

**49ER RECEIVER  
DEANDRE SMELTER  
TRAINING HARD  
FOR UPCOMING  
SEASON – P4**



**KAINOS SPECIAL  
OLYMPICS DANCE  
TROOP REPRESENTS  
US AT THE 2017  
WINTER GAMES – P6**



**STUDENTS WIN  
MEDALS AT 2017  
SKILLSUSA  
LEADERSHIP  
COMPETITION – P18**



MARCH 24–APRIL 6, 2017 ■ VOL. 30, NO. 7

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# Almaden Times

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"Any trees within 10 feet to either side of gas transmission lines pose a safety risk," says PG&E spokesman Jeff Smith.

## PG&E to remove 130 trees along Almaden Expressway

By Lorraine Gabbert  
Senior Staff Writer

About 130 trees along Almaden Expressway, between McAbee Road and Rajkovich Way, are facing the chopping block this spring due to their locations near Pacific Gas and Electric's (PG&E) gas transmission lines.

"Any trees within 10 feet to either side of gas transmission lines pose a safety risk," says PG&E spokesman Jeff Smith. "We looked at 340 trees and determined 130 will have to be replaced."

"The removal of any tree is regrettable," says Almaden Valley Community Association (AVCA) Board Member Bob Strain, "and removing 130 trees is clearly going to change the look and feel of the neighborhood."

Initially, PG&E conducted an aerial GPS search of their entire gas



"They showed me 210 trees... now they dwindled it down, but that's still 130 trees less than we have," said city councilmember Johnny Khamis.

transmission system. From that, they were able to pinpoint the trees, sheds and swimming pools built directly over gas transmission lines. "We were able to get a general idea of where we had to take a closer look on the ground," says Smith.

"They showed me 210 trees they were looking at," says Councilmember Johnny Khamis, "and I said, 'You've got to be out of your mind.' Now they dwindled it down, but that's still 130 trees less than we have." Ironically, Khamis had been working for the past two years to plant 100 more trees along Almaden Expressway. "I was going in the opposite direction completely," he says, "begging the County to allow us to plant trees and working with the Rotary Club and City Forest on a maintenance program." He even had 43 trees donated. "Then this

See PG&E, page 15



## Retrospective: Almaden Tree Planting Project '88

By William Bellou  
Publisher

It was an exciting morning on April 23, 1988 when several hundred of Almaden Valley residents who converged on Almaden Expressway to plant trees along Almaden Expressway.

The temperature was 51 degrees at 9 a.m. as children, teens and adults picked up their shovels and participated in the 3 hour tree planting event called Trees for Almaden project, which was funded by the City of San Jose's San Jose Beautiful program. Before the tree planting started, Almaden Feed & Fuel treated everyone to a free breakfast.

The Almaden tree planting project also raised funds from Almaden Valley residents, home builders, and local businesses. Many residents donated \$7.50, which was the cost of one tree planted along the Almaden Expressway.

Photos courtesy of Maureen Smith



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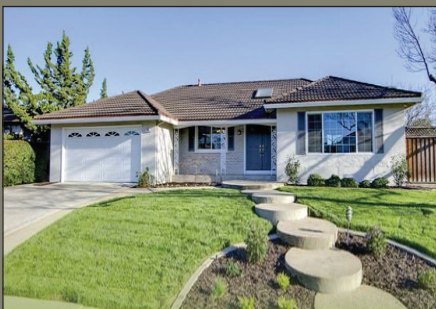
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## This Week:

### NEWS

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### COMMUNITY

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### ARTS

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# Valley Currents

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

## 49er wide receiver DeAndre Smelter training hard for coming season

By Sunay Sanghani  
Times Staff Writer

Recently, I had a chance to meet and interview with San Francisco 49ers wide receiver DeAndre Smelter (#18).

Smelter was drafted by the 49ers in 2015 and will be starting his third year.

He recently played his first game with the Niners at the end of the season against the Seahawks. This is what he had to say:

**Sunay Sanghani:** You came off an up and down year, you ended a season on a high note, speaking of that, a lot of people are hyped right now because you had that big catch in your first game but what are you doing to prepare this summer?

**DeAndre Smelter:** Right now, I'm just trying to keep my body right and in shape and stay focused by going in the OTA's.

**SS:** You have a new and smart offensive-minded coach in Kyle Shanahan along with a brand new staff, what do you think this young team has to do to get better?

**DS:** With this new staff, all of us need to come and just need to be in a mindset to work with each other.

**SS:** This 49ers team has a receiving core which is fairly young, what do you think you and your teammates need to do to improve and get better this upcoming year?

**DS:** Next year we got to go. I'm sure all of us are training right now and getting ready for next year, so we just got to be ready to work to be better as a whole unit.

**SS:** Your quarterback, Colin Kaepernick was one of the most talked about players last year, and I'm sure he throws really hard too, but other than that, what is one thing you have learned from him? What do you think makes him unique?

**DS:** [laughs] First thing I think of when I think of Kap is that he is a leader and he carries himself like a leader. Also one other thing is his preparation. It is like no one else's; he prepares a lot and it shows off on the field. Nobody's more prepared to help us win than him.



49er wide receiver DeAndre Smelter is interviewed by reporter Sunay Sanghani.



## Volunteers gather at Kelley Park flood for clean-up

Mayor Sam Liccardo joined volunteers cleaning up Kelley Park and the Rock Springs neighborhood on March 5.

Joining the Mayor was Lara Lee (above left), president of Orchard Supply Hardware. Orchard Supply Hardware has donated \$30,000 of product to the clean-up efforts, including cleaning supplies, wet/dry vacuums and hoses.

The Zoo has been closed to visitors, but

the upper zoo area which includes the rides area was open to guests this week. The Zoo in the Hollow (lower zoo area) will remain closed until all cleanup has taken place.

Happy Hollow Zoo is offering a reduced admission of \$9.25 per person as well as \$6 parking fee. Patrons were advised to use the Main Parking lot located at 748 Story Road. The Parking Lot at 1300 Senter Road remains closed.

## LET THE ALMADEN TIMES HEAR FROM YOU!

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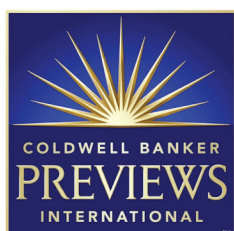
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Times **Local News**

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Being expert in their craft, the Special Olympics Dance performers interpret songs and lyric skillfully.

## Kainos Special Olympics Dance Troop represents US going for gold at the 2017 winter games

*Those with disabilities offer  
us the gift of inclusion*

By Kevin Larsen  
Times staff writer

Kainos Home & Training Center is sending six residents and five community volunteers to participate in the 2017 Special Olympics Winter Games in Graz, Austria.

The center helps individuals to live active and fulfilled lives and for all who speak to the athletes and watch them goose bumps happen because they help teach us about the thrill of competition and love.

**“Dancing with the Stars” celebrity  
Louis Van Amstel gives invitation**

Residents are honored that Special Olympics Ambassador Louis Van Amstel (of Dancing with the Stars) has personally invited all to come to Austria to try to win a medal.

**ClubSport helps it all to happen**

Many comment that ClubSport is one of the best fitness gyms in San Jose near the Silver Creek Country Club. It's enormous with amenities for the whole family. April Gonzalez, Program Marketing Director of ClubSport states, “I am so very proud of all the hard work the Kainos Special Olympics Dance Group have put into doing their performance. They bring a lot of joy into our facility.”

**Director Kirsten Johnson leads the choreography**

“It is a lot of fun and I am grateful to be part of the experience,” said Kirsten Johnson, Choreographer. As the performance is practiced and careful refinements are made, Johnson exerts powerful leadership tempered

with kind guidance which ensures all athletes are in synch, executing each move with the delicate grace necessary to position the team for the gold medal.

**Volunteers gracefully glide hand in hand  
during the performances**

Volunteers hold one hand and are harmoniously led by the skill and athleticism of each Olympic participant. Schandelle “Shea” Acosta states, “Unbelievable, it is just unbelievable that Kainos has been able to work with the community to make dreams come true.” Cheryle McGovern said, “I love it!” Ann Morrison said simply, “thrilled!” Gina Reidy stated, “this is an amazing moving experience... I have joy on the Wednesday and Saturday practices...It is an incredible challenge for the group and I have seen them all grow from taking baby steps to getting the feel of the music and then learning the complete choreography.” It was seen that during the rehearsals they were masterful!

**Jennifer**

This Special Olympics performer stated, “happy...good job to everybody.”

**Tod**

“I like to be with the staff...so great...they help my heart...we are going to have a good time...good luck to all of us,” Tod said.

**Paula**

“This is my first thing to say... sometimes...when I am with her (my partner)...dancing...very special to me,” Paula stated.

**Eric**

Eric has participated at top levels in past National Games for Special Olympics gymnastics. He is seen summersaulting solo and doing cart wheels with his very own

See DANCE, page 8



The skill and athleticism of each Olympic participant is celebrated.





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## Times Community News

# Let's make it simple for residents to report illegal dumping

By Dave Cortese  
*Special to the Times*

It doesn't take much to create a dump.

First, someone drops off a beat-up sofa along the side of a road, at the end of a street or on a vacant lot. That invites someone else to leave a pile of garbage, a worn-out refrigerator, a broken table and construction waste. Before long, these illegal dumpers have created a mini-landfill.

Judging by phone calls to my office and the offices of my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors, these unsightly, and sometimes dangerous, blight deposits have been on the rise, causing enormous frustration for residents and the officials who represent them.

So, I was bewildered at the February meeting of the Housing, Land Use, Environment and Transportation Committee, which I chair, to hear a report that incidents of illegal dumping in 2015 and 2016 amounted to 75 each year throughout the entire County.

I believe those numbers are way too low. But I also think the numbers are a reflection of how hard it is for the average resident to report illegal dumping in Santa Clara County. If we made it easier, I believe the numbers of reports would go up, and the sites could get cleaned up more quickly. Here's how it works now:

To report illegal dumping on a County Road or Expressway, you need to visit [sccgov.org](http://sccgov.org), fill out a service request forum or download a Mobile Citizen App on your smartphone so you can take a photo of the debris and send it to Roads and Airports Department. Unless it is after work hours or on weekends, then you call 408-299-2506 to reach County Roads and Airports.

Residents in the Santa Clara County unincorporated area can also file a complaint about excessive junk on private property by calling County of Santa Clara Code Enforcement 408.299.5770. Dumping-in-progress reports should go to the Santa Clara County Sheriff



### County Report

By Dave Cortese  
Supervisor

Department's non-emergency line at 408.299.2311.

District 3 residents who live within the City of San Jose can report illegal dumping by calling the Customer Contact Center at 408-535-3500. Dumping-in-progress reports should go to the San Jose Police Department non-emergency line at 408.277.8900.

If you see anything dumped in or near a storm drain, it could affect the quality of water, so you would call the Clean Water Program at 408.299.2506, unless it's after business hours or on weekends, then it's

the County Roads and Airports. The Santa Clara Valley Water District also has a pollution hotline to call at Pollution Hotline at 1-888-510-5151 for incidents in the SCVWD jurisdiction.

There are more numbers, but you get the idea. Too many phone numbers! I'm advocating for a single Illegal Dumping Hotline. One number to report any discovery of trash. Then County staff can route the report to the appropriate responder, and put the cleanup in motion.

The County administration is working on setting up a hotline and also a mobile phone app to help residents report illegal dumping. I'm expecting it to happen in the next 60 days, so that we can get it working ASAP. I will keep you updated. It couldn't happen too soon for me.

Also on the topic of cleaning up our environment, the County has entered into agreements with Caltrans to address illegal dumping along state highways and interchanges in the County, at no cost to the County.

Caltrans will hire the San Jose Conservation Corps to clean up litter and trash through 2018. Caltrans will also fund the Probation Department to work with the Center for Employment Opportunities to supervise and train probationers to clean up trash along other Caltrans areas. The total investment by Caltrans for these two agreements is \$3.7 million.

Here's to a cleaner Santa Clara County!

*If you have questions, please call my office at 408-299-5030 or email me at [dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:dave.cortese@bos.sccgov.org).*



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## Dance

*Continued from page 6*

independent choreography through the entire presentation. His gold colored professional dancing attired appeared top, let's all know what medal he is striving to obtain overseas in this month of March 2017. He states, "It feels so good, I feel I am a good dancer... I love following my dreams."

**Julie**

"I feel happy to go on vacation... I like to dance all the time. I dance outside too. Dancing is my dream ...I like everybody," she stated.

**The choreography is thought by many to be incredible**

"Good morning to all, the Kainos Special Olympics Dance Group will be performing their rehearsal...we are all so excited for them... join us in the fitness studio for they start in a few minutes," stated April Gonzalez of ClubSport who effortlessly and professionally used the intercom to broadcast the announcement throughout the ClubSport facility.

Anticipation built up for the gallery of onlookers as they walked through the door of the fitness studio which offered a professional dancing floor with assistance of mirrors on

one full wall so that performers during practices could hone their skills over time.

**A movable feast for the eyes**

*Never do they look down, always they show they command the moves and subject matter with poise for the rehearsal of these two performances, after all they are going for the gold and everyone knows it too!*

Being expert in their craft, the performers interpret the song and lyrics with the use of the rumba, paso doble and salsa dance influences in the first performance and skillfully switch to disco in the second unbelievable separate presentation. The audience was breathless. Shimmer-ing pink skirts and black leotards grace the girls as they maneuver smoothly in their jazz black shoes while delicately spinning and stretching with the grace and ease of swans while holding their partner's hand. Tod also moves with strength and skill while Eric breaks free with spins, twirls, cartwheels and summersaults. Many comment that he is at the pinnacle of expressiveness in a dance performance and of course this was built upon his earlier gymnastics competition in years past. Fairly and decisively, it will all up to the judges to mark on their cards in Austria to score the winning team.

*For more information visit: [kainosusa.org](http://kainosusa.org).*





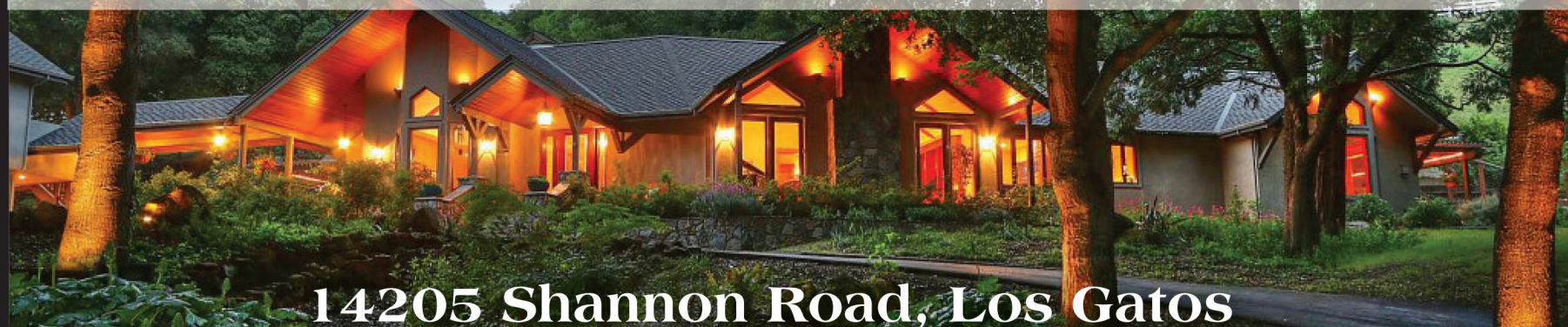
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SALE PRICE \$20,823  
DODGE 20% SELECT INV. REBATE \$4,846

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

**\$15,977**

2 AT THIS NET PRICE #552988, 562592

**2017 CHRYSLER PACIFICA**

MSRP \$29,500  
DEALER DISCOUNT \$5,113  
SALE PRICE \$24,387  
CHRYSLER CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH \$1,800  
CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH\*\* \$500  
CHRYSLER RETAIL CONSUMER BONUS \$1,000  
CHRYSLER FINANCIAL BONUS \$500

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

**\$20,977**

3 TO CHOOSE AT THIS NET PRICE #63178, 63177, 684715

**2017 CHRYSLER 300C**

MSRP \$24,590  
DEALER DISCOUNT \$3,412  
SALE PRICE \$21,178  
JEEP CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH \$4,000  
CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH\*\* \$500

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

**\$10,000**

1 AT THIS NET SAVINGS #526815

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**2017 DODGE CHALLENGER R/T 392**

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1 AT THIS LEASE OFFER #594951

**NEW 2016 DODGE CHARGER HELLCAT**

LEASE FOR **\$559** /MO. PLUS TAX

36 MO. LEASE \$559 DUE AT SIGNING, INCLUDES \$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT, 10K MILES PER YEAR, \$40/MILE AFTER 30K MILES, SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL.

1 AT THIS LEASE OFFER #334962

**2017 DODGE CHALLENGER HELLCAT**

LEASE FOR **\$589** /MO. PLUS TAX

36 MO. LEASE \$589 DUE AT SIGNING, INCLUDES \$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT, 10K MILES PER YEAR, \$40/MILE AFTER 30K MILES, SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL.

1 AT THIS LEASE OFFER #500796

**NEW 2016 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE SRT**

LEASE FOR **\$12,000** DEALER DISCOUNT OFF MSRP

1 AT THIS DISCOUNT #503728

**NEW 2016 DODGE CHALLENGER SCAT PACK**

LEASE FOR **\$11,777** DEALER DISCOUNT OFF MSRP

1 AT THIS DISCOUNT #337302

**2017 DODGE CHARGER**

LEASE FOR **\$22,988** DEALER DISCOUNT OFF MSRP

1 AT THIS NET PRICE #552859

**TRUCKS**

**2017 RAM 1500**

AUTOMATIC BUSINESS OWNERS SPECIAL!

MSRP \$27,715  
DEALER DISCOUNT \$4,348  
SALE PRICE \$23,367  
RAM CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH \$1,800  
CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH\*\* \$500  
RAM 2017 ON-HIGH-JOB COMMERCIAL UTILITY GRAPHICS\*\*\* \$1,000  
RAM CA 2017 BONUS CASH \$1,000  
RAM CA 2017 RETAIL BONUS CASH \$1,000

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

**\$17,777**

2 AT THIS NET PRICE #572853, 579209

**2017 RAM 1500 4-DOOR**

BUSINESS OWNERS SPECIAL!

MSRP \$32,515  
DEALER DISCOUNT \$5,113  
SALE PRICE \$27,402  
RAM CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH \$1,800  
CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH\*\* \$500  
RAM 2017 ON-HIGH-JOB COMMERCIAL UTILITY GRAPHICS\*\*\* \$1,000  
RAM CA 2017 BONUS CASH \$1,000  
RAM CA 2017 RETAIL BONUS CASH \$1,000

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

**\$22,977**

HURRY! 1 LEFT AT THIS NET PRICE #585064

**2017 RAM 1500 LARAMIE CREW CAB 4X4**

BUSINESS OWNERS SPECIAL!

MSRP \$32,515  
DEALER DISCOUNT \$5,113  
SALE PRICE \$27,402  
RAM CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH \$1,800  
CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH\*\* \$500  
RAM 2017 ON-HIGH-JOB COMMERCIAL UTILITY GRAPHICS\*\*\* \$1,000  
RAM CA 2017 BONUS CASH \$1,000  
RAM CA 2017 RETAIL BONUS CASH \$1,000

NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

**\$12,000**

1 AT THIS NET SAVINGS #606444

**2017 RAM 2500 LONGHORN CREW CAB DIESEL 4X4**

MSRP \$49,877  
DEALER DISCOUNT \$11,500  
SALE PRICE \$38,377  
RAM CA 2017 BONUS CASH \$1,000  
RAM CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH \$1,750

NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

**\$13,077**

1 AT THIS NET SAVINGS #532242

**NEW 2017 3500 SLT TRUCK CREW CAB DIESEL**

MSRP \$10,827  
DEALER DISCOUNT \$1,800  
SALE PRICE \$9,027  
RAM CA 2017 BONUS CASH \$1,000  
RAM CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH \$1,750

NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES

**\$13,077**

1 AT THIS NET SAVINGS #603375

**NEW 2016 RAM 3500 CAB CHASSIS WITH UTILITY BOX**

MSRP \$12,000  
DEALER DISCOUNT \$1,800  
SALE PRICE \$10,200

1 AT THIS DISCOUNT #359536

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## Times Local News

## Three Almaden graduates announced by Georgia Tech

The Georgia Institute of Technology presented degrees to three graduates from Almaden Valley: Benjamin Carpenter, Master of Science in Computer Science, Antoine Gillot, Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, and Dong Geun Lee, Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

More than 3,000 undergraduate and graduate students received degrees during the Institute's 252nd Commencement exercises at the McCamish Pavilion.

One of the nation's leading research universities, the Georgia Institute of Technology is in the business of creating the next - the next idea, the next technology, and the next legion of agile minds well equipped to imagine and engineer our future.

More than 25,000 undergraduate and graduate students are enrolled, and Georgia Tech is ranked in the nation's top 10 public universities by *U.S. News and World Report*.

## Almaden Senior Association accepting Requests for Funding

The Almaden Senior Association is accepting Requests for Funding (RFF) from local organizations for contributions that benefit the community and seniors within the community.

The Almaden Senior Association prides itself in enhancing the quality of life for local seniors, individuals and families by providing meaningful activities and entertainment while at the same time supporting organizations that improve the community.

Applications and/or information can be obtained by emailing asa.rff6@gmail.com. All applications must be submitted on or before October 1, 2017. They may be submitted by email to: asa.rff6@gmail.com, or by regular mail to: Almaden Seniors-RFF, 6455 Camden Ave, San Jose, CA 95120

## Pioneer graduate Trazo earns Dean's Award with Distinction at Colgate University

Pioneer High School graduate Talitha Angelica Trazo has earned the fall Dean's Award with Distinction at Colgate University class of 2017.

The Dean's Award with Distinction at Colgate is awarded to students with a 3.6 or higher term average.

Colgate University is a highly selective residential liberal arts institution distinguished by its commitment to global engagement, student-faculty research, and utilizing technology to enhance the teaching and learning experience. Since 1819, the university's campus in rural central New York has been renowned for its beauty and for the important role it plays in the student experience.

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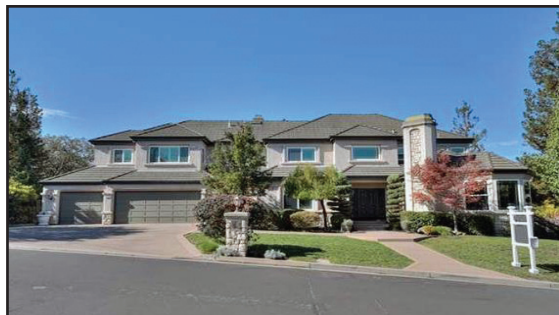
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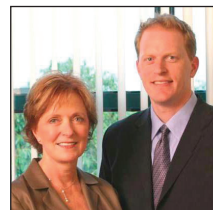
**ALMADEN VALLEY \$3,295,000**  
5 BR 4.5 BA Magnificent custom built "Estate" w/over 5,000 SF on almost 2 acres! Too many amenities to list! A must see!  
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**PLEASANTON \$2,399,000**  
6 BR 4 BA Kottinger Ranch Beauty custom built home. Backyard is entertainers delight with pool, built in BBQ, deck & grass area.  
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**ALMADEN VALLEY \$1,688,888**  
5 BR 4 BA Gorgeous, updated home in a quiet, convenient location. Super landscaped backyard: Pergola patio, lawn, pool/spa.  
**Kim Hansen,**  
CalBRE # 01927728  
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**ALMADEN VALLEY \$1,378,000**  
4 BR 2 BA This Could Be the One! Picture perfect remodeled ranch style home. Extra large lot with gorgeous backyard! Top Schools- Leland HS.  
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**ALMADEN VALLEY \$1,250,000**  
4 BR 2 BA Desirable Almaden Valley neighborhood with top rated schools. Spacious, immaculate light filled home. Absolute move in ready condition  
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**CAMBRIAN \$869,000**  
3 BR 2 BA Contemporary classic ranch home Features hardwood floors, AC, & plantation shutters. Beautiful backyard with a peaceful water feature!  
**Kerry McCarty,** CalBRE  
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**THE VILLAGES GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB \$775,000**  
2 BR 2 BA Spacious bright condo is ideal floor-plan. Features high ceilings, recessed lighting, & eat in kitchen. RonMasonRealtor.com  
**Ron Mason,** CalBRE #01145613  
408-896-6794



**BLOSSOM VALLEY \$750,000**  
4 BR 2.5 BA Wonderful Erikson Neighborhood Opportunity to make this your dream home, but bring your contractor!  
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# Welcome Gary and Robert.

[gary@garyandrobert.com](mailto:gary@garyandrobert.com)  
408.315.2377

[robert@garyandrobert.com](mailto:robert@garyandrobert.com)  
408.313.8870

Global sales leaders and innovators, Gary and Robert's successful business has enjoyed 47 years of respected long-term relationships by delivering a positive real estate experience for clients. The proof? Top 1% of agents in their marketplace and five star ratings given by clients. They attribute their success to "clean, honest real estate". As second generation South Bay realtors they love what they do and are driven by protecting the best interests of their clients. KW Bay Area Estate is proud to welcome Gary Shapiro and Robert Gosalvez and their team of professionals!

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Over  
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successful  
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AGENTS  
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## THE GOSS REAL ESTATE GROUP PRESENTS

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## 6167 Heathercreek Way, Blossom Valley

JUST LISTED! This fabulous Blossom Valley home is located close to the Santa Teresa foothills and features 4 bedrooms; 2.5 baths; 1,937 SF of living space; remodeled kitchen with granite counters, tile backsplash, breakfast bar & stainless steel appliances; living room/dining room combo; separate family room with fireplace; upstairs master suite with double door entry & dual closets; hardwood flooring; double pane windows; central forced air heating & A/C; ceiling fans; recessed lighting; 2 car garage; nicely landscaped with built-in pool & hot tub.

Offered At \$975,000

## 9620 Blue Heron Court, Gilroy

JUST LISTED! Located on a large cul-de-sac lot, features of this fabulous Gilroy home include 6 bedrooms; 3.5 baths; 2,562 SF of living space; beautiful kitchen with granite counters, glass tile backsplash, loads of cabinets, breakfast bar, stainless steel appliances & recessed lighting; living room/dining room combo; separate family room with fireplace; upstairs master suite with walk-in closet & vaulted ceiling; downstairs bedroom suite with full bath; hardwood flooring; double pane windows; central forced air heating & air conditioning; ceiling fans; recessed lighting; 2 car garage; nicely landscaped with huge rear yard.

Offered At \$779,900

FOR SALE



FOR SALE



18693 Carriage Hill Drive, Almaden Valley  
5 Bedrooms | 4 Baths | 4,273 SF | \$2,750,000



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2352 La Terrace Circle, Blossom Valley  
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21292 Bertram Road, Almaden Valley  
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Times **Features**

# To mediate or arbitrate... or neither? That is the question

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

This Week's Question:

"I have a small business here in the Almaden Valley. Often I am asked to sign contracts with various vendors. Sometimes the contracts have a mediation provision and sometimes they have an arbitration provision. What is best for me?"

**Willie N.**  
*Almaden Valley*

Dear Willie:

You emailed in a very good question, and it is one that many of our *Almaden Times* readers may have to analyze for themselves from time to time.

Mediation and arbitration are the two types of ways to possibly settle disputes before they end up in court. They are often referred to as "Alternate Dispute Resolution" procedures.

Of course, if a dispute ends up in court, both sides are usually looking at considerable expense, delay, and lack of privacy in working out their differences, often with long-term negative effects, stress and a really expensive attorney bill.

It should be pointed out that both mediation and arbitration have their advantages and disadvantages, and neither is an absolute cure-all for every given situation. You will want to think it over before you sign that contract and very possibly see your own attorney for legal advice.

Mediation generally consists of one or more meetings whereby both sides (or all

sides) attend one or more sessions with a trained mediator to work out a settlement of the dispute.

Obviously, having a successful mediation often depends on the skill of the mediator, but if the chemistry of the parties is terrible, the best mediator in the world cannot help settle the dispute.

Mediation is usually optional in terms of trying to work out a settlement. In other words, if it works, fine, and a settlement agreement is prepared and signed. If it doesn't work, it's off to court you go.

One of the advantages of mediation is that a dispute might be settled early and less expensively when settlement is explored early. A contract might require mediation before a lawsuit is filed.

Another advantage of mediation is that it might provide an opportunity for informal discovery to clarify the issues involved in the dispute.

Binding arbitration, on the other hand, is often "final" in a sense, in that it often takes the place of court proceedings. A contract might provide that an arbitrator will decide the dispute and the court process is waived or cancelled.

If the arbitration is "binding", it eliminates the right to appeal, which is a valuable right. You need to think about that.

Also, if the arbitration agreement is very



## Ask the Lawyer

**Steven R. Roeser, Esq.**  
Attorney at Law

broad, the arbitrator could even be a lay person without legal training. You also need to think about that. Qualifications of the arbitrator are very important.

Another disadvantage of arbitration is that a motion in court that disposes of the case is generally not possible since court proceedings are not available. The same is true of discovery where each side can learn more about the case from the other side.

Another negative of arbitration is that some rules of evidence are basically ignored, so that hearsay and other information is considered. Expert testimony also may not be allowed in the arbitration proceeding.

On the other hand, large jury verdicts might be avoided with arbitration and it is often less expensive than costly litigation. However, since a very small percentage of cases actually go to a jury trial, this may be less of a factor.

Another advantage of arbitration is that it

is usually faster than litigation, as well as more efficient and hence less costly in lawyer fees and related expenses.

The truth is there are no magic answers to your question. Sometimes you or your attorney might be able to negotiate a suitable provision that meets your needs. And, as a practical matter, the other side in your business deal might just say it's a "take it leave it" issue because of their superior bargaining position. In other words, you might be asked to sign their contract as is or there will be no contract. You should always have competent counsel negotiate your business contracts so you do not end up in a dispute where it is far too late.

Until next time ...

Kindest Regards,  
**Steven R. Roeser, Esq.**

You can reach Mr. Roeser with your questions by email at [steve@roeserlaw.net](mailto: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](http://www.almadenvalleylawyers.com)

## Etiquette Classes for millennials

By **Sean Eastwood**  
*Times staff writer*

**M**illennials, heavy users of social media, are smart when it comes to the digital age — but when it comes to real socializing, well, it's a different story.

The hottest seminar business now, sometimes selling out in just a few hours, is teaching millennials etiquette after realizing there is a huge market helping millennials get ahead in the business world, and yes, dating. The seminars cost about \$75.

"I think, overall, the millennial generation is lacking in social skills because they're so used to computers and communicating by text messaging," said Myka Meyer of Beaumont Etiquette.

Meyer said that there's nothing more impressive than somebody who knows how to eat correctly with their knife and fork.

Seminar etiquette experts show millennials how to avoid embarrassment while eating. Their instruction includes how to hold your cutlery a certain way. To take a break, place your silverware down in a "v" on your plate.

And don't forget, there's also proper way to hold a wine glass

"This is something people do wrong, especially if it's red wine. So we always say, you hold it at the stem," Meyer explained.

"Which means whoever is the person that invited the other person out, is the person who should pay," said Meyer.

Etiquette experts say doing a few simple things can make a big difference.

So, put your phone away, keep your shoulders square, chin up, eyes forward, and smile.



**Myka Meyer** of Beaumont Etiquette

## Happiness level for San Jose revealed

Earliest this week (March 20) was International Day of Happiness.

The personal-finance website WalletHub released its report on 2017's Happiest Places to Live, including San Jose, CA.

In order to determine where people in America are most content with their lives, WalletHub's analysts compared 150 of the largest U.S. cities across 30 key indicators of happiness. The data set ranges from depression rate to income-growth rate to average leisure time spent per day.

Happiness in San Jose (1=Happiest)

- 10th – Depression Rate
- 48th – Adequate-Sleep Rate
- 16th – Suicide Rate
- 45th – Sports-Participation Rate
- 7th – Obesity Rate
- 13th – Volunteer Rate
- 10th – Separation & Divorce Rate
- 58th – Hours Worked per Week
- 37th – Income Growth Rate

For the full report, please visit: [wallethub.com/edu/happiest-places-to-live/32619](http://wallethub.com/edu/happiest-places-to-live/32619)



## 2017 Martin-Fontana Parks Association Board installed

The new 2017 Martin-Fontana Parks Association Board of Directors have been installed. Pictured (l to r) are: **Pat Wagstaff** (Recording Secretary), **Greg Caillat** (Director), **Robert Braunstein** (Director), **Sunny Wagstaff** (Director), **Mike Kalashian** (Treasurer), **Rich Grialou** (Director), **Dick Stevens** (PG&E Negotiations Chair but not a Board member), **Linda Wilson** (Past President), **Rod Carpenter** (President), and **Linda Opp** (Correspondence Secretary). Not pictured: Vice President, **Rich Zahner**.

## City of San Jose taking applications for Community Services Aide positions

**T**he City of San Jose is recruiting for Community Service Aides (CSAs) for the summer.

The position is posted on our City of San Jose website. Please feel free to distribute this to other agencies and youth that you may work with.

This positions offer opportunities for your youth to obtain employment with the City and begin to build their resumes by working at local

community centers, parks, and even Happy Hollow Park & Zoo.

The Community Services Aid positions are open for anyone that is 14 years or older, so everyone is encouraged to apply.

Applications are expected to close once a sufficient amount of applications have been received.

Minimum qualifications include ability to work one hour in the morning and one hour in the afternoon every school day during school start and end times.

Applicants must show possession of a valid State of California driver's license, access to a motor vehicle, and other qualifications.

To apply, visit: [sanjoseca.taleo.net/careersection/ex/jobsearch.ft](http://sanjoseca.taleo.net/careersection/ex/jobsearch.ft)



## PG&E

*Continued from page 1*

came and put a big kibosh on everything I was trying to do to beautify the expressway.”

PG&E’s plan to cut down hundreds of trees in Palo Alto, Scotts Valley, Walnut Creek and Willow Glen enraged those communities. Following the utility’s plan to remove 300 trees between Santa Cruz and Felton, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors said, “any other project in the county with such a huge environmental impact...would require a published environmental report that includes public input.” Palo Alto city officials required PG&E to allow a public assessment of the environmental impact of removing their threatened trees, while Walnut Creek pressured the utility to re-evaluate trees near a pipeline and provide supporting evidence for their removal.

Khamis says he is extremely disheartened about the removal of the trees, but he also understands PG&E’s needs.

Trees, brush and structures can block firefighters’ access during emergencies and prevent utility crews from performing safety and maintenance work. Tree roots also pose a safety risk because they can damage the protective coating of underground pipelines, leading to corrosion and leaks.

“Over the last several years, PG&E has been doing an extensive study of our gas transmission system and how we can make it as safe as possible,” says Smith. “An area of concern to first responders is being able to access our gas transmission lines in the event of an emergency or natural disaster. It’s the same reason you can’t park your car in front of a fire hydrant; it’s not that fire fighters need access to the fire hydrant on a daily or even weekly basis, but in the event of an emergency, they need it immediately and unobstructed. We want to make sure that if there is a break, a pipe can be accessed quickly without something getting in the way.”

PG&E has been closely monitoring the pipelines since the 2010 San Bruno pipeline explosion resulted in a fire, which killed eight people and destroyed 38 homes. In 2015, the utility developed a statewide Community Pipeline Safety Initiative to ensure its 6,750-mile gas transmission pipeline is unobstructed.

“Clearing obstructions to a gas line will not only save time, it may help save lives,” said Tim Main, South Santa Clara district battalion chief. “It will make sure our firefighters and all emergency response teams can get to the pipeline quickly and safely.”

“We understand people’s attachment to trees,” says Smith, “and are trying to limit the impact.” Smith says that PG&E considered moving the pipeline, but found that the environmental impact of moving it affected an even greater number of trees and had a larger impact than leaving it where it was.

“It’s unfortunate, but it does seem that these trees need to be removed if PG&E is going to protect the gas pipelines from roots and provide quick emergency access,” says Sierra Club Guadalupe Regional Group’s Conservation Committee Chair Dave Poeschel.

“Unlike our fight with PG&E over the 140 trees they wanted to remove in TJ Martin and Jeffery Fontana Parks, where their blanket rules did not make sense and where we were able to save most the trees, I think we’re going to have to accept the loss of the trees on or near the pipeline.”

“That the need to remove so many trees on Almaden Expressway comes down to safety does make sense,” says Almaden Valley resi-

dent Mary Ann Holly. “I was pleased...the oleander shrubs also in the median strip...it sounds like they will remain, which would be wonderful.”

Even though PG&E pledges to restore the areas following the trees removal to preserve its natural beauty, some residents are not convinced.

“As I look at the county tree ordinance, it appears that PG&E has no obligation to obtain permits or to restore any sort of vegetation,” says Strain. “I understand they plan to leave stumps of unknown height, and I have not heard any commitment to maintain the aesthetics of the area. Clearly, we have no interest in repeating San Bruno in Almaden Valley, although I have not seen any comment from the San Jose Fire Department on the efficacy of PG&E’s plan.”

“They said they’re negotiating with the city on beautification, but an agreement isn’t worked out yet,” says resident Jim Johnson. “I don’t want a bunch of stumps left around.”

“Safety needs to take precedence over the trees, but PG&E has to compensate us aesthetically,” says resident Jason Spitcer. “If median trees have to be taken out, landscapes should be added.”

“I don’t want a desertscape,” says Khamis. “I told them they can’t leave the median ugly with stumps everywhere. I hope they listen. I hope the County makes sure they do the right thing.”

Poeschel allows that the City and County don’t have much leverage as the California Public Utilities Commission regulates PG&E, but says that PG&E should be held accountable for replacing and maintaining the trees until they are fully established, including watering them for three years.

Smith says that PG&E will not leave stumps behind and will landscape, leaving everything better than they found it. The utility also says it will replace the trees it removes with saplings planted a safe distance from the pipes and take full responsibility for the maintenance of the new trees through offering compensation. “Costs associated with the new trees will be paid for by PG&E,” says Smith.

“It’s important to get as many trees on Almaden Expressway as possible,” says Poeschel, “not just for their beauty, but because trees dampen noise, provide cooling shade, absorb pollution and provide fresh air. Trees can help reduce the fine particulate pollution generated by expressways, which permanently impair lung capacity and can cause other cardiovascular disease. So, the removal and replacement of trees is a real health and safety issue.”

Poeschel hopes, with the help of the California Native Plant Society, that varieties of shallow-rooted, drought-tolerant, and low-maintenance shrubs and ground cover can be chosen to replace the trees removed by PG&E where trees are not appropriate.

Before proceeding, PG&E will work with community leaders and the city arborist to determine where the new trees will go. PG&E recently met with the Martin-Fontana Park Association Board, which is not fighting them on the tree removals as they believe that PG&E is committed to replacing the trees. “We did not object to the idea and talked generally about numbers, types and location,” they said. The Board suggested planting a number of trees in both TJ Martin and Jeffrey Fontana Parks.

*For further information on PG&E’s Community Pipeline Safety Initiative, see: [www.pge.com/en\\_US/safety/gas-safety/safety-initiatives/emergency-access.page](http://www.pge.com/en_US/safety/gas-safety/safety-initiatives/emergency-access.page) or call (877) 259-8314. To view PG&E’s gas transmission system, see: [pge.com/pipelinelocations](http://pge.com/pipelinelocations).*



Councilmember Khamis says he is extremely disheartened about the removal of the trees, such as this giant, but he also understands PG&E’s needs.

## Decade-by-decade strategies for your financial future

By Lloyd Coleman  
*Special to the Times*

For each decade of life, there are different financial concerns.

Being strategic during each decade can help you create a step-by-step path to financial independence and a future of living on your own terms.

### Here’s a decade-by-decade overview:

#### 20’s

Chances are, coming out of college you have debt. For many, it can be a lot of debt – so much debt that saving for retirement can seem impossible. But saving for retirement in your 20’s is important. Make it your goal to cut back as much spending possible to knock out your debt as fast as possible.

#### 30’s

Big homes and fancy cars can be a temptation now that you and your spouse have jobs. But if your income is limited like most 30-somethings, a mortgage and car payment that prevents you from saving could be a strategy to reconsider. Position yourself to save at least 10% of your income.

#### 40’s

Now is not a time to be in debt and paying on credit cards and loans. If possible, consider increasing the amount of income you’re saving. If you can increase from 10% to 15% or higher, it could make a substantial differ-

ence in how your savings grow during these peak years of your career. If you haven’t already, this is a great time to look past traditional savings accounts at strategies for growing your money that could be more advantageous.

#### 50’s

Start getting ready for retirement. Keep an eye on your various retirement accounts and be sure to have a sharp financial professional at your side. Don’t stop contributing to your accounts. Spend the time to run the numbers on what your retirement income might look like.

#### 60’s

Be strategic about the right time to retire. Look closely at your goals. How close are you? What final course corrections might be important or necessary? Calculate how much higher your savings might be if you work a few more years. Factor in a projection for what kind of

Social Security income you might receive. Keep your will current and documents in order.

Do you have questions concerning what you should be thinking about in your current decade of life?

*Contact me, and let’s think about it together!*  
Lloyd Coleman, WFG, San Jose, CA. Lic #0J16991, phone (408) 772-3410, or email [lloyd-coleman@gmx.com](mailto:lloyd-coleman@gmx.com).



**Your  
Finances**  
Lloyd Coleman, WFG



Times **Community news**

**Pioneer Drama Presents**

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# 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





AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), Team Blue 3 is restoring and protecting Santa Clara County Parks.

## AmeriCorps NCCC restoring and protecting Santa Clara County Parks after recent storm damage

AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), Team Blue 3 is restoring and protecting Santa Clara County Parks.

The NCCC is has been focusing on repairing the recent, significant storm damage at both Hellyer and Santa Teresa Parks.

The team is composed of 11 members from around the United States. At Santa Clara County Parks, Blue 3 is working on erosion control, trail maintenance, invasive species removal, and historic restoration. The (NCCC) and its FEMA Corps units engage 2,800 young Americans in a full-time, 10-month commitment to service each year. AmeriCorps NCCC members address critical needs related to natural and other disasters, infrastructure improvement, environmental stewardship and conservation, and urban and rural development; FEMA Corps members are solely dedicated to disaster preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery work.

Santa Clara County Parks is dedicated to provide optimum recreational opportunities and to have people achieve an appreciation of the natural world for the citizens of the county. AmeriCorps NCCC is constructing and placing new fencing in a historical site, maintaining trails for accessibility, controlling erosion on trails, and generally beautifying parks.

Corps Member Christopher O'Mara loves the work at Santa Clara County Parks. "We are very fortunate to get to work alongside a great group of staff that have shown us around the parks at SCCP. The county members that come to their local parks definitely get a great experience!"

Before coming to Santa Clara, Blue 3 worked on disaster relief projects with the American Red Cross in Goldsboro, North Carolina to repair communities after the devastation of Hurricane Matthew, as well as working at an outdoor school in

Petaluma, California.

The Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department has provided recreational opportunities, beautiful parks and precious natural resources for Santa Clara County residents for more than 50 years.

This golden legacy has resulted in one of the largest regional park systems in the State of California. The programs are administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). CNCS is the federal agency that engages more

than five million Americans in service through its AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, Social Innovation Fund, and Volunteer Generation Fund programs, and leads President's national call to service initiative, United We Serve.

## Mustang Annual Fundraiser May 15

Reports are coming in that the number of people registering for the 2017 Mustang Stampede Golf tournament is up this year.

The annual tournament benefits Pioneer High School athletics. The event will be held at the Cinnabar Hills Golf Club on May 15.

Golfers are encouraged to add a "mega ticket" along with their (individual or foursome) registrations to ensure they have ample foot wedge, mulligan and other coupons (secret to a winning score). Register today at: [phsabc.com/2017-mustang-stampede](http://phsabc.com/2017-mustang-stampede)

For those interesting in becoming a sponsor of the event, the online registration can be found here: [phsabc.com/2017-mustang-stampede-sponsorship-sign-up](http://phsabc.com/2017-mustang-stampede-sponsorship-sign-up)





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Times Local News

<b>Gold Medals:</b>			
Bates, Aidan	Digital Cinema Production	Leland High School	SAN JOSE UHSD
Chivers, Casey	Diesel Equipment Technology	Pioneer High School	SAN JOSE UHSD
Cruz, Denisse	Basic Health Care Skills	Leigh High School	CAMPBELL UNION HSD
DeLeon, Norma	Dental Assisting	Post-Secondary Adult	
Flores, Jonathan	Automotive Service Technology	Pioneer High School	SAN JOSE UHSD
Krakov, Benjamin	Carpentry	Post-Secondary Adult	
Laugesen, Jason	Electrical Construction Wiring	Branham High School	CAMPBELL UNION HSD
Malinsky, Ryan	Welding, Sheilded Metal Arc	Leigh High School	CAMPBELL UNION HSD
Miller, Desirae	Medical Assisting	Post-Secondary Adult	
Wilkins, Ryan	Welding, Shielded Metal Arc	Pioneer High School	SAN JOSE UHSD
Yocum, Camille	Health Knowledge Bowl	Branham High School	CAMPBELL UNION HSD
<b>Silver Medals:</b>			
Aguilar, Mark	Carpentry	Post-Secondary Adult	
Constantine, Deja	Job Skill Demonstration Open	Gunderson High School	SAN JOSE UHSD
Harvey, Ben	Carpentry	Pioneer High School	SAN JOSE UHSD
Martinez Morales, Javier	HVAC	Pioneer Plus	SAN JOSE UHSD
Vasquez, Richard	Firefighting	Leland Plus	SAN JOSE UHSD
Zamudio, Estrella	Medical Assisting	Del Mar High School	CAMPBELL UNION HSD
<b>Bronze Medals:</b>			
Cruz, Angel	Electrical Construction Wiring	Gunderson High School	SAN JOSE UHSD
Dellanini, Sara	Medical Assisting	Leigh High School	CAMPBELL UNION HSD
Martin, Samantha	Carpentry	Leigh High School	CAMPBELL UNION HSD
Moreno, Emily	Digital Cinema Production	Pioneer High School	SAN JOSE UHSD
Preble, Tanner	Diesel Equipment Technology	Leland High School	SAN JOSE UHSD



Students win medals at 2017 SkillsUSA Leadership and Skills Competition

Silicon Valley Career Technical Education (SVCTE) students earned 58 medals at the 2017 SkillsUSA Regional Leadership and Skills Competition on February 11. A total of 31 gold, 16 silver, and 11 bronze presented to more than 400 students assembled at SVCTE to

compete in various skills categories and Job Demos. Students who placed first and second in their respective skills category qualified to compete at the SkillsUSA California 50th Annual State Leadership and Skill Conference at the Town & Country Resort in San Diego on April 20 through 23. SkillsUSA may also invite bronze and fourth place winners to compete, depending on the turnout in other regions in the state.

"We are extremely proud of all our students participating in SkillsUSA," Kurt Cheetos, SVCTE Construction Technology teacher and a SkillsUSA advisor said. "Students developed their skills very quickly and continue to impress us with their professionalism, talent, and understanding in a wide variety of skills and trades," Gina Fleming, SVCTE Dental Assisting teacher and a SkillsUSA advisor said.

Student competitions were held in Automotive Refinishing and Service Technology, Carpentry, Culinary and Baking, Crime Scene Investigation, Dental Assisting, Electrical Construction Wiring, Firefighting, First-Aid CPR, Information Technology, Medical Assisting and Terminology, and Photography. Job Demo contests were held in CNC Technician, Digital Cinema Production, Drafting, HVAC, Robotics and Automation Technology, Welding and many others.

The SkillsUSA California Region 1 serves Alameda, Contra Costa, Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma counties. Industry partners include the California Department of Education, Del Taco, Lowe's, and Toyota Motors.

SkillsUSA is a national organization serving high school and college students and professional members enrolled in training programs in technical, skilled, and service occupations, including health occupations in high schools and college/technical schools. SkillsUSA programs include local, state and national competitions in which students demonstrate occupational and leadership skills. A Facebook photo gallery of the February 11 Region 1 competitions, demos, and medal ceremonies is available at: <https://metroed.us/svcte-skillsusa17>.



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Times **Community News**

# Flooding is a reminder that preparation is key

By Johnny Khamis  
City Councilmember

The flooding that neighbors experienced last month reminds us all that we must be prepared for disasters.

We all woke up to the news that 14,000 of our neighbors had to be evacuated and we recently learned the damage from the flooding is estimated at \$100 million. If that isn't enough warning to start taking emergency preparedness seriously, I don't know what else would make the point.

Last year I requested that the City start investing more funding into the Office of Emergency Services and to focus on moving the Director of OES under the City Manager's Office and out of the Fire Department. I will continue to push for this to happen, but today I want to talk about how you can prepare your family for natural and man-made disasters.

The most important goal for you and your family is to be prepared for a disaster, together. If we have another 1989 earthquake or one of a higher magnitude, most City resources will be taken up where population is most concentrated. That means firefighters and emergency responders are going to initially be concentrated in the downtown area and neighborhoods are going to have to depend on their own resources until more help arrives. Please have conversations with your family members about how you will handle a flood, an earthquake, a terrorist act or any other natural disaster that may come our way.

Here is the link from our Office of Emergency Services: Visit us online: [sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=1408](http://sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=1408) After you have reviewed the initial introduction on how to prepare yourself and your family, explore the website. There is invaluable information on how to increase your chances of surviving a major event in our city. All of their links are important and have valuable suggestions on emergency preparedness:

■ Child Preparedness: [sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=2316](http://sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=2316)

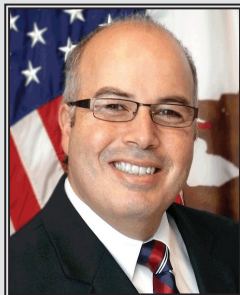
■ Winter Storm Preparedness: [sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=4789](http://sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=4789)

■ Family Preparedness: [sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=2317](http://sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=2317)

■ Special Needs Preparedness: [sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=2319](http://sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=2319)

■ Pet Preparedness: [sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=2318](http://sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=2318)

■ Emergency Kits: [sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=1409](http://sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=1409)



## District 10 Report

Johnny Khamis,  
City Councilmember

I am excited about the Fourth Annual July 4th Family Fun Festival and Firework Show 2017. It's hard to believe it's been four years since I first started the festival at Almaden Lake! The event continues to attract more people each year and we continue to have an outstanding fireworks show provided by District 10 resident, Craig Cutright, and his family. In addition

to Craig, other District 10 residents, Denelle Fedor (from my staff), and Bob Vonderwerth, are key players in making this a great event.

I know it's only February, but community members often ask me how they can help, aside from volunteering. One of the easiest ways you, your family, friends, neighbors, businesses, and community groups can help is to make a cash donation. There are two ways to donate:

Online:

Visit [www.almadenwomen.org](http://www.almadenwomen.org) and click the donation button specifically for Festival donations.

Write check out to: AVWC. Mail check to: City of San Jose, ATTN: Denelle Fedor, 200 E Santa Clara St, 18th Floor, San José, CA 95113.

This is the third year we have partnered with the fantastic volunteers of the Almaden Valley Women's Club (AVWC), a 501(c)(3) non-profit. The AVWC serves as the fiscal agent for the Festival and their non-profit status ensures the tax deductibility of your gifts.

This event uses no dollars from the City's General Fund, which is why your donations are so very important. We rely on our generous sponsors – whether individual contributors or big, corporate contributors. They are the driving force that makes this event a reality.

Sponsorships and donations will determine the success of the festival and scale of the fireworks show, so please contribute what you can to this fun, family-oriented community event!

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# Times Entertainment

## MOVIE REVIEW

# The Shack

By Steven Leonard

Times Media Movie Reviewer

The Shack takes us on a father's uplifting spiritual journey. After suffering a family tragedy, Mack Phillips spirals into a deep depression causing him to question his innermost beliefs.

Facing a crisis of faith, he receives a mysterious letter urging him to visit an abandoned shack deep in the Oregon wilderness. Despite his doubts, Mack journeys to the shack and encounters an enigmatic trio of strangers led by a woman named Papa. Through this meeting, Mack finds important truths concerning the Seven Seals that will transform his understanding of his tragedy and change his life forever.

Release date: March 3, 2017 (USA)

Director: Stuart Hazeldine

Adapted from: The Shack

Music composed by: Aaron Zigman

Producers: Gil Netter, Brad Cummings

PG-13 | 2017 | Fantasy/Drama film

2h 12m

The Shack takes us on a journey of how a man's feelings of love for his children can be just as strong as his feelings of love for his wife. After suffering a tragic loss of their youngest daughter, the entire family spirals into a deep depression causing them to question their innermost beliefs about God. Each of them faces the tragedy differently. Mack journeys to the shack and encounters the Holy Trinity of Jesus (Avraham Aviv Alush, left); God, also known as 'Papa' (Octavia Spencer, second from right) and the Holy Spirit,

who goes by Sarayu (Sumire Matsubara).

Samuel Henry John "Sam" Worthington is an Australian actor. He portrayed the protagonist Jake Sully in the 2009 film Avatar; Marcus Wright in Terminator Salvation; and Perseus in Clash of the Titans.

A man who lost his daughter tries to find peace with God inside a shack in the woods.

Based on William P. Young's best-selling Christian novel, which has sold more than 20 million copies worldwide since 2007, The Shack charts the spiritual journey of Mack Phillips (Worthington), who wrestles with faith at an abandoned "Shack" where his daughter was abducted and killed years before. Through encounters with God (Octavia Spencer), Jesus (Avraham Aviv Alush) and the Holy Spirit (Sumire Matsubara), Mack learns how to forgive and move forward.

When you have a child, there are emotions you cannot and don't want to even describe, so you're more open to deep feelings inside you. ... Especially when the story involves the loss of a child, you understand the deeper connection to it. When I read the Bible, I see a pattern. A code. When I look at religions of the world, I also see a pattern. A code. I look at problems and I try to find solutions. It's possible that everything I believe is wrong, but at least as a scientist I'm trying to find a solution. Religions, Science, and Governments are the same exact coin. Their



purpose is to enslave the masses.

All religions of the world have one concept. Love your friends and kill all your enemies. Though I'm not a Hindu, I'm following the path of Gandhi, Mandela, and Martin Luther King. If we are to survive as a species, then we must love our friends and our enemies. This is the path of enlightenment. Remove all hatred and fear from your life. Only then can you find peace. We must be willing to lay down our lives for our enemies and be willing to go to hell for our enemies. It doesn't matter whether heaven or hell

exist as defined by religions or science.

If every religion in the world followed this path, then there would be peace. This is what I call The Golden Path. This is the main teachings inside the film, "The Shack." If we do not solve the problems of spirituality, life on this earth will cease to exist and the rest of the universe will not miss us. Technology without solving the problems of the mind will not work. I believe that if The Golden Path or The Shack is followed by all mankind, then war would cease from our reality. Man, could even solve death, our last enemy.

Man, believes in scarcity. I do not. When I look at the technology of the electron. There is no such thing as scarcity or lack of resources. There is enough power inside a single electron to provide food, water and power for the entire universe and fuel for every star. An electron is

eternal. It's an artificial intelligence program written by the hand of our creator and it's a living, breathing supernatural being. Scientist of today do not understand or grasp the power of eternal technology that has no beginning or end. It lives outside the realm of the box we currently live in. It does not follow the laws of thermodynamics, heat conservation or physics trapped inside our universe. We live in a universe where nothing is impossible.

I wasn't raised religious. I think I was about 16 (when) my grandmother gave me the Bible and said, "Look, maybe you should read this." Since then, I've been reading it every day and gone to churches around the world. I'm kind of on the same journey as Mack was, in terms of what is your faith, what is God and how is that relationship? It's something that's unfolding.

I had my (metaphorical) shack; I had built that. The shack is a parable for all hate, fear, guilt, and grief of life that you hold onto. ... The Bible shows you ways to forgive what people have done to you, forgive God for letting it happen and, most importantly, learn to forgive yourself and let go of all that burden. I kind of had no understanding of how to do it until I learned to let go of all my hate and my fear. The movie The Shack and the book teach these spiritual lessons about love. Love that's not defined by man, but love that can only be defined by God. It's a gradual process. It takes time and you can't do it alone.

You look back in time and go, "Wow, I must've been searching for something there. And I was looking for lessons I can hand down to my friends, family, and children — maybe that was the journey. But it certainly wasn't at the time. It's just in hindsight that I think maybe those conversations about faith, why we're here and why things happen (were) what I was searching for all along."

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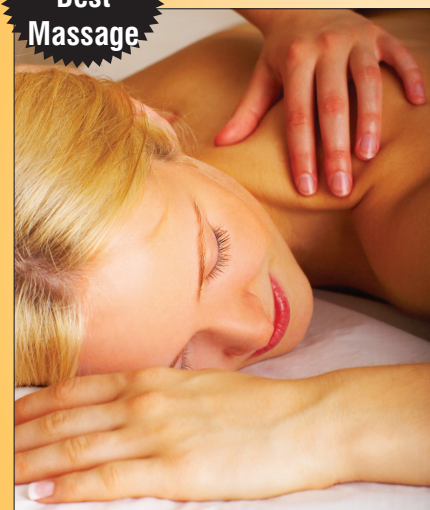
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### CAMPBELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1675 Winchester Boulevard (near Hamilton), Campbell, 95008.  
Church Office: 378-3472.  
[www.campbell-umc.org](http://www.campbell-umc.org). E-mail us at: [campbell\\_umc@earthlink.net](mailto: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 Brigham. 408 268-0243 [www.AlmadenCongregational.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:info@eastvalleychurch.com)  
We are associated with Converge Worldwide [www.convergeworldwide.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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  
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(510)584 1824

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

### SAINT ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH

We invite you to become a part of our hospitable, intimate Catholic parish. We are a caring community, promoting spiritual growth, reaching out to people in need and where you get to know people by name. We offer children's religious education (CREATE); Youth Ministry (BLAST & X-STATIC); Scripture Study (day & evening); Senior's Group and many other adult ministries as well. Saint Anthony parish is located in Almaden Valley at 20101 McKean Road, San Jose, 95120. Our weekend Masses are at 4 p.m. on Saturday at our historic church at 21800 Bertram Road in New Almaden, CA 95042 and on Sunday at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 5:30 p.m. at the McKean Road location. Our Parish Office is

open Monday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and Tuesday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 - 4 p.m. For more information, stop by the Parish Office or call 1+ (408) 997-4800, or visit our website at [www.churchstanthony.com](http://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](http://www.stfrancisofassisi.com)  
[www.stfrancisofassisipreschool.org](http://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 - AVGS AVGS online registration is open!

***Please visit [WWW.AVGSL.ORG](http://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. AVGS's main goal is to insure that all players are in a fun, positive environment while learning and expanding their softball skills. AVGS 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](mailto:president@avgsl.org) and we will be happy to help.





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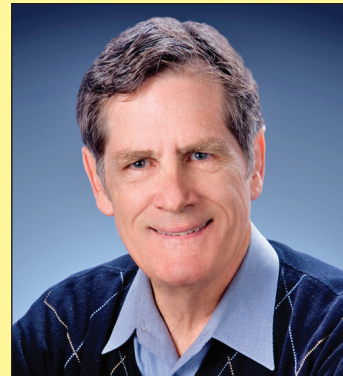
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