

**\$5 MILLION GIFT
PRESENTED TO FLOOD
VICTIMS RELIEF BY
CEO KIEU HOANG – P4**



**CASTILLERO'S
RUNNING PROGRAM
POPULAR WITH
ACTIVE MIDDLE
SCHOOLERS – P8**



**'BEE'-AUTIFUL
COMMUNITY
SUPPORT FOR
FLOODED BEE
COLONIES – P18**



MARCH 10–MARCH 23, 2017 ■ VOL. 30, NO. 6

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The cast of "Footloose" salutes the camera. "Footloose," misunderstood often as just toe-tapping, sing-along entertainment, carries many deeper themes including dealing with loss, estrangement, redemption, regret, and forgiveness.

Steve Dini retires on the heels of 'Footloose'

By Jane Johnson
Special to the Times

"I want to go out happy and not depressed!" -- Steve Dini

Along with shedding light on the deeper meanings behind "Footloose" the musical, Steve Dini is retiring on a high note.

Although "Les Miserables" last year will remain one of his fondest recent productions, this fun, high energetic sing-along musical allows the joy of youth, and the fulfilling journey from loss to forgiveness, to carry Steve out the door.

Asked if this is the largest production he has staged, Steve reminisced about "Grease" having nearly 150 members. However, that show was split into two casts - making this spring's production the largest cast all present on stage at the same time with 102 performers.

Senior Vanessa Scoffone ("Rusty") commented that although there are so many kids, "everyone's been really fun and open to everyone interacting together ... so we have a really great stage presence together." Steve exclaimed: "The audience will be completely blown away by all these (talented) kids out there!"

To a tee every interviewee including Dini mentioned how each and every performer has latitude to choose their character's own distinct persona, within the overall vision he has for the show. This vision includes characters changing and growing through the show's course. Everyone invests 100 percent from seniors Connor Henry ("Ren") and Emily Summers ("Ariel") all the way through freshmen chorus members - "they're all completely engaged with the show." Because of this, the show is rich with life and believability throughout - setting Pioneer's production on a level of its own.

Dini's colleague, Ashley Coleman, shared "The number one thing (which sets him apart) is he put's these performances completely in the hands of these kids. As a perfectionist, which he is, it's probably a bit of a challenge to give over so much of the production to these kids and put it in their



Steve Dini is retiring from his job as Pioneer High School's drama teacher after 25 years at the school.

hands. But the fact is these kids are a few years shy of being adults, now is the time for them to learn to be self-reliant. By asking them questions like what is your personal character feeling, doing, saying throughout this production? - It gives them a sense of ownership over their role. I've not seen that with any other director I've worked with or people I know who have been in acting school in college - they don't get that autonomy from their role - but with Dini that autonomy exists with every single role whether a lead or a member of the chorus. He gives that same importance to every role and every student. For 102 kids that is quite a feat."

Per Steve, Carol Channing once said "every show you do you have to find ... the spine of the show." Dini points out, "There's a lot of loss and grieving going on here. Shaw (the preacher) can't forgive Ariel (his daughter). By trying so hard to

protect her from being hurt, he's holding her so tight that he's pushing her away. That to me is the spine of the show. The spine is this loss, this journey back to acceptance and getting over the guilt ... Shaw is caught up in this stand that he's taken - this pride and ego thing - and he can't say 'it wasn't dancing

that killed my son.' (Instead) it was a kid who made a mistake and went off the road. It had nothing to do with the fact they were coming back from a dance. But he decided that was what it was - and now he realizes in his heart of hearts it wasn't that at all but

See DINI RETIRES, page 19



Santa Clara County Horsemen's Association was founded in 1939 - the oldest horsemen's association in California.

HORSES RESCUED DURING FLOOD

Cowgirls and cowboys save the day with the Santa Clara County Horsemen's Association

By Kevin Larsen
Times Staff Writer

The Santa Clara County Horsemen's Association reports that 28 stranded horses have been successfully rescued from the February 2017 San Jose Coyote Creek flood.

The horses that have been rescued are being held at two locations: Hope Ranch in Almaden and the South Bay Horse Ranch in Gilroy. The public became aware of the plight of the stranded horses when a KNTV helicopter streamed

See HORSEMEN, page 6

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*Happy St. Patrick's Day
from the Yost group*



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Have a fun St. Pat's!

— Margaret

Corned Beef Dinner

Place one 3- to 4- pound corned beef brisket in Dutch oven; barely cover with hot water. Add 1/2 cup chopped onion, 2 cloves garlic, minced, and 2 bay leaves. Cover; simmer 3 to 4 hours or till tender.

Remove meat from liquid; keep warm. Add 6 medium potatoes, pared, and 6 small carrots, pared. Cover; bring to boiling; cook 10 minutes. Add 6 cabbage wedges and cook 20 minutes longer.

If desired, glaze meat while vegetables cook. For glaze: Spread fat side of meat lightly with prepared mustard. Sprinkle with mixture of 1/4 cup brown sugar and dash ground cloves. Bake in shallow pan in moderate oven (350°) for 15 to 20 minutes. Makes 6 servings.



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This Week:

ADVICE

How to deal with contractors when home improvements go bad:

PAGE 14

SCHOOLS

Almaden Quixilver Robotics has a chance at World Champs:

PAGE 16

COMMUNITY

Remebering Dave Fadness: PAGE 17



ARTS

Presentation High School Annual Fashion Show April 7: PAGE 20

ALSO

Realtor Guide: PAGE 22

Worship Guide: PAGE 21

Classifieds: PAGE 23

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Valley Currents

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

National Charity League Almaden Blossom Valley chapter collects supplies for flood victims

By Vikkii Farrell-Lyons

Special to the Times

The Almaden Blossom Valley Chapter of the National Charity League (NCL) swung into action when they heard about the plight of local flood victims.

Nearly 400 people could not return to their homes because of damage created by toxic flood waters resulting from powerful storms that had swept through the Coyote Creek area of San Jose on Tuesday, Feb. 21.

NCL members collected more than 160 laundry baskets filled with cleaning supplies to help flood victims. Called the "Basket of Blessings", the collected donations



Handing over donated cleaning supplies to City Team Ministries: NCL Members from left to right: Chrystal Stone, Larissa Davis, Birgitta Ackley, Natalie Snyder, and Katie Swenson.

included rubber gloves, hand soap, sponges, bleach and other cleaning products that were turned over to City Team Ministries for distribution to the affected community.

The NCL Chapter has a long history of supporting City Team Ministries, a non-profit charity devoted to rebuilding and improving the lives of disenfranchised families and individuals in the San Jose area.

The NCL Almaden Blossom Valley Chapter is a charity league for mothers and daughters in 7th through 12th grades that has been active in providing philanthropic support in the local community for 21 years.

\$5 million gift presented to San Jose Flood Victims Relief Fund by CEO Kieu Hoang

City leaders gathered today in the Rock Springs neighborhood to extend their gratitude to Kieu Hoang, CEO & Chairman of RAAS, for making a generous \$5 million donation to the San Jose Flood Victims Relief Fund bringing the fund's total to more than \$6 million.

"Mr. Hoang's extraordinarily generous gift will make an enormous and immediate difference for the hundreds of flood victims who've been forced from their homes as a result of this disaster," said Mayor Sam Liccardo. "I will

always remember how thousands of donors and volunteers came together in a time of crisis to contribute their time, energy and money to help our neighbors get back on their feet."

The seven-figure gift reflects a joint effort among Mayor Sam Liccardo, Councilmember Tam Nguyen and Chieu Van Le, co-founder of Lee's Sandwiches, who has been a long-time friend of Hoang and helped connect him with city leaders and the relief effort.

"I'm humbled by the kindness of

Chieu Van Le and the generosity of his good friend Kieu Hoang who reached out to me yesterday to help the flood victims," said Councilmember Tam Nguyen. "And I am pleased that the Mayor has been prepared to accept this wonderful donation from Mr. Hoang and will see to it that his wish be fulfilled and that the victims will be helped in a timely manner."

The San Jose Flood Victims Relief Fund will provide identified non-profit organizations with funding to intake, screen, and assess dis-

placed flood victims and offer emergency financial assistance to support housing stability and other immediate needs. Types of direct financial assistance may include temporary rental subsidies, hotel vouchers, work-related tools or equipment, vehicle repairs or replacement, home furnishings, or other immediate needs support, and priority will be given to vulnerable households that have been either temporarily or permanently displaced from their homes.

When added to the thousands of other generous gifts received to-date, the fund has now raised more than \$6 million that will be used to provide relief and assistance to flood victims most severely impacted by flooding along the Coyote Creek. The fund was established jointly by Mayor Sam Liccardo and Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

"The outpouring of community support for those whose lives have been affected by last week's flooding has been tremendous," said Emmett D. Carson, Ph.D., CEO and president of Silicon Valley Community Foundation. "This newly announced gift – combined with the many donations from Silicon Valley residents and companies who were moved to help – will bring much-needed assistance to those who've been harmed by the flood."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

E-Verify can ferret out illegal workers

Editor,

Imagine if President Donald Trump's much-touted wall cost nothing to build.

Actually, that wall already exists -- electronically. E-Verify is a free, online resource that empowers employers to check whether employees are eligible to work in the United States. It can ferret out illegal workers in seconds.

Requiring all businesses to use E-Verify would drastically reduce illegal immigration by turning off the jobs magnet that attracts illegal laborers. That would protect American workers and boost wages. And unlike most Washington regulations, it would do so without burdening taxpayers and businesses or infringing on citizens' civil liberties.

The Department of Homeland Security administers E-Verify. The site cross-references employees' I-9 work authorization forms against their Social Security num-

bers, visas, and other records. In seconds, the system either greenlights a hire or issues a "tentative non-confirmation," which lets employers know that the person might not be authorized to work.

The system is overwhelmingly accurate. From October 2015 to June 2016, E-Verify processed 24 million cases. Nearly 99 percent were green lit immediately. Barely 1 percent resulted in tentative non-confirmations -- and 86 percent of those tentative non-confirmations ultimately resulted in final non-confirmations after further review.

In other words, the vast majority of people who received tentative non-confirmation notices truly weren't authorized to work, and the system caught them. Further, employers who use E-Verify are dissuading illegal workers from applying in the first place.

Many states -- like New Mexico, Georgia and North Carolina -- already require employers to use E-Verify. Other businesses use the service voluntarily. Over 600,000 employers have enrolled in E-Verify, and more than 1,000 new employers join each week.

Stacy Washington

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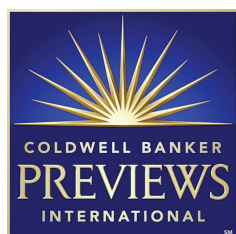


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Times Local News



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Horsemen

Continued from page 1

aerial photos and video on Tuesday, Feb. 21.

The first horse rescued was Brownie which was safely reunited with its owner after crews helped the animal cross a river. Horse owners said the rescues that happened gradually were necessary and riding across the river is the best thing for the horses as long as they're a good trail horse and will trust their rider.

The horse owners found permanent situations for their horses. However many owners lost everything that they had for their horses so they have to start all over again collecting the basic supplies necessary for horses. Concerned horse owners set up an emergency fund for the stranded horses and donations can be sent to Silva's Ranches Feed Store, also known as Silva's Hay and Grain, 12310 Santa Teresa Blvd, San Martin, CA 95046. (Phone: 408.683.2348.)

Almaden is fortunate to have a group that anyone can join to embrace the more simple life including the protection and understanding of horses and nature. The Santa Clara County Horsemen's Association was founded in 1939, making it the oldest horsemen's association in California.

The organization promotes good fellowship among horsemen by providing a greater understanding of horses through education that puts children, teens and adults in touch with nature and the caring of animals.

They rescue horses

As a nonprofit organization, The Santa Clara County Horsemen's Association members are involved with horse rescue groups and equine therapy programs. They work with Large Animal Rescue when there were fires and opened their grounds for people to temporarily relocate their horses, and also use their property for wild mustang and burro adoption programs.

General information about how the group functions

- The Santa Clara County Horsemen's Association meets monthly on the third Friday of each month for dinner and a general meeting

- They enjoy having people new to their organization or events come to shows and dinners to learn what they do

- For those interested, you can attend any dinner and go to the organizations website to call them up and learn more.

- They participate in many events throughout the year and organize rides.

- It is a tradition for them to ride in the Morgan Hill 4th of July parade, the Almaden Jump-In Parade, and the Los Gatos Christmas parade

- They organize group rides for members such as the "Dirty Horse Ride" (March 18), and "Spring Ride at the beach" (April 22).

- Camping trips are organized

- Participant events are done where riders earn ribbons and buckles

- New shows and events are added yearly

How do I join?

The club encourages anyone with an interest in horses and horsemanship to come to one of their events or monthly dinners to learn more. All potential new members have a current member sponsor them and need to attend three club events prior to the board of directors' approval. However, interested individuals may attend the dinners without a member sponsorship.

Their members are knowledgeable and can help with horse knowledge

The Horsemen's club has many members who give lessons and offer fun and non-threatening first time experiences to others. Often when lessons are offered, the riders develop a love for riding. Then, in time, one might choose to take the next step and either lease or purchase a horse of their own.

Upcoming events

Each month there is a dinner which serves to introduce club members. In April there are two show series starting up. The schooling show series demonstrates horses and riders moving through a series of obstacles, testing the control and confidence of each horse plus rider. The 5D Play days have horse and rider competing in six events the objective of getting the fastest times; one of these events is the popular barrel racing.



Horse owners said the rescues that happened gradually were necessary and riding across the river is the best thing for the horses as long as they're a good trail horse and will trust their rider. Photo courtesy KNTV

The club's president Karen Tarasco states, "These events are great ways for the general public to come out to our grounds to see the riders, meet the horses, and have a very low-key, personal experience with the equestrian sport. We always have our snack shack set up too so that people can come out, enjoy the show, have some food and develop a greater understanding of our club, our horses, and our love for riding."

They love what they do

Club members love being a part of the Santa Clara County Horsemen's Association and you can be a part of it too. The Almaden Valley has grown tremendously over the past few decades with more houses and less places for horses. Their club is determined to not be a "dying breed." Tarasco states, "Our club members recognize the importance of sharing our experiences, our love for horses, and our support of the local community. There is a special bond between a horse and rider – a trust that develops over time, a mutual respect that is earned."

No wonder why people are drawn to horses

President Tarasco believes that, "As the trust develops between horse and rider a mutual respect is earned over time. For people not familiar with horses, or who have only seen them standing in a field on the opposite side of a fence, it is an amazing experience to stand next to one of these beautiful creatures. We love having people come out to our shows and to watch them touch a horse for the first time, and to ask questions that they might never have even thought of prior. These experiences allow us to educate people about horses, and to create a better understanding of just how special horses are."

There is a lot of history on the walls of the clubhouse

The clubhouse is the place the monthly dinners are held and you can see it on their website. During shows spectators are invited in to see the hall and many enjoy looking at horse show memorabilia, trophies and photos, demonstrating that the organization is an important piece of history for Almaden Valley and an integral part of the history of Santa Clara County.

Juniors program for the youngsters

The group also has a juniors' group for children less than 18 years of age. They have all kinds of fun and wholesome activities in which they participate in, including an outdoor movie night using bales of hay for comfy seats. The club's newsletter included a recent article about a twelve year old boy sponsored by his aunt as a Junior member. Over time he earned a horse named "Dutch," the horse named after someone respected named Dutch Mapes. It seems that the boy's Aunt helped in the search for the perfect Quarter Horse and found one at a rescue in King City. Dutch, it is said, "has his boy and Antonio the boy has his horse...Antonio and Dutch enjoy trail riding and just hanging out."

A youngster can start out by attending functions and dinners with you bringing them along. In time the young one can show they are capable by participating on different activities and after proving trustworthiness. After time sometimes they are asked to come over and exercise a boarding horse by one of the members. That experience can lead them to participate in local parades.

There is something special about this organization that allows one to rest far away from the cell
See HORSEMEN, page 10

Seniors St. Patrick's Celebration

Friday, March 17, 2017

12:00 to 2 pm

Join the Almaden Senior Association together with the Senior Nutrition program for some live music and tasty food in celebration of St. Patrick's Day

Traditional menu of corned beef and cabbage

Sign up at the Almaden Community Center front desk beginning Monday, February 13th until Friday, March 3rd.

Cost will be \$3.00 at the door for those 60+ and \$8.00 for all others

Doors will open at 11:15

For more information call Almaden Center at (408) 268-1133



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Castillero's running program popular with active middle schoolers

By Jennifer Coelho
Special to the Times

Castillero Middle School's after-school running program is a runaway success with students looking to keep fit while having fun alongside friends.

Coach Laura Braun, an experienced runner and personal trainer, developed and oversees both the competitive cross-country team and the popular intramural running club. Both programs are available to athletes of all abilities interested in developing their running skills.

Students can participate in one or both of the programs, since they are offered at different times. The cross-country team competes in the San Jose Unified district cross-country meets, as well as other local running events.

The intramural running club is designed to get kids excited about the idea of cross-country and trail running. This non-competitive club gives kids an opportunity to race individually at the Los Gatos All-Comers Meets, open to runners of all ages and abilities. Since these meets attract college teams, it gives younger runners a chance to watch elite-level athletes prepare for their seasons.

Coach Braun works closely with each Castillero runner to develop and refine their running techniques and instill proper conditioning routines. Practices involve distance and sprint training as well as emphasizing form, strength and agility. Castillero is lucky to be located near Quicksilver Park, a favorite among local runners. Castillero's running teams regularly take advantage of its



Front Row (left to right): Jason Greene, Gavan Romero, Jacob Caraang, Alexander Wiklund, Nikhil Pendse, and Coach Laura Braun. Back Row: Miguel Urias, Matthew Giraudo, Mason Hoyt, Trent Donaldson, Will Richmond, and Ryan Wheeler.

popular trails for their workouts.

Coach Braun's Advice for New Runners Are you thinking of including running as part of your exercise routine? Coach Braun offers these tips to get you started and to keep your workout exciting. Make sure you have a sturdy pair of running shoes. With proper shoes and running technique, you're on your

way to enjoying this fun lifelong sport.

Always start slow; the hardest part of learning to run is learning how to pace yourself. Go at a slow jog and see how far you can go. Most people start off too fast and burn out after just a few hundred yards. Work at a steady pace about 3 times a week until you can run a mile and then keep trying to

increase your distance by 1/2 mile increments each week.

Spice Up Your Existing Running Routine Try trail running, as it requires you to focus on the terrain ahead of you and works on your balance. It also forces you to use muscles you would not ordinarily use just running on the road. When it comes to general training, many runners neglect to include speed training. Try to run four to six 400-yard intervals while trying to maintain the same speed for each one and practice running on a moderate decline to work on your running cadence.

Get Out There with Others It's always more fun to run with a group! The Quicksilver Running Club is a great local club. You can find more information at www.quicksilver-running.com. To find details about local races visit www.ultra-signup.com. Open "all comers" track meets at Los Gatos High School are posted on <http://www.losgatosallcomerstrack.com>. Whether you decide to run solo or as part of a club, running is a fun and rewarding lifelong sport. Always be sure to consult with your healthcare professional before participating in a new sport.

Castillero Middle School is home to 1,200 students and a staff of more than 60 teachers. The school has been recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence and a California Distinguished School, as well as receiving honors for outstanding parent involvement and the Caring School Climate Award from Project Cornerstone.

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CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH*** -\$500

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

25 OTHERS

2 AT THIS NET PRICE VIN #207554, 201039

\$13,977

*RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS APPLY. **MUST FINANCE THROUGH CHRYSLER CAPITAL, SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL.

NEW 2016 JEEP RENEGADE POWER & AIR GROUP, SPORT APPEARANCE GROUP & MORE

MSRP \$22,485
DEALER DISCOUNT -\$4,008
SALE PRICE \$18,477
JEEP CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH** -\$3,000
JEEP CA RETAIL BONUS CASH*** -\$500

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

14 OTHERS

2 AT THIS NET PRICE #E38424, E43551

\$14,977

*RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS APPLY.

2017 JEEP CHEROKEE SPORT AUTOMATIC, A/C

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DEALER DISCOUNT -\$3,613
SALE PRICE \$20,977
JEEP CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH** -\$4,000
CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH*** -\$500
CPOV BC COUPON -\$500

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

93 OTHERS

3 AT THIS NET PRICE #578858, 591652, 578845

*RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS APPLY. **MUST FINANCE THROUGH CHRYSLER CAPITAL, SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL.

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NEW 2017 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED 4-DOOR

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NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

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1 CHALLENGER HELLCAT AT THIS LEASE OFFER #200316
1 CHARGER HELLCAT AT THIS LEASE OFFER #359538

NEW 2016 DODGE CHALLENGER SXT AUTOMATIC, A/C

MSRP \$30,880
DEALER DISCOUNT -\$5,403
SALE PRICE \$25,477
DODGE BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH** -\$2,000
DODGE BC RETAIL BONUS CASH*** -\$2,000
CPOV BC COUPON -\$500

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

67 OTHERS

2 AT THIS NET PRICE #332079, 332078

\$20,977

*RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS APPLY.

2017 CHRYSLER PACIFICA 8-PASSENGER! #1 VOLUME PACIFICA DEALER IN CALIFORNIA!

PER FCA LLC. SALES REPORT OCT. 2016

MSRP \$29,590
DEALER DISCOUNT -\$4,113
SALE PRICE \$25,477
CHRYSLER CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH** -\$1,500
CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH*** -\$500
CHRYSLER RETAIL CONSUMER BONUS**** -\$1,000
CHRYSLER NON-APR RETAIL BONUS***** -\$500

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

42 OTHERS

4 TO CHOOSE AT THIS NET PRICE #571818, 635178, 635177, 571814

*RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS APPLY. **MUST FINANCE THROUGH CHRYSLER CAPITAL, SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL. ***MUST OWN OR LEASE A HONDA, TOYOTA, OR NISSA VEHICLE TO QUALIFY FOR CURRENT REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS. ****IN USE OF SPECIAL FACTOR FINANCING. *****IN USE OF SPECIAL FACTOR FINANCING.

\$21,977

NEW 2016 DODGE CHARGER SXT ALL REMAINING IN STOCK!

MSRP \$25,477
DEALER DISCOUNT -\$5,403
SALE PRICE \$20,074
DODGE BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH** -\$2,000
DODGE BC RETAIL BONUS CASH*** -\$2,000
CPOV BC COUPON -\$500

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

67 OTHERS

2 AT THIS DISCOUNT #357380, 358666

\$10,077

2017 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO EXPEDITION AND ENCLAVE BUYERS, CHECK THIS OUT! AUTOMATIC, REMOTE KEYLESS ENTRY & MORE!

MSRP \$31,390
DEALER DISCOUNT -\$4,413
SALE PRICE \$26,977
JEEP CA 2017 BONUS CASH** -\$1,250
JEEP CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH*** -\$750

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

42 OTHERS

3 AT THIS NET PRICE #759255, 685356, 813306

*RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS APPLY.

\$24,977

2017 RAM 2500 LONGHORN CREW CAB DIESEL 4X4

BUSINESS LINK

DEALER DISCOUNT OFF MSRP -\$9,327
RAM CA 2017 BONUS CASH* -\$1,500
RAM CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH** -\$1,750
CPOV BC COUPON -\$500

NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

66 OTHERS

1 AT THIS NET SAVINGS #532242

*RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS APPLY.

\$13,077

NEW 2017 3500 SLT TRUCK CREW CAB DIESEL

BUSINESS LINK

DEALER DISCOUNT OFF MSRP -\$10,827
RAM CA 2017 BONUS CASH* -\$500
RAM CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH** -\$1,750

NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

28 OTHERS

1 AT THIS NET SAVINGS #603375

*RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS APPLY.

\$13,077

2017 RAM 1500 BUSINESS OWNERS SPECIAL! AUTOMATIC

MSRP \$27,715
DEALER DISCOUNT -\$3,488
SALE PRICE \$24,227
RAM CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH** -\$2,750
CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH*** -\$500
RAM 2017 ON-THE-JOB COMMERCIAL UPGRADE/GRAPHICS**** -\$1,000
RAM CA 2017 BONUS CASH** -\$1,000
RAM CA 2017 RETAIL BONUS CASH*** -\$1,000
CPOV BC COUPON -\$500

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

153 OTHERS

2 AT THIS NET PRICE #572853, 579209

*RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS APPLY. **MUST FINANCE THROUGH CHRYSLER CAPITAL, SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL. ***MUST UPGRADE FOR BUSINESS UPGRADE THROUGH DEALERSHIP.

\$17,977

2017 RAM 1500 4-DOOR BUSINESS OWNERS SPECIAL!

MSRP \$32,535
DEALER DISCOUNT -\$3,808
SALE PRICE \$28,727
RAM CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH** -\$3,250
CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH*** -\$500
RAM 2017 ON-THE-JOB COMMERCIAL UPGRADE/GRAPHICS**** -\$1,000
RAM CA 2017 BONUS CASH** -\$500
RAM CA 2017 RETAIL BONUS CASH*** -\$1,000

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

153 OTHERS

2 AT THIS NET PRICE #585064, 585844

*RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS APPLY. **MUST FINANCE THROUGH CHRYSLER CAPITAL, SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL. ***MUST UPGRADE FOR BUSINESS UPGRADE THROUGH DEALERSHIP.

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Times Local News



The Santa Clara County Horsemen's Association believes that horses help all to understand that old saying that the simple things in life are important and often, "less is more." The horses become the teachers to mankind.

Horsemen

Continued from page 6

phones and badgering instant news twittering of our Silicon Valley. Horses help all to understand that old saying that the simple things in life are important and often, "less is more." The horses become the teachers to mankind.

They've got a dinner dance and chili cook offs

What is so nice about this organization is that they are having lots of fun in what they do and it is seen that they have dances, chili cook offs, and much more. So, even if you do not ride horses but want to join a group that cares about animals, this is your opportunity!

Since they have dinners each month, don't be afraid to call (408.268.6155) and find out more and visit the historic hall. Social hour is usually at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7:00 p.m. Meetings usually start at 7:30 p.m. The next dinner is Friday, March 17. Think of this group as a social network of down to earth people who don't ride on their horses with their phones in their back pockets. There are no ring tones on the trails.

The Santa Clara County Horsemen's Association publishes the "Corral Chatter" monthly newsletter for its members and friends. The information is a great read and you can find archive information about the group and read current updates.

As a nonprofit, donations are gladly accepted and the money will be put to good use (call for more information). Santa Clara County Horsemen's Association, P.O. Box 20124,

20350 McKean Rd., San Jose, CA 95120; Phone: 408.927.6647 or 408.268.6155. Visit them online at www.horsemens.org or visit their Facebook page: [facebook.com/groups/santaclaracountyhorsemens](https://www.facebook.com/groups/santaclaracountyhorsemens)

Directions: To get to the hall, drive all the way down Almaden Expressway until it dead-ends, then one turns right on Harry road and then left on McKean Road. It will be on your right about a mile down the country road.

Donations for the stranded horses can be sent to: Silva's Ranches Feed Store (Silva's Hay and Grain), 12310 Santa Teresa Blvd, San Martin, CA 95046 Phone: 408.683.2348.

Cowboy Wisdom: Old Horse proverbs

If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around.

The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with watches you shave his face in the mirror every morning.

Don't worry about bitin' off more'n you can chew; your mouth is probably a whole lot bigger'n you think!

Always take a good look at what you're about to eat. It's not so important to know what it is, but it's sure crucial to know what it was.

When in doubt, let your horse do the thinkin'.

When you lose, don't lose the lesson.

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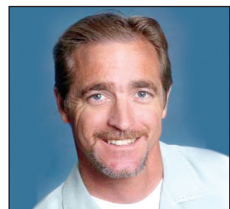
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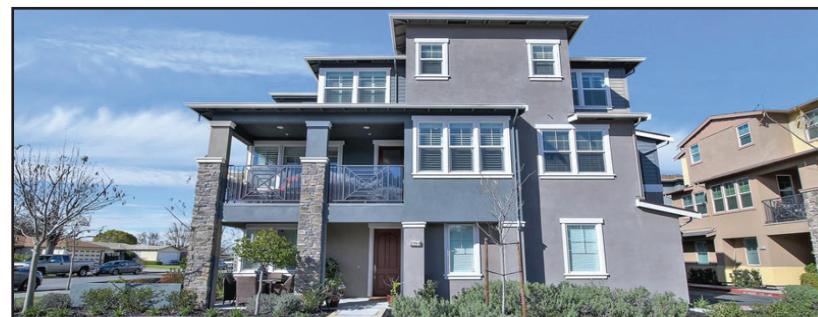
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 408-445-5133 & 408-757-9678



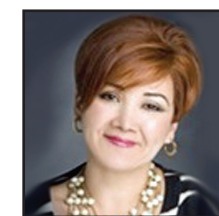
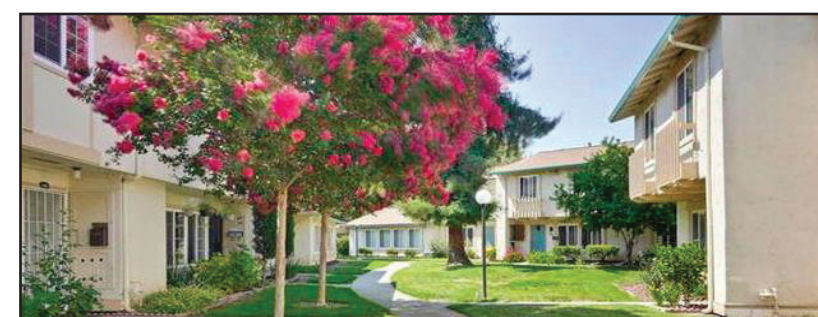
WILLOW GLEN **\$1,375,000**
 3 BR 2 BA This home has been well maintained.
 Charm of Willow Glen, while leaving room for you
 to add your own style and personality.
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Source: Broker Metrics



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Times **Features**

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When home improvement projects go bad

By **Steven R. Roeser**
Special to the Times

This week's question:
"Dear Steve, my wife and I were thrilled to get our home renovation started. However, the contractor has done a poor job, is consistently behind schedule, and continually raises the cost of the project. Now he won't complete the job without more money. The contract he provided is a few paragraphs and does not appear to be much help to us. What can we do?"

Christopher M.
Almaden Valley

Answer:

Most people go into a home improvement project with excitement and optimism. For those of us that have done a few, myself included, we know that things usually do not go as planned. The cost always goes up. The project schedule is usually running behind. So what can be done?

It's all in the contract. The good news in California law provides some protection for the homeowner, even where there is no contract, or where the contract does not include required language. Many homeowners don't even know these statutes exist. If you are one of those homeowners, now you know.

California law requires certain language to be in all home improvement contracts. These obligations and requirements are primarily codified at California Business and Professions Code Section 7159 et seq., and California Civil Code Section 1689 et seq. Let us briefly review the requirements.

Contractor License and Contact Information

The name, address and license number of the contractor, and the name and registration number of any salesperson who solicited or negotiated the contract must be included in the contract, and it must contain exact statutory language (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 7159(a)). Additionally, a separate statement setting forth contractor licensing requirements, and complaint procedures, is required to be provided on a separate document from the contract prior to entering into the home improvement contract (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 7030).

Right to Cancel

Notice of the right to cancel is required to be in a home improvement contract (CC § 1689.7). If the notice is not included, the owner can rescind contract at any time without paying any compensation. (CC § 1689.11(c)).

Payment Schedule and Limited Down Payment

A schedule of payments showing the amount to be paid in dollars must be included. The schedule of payments must be referenced to work to be performed and any material or equipment supplied (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 7159(e)). The contractor is limited to a down payment of ten percent of the contract value, or \$1,000, whichever is less (B&P § 7159(d)). The contractor can of course require a substantial payment shortly after signing.

Lien Releases

Upon payment for a particular phase of work, the contractor must give lien releases. (B&P 7159(e), (f)). Upon making payment on any completed phase of the project, and before making any further payments, require your contractor and subcontractors and laborers to provide you with unconditional "Waiver and

Release" forms signed by each of them.

Payment Bond

A contractor must also place a notice in at least 10-point Roman style bold face type, within close proximity of the signature line, telling the tenant or owner that it has the right to require a performance and payment bond (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 7159(g)).

To protect yourself and your home, consider doing the following:

(1) Make sure your contractor is properly licensed! You can run a simple search on the California state website at www.sclb.ca.gov. If your contractor performs services and does not have a license, you have a plethora of remedies, including the return of all monies paid to such contractor.

(2) Require your contractor to supply you with a payment and performance bond (not a license bond), which provides that the bonding company will either complete the project or pay damages up to the amount of the bond. The payment and performance bond will usually cost from 1 to 5 percent of the contract amount. If a contractor cannot obtain such bonding, it may indicate his or her financial incapacity.

(3) Require that payments be made directly to subcontractors and material suppliers through a joint control. Funding services may be available, for a fee, in your area which will establish voucher or other means of payment to your contractor. These services may also provide you with lien waivers and other forms of protection.

(4) Issue joint checks for payment, made out to both your contractor and subcontractors or material suppliers involved in the project. This will help to ensure that all persons due payment are actually paid.

(5) Upon making payment on any completed phase of the project, and before making any further payments, require your contractor, subcontractors, suppliers and laborers to provide

you with unconditional "Waiver and Release". The statutory lien releases are set forth in exact language in Section 3262 of the Civil Code and forms can be obtained from a stationary store, or a reputable online service.

Conclusion

If you are having trouble with your contractor, start with having an attorney review your contract to analyze your rights given your particular facts. Your best protection however is to have an attorney negotiate the contract before you pay the contractor a penny. Even with a proper contract in place, the nature of home improvement projects is such that several disagreements will arise with even a good contractor. If you have the right protection built in to your contract, it will give you the best chance of keeping your home a happy one.

Until next time ... and have a great day!

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 (650) 300-5778. 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 and is not to be relied upon. For more information on our practice, please visit www.almadenvalleylawyers.com

The good news in California law provides some protection for the homeowner, even where there is no contract, or where the contract does not include required language.



CASINO PARTY!

Saturday April 1, 2017

Come enjoy some gambling fun and win tickets for raffle prizes. Appetizers, wine and punch will be served.

Cost: \$12 members, \$15 non-members.

Tickets on sale in the Almaden Community Center lobby.

M, W, F 8:40 am to 10 am

Ticket sales start March 13 and run through March 24.

For more information, call (408) 268-1133.

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Dan Walker

After 18 years at Alain Pinel, I am excited to join Coldwell Banker Los Gatos. After graduating from San Jose State and playing on the Men's Basketball team for four years, I started a teaching career at James Lick High School, where I was the Varsity Basketball Coach for 10 years. I moved to Santa Teresa High School as a teacher, where I also started Superstar Basketball, a youth instructional league for kids grade 1-6, which I ran for 15 years, as well as coaching my twin sons at Bret Harte and Leland High School. As an active Realtor since 1994, my experience as a Teacher/ Coach mesh perfectly with Real Estate as they both require patience, teaching, communication, competitiveness, as well as helping others. This skill set has earned the trust of many clients over the years.

If it appears that my personality and background might be a fit for you and your real estate needs, please call me at 408.892.4813, e-mail me at Dan.Walker@cbnorcal.com, or visit my website at DanWalkerValue.com. I will take great care of you!



Dan Walker

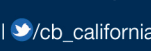
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FTC Robotics team 8404 Quixilver (l to r): Alex Chen, Mr. Kevin Tibbs (mentor), Ryan Ngoon, Ethan Pang; (Middle Row) Yash Bhargava, Terrence Te, Ellen Jiang, Jessica Pearson, Dean Haroon; (Bottom Row) Binh Nguyen, Emily Chun, and Marisa Nakanishi.

Almaden Quixilver Robotics to compete against 12 states for a chance at World Championships

By Marisa Nakanishi
Special to the Times

FTC Robotics team 8404 Quixilver from Almaden has packed their bags to compete at Super-Regionals against 12 states March 10-12 in Tacoma, Washington.

Quixilver will be facing 12 different states in hopes of making it to Nationals, and a win will allow them to advance and participate at World Championships.

The team earned a spot from over 40 other teams at the Northern California Regional Tournament after winning the first place Think Award for the hard work they spent on their engineering notebook.

Quixilver currently has 12 members, two attending Bret Harte Middle School and ten others at Leland High School. The team meets at Leland High School and is mentored by teachers Mr. Kevin Tibbs and Mrs. Helen Arrington.

The team strives to incorporate both STEM and robotics into the community.

Everyone contributes to the team and works collaboratively with each other.

Now, they'll be facing 72 teams from twelve different Western states. This is the first time for this young team to represent their schools and the Almaden community at the national level.

Quixilver wins first place Inspire Award

At the GitHub HQ Qualifying tournament, the team won the 1st place Inspire Award. This award is presented to the team that shows exemplary qualities in all aspects needed for a robotics team and was seen as a "role-model" to the other teams.

This is the third year running for the team and they are eager to be able to participate at semi-nationals where they will experience new challenges and new ways to solve problems ahead of them.

This allowed for Quixilver to participate at the NorCal Regionals in Newark on February 18-19 with the team winning first place along with the Think Award which is given to the group who best reflects the journey of the team and shows the best documentation through the engineering binder.

The team is raising money to buy additional parts, sensors, cameras, and tools, since they are working on enhancing the capability of their robot and fine-tuning the precision of their sensor detection.

Editor's note: Currently, the team has a GoFundMe page where people can donate money to help with the expenses for the team at: gofundme.com/Help-FTC-8404-go-to-Super-Regional

Mission San Juan Bautista Museum

Spend the day at the historical San Juan Bautista Mission.
A Spanish mission located in San Benito County, California.
The mission was founded June 14, 1797.

Tuesday April 11, 2017

Arrive: No later than 8:15 am

Depart: Bus leaves at 8:30 am

Return: Approximately 4:30 pm

Cost: \$30.00, includes transportation and tour.

Docent lead tour of the Mission then lunch on your own at the Happy Rooster Cafe or a local restaurant of your choice. After lunch there will be time on your own to shop and explore the town.

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

Trip coordinators:
Sally 408 826-9619
Bea 408 761-4002



Good clean fun at Los Alamitos Elementary

By Denise Styerwalt
Special to the Times

Los Alamitos Elementary school held its annual Bubblefest event on Feb. 3, transforming the school cafeteria into an interactive, science learning experience.

Students had an opportunity to choose from 10 different bubble stations to visit where they could watch, interact and experiment with bubbles.

"Bubblefest is always a big hit with the students," said Thomas Rousseau, Principal at Los Alamitos Elementary. "The goal is to have fun while participating in hands on activities to learn about the science behind bubbles."

The all-day event requires many parents, teachers and individuals who volunteer time or donate supplies for the day to take place.



Above: Student Kian Upton is getting hands on with bubbles. Below: (L-R) Mia White and Brianna Cavano are learning about bubble science. Photos by Tracy Cavano Photography



Times **Community News**

Leland Bridge Night event reaches fundraising goal to help Leland

By Claire Chour and Ping Hsieh
Special to the Times

Leland Bridge Night banquet show themed around each year's corresponding Chinese zodiac animal reached its fund raising goal for Leland High School.

More than just a fundraiser, the annual event is a chance for the school's students to perform in front of an audience of over three hundred attendees or earn volunteer hours as waiters. The fundraiser features a myriad of student performances and food served by student volunteers.

The night kicked off with a ceremonial lion dance, followed by the introduction of this year's masters of ceremony, seniors Melissa Guo, Brandon Liu, Bryan Yang and Phoebe Yin.

The two hour show that followed was composed of a welcome speech by Lei Wang, 2016-2017 Leland Bridge President; sundry musical performances on piano, marimba, violin, and voice; raffle drawings for prizes like gift cards and tickets to tourist attractions; and a few words from Leland alumnus and California State Assemblyman Evan Low, who shared his story of growing up in the Bay Area as a Chinese-American and advocated for the school's students to consider policy making as a potential profession.

"Leland Bridge Night is an amazing opportunity for students to try something new, like performing onstage for the first time to realize their potential," Wang said. "An alumnus' parents told me that after he performed at the event, he found that he could do much more than he had thought, leading him to explore many new options in college."

The Leland Bridge organization was founded in the fall of 2001 by Chinese- and Taiwanese- American families who felt isolated from the school community. It aims to bridge this gap by maintaining a platform that motivates parents to be more involved in school-related activities and give back by fundraising to sponsor school events.



The Leland Bridge organization was founded in the fall of 2001 by Chinese- and Taiwanese- American families who felt isolated from the school community. It aims to bridge this gap by maintaining a platform that motivates parents to be more involved in school-related activities.

Each year, Leland Bridge Night raises more than \$15,000 through admissions ticket and raffle ticket sales, as well as donations and an online silent auction. The money is then put to use in various ways; during the current school year, \$5000 was budgeted towards supporting the school's volunteer Computer Science teachers, \$3000 to new school equipment, \$2000 towards sponsoring the 50 year anniversary celebration, \$2000 to seniors' college application essay review, \$1000 each to the robotics, music, and Speech and Debate programs and other funds towards hosting events that support students and teachers.

Events funded by Leland Bridge include an annual Freshmen Welcome BBQ that provides incoming students with information about the school's programs while they enjoy a barbeque and potluck lunch and a

Freshmen Orientation Parents Seminar, which informs rising Charger parents on how to map out a four-year high school career, and a Teen Stress 101 seminar advises families with tips to overcome the pressure of high school.

Since its founding, Leland Bridge's monthly newsletter has provided information about school events to thousands of Charger families and the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon celebrates the school's staff with an annual lunch buffet.

"The Leland Bridge organization not only brings families together, but also helps students showcase their talents and develop their skillset," Guo said. "Especially for a school organization, Leland Bridge amazes me in that it also makes an effort to teach students to put themselves out there and learn new things."



Kids Food Festival at Children's Discovery Museum March 12

See what's cooking at Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose at Kids Food Festival, Sunday, March 12. It's fun with food!

Kids of all ages are encouraged to have a good time learning about healthy eating with delicious recipes and hands-on activities and games that will tantalize and tease more than taste buds.

- Meet the challenge of a balanced-plate scavenger hunt
- Use pedal power to whip up a healthy fruit smoothie on the Blender Bike
- Nourish the soul and nourish lives by preparing food kits for distribution with Rise Against Hunger
- Plant a rainbow
- Get playful watching Potter the Otter is Back theatre performance
- Create "Ugly Fruit" masterpieces

The Creative Kitchen® Kids Food Festival To-Go, in partnership with the Association of Children's Museums and Parents and FamilyFun magazines.

WHEN: Sunday, March 12, 12 noon to 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose, 180 Woz Way, San Jose.

Remembering Dave Fadness

By Councilmember Johnny Khamis
Special to the Times

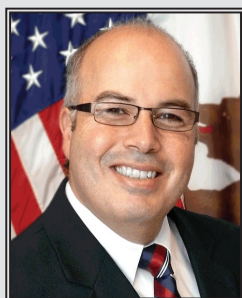
Volunteers are indispensable to the City of San José, and February was a month to honor and remember one of District 10's most active volunteers - Dave Fadness.

For decades, Dave was a local leader, gracious mentor, and enthusiastic volunteer. Dave served the entire City by working to improve fiscal outcomes, create neighborhood gathering places, and help with the constant upkeep and maintenance of neighborhood parks.

As a member of the VEP Neighborhood Association, he was instrumental in saving the grounds of

an elementary school that was slated to be closed, and getting them converted into Vista Park - a new City park that served an area that had been underserved by community amenities like parks. He was also the key player in ensuring the park was completed with a Community Room building which continues to serve as a gathering place for VEP and many other groups.

As a Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services Adopt-A-Park volunteer, Dave dedicated much time and energy to making his community cleaner and more beautiful, including organizing quarterly beautification projects in Vista Park, the painting of the Community Room, and the planting of palm trees in the median along Chynoweth Avenue, from Pearl Avenue to Martial Cottle Park.



District 10 Report
Johnny Khamis,
City Councilmember

On Saturday, Feb. 18, I was joined by former Vice Mayor and District 10 Councilmember Pat Dando, County Supervisor Mike Wasserman, neighbors, friends, and relatives to honor Dave Fadness with a Park Bench Dedication at Vista Park. With the help of the San Jose Parks Foundation, a new bench was donated to the park, which will add a serene seating area for park visitors to enjoy.

Fiscal responsibility in government was a passion of Dave's, and he believed that government officials, both elected and non-elected, must be responsible stewards of the money that citizens entrust to them through the taxes and fees we pay. In January 2011, Dave co-founded Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility, or



On Tuesday, Feb. 28, at the VEP Neighborhood Association meeting, CFR honored Dave and presented his wife, Aiko, (pictured with Councilmember Johnny Khamis) with a commemorative plaque.

"CFR", whose mission it is to hold local government officials accountable and to keep our City on a fiscally prudent path.

On Tuesday, Feb. 28, at the VEP Neighborhood Association meeting, CFR honored Dave and presented his wife, Aiko, with a commemorative plaque that will hang in the Vista Park Community Room. I was

proud to be a part of this ceremony and appreciate that CFR honored Dave in this meaningful way.

Dave Fadness was a model citizen whose dedication to the San José community was truly immeasurable. He was an extraordinary example of the power of one - the difference that just one person can make in the life and health of a city.

IN LOVING MEMORY
DAVID R. FADNESS
APRIL 17, 1942 - SEPTEMBER 29, 2015
WITH APPRECIATION FROM
THE COMMUNITY FOR 40 YEARS
OF VOLUNTEER WORK TO MAKE
SAN JOSE BETTER FOR ALL

BEE-autiful community support for lost bee colonies

By Diane Blum
Times Staff Writer

The recent flooding in San Jose struck many in our community and the clean-up continues.

We keep hearing so many great stories relating to the community stepping up to offer aid; helping the many families impacted as well as assisting with clean-up efforts at the many parks that were flooded, including the Happy Hollow Park and Zoo. Portions of Happy Hollow were flooded under as much as four feet of water.

While the park's many zoo animals were kept safe from harm, some moved early in anticipation of the potential flooding; the park's honey bee apiary was significantly impacted. Most of the bee colonies and their hive "homes" were destroyed.

The Happy Hollow Zoo Bee Conservation Department maintained the 27 honey bee hives located at the Happy Hollow apiary which included hives from the San Jose Sunset 4-H program. The hives were knocked over by the rising flood water. Cleanup crews tried to clean some hives and save a few colonies, but most of the hives were unsalvageable as they were covered with contaminated mud.

The park's honey bees are important for many reasons. First of all, the honey bee apiary supports the kids in the 4-H program. 4-H is one of the largest youth development programs in America and teaches young people aged 5-19 good citizenship, leadership and life skills through community projects such as the bee conservation efforts at the apiary. Classes for the 4-H are held at History Park at Kelly Park in San Jose and adult workshops are held at Happy Hollow Zoo.

Bee colonies all over the world have been struggling to remain healthy, an issue called "colony collapse". Given that bees are the primary pollinator of the world's food crops it is important to learn and practice conservation efforts. The apiary is a wonderful opportunity for kids and adults to help nature thrive. A total of 13 hives died prior to the flood due to colony collapse. That equals a 40 honey bee hive loss in total in just that location alone.

The apiary is also a fundraising entity. For the last four plus years the honey-bee program at the park has been donating all of its proceeds (from beekeeping classes and its honey sales) to help protect the dwindling population of gorillas in the Congo. You can read more about this effort to save the "Gorillas in the Congo" on the Happy Hollow website. This year 50 percent of the workshop proceeds will also help local native gardens for native bee habitat.



Most of the bee colonies and their hive "homes" at Happy Hollow Park and Zoo were destroyed by the recent flooding.

To help replace the Zoo's bees, 4-H program's loss and continue the kids' project, the zoo and the 4-H group needed a donation of frames

and foundation to rebuild the lost bee hives. And here is where the community stepped up.

Sam and Lisa of Sam's

Downtown Feed & Pet Supply immediately donated 200 deep frames and foundation.

Jeff Yeramian of Dadant and

Sons, a beekeeping supply company, also graciously donated 200 deep frames and 200 sheets of wax coated plasticell (as well as picking up all shipping costs).

"We are so appreciative of Sam's Feed and Dadant's generosity, said Steve Demkowski, Happy Hollow's resident beekeeper and the 4-H Project leader for the honey bee apiary. "Without their help we would not be able to continue with the program for some time. The loss of honey production would have also impacted our ability to donate to help the gorillas of Virunga Park in the Congo."

If you are interested in helping out the Zoo's honey bee apiary, please contact Vanessa Rogier of Happy Hollow Zoo by emailing her at vanessa@hhpz.org or contact Sunset 4-H Bees via Jenel Vincze: jenelv@comcast.net.

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Times **Community News****Dini retires***Continued from page 1*

his ego won't let him admit this. Ren reminds him of his son a little bit, and I think that hurts him even more, because he sees something in him and it makes him miss (his son) even more."

"Footloose," misunderstood often as just toe-tapping, sing-along entertainment, carries many deeper themes including dealing with loss, estrangement, redemption, regret, and forgiveness. Some themes' deeper meanings are sometimes missed. One example: "Some other productions always make the religious guy the bad guy, and this is very prevalent in society today, (for him) to always be that negative 'kill-joy' - but that's not what he's about," said Dini. "He's mad at God for taking his son away, he's mad at himself because he can't accept it as a man of the cloth. And there's loss here: Ariel has lost her brother and now she's losing her Dad; Vy is losing her husband and she's lost her son; Ren lost his father who walked out on his mom, he's lost his comfort zone because he has to move from Chicago to this little town; and Ethel has lost her husband and now is afraid she's going to lose her son." The show is a journey from loss to forgiveness, a journey we all can make with them.

What should the audience expect?

"Expect high energy...a total complete homage to the '80s from big hair to mullets to style of dance - 'cause everything we're doing is right out of the 1980s!," said Dini. "When they walk through that door they will walk through a time machine (back to) big hair, big talk, big music, big dance numbers, big energy and big fun!" In addition, "the talent level might surprise (the audience) because we have professionals like Mr. Harris and Mrs. Bacon, who teach the kids harmonies and style" that others might not have access to in a typical school production. His partner in crime for over 47 years (26 of them on stage at Pioneer), his multi-talented wife Sue Dini, choreographs this show bringing her professional prowess to bear.

Trying to tease out a favorite from all the shows he's done since the early '90s produces: "My favorite show is the one I'm working on at the moment," said Dini, "because you see how the kids are invested in it, you see the nuances of the show, you see what energy the author put into writing the music or ... the dialogue, and you see this as a standalone piece of performance art...Every show is its own living thing and it takes on what I like to think is my personality...The passion and the love of theatre they see in me trickles down to all the kids...The shows are all standalone wonderful examples of what teenagers can do if they really want to do it." Steve Dini takes the time to research and understand the meaning behind every single show he's produced. Understanding the author's thoughts about a character's background, the themes the author hoped to deliver, and the musicality the author hoped to bring to the stage allows Dini to educate his actors at a level that is beyond your typical school show. The kids absorb the meaning and bring it to life in each of their characters. "There's a complexity here not all people grasp, and I try to see that complexity with every show we do (and help the students portray it) ... That's what surprises a lot of people, too, because they don't expect high school kids to have the depth that it takes to do something like this - because I think a lot of people don't expect high school kids to be that deep - and I think

they're capable of a lot of deeper meaning than a lot of people give them credit for." "In this world high school kids have to grow up really fast and deal with a lot of things they see on a daily basis. I think (partly) kids cry at the end of shows because in the show they are dealing with a scripted world where they know what people are going to say and how it's going to end and know when and where to walk on and when to walk off. But the real world is one big improvisation - at the end of the show this perfect world we've created is going to go away and now we have to go out into this real world where we don't know what the boyfriend will say, or what Mom will say, or what will happen when we get in the car and drive away."

Dini has hopes for the kids to leave this show with newfound or sharpened skills:

"Dealing with loss in their own lives; dealing with estranged parents; opening their hearts to be more forgiving and more understanding of other people. Accepting people for who they are and how they think. I think we need that nowadays more than ever," said Dini.

Approaching a production like a coach

"I try to approach a production like a coach with a team - as I've coached (sports teams) over the years - you have to make sacrifices as a team to win as a team," said Dini. "When you get a group of people like this and you're working towards a common goal - even if you're Number Three in the chorus and are not Ren or Ariel, and you can show you can be a part of something bigger than yourself - I think that's good and positive and pretty rare. We work really hard and it's really fun to work in a group towards a common goal and create something we can really be proud of. The analogy with sports holds to a certain extent. The Super Bowl has two teams who worked super hard to get there - but at the end of the day one will leave a winner and the other a loser. But with theater you win the Super Bowl every night. You get the fun and all the pageantry ... we're on a 26 year winning streak!" He likes that the kids will learn that "... most of the time (not all of the time because life is cruel) when you put in hard work it will be rewarded."

"It's rewarding to see a kid like Jordan Spalding - who discovered theater relatively late in his high school career. He has completely immersed himself in it to the point where he works extra hard and comes out and helps other kids," said Dini. "He's very encouraging - and he (even) sweeps the floor and paints the sets - and he's discovered this world where he can succeed and it's been fun to watch him grow up. Another thing I will miss is seeing these little timid freshmen coming out and watch them progress over the four years to these high levels of performers. They're all wonderful kids. Mind-boggling to see how they've matured over the years. It's life-changing stuff. Kids come back later (after graduation) and say 'being in that show helped me with my confidence and self-esteem and I interviewed well and got the job'" - even if they're not continuing with acting.

When asked about his favorite memories it was hard to whittle it down, Dini explained: "Recently it was Kyle Penick singing 'Bring Him Home' from 'Les Miserables Jr.'; the tap numbers in 'Anything Goes'; 'Crazy For You' - if I'd known how difficult that show would be I might not have done it but after we did it I was very proud of them - we had a live orchestra - just seeing how the audience reacted to it; going way back in

See DINI RETIRES, page 20

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Times Community News

Dini retires

Continued from page 19

1999 with my son Jon, he played the part of 'Moon Face Martin' - and when he sang 'Be Like The Bluebird' and brought the house down I'll remember that as long as I live; in 1993 'Guys and Dolls', Mike Stone played 'Nicely Nicely' singing 'Sit Down You're Rocking The Boat' - that was the only in-show standing ovation we've ever had. There's a million memories - too many to mention." But these were a few.

So why now, might you ask? Why is Mr. Dini deciding to leave after creating a stage performing culture that is second to none in its class? Besides hitting the milestone of 70 years of age (who would guess it with all of his energy?), Sue retired as well and smartly planned a cruise next autumn. "I'm not leaving because I hate my job - I love these kids, I love the job. I don't like the day-to-day logistical stuff of taking roll, etc., but I'm going to look for other places to volunteer, like working with homeless veterans. I'm going to write a screenplay I've been threatening to write for 25 years. I'm going to spend more time with the grandkids. I just feel God has something else for me to do. I feel I've done everything I can do here, I've suggested a good person to take over, and I'm waiting for my next assignment. I'll miss the kids - their passion - their energy - their dedication. It's a culture you create and develop over time. It's really fun to watch them become immersed in the program and become so proud of what they do. I'll miss sitting in the back of the room - a lot of times crying - because I'm so proud of a kid who maybe came from a tough home environment or battled through an illness or did something that no one in the audience knows that had to be overcome to get to that place."

"I'll just miss the kids - I'll just miss that feeling of pride and the passion they put in it and the love they give. They love what they do. And I hope wherever I go next I'll find that in something else."

Emily Summers shares the culture he is leaving behind: "You can tell Mr. Dini really likes his job...He's so good at what he does - he invests himself in everybody and he understands that to put together a show you have to put an effort into each and every character, every person on stage, so it can come out as a good, big



The Footloose cast pauses to pose: Above left: **Connor Henry** ("Ren") and **Emily Summers** ("Ariel"); Above right: **Jeffrey Plaza**, **Tommy Goss** ("Willard"), **Jack Johnson**, **Jordan Spalding**, and **Connor Sechrist**. Photos by Jannika Johnson

production. I also love how he gives students opportunities to do other things like choreographing the tribute show... so he's teaching us how to teach others." And Connor Henry remarks "He gets more on a one-on-one basis with you that you don't really get with a lot of other teachers. With other teachers you come in, you learn, you leave. With Dini... you come in, you have a great time, and you learn at the same time all these new things." "My favorite time, and what I maybe will miss the most, is to stand at the back of the room at the end of a show and just bask in it and take it all in. Watching the pictures being taken, watching the flowers being given, watching them pose with Grandma, seeing all the self-esteem 'you are great!', 'you did wonderful!' being given - all the things society maybe doesn't think they can do - to see them get all the accolades - that's my favorite time. And I tell them to enjoy it because it doesn't happen that often in this life. These are brave kids - it takes guts to go out there. It's a full contact sport - you have to be brave to do

this. These kids are highly trained performers. It takes bravery to walk out on the stage and say look at me, judge me." And at the end, "I'll miss the love the most."

It's clear from the performers how much they reciprocate the love. "From a directing standpoint I feel like he's a genius...He has a special something no one can necessarily put their finger on, but I can put it to you like this: I know if I was ever in deep trouble with something I know I can call on Mr. Dini to help me out with it" shared Jordan Spalding, and that sentiment seems shared across the board. And Emily Summers summed it up with "Unless you do Pioneer Drama, you just don't understand the kind of environment he sets up for us, just the love we have for each other, the love we have for Mr. Dini and that he has for us - we can feel that - and that's what I'm going to miss the most."

And what could be the very best send-off for this veteran actor, radio and TV personality and beloved teacher? "A



standing ovation at about 9:30 p.m. on April 1st - which I think is very appropriate that my career ends on April Fools' Day - I think there's some irony there that's not lost on me," said Dini. "A standing ovation on the last night of the last show will allow me to walk away saying 'mission accomplished!'"

Tickets online

Be a part of the historical last Steve Dini shows of "Footloose" running March 24-25th and March 28th-April 1st at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center at Pioneer High School. Purchasing tickets online is recommended by visiting: phsdrama.ludustickets.com.



Front Row (Left to Right): **Talla Khelghati**, **Francesca Duncan**, **Erin Healey**, and **Manush Mobarhan**. Back Row: (Left to Right): **Megan Tillman**, **Carson Myers**, **Natalie Matian**, **Julia Fuqua**, and **Katherine Ornellas**.

Presentation High School Annual Fashion Show April 7

The 51st anniversary of the Presentation High School Fashion Show will be held at the Santa Clara Convention Center with a lunch show at noon and a dinner show at 6 p.m. on April 7.

The theme this year is *Let Yourself Blossom*.

This Annual event is to benefit the Endowment for Financial Aid, which provides scholarships to deserving young women.

Senior girls are modeling clothes from 12 different clothing and accessory stores.

Tickets are available by visiting www.presentationhs.org/fashionshow.

Let Yourself Blossom
Fashion Show 2017
April 7 at the Santa Clara Convention Center
Mission City Ballroom

Lunch Show

11 a.m. - Registration
12 p.m. - Lunch
1 p.m. - Show

Dinner Show

6 p.m. - Cocktails
7 p.m. - Dinner
8 p.m. - Show



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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.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ALMADEN VALLEY, UCC

6581 Camden Ave., San Jose, CA 95120. Pastor, Rev. Dr. Michele Rogers Bringham. 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@eastvalleychurch.com We are associated with Converge Worldwide www.convergeworldwide.org

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

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

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

GRACE CHURCH OF EVERGREEN

www.GraceChurchSJ.Net See you on Facebook 2650 ABORN ROAD at Kettmann, across from Evergreen Public Library. Serving Evergreen for over 50 Years. John S Goldstein, Pastor Christian Worship every Sunday at 11.00 am Together let us build lives toward excellence! Music Institute (408)791 7772 After School lessons on Piano, Violin, Viola, Flute

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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 Terrace 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.churchstanthony.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 after the manner of the earliest Christians. All are welcome to our warm, multicultural Church community, where services are done primarily in English. What happens when you reunite created matter to its Creator? Come and see! Sunday worship: Orthros – 8:30 am Divine Liturgy – 9:30 am We also celebrate Liturgy on most feast days.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

5111 San Felipe Rd., San Jose, CA 95135 408-223-1562. www.stfrancisofassisi.com www.stfrancisofassisipreschool.org We invite you to join our community of faith located in the Evergreen area of San Jose. We are an inclusive diverse community striving to serve as Disciples of Jesus Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis, offering 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!

Worship listing advertisements are \$495 annually. (408) 898-7534.



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.



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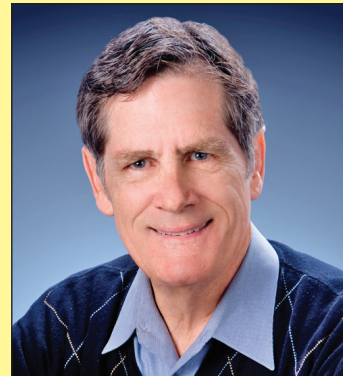
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Opportunity

**Evergreen School District***From strong roots grow bright futures***Measure H Citizens' Oversight Committee**

The Evergreen School District is accepting applications from parents/community members interested in filling a vacancy position on the Measure H Citizens' Oversight Committee. This committee will oversee the expenditure of Measure H Parcel Tax funds, ensuring they are spent as approved by the voters. It is expected that the committee will meet twice a year.

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please submit a **letter of interest** to:

Evergreen School District
3188 Quimby Road
San Jose, CA 95148
ATTN: Dan Deguara

Your letter should include a brief introduction of yourself, your contact information, and an overview as to why you are interested in serving on the committee. **All letters must be received at the District Office by 4:00 p.m. on March 10, 2017.** Applicants will be contacted for follow-up interviews.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Karen Wevers at 408-270-6827.

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