DEC. 22, 2017 – JAN. 4, 2018 ■ VOL. 35, NO. 1

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Evergreen Valley High School's all-girls Athena Robotics team wins the prestigious Inspire Award. Pictured (I to r) are: Third Row: Keerthana Pullela, Chitra Uppalapati, Ruchika Saswade, Anushka Sheth, Anika Tyagi, Megha Mohanakrishnan, Khanhthy Le, Kaitlyn Gunadhi, and Greta Yu. Second Row: Emily Vo, Aarushi Dhanger, Hrishika Basava, Labanya Mukhopadhyay, Nitya Ravi, Srishti Mendiratta, Rithika Nathan. Bottom Row: April Chao, Adele Nguyen, Sumayya Syeda, Krystal Liu, Megh Kansara, and Stella He. Not Pictured: Urja Gathoo.

Athena Robotics Team wins prestigious Inspire Award

vergreen Valley High School's all-girls Athena Robotics Team won the prestigious Inspire Award for the second consecutive year at the San Jose Qualifying Tournament on Dec. 3, 2017.

The team will advance to the FIRST Tech Challenge Northern California Regional Championship in hopes of further advancing to the West Super-Regional Championship.

Recognized in the robotics community, the team

currently helps other FTC teams across the Bay Area while working to bridge the gender gap in STEM.

The team is active in the community: co-hosting workshops and hackathons, demonstrating at elementary schools, middle schools and libraries. Additionally, the team volunteers at local nonprofits that support youth education in STEM.

Currently, the team has reached more than one thousand youths around the world.

Shots fired near Silver Creek High School force lock down

By Sean Eastwood

Times staff writer hots fired in the air from a passing vehicle near Silver

High Creek School prompted the school to lock down just before 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec.12 while police searched for the suspects' car.

Police say that the shots were fired to scare off a witness who followed suspects in a car following an alleged attempted robbery at a home on Camarena Place behind Pavless Hardware on King Rd. No injuries were reported.

The witness called police after seeing several individuals pulling off a window screen, but the suspects fled the scene

before the officers arrived.

The witness followed the suspects' car driving south on King Road which becomes Silver Creek Road and continued driving to Daniel Maloney Drive,

where Silver Creek High School is located. "As the suspect's car approached the high school, someone stuck a handgun out of

> the car's window and fired several shots into the air," said Police Sgt. Enrique Garcia.

> Shortly after the shots were fired, officers found the stolen suspects' 1993 Honda Civic crashed and abandoned at Silver Creek and Yerba Buena roads. During an intensive search of the area, two women were questioned at Dove Hill Park about a half mile from the crash scene. "It was later determined that both women were involved in the burglary and were in the vehicle when shots were fired into the air," Garcia said.



MarvJov Cacananta

(top), and Sua Kiona

connection with an

Jose Police photos)

Vaisuria were arrested in

attempted burglary. (San

The suspects are identified as MaryJoy Cacananta, 20, of San Jose, and Sua Kiona Vaisuria, 18, of Las Vegas. Both were booked

into the Santa Clara County Jail See CRIME, page 21



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Evergreen PAL Football Cheerleaders win third place at Jamz competition

Next event: 2018 Youth Nationals

By William Bellou

Publisher

or the first time in its 50-year history, Evergreen PAL Football Cheerleaders participated in the recent JAMZ competition held at the Cow Palace in Daly City and won third place.

The old saying, 'practice makes perfect,' adequately portrays the dedication it took for 18-member Evergreen PAL Football Cheerleaders to plan a routine, hone in on the details and perfect it over the past few



See CHEERLEADERS, page 21 | Evergreen PAL Football Cheerleaders placed third in the JAMZ competiton held at the Cow Palace.





"Warmest greetings and best wishes for the new year."

-Kerry





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"AGT" host Tyra Banks (center) with and judges (L-R) Howie Mandel, Mel B, Heidi Klum and Simon Cowell.

American's Got Talent to hold San Jose auditions January 19

By William Bellou Publisher

BC's America's Got Talent (AGT) is looking for the best variety acts in the nation and this year there is a scheduled audition stop in San Jose for Season 13.

If you're thinking of auditioning for "AGT" there's still time to sign up for an audition at The San Jose McEnery Convention Center slated for January 19, $2018. \ To \ sign \ up \ for \ the \ San \ Jose \ audition, visit$ AmericasGotTalentAuditions.com/audition-cities, select San Jose, and begin filling out the form. If you can't make the San Jose audition date, the Los Angeles audition will be held on Feb. 3.

As in years past, you can also opt to submit an online video at: americasgottalentauditions.com/submitvideo. If you decide to go this route, your audition videos must be shorter than three minutes and you're encouraged to highlight your unique talent and personality.

"AGT" host Tyra Banks and judges Simon Cowell, Heidi Klum, Mel B and Howie Mandel have already visited three cities on their latest journey across America: Orlando, Fl, Cincinnati, OH and Savannah, GA. There are seven cities still left to go on "AGT's" audition cycle, including San Jose.

This past summer AGT celebrated its most watched season ever, with an average of 16 million viewers per episode. In addition, the show was a huge social success, garnering more than 2.6 billion views across social media platforms.

Season 12 saw the crowning of 12-yearold singing ventriloquist Darci Lynne Farmer from Oklahoma City as the AGT winner. In addition to the \$1 million grand prize, Darci headlined the America's Got Talent Live stage show inside the PH Showroom at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino in Las Vegas. The sold-out show ran from Nov. 2-5.

"America's Got Talent continues to get bigger and better each and every year," said AGT Executive Producer Sam Donnelly. "The show never fails to discover the best and most exciting acts the country has to offer. We literally change lives and make careers on the AGT stage. I encourage anyone who thinks they have a talent worth sharing to audition for this next season."

America's Got Talent was created by Simon Cowell and is co-produced by FremantleMedia North America and Syco Entertainment.

Silver Creek Academy hosts fourth annual Speech Contest

you could have any job in the world, what would it be and why?

Evergreen students were answering this very question at Silver Creek Academy's Fourth Annual Speech Contest held at Laurelwood School on Dec. 14.

"The students all did so well and the speeches far exceeded my expectations," said judge and Laurelwood teacher Bobbi Majors after the completion of the event. Earning

the top prizes were Annabelle Lo for first grade, Ananya Meenakshi for second grade, Amrit Rana for third grade, Shaunik Musukula for fourth grade, Vincent Lo for fifth grade, and Anisha



Earning the top prizes were Annabelle Lo for first grade, Ananya Meenakshi for second grade, Amrit Rana for third grade, Shaunik Musukula for fourth grade, Vincent Lo for fifth grade, and Anisha Shukla for sixth grade.

Shukla for sixth grade.

"The speech contest was a huge success! We wanted to offer the students an opportunity to challenge themselves, step See SPEECH, page 6



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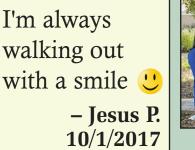
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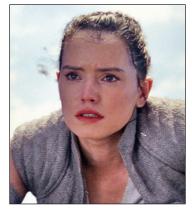
Tony and Sylvia help the destitute in our community: PAGE 7

NEWS

Crash at Yerba Buena Road and Yerba Buena Ave. follows string of accidents: PAGE 9

FEATURE

How you can help support the organizations that help others: PAGE 10



REVIEW
Star Wars - The Last Jedi
brings a Rey of light to the
screen: PAGE 12

ALSO

Worship Guide: PAGE 16 Meeting Times: PAGE 22

EvergreenTimes

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Valley Currents

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

100 attend community meeting to fight Evergreen Senior Housing ballot initiative

By Kevin Larsen Times staff writer

That started with a petition drive to build over 900 homes in Evergreen has now spread to community meetings where citizens wish to organize to oppose the develop-

ment.

Organizers of the meeting stated on social media that its purpose was to inform the community about issues regarding, "this confusing and misleading initiative," while also providing a platform where people can get involved in opposing the initiative

Grace Church, located across from the Evergreen library, was a spacious and welcoming community meeting area on Monday, Dec. 18. Pastor John Goldstein welcomed all and graciously allowed the event to take place in this location and stated, "Issues like this impact so many people."

Three key speakers spoke in depth on what many call a "confusing and misleading initiative which is supported by deep-pocket developers." Their purpose in addressing the audience was informational and encouraged grass roots involvement in opposition to the possible Senior Home Initiative which will most likely be placed on the June 2018 ballot.

Arenas expresses concerns

Sylvia Arenas, San Jose City Councilmember - District 8, covered a number of key issues that were of concern to many, such as the developer not paying their fair share of traffic mitigation and how this is a city wide ballot measure. It is thought that if others in the city besides Evergreen residents vote for the initiative then the passage it could set precedent and be far reaching in how such a ballot measure will step over the role of the Mayor and the City council in carefully negotiating the building and planning process. Many other points of deep concern were stated.

Jim Zito, President of the

Evergreen School District School Board, has worked in developing San Jose City general plans for development. He said that the promotions done to get the measure on the ballot were misleading to many. He talked about how Evergreen Valley is a "sheltered area" of San Jose and that great thought was put into the city planning its development.

He expressed that it was of great concern for a developer to step over a carefully planned city process and impose a development with no negotiations. Many other concerns were raised by Mr. Zito to the audience.

Mr. Robert Reese, Chair of District 8 Roundtable land use committee, spoke about his concerns for the need for cohesive plan. He expressed that the city development plans are based on sustainability and smart development. The general plan offers community involvement and if a developer puts a 300 page measure, such as the Evergreen Senior Home Initiative, that could supersede city planning and not only impact the future for Evergreen, but for all of San Jose and other communities too.

Audience concerns expressed
The audience spoke about



Sylvia Arenas, San Jose City Councilmember – District 8, covered a number of key issues.



SPEAKERS – **Sylvia Arenas**, San Jose City Council Member – District 8, **Robert Reese**, Chair of District 8 Roundtable land use committee, and **Jim Zito**, President of the Evergreen School District, spoke at a community meeting to fight Evergreen Senior Housing ballot initiative on Monday, Dec. 18.

many concerns with the ballot measure. The following are some of these concerns voiced in a question and answer portion of the meeting.

- Why is it that the developer does not plan to pay its fair share with regard to traffic mitigation fees which could result in the city paying millions? It was thought that if the city has to carry this load then that would be put on the backs of the taxpayers instead of the developers of the over 900 home proposed ballot measure project.
- If lawyers spent so much time developing an all or nothing ballot measure then if any citizen finds anything they do not approve of in the measure they should vote against it. "We either take the whole thing on the ballot measure or if we find we do not like any item we need to reject it."
- Negotiation that normally is a part of any development is lost with this voter ballot measure for it does not give the city negotiation rights.
- One member of the audience stated (and this would need to be proven out) that there is a statement in the 300 page ballot measure that forbids the city from making any changes for ten years
- One member of the public stated that they would rather have homes than "smokestack industry," However it was countered that the land was slated for "light industrial development" which is not a smokestack kind of use.
- This ballot measure will encourage urban sprawl

- Developers by putting such ballot measures on the ballot will excuse themselves from having to pay traffic fees and fees will be passed on instead to the taxpayers
- Some of the ballot measure language does not define things well so that everyone understands what it means
- The project will harm the environment for it will set a precedent for more such projects in sensitive habitat areas in San Jose and beyond
- The project claims to help veterans without actual commitments
- The senior homes would be priced over a million dollars each and it would be gated community, however the affordable homes would be outside the gates

Many other concerns were discussed by this group and it was seen that the various groups wished to develop more community grassroots outreach to set up websites and make information more easily accessible for all to review and make informed decisions.

Look for more in-depth analysis of both sides of this Evergreen Senior Homes Initiative in future issues of the Evergreen Times.

At the close of the event on each chair was a sign up form for volunteering and the link to a petition to fight the ballot initiative. To read more, visit:

sanjoseunited.net/petitionagainst-homes-initiative

Editor's note: The meeting was captured on video and is available for viewing on Youtube.com

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AUTOMOTIVE DEALERSHIP

Times Local Schools

Amplifying the 'A' in STEAM

By Kameelah Green

Assistant Principal,
O.B. Whaley Elementary School
Special to the Times

t the dawn of the 2017-18 school year, O.B. Whaley Elementary School Principal Tonya Trim and I mused, dreamt, and searched for ways to be intentional with arts education as we began implementing the school-wide STEAM focus.

The seemingly difficult piece was incorporating the arts for every student - not just primary grades or upper grades or an after school cohort, but for every single child in the school.

At just the right time, we jumped on a referral from a colleague in Fairfield, signed a two-week contract with Troubadour Beat Lab/Royal King Academy, pitched the benefits to teachers, and held our breath until Monday, November 27, the first day of dance class. O.B. Whaley was poised to be the flagship school to offer an arts education program to every single student with a company nobody had really heard of. This was new. This was risky.

After the first day, it was very apparent that dance class was going to be so much more than learning some developmentally appropriate moves. A cafeteria full of one hundred kindergarten and first grade students were moving their bodies to a string of commands given in Spanish, executing bilateral movements, persevering through a thirty-minute cardiac workout, and having a ton of fun doing it! Furthermore, they had homework to drink an "adult-sized" cup of water and eat a fist-sized serving of vegetables. Then, one hundred fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students piled into the cafeteria and embodied the spirit of collaboration and team work as they scurried around the room into different dance formations that only worked if everyone did their part.

Next, another hundred upper grade students were expected to hit hip hop moves in sync and at the appropriate level/height. More collaboration, team work, sweat and lots of smiles. Finally, approximately one hundred twenty second and third graders



piled into the cafeteria and the magic continued. Student Engagement – check! Positive School Climate – check! Physical Education – check! Collaboration – check! Health and Wellness – check! Multicultural Music Appreciation – check! Who knew that one amazing dance instructor with a large speaker and a microphone would not only succeed in amplifying the arts, but also break barriers for students who may have never experienced the power of a high quality arts program.

On Thursday, December 7, our two weeks of dance instruction ended with a huge showcase on the upper grade playground. Over two hundred parents and community members converged upon campus to see the fruit of this new venture. Needless to say, it was epic!

We cannot wait to do it again!

Speech

Continued from page 3

outside of their comfort zone, and practice their public speaking skills in a positive environment," said Silver Creek Academy founder and credentialed teacher Shelley Swircek.

The speech competition is just one of the many free events Silver Creek Academy offers throughout the year, in order to allow students the opportunity to improve their academic and communication skills.

Founded by teacher Shelley Swircek in 2007, the Academy offers a wide variety of small group academic courses that focus on the individual needs of students in kindergarten through high school. Courses cover a variety of subjects including writing and grammar, reading comprehension, math problem solving, public speaking & debate, and HSPT, ISEE, and SAT preparation.

For more information about Silver Creek Academy, call (408) 839-5905 or visit SCAASanJose.com.



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St. Francis of Assisi Church parking lot extension

Evergreen residents are curious about the construction activity at St. Francis of Assisi Church located on San Felipe Rd.

The current construction is a parking lot extension to accommodate the increasing attendance during Sunday church services.

A sign for the Senior Center for Sacred Heart Senior Day Break Program next to the construction has been there for some time and is not related to the construction.

"People think it is a new sign but it is not," said the Church secretary. "No new structures are being built at this time."



'Stuff the VTA Bus' great success with community support

The Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) thanked the community for their support in helping to "stuff the bus" this holiday season.

On Saturday, Dec. 9, two 40-foot buses were filled with toys for children in need, as part of the U.S. Marines' annual Toys for Tots program.

San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo, who was recently elected VTA Board Chair, greeted donors along with VTA board member Cindy Chavez and others to accept donations of new, unwrapped toys.



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Crash at Yerba Buena Road and Yerba Buena Ave.

By Frank Shortt

Times staff writer

atest in a series of crashes at Y.B. Road and Y.B. Avenue occurred early Sunday morning, Dec. 17, resulting in trauma for the ones involved and snarling up traffic for several hours.

The mother of the son who was involved in the crash was very distraught but thankful that her son was spared any life-threatening injuries. The other man's Christmas was, in his words, "off to a bad start." Names are being withheld due to further investigation of the accident.

An elderly Career Air Force Sergeant was traveling westward on Yerba Buena Road thinking about his Christmas visit with a sister in Oakdale. His automobile



was laden with presents, also his luggage, for the stay in Oakdale. It only takes a second for tragedy to strike as one's eyes are diverted for any reason and the result was that he hit the vehicle in front of him.

On viewing the condition of the front of the crashed car, it doesn't seem that anyone could have come out alive. One of the officers at the scene commented that this is happening more and more in San Jose, and increases every Holiday Season.

Numerous traffic accidents

There have been several harrowing accidents at this same corner in the last few years. It is very noticeable that sometimes the traffic lights are very slow in changing, causing motorists to sometimes run the red light out of pure frustration. Some residents are asking the city to calibrate the traffic lights at this particular corner for better safety.

It is not uncommon for college students to drag race up the hill leading to this corner. Screeching tires and racing engines can be heard at all hours of the night. When these racers come to the traffic light, it is difficult to stop at high rates of speed.

San Jose police ask each of us to be extra careful during the holidays, driving defensively and thinking of other's welfare. If you must drink alcohol, have a designated driver or call Uber or a taxi if you are alone. Holidays are meant as times of relaxation and being with friends and family.

Editor's note: The Evergreen Times wish all its readers a very Safe, Happy and Prosperous Holiday Season!



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How you can help support the organizations that help others

By Dave Cortese

Special to the Times econd Harvest Food Bank

needs to collect 24,000 turkeys (frozen are best) by December 31, 2017, to distribute to 330 nonprofit agencies at more than 770 sites throughout Santa Clara and San Mateo counties You can visit shfb.org or

call 866-234-3663. Help the Salvation Army Silicon Valley spread holiday joy this year. Besides dropping money

into the famous red kettles that you will see around the County. you can donate online, join a gift drive through christmastoydrive.com or be a volunteer. Visit salvationarmysiliconvalley.org for more information or call 408-282-1165.

The Toys for Tots Program is managed by dedicated United States Marines and local volunteers. Visit san-iose-ca.tovsfortots.org for more information on what and where to donate local-

ConXión to Community, which provides education, workforce, behavioral health and Bright Futures mentoring services to disconnected youth and adults, is collecting toiletries, socks, gloves, scarfs, gift cards and movie passes at 749 Story Road, Suite 10, San Jose. Visit conxion.org or call 408-213-0961, extension 23.

The Shop with a Cop Foundation of Silicon Valley works on behalf of law enforcement officers and the communities they serve locally to shape strong partnerships and breakdown communication barriers, and rebuild trust through active engagement, education programs and outreach. For more information and to donate, visit shopwithacopsv.org.
Support Family Giving Tree

Holiday Wish Drive to distribute new books, toys, clothes and shoes to more than 300 social service agencies so they can fill the wishes of underprivileged children. The agencies supply the Family Giving Tree with names and wishes of the children they serve year-round. To donate on the agency's virtual tree or visit familygivingtree.org for other ways to help.

Sunnyvale Community Services needs donations of food and new, unwrapped gifts for its annual Christmas drive. Visit svcommunityservices.org for more information or call 408-

Our City Forest is offering an alternative to buying cut

Christmas trees again this holiday season. The organization has eight species of trees available ranging from 3feet to 9 feet tall. Please visit the Community Nursery, 1000 Spring Street, San Jose, to preorder your tree if you want a particular size. For ways to donate or to volunteer, visit ourcitforest.org or call 408-



998-7337.

HomeFirst, formerly named EHC LifeBuilders, needs to provide basic toiletries and new white socks, T-shirts and underwear for homeless individuals who arrive at the shelter with nothing. For more on HomeFirst's mission and services, visit homefirstscc.org or call 408-539-2100.

Sacred Heart Community Service is dedicated to bringing our community together to address poverty in Silicon Valley. For more information about ways to donate, visit sacredheartcs.org or call 408-278-2160.

Goodwill of Silicon Valley is accepting donations of clothing and household items at sites across Santa Clara County. For information and location of sites, visit goodwillsv.org or call 408-998-5774.

Hope Services is accepting donations of clothing, household goods and small appliances to stock its thrift stores. Proceeds from the stores help Hope clients with job training, job placement and independent living services. Visit hopeservices.org for information about the organization.

CityTeam Ministries is looking for volunteers to organize holiday toy or food drives to serve the thousands of people who come to CityTeam for help during the holiday season. For more information on City Team Ministries, visit cityteam.org or call 408-232-5600.

Loaves and Fishes Family Kitchen serves healthy hot meals every day to low-income families and individuals. They are now serving over 460,000 meals a year at 30 locations across the Bay Area. To find out how to help, visit loavesfishes. org or call 408-998-1500.

Santa Maria Urban Ministry, 778 S. Almaden Ave., San Jose, See CHARITY, page 12









HOLIDAY Final Sacred Heart holiday food box distribution

ec. 19 marked the last day of Sacred Heart Community Service's (SHCS) 2017 Holiday Food Box Distribution.

Community members, totaling 3,200, came to SHCS in San Jose to pick up a food box with nearly 50 pounds of food including a turkey, ham, or chicken.

During Thanksgiving, the agency distributed 4,200 boxes bringing it to a total of 7,400 families continuing their own holiday traditions.

On Thursday and Friday, December 21st and 22nd, parents will come to SHCS to choose holiday gifts, books, and toys. Over 300 volunteers came to the agency on Sunday to sort and count toys, as well as transform the agency's Learning Center into its Toy Box store. The agency is currently short 6,000 toys for its goal of 18,600 toys for 6,200 children.

For those interested in supporting the food and toy program, they can visit the SHCS website at http://sacredheartcs. org/holidays to donate online or see the current wish list of needed items. The categories SHCS is running low on include Legos, science kits, toys for toddlers/preK, and gift cards. The SHCS donation station (located on First and Alma Street in San Jose) will be open Tuesday and Wednesday from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.



MOVIE REVIEW

Star Wars: The Last Jedi

By Steven Leonard

Times Media Movie Reviewer
irector Rian Johnson's movie "Star
Wars: The Last Jedi" has a sense of
humor, emotional generosity, and
fantastic special effects. The film works
even if you haven't seen it or any of the
other Star Wars movies.

It's a classic Western, sword-and-sandal epic and martial arts film. The roots of the older generation of Jedi and the new make "The Last Jedi" a triumph. The baton of the old order of Jedi is past to the new order of Jedi.

The outstanding, charismatic Rey (Daisey

Ridley) leads the way for a new female-centric generation of Jedi. She captivates the "The Last Jedi" the same way Gal Gadot did in the films "Wonder Woman", "Superman vs Batman", and "The Justice League." Rey (Daisey Ridley) steals nearly every scene in which she's included in "The Last Jedi".

"The Last Jedi' maintains a balance of lighthearted fun, intense action, and deep emotion. The epic adventure unlocks ageold mysteries of the Force and shocking revelations of the past.

Star Wars: The Last Jedi adds some surprising twists -- and delivering all the emotion-rich action fans could hope for. The smaller action set-pieces can only be described as beautiful.

Leah Organa (Carrie Fisher), in her final Star Wars performance, is the heart and soul of the film. Leah Organa (Carrie Fisher) also steals some scenes with ease and on more than one occasion bringing lumps to the throat.

The film packs enough action and sur-

prises to keep fans happy through the Christmas season and beyond. The last act is as thrilling as this franchise ever gets. The film is obsessed with surprises. It has moments designed to make you lose your mind and takes the characters we know in directions that will simply blow your mind. It's deeper, it's darker and it has cuddly Porg creatures that may not be as benign as they appear.

Nothing will prepare you for Star Wars:
The Last Iedi.



Star Wars: The Last Jedi
Rating: PG-13 (for sequences of
sci-fi action and violence)
Genre: Action & Adventure,
Drama, Science Fiction & Fantasy
Directed By: Rian Johnson
Written By: Rian Johnson
Runtime: 152 Minutes
Studio: Walt Disney Pictures

Charity

Continued from page 10

needs clothing and shoes for its Clothes Closet, canned foods for the Food Pantry program and school and craft supplies for its educational programs. Visit santamariasj.org for more information or call 408-292-3314.

Yu-Ai Kai, a multi-service non-profit senior community center located in San Jose's Japantown, is seeking gift cards and other items to be given out to seniors. For more information, visit yuaikai.org or call 408-294-2505.

Martha's Kitchen needs frozen turkeys and 5-lb. canned hams. Donations may be dropped off at Martha's Kitchen, 311 Willow Street, San Jose, at the corner of Locust Street at the Sacred Heart Church grounds. Visit marthas-kitchen.org for more information or call 408- 293-611.

Next Door Solutions to Domestic

Violence is asking the community to help make the holidays a little bit brighter by providing items for a Winter Open House celebration for clients and their children on December 16. Visit nextdoor.org for information about the organization. You can also call 408-501-7544.

RotaCare Bay Area is a volunteer alliance of medical professionals who provide free health care for uninsured families with limited ability to pay. The group is looking for volunteer physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants, as well as pharmacists, registrars and interpreters. Monetary donations can be made online at rotacarebayarea.org, or by mail at 514 Valley Way, Milpitas, CA 95035 or by phone at 408-263-8166.

LifeMoves, requests financial contributions as well as donations of gift cards, linens and bedding, new socks, undergarments, kitchen supplies and dishware. For more information about holiday giving opportunities, visit lifemoves.org/holi-

days

Downtown Streets Team needs monetary donations, gift cards, socks and hygiene products. For more information, contact Kalie@StreetsTeam.org or visit streetsteam.org.

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County serves 38,000 children and adults through 34 programs at 80 locations throughout Santa Clara County. For Season of Sharing visit catholiccharitiesscc.org or 408-325-5125.

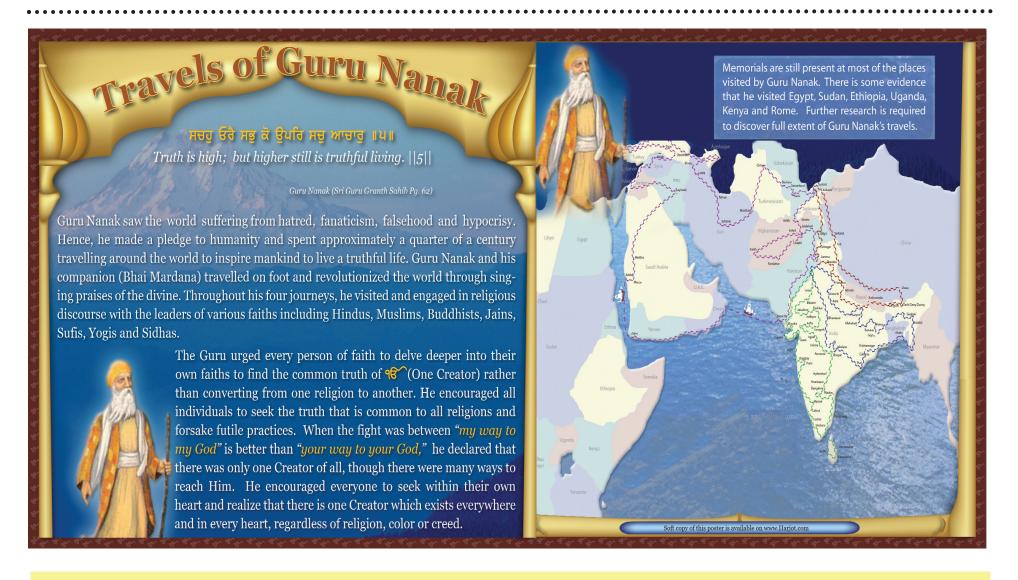
Child Advocates of Silicon Valley is seeking gift cards for teens and new toys for children of all ages. Monetary contributions are always appreciated. Visit bemyadvocate.org or call 408-416-0400.

Bill Wilson Center, which provides counseling, education and housing for homeless youth in Santa Clara County, is looking for community members to join its Adopt-a-Family Holiday Giving Program. Visit billwilsoncenter.org or call 408-243-0222.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Silicon Valley are always in need of school supplies, art supplies and board games. Also needed are gift cards for teens (Target, Safeway). Monetary donations for school uniforms and computers are greatly needed and appreciated. Contact alethia@bgclub.org or visit bgclub.org.

Asian Americans for Community Involvement is accepting new and unwrapped gifts for low-income families served by our domestic violence and human trafficking program, Asian Women's Home. Visit aaci.org or call 408-975-2730, extension 171.

Alum Rock Counseling Center is hosting its Annual Toy Giveaway & Holiday Celebration for 700 under-served children from East and Central San Jose. Visit alumrockcc.org for details or call 408-240-0070. Items are accepted until December 20.





Sikh Gurdwara-San Jose

Program

7:00-9:30 AM: Keertan Sri Asa Di Vaar

Bhai Inderiit Singh

9:30-10:10 AM: Kathaa Hukamnama

Bhai Guriit Singh

10:10-10:30 AM: Ardas and Hukam

10:30-11:30 AM: Bhai Tajvinder Singh

11:30-12:30 AM: Bhai Niranjan Singh

12:30-1:30 PM : Awards

1:30-2:30 PM : Bhai Sarabjit Singh 2:30-3:30 PM : Bhai Harcharan Singh 3:30-4:30 PM : Bhai Inderjit Singh

4:30-5:00 PM : Ardas and Hukam

ੴਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ

ਬਾਣੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਗੁਰੂ ਹੈ ਬਾਣੀ, ਵਿਚਿ ਬਾਣੀ ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤੁ ਸਾਰੇ ॥

1st Annual Bay Area Khalsa Darbar

Celebrating the Prakash Utsav of Guru Gobind Singh And the Great Keertan Tradition of Gurus

A Galaxy of Famous Keertani Jathaas will Grace the Occasion 7 AM-5:00 PM Monday December 25, 2017

Presented By

Sikh Gurdwara San Jose

3636 Gurdwara Avenue, San Jose CA 95148 Phone: (408)274-9373. www.sanjosegurdwara.org





Guru Gobind Singh

(1666-1708)

Let us celebrate the Prakash Utsav of our Great Guru with Familiy and Friends at the Sikh Gurdwara San Jose







Bhai Harcharan Singh Khalsa Hazoori Ragi Sri Darbar Sahib



Bhai Sarabjit Singh Ladi Hazoori Ragi Sri Darbar Sahib



Tony and Sylvia help the destitute

By Kevin Larsen *Times staff writer*

What can you say, they never give up and they keep at it.

This husband and wife have been helping the poor for decades in the City of San Jose.

They believe "Don't judge people based on their outward appearances or life circumstances. Better understand who the homeless are by talking to them on the street or by volunteering to serve food at a mission, shelter, or soup kitchen. You'll be surprised by what you learn."

It all started out as a small car club that honors traditional ways in San Jose. They have a motto and it is, "See you on the boulevard."

Wrapped in family ways, this group began a nonprofit that helps the less fortunate. How incredibly smart their car club was in doing this!

They set up many ways to help those in tremendous need. They state; "Boulevard Bombs Foundation & Blvd BombS Car Club distributes tote bags which toothbrush kit, fleece blankets and more. The homeless people are grateful for their coats, food, tote bags and conversations, for the moment they are happy and appreciate everything. Some have lost their homes, jobs, wife or husband. Some people were in the service and when they returned home they were unable to find a job. Some homeless are sick, drug attics or alcoholics. Regardless what their reasons are for being homeless, we cannot ignore them; they are all human beings. The little help we as a community can give them will help them through the day, the rain.

Hopefully we can keep them from dying on the streets."

For Christmas they take toys to a homeless shelter with single parents and they have a Santa that gives the gift to the kids. A member of their organization states privately,

"Next Saturday we are going to the homeless shelter with single parents. Santa will give the thirty seven children a gift and we are making goody bags for them. We are also taking them snacks and we will have a DJ. Hoping for one moment they will forget about their situation."

Make sure to visit their website called the www.blvdbombs for both Blvd BombS and their nonprofit Boulevard Bombs Foundation. That is the name of their car club started long ago and which was transformed into a one of a kind nonprofit that does so much for so many.

They say, "Thank you for your support and donations, we could not do this without you and donations as well as volunteers are always welcome."

You know, in speaking with Tony and Sylvia Martinez, founders, one gets the understanding that working and connecting with all people in life is very important and no need to be in a millennial rush to smile, shake a hand, or listen to others. Maybe that has something to do with the creed of the low riders. After all didn't that whole genre (a particular type or style of literature, art, film or music that you can recognize because of its special features) also start; you guessed it, here in "San Jo."

"Blvd BombS is more of a social club and we are one Big Family," said Sylvia. "Community oriented no officers, no monthly dues and no monthly meetings. Our mission is to help the less fortunate such as the Homeless, Toys for kids at a



"Thank you for your support and donations, we could not do this without you and donations as well as volunteers are always welcome." —Tony and Sylvia Martinez

homeless shelter for Christmas and other needy kids and turkeys for homeless shelters and much more. With the challenges facing our communities, our nation and world somehow we need to make a difference. The first response is to turn away from these problems and focus on creating a good life for ourselves and our small personal circle. But if we can help someone in a small way, we can make a difference. Our hope is to make our community a better place by making small noticeable changes."

For more information and a look at a truly wonderful website, some say blessed by up above, go to Boulevard Bombs Foundation and better yet, become a volunteer and meet Tony and Sylvia and other most wonderful humble people making a difference in our world.



On December 25, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., all faiths invited are invited to attend a God and Sikh history event at the Gurdwara in Evergreen.

First ever God and Sikh history event Dec. 25 at Gurdwara

By Kevin Larsen

Times staff writer

n December 25, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., all faiths invited are invited to attend a God and Sikh history event at the Gurdwara in Evergreen.

For the first time, the Gurdwara on the hill (Temple), offers the entire community a free event made up of a galaxy of renowned speakers.

The San Jose Gurdwara is just like other places of worship in the valley and they all work together. Belief in God is deeply honored and the Sikhs never try to convince any person to become a Sikh, instead they welcome with open arms all to visit.

The Holy speakers will enlighten all on the history of Sikhism and the deep depths of their Holy Book. The event will be in both English and Punjabi. All are welcome to attend.

Sikhism is a system of respect and protection for all people's human rights. The religion sprung from Hinduism hundreds of years ago.

The state of Punjab is the center of Sikhism.

For Sikhs, the Golden Temple in

India is like the Vatican in Italy to Catholics.

The translation of the word Gurdwara means "House of God." Just as other places of worship are found throughout the world so too are Gurdwaras.

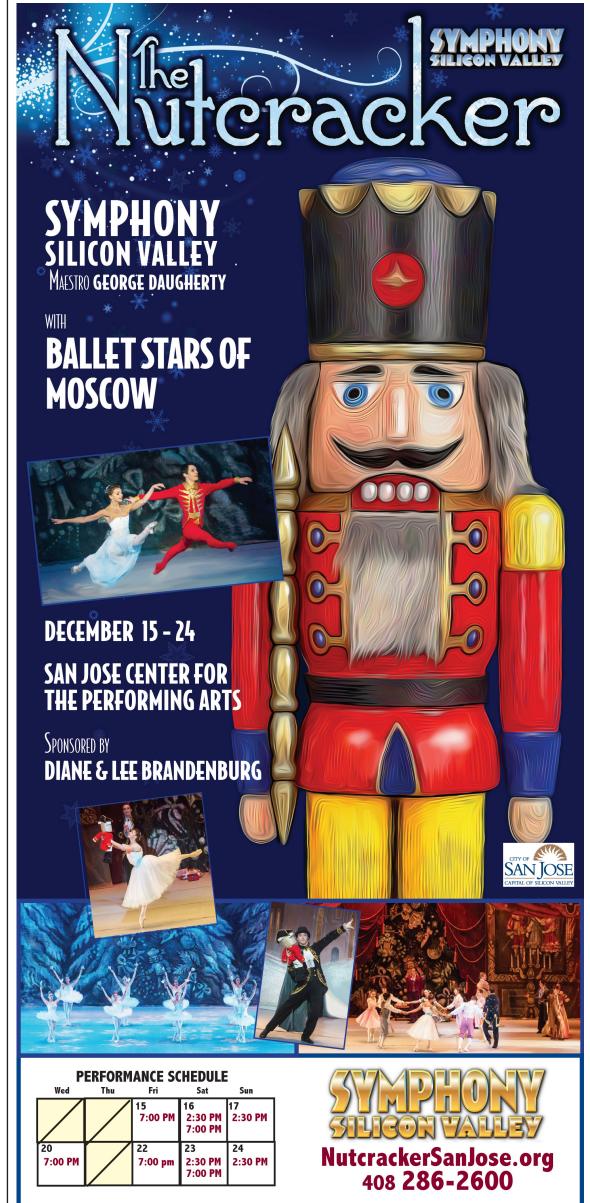
Sikhs observe total sanctity of their Holy Book called the Guru Granth Sahib, thus, just as churches look to the Holy Bible, the Sikhs look to the Granth for wisdom and guidance.

You can choose to drop in and listen to one of many speakers throughout the day. Comple-mentary food will be served in the Langer (Spacious food, snack and kitchen area open to all 365 days of the year).

This event offers the entire community a time of reflection and intelligent growth of perspective on important topics.

Those at the Gurdwara state, "Don't be bashful and know you are always welcome to drive up with your family and visit. All are welcome to swing by for an hour or two; parking is free. There are also free electric car charging stations

For more information visit the Gurdwara website: San Jose Gurdwara.org.



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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 (0&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 fellow-

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.

ship and refreshments.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

5351 Carter Ave., San .Inse 95118 408.265.5837 www.bibleroad.org We strive to be a group of Christians that love and honor God and Jesus Christ in our daily lives. We assemble each Sunday to encourage each other through singing, studying, praying and sharing in the Lord's supper. Simple—just like what one reads about in the New Testament. Bible class at 9:30 AM Worship at 10:30 AM

Located in south San Jose near Kooser Rd. and Camden Ave. (behind the Almaden Valley Athletic Club). Come make new Christian friends!

FAST 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 Senior Pastor - Pastor Ron Johnson, Community-Life Pastor -Pastor Patrick Boyd. Children's Ministry Co-Directors - Alyssa Friend and Kristen Pearson We are located at 2827 Flint Ave (Between Tully & Norwood) San Jose. CA 95148, Phone 408-238-0231, e-mail info@eastvalleychurch.com We are associated with Converge Worldwide www.convergeworld-

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

wide.org

6581 Camden Ave. San Jose, CA 95120. The Rev. Shelley Booth Denney, Rector Phone:408-268-0243

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

Web:www.eca-sj.org

EVERGREEN VALLEY CHURCH Visit our Web Site at

followed by a coffee

conversation.

hour for friendship and

wwww.evcsi.com 2750 Yerba Buena Rd. San Jose, CA 95121. Phone: 408-274-7422. Saturday worship is at 5 pm. Sunday worship services at 9 am and 11 am.. **Excellent contemporary** Christian music and Bible based teaching. Nursery care and Children's Sunday School programs at 9 am and 11 am. Junior High students meet at 9am and High School

students meet at 11am.

Nuevo Comienzo: Servicio en espanol, Domingo 4pm.

FIRST CHURCH DOWNTOWN

Worshipping at 55 N. 7th Street, in downtown San Jose. (Horace Mann school) firstchurchdowntown.com Telephone: (408) 294-7254 x310. We are a community serving the Christ from the heart of the City, working to know Jesus and make Jesus known by serving, worshipping, and learning together. Worship services are at 10:00 AM at the Horace Mann Community Center (7th and Santa Clara Streets). Worship includes both contemporary and traditional music, a message that is relevant to real life, based in the Bible, and meaningful to people of all ages and backgrounds. We work in our community to provide real assistance and long-term, life-saving solutions: food, housing, counseling, and spiritual direction. Our children's & families' ministries include Sunday classes, outdoor family activities such as bike rides and fishing trips. Come, Make a Difference and feel the difference God can make in your life!

GRACE CHURCH OF **EVERGREEN**

www.GraceChurchSJ.net See you on Facebook 2650 ABORN ROAD at Kettmann, across from Evergreen Public Library, Serving Evergreen for over 50 Years. John S Goldstein, Pastor

CHRISTMAS EVE WOR-SHIP ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 24 AT 7PM MUSIC. SONG AND CANDLE-LIGHTING Christian Worship every Sunday at 11.00 am Together let us build lives toward excellence! Music Institute (408)791 7772 After School lessons on Piano, Violin, Viola, Flute PreSchool, Age 2-6 years. Caring for your child with God's love

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC

and affection

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CHURCH Faith.Knowledge. Community - this is our promise to our members. If you are looking for an active Christian faith community, we invite you to experience Holy Spirit Parish Community. All are welcome! We are located at 1200 Redmond Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120. Mass is celebrated at 8:30 a.m. Monday Friday. Our weekend Mass schedule is Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Rite of Reconciliation is every Saturday at 4 p.m. or by appointment. Our Parish Office is open Monday -Thursday 8:30 a.m. -4:30 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Call 408-997-5100 for recorded information or 408-997-5101 to speak with someone in our parish office. Information on Faith Formation for children and adults can be obtained by calling our Catechetical Office at

408-997-5115. Get in

the loop with our 3sixty

High School Youth

Ministry by calling 408-997-5106. Holy Spirit School serves grades Pre-K through 8th, and is located at 1198 Redmond Avenue, You can reach the school office at 408-268-0794.

THE POINT CHURCH www.ThePoint.Church

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

SAINT ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH We invite you to become

at 1:00 PM.

a part of our hospitable. intimate Catholic parish. We are a caring community, promoting spiritual growth, reaching out to people in need and where you get to know people by name. We offer children's religious education (CREATE); Youth Ministry (BLAST & X-STATIC); Scripture Study (day & evening): Senior's Group and many other adult ministries as well. Saint Anthony parish is located in Almaden Valley at 20101 McKean Road, San Jose, 95120. Our weekend Masses are at 4 p.m. on Saturday at our historic church at 21800 Bertram Road in New Almaden, CA 95042 and on Sunday at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 5:30 p.m. at the McKean Road location. Our Parish Office is open Monday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and Tuesday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 - 4 p.m. For more information, stop by the Parish Office or call 1+ (408) 997-4800. or visit our website at www.churchstanthony.co m. Fr. Larry Hendel, Pastor.



God is One ਰੱਬ ਇਕ 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 Puniab 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 Clergy: Fr. Allan Boyd Experience our Lord Jesus Christ after the manner of the earliest Christians. All are welcome to our warm, multicultural Church community, where services are done primarily in English. What happens when you reunite created matter to its Creator? Come and see! Sunday worship: Orthros - 8:30 am Divine Liturgy - 9:30 am

We also celebrate Liturgy

on most feast days.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH 5111 San Felipe Rd., San

Jose, CA 95135 408-223-1562. www.stfrancisofassisi. com or www.stfrancis ofassisipreschool.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 ioin 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, Sunday11:00AM, 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 -

For Worship listing ads, call 408.250.5242

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 Kinadom!



Preserving agricultural land ensures our food supply and grows our economy

By Supervisor Dave Cortese

Special to the Times ne of the 600 trees in San Jose's Christmas in the Park this year celebrates Santa Clara County's agricultural past, present and future.

The tree's colorful ornaments depict livestock, farm equipment, fruits, vegetables and other crops that were once the basis of our local economy.

The tree, which was sponsored and decorated by my office, represents more to me than its "farm to table" theme. It is a reminder that farmland is still one of the County's most valuable assets, and an asset that we want to preserve.

At the last board meeting on Dec. 12, 2017, the Board of Supervisors approved my proposal to create an Agricultural Preservation Task Force to implement strategies for farmland preservation that are detailed in the Santa Clara Valley Agricultural Plan, which will be presented at the Jan. 9, 2018, Board meeting.

I am one of the lucky longtime residents who can remember the Valley of Heart's Delight, known for its endless rows of blossoming fruit and nut trees and one of the most productive farming areas of the nation. Our fruit packing and canning industry was the largest in the world.

I grew up on a ranch in Evergreen Valley, and like many others in the area, picked fruit and learned to love and respect the rich soil and temperate climate that still defines the County's landscape.

But my commitment to preserving land for agriculture is not based on sentimentality and a longing to return to the past. It is in the best interest of all of us to support and grow our regional agricultural economy. It is important not just as a food source but also for greenhouse gas reductions, climate change reversal and economic devel-

The Santa Clara Valley Agricultural Plan was developed by the County and the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority with three key goals – keeping our farmland and grazing lands working, honoring the important of agriculture to the area and creating a land use policy for the future.

The report says that in the past 30 years alone, Santa Clara County has lost 21,171 acres of its farmland and rangeland to development, and an additional 28,391 acres of farmland and rangeland in the County are at risk of conversion. This would not only diminish our local food source, but also result in a loss of the iconic rural character of Santa Clara Valley and of important jobs central to our agricultural economy.

The attention of course, has, in recent history, been on the other valley to the See AGRICULTURE, page 20

DENTAL Insurance

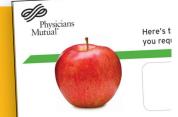


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*Individual plan

Product not available in MN_MT_NH_RL_VT_WA_Acceptance quaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO. NY: call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for similar offer. Certificate C250A (ID: C250E; PA: C250Q); Insurance Policy P150 (GA: P150GA: NY: P150NY: OK: P1500K: TN: P150TN)

6096C MB16-NM001Cc



Foothill Community Concert Series Bluegrass & Americana in the South Bay

Located in the eastern foothills of San Jose, Foothill Community Concert Series provides affordable, family-friendly live music to the South Bay.





ABBIE GARDNER

JANUARY 19TH AT 7:00 PM - \$20

After touring with Americana darlings Red Molly for the past eleven years, Abbie Gardner, the fiery Dobro player with an infectious smile, is striking out on her own! No stranger to solo performing, she has three CDs to draw from, each with award-winning songs. Tales of love and loss, both gritty and sweet, ride the back of her by-now familiar, formidable slide guitar licks. She channels Lucinda and Bonnie, but remains pure Abbie.

RITA HOSKING

JANUARY 27TH AT 7:30 PM - \$15 Rita's style of country-folk has been lauded for story and sense of place, and her performances praised with capturing the audience. A descendant of Cornish miners who sang in the mines, Rita grew up with deep regard for folk music and the power of the voice.



Concerts are located at Foothill Presbyterian Church, 5301 McKee Road, San Jose Tickets are available at the door, or online at www.foothillpc.org/fccs Children 12 and under are always admitted free.

Admission includes a post-concert reception with a chance to meet the artists.



- in your home today, in our community tomorrow
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w: ourcityforest.org/holiday e: treenursery@ourcityforest.org

1000 Spring St., San Jose



November 14 - January 11

Times Scrapbook



ARABIAN GULF – Damage Controlman 2nd Class **Andrew Gebhart** (right), a local resident, teaches Fireman Perry Kennon, both assigned to the engineering department aboard the amphibious assault ship USS America (LHA 6), on engineering maintenance for a flush-o-meter. America is the flagship for the America Amphibious Ready Group and, with the embarked 15th MEU, is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations in support of maritime security operations to reassure allies and partners and preserve the freedom of navigation and the free flow of commerce in the region.

CALENDAR

Events at New Seasons Market Evergreen

Wednesdays, from 8am-9pm: Wellness Wednesdays. Stop by the Solutions Counter every Wednesday and sample a new wellness product, a healthy meal recipe, or a featured heal-thy item from our deli and juice bar. Expand your culi-

nary and wellness repertoire. Free.

Wednesdays, 3–4pm: Tea Party for Seniors. Enjoy a relaxing cup of your favorite tea and some tasty treats in the café area. Meet up with a friend or make new friends. Free.

Fridays, 5–7pm: Wine Tasting and Cheese Pairing. Explore different quality wines with delicious cheese pairings, perfect for the holidays. Complimen-tary.

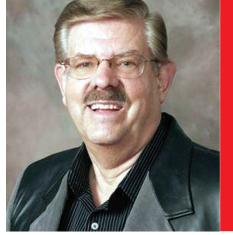
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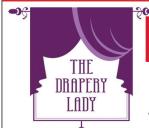
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Christmas in the Park brings a festive note to downtown San Jose



an Jose's annual Christmas in the Park, which is newly sponsored by Southwest Airlines, returned downtown with its trademark blend of whimsy, history, and fantastic rows of Christmas trees decorated by various community and school groups. You can still visit and enjoy the festive atmosphere, since the event runs through January 7 at the Plaza de Cesar Chavez.

-Photos by Lou Alexander









How to get a clean slate for the New Year

By Edith Sutterlin

Special to the Times

ll San Jose Public Library branches are closed December 24-26, 2017, and December 31, 2017-January 2, 2018, for holidays. During this time, as the New Year approaches, it is a good time to bring your account up to date before 2018. Check bookshelves, under your carseats and beds, and bring back any library materials you are not currently using.

Volunteer Away Your Fines

Do you have late fees that have built up over the past year? You can use a credit card to pay online by logging into your library account from home, or pay in cash at the information desk. If you owe over \$20, preventing you from checking out materials, how about planning now to attend one of the Volunteer Away Your Fines (VAYF) opportunities? See sjpl.org/vayf for available dates; Evergreen Branch's VAYF shift is not until Monday afternoon, February 26, which is a long time to wait to regain access to the library's resources. Village Square's event for Volunteer Away your Fines will be held in the summer, but you can sign up online for other branches or at King Library for a date convenient to you. Regular volunteers can check with library staff to count their service time if needed.

Children under 18 who have late fees on children's library materials on their own card may "Read Away Your Fines" at designated literacy-related library programs, such as storytimes, by checking in first at the information desk to confirm their eligibility. Homework Club, Reading buddies, and Village Square's monthly reading to Furry Friends program are all options. Children receive a form for a library staff member to sign to confirm their participation.

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For example, spending 15 minutes of Reading aloud to a Reading Buddy could wipe out \$5 of late fees; attending a 30 minute storytime would settle up \$10 worth of fines; working with a teen volunteer in the Homework Club for an hour would wipe out the full \$20 fines that might be keeping you from borrowing materials! This is just one of the many reasons we encourage all parents to come into the library with their child to get them their own card. Children can learn responsibility for taking care of when their items are due to be returned to the library, and help to clear their accounts when materials are late! One of our library's goals is to provide access to library resources, and these programs are both ways to help you be reinstated as an active library cardholder. Sorry, no credit is given for future fines—we hope you will not build up more late fees with new habits to renew or return your library materials on time.

View all library event listings online at events.sjpl.org. Updates on library events are also available via our RSS feeds (sjpl.org/updates) and our Facebook page. (facebook.com/sanjoselibrary)

Edith Sutterlin is a librarian at the Evergreen Branch Library, 2635 Aborn Road, between Capitol Expressway and White Road. (408) 808-3060. Village Square Branch Library is located at 4001 Evergreen Village Square. (408) 808-3093. For more information, visit the library website, sipl.org.



Continued from page 17 north, Silicon Valley, and the tech industry. But the two valleys are linked in a very tangible way. Software engineers need to eat, too!

But seriously, the report also tells us that the gross value of the County's agricultural production last year was \$310 million, 11 percent above 2015. Employment on the 1,000 plus farms represents 8,100 jobs. Then if you add in those who work on the processing and distribution of food and those who sell it and prepare it in restaurants, our agricultural industry generates \$6.8 billion a year in revenue and supports 92,162 jobs.

So, when you stop by our tree at Christmas in the Park, which will be open through January 7, take a minute to think of the land that surrounds us and puts food on our tables. (As your facing the center of the park from Market Street, the Cortese tree is just south of the 60-foot-tall Christmas tree, near the benches along the sidewalk.)







Times Cover Stories

Cheerleaders

Continued from page 1

"Once I hit the mats it was one of the best feelings ever to perform in front of so many people!" said cheerleader Elliana Betancourt. "All the hard work and long practices definitely paid off. It was one of the best experiences in all 11 years of my life!"

The Evergreen PAL Football Cheerleaders, ranging in age from 8-13 years, attend Evergreen Schools - Leyva, Cedar Grove, Chaboya, Millbrook, Quimby, Norwood and Montgomery. Every girl on the team must maintain high academics with A's and B's. Most of the girls work on their homework during cheerleading practice breaks. They are also active in their community with activities such as Girl Scouts, softball and basketball.

The Evergreen PAL Football Cheerleaders set their goal in June to compete at JAMZ. By the end of the PAL season the cheerleading squad knew they were ready. The girls concentrated on rocking the Cow Palace with their sharp moves, incredible voices, and stunting with back flips. The team building a pyramid rivaled those of the most seasoned teams.

"They were crisp and solid in their hold of the pyramid and proudly jumped and screamed off the stage in their complete happiness," said Patty Carrillo, volunteer cheerleader parent. "When the final placements were called they jumped for joy at winning third place."

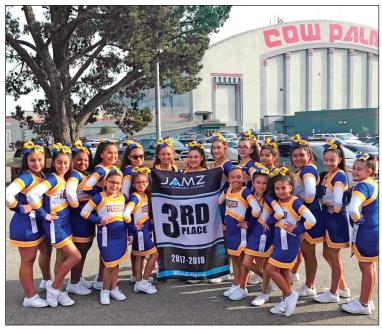
Teams competing at JAMZ competitions held through California that rank 1st, 2nd and 3rd place qualify for JAMZ 2018 Youth Nationals in Las Vegas, NV. After gaining the confidence competing against seasoned teams, the Evergreen PAL Football Cheerleaders accepted the invitation to compete at Youth Nationals, which will be held January 19-21.

"Our girls' hard work paid off with their third place win in the 13 and under division which is awesome considering it was their first time competing," said Carrillo. "Determined and driven in their intense practices by Evergreen PAL coaches Monica Betancourt, Tammy Dhanota, Vanessa Montez, Gelda "Gigi" Lopez, and Dorie Gattoni, and the support of cheer moms and dads, there was no stopping them in achieving what they set out to do."

After the event, Cheerleader Cesly Carrillo said, "I'm so happy our coaches made us practice, practice, and practice. I told my mom I wanted to compete in Las Vegas because I know we'll do our best and make our coaches proud."

Community financial support

The Evergreen PAL Cheerlead-



Most of the girls work on their homework during cheerleading practice breaks. They are also active in their community with activities such as Girl Scouts, softball and basketball.

ers recognize the discipline and sacrifice that it will take to achieve their next level; however they need the support of the Evergreen community to help with the team's expenses to pay for a practice location, choreographer, music, uniforms and transportation. They are student athletes, advocates at their schools, civic leaders and most importantly excellent members of our community.

You can help support their continued success by donating to the Evergreen PAL Football Cheerleader GoFundMe account at www.gofundme.com by searching Evergreen Jamz Las Vegas. Your taxable donations, as little as \$5, will go a long way to help them achieve their goals. Evergreen Valley Sports is a 5013c organization and your donations are tax deductible.

Crime

Continued from page 1 on suspicion of attempted burglary.

Male suspects at large

Police continue their search for two male suspects who remain at large described as Asian or Latino in their late teens or early 20s, both approximately 5-foot-9. One suspect was wearing a burgundy hooded sweatshirt with white stripes down the sleeve, and blue jeans. The other suspect was wearing a red hooded sweatshirt with a black T-shirt underneath.

If you have information about the case, contact Detective Barbara Melloch of the SJPD burglary unit at 408.277.4401, or leave a tip with Silicon Valley Crime Stoppers at 408.947-STOP or sycrimestoppers.org.

Evergreen Real Estate Directory



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A group dedicated to helping develop communication and leadership skills. The group meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 5:15 - 7 p.m. at HGST, a Western Digital Co. and the second and fourth Tuesdays from 12 - 1 p.m. at IBM. For more information, go to www.adlibmasters.org or call Lorraine Myers at 1(408) 717-5552 weekdays or 1(408) 238-4580 weekends.

District 8 Community Roundtable

1st Thursday of every month from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Location: Village Square" library (For information, visit d8crt.org)

CalRTA-Area V-Div. 70 Retired Teachers Organization. Meets bimonthly at various eastside cafes also conducts a variety of holiday socials/activities and scholarship fundraisers. Established in 1983! All teaching levels and others welcome. This organization supports the goals and purposes of the California Teachers' Retirement System. For more information call E. Paros at (408) 274-1609 or email parosei@ sbcglobal.net.

East Side Union High School District Board of Trustees

Meetings are typically held on the third Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. in the ESUHSD Education Center, 830 N. Capitol Ave. 347-5000. Check the web site for agendas and updates: www.esuhsd.org

The Evergreen Al-Anon meetings

held at St. Francis of Assisi Church on Thursdays at 7 p.m. have been cancelled indefinitely due to lack of attendance.

The Evergreen Business

Association is a free networking group for business owners who live and work in the Evergreen and nearby areas. The purpose of the Evergreen Business Association is to develop and foster connections and to provide a forum for members to share knowledge, promote growth opportunities, and encourage referrals. The group meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 a.m. at the Village Square Branch Library, 4035 Evergreen Village Square, San Jose. The group invites business owners and leaders. There is no cost for membership. For more information, please refer to our Meetup page

http://www.meetup.com/Evergreen-Business-Association/

Evergreen-East Valley Realtors Marketing Meeting

Meets each Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. The EEVRMM invites realtors, brokers, lenders and related affiliates to its breakfast meeting. Market your listings, match buyers with sellers and share real estate success stories. Meetings are held at New Seasons 5667 Silver Creek Valley Rd San Jose Ca 95138. \$3 admission, coffee and pastries included. For more information, call David Castillo at 238-2000.

Evergreen School District Board of Trustees

Meetings are typically held on the second Thursday of every month, in the district boardroom at 3188 Quimby Road. For more information, call (408) 270-6800.

Evergreen School District Parent Advisory Committee

The Parent Advisory Committee Meetings for 2015-16 will meet on the first Wednesday of the months of October, December, January, February, March and May. The meeting is held in the Evergreen School District boardroom, 3188 Quimby Road at 9:30 a.m.

The Evergreen Senior Advisory Council meets the third Thursday of every month at 9:30 a.m. Get involved in helping plan events for seniors, volunteering for a good cause, and getting to know your fellow seniors. For more information, call the Evergreen Community Center at (408) 270-2220.

Evergreen Valley Garden Club

Meeting at the SUNRISE SENIOR LIVING CENTER, 4855 San Felipe Road (across from McDonalds). Meetings will be on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, from 7-8 PM. EVGC membership is \$20/year or \$30 for couples. During this time of transition, any membership fees paid now will be extended to cover all of 2018 as well. For further information, please feel free to contact Susie Henderson: susiehenderson@sbcglobal.net or 408-532-6602

Evergreen Valley High School Athletic Booster Club meets every second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the school's administration office.

Evergreen Valley High School Site Council

Meets the first Wednesday of every month on the EVHS campus in the administration building D, 3300 Quimby Rd., San Jose. Confirm meetings by visiting the school's web site, http://ev.ca.campusgrid.net/home and clicking on school site council in the left hand toolbar or calling the school at (408) 347-

Evergreen Valley Service Organization

For more information, call (408) 274-6756.

Falls Creek Neighborhood Association

Homeowners from the Madison and Pulte area developments are welcome and encouraged to attend future meetings. For more information go to the Web at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fallscreekneighbors or call Dave Zenker at (408) 238-2591.

The Evergreen Community Center

offers a variety of classes and special events, for kids, adults, and seniors. For more information on our activities visit: www.sanjoseca.gov/ prns. The Senior Nutrition program serves a delicious and

well balanced meal to seniors 60 and over every Monday – Friday at noon. The suggested donation is \$3 per person. Please make reservations at least one day in advance by calling (408) 270-1244. The center is located at 4860 San Felipe Road.

Friends of Evergreen Library
Meetings are held on the second
Tuesday of February, April, June,
August, October and December
from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., in
Group Study Room A at the
Evergreen Branch Library, 2635
Aborn Road, San Jose. Visit their
website at friendsofevergreenlibrary. org or call 408-808-3060 for
more information.

Hidden Glen Community

To join a neighborhood discussion egroup, go to: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ HiddenGlenSanJose/
The Kiwanis meet regularly every 4th Tuesday of the month at the Red Lobster (12:00 noon). For more information, please contact: President of Kiwanis East San Jose Mr. Bud Lomonaco, Phone: (408) 903-7526

LeyVa Community Action Team Association

This group is bounded by Barberry Lane and Monrovia Drive, Capitol Expressway, Aborn Road, and South King Road. For meeting time and location, please contact the association at (408) 795-5855.

Lions Club - San Jose East Valley
This group meets Tuesday evenings
from 6 pm to 8 pm for a dinner
meeting at Carrow's Restaurant,
1696 Tully Rd. near the corner of
Tully Rd/King Road. For more information, contact Lions Club member
Bill Evans at (408) 274-4728.

McLaughlin Corridor Neighborhood Assoc. Meets sec-

ond Thursday at 7 p.m. at Tully Library. 365-1300.

Meadowfair Neighborhood

Association meets the second Wednesday of odd-numbered months at 7 p.m. at Meadowfair Center, 2696 King Rd. For more information, call 539-2308.

Reid - Hillview Airport Association3rd Wednesday of every month at
7:30 p.m. Location: Hillview Airport
Terminal. (For information, call

Rotary Club of San Jose East/Evergreen meets every

(408) 251-4939 or visit rhvaa.org)

Thursday from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. at the Ranch Golf Club, 4601 Hill Top View Lane. (408) 270-0557.

Story Road Business Association Meets third Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. at Prusch Park, South King Road at Story. For more information, call 238-5422.

San Jose/Evergreen Community College District Board

Normally meets second Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Meetings in the District Office, Board Room, 40 S. Market St..

San Jose, CA 95113.

San Pedro Squares Toastmasters

Club meets every Tuesday from 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. at Jimmy's Restaurant, 222 W. Capitol Expressway in San Jose. Contact Barbara at 373-2815, or email barbaramcchesney @sbcglobal.net for further information, or check out the website at http://www.sanpedrosquares. freetoasthost.org.

Silver Creek (PTSA) Parent, Teacher, Student Association

Meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday in the Silver Creek High School Principal's Conference Room, 3434 Silver Creek Road. For more information, call 347-5830

Silver Creek School Site Council Meetings: Second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. in room V-1.

Silver Oak Educational Partnership

The Silver Oak Educational Partnership is now called the Silver Oak Elementary PTO (Parent Teacher Organization). New meeting schedule will be posted soon.

Tully Ocala Capitol King Neighborhood Association 1st Monday of every other month from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Location: Boys & Girls Clubs of Silicon Valley - Smythe Clubhouse

West Evergreen Neighborhood Association

This group represents the area bounded approximately by Flanigan Drive, South King Road, Aborn Road, and Alvin Avenue. Meets the third Tuesday at 0.B. Whaley Elementary School, 2655 Alvin Ave., 7 to 8 p.m. For more information, contact the association at 535-8613.



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