a difference today should get involved today."

ABAG, which partners with MTC to develop regional transportation plans, prides itself on emphasizing an open, inclusive public outreach process during the planning process.

Kinman also urges that the public becomes involved in planning and advocates their transit needs, such as bus service for Almaden Valley. She strongly suggests getting involved with



District 10 Chief of Staff **Shane Patrick Connolly** and MTC Policy Advisory Councilmember **Randi Kinman** speak at a recent Almaden Valley Community Association meeting. *Photo by Lorraine Gabbert*

transit advocate groups like Six Winds, Greenbelt Alliance and Spur to build coalitions and influence the planning process. "Keep pushing from the bottom up," she says. Kinman shared a story about how a route with small ridership was saved from being cut. "Activists found out that this was the only route for seniors to get to shopping, a community center and a hospital," she says. Armed with that information, they convinced the transit authority to make the route more efficient rather than

scrapping it.

She suggests that people sign up for MTC's mail list online, join committees on VTA's website and see: www.vitalsigns.mtc.ca.gov. "Vital Signs will show you the transit used on your street," she says. "Then you can go to VTA or MTC and say, 'According to these maps, we have this amount of ridership or service needs."

See FUTURE, page 15

Bench dedication celebrates Patricia Johnson deep roots

Grandparents became New Almaden residents in 1883

By Tere Johnson

Special to the Times

Patricia "Pat" Johnson's ancestors helped make New Almaden the historical place it is today. Her sons felt that it would be appropriate to have a bench placed in New Almaden to commemorate her deep roots in the area.

Her memorial bench dedication at the Casa Grande Mining Museum was part of the 34th annual Pioneer Day held last year. The event was hosted by the New Almaden Quicksilver Park Association in conjunction with the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department. More than



Pat Johnson's memorial bench is located at the Casa Grande Mining Museum, and was dedicated as part of last year's annual Pioneer Day events.

80 people attended the historical event. Pat's brother, Randy Job, spoke at the bench dedication and provided

the following family history:

Pat's great-grandparents, Francis and Elizabeth Kessell, immigrated to the United States from the village See JOHNSON, page 14

Pioneer High School to hold shredding fundraiser Jan. 28

Pioneer High School Education Foundation is hosting a document shredding fundraising event at Pioneer High School on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2017 from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. rain or shine.

The suggested donation is \$5-\$10 per standard box size (15" x 12" x 10"). If you do not have a box, estimates are available.

Recycling facts:

Secure recycling of all documents and disposal of all confidential documents and old file to help avoid identity theft.



■ Staples and paper clips are okay but remove large binder clips. All proceeds benefit the Education Foundation, which has a \$20,000 goal to fund academic and technology improvements.

Pioneer High School is located at 1290 Blossom Hill Rd, San Jose, CA 95118

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6392 Lillian Way	\$1,070,000	Buyer
2609 La Mirada Dr.	\$1,050,000	Seller
948 Meadowood Dr.	\$1,030,000	Seller
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534 Curie Dr.	\$953,000	Seller
6696 Buggywhip Ct.	\$784,000	Buyer
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2580 Baton Rouge Dr.	\$715,000	Seller
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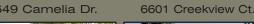












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THE YOST GROUP

This Week:

SPORTS

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COMMUNITY

Pasta Pomodoro's mysterious closing poses questions: PAGE 17

ADVICE

Should I dissolve that old, inactive LLC or corporation from many years ago? PAGE 19



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Movie review: Passengers
is way, way out: PAGE 20

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Valley Currents

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

Friends of the Almaden Library dedicated to building a better community

By Monica Bellizzi
Special to the Times

ne of the best kept secrets in Almaden Valley is a group dedicated to making the community a better place to live called Friends of the Almaden Library.

The "Friends" group of volunteers devotes time to sort books according to subject and run book sales twice a year, while also stocking the lobby area with books for sale. While this is not a life changing volunteer position, it is world changing to our readers.

Friends of the Almaden Library

provide the access for visitors to use their imagination. Whether the stories are about adventure, biography, mystery, or romance, the "Friends" ensure you can enjoy the gift of reading. More than four hundred boxes of books are packed and unpacked in the running of a Book Sale. Readers of all ages bring their bags and select their treasures. And, of course, cost can be minimal at a reduced rate of just one dollar for hardbacks and 50 cent for paperbacks

They're quiet volunteers; they just come in, do what is needed, mark their time and continue on with their day. When the book sale begins the noise level increases. That's when smiles arrive, hunting for special books and conversa-



Programs that interest young children bring knowledge of the library and help make the family a library customer. *Photo: Flickr.com (Matt Madd)*

tions begin. The next book sale will be April 8, 2017 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Almaden Library. At book sales it seems when strangers meet, over a book, discussion as to author or the story told is important; every opinion counts.

Friends of the Almaden Library love their readers; they read a book, donate it back and then start again with a new book purchased at the Friends of Almaden Library Book Sale; a win-win situation for the library and for readers.

The Friends of the Almaden

Library is associated with the All Friends group.

The City of San Jose has have brought together the entire Friends group based in its libraries. Almaden Library Youth Group in cooperation with the Friends hold small book sales benefiting the youth group. It pays for the refreshments at their meeting while also learning how to utilize the planning process and strengthening leadership. Friend's or FAL, main goal is to raise funds to support the library, whether if it is to buy technical books, adult

Books, or the libraries books that are most in demand, teen books.

Our librarians have discovered that programs that interest young children bring knowledge of the library and help make the family a library customer. It's the start of a relationship between child and book. When a child holds that book, colors, shapes, and numbers become more common and the story, while short, is entertaining. The book "Is Your Momma a Llama", is meant to be read out loud, the words just sound so great when spoken. The website: almadenfriends.com lists the vast amount of programs that the Friends' sponsor.

For the last ten years the Friends group has raised nearly \$140,000 to support the Almaden Library, making the group a vital part of the public library system. Volunteer hours are counted also and that helps the library with their operations. More than 4.000 hours have been volunteered in the past two years. But besides all this, Friends of the Almaden Library are also readers. There is nothing like turning a page on a good story, or smelling the print of a new book when opened. We just love books.

Editor's note: Monica Bellizzi is President, Friends of the Almaden Library.

Beatles Yellow Submarine animator to appear live

Beatles Yellow Submarine animator Ron Campbell will be exhibiting his artwork featuring beloved cartoon characters at

the Kaleid Gallery in downtown San Jose from Jan. 20-22.

Campbell's career encompasses more than 50 years in children's television with many successes, such as Scooby Doo, the Smurfs, Rugrats, Winnie the Pooh, Flintstones, Jetsons, Teenage Mutant Ninja, and Turtles.

Campbell will showcase his original Beatles cartoon paintings created especially for the show and new Beatles pop art paintings at the exhibit. Campbell will also feature other artwork based on his 50-year career in cartoons,

including Scooby Doo, Rugrats, Smurfs, Flintstones, Jetsons and more.

Campbell's former studio was awarded a

Peabody and an Emmy for his work in children's television. Since retiring after a 50year career, he has been painting subjects based on the animated cartoons he has helped bring to the screen. With particular emphasis on The Beatles, he shows his Cartoon Pop Art in galleries

worldwide.

Kaleid Gallery is located at 88 South Fourth Street, (Downtown San Jose), (408) 947-1785, or visit BeatlesCartoonArtShow.com. The exhibit is free and all works are available for purchase.



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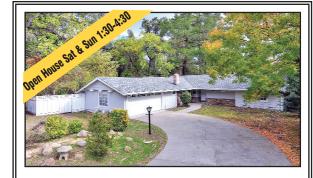
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Times Local News

Bellarmine's Micallef proving to be more than a runner

By Aaron Ross Bellarmine College Prep Prep2Prep.com

or most people, running may be viewed more as a jovial exercise, or punishment from a coach. For Bellarmine senior Ben Micallef, it is a lifestyle, a daily 4:30 in the morning routine to ensure he can get at least 60 miles per week under his feet.

As one of the most touted 800 meter runners in the nation, however, Micallef hardly restricts his training to his running, also spending three days per week in the weight room, and others in a boxing gym. It may sound atypical and non-traditional, but the results cannot be disputed. Micallef is aiming for his second Central Coast Section championship in the event this spring, and has college offers from some of the best schools in the country.

The Bells senior is currently the top-ranked 800 meter runner in the state of California, and 14th in the nation, with his personal record (PR) at 1:52.29 for the two-lap race. and has his sights set on his third West Catholic Athletic League championship and second CCS championship after dominating last year's championship, winning by two whole seconds. He finished fourth in the CCS as a sophomore, running 1:56 at the time, less than a second away from a title even at a young age

Part of what makes Micallef so unique is the journey that took him to Bellarmine,

"I was born in Newport Beach, and then lived in Allentown, Pennsylvania for five years, and then I moved to Singapore for five vears," Micallef stated. From Singapore, Micallef moved to Los Gatos, where he



Bellarmine senior **Ben Micallef** is training for his third year of varsity competition. Photo by Aaron Ross

attended Fisher Middle School and found his love for running.

"Honestly, I'd say my running started in Singapore," Micallef added. "In grade school, it was a requirement that we all do the FitnessGram pacer test,"

The FitnessGram Pacer Test is a multistage aerobic capacity test that progressively gets more difficult as it continues.

"I was always in my class the fastest person, and that was really important to me," recalls Micallef. "In seventh grade, I ran a 2:08 800 meter, which is pretty crazy for a seventh grader. When I did that, I decided 'Alright this is what I want to do.'. So in eighth grade, I stopped playing volleyball, I stopped Tae Kwon Do, and I just ran."

While Micallef stopped his other activities See MICALLEF, page 10

Last-second sequence leads Gunderson to victory over Leland

By Aaron Tan Leland High School Prep2Prep.com

ith less than twenty seconds left and the game tied 50-50 after a fadeaway three by Leland Boy's Basketball's sophomore Sohan Kshirsagar on

Gunderson senior Mrad Abrha was fouled while trying to make a layup, resulting in two free throw chances. Abrha missed the first one, but sank the second, giving the Grizzlies a one-point lead and the eventual 51-50 win over Leland.

Gunderson started the game off with a bang, with sophomore Nedim Sherif draining a three to open the game. However, Leland sophomore Joseph Chen responded with two three-pointers of his own. Kshirsagar added a three of his own, momentarily turning the game into what seemed like a three-point contest. Feeling left out of the party, Gunderson senior Bradley Yasuhara then responded to Chen and Kshirsagar with a three of his own. However, the bonanza quickly faded, with the rest of the first half devoid of threes. Leland controlled both sides of the ball for the rest of the first half, leading to a 27-23 lead for the

Chargers at halftime.

"I felt like we played hard." Kshirsagar said. "Gunderson is supposed to be the best team in the league, but we pushed through, and the game shows that we can beat any team in the league, so it gives us a great confidence boost.

Gunderson flipped the game around in the third quarter, responding to a Chen threepointer to open the half with a 7-0 run to tie the game, and to reclaim momentum. That momentum led Gunderson to go on a 6-2 run after tying the game, giving the Grizzlies a four point lead, their first lead since the beginning of the game. However, Leland responded with a 6-2 run of its own, tying the game again, before Abrha ended the quarter with a layup to give Gunderson a 40-38 lead heading into the final eight minutes.

"Gunderson is a good team, so the game just gives us more confidence knowing that we can hang with anybody." said Leland coach Mitch Shapero. "That's a good group that we played, and they battled us to the end. It was a great game, and they played well."

Leland will try to bounce back from the loss hosting Oak Grove next, and Gunderson will try to maintain its momentum at Live

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Times **Feature**

'A Tale of One City'

By Mayor Sam Liccardo Special to the Times

he holidays give us an opportunity to enjoy time with family and loved ones, and to reflect on the blessings of our past year.

I feel blessed to serve San Jose's incredible community. Like every big city, we have daunting challenges to confront -- among them poverty, crime, homelessness, and decaying infrastructure. Throughout 2016, however, against the backdrop of a deeply divided nation, San Jose increasingly became a beacon for the power of working together. For our "Tale of One City," we have many to thank.

First and foremost, I'd like to thank the voters of San Jose for their willingness to reinvest in our city with new revenue measures. These efforts garnered broad community support of organized labor, the business community, and nearly the entire Council, generating dollars critically needed to buffer core services against looming deficits in the future. We've already put some of these new dollars to work in June when we:

• Dedicated \$17.7 million to meet -- for the first time in more than a decade -- the annual funding needs for basic repair and repaving of all of our major roads.

· Allocated funding to expand police officer recruitment efforts, and set aside the funds needed to increase sworn police officer staffing by 41 positions in future years.

• Ended the periodic "brown-out" of fire companies, restored two "squad car" units and funded traffic signal pre-emption technology to help improve emergency fire and medical response.

• Added an additional 19 Community Service Officers to respond to burglaries and other low-priority calls, freeing up sworn officers to handle more serious crimes.

• Doubled funding for homeless rapid rehousing services.

San Jose voters also joined leaders countywide to adopt two measures that will provide billions of new funding to address two critical needs: traffic relief and road repair (led the Silicon Leadership Group) and homelessness (led by the County).

By working together with our community, we have also made significant progress on a number of other key priorities:

• Last year, we launched "San Jose Works," to give teenagers living in gang-impacted neighborhoods their first jobs. This year, dozens of employers -- like Home Depot, Jabil, Microsoft, and Target -- stepped up with our non-profit partner, Work2Future, to employ more than 1,200 teens, while Citibank provided the first-time wage earners with financial literacy tools. (If you'd like to give a teenager a chance, please email

sjworks@work2futurefoundation.org.)

· Last fall, we convened mayors from throughout Silicon Valley to urge a regional, "all-together" increase in the minimum wage. So far, councils representing the cities of Campbell, Cupertino, Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, and San José have all voted to raise the wage to \$15 by 2019 or sooner.

• The City Council unanimously approved my 2015 direction to accelerate implementation of body-worn cameras by our police department. Chief Eddie Garcia didn't need any prodding, though; working with the police union, Independent Police Auditor Walter Katz, and community advocates, SJPD fully deployed body-worn cameras this summer. Chief Garcia and his team continue to boost police accountability such as by releasing an inde-

pendent study of racial bias in arrests, launching the "Coffee with a Cop" neighborhood gatherings, and expanding officer training in racial bias, force de-escalation, and mental illness.

• In November of 2015, when we had more than 700 homeless U.S. military vets in our Valley, Supervisor Dave Cortese and I pledged an end to veterans' homelessness by the 100th anniversary of Veterans' Day, in 2018. Led by Destination: Home and a consortium of non-profits, faith congregations, and the City and County, the "All the Way Home" campaign housed more than 500 of those vets in our first year -- and we'll keep pushing until we finish the task.

- · We've collectively made progress on homelessness in other ways: when the Council eased restrictions, shelters, churches and synagogues citywide generously opened their doors to create a network of supportive shelters. In July, after the Supreme Court resolved six years of litigation, San Jose implemented its inclusionary and impact fee programs to require developers to build or pay for affordable housing units with every project.
- · A half-decade of battles and lawsuits over pension reform finally ended when voters approved an agreement that we forged with 11 unions, and which fiscal reformers, businesses, and city employees broadly supported. San Jose taxpayers will save more than \$42 million this year with the passage of Measure F, and will become better positioned to maintain core services, while every California city continues to grapple with fast-rising retirement costs.
- This summer, we celebrated the launch of our fifth new international route at San Jose-Mineta International Airport (Beijing, Frankfurt, London, Shanghai, and Vancouver) in the last 18 months, and the fastest air service growth of any airport in the nation. Advocacy by the Silicon Valley Leadership Group and the Chamber of Commerce proved critical in this success.

Although I'm proud of my own role in each of these efforts, I'm far more proud of a community that pulled together to lift our collective aspirations higher than our personal ambitions.







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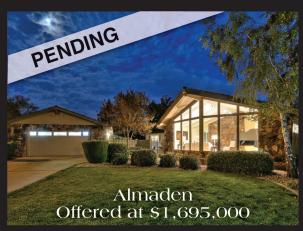




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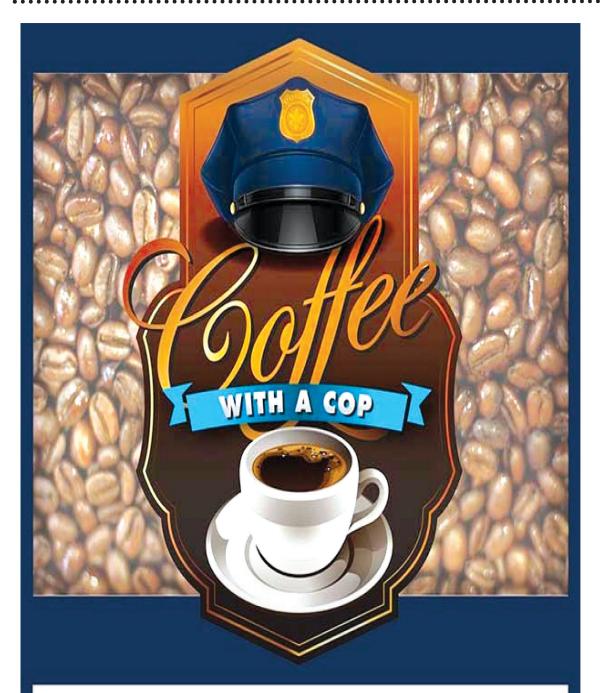






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Times Local News



Sparklers welcome in a new year. Photo: k-t-s_photography (via flickr.com)

Most New Year's resolutions are doomed to fail

ith 80 percent of Americans doomed to fail at keeping their New Year's resolutions, the personal-finance website WalletHub has released its report on 2017's Best & Worst Cities for Keeping Your New Year's Resolutions.

To help Americans keep their promises to themselves, WalletHub's number crunchers compared the 150 most populated U.S. cities across 48 key metrics. The data set ranges from "adult obesity" to "income growth" to "employment outlook."

Keeping Your New Year's Resolutions in San Jose, CA

(1=Best; 75=Avg.)

- 3rd Adult Obesity
- 10th Debt Delinquency Rate
- 72nd Job Opportunities
- 36th Income Growth
- 1st Smoking Rate
- 26th Binge- & Heavy Drinking
- 58th Attractions

For the full report, visit:

wallethub.com/edu/best-cities-for-new-years-resolutions/28749/

Micallef

Continued from page 6

to run at that time, he's now picked up some new activities to cross train.

"A lot of runners cross train," says Micallef, "Some guys bike, some swim and some guys just run extra miles, which isn't good, but everyone has their own way to cross train. I box."

Micallef finds his inspiration to box from his grandfather, who passed away.

"Back in his day, he was a big

amateur boxer in Detroit," the Bellarmine senior recalled. "I never knew him that well, but as my dad told me about him, I wanted to be like my grandfather."

Micallef's running career is far from over, as he is in talks with Cal-Berkeley and Wisconsin.

"If anything made me feel the way running does, I'd do it," says Micallef

With his eye on the future, Micallef and the Bellarmine track and field team look to the spring season and another WCAL and CCS championship.



californiamoves.com

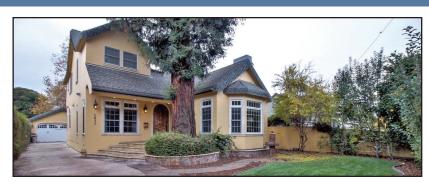
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SILVER CREEK COUNTRY CLUB PRICE UPON REQUEST 5 BR 3 BA Exquisite Silver Creek Country Club home with every luxury. Ideal for entertaining & with soaring windows & abundance of natural light Ron Mason, CalBRE #01145613 408-896-6794





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CalBRE #01716295





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Julie Wyss

408.687.2026

julie@juliewyss.com CalBRE# 01350871 3351 Amherst Lane San Jose 95117

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Sylvia C

408.316.3445

resylviac@gmail.com

CalBRE# 00633323

472 Richlee Drive Campbell 95008

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Barbara S. Werner

408.219.7822

barbara@barbaraswerner.com

CalBRE# 01864429

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Nicki Banucci

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nicki@banucciteam.com

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36 Fox Avenue - Seller - SOLD		6475 Crystal Springs Drive - Buyer - SOLD
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6192 Dunn Avenue - Seller - SOLD		19 Baltana Place - Buyer - SOLD
467 Northgate Drive - Buyer - SOLD		1883 Agnew Road #363 - Seller - SOLD
454 Millpond Drive - Buyer - SOLD		685 Palm Haven Avenue - Seller - SOLD
1183 Montmorency Drive - Seller - SOLD		1159 Shoal Drive - Buyer - SOLD
4233 Briarglen Drive - Seller - SOLD		1515 Majorca Drive - Buyer - SOLD
1162 Salerno Drive - Buyer - SOLD	6	3844 Edenwood Drive - Buyer - SOLD
16635 Eagle Island Court - Buyer - SOLD		4948 Poston Drive - Seller - SOLD
952 S. 11th Street #334 - Seller- SOLD		2151 Green Acres Lane - Seller - SOLD
952 S. I I th Street #334 - Buyer- SOLD		405 Estrella D'Oro - Buyer - SOLD
2110 Ardis Drive - Seller - SOLD	S	1408 Sprucewood Drive - Seller - SOLD
445 Dixon Road - Seller - SOLD		573 Meadow Road - Seller - SOLD
36340 Easterday Way - Seller - SOLD	A	573 Meadow Road - Buyer - SOLD
36340 Easterday Way - Buyer - SOLD		1205 Happy Valley Avenue - Seller - SOLD
1670 Hanchett Avenue - Buyer - SOLD		2251 Lansford Avenue - Seller - SOLD
1453 Callecita Street - Buyer - SOLD		482 Chateau La Salle - Buyer - SOLD
7295 Via Brezzo - Seller - SOLD	E	2267 Lusardi Drive - Buyer - SOLD
2201 The Alameda #2 - Buyer - SOLD		6329 Zinfandel Drive - Buyer - SOLD
588 Millpond Avenue - Buyer - SOLD	S	740 Calero Avenue - Seller - SOLD
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Estate Planning & Wealth Preservation

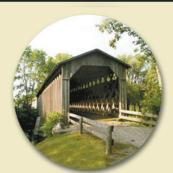
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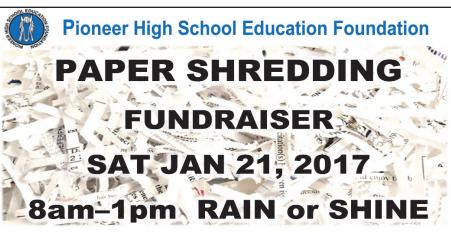
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Times Features



The new memorial plague, dedicating the bench to Johnson.

Johnson

Continued from page 1

of Chasewater, in Cornwall, England in 1870. Her grandmother, Eliza Kessell, was born in Austin, NV, in 1879.

The Kessell family relocated to New Almaden in 1883, when Eliza was four years old. Eliza's father, Francis, mined cinnabar while mother, Elizabeth, raised four children and ran the boarding house for bachelor miners at English Camp.

Pat's other great-grandparents, John and Phillipa Job, immigrated to America from St. Blazey, Cornwall, England also in 1870. Great-grandfather, John, (a former a tin miner in Cornwall), became a New Almaden cinnabar miner. Their son James, Pat's grandfather, was born in New Almaden in 1879 and became a blacksmith at the mines.

James Job and Eliza Kessell were married in New Almaden on June 20, 1903. James and Eliza had three children: a son that died in infancy, a daughter, Alma, born in 1905, and their youngest child, Clifford, Pat's father, who was born in 1912. Soon after Clifford was born, the family left New Almaden and settled in San Jose following the closure of most of the mining operations.

In 1918, the Job family returned to the New Almaden area when mining resumed at the Guadalupe mines. They lived in the settlement of Enriqueta, which is now a part of the Guadalupe reservoir. They returned to San Jose for good in the early 1920's.

Clifford Job married Velma Craig in 1935, and Pat was born on March 17, 1936. Her birth was followed by that of her two brothers and her sister. We were raised in a loving family and had happy childhoods growing up in the Santa Clara Valley among the many acres of orchards and farmland that was then known as the "Valley of the Heart's Delight."

Pat married her high school sweetheart, Roger Johnson in 1955. They were devoted to each other for over forty years of marriage until Roger's passing in 1995. Together they raised three sons, Tere, Marty, and Corey in their home in one of the first subdivisions in the Almaden Valley.

My sister would occasionally prepare delicious Cornish pasties for her family, made from the recipe passed on to her by uncountable generations of her Cornish ancestors. Pat resided in her Almaden Valley home for over 50 years until her passing in December 2015.

My sister lived a happy and rewarding life, surrounded by a close, loving family and many close friends. Her husband, her children and her grandchildren were always the most important people in her life.

Pat was a friend to everyone and was liked



Pictured above: **Patricia Job Johnson**, age 5, 1941; below: **James Job**, circa 1908.



by all. She was a very special lady. She is greatly missed by her children, my brother and sister and myself, but we are grateful for all the happy years we had with her. She will always fondly remain in our memories.

Times Features

Future

Continued from page 1

MTC strives to build a transportation system that works for everyone, promotes economic vitality and protects the environment. "Our job is to provide a well-planned, smooth-functioning transportation network that safely gets people where they need to go when they need to get there," says MTC on their website, "and to help make the Bay Area a better place to live."

While thinking about the big transportation picture, MTC identifies critical projects and allocates funds for the region's most pressing transportation needs, including safety improvements like strengthening bridges or building new ones. MTC brings innovations to freeways and transit networks and works with the private sector to optimize car and bike sharing and transit planning. In addition, MTC provides funds for clean fuel vehicles, new ferries, bike paths and car pool lanes. "MTC is committed to

maintaining the Bay Area's transportation system while planning for the future," they say. "We're part of every trip you take, whether on highways, trains, trolleys, ferries or bridges." They're also the Bay Area toll authority (for state-controlled toll bridges) and service authority for freeways and expressways, distributing more than \$800 million a year to public transit agencies.

ABAG was created by local governments to meet their planning and research needs related to land use, environmental and water resource protection, disaster resilience, energy efficiency and hazardous waste mitigation. ABAG is also involved with the San Francisco Estuary Partnership and spearheads planning for the San Francisco Bay Trail, a 500-mile shoreline walking and bicycling path. More than 340 miles currently provide scenic recreation along the shoreline.

Together, ABAG and MTC develop regional transportation plans, including Plan Bay Area 2040, which is scheduled for adoption in 2017. Plan Bay Area 2040 charts a course for



District 10 Chief of Staff **Shane Patrick Connolly** and MTC Policy Advisory Councilmember **Randi Kinman** share a humorous moment at a recent Almaden Valley Community Association meeting. *Photo by Lorraine Gabbert*

transportation investment, housing and landuse priorities for the next 25 years, during which time the Bay Area is expected to grow by 2 million people. San Jose's 2020 plan envisions 120,000 new dwelling units. San Jose's 2040 plan's job-to-housing ratio is 1:1.

"What we're doing is incentivizing that cities will be built the way they're intended to be following the planned development," says Kinman, "such as urban villages with housing above shops. We have a desperate need for specific types of housing like studio apartments that we're not providing due to parking ratios. In midtown, there's no need for parking because you're within a quarter mile of transit. We have to provide the housing density we need to have the jobs here. Down the line, if cities don't start implementing these plans, it will be too late with the land being taken over by something else." Connolly agrees. "Because it takes a lot of work and time," he says, "municipalities tend not to change the land use designation until they have a project in front of them."

ABAG and MTC track the region's demo-

graphics and economic trends so that today's decisions align with tomorrow's expected transportation and housing needs. These forecasts form the basis for developing the regional land use plan and transportation investment strategy, specifying how about \$292 billion in anticipated federal, state and local funds will be spent through 2040.

By developing preferred land use and transportation investment strategies, ABAG and MTC plan for the Bay Area's future. Through their research, they have determined that cities will become centers of population growth as seniors downsize and young people prefer townhomes, condominiums and apartments in developed areas near transit, shops and services.

Plan Bay Area dedicates 87 percent of available funding on maintaining and boosting the efficiency of the existing transit and road system. "Given the age of many major assets—BART turned 40 last year and San Francisco Muni turned 100—this should come as no surprise," they say.

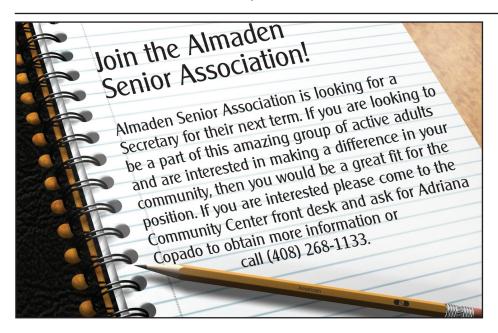
ABAG and MTC acknowledge that it will take a coordinated effort among diverse partners to promote regional economic developPlan Bay Area dedicates 87 percent of available funding on maintaining and boosting the efficiency of the existing transit and road system. "Given the age of many major assets—BART turned 40 last year and San Francisco Muni turned 100—this should come as no surprise," they say.

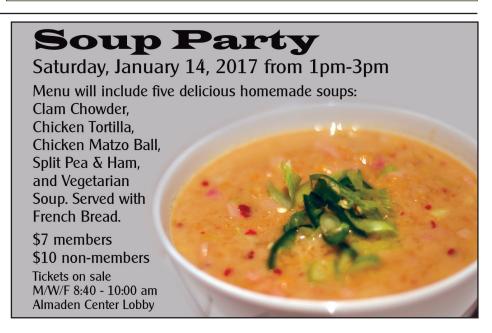
ment, adapt to climate change, prepare for natural disasters, get creative about how to provide affordable housing for all Bay Area residents, ensure clean air and prepare for emerging technologies, but they plan to take give it their best shot.



A witness to history

Former San Jose Vice Mayor **Rose Herrera** joins San Jose Mayor **Sam Liccardo** in honoring Lieutenant **Edward J. Ames.** The 93-year old San Jose resident is the last surviving crew member from the USS Astoria to have witnessed the attack on Pearl Harbor. Ames received an accommodation for his 40 years of service to the United States Navy on December 12, 2016.





Times Community News



'Spend the Night with Billy Crystal' March 2

Tony® and Emmy Award®-winning comedian, actor, producer, writer and director Billy Crystal will be making an exclusive Bay Area stop at San Jose's Center for the Performing Arts (255 S. Alma-

den Blvd., San Jose) on Thursday, March 2 at 7:30 p.m.

The engagement is part of his 30 city US tour Spend the Night with Billy Crystal. Coming off the heels of his recent critically-acclaimed Australian tour, Crystal promises a hilarious and intimate evening.

"This show is unique. There's stand up, and 'sit down' which gives me great freedom to tell sto-

ries, show film clips and talk about my life and career and the world as I see it," said Crystal. "It's loose, unpredictable and intimate. The most fun I've had on stage in a long time."

A stand-up comic turned television star, Crystal found fame as a movie funnyman with starring roles in blockbusters such as When Harry Met Sally, City Slickers and Analyze This.

He was much loved as the acclaimed nine-time host of the Academy Awards, an achievement topped only by Bob Hope, who hosted the Oscars 19 times. Also an award winning author, Crystal's latest memoir, Still Foolin' 'Em: Where I've Been, Where I'm Going, and Where the Hell Are My Keys? was an instant NY Times best seller.



Unify Dance Concert to showcase local artists Jan. 29 at Montgomery Theater

The Unify Dance Concert, designed for talented local artists to showcase their completed works and new works in progress, will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2017 at the Montgomery Theater from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Doors open at noon.

The performance will feature multiple styles of dance including contemporary, ballet, jazz, hip hop, modern, and much more.

The Unify Dance Concert will feature works by various local collegiate, high school, professional and pre-professional dance companies including Archbishop Mitty High School Royals Dance Team, Lincoln High School Lincoln Convertibles, Silver Creek High School, Valley Christian High School Vivid Dance Team, Spartan Competitive Dance Team - Sirens of Spart, SFSU University Dance Theatre, The New Ballet School, Pacific Arts Complex and others.

The event is a non-profit event with proceeds going directly to dance education and events.

The Montgomery Theater is located at 271 S Market St, San Jose, CA 95113. Tickets are \$15 each and can be purchased at norcal-dance.com/tickets.html.



Transforming VTA Bus and Light Rail

You spoke, we listened and are designing a transit network with:

- New service to BART
- Easier connections
- More service on weekends

- More frequency
- Extended hours

Be on the lookout for the new draft plan and opportunities to provide input. Visit *nextnetwork.vta.org* for more details.

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS & WEBINARS:

January 11, 2017 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
San Jose Silicon Valley
Chamber of Commerce
101 W Santa Clara Street, San Jose, CA 95113

January 12, 2017 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.Milpitas Library
160 N Main Street, Milpitas, CA 95035

January 17, 2017 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Online webinar. Tune in at *youtube.com/SCVTA*.

January 18, 2017 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Quinlan Community Center 10185 N Stelling Road, Cupertino, CA 95014

January 19, 2017 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Palo Alto City Hall 250 Hamilton Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301 **January 24, 2017 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.** Online webinar. Tune in at *youtube.com/SCVTA*.

January 26, 2017 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Online webinar. Tune in at *youtube.com/SCVTA*.

Additional dates and locations can be found at nextnetwork.vta.org/meetings.





Times **Features**



Pasta Pomodoro's mysterious closing

By Frank Shortt
Times staff writer

C., a habitude of South Bay eatery, Pasta Pomodoro, purveyor of fine food, seemed very disappointed as he tried the door and was greeted with a closure sign.

Without fanfare or prior notice, Pasta Pomodoro Restaurants, a longtime staple of area diners has closed their doors until further notice

Restaurant employees were also disappointed by the closure as they were given no notice of layoff but instead were sent a text. The text read: "Pasta P. has ceased operations. You are on unpaid furlough! Do not come to work. You will receive more info and final pay by Friday."

There is no sign that they will ever again

open their doors to the eating public. According to another sign on the door there seems to be some problems with paying their rent.

There had been signs that business was not doing as well as in past years; lots of empty tables, prices increasing on the menu, and less food on the plates was very noticeable. Customers were beginning to complain of the quality of the food. Some customers said, of their eating experience there, "It seems that there is more pasta being served and less meat and shrimp on the plates."

On the positive side, K.C., the disappointed diner, said, "The food at Pasta Pomodoro was always well prepared and seemed to be of high quality. I will miss the convenience of having them here locally."

Volunteer with the San | San Jos Jose Public Library | wage in

The San Jose Public Library has many volunteer opportunities available to all! You can volunteer away your fines, tutor an adult with Partners in Reading, become a Friend of the San Jose Public Library, share your computer skills as a tech mentor, and more. For more information, email volunteer@sjlibrary.org or call Jason Pell at 408-808-2085.

San Jose designated 'Age-Friendly City' by World Health Organization

The City of San Jose has been accepted into the global network of age-friendly cities, and has become one of 314 cities and communities in 35 countries worldwide that are committed to addressing the needs of our aging population.

Age-friendly cities are making the commitment to assess and enhance their ability to create and provide accessible physical environments, inclusive social environments, and service infrastructures that promote healthy aging. PRNS staff members have spent the last year holding focus groups, conducting surveys, and convening a steering committee that have led to the creation of an initial framework of priorities reflected in the application to the World Health Organization. These include transportation and pedestrian safety, housing, communication and information, community support and health care, social participation, and civic engagement.

San Jose minimum wage increased

Minimum wage employees who work in San Jose are now receiving a 10 cent per hour increase. Under the initiative approved by San Jose voters in 2012, the minimum wage has increased from \$10.30 to \$10.40 per hour.

To prevent inflation from eroding the value of the minimum wage, the initiative ordinance requires increases to take effect each year based on the Consumer Price Index (Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, U.S. City Average for All Items.) Over the last 12 months (August 2015 to August 2016), the CPI increased .7 percent. If the CPI remains the same or decreases, the minimum wage in San José would remain the same.

Bill Gates says we are vulnerable to a worldwide flu epidemic

Philanthropist Bill Gates is worried that too much regulation will stop the world from controlling a major flu outbreak. Bill Gates' foundation invests in global healthcare.

In an interview in London, Gates said that despite technological improvement, "we are a bit vulnerable right now" to diseases that spread quickly.

"There's a lot of discussion right now about how we respond in an emergency, how we make sure that the regulatory and liability and organizational boundaries don't slow us down," said Gates "We are a bit vulnerable right now if something that spreads very quickly like say flu."

PACE Financing "Makes Cents" For Property Owners in San José

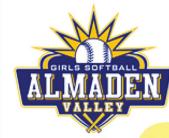


PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) is a simple and effective way to finance energy and water efficiency upgrades to buildings.

Property owners across San José are using PACE to install new heating and cooling systems, lighting improvements, solar panels, water efficient landscaping and much more.

Visit www.sjenvironment.org/pace to find financing providers.





Girls Softball Sign-ups for Almaden Valley - AVGSL

AVGSL online registration is open!

Please visit WWW.AVGSL.ORG to register or to find all the information regarding our league. We are accepting registration for ages for Under 6, Under 8, Under 10, Under 12 and Under 14.

EVERYONE is welcome to join our league and it does not matter what skill level because we have a spot for you. AVGSL's main goal is to insure that all players are in a fun, positive environment while learning and expanding their softball skills. AVGSL promotes a sense of belonging for everyone. We emphasize teamwork and the sense of individual success that contribute to team sports.

If you have questions please email **president@avgsl.org** and we will be happy to help.





March 14, 2017 Tuesday

Arrive: 7:45 a.m. Depart: 8:00 a.m.

Return: 6:00 p.m. approximately

Cost: \$35.00 includes \$10.00 slot play or table match play with

players card.

Sign up M, T, W 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. at Almaden Community Center

Questions:

Sally: 408 825-9619 Richard: 408 219-8641









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Times Community News



Andrea Schumann (center) and Anya Farhang delivered Alpha Kappa's Christmas gifts to Julie DeMaria of OCC for their Adopt A Family Program.

Alpha Kappa's Christmas Giving support military family

he Alpha Kappa Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma worked with Operation Care and Comfort (OCC) this past Christmas to support a military family.

OCC's goal is to support active and retired military and their families in need. It began in April of 2003 when the three co-founders decided to combine their efforts to support the military and their families in the Bay Area.

The newly established an "Adopt a Military Family" program allows individuals, organizations and companies the opportunity to anonymously "adopt" a military family.

The family that Alpha Kappa "adopted" has three boys ages 9, 11 and 13. Members were provided with a list of clothing, games, books and school supplies that the boys needed. The members' response was generous. They were very pleased to be able to fill all the requests for the boys including a Chromebook for school work, a guitar and Legos. Also generously donated were gift cards for the parents that was used for groceries and gas was also presented.

OCC made a difference during the Holidays and made them special and bright for their "adopted" family.

Motorcycles can travel the lanes between two cars legally

On January 1st, Assembly Bill No. 51 takes effect to allow motorcycles to run the lanes between cars.

The text of the Bill states, "Existing law requires, whenever a roadway has been divided into 2 or more clearly marked lanes for traffic in one direction, that a vehicle be driven as nearly practical entirely within a single land and not be moved from the lane until the movement can be made with reasonable safety..."

This bill defines "lane splitting" as driving a motorcycle that has two wheels in contact with the ground, between rows of stopped or moving vehicles in the same lane.

The Highway Patrol is going to develop educational guidelines with regard to lane splitting by motorcycles and will consult with agencies and organizations with an interest in road safety and motorcyclist behavior such as the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Department of Transportation, the Office of Traffic Safety and Motorcyclist Organizations focused on motorcyclist safety.

It's all legal now and before this time it was

considered a grey area in the state of California. Vroom Vroom!

California's sales tax rate decrease

On January 1, 2017, the statewide sales and use tax rate decreased one quarter of one percent (0.25%) from 7.50 percent to 7.25 percent.

The decrease in the statewide rate is effective for all cities and counties in California; however, in many jurisdictions in California the actual sales and use tax rate may still be higher than the statewide rate due to the addition of district taxes.

Why did the sales and use tax rate decrease? Proposition 30, The Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act of 2012 that was approved by California voters in November 2012 to temporarily increase the sales and use tax by 0.25 percent expired December 31, 2016.

A retailer who continues to charge and collect the higher statewide sales and use tax rate after January 1, 2017, must either refund the excess tax collected to their customer or pay the excess tax to the Board of Equalization (BOE). If the excess tax collected has been paid to the BOE, the retailer may request a refund on behalf of their customer by completing form BOE-101, Claim for Refund or Credit.

Times Community News

Should I dissolve that old, inactive LLC or corporation I formed years ago? The simple answer is 'Yes'

Ask the

Lawyer

By Steven R. Roeser, Esq. Special to the Times

This week's question:

Dear Steve

I have a limited liability company that held a piece of investment property we sold years ago. After the sale closed, I simply took the proceeds and stopped using the LLC. I never dissolved it. I now get tax notices every year, saying the returns are delinquent and the LLC owes fees, penalties and interest. I was told by my colleague that I could simply do nothing, never use the LLC again,

and I would not be personally liable. Is that true?

Dazed and confused,

Michael M., Almaden Valley

Answer:

Excellent question, Michael. This question applies to all readers that have any type of business entity of record with the California Secretary of State (or another state's equivalent department), such as a limited liability company, corporation, limited liability partnership, etc. These entities

are required to file annual statements of information and tax returns, and to pay applicable taxes and fees. When the entity fails to do so, the notices begin to pile up, along with a mountain of fees, penalties and interest. The entity also gets suspended, and loses many basic legal protections afforded to other entities in good standing until the suspension is lifted. This writer has had countless clients simply ignore the notices: "Why should I pay those fees for a business I no longer operate? They won't come after me for those fees, that is why I formed a business entity!"

Logical thought process, me thinks! However, tax issues rarely follow any pattern of logic. Heiroglyphics would be a more appropriate description of tax codes at the federal and state levels. So, where does this leave our distraught *Almaden Times* readers?

One can find all kinds of answers to the question of "to dissolve, or not to dissolve". As is usually the case, the answer here can be found in applicable statutes, case law, and opinions.

The California Franchise Tax Board ("FTB") stated that Under Revenue and Taxation Code Sections 19071-19074, the FTB can hold a shareholder of a corporation, or member of an LLC, liable for the unpaid liabilities of the corporation or entity through a transferee assessment. The FTB looks at five factors to determine whether to assess the transferee for the debt, which is an individual shareholder in a corporation or member of an LLC, which are 1) a transfer of assets must have occurred; 2) the tax liability must have a accrued before or during the tax year the transfer occurred; 3) the transfer must have been made without adequate compensation; 4) the business entity must have been left with insufficient assets to pay the tax because of the transfer; and 5) the transfer of assets must have been to actual beneficial owners of the corporation or LLC (See the Ralite decision). If the FTB can prove these factors, then the FTB is authorized to assess the debt individually against the corporate shareholder or LLC member that received the assets, up to the amount of the assets received.

Therefore, Michael M., you have an issue on your hands as your LLC had

assets and you took those assets. Under the case law above, you could be personally liable for the delinquent taxes, fees, penalties and interest up to the amount of cash proceeds you took from the entity.

As with most things in life, proactivity is the best course of action with respect to an inactive business entity. If you are no longer going to use your business entity, file your final returns and properly dissolve the entity as soon as possible. The sooner you do so, the less it will cost you. More so, it will save you

potential headaches down the line, which could include a new policy of going after individuals for the delinquent amounts.

I always try to weave my two pennies of life advice into this column, in addition to keeping our *Almaden Times* readers informed as to current and relevant legal issues affecting Silicon Valley. My grand-parents were farmers in Ohio, with hundreds of acres of corn. One of many valuable lessons I learned from them while they were still with us is "simple is better". I am yet to find an area of life where this does not hold true. Keep it simple here: if you are no longer using your business entity, consult a lawyer and follow the proper procedures to dissolve the entity.

Until next time ... Kindest Regards, Steven R. Roeser, Esq.

You can reach Mr. Roeser with your questions by email at steve@roeserlaw.net, with "Almaden Times" in the subject line, or by telephone at (408)268-9500. Your real name will not be used. No attorney-client relationship is created by these articles, and any information in this article does not constitute legal advice. For more information on our practice, please visit www.almadenvalleylawyers.com



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Times Entertainment

MOVIE REVIEW

Passengers

By Steven Leonard

Special to the Times

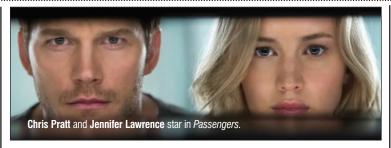
Passengers opens way, way out in the universe, where an elegant and curvy starship has been cruising through space on autopilot for a long, long time, on its way to Homestead II, a colony world where Earth inhabitants can get a new start. The 258 crewmembers and 5,000 passengers aboard have been in hibernation pods that are scheduled to open four months before set-down on Homestead II.

An automatic wake-up injection rouses the first passenger, Jim Preston (Chris Pratt) off schedule; who, though initially foggy, is happy to hear a voice and see the hologram of the person it's coming from. He's less happy when he soon realizes that no one else is seeing or hearing anything, that he's all alone on the vast craft, that his pod — for reasons that take their time being explained — has opened 90 years before it was supposed to.

The starship Avalon is a technological marvel spacecraft with advanced technology, engines and artificial intelligence computers and android robots. Amidst fantastic production and set design, and just enough visual effects to dazzle but not overwhelm, things are getting interesting around here. Unfortunately, things are also going wrong for the engineer (Jim), the journalist (Aurora), and the deck chief (Gus). Things like the fact that the ship is showing signs of system failures — think of the idea of gravity control going haywire with a complete starship meltdown.

The starship Avalon has an evolved artificial intelligence (A.I.) Program as seen through the eyes of a complex program in the form of an android bartender named Arthur.

The starship's A.I. has enough intelligence to understand that there is a serious problem on the starship but doesn't have enough intelligence to wake up qualified engineers and tell them that there is a problem. The A.I. doesn't have enough intelligence to provide the engineers with starship schematics and provide them with the proper tools and equipment necessary to fix the catastro-



phe. The starship A.I. has enough intelligence to provide comic relief as an android bartender, fix complicated drinks and doll out sophisticated wise counsel but not enough intelligence to warn our lone engineer (Jim), the journalist (Aurora), and the deck chief (Gus) of the impending doom. At least the A.I. computer in the Star Trek movies and television series has enough intelligence to tell the chief engineer Scotty, "Warning, Warp Core Breach in five minutes. Please evacuate the ship!!!"

The absurdities in the movie 'Passengers" are obvious. We are asked to believe that a giant spacecraft with 5,000 people aboard has no provision whatsoever for getting struck by an asteroid or anything else. (There's a deliberate echo of the Titanic - it's asteroidproof!) We are asked to believe that no one on the crew would even stir if the spacecraft were on the verge of blowing up. Okay, 120 years is a long time for a couple of people to stand guard, but couldn't crew members put in a year or two each, pass the baton, and go back to sleep? Nope: We're asked to believe that once the starship leaves home you can wake someone up from suspended animation but not put them back into it, even though the starship is the size of a small city and the medical facilities boggle the 25th-century imagination. What's even more absurd is that the Starship's A.I. has no emergency evacuation plan or escape pods for the more than 5,000 passengers. (There's another deliberate echo of the Titanic--- it's invincible-proof!) As Wallace Shawn in The Princess Bride would say, "Inconceivable!"

Now clear your head and consider Passengers in a way that's less ploddingly literal-minded. The setting is tantalizing. It's what many of us dream about: the possibility of escaping a maybedoomed planet and a nihilistic culture without losing our youth and good looks

(or our middle-aged and not entirely terrible looks). The corporation at the center of the movie sells the dream hard ("The jewel of unoccupied worlds!" "Room to grow!") as corporations will do, and constructs a combination of the QEII and the Mall of America. The more money you spend, the more luxury you get. Jim, who's poor, must fork over a percentage of what he makes on the new planet, which means he shares something with a lot of immigrants making perilous voyages right now.

The situation is tantalizing, too. A man with an adolescent mind-set (he's supposed to be a bit of a nerd) goes through multiple stages of grief, acceptance, and more grief. He makes do for a while in his high-tech playground (a thousand meters long), enjoying access to consumer goods in the manner of many protagonist-survivors in postapocalypse films. A voyeur to his core, he gazes on his sleeping beauty - her name is Aurora Lane — and knows he has the power to bring her life, though at a terrible cost to her. It's not a spoiler okay, it's a spoiler — but no, it's not really a spoiler — I mean, if Aurora stays in her pod then Lawrence wouldn't have top billing, unless the movie is all flashbacks which you know it isn't if you've seen the trailer — so it's not a spoiler ... Anyway, the dumb schmuck ends up in heaven and hell at the same time. Heaven because he's awake and alone with Jennifer Lawrence. Hell, because he broke a moral code in waking her up to soon!

There's a lot of good material here and a lot of fun to go with it. The Norwegian-born director, Morten Tyldum, made the delicious Jo Nesbo adaptation Headhunters and the less delicious but trim and absorbing piece of Oscar bait, The Imitation Game. He does elegant work, which feels especially good given all the clutter in most of today's CGI-packed sci-fi adventures.

(The ubiquitous little robot vacuum cleaners are a nice metaphor for how the movie is composed and shot.) The writer. Jon Spaihts, has a talent for knowing when to put the little picture ahead of the big one, so no matter how unlikely the circumstances, the psychology feels true. Aurora turns out to be a writer and, after interviewing the only human within a gazillion miles, begins to explore her own feelings (in voiceover). Why did she feel she needed to leave Earth to find herself? As the film becomes more romantic, our knowledge of Jim's crime keeps gumming up the fantasy - as it should.

What pisses the TOP movie critics off, I think, is the mixture of florid romanticism and voyeuristic creepiness — which is exactly what's enjoyable about Passengers when the balance is right. Something of the movie's true spirit can be detected in the face of Sheen's bartending android, Arthur. Just below the smiling surface he's ironic, mischievous, and dirty-minded.

What pisses me off is that the A.I. wakes up only one poor bastard lower class engineer or commoner and lets him wander the ship for over a year and without telling him that the ship is going to explode. This guy can't be the only engineer on the ship. After a year of loneliness, he falls in love with a rich spoiled socialite sleeping beauty and decides to wake her up from her sleeping chamber. What makes me angry was that her entire existence on earth was as a spoiled, selfish heiress. Aurora (Jennifer Lawrence) was accustomed to the life of the idle rich spending her last days on earth as a wanna-be famous writer.

Her life on earth was centered around her self-importance as a writer, her self-ish wants and desires. Most of the top newspaper movie critics complained about the ethics and morality of the movie "Passengers". The movie critics shouted, "How dare the only man who can fix the ship and save 5000 lives wake up a beautiful princess too early." "He

"Passengers"
Written by Jon Spaihts;
directed by Morten Tyldum
With Chris Pratt, Jennifer
Lawrence, Michael Sheen,
Laurence Fishburne
Rated PG-13

fooled her into falling in love with him." This man is nothing more than a commoner and she is high class social elite princess." "He's ruined her life. He played with her feelings and emotions". Many of the newspaper critics were devastated by the character Jim Preston (Chris Pratt) and his selfish unethical behavior, "How dare a low life commoner take advantage of a high-class elite princess with a gold card." Some of the top critics thought the movie was even glamorizing the "Stockholm Syndrome".

It wasn't until Aurora (Jennifer Lawrence) found out that Jim Preston (Chris Pratt) was the only man on board that could save her life and the life of the entire starship that her entire attitude changed towards him. She shouted at "You can't die, I now need you. Don't leave me." The entire movie was entirely about her selfish and high noble aristocratic attitude towards a low life commoner. At first, she fell in love with this unworthy inferior slave when she believed she was woke up by accident. She was happy, joyful, and full of love. But then she felt her honor betraved when she found out that this lowly commoner woke her up without her permission 90 years too soon. She no longer saw him as her lover but as a stalker unworthy of her high rich social status. This unworthy man woke her up and denied her the opportunity to select a more worthy superior, rich, and successful mate in the new colony on the new world Homestead II.

It was clear in the beginning of the See PASSENGERS, next page

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Passengers

Continued from previous page

film that there was a different class structure on the Starship Avalon between Aurora and Jim Preston. She was upper class because the A.I dispensed quality food to her because she had a gold card while Jim Preston (Chris Pratt) was left to eat only mediocre and barely edible food for over a year because he only had a poor lower-class card.

This reminded me of the class struggle in the movie "Titanic" and one of my all-time favorite movies "Overboard". Overboard was 1987 American romantic comedy film directed by Garry Marshall, written by Leslie Dixon, and starring Goldie Hawn and Kurt Russell.

Spoiled, selfish heiress Joanna Stayton (Goldie Hawn) was accustomed to the life of the idle rich with her husband, Grant Stayton III (Edward Herrmann). While waiting for their yacht to be repaired in the rural hamlet of Elk Cove, Oregon, she passes the time by hiring local carpenter Dean Proffitt (Kurt Russell) to remodel her closet. He puts up with her rude and condescending attitude and produces some quality work which is dismissed by her because he used oak instead of cedar, despite her not having specifically asked for this at the start. When he agrees to redo the closet after he gets the money for the work done she refuses to pay and they have an argument, during which he astutely notes that she is inventing things to complain about because her life is so pampered and boring (this gets overheard by the yacht's crew on the intercom who applaud him for telling her off), which concludes with her pushing him off the ship and dumping his tools in after him.

Later that night, as the yacht sails away from the harbor, Joanna goes out on deck to retrieve her wedding ring and falls overboard. The next

day the local TV news shows a story about her having been picked out of the water around midnight by a garbage scow. She is suffering from amnesia and is taken to the local hospital where no one can figure out who she is.

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After seeing her story on the local TV news on the same day, Dean, the dismissed carpenter, and a widower living in squalor with four sons, decides to seek revenge, or more specifically, get Joanna to work off her unpaid bill and losing his tools. He goes to the hospital and tells her that she is Annie, his wife of thirteen years and the mother of his 4 sons. She reluctantly goes home with him. Once there, she is appalled by his residence, but feels some obligation to pitch in, having come to think of herself as "Annie".

At first, Joanna has difficulty dealing with Dean's sons and the heavy load of chores. She soon adapts, however, and learns to cook, clean. do laundry, and care for the family dogs. As she masters her responsibilities, she learns about the boys' school and family issues and that Dean is secretly working two jobs to make ends meet. She begins to fall in love with him and to develop motherly love toward his sons, and starts streamlining the money problems with more efficient budgeting.

Although he has also fallen in love with her, he does not tell her the truth about her real identity for fear that she will leave him. When her memory is instantaneously restored, she is shocked and hurt when she realizes that Dean lied and has been using her for months.

In the movie "Passengers, Jim Preston (Chris Pratt) develops a crush on another sleeper, one who looks just like Jennifer Lawrence, and is played by Jennifer Lawrence. He learns about her-her name is Aurora Lane and she's a writer. He dreams about her, and eventually makes a very ill-advised decision. He wakes her up. Come on guys, let's be honest with each other. It's Jennifer Lawrence were talking about



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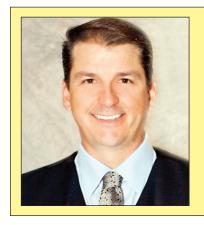


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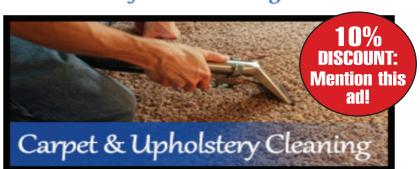
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