Happy Holidays! FROM THE ALMADEN TIMES

YOUR BEST SOURCE OF COMMUNITY NEWS FOR OVER YEARS

Almaden valley since 1986 - Almadentimes.com

A JOYOUS PARADE

Councilmember Johnny Khamis leads the inaugural hike around Almaden Lake Park. Photo by Lorraine Gabbert

Coming full circle at Almaden Lake Park

By Lorraine Gabbert

Senior Staff Writer

Pollowing a ribbon cutting ceremony held beneath a rainbow arch of balloons, a joyous parade of pedestrians set off to hike around Almaden Lake Park.

The event heralded the opening of a new 600-foot Coleman undercrossing trail,

finally bringing the footpath full circle.

The addition is the result of a collaboration between the office of Councilmember Johnny Khamis, Santa Clara Valley Water District and the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services.

"Good things come to those who wait, and we have been waiting for this moment for quite some time," says Councilmember Johnny Khamis. "This was one of my goals from my first months in office. It's like a dream come true."

The trail link and twin bridges allow park users to walk all the way around the lake without having to leave the park and

See ALMADEN LAKE PARK, page 16



NORAD Santa Tracker participants help answer phone calls during the Christmas season.

NORAD is tracking Santa Claus for the 62nd year

By William Bellou
Publisher

Por all the children who are excited about Santa's whereabouts on Christmas Eve night, there are resources you may not know about to track the elusive jolly big man.

Starting at 11:01 a.m. PST on Sunday, Dec. 24, website visitors can watch Santa make preparations for his flight through the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) "Santa Cams." The NORAD Tracks Santa website, www.noradsanta.org, features Santa's North Pole Village, which includes a holiday countdown, games, activities, and

NORAD, which has tracked Santa for 66 years, will stream videos on its website as Santa makes his way over various locations. Then, at 3 a.m. PST, trackers worldwide can speak with a live phone operator to inquire as to Santa's whereabouts by dialing the toll-free number 1-877-Hi-NORAD (1-877-446-6723) or by sending an email to noradtrackssanta@outlook.com

Official NORAD Tracks Santa apps are also available in the Apple and Google Play stores, so parents and children can countdown the days until Santa's launch on their smart phones and tablets! Tracking opportunities are also offered through social media on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram. Anytime on Dec. 24, Amazon Alexa users can ask for Santa's location through the NORAD Tracks Santa, and OnStar See NORAD, page 20

Shadow Brook tree planting a great success

By Sean Eastwood

Times staff writer

ore than 40 volunteers turned out for the Shadow Brook tree planting event on Saturday, Dec. 2 in Almaden.

The volunteers planted some of the trees provided by PG&E in mitigation of trees removed as part of their pipeline safety project.

More than 20 trees were planted at 17 homes, and several homeowners have asked

for trees and are in the process of working with Our City Forest (OCF) to have them planted at a later date.



More than 40 volunteers planted trees on Dec. 2 in Almaden.

60 volunteers needed

There are two more planting dates and each date needs 60 volunteers. Fifty-five trees will be planted in T.J. Martin & Jeffrey

Fontana Parks, as well as a few at surrounding homes planned for Dec. 16 and Jan.

A spokesperson for Our City Forest said that an arborist has determined the most suitable trees to be planted. There are a number of specimens that do not get too tall and have non-invasive root systems, and shade trees are the most desirable.

To become a registered tree planting volunteer, call Ariel,

Volunteer Coordinator at OCF at 408.998.7337 ext. 108 or email plantingvolunteers@ourcityforest.org

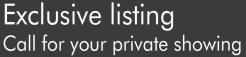


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OLDWELL ANKER 19 Nobody has sold more Almaden Valley homes than Margaret & David Yost!



Margaret Yost Cal BRE #00947936



David Yost Cal BRE #0145<u>0671</u>

This Week:

NEWS

Early house calls - local letter carriers to start deliveries at 5 a.m.: PAGE 6

BUSINESS

Six tips to protect your company's critical data from ransomware: PAGE 15

ADVICE

Grace Kobylinski joins the District 10 staff: PAGE 17



HOLIDAYS

Sing-along Messiah set for Monday, Dec. 18: PAGE 6

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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.

Christmas Food Drive reaches out to help 5,000 families

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

By William Bellou
Publisher

ore 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 'Celebration of Love' 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. At 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 debtfree, 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 http:// www.cathedraloffaith.org, or contact Jim Gallagher, Director, at 408-979-3090 or via email: jgallagher@cathedraloffaith.org.

Sacred Heart volunteers distribute food boxes

Sacred Heart volunteers distributed nearly 1000 food boxes to low-income families that included nonperishable items, vegetable, fruit, bread, and a turkey—roughly 50 pounds of food per box on Monday, Nov. 20.

The agency currently has 3,200 turkeys—1,000 shy of its goal for 4,200 turkeys to distribute this week. Sacred Heart also distributed another 3,200 food boxes the week before Thanksgiving.



 $WORLD\ RECORD$ – The Almaden - District 10 Christmas Tree (#585) was included in the Guinness World Recordsetting Christmas in the Park, with a total of 600 illuminated Christmas trees, in one location. The world record has now been confirmed by Guinness. The theme for the Almaden Tree is the "Golden Age of the Silver Screen."

"This year seems lower than usual in terms of turkey donations," said Lydia Guel, SHCS Director of Community Development. "One way people can support each other here in Silicon Valley is by making a financial donation to our holiday program, at whatever amount

is meaningful to them, by visiting our website."

If you are interested in giving back to the community this holiday season you can visit SHCS' website at sacredheartcs.org/holidays to donate online, volunteer, or see their wish list of items to donate

OP ED

Helping hand for 650,000 lives

It isn't every day that our Silicon Valley Leadership Group Foundation can have a positive impact on the lives of 650,000 people - primarily individuals and families in some of our neediest neighborhoods.

Yet that is precisely what we accomplish through one of our most fun and unique

community/charity events; our "Santa Run Silicon Valley."

This year's event is generously sponsored by Google, which supports "Christmas in the Park," "Downtown Ice" and the tutoring program known as "Reading Partners."

I want to encourage you to sign-up and join us on Sunday afternoon, December 17 for our 3 p.m. "Santa Run."

You have not laughed until you see well over 5,000 people - all dressed up like Santa Claus - chasing "The Grinch" (Our very own County Tax Collector Larry Stone) through the streets of Downtown San Jose.

The 5-k Run or Walk is a great way to

spend an afternoon, ending at Christmas in the Park, complete with a "Finish Line" that includes a Snow Machine, with Milk & Cookies awaiting you at the end of your run/walk.

Please consider investing your afternoon with us on December 17. It is a wonderful way to bless others as we start our Holidays.

Registration is easy, just visit:

SantaRunSV.com

Carl Guardino

President/CEO

Silicon Valley Leadership Group

LET THE ALMADEN TIMES HEAR FROM YOU!

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



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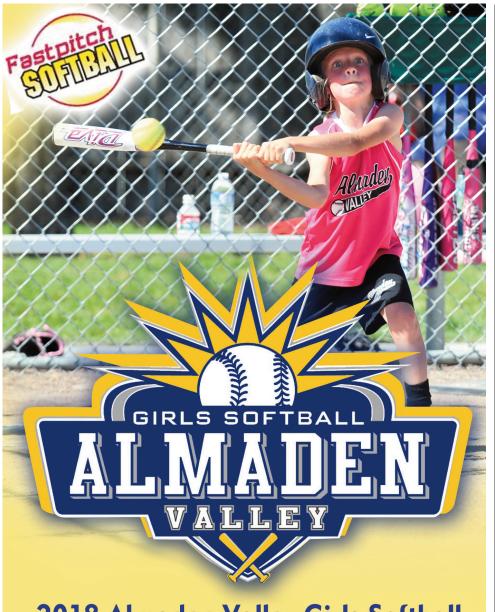
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2018 Almaden Valley Girls Softball Registration is OPEN NOW!

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.



If you have any questions please email us at registrar@avgsl.org

Times Local News



LOCAL VITALITY - Councilmember **Don Rocha**, District 9, presents a commendation to **Brian Hom** (left) and **Brandon Hom** (center) on the grand opening of Vitality Bowles located at the Almaden Ranch Marketplace Center on Nov. 30. The Hom family's Vitality Bowls has an extensive menu which includes smoothies, smoothie bowls, fresh juices, soups, salads, and panini sandwiches.

Letter carriers making house calls at 5 a.m.

Don't be alarmed if you hear your letter carrier as early as 5 a.m. making a house call in Almaden Valley.

To keep their promise to deliver the best holiday for you, letter carriers will be out making early morning deliveries in some communities throughout the Bay-Valley postal district including Almaden Valley.

That clatter and jangle that is very familiar this time of year could very well be your letter carrier getting an early start on package delivery during the busiest week of the year (Dec. 18 - 22).

The fact is parcel volume is higher than ever, and the postal service wants to make sure they meet our commitment to deliver every piece every day.

The Postal Service is projecting more than a 10 percent increase in package volume this holiday season.

Recycle Right and other Green Tidings for the Holidays

2017 – 2018 Holiday Collection Schedule

If your usual garbage, recycling, and yard trimmings collection or street sweeping day falls on the holidays, your collection and sweep day will be one day later during that week. During the weeks

of December 24 and 31, collection will be one day later both weeks. To schedule a Free Junk Pickup, Visit sjenvironment.org/junkpickup for more information



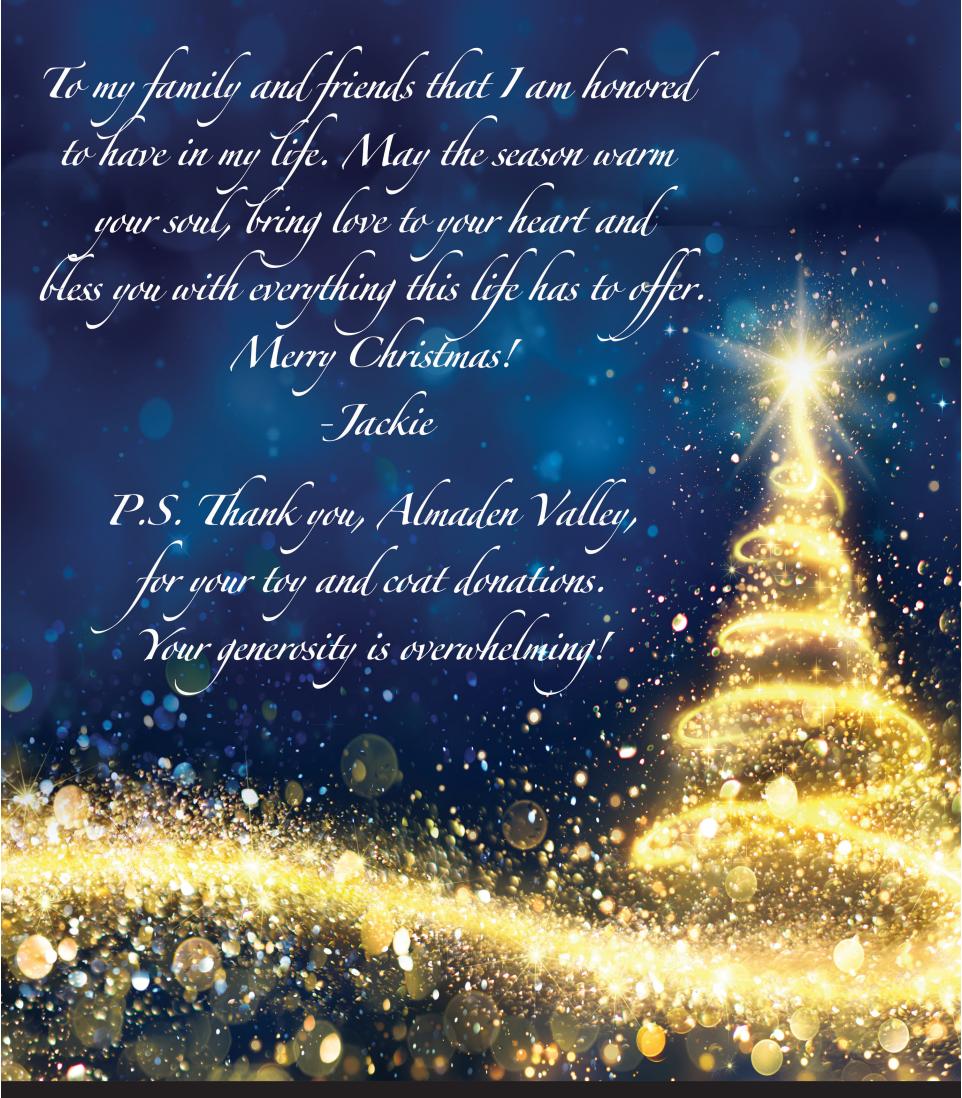
Sing-along scheduled

The audience becomes the choir for Schola Cantorum, Silicon Valley's 51st annual sing-along of Handel's Messiah, Monday, December 18 at 7:30 pm. From treasured arias to the "Hallelujah" chorus, this crowd-pleaser, with a 25-piece chamber orchestra led by Music Director Gregory Wait, is the Bay Area's oldest annual Messiah Sing. Bring your own score, or borrow one at the door. The event will be held at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro Street, Mountain View. Tickets at 650-903-6000, or www.MVCPA.com.

45 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Helping to celebrate 45 years of service for SJB Child Development Centers are **Sheryll Ebbs**, Executive Director, and **Victor Hassan**, President of the Board of Directors, SJB Child Development Centers (SJBCDC) with **Johnny Khamis** (left), Councilmember, Almaden - District 10.







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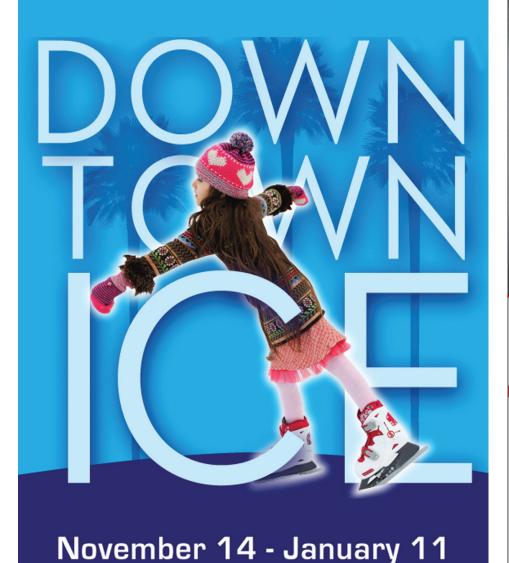
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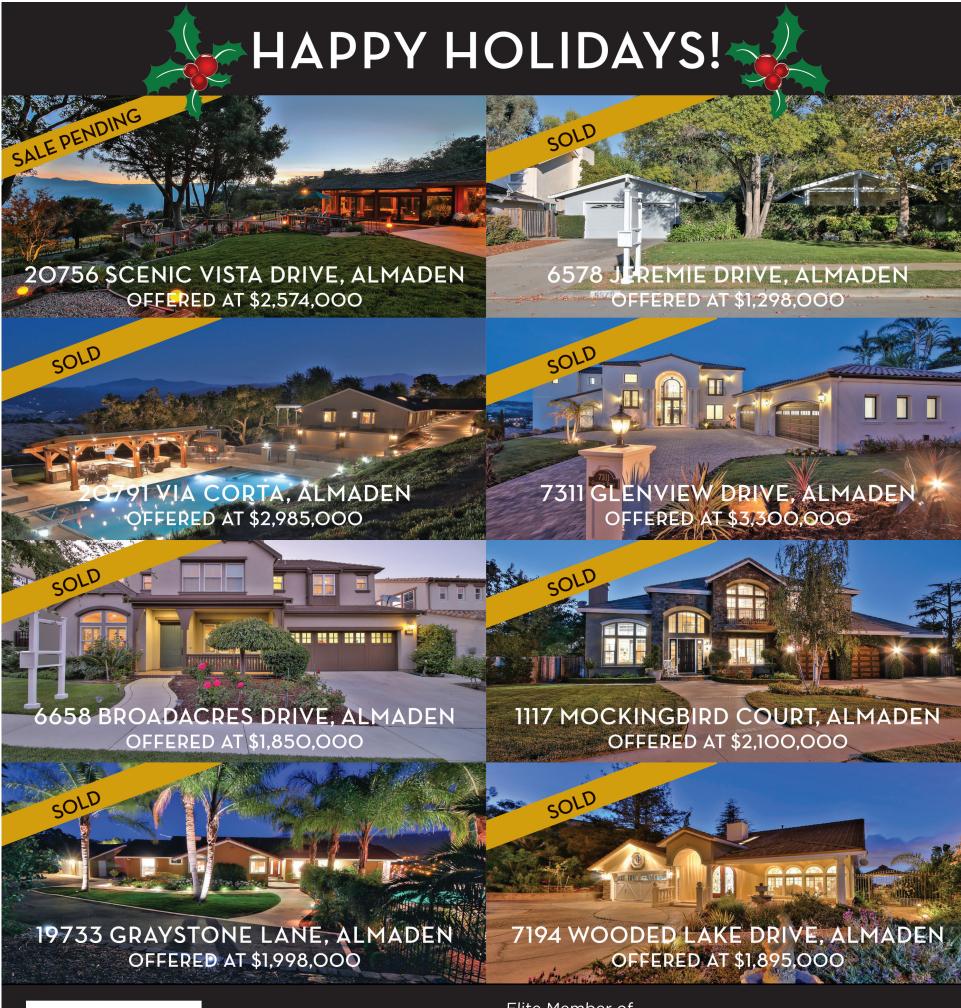


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1208 Prevost Street, San Jose

Charming 3 bedroom Willow Glen home on a long tree lined court features a spacious living room with stone fireplace and picture window; separate dining area; spacious kitchen with loads of cabinets, newer appliances and dining nook; huge bonus room with vaulted open beam pine ceiling; indoor laundry area; arched doorways; hardwood floors; ceiling fans and detached garage with shop/storage area. Located close to downtown Willow Glen, shopping and dining.

Offered At \$995,000



4774 Renzo Court, San Jose

This 3 Bedroom / 2 bath home is situated on a corner lot & features a beautifully updated kitchen with white cabinetry, granite counters, tile backsplash and stainless steel appliances; formal living room; step down family room with brick fireplace; master bedroom suite with remodeled master bath; remodeled hall bath; crown molding; double pane windows; raised panel doors; wainscoting; central forced heating and air conditioning, rear brick patio, 2 car attached garage and more!

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Times Sports

Great start for Pioneer and Leland High School boys basketball teams

By Sean Eastwood

Times staff writer

The Leland High School and Pioneer High School boys basketball teams got off to a great start this season each winning two of their first three games.

In their opener, the Leland Chargers beat Mt. Pleasant 64-32, on Nov. 29. The Chargers then fell to Willow Glen 71-61 on Nov. 30, but bounced back with a 73-69 win over Westmont on Dec. 1.

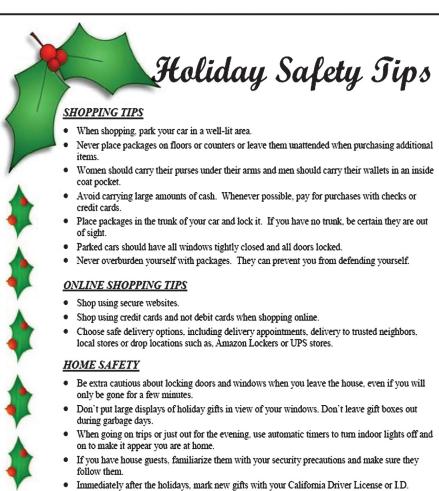
On Nov. 29, the Mustangs beat Hill 61-38. Pioneer then used a 22-12 third-quarter run to defeat Wilcox 59-57 on Dec. 1. It was edged 43-41 by Fremont on Dec. 2.

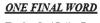
Don't fall victim to crime at the most wonderful time of the year

Happy Holidays from District 10! This is a joyful time of year for many residents of San Jose as we gather with our families, friends, and other loved ones to enjoy one another's company and exchange gifts. It also



happens to be the time of year when burglars and other thieves are the most active. Therefore, it is important for each of us to be vigilant and informed. The SJPD has prepared a flyer (below) to help you avoid being targeted by criminals this holiday season – while out in public, at home, or when shopping online - so please take a look at it to learn how to reduce your chances of becoming a victim!





The San José Police Department wishes you and your family a safe and jolly holiday season.

PLEASE DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE! CHOOSE A DESIGNATED DRIVER WHO PROMISES NOT TO DRINK.



Times **Features**

Six tips to protect your company's critical data from ransomware

By Penny GarbusSpecial to the Times

Ransomware can quickly cripple a business and the problem appears to be growing, as evidenced recently when the U.S. government issued a warning about Bad Rabbit, a ransomware attack that spread through Russia, the Ukraine and other countries.

Such attacks can be costly for businesses because ransomware infects a computer, blocks access to computer files, and demands that money be paid before the computer is "released."

If there's no data backup, the business could be in serious trouble.

"Most attacks are against financial, medical and retail business sectors," says Penny Garbus, co-founder of Soaring Eagle Consulting Inc. (SoaringEagle.guru) and co-author of Mining New Gold – Managing your Business Data.

"The ransoms are usually \$1,000 and most companies pay it. In some cases these days, though, money isn't the goal, I think they are moving towards more terroristic attacks and are being paid simply to create havoc."

Unfortunately, even paying a ransom is no guarantee a company's data will be freed because on occasion the perpetrators demand even more money, she says.

"The worst-case scenario, though, occurs when the attacker has so completely destroyed data files and infected hard drives that they are unable to get the data back," Garbus says. "The cost can run into thousands or even millions of dollars to get the company up and running again."

So how does a business protect itself against ransomware? Garbus suggests a few precautions.

- Beware of viruses masquerading as virus protection. Do your research and make sure you're purchasing your virus protection from a reputable brand, Garbus says. Be careful of virus protection software that appears magically and tells you it detected a virus. If you don't recognize the brand, ignore the findings. That notification may be a virus itself, Garbus says.
- Install firewall protection. Make sure your hardware and software are protected with firewalls and software that scans the environment for worms, harmful attachments and attacks.
- Set up procedures and protocols for data access. It's important to make sure access to data is limited. For example, the system administrator role should be handed out to a limited number of employees who should not share log-in information with each other. Also, when an employee leaves, make sure their access is taken away and passwords changed.
- Have backups of all important data. If you have your information backed up in an offsite location, then you won't lose it to cyber kidnappers. "Whether it's

large companies or small businesses, too often people forget to back up their data," Garbus says.

- Be careful about Google search results. Sometimes a Google search itself makes you vulnerable. You don't want to download anything unless you know you are on the correct site. Garbus says the criminal hackers now have very sophisticated strategies to get you to click and download their malware and can infect your environment very quickly.
- Figure out what kind of ransomware you're dealing with. If your system is hijacked, know this; Not all ransomware is equal

and you may not need to pay the ransom. One type of ransomware basically locks you out of your applications and processes. It may create a barrier between you and the computer's interface so you can't get past the ransomware attack screen. But the good news is this type of ransomware can be cleansed and your files restored without paying the ransom. A second type of ransomware is more insidious. It encrypts and renames your files so you don't have any access to them until you give in to the ransom demands.

"Businesses should review their security processes at least once a year," Garbus says. "You may want to hire an outside source to review security and, if you believe it necessary, even hire a professional hacker to look for holes in your system."

About Penny Garbus

Penny Garbus, co-founder of Soaring Eagle Consulting Inc. (www.SoaringEagle.guru), is co-author of Mining New Gold – Managing Your Business Data. She has been working in the datamanagement field since leaving college when she worked as a data entry clerk for Pitney Bowes Credit. She later ran the training and marketing department of Northern Lights Software.

MY OLD FRIEND

Went for a walk the other day
Where I grew up and used to play
Past the homes of childhood friends
The Williams, Mike Gordon and Johnson twins
I could see their faces and hear their shouts
Playing ball, arguing, "safe" or "out"
I'd relive those moments if I could
With my friends in my old neighborhood

But the sidewalks aren't what they used to be With deep, wide cracks split by roots of trees Those trees were young, sidewalks new Like the boys on their walk to school There wasn't much pavement way back then Mostly orchards of trees, miles of farm land Farmers with trackers plowed each row Preparing the soil for their crops to grow

Almaden, my old friend, I'd love to see you once again
Rolling hills and open land, lovely work of nature's hand
My childhood dreams, hopes and fears, long ago were nurtured here
Wherever I go, whatever I do, part of me remains with you

Climbed hills with Grandma when I was four
To gaze for miles down your valley floor
Now past mansion gates and window sills
Rich folks stare into haze playing king of the hill
Your creek was our play ground, swimming hale our pool
Caught lizards and snakes, the best kind of school
Instead of kids playing, the creek is now lined
With CAUTION-NO SWIMMING-WATER CONTAMINATED signs

Today your rich land is buried beneath
Thousands of homes, sewers and streets
It's sad to think out of greed and haste
They sold you out to build the tax base
And real estate thrives, prices are high
Everyone wants a piece of the pie
The good oi' law of supply and demand
Has driven me out of my own home land

Almaden, my old friend, I'd love to see you once again
Rolling hills and open land, lovely work of nature's hand
But time has past, we've both changed, with signs of wear that come with age
Makes me close my eyes and pretend, I'm back home with my old friend

By Tere Johnson, Almaden Valley

FEMA is hiring local talent rais

If you or someone you know is looking for a full-time job, FEMA wants to hire local talent to fill a number of positions to continue the work begun after the October wildfires.

Temporary full time positions include logistics, administrative support, applicant services specialists and voluntary agency liaisons.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens, 18 years of age or older, with a high school diploma or GED. Individuals will be required to pass a background investigation that includes fingerprinting and a credit check, have their own transportation to and from work and live within 50 miles of the employing office.

Go to the CalJOBS website at Caljobs.ca.gov/vosnet/Default.asp x and search FEMA to see postings and job descriptions, and securely apply online.

For more information, visit the disaster web page at fema.gov/disaster/4344.

Santa Run Dec. 17 raises funds for the community

By Ken Yeager County Supervisor

Come dressed as your favorite holiday character or tradition and take part in the Santa Run 5K run/walk and Kids Reindeer Run.

The event is scheduled for Sunday, December 17 at 3 p.m. (2 p.m. for Kids Reindeer Run) at Santa Clara St. at Almaden Blvd. in downtown San Jose.

Produced by Silicon Valley Leadership Group, this event raises money for local holiday traditions Christmas in the Park and Downtown Ice.

SVLG will also be collecting donations of children's books at the event in collaboration with Reading Partners.

More information: Visit www.santarunsv.com for registration, race information, and road closures.



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Times Features



"I'm delighted to have

it finally open," says

Khamis. "I like walk-

ing trails. Residents

said, 'Why can't we

get it done."

connect it?' and I said,

'It's a great idea! Let's

There are many lovely views along the new connecting trail.

Almaden Lake Park

Continued from page 1

cross the busy Coleman Road/Almaden Expressway intersection. The entire loop, says Khamis, is approximately 1.25 miles and takes about 20 to 25 minutes and 2,700 to 3,000 steps to complete, depending upon your stride.

The project was in the works for about five years as it required environmental reviews and working with the land owner, Santa Clara Valley Water District. After numerous studies and an acceptable design plan, building also had to be scheduled around the run of salmon.

"There's a lot of work that goes into it," says Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services Trail Manager Yves Zsutti. "The undercrossing dips into the 100-year flood-line, so we had to mitigate it. The

slopes were gently graded with a ledge, so building the retaining wall was a big part of the project."

"I'm delighted to have it finally open," says Khamis. "I like walking trails. Residents said, 'Why can't we connect it?' and I said, 'It's a great idea! Let's get it done."

"Trails are well-loved in this community," says Zsutti. "People use them multiple times a week. I think

people will love the way they can now get around the lake."

Khamis is delighted with the support from Santa Clara Valley Water District, which awarded the city a grant of \$62,700 for this project. "They've been a great partner," he says. "We appreciate all their support."

Zsutti agrees. "This project was successful because the water district helped us bridge the funding gap," he says. Additional funds came from the District 10 Park Trust Fund, which is allocated for capital projects.

"This is a huge trail for us," says Nicolle Burnham, Deputy Director of Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services. "It's a small project with a really big impact for our trail program, connecting four trails together: Los Alamito Creek, Guadalupe Creek, Guadalupe River and Lake Almaden. This was the last little piece. We're very proud of it and hope it's the start of a profound trail network we'll be building in the coming years."

"Bringing beautiful projects like this to the community is what brings us satisfaction," says Katherine Brown, Acting Senior Civil Engineer for Public Works. "We're pleased and honored to be a part of this team which is bringing 100 miles of trails to the city. Teamwork was critical to getting us to where we are today."

Burnham says the idea for a trail network began in 2000 with the green print for the Parks Department. After working for 15 years with Santa Clara Valley Water District, they have completed 60 miles of trails.

San Jose boasts one of the nation's largest urban trail networks used for walking, jogging, biking and horseback riding.

"We love our beautiful parks," says Khamis. "One of my goals is to connect trails. Projects like the Coleman undercrossing expand the trail network." Among future goals is connecting the Los Alamitos Trail to North and South San Jose as well as the last five miles of trails to downtown.

"Congratulations on finishing the trail. Collaborating financially is very important to me and the board," says

Santa Clara Valley Water District Director Linda LeZotte. "It's something we want to continue."

In accordance with the Safe, Clean and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2012, Santa Clara Valley Water District provides grants to projects which improve water supply, liability, environment and flood protection, and addresses issues such as wildlife habitat, pollution, water conservation and trail access.

"How important is this to us?" asked LeZotte. "The District awarded \$26 million to trails and open space agencies and plans to award over half a million dollars this fiscal year." They also launched a mini-grant pilot program for smaller projects focusing on watershed stewardship to enhance creek and bay ecosystems.

See TRAIL, next page

Times Features

Grace Kobylinski joins District 10 staff

By Johnny Khamis

City Councilmember, District 10

lease help me welcome a new member to the District 10 team - Grace Kobylinski.

Grace is the first generation in her family to be born in San Jose (and the USA), after her parents emigrated from Poland in 1986. She grew up in San Jose, spending much of her childhood in the Cambrian Park area where her mother started a small, but successful, eatery called Heartbeat Café. She holds very dear to her heart memories of working at the café and helping turn the family business into a gathering place for members of the community.

Grace attended Sonoma
State University where she earned a
Bachelor's Degree in Criminology/
Criminal Justice Studies in May 2012.
Following graduation, she went to work
at FireEye, a network security company
in the Silicon Valley While working full

time, she went back to school for her Master's Degree in Justice Studies and graduated in May of this year.

Grace will be working on issues related

to Public Safety (police, fire, neighborhood watch, emergency preparedness), those without homes, and marijuana dispensaries, and will be scheduling special events, compiling the semi-monthly District 10 newsletter, and helping to plan events such as flag raisings and National Night Out, and performing other duties as assigned.

In her spare time, Grace enjoys reading, traveling, and spending time with her partner, Adam, and their dog Henry. Grace is passionate about pit bulls and

animal rescue, spending her free time advocating for the breed.

To reach Grace, you may email her at grace.kobylinski@sanjoseca.gov or call her at 408-535-4983.



The long-awaited ribbon cutting of the final leg connecting four trails was a cause for celebration!

Trail

Continued from previous page

"The completion of this trail is really important to the Water District," she says, "and provides a very much needed link. Johnny, when you're ready to start working on other trails, don't forget our grants."

"The community is really excited about this," says Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Program Specialist Maxine Magahiz. "It's something we all wanted to see happen. It's good to bring the community and multiple organizations together to make improvements to the City of San Jose and serve our community."

"The people asked for something and we were able to make it happen during our time in office," says Michele Dexter, Council Assistant to Councilmember Johnny Khamis. "It's a small trail that will make a big difference."



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Times **Advice**

Intestate succession: how does it work?

Ask the

Lawyer

Steven R. Roeser, Esq. Attorney at Law

By Steven R. Roeser, Esq. Special to the Times This week's question:

My aunt passed away last year and she admittedly never got around to putting a will together. What do we do with her property?"

Eric G.
Almaden Valley

Dear Eric:

When a person passes away without a will, it is termed dving "intestate". The laws of the State of California allocate who is to inherit what from your aunt's estate. If one dies without any relatives, the great State $\,$ of California can obtain all of the assets through the "escheat" process.

The following is an outline of how property is allocated

under the California Probate Code if you die without a validwWill and/or trust.

BASIC LAW OF INTESTATE SUCCESSION IN CALIFORNIA:

Intestate succession provides as follows under state statute:

1. The first question is whether the decedent (the person who died) was married.

If the decedent was not married, the estate is distributed as follows:

- i. To the decedent's children, who take in equal shares if they are in the same generation.
- ii. If there are no children or other issue (issue is the legal term for children, grandchildren, greatgrandchildren, etc.) living, the estate goes to the decedent's parents.
- iii. If there are no parents living, the estate is distributed to the "issue of the parents." If the decedent had brothers or sisters, they will inherit the estate.
- iv. If there are no brothers or sisters, the decedent's grandparents will inherit the estate.
- v. If there are no grandparents, then the "issue of the grandparents" will inherit the estate. This could include the decedent's aunts and uncles, or if there are no aunts and uncles, the decedent's cousins.
- vi. If there are no cousins, Probate Code section 6402 provides that the estate will be distributed to "next of kin in equal degree," generally meaning more distant cousins.

B. If the decedent was married, the first question is whether the decedent owned community property, separate property, or a combination of the two. Community property is generally defined as the assets acquired during marriage from earnings or salary. Separate property is generally defined as assets brought into the marriage when the decedent married, inheritances to the decedent, or gifts to the decedent. (California case law provides many exceptions to these definitions, and

assets can change from community to separate property, or from separate to community, by combining assets, by improving separate property with community property, or by written agreement of the spouses, for example.)

i. The decedent's community property goes to the surviving

spouse, who may have to file a spousal property petition to establish ownership.

ii. The decedent's separate property is distributed as follows:

a. The surviving spouse receives all of the separate property if the decedent is not survived by issue, parents, brothers, sisters, or children of a deceased brother or sister.

b. The surviving spouse receives one-

half of the separate property if the decedent had only one child, or issue of a deceased child.

- c. The surviving spouse receives one-half of the separate property if the decedent left no issue, but left parent(s) or their issue.
- d. The surviving spouse receives only one-third of the separate property if the decedent left more than one child.
- e. The surviving spouse receives only one-third of the separate property if the decedent left one child and the issue of one or more deceased children.
- f. The surviving spouse receives only one-third of the separate property if the decedent left the issue of two or more deceased children.
- 2. If no spouse or kin can be located, the estate is transferred, in whole, to the State of California for its own use.

Regardless of who gets the assets, the assets of a decedent that dies intestate must go through probate, which is a court supervised process of administration of the estate. Probate is expensive and time consuming, which is why many families prefer trusts to govern their estate planning affairs (with pour over wills as part of that plan to act as a safety net for the trust).

If you find yourself needing advice as to an estate planning matter, please feel free to contact

Until next time ...

Kindest Regards,

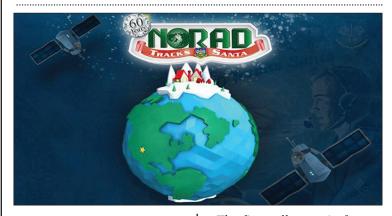
Steven R. Roeser, Esq.

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.





Times Cover Story



NORAD

Continued from page 1 subscribers can press the OnStar button in their vehicles to locate Santa.

NORAD Tracks Santa is truly a global experience, delighting generations of families everywhere. This is due, in large part, to the efforts and services of numerous program contributors.

History

In 1955, a local advertisement for Sears Roebuck & Co. directed children to call Santa direct only the number was misprinted. Instead of reaching Santa, the phone rang through to the crew commander on duty at the Continental Air Defense Command Operations (CONAD) Center's Commander-in-Chief's operations "hotline."

The first call came in from a young girl living in Colorado Springs on Dec. 24, 1955 to the Director of Operations at the time, Colonel Harry Shoup. He decided to have his operations team track Santa Claus by radar instead of hanging up. That night, they took calls from children to let them know where Santa was as he made his trip around the globe.

The NORAD Tracks Santa program is made possible by volunteers and through the generous support of corporate licensees who bear virtually all of the costs. More than 1,500 volunteers spend time each Christmas answering calls and emails from young and old alike, with more than 9 million visitors to its website from more than 200 countries and territo-



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God is One ਰੱਬ ਇਕ ਹੈ Rab Ik Hai

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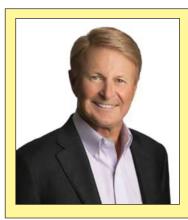
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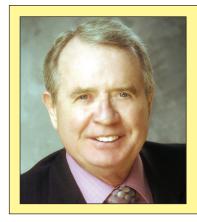


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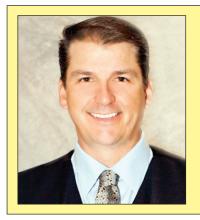
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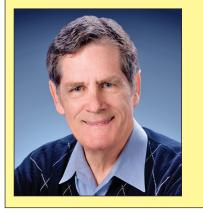
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Real Estate

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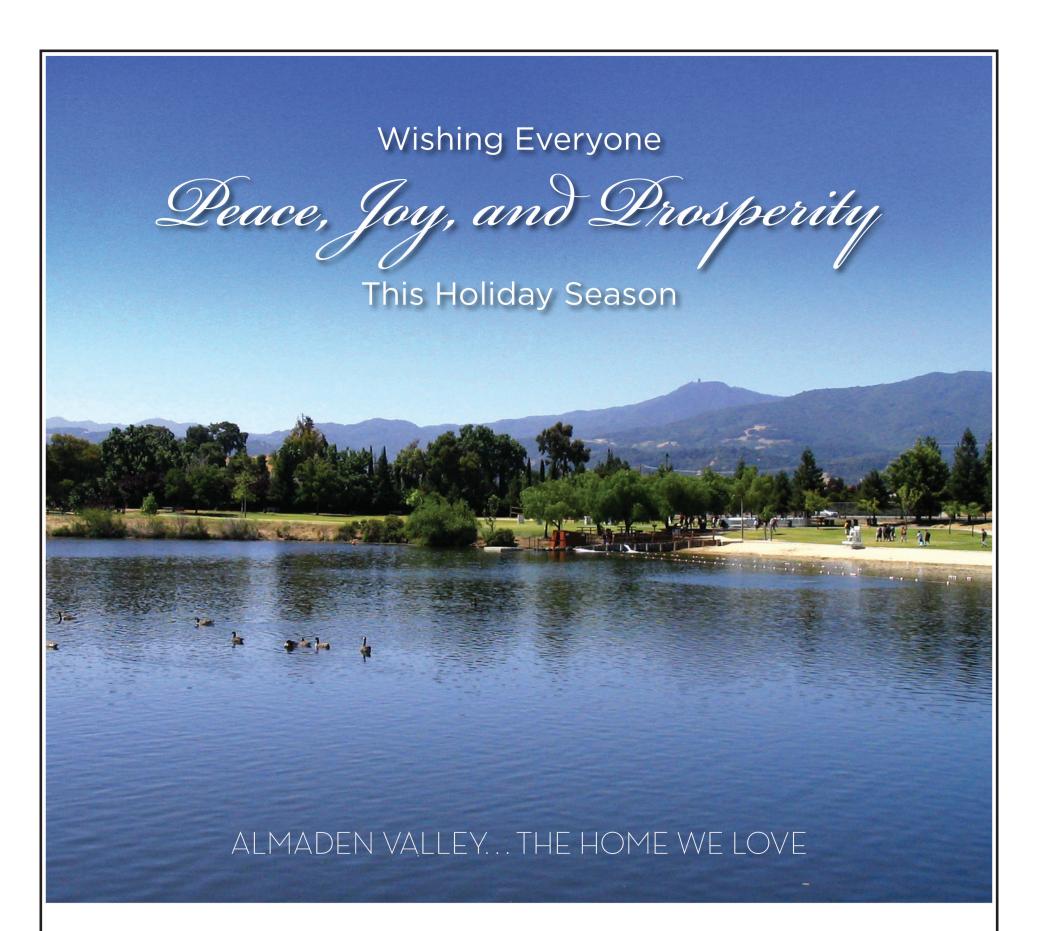
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