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Blake Bertolin as "Nathan Detroit," Isabella Osborne as "Miss Adelaide," Halliona Bacon as "Sarah Brown" and Jack Johnson as "Sky Masterson" in Pioneer High School's production of "Guys and Dolls."

'Guys and Dolls' premier nostalgically returns to Pioneer High School

By Jane Johnson

Special to The Times

Unless you know "Guys and Dolls" you might not realize what a full-bodied staged piece of entertainment you have before you.

But once you hear the tunes, including some as famous as "Luck Be A Lady" or even "Bushel And A Peck," and see the breadth of visual offerings this musical provides, you'll be hooked!

This Broadway classic captures the spirit of 1940s New York with lovable and surprisingly believable, in-depth characters who sweep you into their world of dice throwing, gambling gangsters and showgirl, dancing "dolls" with mission save-your-soul types as counterbalance."

The story develops throughout the show as main characters struggle with intimacy crossing lines of expected course. Zach Morcate ("Arvide Abernathy") shared "this musical is a really

high energy show. It's more fun and creates a much better mood amongst everyone which will carry to the audience."

"It's a really funny show and has a lot of humor," Jeffrey Plaza, who plays "Nicely Nicely," described. "It's the exact role I wanted" and he's having so much

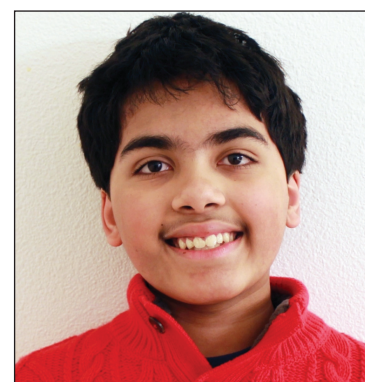
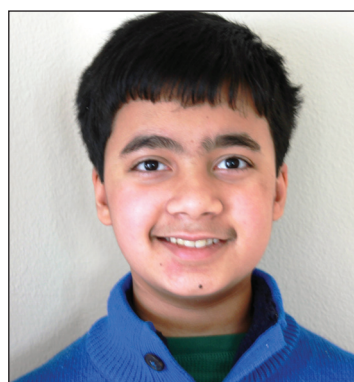
fun bringing the comedy to life on stage. Karen Johnson ("General Cartwright") loves best "the fun, the excitement and there isn't a single song that is boring. You just love every song." "The "mood of it all gets to me. It reminds me of old-time Las Vegas with Frankie

See GUYS & DOLLS, page 18



Cash Johnson as "Lt. Brannigan," with High Rollers Connor Sechrist, Jack Johnson, Jeffrey Plaza and Blake Bertolin.

TWINS AT THE PEAK



Amith Vasantha (left) and his brother Rohit Vasantha (right) are participating as semi-finalists in regional contests.

Twin brothers of Almaden named as semi-finalists in two prestigious regional scholastic contests

William Bellou

Publisher

Seventh grade twin brothers of Almaden Valley are participating as semi-finalists in two prestigious scholastic contests.

Amith Vasantha is participating as a semi-finalist in the CBS Bay Area Scripps Spelling Bee Regional Championship finals held in San Francisco, and his brother Rohit Vasantha is a semi-finalist in the National Geographic Bee held in Fresno.

Amith is a fourth-time Regional semifinalist at the CBS Bay Area Scripps Spelling Bee, placing third last year out of 50 other semi-finalists.

The CBS Bay Area Scripps Spelling Bee Regional Championships event, open to 8-14 year-old competitors, will be televised live by KPIX5 TV in San Francisco on March 17.

The winner will compete at the Final Scripps Spelling Bee Championship held in Washington, D.C.

One of Amith's favorite words from the Merriam Webster dictionary used in the Harry Potter series is Tarradiddle. "I hope I

can go to the Oval Office and shake hands with the President," said Amith.

Amith's favorite quote is from Michael Jordan: "Some people want it to happen; some wish it would happen, others make it happen."

Amith, an avid reader, enjoys Latin, science and technology, learning new computer programming languages, globe-trotting and playing badminton and squash.

Rohit is a second time California State semi-finalist at the National Geographic Bee held in Fresno. 100 semi-finalists are chosen from more than 600 schools participating from all over California. In 2016, Rohit tied for tenth place in the state semifinals of the National Geographic Bee.

Rohit loves Latin, chess, badminton and squash as well as traveling around the world with his brother and parents.

"My favorite part of geography is learning about different global cultures and food," said Rohit. His favorite quote is: "Winners never quit and quitters

See TWINS, page 6

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homes built around 2006, and the allure of Mt. Umunhum and the Los Capitancillos Ridge views, the home's manicured and beautifully designed front landscape wraps around to its sprawling, almost one third acre level backyard that offers an expansive patio and lush lawn and a canvas on which to create an amazing outdoor venue of your dreams. Consider a pool, spa, waterfalls, outdoor kitchen, gardens, bocce ball and sports courts, play structure and more! The desirable location is conveniently located with easy access to top-rated schools including Williams Elementary, Bret Harte Middle and Leland High School, shopping, dining, and commute routes as well as lots of outdoor recreation including 34 miles of hiking trails, 10 miles of bike trails, and 23 miles of equestrian trails that meander through the Almaden Quicksilver County Park, golf at the Almaden Country Club and family fun and games at numerous neighborhood parks. Offered at \$2,388,000.



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Valley Currents

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

History comes alive in New Almaden

By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

Almaden's vibrant history is being brought to life through the restorations of Casa Grande, the Almaden Chinese Ting and the New Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum.

Traveling along Almaden Road in New Almaden is like taking a trip back in time. There, you will find an outdoor mining museum, historic adobe homes and Casa Grande, the crown jewel of the community.

"New Almaden is a gem," says Casa Grande docent Mike Boulland, "and people don't even know it exists."

I start my exploration at Casa Grande, where Boulland leads me through its corridors, asking me to see through an adventurer's eyes.

We journey to the basement, where he points out doorways topped with square lintels and adobe brick walls. "There are old stories the bricks are telling," he says. "Here there was a doorway," he says, pointing out its outline in the bricks and a thick block of wood inlaid between them. "Here is where the old staircase was," he says, indicating two parallel diagonal lines etched into the opposite wall. "Understanding brings history alive."

The Ting

When we come across an old picture of the Ting, a pagoda-like structure which adorned the Casa Grande garden around 1861, Boulland's eyes sparkle. The planned restoration of the Ting positively thrills him.

Currently, eight intricately-carved wooden poles are all that remain of the structure, but a project committee, made up of members of the Almaden Rotary Club, New Almaden Quicksilver County Park Association and the Chinese community, is working to raise funds to restore this piece of New Almaden and Casa Grande's history.

"It's one of the most fantastic things I've ever come across," says Boulland. "I feel like Indiana



Maude the Mule is featured at the Hacienda Outdoor Mining Museum.

Jones in discovering the Ting's craftsmanship and what the objects represent. The poles have a significant history because of the symbol of the huge long (dragon), carved on them. They tell the story of the emperor and the history of the Chinese people. It's important to tell its story."

One day in August, the committee gathered to examine the poles and try to discover the meaning of the 166-year-old Chinese carvings. "The tremendous excitement in everyone's bodies was created and felt with each pole uncovering," says Boulland in a pamphlet. "Jennie Chan-Yeung and Adam Min, two Chinese community representatives, began to read the wooden carvings imprinted on each pole and decode the centuries-old Chinese legend."

The koi jumping the Dragon's Gate, along with the dragon's eyes and claws, tell the story of the transformation of the mighty long, while the clouds depict the emperor's journey from the earthly ground to the heavens. "The Chinese are descended from the emperor," says Boulland. "On the dragon poles, they're looking up their ancestry."

Boulland believes the Ting was gifted to the

New Almaden mine manager by 9th Qing Emperor of China in the mid-1850s. "...the gift acknowledged the kind treatment the emperor's son or the emperor's dignitaries received when they visited the Almaden Mines, seeking to obtain information regarding cinnabar," says the pamphlet.

Research is underway to determine the Ting's origins. "The carvings are reminiscent of Hong Kong, but the wood may not be from China," says Min. "It's a mystery who created it." Min notes that the dragons on the poles have four claws, indicating a prince or high official. "Only the emperor's dragon can have five claws," he says. Min has sent photos of the poles to professors in China asking for their assistance.

Seeing the carvings firsthand means a lot to Min. "It's wonderful to know that about 160 years ago Chinese culture was preserved in the United States," he says. "It makes Chinese immigrants feel a relationship with the past. Almaden has been my home for 20 years and this makes me feel close to the Chinese heritage here."

"Chinese people worked the mines and contributed to the economy and the mining area," says Boulland. "There's a story of Chinese Sam who spoke three languages and became a Chinese boss working the mines with his crew."

"But, as the Ting isn't there," says Michele Dexter, Council Liaison to Councilmember Johnny Khamis, "there's a gap in fully telling the story of the Chinese contribution to history. The vision is to restore it and put it where it belongs and include this history with school children visiting Casa Grande."

"It would be a great way to highlight the diversity of our community," says Councilmember Johnny Khamis. "It's important to me to highlight the contributions of all ethnicities to our city and especially to our district."

See *HISTORY*, page 8



The Ting

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**GLOBAL
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Family Festival of courage and strength set for Sunday, March 18 at S.J. Gurdwara

Almaden Valley residents invited to attend a free Gurdwara San Jose event

By Kevin Larsen
Times staff writer

One could say it is truly a gift to everyone in the entire San Jose community and beyond.

The San Jose community is invited to attend Hola Mohalla, a family festival where delicious food, good conversation and fascinating events to watch is provided free of charge on Sunday, March 18, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The event will take place at the Gurdwara, located at the top of Quimby Rd. in Evergreen Valley. Many who attended last year say, "you're gonna love it!" Why not gather up the family and drive over to Evergreen Valley.

Hola Moholla is celebrated worldwide and this is the seventh such festival orchestrated in San Jose. All nationalities are invited to attend the festival, and everyone is encouraged to walk the grounds and learn about the Indian culture with an international spirit of joy and love.

A message from the President of the Sikh Gurdwara

"With great dedication, devotion and planning, we are hosting one of the largest family festivals in all of California. Shuttle services will be offered free of charge if you wish to park your car at Evergreen High School (free of charge), or you can get some exercise by parking away



from the Gurdwara on the hill and walking up the Gurdwara to enjoy the festivities. So, why not put the March 18 event on your calendar and enjoy the activities and refreshments. We know you will enjoy the festival and we encourage everyone to come and enjoy the beautiful day!" said Bob Dhillon.

The Sikhs truly care about humanity and want all nationalities and religions to join up and enjoy a fun free festival. It is all about family fun and the joy of happiness which includes running, competition, good food, the joy of partaking in delicious food that touches the heart and more.

"Our hope is one day this could be thought of as the Evergreen Festival where people will truly feel like this festival belongs to them," said Kirpal Atwal, a member of the Gurdwara leadership group. "It can be a special day where

all the children play with each other and all people will come together to be proud of their festival."

Free pony rides

It all takes place outside on the big field next to the Gurdwara and what makes it exciting is everyone gets to watch the events and also you and your children can sign up if you like to participate in some events too, including free pony rides. The pony rides give them a sense of independence and strength as they take control of the large animal whom they direct around the track.

Get fit

This joy of strength and pride in one's self represents the big message of Hola Mohalla, to get fit and to be strong and to celebrate the wonderful things life has ahead for each of us. It encourages all to know that when life challenges face us we must be strong and have purpose in how we tackle all difficulties. Since the events are there to build strength in people of all ages, even older people are encouraged to run a race. It is all ageless for there is no discrimination.

Sports competitions

You get to root for your team or favorite athlete putting it all out there on the field. Sporting events at the festival will include basketball, volleyball, tug of war, foot races, pony rides, and exhibitions of riding horses with displays of bravery and chivalry. There are professional demonstrations and competitions of Gatka, which involves skillful old world defense techniques, similar to India martial arts.

See FESTIVAL, page 10



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

Twins

Continued from page 1

never win!" -- Vince Lombardi

Amith and Rohit attend school at Basis Independent Silicon Valley.

About the CBS Scripps Spelling Bee

The CBS Bay Area Scripps Spelling Bee Regional Championships event is co-hosted by KPIX 5 and KCBS radio. The final event will be held in Washington

D.C. in May. Competing Bay Area schools include San Francisco, Marin, Napa, Mendocino, Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara County.

About the National Geographic Bee

Each year thousands of schools in the United States participate in the National Geographic Bee using materials prepared by the National Geographic Society. The contest is designed to inspire students to be curious about the world. Schools with students in grades four through eight are eligible for this entertaining and challenging competition.



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Times Features

**Almaden Senior Association Celebrates
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The New Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum

History

Continued from page 4

The New Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum

We catch up with Kitty Monahan, President for the New Almaden Quicksilver County Park Association, at the New Almaden Mining Blacksmith, now located in Casa Grande's carriage house.

Throwing open the doors to the blacksmith, Monahan reveals artifacts from the mining days, including enormous bellows, tools, wooden water pipes and a saddle from when Virl Norton and his mule, Leroy, raced across the country from New York to California in the Great American Horse Race in 1976.

Returning to Casa Grande, we enter the mining museum, which features display cases filled with cinnabar, life-sized dioramas of mine tunnels with ore cars, mining equipment, period clothing, and medicinal mercury. Photographs and artifacts from Cornish, Mexican and Chinese mining families depict the diverse community which lived and worked together.

The original site of the Almaden Mining Museum was the Carson-Perham Adobe, built around 1848. The adobe was owned by George Carson, postmaster and bookkeeper for the mines. From 1949 to 1983, Constance "Connie" Perham and her husband Douglas ran the museum from their home, featuring their collection of mining artifacts. Behind the museum was the blacksmith shop, with the Ting's poles forming its entrance gate.

Wandering into the house proper, we journey through an antique-furnished parlor, library and drawing room reflecting the lifestyle of a mine manager's family.

In 1854, mine manager Henry Halleck hired Francis Meyers to redesign the three-room Casa Grande as it was too small for a man of his stature. The ensuing 27-room mansion served as the official residence and office for a succession of mine superintendents, as well as a country weekend retreat for wealthy mine investors until 1892. The grounds were landscaped by John McLaren, who designed San Francisco's Golden Gate Park.

In the 1900s, Casa Grande was sold to Ben Black, who made it into a resort. Casa Grande served as a tourist resort known as Club Almaden from the 1920s to 1950s. Families came from San Francisco to swim in its pools and relax on its sprawling lawn. In the late 1930s, Black added a bar with a brass rail and a beveled mirror, along with a platform for dancing. It became a theater in the '30s, continuing to the '80s.

From 1964 to 2000, it was home to The Opry House. In 1997, the Santa Clara Parks Department bought the property, relocating the mining museum there. In 2009, they renovated Casa Grande, adding period rooms and removing the opera house and bar.

A rich history: The New Almaden Quicksilver Mines

The New Almaden Quicksilver Mines were the largest mercury-producing mines in North America and fueled California's gold rush. The rock they were mining was cinnabar, and when you cook cinnabar and condense the vapor, you get liquid mercury.

From 1845 to 1976, the mines made about \$70 million in profits from producing 84 million pounds of liquid mercury. Quicksilver was the leading reduction agent used to separate gold and silver from its ore and used for everything from Civil War explosives to Victorian glass and 20th century battery cells and thermometers. Mercury was once thought to contain medicinal properties, and perhaps even grant immortality.

The New Almaden mining area encompassed 4,000 acres and included seven mines and three communities, including English Camp, for Cornish and other English-speaking miners and Spanish Town, for Mexicans and Chileans miners. Single miners lived in boarding houses, while families lived in homes on the hills. Miners could also pitch tents or build cabins.

While stopping at the Santa Clara Mission, Mexican Cavalry Officer Captain Andres Castillero discovered that the red rock used as paint by the local Ohlone was cinnabar. At New Almaden, the natives brought him up a trail to Deep Gulch and a red cave. Excited by this discovery, he started the main mercury mine right below it and set up camp on the valley floor for two years, taking a donkey trail to English Camp.

In 1847, he hired additional workers from Mexico and started the main tunnel outside Spanish Town to access the rich cinnabar vein. When Castillero returned to Mexico, he was drafted into the Mexican-Spanish War and had to surrender his claim.

Castillero sold the mines to Barron, Forbes Company, an English textile company based in Mexico. Alexander Forbes built much of New Almaden, and is responsible for its name, but eventually gave up the mines to set up Forbes Mill in Los Gatos. In 1863, acting on information that title to the mine was in dispute, Abraham Lincoln attempted to seize it, but

See HISTORY, page 14

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Times **Local News****Festival***Continued from page 6***A bazaar of Indian novelty items**

You may wish to purchase some traditional beautiful Indian art items at the authentic outdoor

bazaar. Vendors offer fun and beautiful items for sale such as jewelry, tapestry, toys and more. It's just like visiting India for there are many booths and events to see and experience.

Evergreen Sikh hospitality

Enjoy walking to various food

booths to eat delicious foods that are given to the community as a gesture of love by the Sikh community. All of the food is free of charge unless you wish to buy specialty items at booths. The food items are all hand-made or purchased of the highest quality for it is part of the Sikh custom to ensure guests are offered tasty food and nourishment with a smile. The Gurdwara offers food to the community 365 days of the year, 24 hours per day in what is called the Langer (kitchen).

Uplifting music

Musicians will perform all day with instruments and words that inspire. You're going to feel as if you have traveled to a friendly new land. Dhadi Waran and Keertan (types of music) create enchanting tones with words composed of beautiful hymns that are profound in nature. It is a form of musical poetry and is accompanied by musical instruments such as the table (drum), the harmonium, the tat vat (stringed instrument).

Show your support

"This Sikh community is con-



ple. There are educational posters throughout the grounds that respect other religions and educate their beliefs in kind ways. A little known fact is that Sikhs were one of the first religions to take pride in honoring women as equal partners to men.

About Hola Mohalla

Hola Mohalla is celebrated worldwide and marks the beginning of the Sikh New Year to bring everyone together to prepare and nurture one's competitive spirit.

By fostering a healthy physical path, including exercise it strengthens the joy of life inside of all of us. Sikhs honor bravery at the highest of levels and seek to protect the world and ensure things are right and just for all.

Editor's Note; The best way to enjoy the festival is to park at Evergreen High School which will have shuttles going and coming all day starting at 10 a.m. The event is free and food is complementary. All age groups are encouraged to watch the sporting events and participate.

For more information visit: www.sanjosegurdwara.org, or contact Kirpal Atwal at (408) 835-7712.

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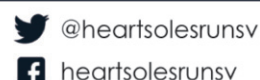
Press day: March 21, 2018

Deadline: March 19, 2018

Write to editorial@timesmediainc.com**We'd love to hear from you!****Almaden Times****6K Run/Walk | 10K Run | Kids Fun Run**Register: heartandsolesrunsv.com

The **Lam Research Heart and Soles Run**, founded and produced by the **Silicon Valley Leadership Group Foundation**, is a family oriented run/walk benefiting local youth exercise and nutrition programs.

Starting at the historic campus of Santa Clara University, the course features a loop through Avaya Stadium. All 6K/10K participants receive a jersey themed tech shirt, finisher medal and chip timing.

DATE: Saturday, March 24TH**TIME:** 8:00 am - 10:30 am**LOCATION:** Santa Clara University**CONNECT WITH US!**

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Festival

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Nearly a thousand attend 9th Annual Senior Winter Walk Resource Fair

By William Bellou
Publisher

The 9th annual Senior Winter Walk Resource Fair at Westfield Oakridge Mall was a great success with nearly 1,000 senior citizens participating in the event on Feb. 23.

The Winter Walk takes place inside of the mall where guests receive one door prize drawing ticket at the end of each lap. Those

bringing used eyeglasses to donate to the Lions Club received an extra ticket for the prize drawing.

The participants, many coming from Almaden Valley, engaged in activities that promote fitness and a healthy lifestyle. Walkers received a free breakfast at the event, and many door prizes were awarded, including a diamond ring donated by Samuel Jewelers.

Staff from City Council Districts 10, 9, and 2 worked together to create a resource fair with more than 50 vendors participating in the two hour event, which targeted the senior citizen community. Vendors included activity clubs, health and wellness providers, and services offered by the City of San Jose and Santa Clara County.

"We have a great turnout for the Westfield Oakridge Winter Walk event, and it was a



Our City Forests booth with **Mandy Ford** (left) and **Nancy Solorio**.

pleasure working with Councilman Sergio Jimenez to organize this great event for our seniors," said Johnny Khamis, District 10 City Councilman. "The event just gets bigger and better each year."

In addition to Johnny Khamis, City Councilman Sergio Jimenez, and Santa Clara County Supervisors Dave Cortese and Mike Wasserman also spoke to the exuberant crowd, which was followed by a 10 minute exercise routine. Michele Dexter from the District 10 office served as the event's master of ceremonies.

See WALK, next page

DENIM Diamonds

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History

Continued from page 8

the federal agent and deputy federal marshal were met at the mine gates by armed miners. Not wanting to risk the loyalty of California during the Civil War, the federal government withdrew, allowing Barron, Forbes Company to sell it to American investors for \$1.75 million. The mines changed ownership many times throughout their 131 years of operation, including ownership by María Zacarías Bernal de Berryessa.

The Outdoor Mining Museum

The Outdoor Mining Museum is situated at the base of the New Almaden Quicksilver County Park at the former site of the Hacienda Reduction Works. It contains a collection of equipment from the New Almaden and Guadalupe mines, including a wooden Cornish pump used to pump water out of the mine shafts and a rotary furnace used for extracting mercury from crushed cinnabar ore. It also includes several life-sized paintings of mine workers, Maude the Mule and a dwarf-like figure called a Tommy Knocker. Cornish miners believed that when tools went missing it was because a Tommy took it. During an earthquake, if they heard knocking, they ran out of the mine saying it was the Tommy Knockers warning them.

In 1970, Monahan moved to New Almaden and became hooked on its history. She and a friend regularly rode their horses to the mines. "They'd kick me out again and again, until one day they agreed to teach me about it," she says smiling. "I have a history degree and it's something I like to be a part of. There's so much to learn about how the United States was formed and California came into being and New Almaden is a part of that.

"It's extremely important for kids today to realize what happened in New Almaden, the Silicon Valley of its time," says Boulland. "I've also fallen deeply in love with the history of the area. It's very colorful and leads kids on a treasure hunt of adventure."

Times **Local News**

BREAKING GROUND - Kiddie Academy of Almaden Valley, scheduled to open fall 2018, celebrates its groundbreaking ceremony. Pictured (l to r): **Ken Ravizza** (land owner), **Tom Mancuso** (land owner), **Johnny Khamis** (San Jose District 10 Councilman), **Monique Nou** (Silicon Valley Organization Director of Membership & Events), **Jennifer Zhang** (owner, Kiddie Academy of Almaden Valley).

Kiddie Academy breaks ground in Almaden

By **Sean Eastwood**
Times staff writer

Local business owner, Jennifer Zhang, celebrated the groundbreaking of Kiddie Academy of Almaden Valley on Feb. 27.

The new child care learning facility, located at 16601 Almaden Expressway, is expected to be completed in the fall.

Zhang was joined by San Jose District 10 Councilman Johnny Khamis, Silicon Valley Organization Director of Membership & Events Monique Nou and land owners Ken Ravizza and Tom Mancuso.

"We look forward to providing our unique services to children in the Almaden Valley area," said Zhang, who owns Kiddie Academy of Almaden Valley. The 10,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility will be equipped to serve 168 children ages 6 weeks to 12 years.

"This is a really exciting time for us and we're thrilled to introduce our well-trained, attentive staff to local area parents and their children. In the near future, we look forward to assisting local children in developing the confidence and skills nec-

essary they need to meet the challenges of tomorrow," says Zhang.

Kiddie Academy, founded in 1981, began with the idea to combine learning with child care, and made a commitment to be a leader in the industry. Kiddie Academy has developed a comprehensive education-based child care program for its academies, which are structured to respond to the increasing demand for child care.

The Almaden Valley location utilizes a curriculum created to promote each child's intellectual, social, physical and emotional growth. According to Zhang, the programs emphasize continuous, open communication between teachers and parents concerning each child's development.

"We invite children to embark on the Kiddie Academy journey that will enable them to learn and grow socially, physically, emotionally and intellectually," Zhang added.

Kiddie Academy of Almaden Valley is now hiring experienced teachers. Email Jennifer Zhang at almadenvally@kiddieacademy.net or call 408-752-4803 for more information.



Several hundred seniors participate in morning exercises just prior to the performance of Elvis tribute artist Rick Torres and the door prize drawing.

Walk

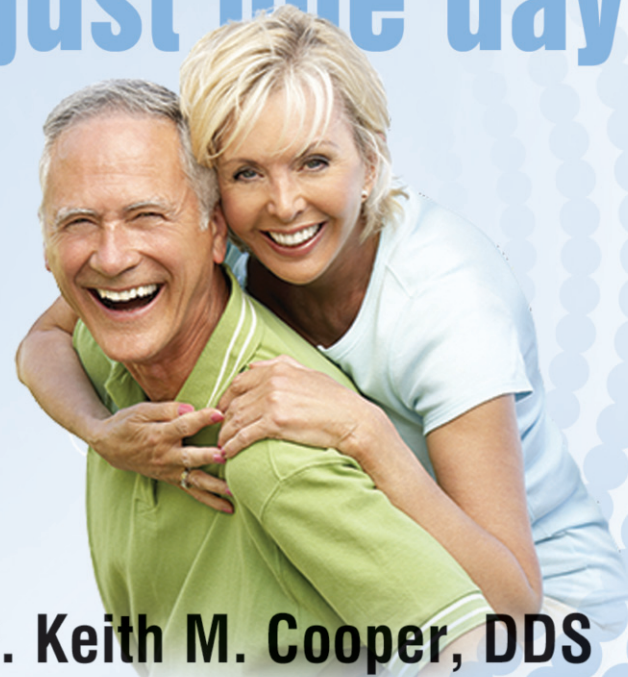
Continued from previous page

Special guest this year was Elvis tribute artist, Rick Torres, who sang several Elvis standards, passed out winning gifts, and

kissed several fun-loving senior citizens while walking through the crowd.

This year's sponsors included: Westfield Oakridge, Alameda Family, Kaiser Permanent, JSM Enterprises, Star One Credit Union, Almaden Times, and El Camino Hospital.

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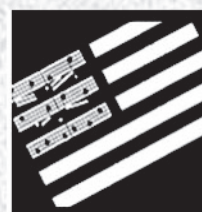


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Times Features

LEGAL ADVICE

How important are the terms of a contract for my small business transactions?

By Steven R. Roeser, Esq.

Special to the Times

This week's question:

"Dear Steve, I have a small business and routinely enter into contracts with clients, vendors, etc. How important are the terms in these agreements, or will any writing do?"

John K.,

Almaden Valley

While perhaps a bit biased since I am a lawyer, contract terms are very important. Generally speaking, for a small business, you can create a set of strong forms on the front end that can then be filled in for each contract you enter into with clients, vendors, etc. Without appropriate terms in your contracts, you can definitely be left holding the bag, so to speak.

This writer gets a lot of litigation work from contracts (including wills and trusts) that were not properly drafted, whereas some diligence at the time of drafting would have greatly reduced the probability of litigation. With that said, let us have a look at what the elements of a binding contract are under California law, as well as what is required in court to prove a breach of contract.

When one party to a contract files a complaint in court to seek relief for wrongdoing against another party, the typical legal actions are based on negligence (in a nutshell, breach of a basic duty of care), or breach of contract (breach of a written or oral agreement). Here we shall discuss written contracts only, and oral contracts are a whole other ball game, and much tougher to enforce in a court of law. After all, without a writing signed by both parties setting forth all the terms, it is truly a "he said, she said" fight. And court actions are expensive, so you want to have a strong chance of prevailing should you ever have to set foot in a civil court of law over a business or personal contract dispute.

Legally speaking, a contract is a binding obligation between two or more persons based on a mutual understanding, or agreement, of the parties. If one of the parties fails to meet its obligations under the contract, this is termed a breach of the contract.

To prevail in court on a breach of contract claim, one must prove the basic elements of the cause of action. First, the parties must have intended to create a binding obligation between them. Second, the parties must contract to perform a legal act. Third, each party must either give up something or transfer some benefit to the other party, which is referred to as consideration – both parties must get something of benefit from

the other, although the exchange need not be equal. Fourth, the basic essential terms of the contract must be agreed between the parties, which typically includes the parties, and what each will give the other, and when.

Once it is established that a binding contract exists, the party bringing the lawsuit alleging breach of the contract must show that the other party did not perform its obligations, and also must prove that damages were suffered as a result of same. For example, if I agree to pay my friend Mike \$35,000 for his used Ford F150 Raptor truck, and I pay him and then he fails to give me the truck and tender title, I have clearly been damaged. However, most breach of contract lawsuits will result in the court awarding

money damages rather than forcing Mike to give me the truck ... the court will determine how much it will cost for me to buy a similar truck on the open market. That could be more than the \$35,000 Mike and I contracted for, or less. Where there is fraudulent intent, the court can award punitive damages to punish the defendant, but this type of damages is not awarded often.

Another key factor in breach of contract actions is whether the party that wins can get attorney's fees from the losing party. In most breach of contract actions, this will not be available absent a contract term that specifically provides attorney's fees to the prevailing party. Without this clause in a contract, bringing a lawsuit can be very challenging due to the cost of hiring an attorney to fight the battle in court, as it will eat into any award.

As per my usual advice in this column, some proactivity on the front end will give you much more protection in the event of your having to file a breach of contract lawsuit. Often, you can use the strong contract terms to get the other party to perform, with their seeing they will likely lose in court, and pay the winning party's attorney's fees, in addition to their own.

Until next time ... and have a great day!

Kindest Regards,

Steven R. Roeser, Esq.

You can reach Mr. Roeser with your questions by email at steve@roeserlaw.net with "Almaden Times" in the subject line, or by telephone at (650) 300-5778. Your real name will not be used. No attorney-client relationship is created by these articles, and any information in this article does not constitute legal advice and is not to be relied upon. For more information on our practice, please visit www.almadenvalleylawyers.com.



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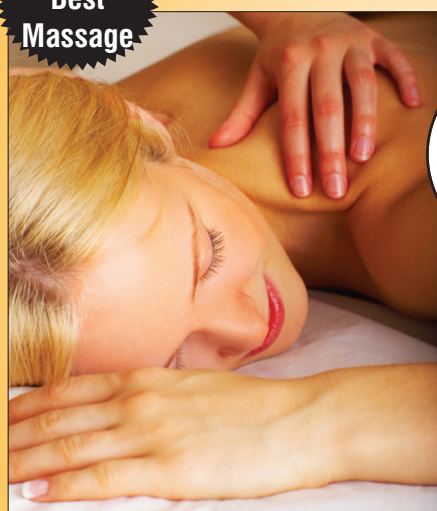
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Times **Feature**

TOGETHER - ALearn and Silicon Valley Education Foundation have joined forces, merging the two long-time organizations to create the region's largest education non-profit providing math intervention and college readiness programs for more than 5,000 underserved students this summer.

Almaden Valley residents named to Dean's List at Boston University

Five Almaden Valley residents have recently been named to the Dean's list at Boston University.

Students recognized for this honor include: Sarita Berigei, Erin L. Ferguson, Aiqi Sun, Preston B. Yadegar, and Yi Yang.

Each school and college at Boston University has their own criterion for the Dean's List, but students generally must attain a 3.5 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale), or be in the top 30 percent of their class, as well as a full course load as a full time student.

Founded in 1839, Boston University is an internationally recognized institution of higher education and research. Consisting of 16 schools and colleges, BU offers students more than 250 programs of study in science and engineering, social science and humanities, health science, the arts, and other professional disciplines, along with a number of multi-disciplinary centers and institutes integral to the University's research and teaching mission.



Leland's Kyle Carrasquilla earns National Football Foundation Scholarship

The National Football Foundation (NFF) and College Hall of Fame has presented Kyle Carrasquilla, a senior at Leland High

school, with the National Foundation Scholarship.

Carrasquilla received the scholarship at the NFF annual awards dinner held at the Marriott Hotel in San Francisco to recognize the Northern California recipients on March 2.

Each year the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame awards scholarships across the country to promote their ideal of superior scholar-athletes.

The NFF Scholarships are presented based on several criteria, including philanthropy, leadership, and achievements on the field. Carrasquilla is a Leland Charger's lineman with a G.P.A of 3.86.

"I was very humbled to be a recipient of this scholarship," said Carrasquilla. "A big thank you to Coach Ward for stressing academics in addition to all the hard work we put in getting to the CCS championship game. It was an honor to play for him, and I will miss suiting up for the Chargers on Friday nights."

Kyle was a team captain, 1st team all-league recipient, and the inaugural winner of the Jesse Sapolu Get Sports Focus Super Lineman of the week.

Carrasquilla plans to major in business at Cal Poly.

Leland High School's Kyle Carrasquilla has received the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame scholarship.

Free tax assistance offered for residents 50+ years old at Almaden Community Center

Free tax assistance for individuals 50 years and older is being offered free at the Almaden Community Center through April 14, 2018.

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) is offering tax assistance on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Tax Aid volunteers are available to assist seniors in preparing your taxes.

One hour appointments are available by calling 408.268.1133.

The Almaden Community Center is located at 6445 Camden Ave, San Jose, CA 95120.

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Times Feature

March comes in like a lion

By Richard P. Santos
Santa Clara Water
District chair

After a dismally dry February, March has come in like a lion.

Rain and snow has fallen in the mountains surrounding Santa Clara Valley, and the forecast shows several more storms on their way. While unanticipated stream or storm drain blockages could always cause localized flooding during a rainstorm, we do not currently anticipate any creek flooding issues.

Santa Clara Valley Water District crews have worked all year to prepare our creeks for winter rains. We are dedicated to keeping residents and businesses safe through our flood protection programs.

In preparation for this series of storms, all five of our sandbag sites have been fully stocked. In addition, cities around the county operate an additional 18 sandbag sites.

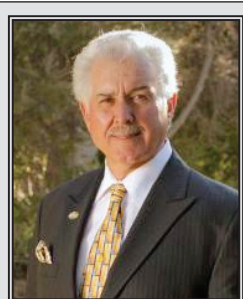
Our maintenance staff

stands ready with heavy equipment to respond to reports of downed trees or large debris flows in locations where we have property rights. We are monitoring streams for blockages at key bridges and culverts. We need the public's help as our eyes and ears to alert us to obstructions in the creeks and to prevent flooding. To report issues in creeks, residents can call 408-630-2378 or submit a service request to Access Valley Water.

Our ten reservoirs have a combined storage of just 26 percent of their full capacity. This leaves a significant amount of storage space to capture the expected storm runoff. Therefore, we do not anticipate any possibility of our large reservoirs reaching capacity this week or next. The expectation is the relatively small Vasona Reservoir in Los Gatos, which regularly reaches capacity during the rainy season.

Visit our website valleywater.org/floodready for flood safety tips, current reservoir levels and stream flows, and maps to free sandbag sites.

Richard P. Santos is chair of the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors. He can be reached at board@valleywater.org.



Water District

Richard P. Santos,
SCVWD Chair

California ranked first in honoring gun safety laws

California received an A for its gun safety laws, the highest score of any state according to Giffords Law Center.

Giffords Law Center released the latest edition of its Annual Gun Law Scorecard, which grades and ranks each state on the strength of its gun laws.

California boasted the highest score nationwide due to the state's continued emphasis on background checks, prohibiting access to guns by hate crime offenders, and funding urban gun violence reduction programs, among other measures.

This comprehensive, 50-state analysis clearly shows how stronger gun laws like background checks help reduce gun death rates and save lives.

Of the 10 states with the

lowest gun death rates, eight have some of the strongest gun laws in the country, receiving a B or better. All eight also have passed private-sale background checks. Those eight states are:

- California
- Massachusetts
- Rhode Island
- New York
- Hawaii
- Connecticut
- New Jersey
- Washington

The 10 states with the highest gun death rates have some of the weakest gun laws in the nation—with all 10 receiving an F the Gun Law Scorecard.

They are, in order of deadliness:

- Alaska
- Alabama
- Louisiana
- Mississippi
- Oklahoma
- Montana
- Missouri
- New Mexico
- Arkansas
- South Carolina

Guys and Dolls

Continued from page 1

and the Rat Pack," Cash Johnson, "Lt. Brannigan," reviewed. This show "has the best chorus numbers by far" of the recent shows we've done, outside of 'Les Miserables' but it's not trying to be 'Les Mis';" Jack Johnson shared.

Production comes to life!

Producer and Director, Mrs. Ashley Coleman, brings this production to life in part as tribute to the rebirth of the PAC. Back in 2006, this was the same show that debuted Pioneer's Performing Arts Center to the public. Partly for the nostalgia of it all, she's chosen this production. "It's a special show and it has a special place in my heart. We of course have the talent to pull it off, and it's turning out brilliantly well," Mrs. Coleman reflected. "In tribute to the multitude of acting talent in this show, Coleman said "watching this come together, I believe this show is shaping up to be even better than the one all those years ago!"

Pioneer productions are known regionally for their high level of delivery. Patrons share their disbelief that high school teens can perform at such levels reminiscent of the real deal. Perhaps that's because all of the student cast and crew are fully invested. As Senior Jessica Ventura describes, "As a freshman, I compared all the local schools for their drama programs and settled on Pioneer. I made the right choice and never looked back."

To the last, each of the students interviewed talked about the family-feeling aspect of the program, the mutual respect and support between each of the very large 84 person cast and crew, and especially how that's all evident in the finished product. Sophomore Emily Nguyen caught drama fever as a freshman accidentally entered into Beginning Drama. Embracing it as the opportunity it was, she went on to audition for her first musical, even convincing her older sister to do the same, sang in a huge four-part harmony chorus and was hooked.

Much like the performers, audience members attending "Guys and Dolls" fall in love with the characters. Differentiating this drama program from all the rest comes down to character development. The cast learns about their character thoroughly from leads all the way through ensemble members, developing every one of those characters both before and through the plot, and it shows. Audience members believe in the characters and story losing themselves in it because of this rich portrayal.

Quintessential Broadway

"Guys and Dolls" originally debuted on Broadway, transitioning to the big screen with Vivian Blaine reprising her role as "Miss Adelaide," and Marlon Brando, Frank Sinatra and Jean Simmons rounding out the lead roles. What many don't know is Frank Sinatra was apparently jealous that Marlon Brando was cast as "Sky Masterson," and to soothe his hurt pride took Brando's signature song "Luck Be A Lady" to Las Vegas and made it one of his best known hits. Another perhaps surprise, Sinatra did not care at all for Brando. Mrs. Coleman shared that Nathan Lane, who originally portrayed "Nathan Detroit" on Broadway, changed his original legal first name to "Nathan" just because he loved the character so much.

"You'll see a number of performers you've watched develop over their years shine in their given roles in this production," said Mrs. Coleman. Seniors Halliona Bacon, Blake Bertolin, and Jack Johnson take the helm along with junior Isabella Osborne. "This is probably my favorite part of the year," Isabella shared as she gets to know others in a better way outside of school. "I love how many people come out for the show whether a beginner or someone who's been acting since they were eight years old." Describing her character Adelaide: "... for a dumb girl she's pretty smart!"

Jack Johnson shares a take on his character: "Sky Masterson is a cool character; he's always calm, a bit sarcastic, and always prideful. He always believes he's right, and lays it all out there. I see myself a bit in him - when he makes that final pass (in the show) that's



what I'd do. He comes across as prideful, arrogant and suave, but he meets a girl who humbles him, opens his eyes and shows him there's a lot more to life than dice and money."

"This is a quintessential Broadway-type show with something for everyone," Mrs. Coleman observed. "Whether the professional sets, costuming, casting, high-energy show tunes, dancing, or gangster-era draw is your thing, you're sure to find something to love in this show!" She reminds everyone that producing a show like this gives back to the community by providing positive escapism and a joyful night out that is always family-friendly at Pioneer. And, by attending, you're giving back to the arts and supporting the community by showing these teens their endeavors to put positivity into this world is well worth the extremely long hours and hard work.

Student performers give their best!

Many don't realize how much the student performers put into these shows. Most of the participants not only have their normal school day, but they rush off to sports, or rush to their work commitments every day, followed by three hour rehearsals four nights a week. Some try to fit in homework when they're not on stage but many, as Zach Morcate shared, "...I find it too difficult to study here in this environment. You want to focus, you want to know what's coming and you definitely don't want to miss a cue." Somehow they squeeze in homework when they get home and (albeit a very little) sleep, too. They're often up until midnight or 1 a.m. and wake back up at 7 a.m. or earlier. All of the hard work is to share the joy of the finished product with everyone. In this world of so many disturbing sights and sounds we're bombarded with daily, it's a welcome and refreshing break to come together to enjoy this high-energy, fun and funny work of art."

"The set and the costumes put it all together...The set looks really good this year, and I've heard from others not in the show that they're interested in coming to see this show just because of how amazing and cool the set looks," Halliona shared. "My favorite part of playing my role ("Sarah Brown") is I'm opposite of Jack, and Jack is my best friend. So it makes it easier to interact



Jeffrey Plaza as "Nicely Nicely" and Jack Johnson as "Sky Masterson" Looking for the Game.

Times **OpEd**

with him. Zach is one of my really good friends; too, so playing the part with them works well...although we've got so many inside jokes we have to work especially hard to portray the serious lines with the serious delivery they deserve."

"It's a really funny show with funny scenes," muses Maxwell Moiseff. "One of my favorite parts is acting along with Blake and Jack - both two years his senior - even getting to yell at Blake onstage."

Costumes and music capture the mood

"I was really excited for the costumes in this show, all the dapper suits and the hat I have is amazing" said Blake Bertolin. "...because of the great costuming this show looks really good. His character, 'Nathan Detroit,' 'is a guy in it for the money, but because he grew up in the way of a gangster, he eventually became the head of the crap game and he initiated a way to do things with his life, even if life didn't give him an easy way.'"

Blake, as well as Jack and Zach, also have previously had a director change in eighth grade and now here in their last year at Pioneer. "Change is hard for everyone. And changing directors, especially in your last year in a program, is challenging. But as I did then I've learned what Mrs. Coleman wants now and I've been able to adapt" which is a great prelude for what they're about to do as they graduate and embrace the change college brings.

Mrs. Marissa Bacon shares her love of music and blending chorus harmonies to the vocal directing of this show. "Making sure everyone feels just as important as anyone else" is an important part of the overall success of this show. To a tee each of the seniors mentioned not only wanting to provide a great performance for Mrs. Coleman's first spring musical, and for themselves, but that they also wanted to continue Mr. Dini's legacy and make sure the level of this show was as good if not better than where he left off."

"Mrs. Coleman doesn't let you get away with messing up. She calls you on it - like if you make a mistake or forget your line. That's great because for me, if I'm not told I've made a mistake I might not know to fix it," shared Ricky Covey. He went on to explain because of this approach, the show is very solidly coming together. "I hope to take the joy of being on stage with me. I'm not planning on pursuing any of this in college, so I just want to stand in the spotlight and soak it all up before it's gone" Halliona mused. Zach shared "Even though it can be tough to balance all the things we have to do in life, it's so important to me that people really try hard and enjoy the time here

within these four years while they have it. Frankly this school provides such an amazing opportunity for all of us" and they give the end product of that back to the community. "I want to leave a longing behind in other students to hopefully inspire them to come be a part of this great, big team we have here," senior Sierra Dallas hopes to leave as her legacy from her experiences.

Alina Petty, seen most recently in a self-choreographed number in "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," likes challenges, and this show provides her with many. There are multiple lifts and partner work, things she usually does not experience. "I like the fact I get to be sassy and really 'show-off' in this show", explained Petty "It's been a lot of pressure for her to learn the dances in front of everyone and nerve-wracking for all of the dancers to perform in high heels. "Keeping a smile on your face



Zach Morcate as "Arvide Abernathy" with **Halliona Bacon**.

while breathing heavily" from the dance workouts on stage is her

most challenging aspect of this show. As a first timer at high school in front of the curtain, but someone who has extensive behind-the-scenes technical stage production crew experience, senior Rose Wiley "likes being busy." Although, this show pushes her limits with a named role including dancing, helping with sets, opening/closing curtains, stage managing and props - all almost at once - and involves sprinting from one side of the stage to the other often. "It's a great final senior show" although she plans to stick around helping with The Glue Factory productions to give back, and to join a local college program, too. She mused "no one sees the technical crew, but they assume the crew is there, and actually being on stage you get cared about as a character" so it's a new experience she's enjoying. She'd like to leave behind "a program that values the people off-stage as much as the people

onstage, because the production team is as much if not a bigger part of the whole show coming together." If you haven't approached a stage person in the past, make a point to thank them for their contributions to making the show, too, in addition to the actors.

"It's not just a bunch of high schoolers coming together singing and dancing. It's a family coming together to create something beautiful" Rose reflected. Mrs. Coleman is confident some of the students in this show may be ones you can say you 'knew them when'.

You're sure to benefit if you make this show part of your night!

Performances are scheduled for Friday-Saturday March 16-17 and Wednesday-Saturday March 21-24 at 7 p.m. Tickets (\$15 Adults; \$7 for students, children, and for seniors 62 years and over) are available now at phsdrama.ludus.com.

Open House - March 21 - 6 to 7:30 pm



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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

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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.

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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.

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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>

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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 - 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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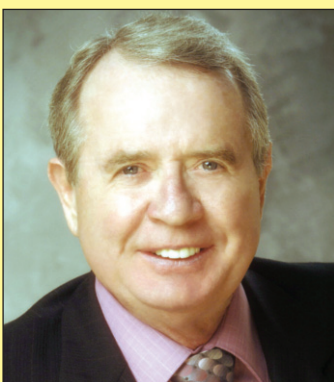
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Dinner



Almaden Seniors Chefs present an Italian Feast

Saturday, April 28, 2018

from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

The menu will include:

Antipasto Plate | Caesar Salad
Chicken Italian Almaden
Vegetarian Lasagna
Bread Sticks | Cannoli
Wine and Music

\$14 members | \$17 non-members
Tickets go on sale April 4th in
Almaden Community Center
lobby, MWF

8:40 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Seating is limited!

Cash or Checks only!

Reunions

*Pioneer
Leland*
1968
Golden 50th
Reunion

September 14-15, 2018

For more information, visit:
facebook.com/pioneer.leland.68reunion

Class of '68 50 Year *Golden* Reunion



SAVE THE DATES!

September 28, 2018 - Mixer
September 29, 2018 - Reunion

Check out the class website
for further information on:

- Event details, RSVP, Tickets, Lodging
- Alumni Jam Band
- Photos of the 40th Reunion
(this was an amazing heart & soul event!)
- Update your online bio
- Help us find missing classmates

*Are you ready for
TOO MUCH FUN?*

www.willowglenclassof68.myevent.com

Happy St. Patrick's Day from

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Swan has been Almaden Valley's #1 Agent each year since 2009. And 2017 was no exception! Swan has been recognized by Wall Street Journal/RealTrends as Top 250 Individual Agents in Nation by Dollar Volume. She is consistently among the Top 100 Agents in the Bay Area.



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