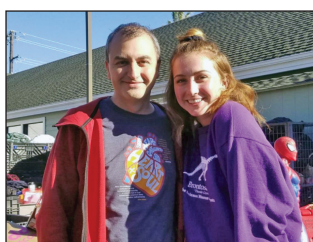


**SACRED HEART
FOOD BOXES HELP
THE COMMUNITY
DURING THE
HOLIDAYS – P4**



**PATRIOTIC LOCAL
CITIZENS PAINT A
FLAG ON A BARN
ON MOCKINGBIRD
HILL LANE – P10**



**CHRISTMAS IN
THE PARK BRINGS
A FESTIVE NOTE TO
DOWNTOWN SAN
JOSE – P12**



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OVER
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YEARS**

Almaden Times

DEC. 29, 2017–JAN. 11, 2018 ■ VOL. 31, NO. 1

SERVING ALMADEN VALLEY SINCE 1986 ■ ALMADENTIMES.COM



Martin-Fontana Park needs tree planting volunteers

By William Bellou
Publisher

You can be part of a beautiful future by planting trees at TJ Martin-Fontana Park on Saturday, January 6 from 9 a.m. to noon.

The Martin-Fontana Association is partnering with Our City Forest (OCF) to plant 24 trees. More than 30 trees were planted by volunteers at the park on Dec. 16.

The new trees will grow for decades and brighten Almaden with needed greenery and color. OCF provides the trees, tools, workers and supervision; you provide the labor, on this one day, to help dig holes, mix in the mulch, plant, stake and water the tree.

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

The San Jose Parks and Recreation Department has

See TREES, page 6



A Year in Review

By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

From politics to natural disasters and the loss of loved ones, 2017 has been a tumultuous year. Yet, through it all, Almaden's strong sense of community and philanthropy has made all the difference.

In times of trouble, as Mr. Rogers said, look to the helpers. "When I was a boy, and I would see scary things in the news," he said, "My mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'"

In multiple stories featured in the Almaden Times this year, local residents stepped up to help those in need. Churches established warming centers for the homeless staffed by

volunteers, a festival raised spirits while fundraising for nonprofits, teens volunteered at local charities and collected food for those in need and neighbors created an impromptu lemonade stand to raise funds for Santa Rosa fire victims. Others utilized horses to empower children and worked to ensure the survival of our feathered friends.

The Oct. 20 cover story "Lemon Aid: Almaden Valley reaches out to Sonoma County fire victims," told how a group of friends and neighbors, led by Michelle Takeuchi, banded together to help families devastated by the fires that swept through Sonoma County. Holding handmade signs, children and their parents flagged down cars along McAbee, offering lemonade in exchange for aid. Their enthusiasm was contagious, and people were happy to help, donating \$20 bills and sharing smiles. With their heart-felt

efforts they raised \$1700 to help those who had lost everything.

The Sept. 22 cover story "Record setting crowd turns out to enjoy the 2017 Almaden Valley Art & Wine Festival," featured this annual community crowd-pleaser. The setting and weather added to the enjoyment of the event, which featured artisans, entertainment by local dance, gymnastics, martial arts and musicians, food, beer, and of course, wine. The Art & Wine Festival is the result of a year's planning by the Almaden Valley Women's Club and benefits local educational institutions, non-profit children's foundations, teen programs and community organizations.

The Aug. 11 cover story "Saving our feathered friends is local man's goal," focused on the efforts of "citizen-scientist" Lee Pauser to increase the chances of survival for 18 species

See YEAR IN REVIEW, page 16

SEE OUR LISTINGS OF LOCAL REALTORS, CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING AND HOME IMPROVEMENT ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THE BACK COVER

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6914 Bret Harte Dr	6682 Mount Hope Dr	7081 Elmsdale Dr	1106 Calcaterra Ct	7132 Anjou Creek Ci
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1042 Kristen Court	920 Fieldwood Ct	6806 Heathfield Ct	6851 Eldridge Dr	6992 Burnside Dr
7020 Elmsdale Dr	7199 Anjou Creek Ci	679 Briar Ranch Ln	7052 Anjou Creek Ci	7248 Sleepy Creek Dr
1039 Nightfall Court	6752 Tunbridge Wy	772 Portswood Dr	1208 Serene Valley Ct	5978 Crossview Ct
7209 Silver Lode Lane	6671 Bret Harte Dr	666 Briar Ranch Ln	866 Fieldwood Ct	6552 Northridge Dr
6659 Mount Pakron Drive	6581 Mount Royal Dr	6589 Mt Royal Dr	7091 Martwood	1186 Copper Peak Ln
6293 Via De Adrianna	766 Coffeewood Ct	6329 Cloverhill Dr	1148 Ardsley Ct	1524 Monteval Ln
791 Spicewood Court	6995 Shearwater Dr	1070 Belder Dr	6721 Freedom Ct	22700 Davis Ct
6464 Cranbrook Court	6898 Shearwater Dr	1089 Mountain Shadows Rd	6684 Tannahill Dr	7139 Anjou Creek Ci
975 Hurlstone Lane	1052 Timbercrest Dr	1247 Olive Branch Ln	6480 Hirabayashi Dr	6607 Fall River Dr
	7051 Anjou Creek Ci	955 Summerleaf Dr	986 Hampswood Wy	1150 Zinfandel Wy

Wishing you all good things in the

7075 Brooktree	6778 Bret Harte Dr	971 Shadow Brook Dr	6524 Whispering Pines Dr	1473 Almaden Valley Drive
7094 Brooktree	6617 Mount Wellington Dr	939 Marble Ct	6687 Charter Oak Pl	1110 Holly Oak Ci
6648 Mount Hope Drive	1114 Virgil Pl	1234 Washoe Dr	6867 Queenswood Wy	6603 Bubblingwell Pl
1015 Nightfall Ct	959 Woodthrush Ct	7172 Bridge Ct	6828 Eldridge Dr	7013 Elmsdale Dr
7012 Elmsdale Drive	6641 Mount Hope Dr	1150 Strada Almaden	1522 Ivan Pl	21130 Mckean Rd
7100 Royal Ridge Dr	5839 Ponce Ct	7132 Anjou Creek Circle	7008 Shearwater Dr	21150 Rakstad Road
987 Hampswood Wa	1134 Silver Canyon Dr	1227 Quail Creek Ci	6908 Bret Harte Dr	1219 Chateau Dr
7151 Martwood	6687 Bret Harte Dr	1497 Redmond Av	6792 Bret Harte Dr	1079 Lio Ct
996 Burlwood Dr	6264 Lillian Way	6823 Elwood Rd	1547 Oak Canyon Dr	6020 Crossview Ci
7012 Burnside Dr	1018 Blue Mist Place	6836 Trinidad Dr	6702 Elwood Rd	6606 Mount Royal Dr
6917 Lenwood Wa	941 Marble Court	1219 Polk Spring Ct	1016 Burlwood Dr	969 Yarmouth Wy
1022 Nightfall Ct	6724 Bitterroot Pl	6570 Winterset Wy	6987 Starling Valley Dr	6662 Mount Hope Dr
1266 Hillcrest Dr	6818 Taglio Ct	7005 Silver Star Ct	6725 Bret Harte Dr	735 Almondwood Wy
6758 Heathfield Dr	1128 Olive Branch Ln	763 Lemonwood Ct	995 Hampswood Wy	1223 Linder Hill Ct
6683 Mount Pakron Dr	6852 Eldridge Dr	6957 Queenswood Wy	6032 Thorntree Dr	1007 Redmond Av
7005 Burnside Dr	6807 Burnside Dr	1141 Barnes Ln	6623 Bret Harte Dr	6786 Elwood Rd
938 Summerleaf Pl	1018 Burlwood Dr	7088 Martwood Wy	1113 Mallard Ridge Ci	1106 Calcaterra Ct
6656 Pebblewood Ct	956 Meadowood Dr	6761 Heathfield Dr	1160 Mallard Ridge Loop	1010 Burlwood Dr
6615 Mount Forest Dr	7003 Silver Brook Ct	7170 Wooded Lake Dr	6830 Shearwater Dr	1125 Casaba Creek Ct
7125 Bret Harte Dr	7094 Brooktree Wy	1054 Minoru Dr	7175 Echo Ridge Dr	957 Yarmouth Wy
1129 Casaba Creek Ct	6691 Bret Harte Dr	1068 Minoru Dr	1334 Nancarrow Ct	6711 Heathfield Dr
6923 Burnside Dr	6617 Neptune Ct	1680 Via Fortuna	6640 Mount Wellington Dr	1242 Charise Ct
7054 Brooktree Wy	6654 Bret Harte Dr	7032 Burnside Dr	7065 Rycroft Ct	1051 Timbercrest Dr
964 Hurlstone Lane	956 Hurlstone Ln	7098 Bret Harte Dr	6944 Burnside Dr	1175 Copper Peak Ln
6754 Mount Pakron Dr	1045 Bright Oak Pl	6758 Heathfield Dr	778 Coffeewood Ct	5846 Texas Ct
7066 Rycroft Ct	7137 Bret Harte Dr	1128 Olive Branch Ln	6536 Jeremie Dr	6861 Queenswood Wy
6684 Mount Pakron Dr	6918 Glenview Dr	953 Foxswallow Ct	6956 Burnside Dr	20401 Almaden Rd
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6833 Castlerock Dr	6834 Glenview Dr	5994 Thorntree Dr	1089 Queensbridge Court	998 Burlwood Dr
848 Downswood Ct	7022 Waldheim Ct	7048 Wooded Lake Dr	7010 Silver Star Ct	7149 Echo Ridge Dr
6927 Queenswood Wy	7151 Echo Ridge Dr	6971 Silver Bell Dr	6731 Worthing Ct	7257 Sleepy Creek Dr
1035 Nightfall Ct	6617 Bret Harte Dr	7074 Elmsdale Dr	7071 Martwood Wy	6612 Marymonte Ct
785 Honeywood Ct	1024 Mount Carmel Dr	6836 Eldridge Dr	1279 Poker Flat Pl	1026 Mount Carmel Dr
1118 Bartlett Creek Ct	6839 Eldridge Drive	1035 Belder Dr	6487 Trinidad Dr	1019 Wallace Dr
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6858 Burnside Dr
5810 Antigua Dr
973 Wallace Dr
7095 Bret Harte Dr
6512 Bose Ln

6702 Mount Pakron Dr
18694 Carriage Hill Dr
6954 Bret Harte Dr
1128 Allston Ct
6911 Serenity Wy
6847 Dalmeny Ct
7056 Wooded Lake Dr
954 Yarmouth Wy
1110 Corvallis Dr
6470 Mcabee Rd
1219 Polk Spring Ct
1556 Capitancillos Dr

6635 Barnsdale Ct
6717 Elwood Rd
6641 Broadacres Dr
20420 Via Santa Teresa
922 Briana Ct
1058 Kristen Ct
1357 Echo Valley Dr
7014 Waldheim Ct
6604 Marymonte Ct
7195 Eagle Crest Ct
7215 Gold Creek Ct
6653 Broadacres Dr
6817 Elwood Rd
6645 Mount Hope Dr
18711 Graystone Ln
6385 El Paseo Dr
1208 Copper Peak Ln
6908 Bret Harte Dr
1010 Burlwood Dr
1161 Culligan Blvd
1304 Addiewell Pl
1138 Mallard Ridge Cir
6560 Idlebrook Ct
1499 Montellano Dr
1249 Echo Valley Dr
1017 Shadow Brook Dr
6982 Silver Bell Dr
1260 Olive Branch Ln
5915 Thorntree Dr
6551 Timberview Dr
6280 Via De Adrianna
6534 Camden Ave
787 Almondwood Way
6469 Oakcrest Dr
1335 Shelby Creek Ln
6970 Hollow Lake Way
6579 Gardenoak Ct
995 Hampswood Way
881 Hampswood Way
7073 Rycroft Ct
904 Briana Ct
6528 Skyfarm Dr
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1114 Virgil Pl
5924 Sterling Oaks Dr
1155 Pheasant Hill Dr
7051 Quail Cove Ct
1018 Blue Mist Place
1382 Hillcrest Ct
7123 Anjou Creek Ci
6971 Silver Bell Dr
1310 Copper Peak Ln
7081 Elmsdale Dr
6702 Mount Leneve Dr
955 Summerleaf Dr
971 Shadow Brook Dr
1144 Mallard Ridge Loop
1219 Polk Spring Ct
1120 Mallard Ridge Lp
6671 Copperwood Ci
6552 Timber Ct
6682 Bret Harte Dr
6758 Heathfield Dr
972 Marlinton Ct
6517 Stonehill Dr
6616 Camden/Pfeiffer Pk Ave
6667 Bret Harte Dr
6210 Calle Bonita
1106 Calcaterra Ct
1208 Serene Valley Ct
1347 Via De Los Reyes
1138 Mallard Ridge Ci
1052 Bret Hill Ct
6702 Elwood Rd
7133 Echo Loop
1016 Burlwood Dr
1160 Mallard Ridge Loop
7175 Echo Ridge Dr

1033 Wallace Dr
7295 Via Brezzo
1060 Via Valiente
1089 Queensbridge Court
7010 Silver Star Ct
6841 Tunbridge Wy
7071 Martwood Wy
1219 Valley Quail Ci
6552 Northridge Dr
1242 Wooded Hills Dr
1473 Almaden Valley Drive
21130 Mckean Rd
936 Summerleaf Pl
6967 Claywood Wy
998 Burlwood Dr
1026 Mount Carmel Dr
1261 Charise Ct
1153 Rajkovich Wy
1166 Valley Quail Ci
6858 Burnside Dr
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1125 Pheasant Hill Wy
1171 Silver Canyon Dr
6702 Mount Pakron Dr
6954 Bret Harte Dr
1170 Olive Branch Ln
1128 Allston Ct
954 Yarmouth Wy
20244 Viewcrest Ct
7099 Royal Ridge Dr
6590 Leyland Park Dr
18530 Annie Ln
1131 Lone Pine Ln
6909 Grandwood Wy
6863 Eldridge Dr
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7226 Gold Creek Way
18600 Graystone Ln
6272 Desert Flame Dr
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6392 Lillian Way
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1043 Kristen Ct

6761 Heathfield Dr
996 Shadow Brook Dr
1030 Mount Carmel Dr
1172 Spring Hill Wy
6627 Bose Ln
1135 Silver Oak Ct
737 Dalewood Ct
1242 Peralta Dr
1002 Blue Mist Pl
6531 Gillis Dr
1242 Charise Ct
21110 Serene Wy
1256 Echo Valley Dr
6185 Silberman Dr
1060 Via Valiente
6859 Eldridge Dr
6884 Shearwater Dr
23735 Mckean Rd
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1109 Mcintosh Creek Dr
6681 Charter Oak Pl
7267 Sleepy Creek Dr
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6478 Mojave Dr
7022 Noonwood Ct
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6281 Cloverhill Dr
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6183 Mcabee Rd
6842 Castlerock Dr
1155 Prentiss Dr
1287 Chilanian Ln
1052 Bret Hill Ct
1039 Woodview Pl
1242 Wooded Hills Dr

20244 Viewcrest Ct
6475 Little Falls Dr
1103 Kendal Ct
751 Lemonwood Ct
7074 Elwood Rd
6632 Mount Wellington Dr
7186 Silver Lode Ln
6210 Calle Bonita
6498 Mcabee Rd
795 Firewood Ct
6893 Campisi Ct
6982 Hollow Lake Wy
6653 Mount Pakron Dr
1238 Wooded Hills Dr
6621 Mount Forest Dr
1212 Shelby Creek Ln
1131 Lone Pine Ln
1091 Surian Ct
6113 Strelow Ct
6641 Mount Wellington Dr
6693 Charter Oak Pl
6051 Cecala Dr
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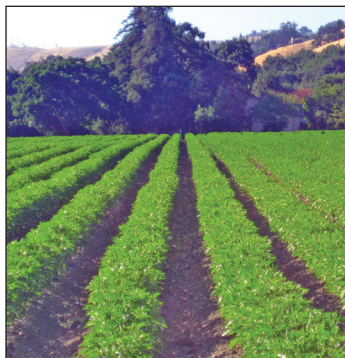
Boy discovers meteor:
Alum Rock Park in the
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Christmas in the Park
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Create a 'new you' for
2018: **PAGE 17**



COMMUNITY

Preserving agricultural
land ensures our food
supply and grows our
economy: **PAGE 19**

ALSO

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Worship Guide: **PAGE 21**
Classifieds: **PAGE 23**

Valley Currents

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

Sacred Heart helps entire community

Louise Benson (inset below) founded Sacred Heart Community Service in 1964 to feed hungry families in her neighborhood.

Today, this organization continues to provide essential services to individuals and families in need.

Dec. 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 came 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. In December, at one time, the agency was short 6,000 toys for its goal of 18,600 toys for 6,200 children.

Sacred Heart Community Service is dedicated to bringing our community together to address poverty in Silicon Valley. Through a comprehensive array of community organizing committees, mutual support programs, and resources, the SHCS community is working together to improve lives. Their vision is to create a community united to ensure that every child and adult is free from poverty.

To donate to Sacred Heart please visit the SHCS website at sacredheartcs.org/holidays



Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits made a generous holiday donation to Sacred Heart for their 2017 programs.



Free resources for you to help in 'Anti-Litter Anti-Graffiti' programs

San Jose's Anti-Litter Program offers assistance to residents to help create a litter free and cleaner community.

The program's mission is to assist the City of San José's Environmental Services Department (ESD) in improving the health of the City's environment by preventing and removing trash through Community Education and Engagement.

The community involvement component offers volunteers and local businesses with opportunities to learn more about the issues and the opportunity to engage in eradication of litter.

The Shed Program is in place to offer large service groups with volunteer opportunities to assist in litter abatement. Litter materials are offered to entire group members. Staff provides training and can identify appropriate clean up areas for service

groups.

To sign up for the Shed Program then please call the Anti-Litter Program main office at 408.975-7233. Offices are located at 1661 Senter Rd., Building G, Room 10 SJ 95112. Volunteers must call for an appointment to pick up supplies. Supplies can be picked up Monday – Thursday: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Friday: 8 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Anti-Graffiti resources

Eradication is primarily accomplished by Graffiti Protective Services, a private contractor hired by the city to eradicate the graffiti. The program relies heavily upon a volunteer base to help clean up graffiti. Residents can report graffiti or litter for abatement by downloading the APP, San Jose Clean, to generate a work order or you can call the hotline number at 866.249.0543 or send an e-mail to antigrffiti@sanjoseca.gov for graffiti cleanup.

OP ED

We can we get the FCC's decision to kill net neutrality overturned

By Evan Greer

Special to the Times

The FCC just voted to repeal all existing net neutrality protections, giving ISPs like Verizon and Comcast the power to control what we can see and do online with new fees, throttling, and censorship.

This will ruin the fundamentally open nature of the internet. This fight isn't over, though. There is still a clear path to victory.

The organizations behind Battle for the Net are launching a new campaign to demand that Congress step in and restore net neutrality via the Congressional Review Act (CRA).

The CRA lets elected officials in Congress overrule actions taken by Federal agencies like the FCC. And it's different from a normal bill because it only requires a simple majority in the Senate and House to pass.

There's some poetic justice in it, since it's

the same procedure that ISP-backed lawmakers used to gut Internet privacy protections earlier this year.

Given the level of public backlash and polls showing that 83% of voters from across the political spectrum oppose the FCC's plan, and given that several Republicans have already started to publicly criticize the FCC vote, we have a real chance of making this happen.

See NET NEUTRALITY, page 6

Almaden Times

Times Media, Inc. / (408) 494-7000

PUBLISHER / CEO: WILLIAM BELLOU
williamb@timesmediainc.com

SR. ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE: BRIGITTE JONES
brigitte@timesmediainc.com

STAFF WRITERS: LORRAINE GABBERT,
MARSALI HANCOCK, FRANK SHORTT,
GINA TSOURIS, NIRBAN SINGH, SEAN
EASTWOOD, SAMANTHA SMECKENSTOCK

ART DIRECTOR: JEFF BAHAM

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER: SANDY BELLOU

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Times **Local News**



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

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

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

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



Volunteers gather for a group photo following the planting of 31 trees at TJ Martin-Fontana Park on December 16. The next planting is scheduled for January 6.

Trees

Continued from page 1
offered to provide water to ensure the best survival rate for the new plantings. OCF will be reimbursed by the city to water, trim and shape the trees during their first three years.

Two dozen trees were planted in the Shadow Brook neighborhood by the local neighborhood association with help from Our City Forest on Dec. 2.

Volunteers will meet in Jeffrey Fontana Park at the MFPA kiosk in front of the Dog Park, near the corner of Ostenberg and Oak Glen Way. Teams of three to four will plant the trees with the OCF staff.

To Register with OCF for the Jan. 6 tree



planting, call Ariel at: 408.998.7337 Ext 108; or email plantingvolunteers@ourcityforest.org

Editor's note: Children under 12 must be with parent or guardian, minors between the ages of 13-17 must have a waiver form provided upon registration.

Net neutrality

Continued from page 4

But it won't be easy. And it can only happen within 60 legislative days of the order going into effect.

Here's what everyone can do right now:

1. Text "BATTLE" to +1 424-363-4877 or go to BattleForTheNet.com to easily send a message to your lawmakers.
2. Share this article widely so everyone

knows there is a way we can still win.

3. Use these tools to change your profile pic and help sound the alarm.

We can still win this. Even if you've already contacted your reps, now is the time to call them again. We need all hands on deck. Please, take a moment and make the call, then spread the word.

Evan Greer is the campaign director of Fight for the Future. Follow her on Twitter @evan_greer



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6722 LOOKOUT BEND, ALMADEN
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6517 CAMELIA DRIVE, ALMADEN
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19733 GRAYS LANE, ALMADEN
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16245 REDWOOD DRIVE, LOS GATOS
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14829 NELSON WAY, SAN JOSE
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7194 WOODED LAKE DRIVE, ALMADEN
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To honor

On Veterans Day, patriotic citizens painted a barn on Mockingbird Hill Lane with the American flag to honor fallen servicemen. Raymond Barnd's family has fought in every major war this country has faced and is himself a veteran. "But, this flag is for all the hundreds of thousands of men and women who have fought, bled and died for this country," he says. Pictured, l to r: Jesse Knutson, Raymond Barnd Sr., and Edward Della Monica.



Boy discovers meteor

Alum Rock Park in the 1800's and early 1900's

Editor's note: This article/story is a look back in time of Alum Rock Park history and is written for your reading pleasure in the same style as Brett Harte (The Bohemian) western writer of the 1800's.

By Kevin Larsen
Times staff writer

On a strange November mid-day, a boy walking with family was drawn to an alluring rock which looked like a shiny piece of coal in Alum Rock Park.

Humans have discovered meteor fragments and they spark interest in the belief they have come to rest here after traveling far across our solar system, spinning and twirling in circulatory motion, passing unknown areas, both too far and too many years ago to count or know. Everyone gets pulled in to enter the realm of the imagination.

When asked what triggered the walking toward the object the boy simply shrugged his shoulders and said, "Steam." Something about being led to a vapor but was it instead a reflection of the dust settling through the sunrays late in the day.

He said when he bent over to pick it up, it was cold, very cold, ice-like, heavy and polished. The size of a salt shaker, it was oily in appearance like a big chunk of lead from a pencil. "It does not belong," he whispered. His parents directed him to stand back but he did not listen, instead he put his hand high in the air and gave a wild cry of "Yeeeeeaaa!"

"Son, stop," his father spouted, but to no avail. The boy grinned and laughed as he tilted his head and held the chunk of stone at an angle ever so carefully so that the sun's rays glinted across it, just right, all the while with one eye squinted he carefully examined the specimen's smooth undulated out of this world surface. With his parents looking at him intently, a few seconds seemed to last an eternity and he softly whispered in a husky voice, "mom, dad, I want to be a scientist so I can know more things." "Let me see it," exclaimed his father snapping it in the palm of his hand,... "hmm, this is heavier than normal, we'll have to get it tested." Snatching it back, the boy juttied the object in his fist towards the blue sky yelping, "Your journey is over meteor, you are now on our planet, we call it Earth." "Hurry," he exclaimed!, running down the trail, "we got to get to the

library,...hash tag, web surf, find out more!"

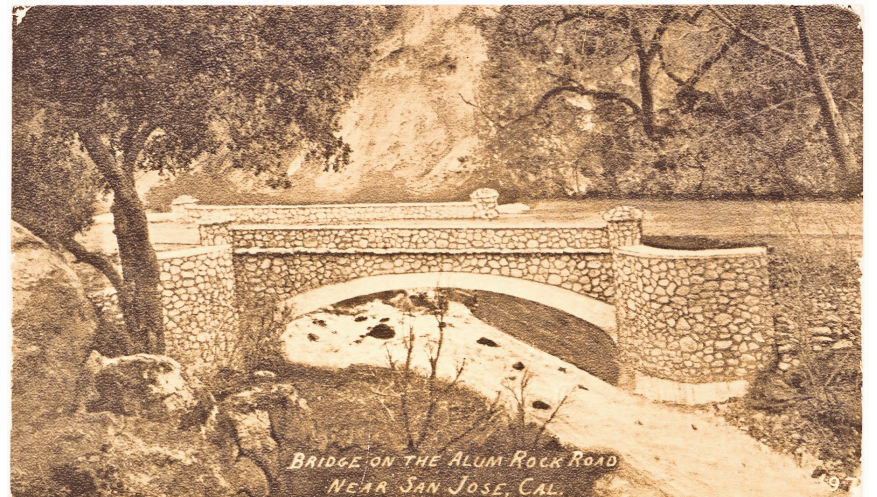
Driving slowly out of the park at 15 miles per hour, they wondered if the sound barrier was broken by the rock as it entered the earth's stratosphere. Were there more pieces? An enkindled curiosity moved the boy to explore in a different way. He decided to research old articles and books to meet the meteor.

Over a hundred years ago, Alum Rock Park was known throughout the world for having the one and only "Giant Meteor." Step right up, for it was a major tourist attraction draw and visited by thousands of people on a weekly basis. There was a special meeting area and some would holler, "Meet me at the meteor." Legend has it; some exclaimed that a smoldering rock streaked down from the heavens which looked like a giant flaming rail car skidding sideways across

from the overhanging luscious branches and maybe too some other fruit from the abundant orchards which were there for the sampling. The meteor was always the conversation starter.

Postcard pictures told the full honest truth, speaking in great detailed depth, without the use of any words. Just like people's facial expressions, pictures speak much louder than words. It became indisputable that something from out of this world landed for the Peninsula Railway said it was true that indeed an "aerolite" fell down from the sky. Word got around.

It became an important reason for people to visit Garden City (San Jose). Ten cent train tickets sold downtown for pleasant rides into the park where the clickety-clack sound would create anticipation as the train slowed down and approached it. Sometimes it would stop so passengers could get



This sepia-toned postcard was postmarked in May 1915 in San Jose, California. The "Bridge on the Alum Rock Road" was in its infancy when this postcard was created, as it was constructed in 1913 at Alum Rock Park. Learn more at <http://www.papergreat.com/2016/08/postcard-early-image-of-bridge-in-alum.html>

while gouging a thick silver track into the dark moon lit sky. Using God hand gestures they were said to have sworn up and down with the sign of the cross to boot, saying with conviction, "you don't believe me, there's proof, you can take the new train to the park and see it lying on its side and it must have made a big sound when it landed and imbedded itself in the hill." Such accounts built more pent up desire for all to come touch the meteor, maybe stand on top of it, and buy tickets to ride the train, which sometimes with special requests would stop in front of it.

Alum Rock Park in the 1800's and early 1900's

A century ago there was keen speculation of development for the park had a hotel, saloon, tea garden, spa, zoo, swimming pool, hot spring baths, trails and more. It was also exciting as the train found its way through orchards for some to put hands out to grab olives

out, walk up, and touch it. Being a novelty, it was a talking piece and we can assume lovers struck with cupid's arrows argued in heated fun loving discussions while holding hands walking trails and settling their differences that things not of this Earth do indeed arrive from time to time.

If a boy wanted to kiss the girl he had to certainly agree to her declarations and well-argued facts that she did see something flying through the sky and these things were truths not to be doubted for what was seen was saw. It was a titillating subject for all to imbibe in. Others sited their spiritual opinions supported with stories that the canyon was connected to the land spirit creatures and just as one could never own the mystical stars no person could take claim to the canyon for it always would belong to the people and animals alike. Perhaps the streak of light

See PARK, page 14

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Times Feature



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



San 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



Welcome to the Team

29 Year Industry Leader Chris Rasmussen Joins KW Bay Area Estates

KW Bay Area Estates, Silicon Valley's foremost successful real estate services group, is pleased to announce that industry leader, Chris Rasmussen, has joined KW Bay Area Estates as General Manager. Based in Los Gatos, in his new role, Chris is responsible for overseeing the growth of KW Bay Area Estates from Los Altos to Carmel. A long-standing member of Silicon Valley's real estate community, Chris is a seasoned real estate executive with nearly 30 years of experience. Chris excels at effectively mentoring and coaching new to top industry leading agents, driving their business to the next level.

"Chris' mission is perfectly aligned with KW's culture of agent success. He has enormous depth of knowledge in effective coaching and training techniques within the real estate business," said Mark von Kaenel, Broker and Operating Principal, KW Bay Area Estates.

To learn how KW Bay Area Estates can help you grow your business, contact Chris at 408.204.3411 | chrisras@kw.com or Mark von Kaenel at 408.568.6602 | markvk@kw.com; discretion assured.



15 Year Industry Veteran Chris Hawkins Joins KW Bay Area Estates

KW Bay Area Estates is pleased to announce that industry veteran Chris Hawkins has joined the firm as Sales Manager. Based in the highly anticipated coming soon Los Altos office, Chris is responsible for overseeing sales management for KW Bay Area Estates Los Altos.

Working closely with Chris Rasmussen, General Manager, Chris Hawkins will bolster an already impressive executive team. Drawing from his deep industry resources, Chris will collaborate with Chris Rasmussen, to complement and contribute to our robust recruiting efforts.

"Chris' mission is perfectly aligned with KW's culture which encourages personal growth and team synergy. I am confident that Chris will help effectively manage our Los Altos team of high caliber agents as we extend our footprint within Silicon Valley," said Mark von Kaenel, Managing Broker and Operating Principal.

For information about opportunities at KW Bay Area Estates Los Altos, contact Chris at 650.947.7024 | HawkinsREG@kw.com or Mark von Kaenel at 650.434.3352 | markvk@kw.com; discretion assured.



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Almaden Valley
Saratoga
Los Altos (Coming Soon)

KW Coastal Estates
Carmel-by-the-Sea
Carmel
Pacific Grove
Monterey (Coming Soon)

Times Feature

Park

Continued from page 10

slicing the night sky was claimed to be seen for an important reason. It brought more legitimacy to the meteor. To argue it never happened would be wrong and an insult to others. As with some things today, the intangible thing called greed opened it's always hungry mouth and consumed the mysterious meteor taking it away. Other attractions in the park were also slowly swept aside as decades of time marched forward.

Sulfur water

The park valley floor displayed other mysterious things in addition to the meteor. Wild springs flowed with different kinds of water and some poured out natural bubbles like those found in soda bottles. Long ago people would take a cup and drink from them. Tapped and spigoted the springs provided free cure-all elixirs prescribed by some doctors in the city. Fill-up-your-bottles-take-em-home-remedies were embraced with each written prescription of which spring to visit to heal the ailing malady. The sulfur spring still flows today and can be easily found with one's nose for everyone knows where it is. Truly there is something very special about this canyon. The interest of the boy's newly found object propelled him as the days rolled by to search more for answers. Was it a meteor, when did it land, who really saw and heard it hit the ground?

For a week he brought the meteor rock with him wherever he went. It had special powers so he thought and it was trying to tell him something. The computer became a friend in research and took him on the journey which helped shape the understanding of the mystery. "I'm gonna unlock this secret," he'd say each day. His inquisitive mind moved forward to find the answers in the antiquity articles which spoke to him on screen like old friends. Something wonderful happened when he oversaw the battle. Right in front of him, before his eyes, the facts and myths fought against each other and this thrilling thing called truth began to take hold in shape and form. His journey took him to an article written by the old rock hound professors of Stanford in the early 1900's who in their wisdom took samples of the same meteor and unleashed to all who would listen the powerful concept of the scientific hypothesis which removed the hazy burden of the words "maybe" and "perhaps."

Historical records began to rise up and paint a different opinion of the park's most perplexing, unaccountable seductive attraction. The geology department of the renowned university wrote in their esteemed analysis that for a hundred years they'd known about the rock but it took them awhile to come over and visit it. They said it was a unique form of manganese and decided to name a professor after it. The "meteor" as it was referred to was indeed millions of years old and it didn't fly from the sky but instead rolled down a hill. As a million or two years went by, dirt gathered around it and buried a bit of it. With information published, no one took notice or paid it any mind to it. Post cards continued to sell briskly off the racks, word continued to get out well and the meteor continued to enchant.

Once the professors from Stanford blasted the notion that the rock was from outer space and proved it out with microscopes and published findings, they pushed harder and somehow discovered that when the

meteor was mixed with steel it melded into a stronger alloy. World War I created strong demand for this new technology so members of the San Jose City Council sold the meteor to a smooth talking business man that assured all its value would result in paying the city more than 22,000 dollars to be used on anything it wished and after all, it would aid the good of the war effort.

Please don't destroy the meteor!

Many asked it not to be destroyed for it was a part of history as the precious canyon icon forged by nature and any thoughts to sell it should never be entertained. To no avail, the deal was struck, the meteor blown up, hauled away and processed, but smaller than promised amounts of manganese were recovered. The company quietly entered bankruptcy. The war ended before the meteor could be used for combat. Make believe promises caused the company and the meteor to be ground up together and disappear and the City of San Jose didn't get the monies promised. The council heard only what it wanted to believe and somehow nature seemed to take a backseat to commerce.

If we take the time to listen, nature does speak to us.

At last the boy's research was done and he deducted he had indeed found one of the pieces of the meteor. Memories on post cards and photos were thought to be all that was left of the landmark but he knew this just wasn't true for he held part of the object in his hand. He says it was a meteor and facts are facts for, "it flew up when it blew up, so that makes it a meteor!" For some reason, he decided to throw it back into the place it was found, where it rests today, because he said it belonged there and it will always lie there.

To get to Alum Rock Park (740 acres) it takes about 40 minutes from Almaden. One needs to take highway 101 north then go right at the McKee Road exit, proceed a mile to White Road and turn left. Travel another mile on White Road and turn right on Penitencia Creek Road. The entrance is about a quarter mile up the road and there is some free parking spaces at the base of the park. Also, just recently, Mayor Liccario along with the park leaders have now decided to allow all cars to drive in and park for free in the lower two parking lots! This offers families a chance to commune with nature at no charge what-so-ever! It's like a little get away to a little Yosemite. All parks are also free when one bikes in or walks in. You can also drive miles into the park (if you choose to walk to the top of the park it can take about an hour). You could have someone drop you and your bike off at the top of the park and leisurely coast back down to the entrance. There are lots of wildlife, areas to BBQ, bathrooms, extensive trails, picnic tables and benches. It is wild country so the animals are there to be seen too. The giant children's playground at the top of the park is popular and there is a large grass area and sand volleyball court.

The entire park is slowly moving back to its natural state for all to explore and play in. The Native American belief is honored here because the land belongs to you and the memories are yours to keep forever. Rangers are nice to speak with and they welcome you to sign up as a volunteer if you wish to help out on future programs that upkeep your park trails and such. The natural setting has been kissed and gently traveled upon by long ago Native American tribes who sustained their lives and their children's by living in harmony and

See PARK, page 19

**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.

COMING UP

**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

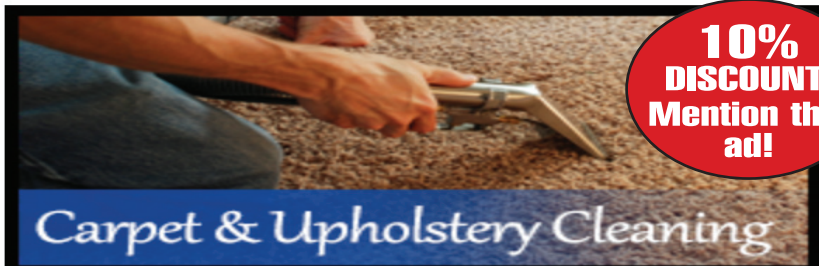
Tickets are available at the door, or online at www.foothillpc.org/fccs

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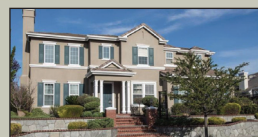
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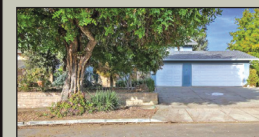
1549 NORLAND DRIVE,
SUNNYVALE 94087,
PENDING, REPRESENTING
BUYER TO CLOSE ON
12/28/2017



5362 CANYON HILLS
LN, SAN JOSE, CA 95138
REPRESENTING BUYER
COE ON 12/21/2017 FOR
\$2,200,000



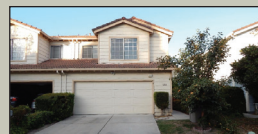
5851 CHESBRO AVE,
SAN JOSE, CA 95123
REPRESENTING BUYER
COE ON 12/20/2017 FOR
\$920,000



1027 BURLWOOD DR,
SAN JOSE, CA 95120,
REPRESENTING BUYER
COE ON 11/22/2017 FOR
\$1,500,000



3644 ADLER CT,
SAN JOSE, CA 95111,
REPRESENTING SELLER
COE ON 11/9/2017 FOR
\$485,000



1216 BRIARLEAF CIR,
SAN JOSE, CA 95131,
REPRESENTING SELLER
COE ON 11/20/2017 FOR
\$1,128,000



1598 CAPITANCILLOS DR,
SAN JOSE, CA 95120,
REPRESENTING SELLER
COE ON 10/13/2017 FOR
\$1,658,000



6594 SKYFARM DR,
SAN JOSE, CA 95120
REPRESENTING BUYER
COE ON 10/12/2017 FOR
\$1,400,000



985 IVORY CREEK DR,
SAN JOSE, CA 95120,
REPRESENTING BUYER
COE ON 10/12/2017 FOR
\$955,000



10455 ORANGE AVE,
CUPERTINO, CA 95014,
REPRESENTING BUYER
COE ON 10/11/2017 FOR
\$1,655,000



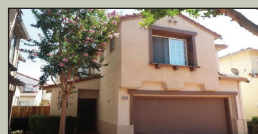
6860 ELDREDGE DR,
SAN JOSE, CA 95120,
REPRESENTING BUYER
COE ON 9/8/2017 FOR
\$1,635,000



2306 GLORIA CT,
PLEASANTON, CA 94588,
REPRESENTING BUYER
COE 9/5/2017 FOR
\$1875,000



4565 BOLERO DR.,
SAN JOSE, CA 95111,
REP BUYER, COE 8/27/17
FOR \$760,000



2273 LENOX PL
SANTA CLARA, CA 95054
REP BUYER
\$1,126,000



2639 VILLA CORTONA WAY
SAN JOSE, CA 95125
REP BUYER, COE 8/25
FOR \$755,000



1067 MANGO AVE
SUNNYVALE, CA 94087
REP BUYER, COE 8/18/17
FOR \$1,600,000



1154 ARBOL WAY
SAN JOSE, CA 95126
REP BUYER, COE 8/2/17
FOR \$1,078,000



5148 FOREST VIEW DR
SAN JOSE, CA 95129
REP BUYER, COE 7/14/17
FOR \$1,730,000



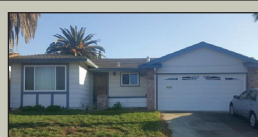
535 CINNAMON DR
SAN JOSE, CA 95111
REP SELLER, COE
6/27/17, FOR \$447,000



307 LAUREL GROVE LN
SAN JOSE, CA 95126
REP SELLER, COE 6/23/17
FOR \$860,000



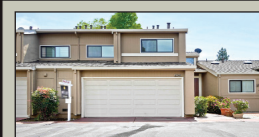
2125 LIMWOOD DR
SAN JOSE, CA 95132
REP BUYER, COE 6/21/17
FOR \$920,000



3556 LISBON DR
SAN JOSE, CA 95132
REP BUYER, COE 6/14/17
FOR \$925,000



5161 SPRINGDALE AVE
PLEASANTON, CA 94588
REP SELLER, COE 5/31/17
FOR \$875,000



6544 COBBLESTONE CT
SAN JOSE, CA 95120
REP SELLER, COE 5/26/17
FOR \$900,000



6932 SERENITY WAY
SAN JOSE, CA 95120
REP SELLER, COE 5/26/17
FOR \$1,360,000



4671 ALBANY CIR
APT 106
SAN JOSE, CA 95129
REP BUYER, COE 5/19/17
FOR \$493,000



877 COOLIDGE AVE
SUNNYVALE, CA 94086
REP BUYER COE 5/16/17
FOR \$1,475,000



1459 ILIKAI AVE
SAN JOSE, CA 95118
REP BUYER, COE 5/12/17
FOR \$1,050,000



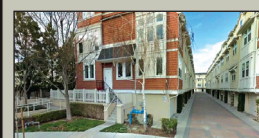
883 S TANTAU AVE
CUPERTINO, CA 95014
REP SELLER COE 4/28/17
FOR \$1,760,000



5565 SPINNAKER DR
APT 4
SAN JOSE, CA 95123
REP BUYER COE 4/27/17
FOR \$389,000



1029 BURLWOOD DR
SAN JOSE, CA 95120
REP BUYER, COE
4/10/2017 FOR
\$1,350,000



283 KENTDALE PL
SAN JOSE, CA 95126
REP SELLER COE 4/06/17
FOR \$810,000



1192 PROSPER AVE
SAN JOSE, CA 95118
REP SELLER COE 3/24/17
FOR \$1,150,000



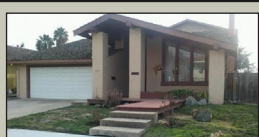
6517 DEER HOLLOW DR
SAN JOSE, CA 95120
REP BOTH, COE
3/23/2017 FOR
\$1,984,000



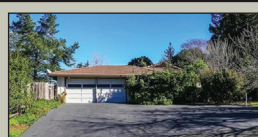
1654 LATITUDE DR
UNIT 7
SAN JOSE, CA 95124
REP SELLER COE 3/17/17
FOR \$820,000



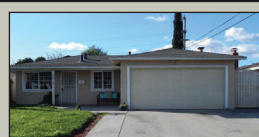
821 ORANGE AVE
SUNNYVALE, CA 94087
REP SELLER, COE 3/14/17
FOR \$2,253,000



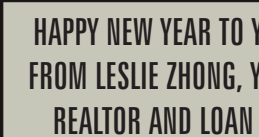
1177 KEYSTONE CT
SAN JOSE, CA 95132
REP BUYER COE 3/9/17
FOR \$998,000



26233 DORI LN
LOS ALTOS HILLS, CA
94022
REP BUYER, COE 3/7/17
FOR \$3,050,000



4613 SYMPHONY LN
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REP SELLER COE 3/5/17
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Times Cover Story

Year in review

Continued from page 1

of birds. Pauser has made a full-time job out of building, installing and monitoring nest boxes for Chickadees, Tree Swallows, Western Bluebirds, American Kestrels, Barn Owls, Wood Ducks and more. As well as tracking their progeny, he constantly modifies the boxes, which dramatically range in size, to benefit the birds. His efforts have resulted in more than 10,000 birds fledging. "I can't imagine any other life," he says.

The June 30 cover story "Healing happens here through horses' help," provided a glimpse into the personal growth that can result through the magical bond between humans and equines. At Victory Ranch's horse camps, owner Doug Hutten and his team not only help children learn how to care for and ride horses, but also gain focus and self-esteem. "It's so rewarding...to transform kids' challenges, fear, pain and suffering," he says. "I have a special way...to help them through that." Victory Ranch also partners with HomeFirst, which serves homeless veterans. A disabled army veteran himself, Hutten has experienced how a horse's calming spirit can help those suffering with PTSD. Hutten's own life challenges inspired the name "Victory Ranch."

The June 2 cover story "Celebrating a journey of collaboration and dedication," highlighted the philanthropic efforts of members of the Almaden Blossom Valley Chapter of National Charity League. This organization engages mothers and daughters in six years of community service during the girls' middle and high school years. Together, they assist non-profits like the American Red Cross, Animal Assisted Happiness, City Team, Family Supportive Housing, Second Harvest Food Bank and Sunday Friends.

The Feb. 10 cover story "Pioneer student runs food drive for refugees," shared Leo

Michels' determination to provide sustenance for those in need. Michels partnered with Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley to provide food to refugees facing food insecurity. "I'm fortunate to live in a house," he says, "but I'm aware there are a lot of people in the community that are less fortunate, so helping them get necessities is rewarding." Michels' father, Grant Michels, is proud of his son and hopes that he'll always give back. "There's always something we can do to help," he says.

The Jan. 27 cover story "Local institutions, volunteers provide care as well as shelter," focused on Village House, a rotating shelter network provided by places of worship for homeless women. "Having our volunteers work one-on-one with our guests brings a change in how we see the homeless," says Mike Ferrero, Director of Social Ministries at Holy Spirit Parish. "They meet our guests with love and compassion and without a sense of judgement."

We said goodbye to one of our own with the July 28 "Former Vice Mayor Pat Dando will be missed by many" and the Aug. 25 "Pat Dando remembered" editions. Dando served San Jose and the Almaden Community for years

working with Mayor Tom McEnery, the city's Redevelopment Agency and serving on the San Jose City Council and Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce. According to her former Chief of Staff, Erik Schoennauer, Dando was concerned not only with the business community or those with money, but equally with those who faced challenges, like crime victims living in poor neighborhoods. "Pat Dando was a light for many of us," said Reverend Gerald Wade, S.J., Chancellor of Bellarmine College Preparatory.

We give thanks to Almaden's guiding lights and helpers and wish you all happy holidays and a joyful New Year!

To view these and other stories online, please see the archives section of the Almaden Times at: almadentimes.com.



We give thanks to Almaden's guiding lights and helpers and wish you all happy holidays and a joyful New Year!

LOCAL SPORTS

Boys Basketball: BVAL-ST Standings

TEAM	DIV	PF	PA	ALL	PF	PA
Leland	6-1-0	261	111	11-2-0	430	202
Independence	6-1-0	229	114	7-4-0	294	217
Willow Glen	5-2-0	224	145	7-4-0	313	207
Branham	5-2-0	252	184	7-4-0	347	284
Del Mar	3-4-0	157	207	3-7-0	213	325
Silver Creek	1-6-0	152	217	4-6-0	249	274

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.

ADVICE

Creating a new you in 2018

By **Angela Copeland**
Special to the Times

If 2017 left you feeling disappointed at work, today is the perfect day to start turning things around in 2018.

How many times did you think the following to yourself? If only I work a little harder, my boss will recognize my value. Next year, I really will get a decent raise, and a promotion. I'm really not happy, but I have no other choice.

If you've had any of these thoughts, it sounds like 2018 is your year. Let's face the facts. Your boss may recognize your value, or may continue to take advantage of your hard work. And, you may get a decent raise next year, or you may get just two percent (or less). Staying at the same organization often yields the same poor results.

If you're ready to turn over a new leaf, the first thing to realize is that you do have choices. Continuing to go to work each day to earn a stable income is a great first choice. Beginning to look for a new job before you're ready to run from your current job is another great choice. If possible, continue to go to your existing job while you find a replace job. This will ensure you have the time to look and make the best decision for you. After all, you don't

want to trade one bad job for another. That's not what this year is about!

The great thing about landing a new job is that your new boss will get a chance to hire you. They'll pick you. What I'm trying to say is, often if you've been with a company for a few years, you end up with a new boss than the person who originally hired you. That new boss may or may not really buy into your work. They might not choose to hire you again if they had the choice. If you feel like you're experiencing Groundhog Day around raises and recognition, this could be why.

Plus, let's be honest. Companies are more motivated to offer larger sums of money to new hires than they are to existing employees. Bosses rarely want to pay more to do the same work you've already been doing for less.

I get it. The entire thing is a bummer. Interviewing is stressful and full of rejection. Moving to a new company is full of a lot of chance. It could be better or worse than where you are now. But, if where you are now really isn't working, it's probably worth it. Once you decide what's best for you, create a plan of attack for 2018. Write down your goals to make them real. And, begin to work on them each day.

Change isn't immediate. It's a slow process. But, with time and effort, it will happen. You'll find yourself happier, working for someone who appreciates you, and possibly even making more money in 2018.

Angela Copeland, a career coach and founder of Copeland Coaching, can be reached at copelandcoaching.com.

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Times Features

Preserving agricultural land ensures our food supply and grows our economy

By Supervisor Dave Cortese
Special to the Times

One 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 development.

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

See CORTESE, next page



County Report

By Dave Cortese
Supervisor

Park

Continued from page 14

gathering the bounties that nature continues to bestow today. When you see the darker colored wild turkeys (they travel neatly behind one another and blend into the hillside) just imagine the meals they provided to those who made the park their home. What did they taste like to cook over fire? To visit mother nature allows us to rest and nudges us ever so kindly to remember how our ancestors throughout the world lived once upon a time.

How marvelous the way this canyon named Alum Rock Park once referred to as "The Reservation" continues to hold the special power to draw generations of visitors and reward all with smiles and laughter. Exploring the enchanting trails and taking a look back over time lets us know that if we don't choose to learn from history the same things will occur again. A plaque just near the ranger station says "...We Find

The Gods of Rest and Peace Dwell Inside In This Matchless Canyon."

The boy who made the rediscovery of the meteor reminds us all that decisions by people have profound impacts on the lives of others. What happened to the meteor is a metaphor as to what happened to the Native Americans when settlers arrived from different lands with imposed new traditions and decision making powers. The human experience in all generations of the family of mankind includes story telling. The creek called "Shistuk" by the Native Americans continues to run through the park and for centuries has been witness to stories told by the Ohlone. Surely they had a name and story for the "meteor."

Editor's Note: More information on Alum Rock Park can be found by contacting the California Room in the San Jose Library system. Also, a piece of the meteor can be seen on display at the Alum Rock Ranger office. To learn more you can web search Alum Rock Park.

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CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH***	-\$500
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CHRYSLER CA NON-PRIME RETAIL BONUS CASH**: -\$750
CHRYSLER CAPITAL CASH***: -\$500
CHRYSLER CA 2017 RETAIL BONUS CASH*: -\$500
CHRYSLER CA TRADE-IN RETAIL BONUS CASH****: -\$1,000

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES \$19,777

20 TO CHOOSE AT THIS NET PRICE

#1 PACIFICA DEALER IN NOR-CAL*
#2 PACIFICA DEALER IN THE CABC*
*PER FCA SALES REPORT SEPT. 2017

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DODGE CA NON-PRIME RETAIL BONUS CASH**: -\$750
DODGE CA 2018 RETAIL BONUS CASH*: -\$1,000
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5 TO CHOOSE AT THIS NET PRICE!

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SALE PRICE: \$24,388
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DODGE CA BC RETAIL CONSUMER CASH*: -\$500
DODGE CA 2018 RETAIL BONUS CASH*: -\$1,250
DODGE CA 2018 BIG FINISH RETAIL BONUS CASH*: -\$1,000

NET PRICE AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES \$20,888

5 TO CHOOSE AT THIS NET PRICE!

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JEEP CA 2017 RETAIL BONUS CASH*: -\$1,000

NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES \$11,500

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RAM CA NON-PRIME RETAIL BONUS CASH**: -\$1,250
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RAM CA 2017 BONUS CASH*: -\$1,000
RAM 1500 RETAIL BONUS CASH: -\$1,000
RAM CA 2017 RETAIL BONUS CASH*: -\$1,000
RAM BIG FINISH RETAIL BONUS CASH*: -\$1,000

NET SAVINGS OFF MSRP AFTER DISCOUNTS AND REBATES \$17,088

10 TO CHOOSE FROM AT THIS NET SAVINGS!

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Times Feature



Preserving Santa Clara County's agricultural land ensures our food supply and grows our economy. Image credit: <https://www.greenfoothills.org/towards-a-better-food-system-in-santa-clara-county/>

Cortese

Continued from previous page
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 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.)

Almaden Seniors Soup Party

Saturday, January 13th, 2018

1:00 to 3:00 pm

Clam Chowder
Chicken Tortilla
Chicken Matzo Ball



Split Pea & Ham
Vegetarian Soup

Tickets available

M-W-F 8:45am to 10am

\$8 Members

\$10 Non-Members

Cash or checks only



Call Almaden Center if any questions
(408)268-1133


CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ALMADEN VALLEY, UCC

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

www.ccavucc.org.

We are a welcoming church with a progressive approach to faith, worship and giving to our local community. We are proud to be UCC, Open and Affirming (O&A) and welcome members of the LGBT community. We support local LifeMoves (formerly InnVision) Shelter Feedings once a month, San Francisco Night Ministry, Second Harvest Food Bank, Church World Service, and Communities Responding to End Poverty.

Worship Sunday, 9:00 AM followed by fellowship and refreshments. 1st Sunday in Worship: Holy Communion 2nd Sunday in Worship: Folks Choir and Potluck Sunday. Tuesdays, AA Meetings, 8:15 - 9:15 PM. Wednesdays, 9:30 AM, Women's Study Group.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

EAST VALLEY CHURCH

We are a Multicultural Christian Community committed to making Christ known to our Neighbors, Community and World. Sunday Schedule: Coffee and Conversation 9:15am Worship 9:45am, Sunday School for all ages 11:15am Childcare is provided for all our Sunday Services. Our NEW Children's Building is Open! Uplifting music, Biblical teaching, ministries for Children, Youth, College & Career, Small Groups for all adults, Ministries to Men, Women, Seniors, Celebrate Recovery Please see website for details and meeting times www.eastvalleychurch.com 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.convergeworldwide.org

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ALMADEN

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

Web: www.eca-sj.org At the Episcopal Church in Almaden (ECA), we are joyful followers of Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, fellowship and outreach, we strive to nurture and grow a strong faith community of believers, a family of all ages, where each member feels welcomed, loved, valued and empowered to serve. Children are especially welcomed and cherished as an important part of God's family. All junior high and senior high students are welcome to participate in our Youth Groups. During the school year we have joint Sunday School with our sister church, the Congregational Church of Almaden Valley, UCC. The Episcopal Church in Almaden offers the following regular opportunities for worship: Sunday at 7:30AM and 10:45AM, Holy Communion service. Each Sunday service is followed by a coffee hour for friendship and conversation.

EVERGREEN VALLEY CHURCH

Visit our Web Site at www.evcsj.com 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 español, 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 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 and affection (408) 791 7772

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH

Faith.Knowledge. Community - this is our promise to our members. If you are looking for an active Christian faith community, we invite you to experience Holy Spirit Parish Community. All are welcome! We are located at 1200 Redmond Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120. Mass is celebrated at 8:30 a.m. Monday - Friday. Our weekend Mass schedule is Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Rite of Reconciliation is every Saturday at 4 p.m. or by appointment. Our Parish Office is open Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Call 408-997-5100 for recorded information or 408-997-5101 to speak with someone in our parish office. Information on Faith Formation for children and adults can be obtained by calling our Catechetical Office at 408-997-5115. Get in the loop with our 3sixty High School Youth Ministry by calling 408-

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

THE POINT CHURCH

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

SAINT ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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



God is One
ਬੈਕਿ ਹੈ
Rab Ik Hai

SAN JOSE GURDWARA

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

ST. BASIL THE GREAT GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

6430 Bose Lane, San Jose, CA 95120 Church Office 408-268-3214 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.stfrancisofassisipreschool.org We invite you to join our community of faith located in the Evergreen area of San Jose. We are an inclusive diverse community striving to serve as Disciples of Jesus Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis, offering prayerful and joyful liturgies; evangelization, fellowship, and service opportunities to the community. We offer spiritual opportunities for all ages, including children's liturgy, dynamic E.C.H.O - Jr. High, IGNITE - High School and North Star -Young Adult Ministries, along with small faith communities and opportunities to help the poor and marginalized of San Jose. Our Preschool is the only Catholic Preschool offering quality family oriented service in the Evergreen and Silver Creek areas. Our Chapel, Gathering Hall, Parish Office, Mission Center, Parish Gift Shop, Memorial Garden and Preschool are all located at 5111 San Felipe Rd. Please come join us to worship at one of the following times and locations:

St. Francis of Assisi Chapel Saturday 5:00PM, Sunday 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 4:00 PM (Mass in Vietnamese), 6:00 PM Youth Mass St. Francis of Assisi Gathering Hall Sunday 9:00 AM, Sunday 11:00AM, Igbo Mass - Second Sunday of the month 12:30 PM Mt. Hamilton Grange - 2840 Aborn Road Sunday 9:30 AM The Villages Gated Community (Cribari Auditorium) Sunday 8:15 AM For more information, please call or visit us at the Parish Mission Center open M-F 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM; 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Come join us and share your presence with us so that together we may grow and share our gifts to help build God's Kingdom!

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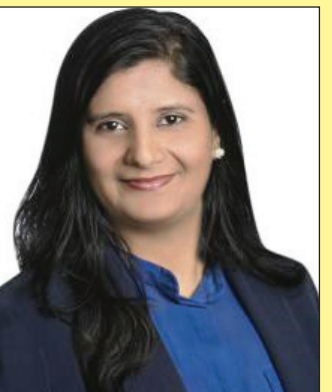
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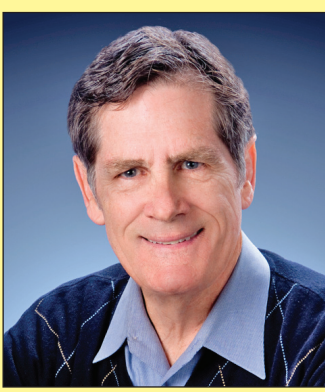
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