

**GIRL SCOUTS  
HONORED FOR  
THEIR SERVICE TO  
THE ALMADEN  
COMMUNITY – P4**



**LELAND FIRST  
ROBOTICS TEAM  
604 JOINS WITH  
UNIVISION TO  
REACH KIDS – P6**



**EAGLE SCOUT  
BHAU'S PROJECT  
SOLICITS HELP  
FROM ALMADEN  
COMMUNITY – P16**



DEC. 1–DEC. 14, 2017 ■ VOL. 30, NO. 25



# Almaden Times

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## County ADA Gibbons-Shapiro talks tough on California crime

By Lorraine Gabbert  
Senior Staff Writer

From prison reform to enforcing gun laws, Santa Clara County Assistant District Attorney James Gibbons-Shapiro shares a glimpse of how crime is combatted in California.

“My number one frustration is hearing people say they don’t want to serve on juries,” says Gibbons-Shapiro, speaking at a recent Almaden Valley Community Association meeting. “I really hate it.” Equally frustrating for him is when people won’t testify in court about a crime they’ve witnessed. “Both are incredibly important to the fairness of our criminal justice system,” he says. “We really need people to do it.”

Raised in San Jose, Gibbons-Shapiro has been a prosecutor for 20 years. He

has led the Homicide and Misdemeanor Teams, Parole Hearings, Cold Case, Victims Services and Crime Strategies Units. He joined the District Attorney’s (DA’s) office in 1997, and in 2003, was named “The District Attorney’s Felony Prosecutor of the Year” for his work on the Sexual Assault Team.

### Police Staffing

Gibbons-Shapiro says that with 9.13 police officers per 10,000 residents, San Jose has fewer police officers per capita than any other city in Santa Clara County and dramatically fewer than other large cities nationwide (The national average is 23.7 officers per 10,000 residents). “When people ask me why San Jose police officers aren’t pulling people over for speeding and running red

See CRIME, page 17



Santa Clara County Assistant District Attorney **James Gibbons-Shapiro** shares a glimpse of how crime is combatted in California.

## Tree planting volunteers needed to plant 55 trees in Almaden

By Sean Eastwood  
Times staff writer

There’s a call for volunteers to help plant 55 trees this month at TJ Martin and Jeffrey Fontana parks as well as near homes along Almaden Expressway.

The trees will replace those removed under Pacific Gas and Electric Company’s gas pipeline safety program which began about 10 months ago. The new trees are being provided by Our City Forest and the Martin-Fontana Parks Association.

PG&E paid for the new trees and the San Jose Parks and Recreation Department has offered to provide water to ensure the best survival rate for the new plantings. Our City Forest will also be reimbursed by the city to water, trim and shape the trees during their first three years.

A spokesperson for Our City Forest said that an arborist is visiting the parks this week to determine the most suitable trees by location. The nonprofit can pick from a number of specimens that do not get too tall and have non-invasive root systems. Shade trees are the most desirable for the parks.

The most recent volunteer effort at Jeffery Fontana Park was the Memorial Rose Garden Fall clean-up which was held in October. Orchard Supply Hardware donated 15 bags of mulch.

### Planting Schedule

The planting schedule includes at least two dozen trees that will be planted in the Shadow Brook neighborhood by the local neighborhood association with help from Our City Forest on Dec. 2. There will be two tree planting parties at Martin and Fontana parks, one on Dec. 16 and the other on Jan. 6, from 9 a.m. to noon.

To become a registered tree planting volunteer, call Ariel at 408.998.7337 ext. 108 or email [plantingvolunteers@ourcityforest.org](mailto:plantingvolunteers@ourcityforest.org).



## Breakfast with Santa set for December 9



Santa has accepted an invitation to attend a breakfast event at the Almaden Community Center on Saturday, December 9 from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

The morning begins with a tasty breakfast and seasonal arts and crafts.

Santa will arrive and there will be opportunities to take pictures with him, so make sure to bring your own camera.

Everyone attending the Breakfast with Santa event must register, including all adults and youth. The price per person is \$18.

For those who have a child under 1.5 yrs. old, call 408.268.1133 to place your child’s name on a list to ensure they have a seat on the day of event.

For more information, visit: [apm.activecommunities.com](http://apm.activecommunities.com) and search Santa breakfast.

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## This Week:

### NEWS

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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.*



## Girl Scouts honored for their service to the community

By Marianne Bristol  
Special to the Times

The mission statement of Girl Scouts is building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

Girl Scout Service Unit 642 of the Almaden and Cambrian communities, proved how true this mission statement is at their annual award ceremony.

At a recent celebration, 45 Girl Scouts who earned their Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award and any Scouts who achieved 10 years of service received awards. These are the highest awards a Girl Scout can earn which puts into practice the leadership, confidence and courage learned through Scouting.

Nicole Stadelman and My Hoang were honored for achieving the highest honor of Girl Scouts, the Gold Award. My Hoang who attends Leland High School and volunteers at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, collected supplies from businesses and individuals to assemble chemotherapy care kits for her project. Stadelman addressed the shortage of milkweed which has contributed to a decrease in the monarch butterfly population. To help combat this, she

grew and distributed 1061 milkweed plants to people in over 40 cities.

The Silver Award is the highest award a Cadette Scout can earn. Megha Karthik earned her award for the School Bullying Stops Here project.

The Bronze Award is the highest honor a Junior Girl Scout can earn. Karen Fricke, Isabella Kolano, Nila Mettler, Sonoma Mulvihill, and Lauren Todoroff earned the award for the Art Boxes for Caring project. Gianna Butera, Stephanie

Crone, Fiona Entzminger, Gabriella Franks, Sarah Hernandez, Ariana Ramos, Lynette Rondeau, Bonnie Stottlemeyer, and Sophia Stumpf earned the Bronze award for their Make New Friends Inspirational Art Wall. The Bronze award for the kids' Hospital Happiness project was earned by Natalie Burrill, Katelyn Chervenka, Aralyn Connolly, Hannah Dudum, Samantha Hoyt, Alyssa Keller, Makaila Khanna, Aliana Liu, Simonne Marshall, Allyson Meek Pierce, Mackenzie Osborn, Sophia Paulazzo, Caroline Sarringhaus, and Bethany Tate.

The following Girl Scouts achieved 10 years of service: Catherine Roberts, Kaylan Tate, Gia Tudish, Clara Graves, Jenna Holsen, Indrea Goyal, Annabel Klaben, Brianna Smith, Kaylynn Truong, Angelique Armenta, Sofie Gmerek, Tatiana Kohl-brenner-Rios, and Ariel Syrkin.

The ceremony concluded by recognizing the adult volunteers who support the Service Unit programs and the volunteers who support the individual troops. Everyone then rededicated their service to the Girl Scout program, which helps make the community a better place to live.



## Fantasy of Lights returns to brighten the holiday season

By Kevin Larsen  
Times staff writer

You're going to "ooh and aah" throughout your adventure.

Fantasy of Lights will be lighting up Vasona Lake County Park in Los Gatos over the holiday season once again for its 19th cherished season.

Friends and family members drive-thru the holiday light show or bundle up and

stroll through on foot to witness 1.5 miles of animated light displays up close and personal.

Two "Walk-through magic nights" take place

The Walk-thru nights are set for the weekend of Saturday, December 2 and Sunday, December 3 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Drive-thru nights run from  
See *LIGHTS*, page 8

## LET THE ALMADEN TIMES HEAR FROM YOU!

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



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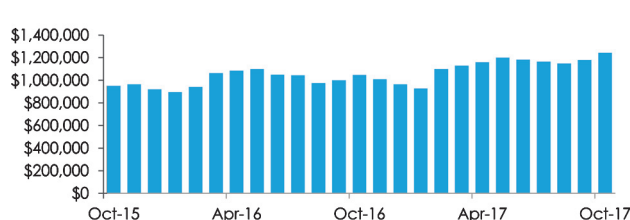


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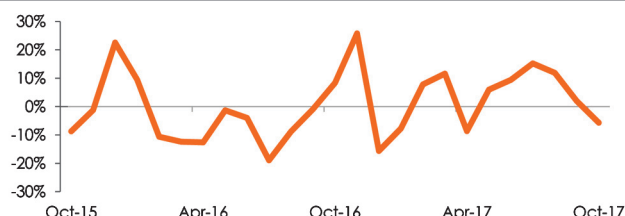
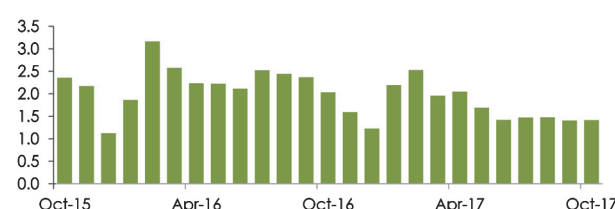
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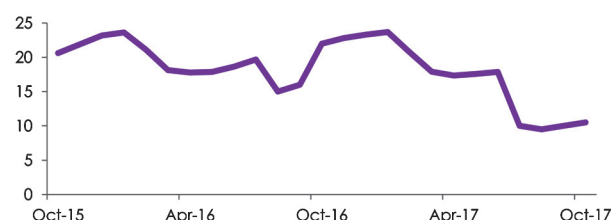
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Times **Local News**

## 2018 Almaden Valley Girls Softball Registration is OPEN NOW! AGES 4 to 14

Almaden Valley Girls Softball League registration is now open to GIRLS ages 4-14 wanting to play Spring Recreational Softball. AVGSL is a non-profit, 100% volunteer run league. The main goal of AVGSL is to ensure that the players are in a fun, positive environment while learning and expanding their softball skills. AVGSL promotes a sense of belonging for everyone. We emphasize teamwork and the sense of individual success that contributes to team sports.

Please visit our website at  
**WWW.AVGSL.ORG**  
to register.

If you have any questions please email us at [registrar@avgsl.org](mailto:registrar@avgsl.org)



Some of the children came from neighboring cities, and one parent drove her child 40 miles from Oakland in morning traffic to attend two workshop classes.

## Leland FIRST Robotics Team 604 joins with Univision to engage Hispanic community

By Evan Leung  
*Special to the Times*

Around this time last year, I wrote to the Almaden Times on behalf of Leland FIRST Robotics Team 604 to appeal to the community to support the Almaden Branch Library LEGO Robotics Workshop project with donations.

The workshop has been well received by the Almaden Community, and since the pilot run in January 2017, four more workshops have been held during school breaks.

The workshop was also incorporated into Code One Programming's "Girls Tech Week" at the Rose Garden Branch Library over the summer, with more than 100 students going through the workshop. The workshop has become a regular program at the Almaden Branch Library.

### Team 604 participates in Tournaments

This year, Team 604 successfully competed in two regional tournaments (San Francisco and Silicon Valley), qualifying them for the World Championship in Houston. Team 604 also won the Hopper Division and placed fourth overall at the championship. Continuing its community outreach and nurturing STEM interest in young minds are always at the heart of Team 604's mission.

Encouraged by the success at the Almaden Branch Library, Team 604 reached out to the local Hispanic com-

munity, which is under represented in the STEM field. The collaboration included a Lincoln High School teacher and some students to launch the Lego robotics workshop at the Bay Area headquarters of Univision, a national Spanish language TV network. Working with this group really opened Team 604's eyes to see that there is a great need for affordable STEM opportunities, even in the Bay Area.

A free workshop is indeed a rare and unique opportunity to many students. Within a few days of being publicized, the free workshop attracted more than four times as many applicants as it could accommodate. Some of the children came from neighboring cities, and one parent drove her child 40 miles from Oakland in morning traffic to attend two workshop classes.

The workshop has ignited a great deal of interest in robotics and provided a chance for the young people to explore becoming engineers as a future career. Team 604 is working hard to form a partnership with Univision to serve this community.

FIRST Lego League graduates and engineers are also encouraged to replicate this workshop in other local branch libraries so that more students can benefit from this important program.

*Editor's note: Evan Leung is Vice President of Leland Robotics FRC Team 604. To contact Leung, email him at [leung.evan.99@gmail.com](mailto:leung.evan.99@gmail.com)*

# ALMADEN FC TRYOUTS

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## Tree planting time is near - please volunteer!

By Councilmember Johnny Khamis

*Special to the Times*

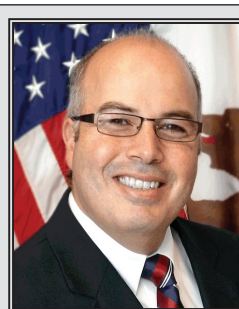
My office has fielded many calls from residents asking for an update on what is happening with the PG&E replacement trees.

Earlier this year, PG&E received permission from the County to remove 117 trees along Almaden Expwy as part of their Pipeline Safety Program.

PG&E was required to mitigate, or replace, those trees, one-for-one, and they have paid Our City Forest (OCF) the required funds to be able to do that. PG&E is still in negotiations with the City of San Jose over the remaining 30 trees they wish to remove that are on City owned property.

In December, OCF is scheduled to plant 28 trees in the Shadow Brook neighborhood, and 55 trees in TJ Martin and Jeffrey Fontana parks, as well as 10 trees on residential property around the parks. The remaining 24 trees were requested by individual homeowners when PG&E performed their door-to-door canvassing. PG&E has sent letters to those 24 residents, and it is up to them to reply and work with OCF to obtain their trees.

There are three planting dates and each date needs at least 60 volunteers. The



### District 10 Report

Johnny Khamis, City Councilmember

planting dates are: Dec 2, Dec 6, and Jan 6. Please consider joining your neighbors to help plant these trees.

To sign up as a volunteer, contact Ariel, the Volunteer Coordinator at OCF, at [plantingvolunteers@ourcityforest.org](mailto:plantingvolunteers@ourcityforest.org) or call 408.998.7337 x108.

## Almaden Soccer tryouts scheduled for December

By Sean Eastwood

*Times staff writer*

Almaden Soccer is hosting tryouts for the 2012-2014 (year born) age groups in its competitive program.

An Official North American Affiliate, FC Bayern Munich, Almaden FC (Football Club) is one of the fastest growing clubs in the bay area on and off the field.

Almaden Soccer welcomes recreational players and any players not already signed with a NorCal competitive club to attend tryouts. Any player currently signed with a NorCal competitive club must provide written permission from their club Director of Soccer, Director of Coaching or equivalent to attend Almaden FC tryouts.

In addition to the unique affiliation in the soccer industry, Almaden Soccer's brand new facility has been given a major push from District 10 Councilmember Johnny Khamis and San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo. Both spoke during Almaden Soccer's inaugural Golf Tournament and Banquet in August. The new facility plans to have a clubhouse, top quality fields, and facilities for our competitive and recreation programs.

To register, visit Almaden Soccer's website: [almadensoccer.org/tryouts](http://almadensoccer.org/tryouts)

*Editor's Note: Almaden Soccer is offering a free newsletter on their website with an email signup.*

## HOSTED BY SAN JOSE CITY COUNCILMEMBERS DON ROCHA & JOHNNY KHAMIS



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## Lights

*Continued from page 4*

December 5 through December 30 (closed December 25, Christmas Day) from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Whether you are on foot or in your vehicle, visitors will be dazzled by thousands of twinkling lights in large animated displays. See Santa shooting hoops, a pen of playful penguins, cannons blazing into the night, a tunnel of moving lights, a den of dinosaurs, a 90-foot twinkling tree

and more.

### Santa won't miss this

The Walk-thru weekend includes international food and beverages by Moveable Feast, costumed characters, visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus and a holiday photo booth by 94.5FM KBAY (Saturday only). Visitors should bear in mind that Fantasy of Lights is a 3-mile loop making comfortable walking shoes a must! Dress warm for the night air and consider bringing a flashlight too.

There is no parking at the Walk-thru event. Free parking and shuttle service is available at Netflix, 121 Albright Way, Los Gatos. Ridesharing with Lyft or Uber is highly encouraged.

Walk-thru and Drive-thru tickets go on sale Wednesday, November 1 at [www.parkhere.org](http://www.parkhere.org). Tickets must be purchased in advance for both events. Drive-thru patrons purchase tickets by the day of entrance and an allotted time slot of arrival.

### Walk-thru Pricing

\$10 adult (13 &amp; up)

\$5 child (4 thru 12)

Free – 3 years old or younger

### Drive-thru Pricing

\$20 per vehicle (up to 12 people)

\$50 oversize vehicles (capacity 13+)

*Tickets must be purchased in advance.*

*Processing fees are additional. For directions, ticketing and more information visit [www.parkhere.org](http://www.parkhere.org) or call (408) 355-2201. Vasona Lake County Park is located at 333 Blossom Hill Rd, Los Gatos, CA 95037.*



## AVGSL 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. AVGSL's main goal is to insure that all players are in a fun, positive environment while learning and expanding their softball skills. AVGSL promotes a sense of belonging for everyone. We emphasize teamwork and the sense of individual success that contribute to team sports.

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**SPOTLIGHT: JOHN DEVINE****Almaden Soccer reaches across the pond for technical director**By William Bellou  
Publisher

Almaden Soccer is fortunate to have John Devine as its new technical director.

The role of a technical director is to manage and oversee players and coach development within the club and to ensure the coaches follow club curriculum and philosophy. It has to do with leading a particular playing style across the entire club, no matter the age group. Also it encompasses other facets of leadership such as delivery of club's mission to develop all players to reach their fullest skill levels and potential.

Devine is a former Arsenal player (Arsenal is a professional football club based in Highbury, London, England, that plays in the Premier League, the top flight of English football). He has great strength of experience for he led Manchester United as their Technical director (also a premier league professional club based in Old Trafford, Greater Manchester England). He's a true professional with the ability to impart deep knowledge of creating a winning atmosphere for the team he oversees.

During the past two years, Devine has spearheaded a number of positive changes on and off the field for Almaden Soccer,

which has led to a number of recent state cup wins for both boys and girls programs. He now oversees Almaden Soccer's new coach education and development program.

**His work effort is "Devine"**

Devine dedicates many hours each day to support coaches from the competitive program and also volunteer coaches in the recreational program. On any given weekend, Devine will watch as many as 12 games. His passion for work stems from a steadfast belief in the club and the people striving for the growth and success of Almaden Soccer.

**An Irish lad**

Originally from Dublin, Ireland, Devine left his family at the age of 14 to join London soccer power house Arsenal FC, joining fellow Irishmen David O'Leary, Liam Brady and Frank Stapleton to name a few in a golden Irish generation for Arsenal.

Devine made more than 100 appearances for Arsenal as well as playing for Stoke City and Norwich City, making cup final appearances at Wembley, European Cup medals and caps for the Republic of Ireland.

Soon after his soccer playing career came to an end, Devine's growing passion for coaching took him to one of the biggest



clubs and most successful youth systems in the world at Manchester United.

Working as an Academy Director in Ireland for United, John was tasked with scouting, recruiting and more. Using John's Guided Discovery program, he prepared Ireland's best with Manchester United, which resulted in a steady stream of young Irish talent for Manchester United, including superstars the likes of Robbie Brady, Anthony Stokes, Jeff Hendrick, Johnny Evans and Craig Cathcart, just to name a few, who are currently in World Cup qualifying action for the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. His work as Almaden Soccer & GPS FC Bayern (Global Premier Soccer Football Club Youth Soccer) Technical Director allows Devine to support the continued evolution of coaching education as well as providing the club with a consistent style of play in a creative learning environment.

**The sky is the limit**

It is from his seasoned knowledge that a

work is building in Almaden soccer for Devine is weaving in his unbelievable knowledge of skill strategies into the tapestry of the club's DNA.

He exudes a winner's attitude and it rubs off so that youth can emulate it. Everyone loves a winner!

Devine has such an illustrious career that all consider it an honor to have him here in the states to lead the Almaden team. His ideas are extraordinary and he will share them with the team like no other leader can for he has the proven experience and charisma to take youth to a skill level they can only imagine.

**Come out and watch the games**

Devine is very excited about Almaden Soccer's pending new facility at Pioneer High School and the great benefits it will bring for Almaden Valley.

*Editor's Note: fundraising is in progress for the new facility. To learn more go visit: [almadensoccer.org/fundraising](http://almadensoccer.org/fundraising)*



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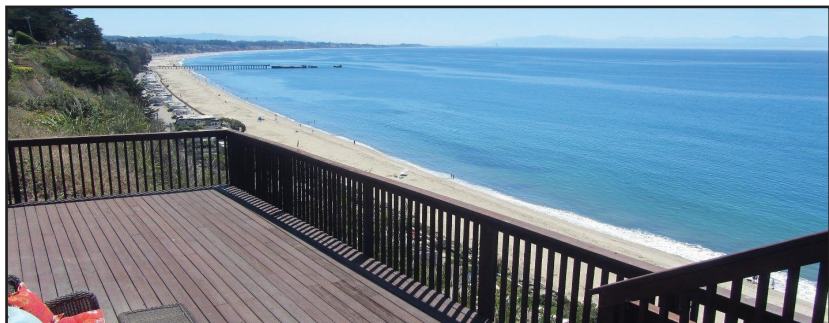


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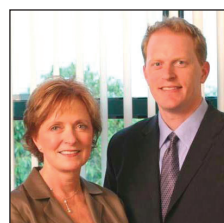
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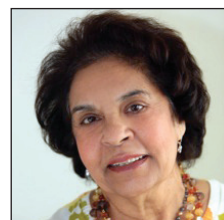
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Times **Sports**

## Ground game carries Leland over Santa Clara

Prep2Prep Staff

Junior Kyle Anderson led a powerful rushing attack to carry top-seeded Leland to a 52-20 win over visiting Santa Clara Friday night in the Central Coast Section Division IV semifinals.

Anderson accounted for 268 of his team's 419 yards on the ground to go along with three touchdowns. Sophomore quarterback Carson Yates carried six times for 73 yards and two touchdowns and sophomore Kekoa Lopez added 40 yards and a score on just five attempts.

Anderson ran for 250 yards and all three scores in the first two quarters, allowing the Chargers to survive a big effort from Santa Clara's Erik Ketton, who ran for 241 yards and all three Bruins' scores.

Ketton's first two scoring runs gave Santa Clara a 13-7 lead in the first quarter, but Leland closed the half with 38 straight points to lead 45-13 at the break. Yates added his two touchdown runs during that stretch, and did not attempt a pass during the scoring outburst, while Anderson capped the half with an 81-yard run.

The win boosted the Chargers (11-1) into the Division IV championship game where they will take on Christopher (10-2), which avenged an earlier loss with a 34-7 win over Alisal in the other semifinal.

Santa Clara finished its season with a 8-4 record and a SCVAL-El Camino Division championship.



## Tennis champs

A men's tennis team from San Jose was named national co-champion at the United States Tennis Association League 40 and Over 4.5 + men's National Championships at Mobile, Alabama on Oct. 22. Front row, left to right: **Denton Desquitado, Andrew Ngo, Anthony Latos, Brian Jacobsen, Jerome David**; Back row: **Roman Olmos, Kevin Howard, Michael Hotti, Brian Heimbecker, Gregory Unger, Dean Hemminger**. Photo Courtesy of United States Tennis Association.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNNY  
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Times **Feature**



Batman (Ben Affleck), Wonder Woman (Gal Gadot), Cyborg (Ray Fisher), Flash (Ezra Miller), and Aquaman (Jason Momoa) form the new Justice League. Photo: Warner Bros.

MOVIE REVIEW

# The Justice League

★★★★☆

By Steven Leonard  
Times Movie Reviewer

Man

kind doesn't deserve Wonder Woman, but boy are we glad she's here anyway.

After stealing the show in Batman V Superman and captivating the world in her solo film, Wonder Woman (Gal Gadot) is back! This time around, she's helping Bruce Wayne assemble his team of metahumans to fight against an impending invasion.

Gal Gadot's last film was Wonder Woman and it was one of my favorite films. Justice League is not in the same league as her solo Wonder Woman, but don't get me wrong, Gal Gadot as Wonder Woman was just as exciting in this film. The film is leagues better than last summer's ragtag villain team up "Suicide Squad" and superior to "Batman V Superman".

One of my favorite scenes was when Aquaman accidentally sits on Wonder Woman's Lasso of Truth and he tells her against his will that she's a smoking hot babe and her face blushes bright red. I'd have to agree with his embarrassing remarks towards her.

Justice League is flawed...but its flaws are outweighed by some welcome levity and some genuine conversation between Batman, Wonder Woman, The Flash, Aquaman, and Cyborg. The film is fun and the extent of that fun lies with its main array of superhero characters. They're great to watch on their own and together, but the film's super villain doesn't do anything for them.

The league is united fighting a super villain (a Big Bad Steppenwolf) who has no real purpose, plot, or motive for destroying the planet or humanity. The Justice League needed a worthy villain and plot to

fight against in this film.

This movie should have put out an advertisement in newspapers requesting a worthy adversary for this Justice League movie. Actually, the movie would have been a better with a villain, and rather focusing on the league's chemistry between each other with some romance on the side. I would have enjoyed seeing a bunch of super heroes sitting around cracking jokes, waiting for their next super villain to arrive, flirting non-stop with Wonder Woman and Lois Lane with some expensive wine and flowers; bought and paid for by the super-rich Bruce Wayne. We are reminded many times during the film that Bruce has no real super powers except that he's rich, drives fancy cars, and has some really cool lethal gadgets.

If I had a chance to interview the super villain (a Big Bad Steppenwolf) about why he wanted to destroy mother Earth or humanity his answer would probably go something like this, "I don't really know. I never thought about it. No one has ever asked me that question before!" while scratching his head.

Try as he might — and you can see his influence — not even "Avengers" director Joss Whedon could save the league from a silly story and a sillier CG villain. Whedon came on board to finish the film after director Zack Snyder stepped down after his daughter's death earlier this year and shares a writing credit in the final movie. This film would have been much better in the hands of Patty Jenkins, the female director for last year's favorite DC solo film Wonder Woman.

It's little surprise that Gal Gadot once again steals nearly every scene in which she's included. A bank robbery scene with her early on isn't needed, but it's among the movie's highlights as it reminds audiences why they fell in love with her in the first place. Thankfully, she's not the only hero who will win audiences over. There is a "reveal" superhero that shows up later in the film and I was glad to see in action again, but not surprised.

The takeaway from this entire saga should be that if studios are going to aim for surprise reveals, they need to make the effort to actually keep the secret, and ensure that whatever is unveiled is worth it.

## Electronic Waste Collection Fundraiser

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Times Feature

# Eagle Scout project solicits help from community

By Kevin Larsen  
Times staff writer

Bellarmino student, Arnav Bhau, has established his Eagle Scout project reflecting his vision of working with nonprofit organizations, such as Community Seva.

Bhau's project includes a winter backpack drive for the underprivileged and homeless and the collection of toys and board games for children.

Bhau's project is underway and approved by his troop leaders and his volunteer team has already distributed a donation of about 500 items at one of the shelters. He has two more distribution days coming up. Busy time for a 15 year old!

"Our team of scouts and volunteers will be fundraising, ordering, collecting, storing, and assembling backpacks full of goods," said Arnav. "Multiple separate items will be added to the backpacks such as blankets, beanies, gloves, towels, socks, rain ponchos, a personal hygiene



care kit that includes; toothpaste, toothbrushes, soaps, shampoos, and body lotion along with a donated food. One hundred percent of what is donated goes directly to the project."

"I appreciate everyone's help," states Arnav. "Let's come together for this cause and spread generosity in our community!" If you wish to donate used

toys, books, and board games, you can email Bhau: [arnav.bhau1014@gmail.com](mailto:arnav.bhau1014@gmail.com). The volunteer team will come and collect items from your location. Additionally, the team is in talks with local businesses where donation boxes will be placed for convenient drop offs.

*Editor's Note: Arnav's proposal has gone through many rounds of approval by the Boy Scout Scoutmasters and Review team. Your donations are 100 percent tax deductible. Here is the link to learn more as to how to support his caring Eagle Scout Project: [communityseva.org/arnaveagleproject](http://communityseva.org/arnaveagleproject).*



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Amy L. Horowitz Attorney at Law

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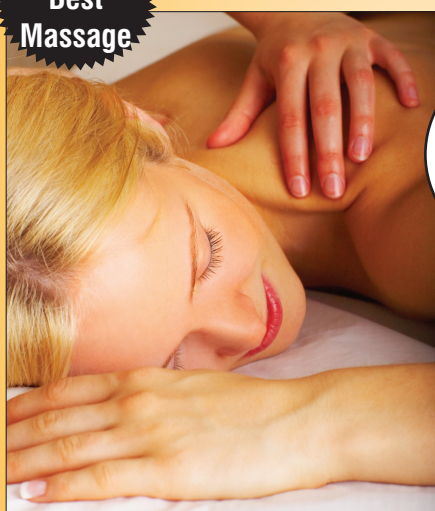
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## GPS COACH OF THE YEAR

Almaden Soccer coach **Matt Bambrick** is named 2017 Global Premier Soccer (GPS) Coach of the Year. Bambrick is presented the award by GPS California General Manager **Kurtis Millan** (left) and GPS CEO **Joe Bradley**. The Mission of GPS California is to enhance the soccer experience of players and coaches in California, providing players the opportunity to develop as athletes and as people by fostering an identity of excellence.

Times **Cover Story****Crime***Continued from page 1*

lights, I tell them it's because they're running from 9-1-1 call to 9-1-1 call," he says. "We're so understaffed, we don't have police officers to do routine patrolling. They're not available to catch red light runners."

However, he allows that the police chief, mayor and city councilmembers are trying to turn that around, and as a result, the last two police academies had high numbers and police officers are choosing to stay in San Jose.

**Guns**

Rather than trying to change gun laws, Gibbons-Shapiro says the DA's office is looking at how they can ramp up the enforcement of existing gun laws. Recently, a man who should've been prohibited from purchasing a gun due to a domestic violence conviction was able to purchase one due to lack of communication. "I think about this a lot," he says. "What are we doing to keep guns out of the hands of people who shouldn't have them and solve more gun-related crimes with the guns we seize?"

In reaction to an increase in violent crimes in the past two years, the DA's office has a new approach: a faster turnaround time (30 days) of gun processing to solve and deter gun-related crimes. Police officers find guns (about 12 times a year) discarded in bushes or on the side of the road. They also seize firearms from the cars of felons who aren't allowed to possess them. Now, these guns are rushed to the crime lab with test firing for ballistic matching and swabbed for DNA and fingerprints. "There is a real link between gun crimes and residential burglaries," says Gibbons-Shapiro. "Lots of people have guns in their homes and it's common to have them stolen. Solving more residential burglaries is important to reducing

gun-related crimes."

**Marijuana**

"How do you feel as a prosecutor about the decriminalization of marijuana?" asks a resident. "Does that handcuff you?"

"One of the things all prosecutors do is swear an oath to uphold the laws and constitution of California and the United States," says Gibbons-Shapiro. "Whatever voters and legislators change laws to be, are the laws we're going to enforce and I'm all in for that. If voters change the law to say marijuana's legal, that doesn't mean I'm going to go have some, but I'm going to be fine not prosecuting people for possession because that's what the law is now."

What worries him is people driving under the influence of marijuana. Unlike Colorado, he says, when it passed the legalization of the recreational use of marijuana, California didn't set a standard of what amount of THC in someone's blood is over the legal limit and impairs their ability to safely drive a car. "I wish California had an actual number for THC like we have for alcohol," he says. "It would make for an easier argument for a defense attorney to make to a jury and keep our streets safer. We have a blood test for THC, but the Legislature hasn't been able to agree what the number should be."

**Immigrants**

About 37 percent of the people living in Santa Clara County are immigrants. A major concern of the DA's office is their reluctance to call 9-1-1 for help or testify after witnessing a crime. They are worried, says Gibbons-Shapiro, that they'll be arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, like the woman in Texas who went to court to get a restraining order. "There's been a lot of fear in the last year about cooperating with law enforcement," he says, "especially with domestic violence cases." To allay these fears, the DA's office undertook community outreach to assure women that if they call

*See CRIME, page 19*



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Times **Feature**

**LEGAL ADVICE**

# The basics of a real estate development project

By **Steven R. Roeser, Esq.**

*Special to the Times*

This week's question:

"I inherited a lot of money from my folks and I am considering getting into real estate development. I have remodeled my home and that is the extent of my experience. Is this a good or a bad idea?"

**Logan G.**

*Almaden Valley*

Dear Logan:

Real property development in Silicon Valley is highly competitive, complicated in terms of permitting and regulations, and as expensive as it gets. That all means it is a big risk for you since you do not have experience. However, with the right team in place, you can greatly increase your odds of success, meaning healthy net profits.

Following is an outline of the initial planning that a developer should consider.

## 1. FORM YOUR DEVELOPMENT TEAM

First, it should be noted that a developer uses a builder to build a finished piece of construction, and then sells it. Developer and builder are two distinct positions and one cannot fill the other, and one cannot fill both positions.

Building is one of many pieces of the development, as there are financing, purchase, entitlement/permitting, and sale issues and transactions to address, to name a few.

Typically, the developer will arrange a large group of professionals to perform the various tasks necessary for the development. This usually includes a lending institution, legal professionals to navigate all phases of the project and contracts for same, tax experts to assist in maximizing profit, real estate brokers to act as agent to purchase and lease or sell land, engineers and architects, a general contractor, and subcontractors.

The above is the minimum team and the unique requirements of each project may require much more. For instance, HUD construction or construction in an environmentally sensitive area will require specialists in those fields and permitting can be a lengthy process. A simple rule is that the larger the project, the more time and expense that should be expected for final approval of the project from all required governing authorities.

Further, if the developer, itself, is composed of various parties, such as a partnership or corporation, careful planning is necessary in the structure to avoid disputes within the structure leading to a breakdown of the entire project due to internal conflict.

The developer is essentially the CEO of the project, and must wear many hats and perform various tasks. Disputes between the engineer and architect or the contractor and both are common and at all times the lender can be a constant presence capable

of grinding the entire project to a halt by stopping the flow of money.

As the developer is the head of the entire project, get ready to play quarterback and lead your chosen team! Now that you have your team ready, it is time to play ball.

## 2. PLAN YOUR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AND GO FOR IT!

Determine the type of development you want to try. (Commercial? Residential? To own and lease? To improve and sell? Build from scratch? Improve existing? Location? Partnership or alone?)

Determine your financial resources. Determine your borrowing potential.

Create a budget and time line that is likely and to do that - Obtain the first part of your team in the sense of discussing the matter with them. This would normally be a builder, perhaps an engineer and/or architect.

Find a good real estate broker and begin your search and learn the market. Don't buy anything yet.

Once the property is located, create the legal framework that will do the development. You will need the lawyer and

CPA to accomplish that. This will cost some money.

Get financing arranged for both the purchase and the development.

Using the architect and builder get preliminary plans for the property. This will cost some money.

Conclude the financing package.

Have the property surveyed and soils, water, hazardous waste, etc, and checked and certified as appropriate.

Buy the property. If possible, buy it contingent on the approvals described below.

Have the architect create final building plans with the engineer. This will cost you money. Submit the plans for approval by all local building, zoning and environmental departments and agencies. This will cost money and take twice the time you think it will.

Enter into construction contracts with the general contractor (GC hereafter) and, if the GC does not, with the subs.

Supervise the construction. Expect and budget for many delays and problems.

Rent or sell the property.

Enjoy your profits and look for the next project.

If you find yourself needing advice as to a real estate development project, or any business or real estate matter, please feel free to contact me.

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.



## Ask the Lawyer

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

## Almaden Seniors Soup Party

### Saturday, January 13th, 2018

### 1:00 to 3:00 pm

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**SYMPHONY SILICON VALLEY Chorale**

## Times Cover Story

## Crime

Continued from page 17

9-1-1 for help, they won't be asked if they're documented. Gibbons-Shapiro tells them, "We want to arrest and hold accountable the person who beat you up. We want you to testify against him, so we can convict him, so he'll be punished for that."

"If someone calls 9-1-1 to say their boyfriend is beating them up, I don't care if that person is a citizen or not. What I care about is that that person shouldn't be beaten up, whether their boyfriend is a U.S. citizen, undocumented, with a green card or with a Student Visa. He should be arrested and held accountable."

"Domestic violence is horrible," says a resident, "but so is coming here illegally: they're both crimes. You're just choosing which crime you want to support."

"I have no authority to enforce federal crimes," says Gibbons-Shapiro. "What I do have a mandate for, as part of the DA's office and local law enforcement community, is to keep our community safe. So, focusing on violent crimes is, in my opinion, the right focus, especially as part of the District Attorney's office. I really want everyone who's been a victim of violent crime to call 9-1-1 and not be afraid they're going to have to answer questions from immigration in order to do that, because I'm afraid they're not going to call."

## A look back: crime and prison reform:

Gibbons-Shapiro shared a brief history of California's changing approach to crime and prison reform from 1977 to the present.

From the end of WWII to 1977, people convicted of a crime in California faced indeterminate sentencing, putting them in prison for two years to life. If someone was found guilty of committing a first-degree murder, and given seven years to life, after seven years, he went before the parole board, which could reduce his sentence. Indeterminate sentencing focused on the individual, with the length of time served depending upon behavior in prison and insight to his crime. In the '70s, indeterminate sentencing came under fire; critics said it was unfair and inconsistent as people received different sentences for the same crime. Some people also considered the sentencing to be too lenient. In 1977, the California state prison population (made up of people convicted of a felony) was 19,623.

When he came into office, Governor Jerry Brown led a revolution in prison reform changing indeterminate to determinate sentencing. Under this system, a

judge, rather than a parole board set the length of time a prisoner served and decided whether probation was possible. The judge could only choose from two, four, or six years, based upon the type of crime. In 1978, the sentence for first-degree murder became 25 years to life. Someone convicted of the crime couldn't go before the parole board for 25 years, rather than the previous seven. In 1987, the California state prison population increased to 66,975.

In 1982, California Proposition 8 was approved. Known by its supporters as the Victims' Bill of Rights, it altered criminal justice procedures, punishments and constitutional rights. If a person committed a serious or violent felony and had committed one in the past, they received an enhanced five years added on to their sentence.

In 1994, California passed the three strikes law, sentencing people to 25 years to life for their third offense. It was the toughest version in the country, as the third strike didn't have to be committing a serious or violent crime. Other new laws included the 1 strike law for sex offenders, which sentenced them to 15 to 25 years to life for some sexual assaults. Additional enhanced sentences included 10 years for carrying a gun during a crime, 20 years for using it during a crime and 25 years to life if you shot someone. During this time, regardless of prison crowding, prisons and parole boards could not weigh in on length of prisoner sentencing. Until the '90s, there was a cap on the total number of years someone could serve for burglaries. This changed, as well. The California state prison population in 1993 was 119,951, about 100,000 more than it was in 1977.

In 1999, the California state prison population was 160,687. In 2007, it was 173,312. The increasing prison population led to overcrowding and federal lawsuits. At the time of the U.S. Supreme Court's 2011 decision in Brown v. Plata, the California prison system housed nearly twice the capacity it was designed for. The Supreme Court held that California's prison system violated inmates' Eighth Amendment rights. In response, the state prisons changed their operational capacity by adding bunkbeds, but 45,000 prisoners still had to be released or new prisons built. Some prisoners were released early: second strike offenders who had good behavior and served 50 to 66 percent of their sentence, rather than 80 percent, could now go before the parole board. Prisoners who were at least 60 years old and had already served 25 years became eligible for a

See CRIME, page 20

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MSRP: \$15,990  
DEALER DISCOUNT: -\$4,241  
SALE PRICE: \$11,749  
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FIAT CA NON-PRIME RETAIL BONUS CASH\*\* -\$750  
FIAT 2017 CONQUEST LEASE TO RETAIL/LEASE CASH\*\*\* -\$1,000

**NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES**

22 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM

**\$8,999**

3 AT THIS NET PRICE VINS 691188, 700521, 675320

\*RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS APPLY. \*\*FOR FICO SCORES BELOW 620, MUST FINANCE THROUGH CHRYSLER CAPITAL, SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL. \*\*\*MUST LEASE A 2008 OR NEWER NON-FCA LLC VEHICLE. TURN-IN OR TRADE-IN NOT REQUIRED. CURRENT REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

#### 2017 JEEP RENEGADE



MSRP: \$19,090  
DEALER DISCOUNT: -\$4,602  
SALE PRICE: \$14,488  
JEEP CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH\* -\$2,500  
JEEP CA RETAIL NON-PRIME BONUS CASH\*\* -\$500  
JEEP CA 2017 RETAIL BONUS CASH\* -\$500  
JEEP CA 2017 BONUS CASH\* -\$500  
JEEP CA DISASTER RELIEF BONUS CASH\*\*\* -\$500

**NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES**

15 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM

**\$9,988**

3 AT THIS NET PRICE VIN #G06527, G16843, G16877

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#### 2017 CHRYSLER PACIFICA

3RD ROW SEATING!



MSRP: \$30,090  
DEALER DISCOUNT: -\$4,702  
SALE PRICE: \$25,388  
CHRYSLER CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH\* -\$2,000  
CHRYSLER CA NON-PRIME RETAIL BONUS CASH\*\* -\$1,000  
CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH\*\*\* -\$500  
CHRYSLER CA 2017 RETAIL BONUS CASH\* -\$500  
CHRYSLER CA TRADE-IN RETAIL BONUS CASH\*\*\* -\$1,000  
CHRYSLER CA DISASTER RELIEF BONUS CASH\*\*\* -\$500

**NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES**

22 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM

**\$19,888**

22 AT THIS NET PRICE

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#### 2017 FIAT 500X POP

AUTOMATIC, REMOTE KEYLESS ENTRY, LOW TIRE PRESSURE WARNING & MORE!



MSRP: \$22,490  
DEALER DISCOUNT: -\$3,591  
SALE PRICE: \$18,899  
FIAT CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH\* -\$2,750  
FIAT CA NON-PRIME RETAIL BONUS CASH\*\* -\$750  
FIAT CA 2017 SF AUTO SHOW RETAIL BONUS\* -\$1,000

**NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES**

2 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM

**\$13,999**

2 TO CHOOSE AT THIS NET PRICE #612795, 613049

\*RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS APPLY. \*\*FOR FICO SCORES BELOW 620, MUST FINANCE THROUGH CHRYSLER CAPITAL, SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL.

#### 2018 JEEP CHEROKEE LATITUDE

AUTOMATIC, AIR, P/W, PL & MORE!



MSRP: \$25,490  
DEALER DISCOUNT: -\$3,213  
SALE PRICE: \$22,277  
JEEP CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH\* -\$2,000  
JEEP CA NON-PRIME RETAIL BONUS CASH\*\* -\$1,000  
JEEP CA DISASTER RELIEF BONUS CASH\*\*\* -\$500  
JEEP TRADE-IN BONUS CASH\*\*\*\* -\$1,000

**NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES**

5 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM

**\$15,777**

5 TO CHOOSE AT THIS NET PRICE

\*RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS APPLY. \*\*FOR FICO SCORES BELOW 620, MUST FINANCE THROUGH CHRYSLER CAPITAL, SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL. \*\*\*MUST LEASE A 2008 OR NEWER NON-FCA LLC VEHICLE. TURN-IN OR TRADE-IN NOT REQUIRED. CURRENT REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

#### NEW 2017 CHRYSLER 300 S

NAV, LEATHER, WIRELESS PHONE CONNECTIVITY & MORE!



DEALER DISCOUNT OFF MSRP: -\$5,250  
CHRYSLER CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH\* -\$3,750  
CHRYSLER CA 2017 BONUS CASH\* -\$1,000  
CHRYSLER 300 RETAIL BONUS CASH\* -\$2,500  
CHRYSLER CA DISASTER RELIEF BONUS CASH\*\*\* -\$500  
CHRYSLER 2017 SF AUTO SHOW BONUS CASH\*\*\* -\$1,000

**NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES**

7 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM

**\$14,000**

4 IN STOCK AT THIS NET SAVINGS! VIN #617931, 635578, 635579, 599746

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#### 2018 CHRYSLER PACIFICA HYBRID

TOURING PLUS



3RD ROW SEATING, PARKING SENSORS, WIRELESS PHONE CONNECTIVITY & MORE!

MSRP: \$33,992  
DEALER DISCOUNT: -\$3,213  
SALE PRICE: \$30,779  
DODGE CA 2018 RETAIL BONUS CASH\* -\$1,250  
DODGE CA NON-PRIME RETAIL BONUS CASH\*\* -\$1,000  
DODGE CA 2018 BONUS CASH\* -\$500  
DODGE CA DISASTER RELIEF BONUS CASH\*\*\* -\$500

**NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES**

73 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM

**\$20,888**

10 TO CHOOSE AT THIS NET PRICE

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#### 2018 DODGE CHALLENGER

AUTOMATIC, REMOTE KEYLESS ENTRY, FRONT DUAL ZONE A/C & MORE!



MSRP: \$28,090  
DEALER DISCOUNT: -\$3,952  
SALE PRICE: \$24,138  
DODGE CA 2018 RETAIL BONUS CASH\* -\$1,250  
DODGE CA NON-PRIME RETAIL BONUS CASH\*\* -\$1,000  
DODGE CA 2018 BONUS CASH\* -\$500  
DODGE CA DISASTER RELIEF BONUS CASH\*\*\* -\$500

**NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES**

73 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM

**\$20,888**

10 TO CHOOSE AT THIS NET PRICE

\*RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS APPLY. \*\*FOR FICO SCORES BELOW 620, MUST FINANCE THROUGH CHRYSLER CAPITAL, SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL. \*\*\*MUST LEASE A 2008 OR NEWER NON-FCA LLC VEHICLE. TURN-IN OR TRADE-IN NOT REQUIRED. CURRENT REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

#### 2018 DODGE CHARGER

3.6L V6, AUTOMATIC & MORE!



MSRP: \$29,590  
DEALER DISCOUNT: -\$4,452  
SALE PRICE: \$25,138  
DODGE CA NON-PRIME RETAIL BONUS CASH\* -\$1,000  
DODGE CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH\* -\$500  
DODGE CA 2018 RETAIL BONUS CASH\* -\$1,250  
DODGE CA DISASTER RELIEF BONUS CASH\*\*\* -\$500

**NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES**

104 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM

**\$21,888**

3 AT THIS NET PRICE #115150, 152397, 167382

\*RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS APPLY. \*\*FOR FICO SCORES BELOW 620, MUST FINANCE THROUGH CHRYSLER CAPITAL, SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL. \*\*\*MUST LEASE A 2008 OR NEWER NON-FCA LLC VEHICLE. TURN-IN OR TRADE-IN NOT REQUIRED. CURRENT REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

#### 2017 FIAT 500L TREKKING

NAV, LEATHER, PREMIUM AUDIO & MORE!



MSRP: \$26,280  
DEALER DISCOUNT: -\$4,792  
SALE PRICE: \$21,488  
CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH\*\*\* -\$1,000  
FIAT CA NON-PRIME RETAIL BONUS CASH\*\* -\$1,500  
FIAT CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH\*\*\* -\$3,000

**NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES**

10 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM

**\$15,988**

1 AT THIS NET PRICE #040197

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#### 2017 FIAT 124 SPIDER CLASSICA



MSRP: \$28,635  
DEALER DISCOUNT: -\$5,397  
SALE PRICE: \$23,238  
FIAT CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH\* -\$500  
CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH\*\*\* -\$750  
FIAT OWNER LOYALTY RETAIL BONUS CASH\*\*\* -\$1,000

**NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES**

10 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM

**\$20,988**

1 AT THIS NET PRICE #110972

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#### 2017 RAM 1500 CREW CAB

AUTOMATIC, NAV, LEATHER, PARKING SENSORS & MORE!



DEALER DISCOUNT OFF MSRP: -\$8,838  
RAM CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH\* -\$2,750  
RAM CA NON-PRIME RETAIL BONUS CASH\*\* -\$1,500  
CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH\*\*\* -\$500  
RAM CA 2017 BONUS CASH\* -\$1,000  
RAM CA 2017 RETAIL BONUS CASH\* -\$1,000  
RAM LD V8 RETAIL BONUS CASH\* -\$1,000  
RAM CA DISASTER RELIEF BONUS CASH\*\*\* -\$500

**NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES**

209 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM

**\$17,088**

20 TO CHOOSE FROM AT THIS NET SAVINGS!

\*RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS APPLY. \*\*MUST FINANCE THROUGH CHRYSLER CAPITAL, SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL. \*\*\*FOR FICO SCORES BELOW 620, MUST FINANCE THROUGH CHRYSLER CAPITAL, SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL. \*\*\*MUST LEASE A 2008 OR NEWER NON-FCA LLC VEHICLE. TURN-IN OR TRADE-IN NOT REQUIRED. CURRENT REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

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## Times Feature

## Crime

Continued from page 19

parole board hearing and possible release. Youthful offenders, who were under age 25 when they committed their crime and had served 25 years, could also have a parole hearing. Previously, if someone was convicted of committing a first-degree murder with a gun, they got 25 years for murdering someone, plus another 25 years for shooting someone with a gun, equaling a sentence of 50 years to life. If they committed the crime at age 30, they wouldn't have a parole hearing until they were 80 years old.

Under 2011's prison reform, sentences were reduced to allow realignment: rather than serving three years in a state prison, a person could serve that time in a county jail. The county jail having discretion, might change a three-year sentence to having the prisoner serve two years in jail with one year of supervision. This was done more often as county jails became crowded with state prisoners. In 2012, California's three strikes law became aligned with other states guidelines: the third strike now had to be a serious or violent felony. Those already serving 25 years to life could be released early if the third strike was not a serious or violent

felony. In 2014, Proposition 47 changed some felonies to misdemeanors, such as the possession of drugs for personal use.

In 2016, Jerry Brown was once again the Governor of California, but he had a change of heart about determinate sentencing as it dramatically increased California's prison population, says Gibbons-Shapiro. With Proposition 57, the state returned to indeterminate sentencing. This removed a prosecutor's ability to file an adult case against a juvenile: now a 17-year-old accused of murder could not be tried as an adult. Previously, someone convicted of two commercial burglaries could be sentenced to 12 years. Under Proposition 57, they might be released after seeing their parole board after three years.

"One of the challenges of changing a law like Proposition 57, is that if you're a victim of a crime, and I told you four years ago that the perpetrator would be in prison for 12 years...it's no longer true. I know it's been hard for victims and their families to wrestle with...having people up for parole who they thought never would be because they got 50 years to life. We invite the victims to come speak at parole board hearings, but that's hard for a victim and a trip many victim's families never thought they'd have to make."

## Christmas Food Drive reaches out to help 5,000 families

\$2M in food vouchers and no one is to be tuaway

By William Bellou  
Publisher

More than 2,500 grocery carts full of food will be distributed at the Reaching Out Food Center located at the Cathedral of Faith in San Jose during the 'Celebration of Love' event Friday, December 22 from 1 – 3 p.m.

500 volunteers will be on hand at the event December 22 to provide assistance to food recipients. A total of 5,000 grocery carts full of food will be distributed, including turkeys, fresh produce, vegetables, milk, bread, and pastries, to needy families during the month of December.

"This year, we've seen a much greater demand in our services," said Jim Gallagher, Reaching Out's director. "The food drive benefits more than 5,000 needy families during the entire month of December. The retail price of the food is fast approaching \$2,000,000."

Gallagher explained that the mostly-volunteer organization, which operates out of a debt-free, 16,000 square foot distribution center on the Cathedral of Faith campus, provides emergency food and basic life necessities for more than 160,000 economically disadvantaged.



This year Reaching Out has partnered with 37 local public schools that see a need for food for their students' families. Reaching Out provides food monthly to needy families at these schools.

The Celebration of Love Food Distribution on December 22 takes approximately two hours to pull off— with the help of hundreds of volunteers from the church congregation. More than 5,000 vouchers are being distributed to recipients over the next month, and each will present their voucher to receive their food. "No one will be turned away," Gallagher said.

For more information about Reaching Out or the Cathedral of Faith, log onto [www.cathedralof-faith.org](http://www.cathedralof-faith.org), or contact Jim Gallagher, Director, at 408-979-3090; [jgallagher@cathedralof-faith.org](mailto:jgallagher@cathedralof-faith.org).

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# SOUTH COUNTY

CHRYSLER DODGE FIAT Jeep RAM

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**219 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM**

**NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES**

## \$15,088

DEALER DISCOUNT OFF MSRP	-\$7,838
RAM CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH*	-\$2,750
RAM CA NON-PRIME RETAIL BONUS CASH**	-\$1,500
CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH***	-\$500
RAM CA 2017 BONUS CASH*	-\$1,000
RAM CA 2017 RETAIL BONUS CASH*	-\$1,000
RAM CA DISASTER RELIEF BONUS CASH****	-\$500
NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES	-\$13,888

\*RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS APPLY \*\*FOR PICO SCORES BELOW 620. MUST FINANCE THROUGH CHRYSLER CAPITAL. SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL \*\*\*MUST FINANCE THROUGH CHRYSLER CAPITAL. SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL \*\*\*\*\$500 CALIFORNIA DISASTER RELIEF BONUS CASH CACIL. CUSTOMERS MUST PRESENT A COPY OF THEIR INSURANCE CLAIM FORM INDICATING DAMAGE TO THEIR CAR, TRUCK OR SUV AS A RESULT OF THE CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES, WHICH OCCURRED IN OCTOBER, 2017. RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS APPLY. SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS.

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**2017 RAM 2500 SLT CREW 4X4**  
FRONT DUAL ZONE A/C, WIRELESS PHONE CONNECTIVITY, PARKING SENSORS & MORE!



**68 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM**

**NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP!**

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**30 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM**

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## \$13,888

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HIGH ROOF UNLIMITED CARGO! NAV, REMOTE KEYLESS ENTRY, WIRELESS PHONE CONNECTIVITY & MORE!



**7 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM**

**NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES**

DEALER DISCOUNT OFF MSRP	-\$2,500
RAM PROMASTER CONQUEST BONUS CASH*	-\$250
RAM CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH**	-\$1,750
RAM CA COMMERCIAL BONUS CASH***	-\$500
RAM 2018 ON-THE-JOB COMMERCIAL UPGRADE/GRAPHICS***	-\$1,000
RAM CA DISASTER RELIEF BONUS CASH****	-\$500
RAM 2017 SF AUTO SHOW BONUS**	-\$1,000
NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES	-\$13,888

**2017 RAM PROMASTER CITY CARGO**  
REMOTE KEYLESS ENTRY, WIRELESS CONNECTIVITY, PARKING SENSORS & MORE!



**ECONOMY CARGO!**

**11 OTHERS TO CHOOSE FROM**

**NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES**

MSRP	\$25,975
DEALER DISCOUNT	-\$3,087
SALE PRICE	\$22,888
RAM PROMASTER CONQUEST BONUS CASH*	-\$1,500
RAM CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH**	-\$2,500
RAM 2017 ON-THE-JOB COMMERCIAL UPGRADE/GRAPHICS***	-\$500
RAM CA COMMERCIAL BONUS CASH*	-\$1,000
RAM CA DISASTER RELIEF BONUS CASH****	-\$500
NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES	-\$13,888

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**CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ALMADEN VALLEY, UCC**

6581 Camden Ave., San Jose, CA 95120. Pastor, Rev. Marty Williams, 408 268 0243.

[www.ccavucc.org](http://www.ccavucc.org).

We are a welcoming church with a 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 LifeMoves (formerly InnVision) Shelter Feedings once a month, San Francisco Night Ministry, Second Harvest Food Bank, Church World Service, and Communities Responding to End Poverty.

Worship Sunday, 9:00 AM followed by fellowship and refreshments. 1st Sunday in Worship: Holy Communion

2nd Sunday in Worship: Folks Choir and Potluck Sunday.

Tuesdays, 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)

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.

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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After School lessons on Piano, Violin, Viola, Flute PreSchool, Age 2-6 years. Caring for your child with God's love and affection (408) 791 7772

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

SAINT ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH

We invite you to become a part of our hospitable, intimate Catholic parish. We are a caring community, promoting spiritual growth, reaching out to people in need and where you get to know people by name. We offer children's religious education (CREATE); Youth Ministry (BLAST & X-STATIC); Scripture Study (day & evening); Senior's Group and many other adult ministries as well. Saint Anthony parish is located in Almaden Valley at 20101 McKean Road, San Jose, 95120. Our weekend Masses are at 4 p.m. on Saturday at our historic church at 21800 Bertram Road in New Almaden, CA 95042 and on Sunday at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 5:30 p.m. at the McKean Road location. Our Parish Office is open Monday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and Tuesday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 - 4 p.m. For more information, stop by the Parish Office or call 1+ (408) 997-4800, or visit our website at [www.churchsanthony.co](http://www.churchsanthony.co) m. 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, multi-cultural Church community, where services are done primarily in English. What happens when you reunite created matter to its Creator? Come and see! Sunday worship: Orthos – 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) or [www.stfrancisofassisi preschool.org](http://www.stfrancisofassisi preschool.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!



*God is One*  
**ੴ ਸਿਕ ਹੈ**  
**Rab Ik Hai**

**SAN JOSE GURDWARA**

3636 Gurdwara Ave. San Jose, CA 95148 The word Sikh (see-kh) means "disciple" or "student." A Sikh is a practitioner of the faith founded in the 15th century by Guru Nanak in Punjab of old British India. A Guru who is a "teacher" or "enlightener" completes the relationship of teaching and learning. Sikhism is monotheistic and stresses the equality of all men and women. Sikhs believe in three basic principles; meditating on the name of God (praying), earning a living by honest means and sharing the fruits of one's labor with others. Currently there are close to one million Sikhs living in the USA and Canada and 25 million Sikhs living around the world. Sikhism is the 5th largest religion in the world. At the Gurdwara (House of God) in San Jose we welcome all. We pray daily for peace and prosperity for everybody in the world. Come to visit and enjoy Langer (food) in our kitchen which is open 365 days of the year and serves complementary vegetarian meals. We also encourage you to enter our history room on site and walk the beautiful grounds. Learn more about us and community events we sponsor by visiting our website; <http://www.SanJoseGurdwara.org>

ST. BASIL THE GREAT GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

6430 Bose Lane, San Jose, CA 95120 Church Office 408-268-3214

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5111 San Felipe Rd., San

Jose, CA 95135 408-223-1562. [www.stfrancisofassisi.com](http://www.stfrancisofassisi.com) or [www.stfrancisofassisi preschool.org](http://www.stfrancisofassisi preschool.org)

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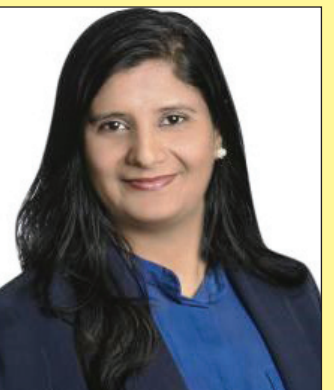
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