SJUSD BOARD APPROVES 50-YEAR LEASE TO ALMADEN VALLEY SOCCER CLUB – P4



COMMUNITY
CELEBRATES
STREET NAME
CHANGE, HONORS
DIVERSITY - P6



SOLAR ECLIPSE WOWS MANY IN THE SOUTH BAY WITH SHADOWY SHOW – P4



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Bob Dando led a family toast in memory of his wife of 50 years, Pat Dando. (I to r): Bob Dando, Leanna Dando, Kyle Dando, Julia Dando, Todd Dando, Izara Dando, Erin Dando, Shafer Dando, Freeman Dando, Hannah Dando, Odessa Dando, Trey Triolo, Jared Triolo, Brent Triolo, Lesa Triolo and Tom Triolo.

Pat Dando remembered

By Lorraine Gabbert Senior Staff Writer

amily and friends shared their memories of Pat Dando and her impact upon San Jose at her "Celebration of Life" on Sunday, August 20.

The memorial, held at the patio garden of Cinnabar Hills Golf Club against a backdrop of rolling hills, provided guests insight into Pat Dando's personal life, motivation and accomplishments.

Fr. Gerald Wade, S.J., a friend of the family, views Dando as "a very good human being and a woman who lived her life for and with others." In reading a passage from the Gospel of Matthew (5:13-16), he drew parallels with Dando's philosophy of living a good and meaningful life.



Pat Dando

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.

"Salt is something small, and yet so important to us," he says, "It adds that certain spark and zest...Pat lived her life with a certain energy, zest and spark, as well as with wisdom and a determined spirit as she desired to help others achieve their own personal and worthwhile goals."

"We feel so much better when the sun is shining...or from the warmth that comes with light," he says. "Pat Dando was a light See DANDO, page 14

FAIRMONT STATE STA

TechMagic members (I to r) **Avichai Cooper Jaythan Dao**, **Jadelynn Dao**, and **Advit Deepak** and celebrate their First Place Champion's Award at the 2017 International Mountain State Invitational.

Almaden Robotics Team wins first place at the International NASA Mountain State Invitational

By William Bellou
Publisher

Robotics team TechMagic #6952, representing Almaden Valley, earned the First Place Champion's Award at the 2017 International NASA Mountain State Invitational.

The FLL tournament is sponsored by NASA and the WV Robotics Alliance, taking place last month at Fairmont State University, West Virginia.

TechMagic advanced to this international tournament after winning the 1st Place Champion's Award at the NorCal

See ROBOTICS, page 8

Natalie Hunter of Almaden Valley crowned 'Ms. Teen'

By Kevin Larsen

Times staff writer

atalie Hunter of Almaden Valley is the new Ms. Teen for Oakland and San Jose.

Hunter competed last month in the 2017 Miss Teen Pageant which gives future female leaders of tomorrow the chance to shine by focusing on using the most powerful tool they possess; their personality.

In a world were young women are judged abruptly based on their height, weight, and disabilities, the 2017 Miss Teen Pageant Competitions encourage each participant to focus on their abilities while also "having the experience of a lifetime..."

Natalie gives us an enchanting look into the window of her thrilling experiences



Natalie Hunter

and shares with us some of her future endeavors. The Almaden community wishes her the very best in her future aspirations. As writer Henry David Thoreau once wrote, "Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you've imagined"

My family helped me along the way

"My dad, Adolf Hunter, and my sister, Elana Hunter, are the most influential people in my life," said Natalie. "My dad has always been my biggest supporter and he believes in me when I don't believe in myself. He's always encouraged me to take all opportunities offered to me and make the most of a situation. Most of all, he has taught me to be true to myself and kind to See MS. TEEN, page 8

Yost Group Seller Represented 6682 Mount Hope Dr

6914 Bret Harte Dr 751 Swanswood Ct 1042 Kristen Court 7020 Elmsdale Dr 1039 Nightfall Court 7209 Silver Lode Lane 6659 Mount Pakron Drive 6293 Via De Adrianna 791 Spicewood Court 6464 Cranbrook Court 975 Hurlstone Lane 7075 Brooktre 7094 Brooktree 6648 Mount Hope Drive 1015 Nightfall Ct 7012 Elmsdale Drive 7100 Royal Ridge Dr

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679 Briar Ranch Ln 772 Portswood Dr

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6721 Freedom Ct 6684 Tannahill Dr

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6524 Whispering Pines Dr 6687 Charter Oak Pl 6867 Queenswood Wy

6828 Eldridge Dr 1522 Ivan Pl

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6792 Bret Harte Dr 1547 Oak Canyon Dr

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6992 Burnside Dr 7248 Sleepy Creek Dr

5978 Crossview Ct 6552 Northridge Dr

1186 Copper Peak Ln 1524 Monteval Ln

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1150 Zinfandel Wy 1473 Almaden Valley Drive

1110 Holly Oak Ci

6603 Bubblingwell Pl 7013 Elmsdale Dr

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than Margaret and David `

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Your neighborhood is our neighborhood, too



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Almaden **Times**

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Valley Currents

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

San Jose Unified School District board approves 50-year lease to Almaden Valley Soccer Club

By Sean Eastwood
Times staff writer

If all goes according to plan, a 3.71 acre strip of land at Pioneer High School will soon be transformed into two beautiful soccer fields.

The San Jose Unified School District board has unanimously approved an agreement that calls for the Almaden Valley Soccer Club to help it develop the property in exchange for a 50-year lease to use them.

The plan includes transferring the land from the city to the school district, allowing both district and private use of the fields. No construction timeline has been set yet for the fields.



Almaden Valley Soccer Club president Colin McCarthy said the plan is a "win, win situation" for everyone who has been involved with the proposal. The Club has been renting facilities since its inception in 1967.

Fund raising

If anyone in the Almaden Valley has \$12 million, that's what the Soccer Club needs to complete the project. But

they are more realistic with their efforts by setting a goal of raising \$4 million by the end of this year.

50-year anniversary

The Almaden Valley Soccer Club is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year. On Monday, August 28th there will be an inaugural golf tournament and dinner banquet event. The event will raise community awareness of the ongoing fund raising efforts to provide funding for a permanent home for Almaden soccer. During the event, Almaden Soccer will be unveiling the first designs of the new soccer facility and official home of Almaden Soccer.

Editor's note: The Almaden Valley Soccer Club Golf and Banquet takes place Aug. 28, starting 10 a.m. at the Almaden Golf and Country Club, 6663 Hampton Drive. Appetizers and entertainment will be offered between the end of the tournament and start of the banquet. For tickets and more information, visit almadensoccer.org.



This photo was taken during this week's solar eclipse by Teagan LaBarbera through the Valley Christian Schools solar telescope with her iPhone.

South bay solar eclipse show August 21

Imaden Valley was more than 500 miles away from the path of the total solar eclipse on August 21, but for those with solar filters, approved glasses, homemade projection boxes, or simply watching on TV, most said it was still a great show.

The overcast sky began clearing up at about 9:15 a.m., just one hour before the big event began for a two minute show with the moon covering 75 percent of the sun.

One of the hottest spots in the south bay to view the eclipse was the Astronomical Association's viewing event held at Houge Park on White Oaks Ave. A bit further

south, the entire student body of Valley Christian High School gathered on the football field of their campus on a hilltop off of Monterey Highway to observe the rare event.

If you happened to miss this year's solar show, you won't have to wait another 99 years, just seven years. NASA says the next total solar eclipse visible from the U.S. will take on April 8, 2024, when the moon's shadow will cross the U.S. border in southern Texas and move up into the eastern half of the country, passing over Dallas-Fort Worth; Cleveland, Ohio; Buffalo, and New York

Facelift for the Almaden Golf and Country Club to begin in October

he Almaden Golf and Country Club plans to renovate its pool house, add bocce courts and other upgrades which will begin later this year in October.

A community meeting was held earlier this month to provide details of the proposed renovation from San Jose city staff and developers

According to James Woodbury representing Blach Construction, ""We're just trying to update the existing facility that's been there for nearly 60 years. It's outdated and old and falling apart, and it needs to be brought up to current standards and codes."

"The clubhouse was renovated almost two years ago, so upgrading everything else only

made sense," he said.

The project calls for a minor expansion of the approximately 4,100-square-foot pool house that will be entirely rebuilt. The pool will also be reconfigured.

"The overall expansion of the building is roughly 200 square feet," Woodbury added.

One of two tennis courts on the 90-acre site will be turned into a multi-purpose court for tennis, volleyball and other sports and the other will be transformed into three bocce courts.

Higher retaining walls will be built along the front end of the property by Hampton Drive.

Neighbors were satisfied enough with the

project that the meeting ended in less than 30 minutes. Vickie Poitevin, whose house is close to the pool area, was one of several neighbors who praised the plans, which she hopes will "enhance and add status to the neighborhood."

"The facilities, locker rooms, et cetera, are terribly substandard and need to be replaced," Poitevin said, adding that the country club has always been a "good neighbor" during the 40-plus years she's lived next door.

Jane Hoyt O'Callahan, who rents out a family house in the neighborhood, said she loves the project as well.

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Times Local News

Italian Family Festa promotes Italian heritage and culture at annual event August 26-27

By William BellouPublisher

ore than 1000 volunteer hours will be devoted to this weekend's 37th Italian Family Festa, which will be held August 26-27 at History Park San Jose. Admission is free.

Bring your family and friends and enjoy the rich heritage and culture of Italy without leaving town at this special annual event, the largest fundraiser of the year for the Italian-American Heritage Cultural Foundation.

This year the celebration will commemorate Ferragosto, an Italian holiday held each August.

Successfully introduced to its new convenient location a year ago, the Italian Family Festa's new venue is very popular because locals are eager to take a shot at bocce ball, grape-stomping, wine tasting, and delicious food at the History Park located on Senter Rd. in San Jose (It is adjacent to Kelly Park and Happy Hollow Park). Also featured this year will be classic opera arias, children's theater, storytelling and an Italian dance troupe, Bellissumo! (a wonderful Italian folk dancing group...see Facebook), will also perform everything making Bellissumo!" (beautiful!).

Italian menu

Visitors to this year's festival will enjoy Italian favorites including pizza, spaghetti and meatballs, Italian sausage sand-



Grape crushing at the 2014 Family Festa.

wiches, calamari and polenta. Italian sweets will also be featured along with beer and soft drinks. Why not indulge yourself in old Italian recipes and food?

"Our mission statement is to preserve and promote the Italian heritage and culture in the Santa Clara Valley," said foundation vice president Ken Borelli. "That is why we are proud to bring so much of the rich and vibrant Italian culture to Santa Clara Valley."

A tribute to local sports hero Umberto Abronzino, who organized a Sons of Italy soccer team in San Jose in the late '50s, will take place in the form of a special San Jose Earthquakes exhibit. "Bravo!"

The Italian Family Festa takes place Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 26 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Aug. 27 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at History Park San Jose, 1650 Senter Road. Admission to the festival is free. For more information, visit ItalianFamilyFestaSJ.org. Volunteers are always welcome.

'Gurdwara Avenue' celebrates diversity

By Bob Dhillon General Secretary of the Gurdwara Special to the Times

n Sunday August 13 a quaint community celebration was held at the corner of Quimby Road and Gurdwara Avenue to celebrate the street name change.

Many dignitaries came to honor the importance of the street name change to Gurdwara Ave. for the city of San Jose.

Sikh spokesperson Jasvir Singh Powar stated, "I flew in from India this morning just to be at this historic ceremony. It is historical for the City of San Jose, the State of California and the entire United States.

Former Vice Mayor Rose Herrera, praised by Mayor Liccardo for helping begin the process of the road change said, "There is no better way to celebrate diversity, the true meaning of diversity, then when we symbolically acknowledge a community as we are doing here today by changing a street name. It is a simple thing and an easy way to acknowledge the Sikh community and their contribution to the entire community."

Sikh volunteer, Satinder Singh said, "It is historic for the city of San Jose and Gurdwara to have this new road name for whomever visits San Jose from outside the city (in the whole world).

Children said, "it is very exciting



"There is no better way to celebrate the true meaning of diversity, than when we symbolically acknowledge a community as we are doing here today by changing a street name," said former Vice Mayor **Rose Herrera** at the renaming celebration (bottom, right).

because I have been coming to the Gurdwara since I was little and the change of the road name to Gurdwara Avenue will help a lot of people to know what and where the Gurdwara is and it will create See GURDWARA, page 10



Wishing Almaden Valley a successful 2017/2018 school year

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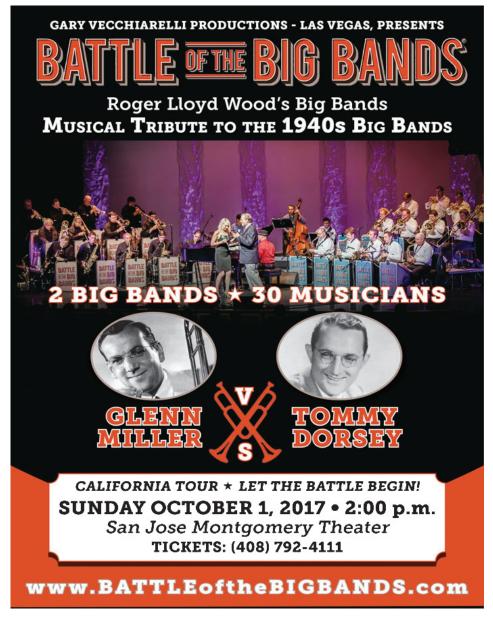






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Times Local News

Robotics

Continued from page 1

FLL Silicon Valley Championship held earlier this year.

The team is made up of Jadelynn Dao. Jaythan Dao, Advit Deepak and Avichai Cooper, from Dartmouth Middle and BASIS Independent Schools. The FLL tournament is an international competition organized by F.I.R.S.T. (For the Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) for grades 4-8.

The competition consists of three parts: a robot game, a research project, and demonstration of core principles through teamwork and sportsmanship. The overall highest scoring team captures the Champion Award.

At the MSI Tournament, TechMagic also earned the highest score in the robot game. Their autonomous robot had the ability to complete most of the challenges, including climbing a wall in the final seconds of the game. Their creative robot design featured a Ferris Wheel used as a "puck shooter" and a Lego Tower which transferred game Projects to partnered teams to score collaboration points.

For the research project, the team investigated the use of technology to enhance pet and animal care. After interviewing veterinarians and pet owners, the team prototyped an online smart app enhanced with artificial intelligence to help determine if the pet or animal was in need of medical assistance.

The FLL program is about challenging tomorrow's innovators to practice imaginative thinking and teamwork. It's about fostering the love for STEM and empowering the children to creatively think about solving a real life problem.

For TechMagic, it all added up to a lot of fun because the team also believes that "Technology is the closest thing to Magic."

About FLL

The FIRST Lego League (FLL) is one of the biggest robotics competitions in the world. The competition is based on 1) Robot, 2) Research Project and 3) Core Values. The robot starter set contains over 1,000 parts. We have to design, build and program a robot to complete pre-set challenges on a table-top playing field. The research project addresses real-world problems and we are challenged to develop a solution to make the world a better place. The FLL's core values are the fundamentals of the competition - to ensure that there is Gracious Professionalism "Coopertition" (cooperation + competition). This year, FLL has over 233,000 children and 29,000 teams participating all over the world. In the US, FLL has over 138,000 children participating in FLL.

Ms. Teen

Continued from page 1

Natalie said her sister Elana has been an inspiration to her for as long as she can remember. "Being five years younger than her, I was always tagging along trying to be involved in whatever she was doing," said Natalie. "She's like a parent and best friend rolled into one! Watching her be successful gives me hope that I can do the same."

"Miss Teen is the first pageant I was ever involved in. At the end of June, I received a letter in the mail inviting me to the information night and I decided to check it out. I had no real expectations of competing because I thought I would have left for college before the competition date; however, I learned that night that the pageant was set for July 23 and I would in fact be able to compete! I was interviewed by some of the pageant officials, photographed and told that they would contact me within the next two days if I made the cut. The very next day I received the call and I was officially a competitor! I never thought it would happen and especially not so

It was absolute madness in the dressing rooms

"There are so many things about that day that stand out," explained Natalie. "I remember waiting backstage before going on stage and I was so nervous. I walked out and I immediately could hear my friends cheering out in the audience. I felt so much more confident and I knew that no matter how I did, my friends and family would be proud. It was absolute madness in the dressing rooms. There were about 80 girls in my age division split between two rooms so it was close quarters. Everyone was so supportive of one another and really helpful. People were sharing hair and make-up products, offering to zip one another's dresses and exchanging compliments. It didn't feel like a competition and that made me relax a little bit.'

Top 10 announcement

"I'd say one of the best moments was after the Top 10 girls were announced...," Natalie continued "we were cordoned off in small little room until we were needed back on stage. We were all abuzz with nervous excitement and the stage hands had to keep coming in to tell us to quiet down. We had one of those cliché moments where we told each other it didn't matter who won but we should be proud of making it this far and be excited no matter how it turned out. When we took the stage again we all held hands. I don't know if it was just something they said, but to me it was genuine, and I was at peace with myself no matter how the competition turned out. Standing there on stage, holding hands with the top ten girls, I'd already won."

"I gave it my all..."

"When I set foot on the stage at the pageant, I was nervous beyond belief, "said Natalie. "I was wondering what I'd gotten myself into and why I hadn't staved at home. But I went out there anyway. I wasn't perfect. I rushed my walk, I forgot things I wanted to say, I was nowhere near perfect, and it didn't matter. I gave it my all, I was true to myself and that's what the judges sawthat's what mattered. Be afraid and show up anyway. That's the biggest advice I can give to anyone. Life can be challenging and hard and scary; fear is normal but don't let it hold you back.'

I just "crave" challenges and love learning

"All my life I have been an intelligent student. I consistently read above my grade level and starting in the sixth grade I began taking advanced math lessons. School was never a terrible challenge for me and up through middle school I enjoyed having relatively easy schoolwork--besides occasional complaints of boredom. As I entered high school, my opinion changed. Where most students began to withdraw themselves from academics, only putting in the minimum work to pass, I craved a challenge and became quickly disappointed when I did not find it. By the end of sophomore year I was miserable. That is when I began to consider applying to Middle College. Middle College is a unique program for dedicated and independent juniors and seniors who leave their traditional high school to attend classes at a community college. We take high school level English and History but we balance the rest of our schedule with college classes and receive college transferable credits while simultaneously completing high school graduation requirements. The decision to apply in itself was a tough one for me. Even though I was unhappy at high school I could not see myself leaving the security of that traditional path. My friends were upset at my leaving as I expected but I didn't let their negativity affect me. I was happier at Middle College than I had been since middle school. I was able to take a wide range of classes that my high school was not able offer. I'd seen the program work for my older sister, Elana.

She was able to transfer to CalPoly San Luis

See MS. TEEN, page 19



Mmy McCafferty



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Times Local News

Almaden adult ESL classes marks 14th anniversary of excellence

his year marks the 14th anniversary of the sponsorship of adult ESL Classes held at and sponsored by WestGate South Hills Church in Almaden Valley.

All teachers are volunteers and many are credentialed or retired. Classes cover conversation, vocabulary, grammar and American culture.

Six classes, from beginner to advanced, meet every Monday at 6601 Camden Ave. The program of classes is free, with the exception of a \$10 registration fee. Some of the classes use a textbook, which costs about \$30, and is charged to the student.

Unique to their ESL program, WestGate South Hills Almaden ESL has an English Pronunciation class, taught by Paula Gallay, MS, CCC-SLP, licensed and certified speech language pathologist, specializing in Accent Modification services. $\,$

English pronunciation is the first and most important thing native speakers notice during a conversation. Knowing grammar and vocabulary is not useful, if the speaker is unable to pronounce words and sentences correctly. The English Pronunciation class is suitable for intermediate and advanced ESL students.

Classes begin September 11, 2017, 9:30-11:30 a.m. and students may join at any time during the year. Free childcare is available on campus for children birth aged 5 and over.

For more information contact WestGate South Hills church at 408.268.1676 or ESL@westgate-church.org.

Gurdwara

Continued from page 6 more interest in it too."

Vice Mayor, Magdalena Carrasco said, referring the San Jose City Council, "It was a unanimous vote and that represents our entire community." She also said in referring the each city council member, "they understood the magnitude of what the Gurdwara means to the city of San Jose." Carrasco then stated with regard to the Sikh Community and the Gurdwara, "you have been the part of growth and beauty of our city of San Jose and you gave us 'today' (referring to the road name change ceremony) she then said, "thank you so much."

District 8 Councilwoman Silvia Arenas said, "I want to thank the transportation department, the clerk, the county and members of the Gurdwara who never gave up (referring to getting to the finish line of the completion of the installation of the new road signs). Her office played an important role in ensuring things got done etc. Arenas then stated, "It is not enough for us (referring to government agencies) to say we welcome people of different faiths, refugees and immigrants. She went on to say, "This is actual proof that we are proud to stand behind refugees, people of different faiths and immigrants. This reflects the beauty and diversity of all of San Jose."

Santa Clara County Supervisor Dave Cortese congratulated all. He said, "this would not have happened without good leadership...the mayor is taking a stand on inclusiveness. Cortese complemented Mayor Liccardo and also said, "What a wonderful dream... I am sure all of you have dreamt this and your dream has come true."

State Assemblyman Ash Kalra said, "I am grateful for this community...this is something all of us should be proud of. This is a landmark for the City of San Jose...the Sikh Americans are some of the most patriotic citizens I know and when I am in Sacramento I rave about the Gurdwara."

Roopi Atwal, volunteer for the Gurdwara, stated, "Naming the street 'Gurdwara Avenue' helps to establish and celebrate our Sikh religion within the local community. This is a proud moment for me, a Sikh, and long-time resident of the Evergreen community. Going forward, my wish is that the street naming will help raise more awareness and help educate the world about our beautiful religion."

Harbir K. Bhatia a volunteer for the

Gurdwara said, "The way to love unity is to respect diversity.

A San Jose citizen who came for the celebration said, "This is appropriate to make the name change for the street because in California many major street names are changed...the Sikhs are good neighbors who are peaceful...and I like talking with them."

Others stated that the Gurdwara has many innovative plans to continue to enhance and help the community such as offering "gifts" with regard to community events and participation for everyone and all age groups. "We need to be joyful and thankful of the Gurdwara for now our San Jose has an International Airport and people from all over the world come here to visit this largest Gurdwara in the United States," stated another community member.

Pattie Cortese also said, "Those from the Point Church opened their hearts and allowed this to happen. Also, now the wedding invitations (many weddings take place at the Gurdwara on a weekly basis) can now put 'Gurdwara Avenue' on each wedding invitation and this will mean a lot to the bride and groom."

I am so pleased on the approval of the name change because we not only got the name change out of this campaign, we got the surrounding community to work with us on this and other community issues, which includes helping the homeless, keeping San Jose clean and more.

We are working with the community to beautify the city which involves all of Evergreen. We thank the Point Church and the Light of the World Church for working with us on community issues.

Here are some nice comments heard at the ribbon cutting.

Surjit S. Bains, project coordinator stated, "I had the opportunity to meet the kind neighbors by walking door to door to explain how important this project is to the Sikh community and also to promote the importance of diversity in our area." I was treated nicely by all residents and neighboring churches."

Hardev S. Takhar, President of the Gurdwara stated, "This is a historical project and the generation to come will remember this historical day."

"This street name is important for our children. It represents the process we went through to change it with our proactive community. It builds relationships, brings people together and that is the American way," stated Patty Cortese, school board member for the East Side Union High School District.

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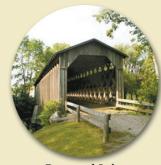
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Times Local News







Family Members Todd Dando, Kyle Dando and Lesa Triolo share memories of their mother.

Dando

Continued from page 1

for so many of us with her attention and her affirmation. Pat had that special quality of being able to give herself wholeheartedly to whatever she felt needed to be accomplished and to whatever person or groups she happened to be with at any particular time."

Erik Schoennauer, who worked with Dando in former Mayor Tom McEnery's Office, at the Redevelopment Agency and as her Chief of Staff at the City Council, also considered her a great friend and mentor. "Pat Dando is a classic American story," he says, as she started out in life in a poor Texas town, helping her mother run a laundromat and ended up among the leadership of America's 10th largest city.

"From a soccer mom and PTA President to the Vice Mayor and Chamber of Commerce President, Pat Dando is a classic San Jose story," he says. "Sadly, that story has come to an end. But, the legacy of her hard work lives on in a better San Jose."

Schoennauer noted Dando's part in creating City icons and community focal points from the San Jose Arena (now SAP Center) and Children's Discovery Museum to Chris Hotts Park, Jeffrey Fontana Park and Jake's Play Lot. He says you should think of Pat when you attend the Almaden Art & Wine Festival, seek help at the Almaden Youth Counseling Service or play your next round at Cinnabar Hills.

"Common Sense, Plain Talk, and Hard Work" was not just a campaign slogan, but how Pat lead her life and served the people of San Jose," he says. "She was one of San Jose's hardest working public servants for over four decades. If she saw a problem, she had to solve it. If she saw a need, she had to fill it."

Dando focused city government on the core services of public safety, transportation, economic development, parks, libraries and neighborhood services, says Schoennauer. She built partnerships to solve community problems, working with the District Attorney and judges to create the "Tag You Lose" campaign to hold teenagers accountable for graffiti, creating the "Neighborhoods First" program to help neighborhood associations implement improvement projects, with churches to perform neighborhood clean-ups and with the school district to expand access to sports fields.

Schoennauer credits some of Dando's life experiences with her public policy priorities. Her mother fled an abusive relationship with her father, which drove her passion to support victims with domestic violence policy, he says. Dando served as Chair of the City's Domestic Violence Task Force and helped organize events to increase awareness, such

as the Walk to End Domestic Violence. In addition, she developed programs, such as providing free cell phones and home security alarms to help victims feel safe.

After suffering a stroke, Dando attributed her immediate medical care to her recovery. Upon learning that none of the hospitals in Santa Clara County were certified stroke centers, she co-founded the Stroke Awareness Foundation with Chuck Toeniskoetter and Chuck Hoffman to ensure that local hospitals include certified stroke centers with 24-hour stroke teams on duty. She also raised public awareness to the symptoms of a stroke.

"From PTA President to school and community advocate. From Advisor to Mayor McEnery and Governor Schwarzenegger to the Board of Fellows of Santa Clara University and the League of Cities. From the Assistant to Redevelopment Director Frank Taylor to City Councilmember and Vice Mayor," he says. "Every step of the way, Pat Dando loved San Jose. And today, we should all take comfort in knowing that San Jose loved Pat Dando."

"Pat was a fighter. When she believed in something, she'd go through a brick wall and pity the wall," says former Mayor Tom McEnery.

McEnery says that rather than a staunch Republican, Democrat or Partisan, Dando just saw issues. "She was a Citizen Neighbor politician," he says, "all about neighborhoods, schools and things you could do every day to make the city and community a little bit better."

McEnery says he admires people who moved to San Jose and created something. "We never should forget the effect people like Pat and many like her had in changing the city in small measured ways to lead to what we have today," he says. "You can see it in many things in the Almaden she loved, in the downtown she helped create, in the Arena. There was no give up in that woman. She fought for it and the future."

McEnery considers Dando a good and dedicated person and a tremendous inspiration. "Her life will continue to have impact on all of us," he says. "She'll be a beacon and she'll be well-remembered."

"Certain people in your life touch your soul," says Sandy Bellou, Almaden Times CFO, "and she was one of those people."

William B. Baron, former Chairman of the San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce, recalls when the Chamber was in need of a new President and CEO.

"I assembled 15 distinguished community leaders to commence a diligent and thoughtful process with hopes to find just the right person," he says. "We required our leader to be honest, forthright, genuine and principled. We wanted a leader who would have integrity, be pleasant, fair, level-headed, strategic,

Times Local News



Many of San Jose's former and current political leaders attended Pat Dando's Celebration of life, including former Mayor **Tom McEnery**; Chief of Staff, **Erik Schoennauer**; and City Councilmember **Johnny Khamis**.

savvy, connected...respected." Baron says one name met all of their criteria: Pat Dando.

He says there was only one small obstruction between Dando and the Chamber: the very "large" biceps of Governor Arnold Schwarznegger. "Jim Cunneen, a good friend and outgoing Chamber CEO and I set out to meet Pat for coffee to share the opportunity," says Baron. "She genuinely felt that she had made a commitment to the Governor, serving as his liaison to local governments statewide. Moreover, she and Bob had purchased a Sacramento townhome and were in the process of renovating it."

Refusing to give up, they called Dando persistently, trying to wear her down. Baron says that their ace in the hole was her friends, and San Jose, the city she loved. "Pat's heart was here with all of you and with our city, as was Bob's," says Baron, "and fortunately for our entire community, Pat accepted the position and served with distinction as the Chamber's President and CEO for six years before her retirement."

While working for the Chamber, Baron says that Dando tried to make others feel good, engaged and appreciated. He recounted two occasions when she combined business with pleasure for her staff, building friendships and relationships along the way.

In 2006, Dando led a Chamber delegation to Washington, D.C. for meetings on Capitol Hill. While there, they not only toured the West Wing, including the Oval Office, but also a few historic watering holes.

After enjoying some Manhattans, says Baron, Dando believed that being CEO of the Chamber empowered her with certain vested rights and authorities. After watching a young couple she thought were cute together, she introduced herself and asked if they were dating. They were. "Life is too short," she said. "You two are darling together and you deserve happiness. So, by the powers vested in me as the President and CEO of the San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce, I pronounce you husband and wife."

"You may now kiss your bride," she added, so he did. "The whole bar broke out in applause and laughter," says Baron.

A Chamber trip in 2007 took them to Austin, Texas. After a long day of meetings and a dinner gathering with city, county and state officials, the group was ready to hit Austin's Sixth Street, a historic street and entertainment district, says Baron.

"We'll show these young folks what it's like to have fun in Texas," Dando said, leading their group to the center of the dance floor with Bob's hand in hers. Arms in the air, jumping up and down, they danced as the 1980s band, "The Spazmatics" played, he

says, singing to Devo's "Whip It," Rick Springfield's "Jessie's Girl," and Billy Idol's "Rebel Yell." "I caught Pat's eyes at several points during this hurricane of activity," he says, "and they just twinkled with joy."

"As we grow older, we come to realize," says Baron, "that during our short time here on earth, we encounter truly inspiring people: those that touch our hearts and minds like few others. Pat led by example, and as her friend Leslie Kelsay says, 'If you didn't learn something every time you were around Pat Dando, you just weren't paying attention.' She was a great lady."

Dando's son, Todd Dando, says he learned many lessons from his mother. Among them, are to pursue the things important to you with all your heart, kill them with kindness and never let them see you sweat. "She worked hard," says Todd, "but she would never let us see her sweat. There was never a challenge too big for her and that confidence... You could bring anything to mom and she would know how to respond."

But, he says, there was one recent moment during the last few weeks of her valiant battle that truly touched him. She looked him in the eye, made sure he was listening and asked, "What happened?" Todd says it was the first time he ever saw humility in his mom and it was beautiful.

Dando led by example, says her daughter, Lesa Triolo, and when she saw something wrong, she wasn't afraid to fix it. Soon after Dando noted students smoking in a designated smoking section in front of Leland High School (even though it was illegal for them to buy cigarettes), it came to an end. Triolo says that Dando taught her children to have the courage to address problems, as well as to roll up their sleeves to tackle them. Dando and her family personally laid sod to beautify the school. "What I'll miss most is my mother's wisdom and humor," she says.

Dando's son, Kyle Dando, says that his mother taught him how to love. He fondly recalls the grilled cheese sandwiches she made for him after school. She also never accepted less than his very best, he says, encouraging him to strive, and to work well with others. "My mom was great at prioritizing communication and friendship," he says. "Her goal was to make a positive difference. I'm a better son, brother, husband and friend because of the lessons my mom taught me."

After the ceremony, Dando's nine grand-children lined up on a hill from oldest to youngest to share their memories of "Teeta."

"She had an impact on everyone," says Brent Triolo (21), the oldest.

Most memorable to Jared Triolo (19) was See DANDO, page 17

The Almaden Senior Association Mystery Dinner Theater

Saturday, September 16 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

The Almaden Players present a Murder Mystery for an afternoon to remember!!

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Almaden Lobby 8:40 to 10 a.m. MWF
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Times **Advice**

What type of business entity should I form? Part one: The Limited Liability Company

Ask the

Lawyer

By Steven R. Roeser, Esq.

Special to the Times This Week's Question:

"I have a small business and have been told by my peers that I should form a business entity to protect myself in the event of a lawsuit. What do you recommend?"

Michael L. Almaden Valley

Dear Michael:

It is indeed wise to form a business entity to protect yourself, and any business partners from personal liability in the event of a lawsuit. What type of entity depends on several factors, including but not limited to what type of business you own, tax implications, and whom your coowners are. The California limited liability company is a very popular choice of entity as it is simple to run and has less formalities than a corporation. With that said, you should consult with an attorney and your CPA to determine what is best for your business. In this article, we shall cover the basics of a limited liability com-

The primary purpose of a limited liability company is to limit the personal liability of its owners (typically referred to as "members"). Owners of sole proprietorships or general partnerships are not pro- | protection of the LLC.

tected by limited liability. An owner of such a business is personally liable for all debts of the business. That can quite literally put one's entire financial existence at risk.

Limited liability companies generally offer the same protection that a corporation offers, but are less formal in required documents and operational procedures. The owners of the LLC enter into an operating agreement that governs decision making and various other operational affairs, such as who runs the day to day operations of the company, how profits and losses are to be disbursed, etc.

The LLC owners must be certain to follow all required statutory operating proce-

Owners and managers of limited liability entities are never necessarily completely shielded from personal liability. However, where one runs a legitimate and legally compliant business with diligence, the protection usually withstands legal scrutiny in a court of law.

Most business people believe that they do not need a business entity, and operate under a business name without any business entity in existence (for example, John's Appliance Store). They often pay a heavy price. Insurance can cover the problem, but

sometimes insurance does not apply, the policy coverage is not enough, or the insurance company goes under. A catastrophic event can occur and the business, that is really just an individual person where no entity has been created, is personally liable. Most people would go bankrupt over a court judgment of one million dollars against them ... well, maybe not in many parts of Silicon Valley, but you catch my drift. Proper formation

and operation of a business entity such as an LLC can protect a person from what can quite frankly be a major life disaster in the form of heavy financial woes. Your best course of action if you are a small business owner, real property investor or otherwise in a position of ownership, is to create a business entity such as an LLC to run the business or own the property, and get adequate insurance through a qualified commercial insurance broker.

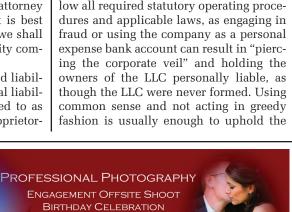
If you find yourself needing advice as to formation of a business entity, or any business matter, please feel free to contact

Until next time ...

Kindest Regards,

Steven R. Roeser, Esq.

You can reach Mr. Roeser with your questions by email at steve@roeserlaw.net, with "Almaden Times" in the subject line, or by telephone at (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.almadenvalleylawvers.com





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Times Feature

Dando

Continued from page 15

Teeta watching his baseball games. "If I did good or bad, she'd always send me a text to say how good I did and how proud she was of me," he says.

Trey Triolo (15) appreciated that even through her political career, Dando put family first. "I had the opportunity to spend two weeks with Poppa and Teeta and they focused on me," he says. They took him to a Giants game, golfing and out for fancy dinners. "This day is about Teeta," he said, "but with Teeta, there is Poppa and with Poppa there is Teeta, so this day is also about you, Poppa."

"She was there for all of us," says Hannah Dando (14), "and wanted us all to be happy and have fun. When I was seven or eight she drove for hours to get me pancakes for my birthday and I've had pancakes on my birthday ever since."

"Teeta was very special to all of us," says Odessa Dando (12), "and I think our adventures together were awesome. We went to Texas to visit the Alamo, and to Mexico to play with dolphins, and I think all of us will remember that forever."

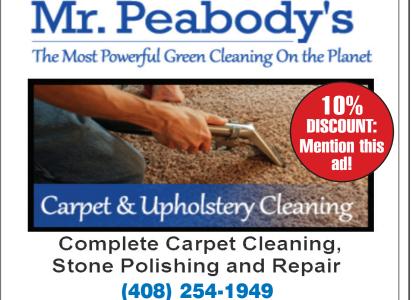
"She would always be there for you, no matter what," says Freeman Dando (11). "If I was ever in the hospital, she would always come out to see me and be there in my times of darkness and make me feel confident."

Shafer Dando (10) enjoyed the stories Dando told him about his great uncle and loved when she shared her passion for reading, writing and history with him. "She rarely missed my super important sporting events and turned me into a Republican," he says.

"Teeta made the best Teeta chocolate and the best cake, shaped like a donut, with powdered sugar on top," says Izara Dando (7). "I hope that I make it just like you, Teeta. Teeta, you're my hero."

"My favorite memory of Teeta was when we went on a cruise, swimming with the dolphins and learning all about them," says Julia Dando (7), the youngest grandchild. "That's why I like being with Teeta."





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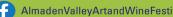
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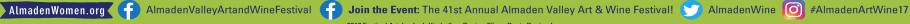
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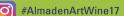












Ms. Teen

Continued from page 8

Obispo and graduate early with the credits she earned at the community college; I hope to do the same. I am going into the field of nursing and it is extremely competitive. I had the chance to take some prerequisite courses for my major while I was still in high school and that will give me a leg up on my peers when applying for my program.

I would certainly recommend the program for someone looking for a bigger challenge, who is self-motivated, responsible and eager to learn. I wouldn't say Middle College is for everyone, but I also know that traditional high school isn't for everyone either. There is no "one size fits all" approach to education and that's why I think programs like Middle College are so important.

Ever since Natalie decided that she wanted a career in the Medical/Health Care field, she wanted to volunteer in a hospital. She explained: "I was drawn to Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford because they offered a volunteer program working in the labor and delivery unit, which is an area of particular interest for me. I registered as soon as I became eligible after my sixteenth birthday in September 2015. By the time I made it through the onboarding process, they had begun phasing out the program in the maternity ward. I was disappointed but I was placed in my second choice program: running the Forever Young Zone or FYZ. The FYZ is a playroom in the hospital run by Child Life Specialists and Recreational Therapists with the support of volunteers. There we prepared daily arts and craft projects, played with board games and puzzles, facilitated a tech zone with multiple different game consoles and provided other entertainment for patients, family members and visitors. We provided bedside activities for bedbound patients and helped run special events like movie screenings and visits from professional athletes. Working in the FYZ was rewarding in so many ways. I got to bring joy to so many children and families who were dealing very tough situations. I worked with a team of really, smart, caring and dedicated volunteers and supervisors. I think my favorite part about volunteering in the hospital was seeing how little it took to make someone's day and how much it meant for those patients and families to have a positive space where the kids could just be kids and diagnoses didn't matter.'

"As part of my prize for winning the Miss Teen competition, I became eligible to compete in the National competition this winter. Unfortunately, the dates coincide with my week of final exams at university so I am unable to attend. At this time I don't have plans to enter any more pageants, but who knows...I didn't really plan to enter this first one! I'm always open to new opportunities."

"When I set out to compete in this Miss Teen pageant, I didn't do so with the intention of winning. I honestly didn't even consider that as a possibility until I made the Top 10. I probably wasn't the prettiest one there, nor the smartest, thinnest, funniest, or anything else "-est". But I was me, and on that day, that's what counted. There's

always going to be a thousand and one reasons to say no but sometimes you have to find the guts to say yes. Sometimes you have to put your trust in something else, someone else, and let them show you what you can't see for yourself."

Editor's Note: To find out more, web search Miss Teen Pageants. Also, businesses, organizations and private individuals can support the Miss Teen Pageants and perhaps even support Natalie Hunter as a sponsor by calling 1-877-910-4190. Maybe she might be able to speak with her college to take her finals early and get on the plane for Florida to participate in the National Competition this winter.



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Additional Note: Come to our parade, Sunday, September 3rd starting at noon. The parade honors our Holy Book and all are invited! The Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji is our Holy Scripture and we believe its message appeals to the whole of mankind. Its vision is vast. Please visit our Gurdwara and know it is here for everyone 365 days of the year and we serve complementary food to all. Many express, the Gurdwara speaks as a community asset for our neighborhood. We thank the community and Bay Area.

After the parade, enjoy a nice meal and ice cream for the whole family! To learn more, visit our history room and visit www.sanjosegurdwara.org.



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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

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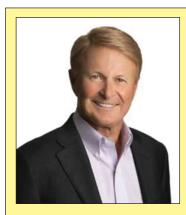
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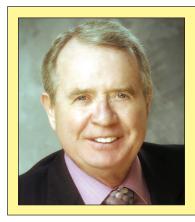
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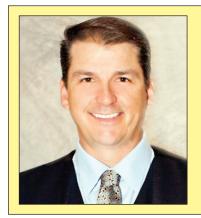
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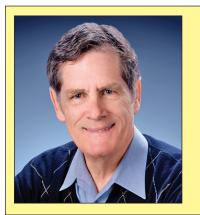
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