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L-R: Mary Kane, former President of Sister Cities International, Ryan Kawamoto (SJOSC member, Exec Dir of Yu-Ai Kai Senior Community Center in Japantown, Tina Urata (SJOSC Board of Directors, Boy Scout leader), Greg Tanaka (former SJOSC Board member), Norman Y. Mineta, Chris Wawra (former SJOSC Board member), Kathy Sakamoto (SJOSC President, Japantown Business Association Exec Dir), Vice Consul Satoshi Higo, SF Consulate of Japan. Photo credit: SJ-Okayama Sister Cities (SJOSC)

Mineta: 'The job I enjoyed most was being Mayor of San Jose'

By Lorraine Gabbert Senior Staff Writer

f you had said to me, when I was sitting in Heart Mountain—an internment camp in a desolate part of Wyoming, surrounded by barbed wire, military towers, search lights and machine gun mounts—that in 1975, you'll be having lunch with the president, I would've thought you were crazy. And yet, in April of 1975, I was having lunch with President Ford in the White House. As a result of Watergate in 1974, 75 Democrats and 16 Republicans were elected to Congress. I became chairman of the New Members Caucus, and as such, had lunch with the President of the United States. I was pinching myself."

-Norm Mineta

Norman Yoshio Mineta, namesake of San Jose's International Airport, served as United States congressman, Secretary of Commerce and Secretary of Transpor-

"All of these jobs were important and had their successes," he says, "but the job I really enjoyed most was being Mayor of San Jose and working with the city council and community groups to plan our future the right way. We tried to take care of not only physical needs, but also our culture. That's something I look back on."

Mineta represented San Jose on the city council, as mayor and as a member of Congress. He had a strong city council that was supportive of him and he worked closely with the Chamber of Commerce to bring manufacturing and new industry, including technology, to San Jose.

As President of the San Jose Chamber of Commerce in the 1970s, Warren Gannon had a good working relationship with Mineta. "We were anxious to promote business and manufacturing in San Jose," he says. "At the time, there was very little. We wanted to do things that hadn't been done before."

They met with businesses they thought were important to bring to San Jose, including David Packard regarding HP. They even See MINETA, page 18

Arin Parsa of Almaden wins History Bee and Bowl By William Bellou

Publisher

rin Parsa (pictured, right) of Almaden Valley has won two Northern California History tournaments.

Arin, an elementary fifth grade student from Challenger Almaden, won the Northern California History Bee in the Elementary division, and the History Bowl in the Middle School division.

The tournaments are buzzerbased tournaments held nation-

wide to encourage the study of American and World history and reward students for their depth and fast recall.

Arin's family credits Mrs. Mathur, Arin's third grade teacher at Challenger Almaden for sparking his love for his-

tory. In addition to history, Arin says he loves civics, literature, and space science as subjects. In his spare time, he likes to read current affairs, research U.S Supreme Court cases that have shaped America, build robots and write



About History Bee and Bowl

The National History Bee and Bowl promote history education throughout the United States, and around the world The National History Bee and Bowl have an important role to play by fostering an interest in

history among students. The National History Bee and Bowl gives present-day students an appreciation for the past that will serve them and their country and world well in the future by preparing today's students to be tomorrow's leaders.

Arin invites readers to visit his blog site: https://arin.blog



Josie Bianchi of Almaden Valley, pictured here with Jeopardy! host Alex Trebek, is competing in "Jeopardy! College Championships," which will be aired Monday, April 9-20. Photo courtesy of Jeopardy Productions, Inc.

Josie Bianchi of Almaden competes for \$100,000 grand prize on 'Jeopardy! **College Championships'**

By William Bellou Publisher

osie Bianchi of Almaden Valley is competing with 15 of America's brightest students in the Jeopardy! College Championships."

Bianchi, a sophomore at Stanford University, grew up in Almaden Valley and attended Bret Harte Middle School.

"You'll see me deal with crazy See BIANCHI, page 6



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This Week:

COMMUNITY

Wild horses, burros available for adoption in King City PAGE 8

EDUCATION

Almaden Elementary School's Annual Walk-a-Thon brings needed

funds: PAGE 10

HONORS

Leland graduate Holly Geranen earns Dean's Award at Colgate University: PAGE 17



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Garden Tour happening
on April 8: PAGE 14

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Almaden Times

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Valley Currents

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

Almaden 5th graders win Middle School Quiz Bowl tournaments

Three Almaden Valley elementary students competed as a team in the recent Northern California Quiz bowl standard and competitive division tournaments.

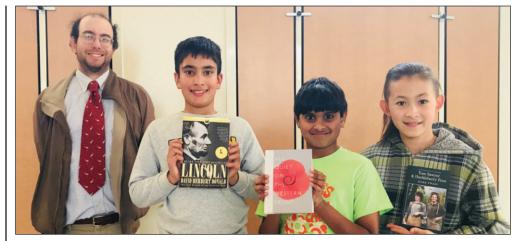
Aarush Zarabi, Arin Parsa, and Jasper Elsley competed as a team in the recent Northern California Quiz Bowl tournaments held at Valley Christian, Bellarmine, Stratford Raynor, and Hillview.

The team beat middle schoolers to win standard division twice by a big margin, and placed in top three in the competitive division. The students have also qualified for Middle School National Champion Tournament to be held in Chicago on May 11-13, and will represent their schools (Challenger Almaden, Williams Elementary).

Arin Parsa is the youngest top scorer and one of the all-star players this season in Northern California Quiz Bowl circuit.

Aarush, Arin, and Jasper have been friends since they were in first grade and share a love for deep reading, quiz bowl, and Cub Scouts.

At a young age, they developed deep interests in different areas. Jasper enjoys mathematics, science, literature, classical music and plays chess competitively. Aarush loves geography, science, music, history, martial arts,



TEAM EFFORT - Three Almaden Valley elementary students competed as a team in the recent Northern California Quiz bowl tournaments. Pictured (I to r) are: **Jeff Hoppes**, president of NorCal QuizBowl (I to r) are: **Aarush Zarabi. Arin Parsa**, and **Jasper Elsley**.

and plays competitive sports. Arin is into history, politics, current affairs, robotics, and recently literature, science.

With such diverse and deep interests that Aarush, Arin, and Jasper have, quiz bowl was a natural choice for them to explore. Quizbowl is an all-subject buzzer based team competition for middle schoolers and above.

Arin's mother started South Bay Quiz Kids last year in Almaden to increase awareness for quiz bowl as a way to deepen expertise, explore other subjects, develop team skills, and life skills needed for performance under pressure.

To learn about joining the South Bay Quiz Club, email southbayquizkids@googlegroups.com.

LETTERS

Beware Medicare scams

There is great news for Medicare enrollees, and a bit of caution regarding scammers. The good news is that Medicare will be sending out new Medicare cards to each recipient. The cards will arrive between April 1st of this year and will be completed by April 1st of 2019.

The new cards will not have the enrollee's Social Security number on them, as they do now. This is a major accomplishment for Medicare and is being done to help put a stop to identity theft via Social Security identification numbers. This problem has been rampant nationally and is very serious business for Medicare enrollees who have had their cards compromised by internet bandits.

The new cards will have an encrypted 11-digit number that even the holder will not be able to "unencrypt." So that is good

news. It was announced that California will be in the FIRST wave of states being sent the new cards, and that delivery is scheduled to begin May 1st.

But, along with the good news, bad news sometimes seems to follow. The bad news is that Medicare scammers have already jumped into the game. There is more than one technique involved, but these are the two most used.

First, scammers are calling Medicare recipients, sometimes identifying themselves as Medicare or "government" officials, and telling them that the new cards are coming out, but that they will have to send \$30-50 to get the new cards. That is bogus—there is no charge for the new cards—and CMS/Medicare does not call people—it only uses the US Postal Service to communicate.

The second technique is for the scammer to say that they have a Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug Plan available, but then request personal Medicare information so that the new plan can be utilized. This is also bogus. Whatever you do, do not fall for this. Medicare information is personal, and the scammers simply use it for other nefarious activities.

So, we don't know when or how the scammers will spring into operation in Northern California (San Francisco Bay Area) but it won't be long. If you receive one of these calls, just hang up, and report the activity with a call to 1-800-Medicare. And...above all, do not feel pressured to respond to any of these calls—the scammers are well-trained in intimidation and persistency. Don't fall for it.

Stanley Salah

Vote No on B (B=BAD); Vote Yes on C (Sí on C)

As have most voters in San Jose, you may have already received several slick brochures advertising a ballot measure that would presumably provide affordable housing for seniors and veterans in Evergreen. Don't be fooled; it's all a deception.

Measure B, or the so-called "Evergreen Senior Homes Initiative", was cleverly crafted to rewrite San Jose's rules for development in order to make a pair of developers massive profits. For everyone else, B stands for BAD, really, really bad. It's no surprise that Mayor Liccardo, all 10 city council members, and a growing list of non-partisan groups, including housing advocates, senior advocates and environmental groups (for example, AARP, SV@Home, Sierra Club, the League of Women Voters) are opposed to Measure B; they see right through the smoke screen.

Funded by billionaire developers Carl Berg and Chop Keenan with Ponderosa Homes, Measure B is a threat to every neighborhood in San Jose, including Almaden. The initiative actually encourages sprawling gated communities not only in Evergreen, but throughout the entire city and its outskirts.

Here is what Carl and Chop don't want you to know:

See BALLOT, page 6

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Times News Briefs

Bianchi

Continued from page 1 categories, a buzzer that was a real pain, and Alex Trebek not asking any pre-scripted questions," states Bianchi on her Facebook page. "Stick around for the whole thing — 'Final Jeopardy' is exciting and you don't want to miss it!"

Over the course of the twoweek event, 15 of America's sharpest students will vie for the \$100,000 grand prize and a berth in the next edition of the "Tournament of Champions."

"Jeopardy! College Championships" starts Monday, April 9 and will be broadcast on channel 7, KGO-TV.

Among the 15 college contestants, Bianchi and two other contestants will be representing the Bay Area. Joining Bianchi from the Bay Area are Patricia Jia, a Fremont resident and senior at the University of Pennsylvania; and William Scott, a Los Altos resident and freshman at Tufts University in Massachusetts.

JEOPARDY! and its host, Alex Trebek, are in their 34th season in syndication with more than 20 million viewers each week. JEOPARDY! is currently the toprated quiz show on television, and has won several awards and distinctions, including the 2017 Emmy for outstanding Game Show. The show holds a record for the most Emmy Awards won by a TV game show (34 Emmys); it is also the recipient of a 2011 Peabody Award.



Ballot

Continued from page 4

- Measure B is Bad for communities. It creates a loophole in San Jose's rulebook for development that could allow any property that supports employment to be converted into housing. From the local strip mall where you buy your groceries to the open spaces of Coyote Valley along San Jose's Southern border (a stones throw from Almaden) it's all up for grabs.
- Measure B is Bad for commutes. As if we didn't spend enough time sitting in traffic already, Measure B would increase congestion on Almaden Expressway and all of our highways while conveniently exempting these developers from having to pay the standard traffic impact fees that go towards improving infrastructure and public transit.
- Measure B is Bad for the budget. It is expected to cause a \$24.5 million/year deficit to San Jose's general fund, meaning less money for critical city services like police, fire, parks, and libraries. The livelihood, livability, and safety of our community is at stake.
- Measure B is Bad for the environment. Not only would it allow 200 acres of open space in

Evergreen to be developed without any environmental review, but it also opens the door for sprawl into Coyote Valley. Coyote Valley is regionally important for wildlife, flood mitigation, and water quality.

Put simply, this is a speculative scheme by wealthy developers who are trying to manipulate our compassion in order to make some serious cash - at our expense.

Recognizing the grave implications of Measure B, City Council stepped in and put forward a ballot measure, Measure C, that would nullify Measure B should it pass. Measure C forces developers to play by the rules, thwarts suburban sprawl, and protects tax payers and neighborhoods.

Both initiatives will be on our ballot this June. In the meantime, brace yourselves for an avalanche of glossy brochures of veterans and elderly couples playing with puppies, baking cookies and riding bikes with their grandkids, all designed to pull on your heartstrings and distract from the truth. I urge my neighbors to Vote No on B (B=BAD) and Yes on C (Sí on C) to stop these developers from exploiting our community. Learn more at www.NoOn Bsj.com.

Mackenzie Mossing
Almaden Valley



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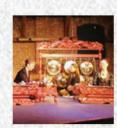
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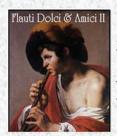
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FREE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FROM 5:00 TO 5:30 Pusaka Sunda is a gamelan degung ensemble dedicated to performing traditional and contemporary gamelan degung music from West Java, Indonesia. They will present an introduction to the music, dance, instruments and culture of this vibrant performing art.



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Times Features



The animals available for adoption have been vaccinated against diseases including West Nile virus.

Wild horses, burros available for adoption in King City

By Sean Eastwood

Times staff writer

wild horses and burros from western public rangelands will be available for public adoption, Saturday and Sunday, April 7 and 8, at the Salinas Valley Fairgrounds.

The Bureau of Land Management will offer 15 wild horses, all under 5-years-old, 10 gelding burros and 10 female burros.

Anyone interested can preview the animals from 7 to 9 a.m. Saturday, April 7. An auction begins at 9 a.m. Saturday, with bid prices starting at \$125 per animal. Horses and burros not taken during the auction will be available on a first-come, first-served basis until 5 p.m. Saturday and from 7 to 11 a.m. Sunday. The adoption fee is \$125.

"These animals are healthy and ready to train," said Amy Dumas, manager of

BLM-California's Wild Horse and Burro Program. "They have been vaccinated against equine diseases including West Nile virus. We provide complete health care records."

To qualify, adopters must be at least 18 and United States residents. They must provide corrals offering at least 400 square feet per animal. The BLM requires six-foot corral fences built of pipe or boards. Adopters can house horses under 2-years-old in corrals surrounded by five-foot fences. Burro corrals must have four-and-a-half-foot fences.

The BLM gathered these animals from public land ranges in ongoing work to manage wild populations in balance with other range users and available rangeland food and water.

The Salinas Valley Fairgrounds is located at 625 Division St., King City, CA.

NEWS BRIEFS

Blood donors urged to help restock Red Cross shelves after several severe winter storms

Though spring has officially arrived, the American Red Cross blood supply is still recovering from severe winter storms in March.

Donors of all blood types are urged to roll up a sleeve and help save lives.

Winter weather in parts of the country forced more than 270 blood drives to be canceled, resulting in over 9,500 uncollected blood and platelet donations in the first two weeks of March. No matter the weather, the need for blood to help cancer patients, those undergoing surgeries, trauma patients and others remains.

Volunteer blood donors from across the country are needed to help ensure lifesaving blood products are available for patients this spring.

Those interested in making an appointment to donate blood can download the

free Red Cross Blood Donor App, by visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Rotary club now meeting at the Fish Market

The Rotary Club of Almaden Valley has announced they are returning to the Fish Market restaurant for their weekly meetings.

The club meets every Thursday at 12:15 p.m. for fellowship, lunch, and interesting and informative programs dealing with topics of local and global importance

The Rotary Club of Almaden Valley, chartered in 1969, has approximately 30 men and women representing a wide cross-section of local businesses and professions. The club is a member of Rotary District 5170 comprised of 54 clubs and approximately 4000 members.

The Fish Market is located at 1007 Blossom Hill Rd, San Jose, Calif. 95123.



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NEWS BRIEFS





The kids and their family members alike enjoyed celebrating "Peace, Love and Kindness" at the 2018 Almaden Elementary School Walk-a-thon.

Almaden Elementary School's Annual Walk-a-Thon brings needed funds

he skies cleared for an enjoyable beautiful day for students, parents and faculty participating in Almaden Elementary School's biggest fundraiser of

The 2018 Walk-a-thon, held on March 23, raised needed funds for the school's PTA. This year's theme is Peace, Love and Kindness

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

Sponsors made a single donation for each participant, rather than donations based on laps or minutes walked.

Uniquely designed Act of Kindness tie-dye shirts were a big hit with the kids.

Family members walked with the students and cheered the participants from the sidelines.

Master Gardener program hosting educational workshops and massive vegetable and plant sale on April 14

By William Bellou Publisher

he University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Master Gardener Program of Santa Clara County is hosting a massive vegetable and plant sale on April 14.

The fair will be held from 9 a.m. - l 2 p.m. at Martial Cottle County/State Park, located at 8253 Snell Ave. in San Jose, on Saturday, April 14.

More than 100 Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer all your gardening questions and to provide plant educational workshops and tours.

The event will feature free popular gardening talks. Each 30-minute talk will be presented on a variety of gardening topics. The talks will be held in the Teaching Pavilion at the Spring Garden Market.

More than two and a half years of work have been spent developing the park's gardening program. More than 70 varieties of tomato plants, 72 pepper varieties, and many flowering and herb plants will be sold, along with gently used gardening items and tools.

Colorful and low water succulents and succulent arrangements are also for sale.

Make this a family outing and come for all the excitement. The day of fun will feature children's activities and tours of the beautiful four-acre parcel. Walk the various pathways in the park after attending the garden market for a beautiful outdoor scenic experience and a chance to commune with nature.

Gardening talk schedule:

Growing Great Tomatoes

10:00 to 10:30 a.m.

The discussion will include how and when to plant tomatoes, soil preparation, irrigation needs and fertilizing, along with staking or caging tips and hints.

Growing Chilies and Peppers

10:45 to 11:15 a.m.

We can grow an amazing variety of chilies in this area many colors, sizes, and heat levels. Learn how to get your plants off to a great start. The discussion will include covering, transplanting, watering, fertilizing, protecting, and harvesting.

Growing Vegetables in Containers

11:30 to Noon

Love the taste of fresh vegetables, but short on gardening space? If you've got a sunny porch, patio or balcony, you can grow many vegetables successfully in containers. We'll discuss container size, soil, watering, and fertilizing, along with which plants do well in containers. Several examples will be shown.

For more details, visit http://mgsantaclara.ucanr. edu/events/spring-garden-market





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www.ShawnAnsari.com Email: SAnsari@apr.com This model Shea home showcases an architectural beauty on the outside coupled with contemporary design and ample upgrades on the inside. Privately located in a cul-de-sac on a large flat lot. Many sustainable features include a 1-yr new roof, dual paned windows with plantation shutters, hardwood floors, custom lighting with wall sconces, highly efficient dual zone HVAC, and water-efficient grounds. The extraordinary family room offers a wet bar that connects your chef's gourmet kitchen to the distinctive backyard. Enjoy an end-of-day retreat on the patio, with Jacuzzi tub, BBQ & fire pit areas, colorful flower beds, and soaring redwoods. This house offers many special features including a spacious and bright entry area, generous living and dining rooms, home office, dedicated laundry room, security alarm system, and a 3-car garage with extra work area. Close to restaurants, shopping, health clubs, golf, Los Gatos hiking and biking trails, and offers highly-rated Union District schools.

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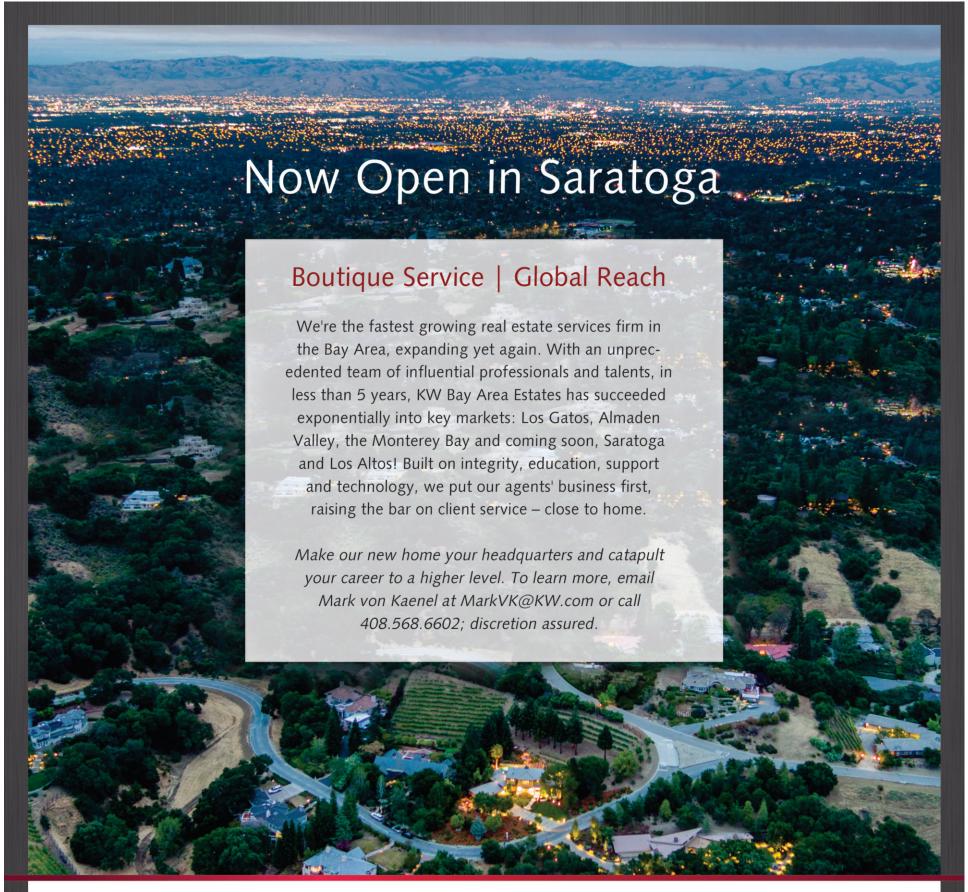
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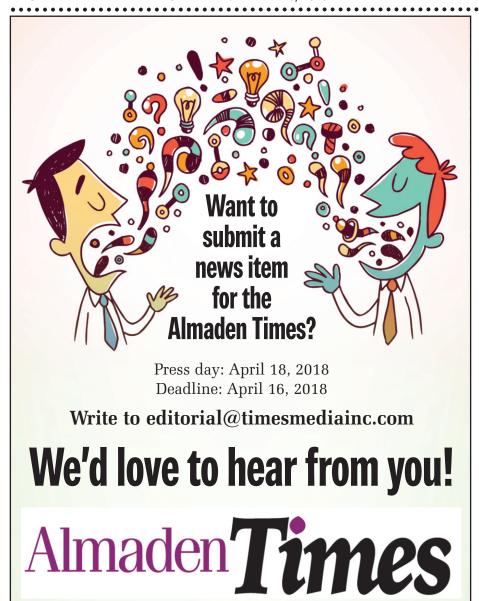


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Times Local News



Presentation High School Seniors from Almaden Valley — Front Row (L-R): **Morgan Helms, Sabrina Tian, Megan Milburn, Julia Southwell, Lily Turkstra, Jordyn Flora**; Back Row (L-R): **Taylor Togami, Allison Baroni, Anna Greene,** and **Peyton Balanay**. *Photo by Julie Ruppert*

Presentation High School Fashion Show set for April 21

By Sean Eastwood

Times staff writer

The 52nd annual Presentation High School Fashion Show, Lighting the Way, will be held on April 21, 2018. Senior girls will be modeling clothes from more than 10 different clothing and accessory stores.

The event will be held in the Mission City Ballroom at the Santa Clara Convention Center.

The lunch fashion show will begin at noon and the dinner fashion show starts at 7 p.m.

The Presentation High School Fashion Show benefits the Presentation Endowment for Financial Aid which provides scholarships to deserving young women.

An annual school tradition, the Presentation fashion show features seniors, alumnae, faculty and friends who come together to strike

a pose in the latest spring clothing lines from 14 local and national stores.

Talented student designers also pre-

miere custom creations, plus the national award-winning Presentation dance team performs. All proceeds support Presentation's endowment for financial aid, which provides tuition assistance that helps young women achieve their dreams of a college-prep education.

For more information and tickets, visit www.presentationhs.org/fashion-show



High school seniors begin preparation for walks on the runway for the 52nd Annual Presentation High School Fashion Show to be held on Sat., April 21.

Annual Going Native Garden Tour happening on April 8

On't miss out on the annual Going Native Garden Tour happening April 8.

You'll get an up-close look at beautiful native landscapes in demonstration gardens and private homes.

Going Native Garden Tour is a free, self-guided tour of home gardens featuring California Native Plants that are waterwise, attractive, low maintenance, low on chemical use, and bird and butterfly friendly.

The tour will demonstrate the benefits of landscaping with California native plants thrive in our climate. Gardens in San Jose, Santa Clara, Cupertino, Campbell, Los Gatos, and Gilroy/Morgan Hill are open on Sunday, April 8.

To recieve the list of gardens on the tour, registration is required. Admission is free and donations are accepted to support the tour.

For more information and to register, visit the Going Native Garden Tour website: http://gngt.org/GNGT/HomeRO.php

Times Local Sports



Leland Chargers pitcher Michael Garcia throws a fastball down the middle during a blowout over Santa Teresa. Photo by Aaron Tan

Leland blowout over Santa Teresa

By Aaron Tan

Prep2Prep Student Contributor Special to the Times

olding a five-run lead in the bottom of the fourth inning with Lrunners on second and third base, Leland senior Justin Kuhns knew that he had a prime opportunity to put the game away.

He promptly did, hitting the ball high in the air for a RBI double, to give the Chargers a seven-run lead. Leland ended up getting the 7-1 win over Santa Teresa (0-9, 0-3 Mt. Hamilton).

Leland (6-3-1, 3-0 BVAL-Mt. Hamilton) established its dominance right off the bat. In the bottom of the first inning, sophomore Carson Yates hit a RBI double, scoring two men and drawing first blood to take a 2-0 lead. Right after, sophomore Joey Taddie hit a RBI single to increase the Chargers' lead to 3-0.

The Chargers weren't done after the first inning. In the bottom of the second, sophomore Lucas Mirizzi hit a RBI single to increase Leland's lead to 4-0. Mirizzi hit another RBI single in the bottom of the fourth inning to add another run on the scoreboard for the Chargers right before Kuhns hit an RBI double to give Leland a 7-0 run and seal the game. Santa Teresa (0-9, 0-3) junior Jacob Liquori hit a RBI single to put the Saints on the board, but that was it for them, as they fell to the Chargers 7-1.

It was a tale of two pitchers, as Leland junior Michael Garcia only allowed one run and four hits on the game, earning him the win, while Santa Teresa junior Ryan Sleeman gave up seven runs and nine hits, which gave him a loss on the

Leland head coach Mike Sparrer still emphasized the need for more practice.

"We have to practice. We've had a few weeks that we haven't been on the field a whole lot because of the weather and a tournament. So getting on the field and getting the timing back helped us a lot," Sparrer said. "We had a good comeback win last Friday, which I think that gave us a lot of confidence."

Santa Teresa head coach Lance Motch, whose team is still winless this season, believed that this team needs to use this loss as motivation.

"Our pitcher gave up too many runs off the bat, which means we're playing catch up, so that's usually not a good thing. The baseball gods weren't great to us today — every time our guys hit something, it hit right to Leland," Motch said. "It's still early. We still have eighteen more games left on the season."

Incredible Leland Chargers baseball team rally shocks Westmont

By Sean Eastwood

Times staff writer

Talk about a comeback!

A jaw-dropping rally by the Leland High School baseball team shocked host Westmont on March 23.

The Chargers entered the seventh inning trailing 8-0, and by the end of the inning, Leland had achieved a 9-8 victory with Justin Kuhns hitting a two-run single resulting in driving in both the tying and winning runs.

Kuhns said the Chargers "got the life back in us after the team began some hard hitting home runs.'

"I knew I just needed to put the ball in play, try and hit the ball hard. With two strikes, I tried to fight and I got lucky. I put a good swing on the ball," Kuhns said.

'Chargers coach Mike Sparrers said that the team is showing a lot of character and a lot of heart, and a lot of fight!



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Times Features

ASK THE LAWYER

Development of real property in Silicon Valley

Ask the

Lawyer

By Steven R. Roeser, Esq. Special to the Times

This week's question:

I am thankful to have had a successful small business, and I recently sold it for more money than I need. I am looking at developing a raw piece of land. What risks and challenges do I face?

Almaden Valley

Dear Gary:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 2. PLAN YOUR DEVELOPMENT PROJ-ECT AND PROCEED
- 1. Determine the type of development

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

- 2. Determine your financial resources. Determine your borrowing potential.
- 3. Create a budget and time line that is likely and to do that. Obtain the first part of your team in the sense of discussing the matter with them. This would normally be a builder, perhaps an engineer and/or architect.
- 4. Find a good real estate broker and begin your search

and learn the market. Don't buy anything

- 5. Once the property is located, create the legal framework that will do the development. You will need the lawyer and CPA to accomplish that. This will cost some
- 6. Get financing arranged for both the purchase and the development.
- 7. Using the architect and builder get preliminary plans for the property. This will cost some money.
- 8. Conclude the financing package.
- 9. Have the property surveyed and soils, water, hazardous waste, etc, and checked and certified as appropriate.
- 10. Buy the property. If possible, buy it contingent on the approvals described
- 11. Have the architect create final building plans with the engineer. This will cost you money. Submit the plans for approval by all local building, zoning and environmental departments and agencies. This will cost money and take twice the time you think it will.
- 12. Enter into construction contracts with the general contractor (GC hereafter) and, if the GC does not, with the subs.
- 13. Supervise the construction. Expect and budget for many delays and problems.
 - 14. Rent or sell the property.
- 15. Enjoy your profits and look for the

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

Until next time ... Kindest Regards,

Steven R. Roeser, Esq.

You can reach Mr. Roeser with your questions by email at steve@roeserlaw.net, 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

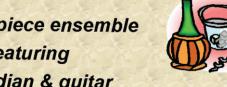


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Times Your Community

Leland graduate **Holly Geranen** earns Dean's Award at Colgate University

olly Geranen of Almaden Valley has earned the Dean's Award for Academic Excellence at Colgate University.

Geranen, a graduate of Leland High School, is majoring in educational studies. A student athlete, Geranen has been a captain on the softball team since sophomore her

"Athletics develop leadership and decision-making

skills which prepares and propels students to obtain successful and professional careers," said Geranen.

Students who receive a term grade point average of 3.3 or higher while completing at least three courses earn the fall Dean's Award for Academic

Colgate University is a highly selective residential liberal arts institution distinguished by its commitment to global engagement, student-faculty research, offcampus study, sustainable practices, and utilizing technology to enhance the teaching and learning experience.

THE WISDOM TOOTH



VTA offering free 'Smart Cycling' bicycle safety courses

TA and the Santa Clara County Public Health Department is offering Smart Cycling bicycle safety courses for free this spring.

If you feel uncomfortable bicycling on busy streets, the free course is a great way to gain skill and confidence.

The two-day course includes one classroom session and one bicycle riding ses-

The training will cover how to ride safely and perform maintenance on your bike, rules of the road, bicycle commute, etc. All participants at Smart Cycling training must be high school age or older.

To sign up at the closest session location around the county, visit the Smart Cycle website: vta.org/SmartCycling





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Aging process adds to dental challenges for older patients

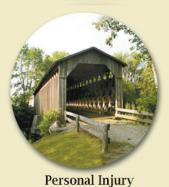
By Susan R. Di Bene DDS

Special to the Times

Q: I find as I get older, I am becoming more cavity prone. It seems like every year more teeth begin to decay underneath crowns and fillings that were done no more than five years ago. Did my doctor do a poor job? J.K. Campbell

A: This is another fine example of: "don't shoot your dentist." Many patients get angry if their dental work does not last a lifetime. The body is always changing and disease can occur at any time no matter how recent the dental work was completed. You are one of many that are suffering from this common disease facing patients 65 and older. "Root caries caused by xerostomia can be induced by medications and the aging process itself. "In simple terms: dry-mouth, which destroys the acid reducing, buffering capacity of the oral cavity resulting in decay of the teeth, under the gum-line, along the root surfaces. Many of these teeth are better off not being root canaled and re-crowned, but instead, extracted and replaced with dental implants which have a much better long -term prognosis. Ask your dentist for some preventive treatments for root caries such as custom fluoride trays and saliva substitutes.

Dr. Di Bene practices Cosmetic, Implant and General Dentistry in Almaden and can be reached at 408-268-8420. "The Doctor's Dentist".



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Please recycle this newspaper!

Times Feature

Mineta

Continued from page 1

traveled together to Okayama, Japan to create a business relationship with San Jose's sister-city.

"Norm was articulate and constructive and put the city of San Jose in the best possible light," says Gannon. "He was well-suited as a politician, willing to make the sacrifices necessary to participate wherever he could to make a difference."

Gannon credits the Japanese American community with moving Mineta from the mayor's office to Congress. "Let's send Norm to Washington," read banners in Japantown. "He thrived there," he says.

One time, when they were at the airport set to go on a business trip, Gannon says Mineta wouldn't cross the strikers picket line and disturb the labor community. "He was the consummate politician," he says.

On a ride-along, Mineta learned that for police to get from one side of the precinct to another, they had to go through Cupertino on a circuitous route due to various land parcels. Realizing this cost the city a lot of money, he called for a vote on annexation and planning for urban transition and urban reserve areas.

During the four years he was mayor, San Jose's population exploded, increasing from 320,000 to 580,000 residents. "As an agricultural community converting to a high-tech community, we wanted to make sure the community grew gracefully with proper planning," says Mineta.

Family

Mineta says that his father, Kunisaku, was his inspiration. At age 14, his father traveled



Norman Mineta (white shirt, front) and his parents **Kunisaku** and **Kane** (right) at the Heart Mountain, Wyoming internment camp during World War II. *Photo courtesy of Norman Mineta*

from Japan to America by himself to live with an uncle in Salinas. His uncle put Kunisaku in first grade to learn English at age 16. Humiliated, by the end of the second grade, Kunisaku decided he had learned enough English and graduated himself.

He went to work at Spreckles Sugar Factory, then started a sugar beet operation until he contracted Spanish Influenza in 1918. After being hospitalized, he was unable to do strenuous work and took on odd jobs in San Jose. One day, while working as a court interpreter, two men asked Kunisaku if he'd like to go into the insur-

ance business and offered to train him. In 1920, he became a life insurance agent, starting the Mineta Insurance Agency. The business proved profitable enough to send Mineta's four siblings to college.

However, even before World War II, life held its challenges for Japanese American families. The California Alien Land Laws prohibited aliens ineligible for citizenship from owning agricultural land. In 1928, when Mineta's parents chose a parcel of land on Fifth St. for their family home, their attorney, JB Peckham, purchased the land in his name. When the Mineta's oldest child turned 21, and was considered a natural born citizen, Peckham signed over the ownership of the property to her.

"If you looked at Santa Clara, San Bernardino, Santa Cruz and Monterey County parcels, you'd see JB Peckham's name," says Mineta. "What he was doing was putting thousands of properties in his name for people of Chinese, Filipino and Japanese ancestry. Mr. Peckham really did a great service. He was a man of high integrity."

In his quote on a commemorative landmark bench in Japantown, Mineta recalls his father giving him produce to take to the Peckhams as a small measure of appreciation. "Peckam also visited properties owned by Japanese Americans during World War II to make sure they were okay," says Kathy Sakamoto, Executive Director of the Japantown Business Association. "That's why we had a Japantown to come back to."

When the Immigration Act of 1952 eliminated race as a basis for naturalization, making Japanese and other foreign-born Asians eligible to become American citizens, Mineta went to federal court in San Francisco to see his parents sworn in.

World War II

On Feb. 19, 1942—ten weeks after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor—President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, authorizing the removal of any or all people from military areas. In response, the state of California suspended the insurance licenses of those of Japanese ancestry, putting Mineta's father out of business.

To make matters worse, the military defined the entire West Coast as a military area. Signs soon appeared nailed to utility poles and on the sides of buildings in the neighborhoods of people of Japanese ancestry. "Instructions to those of Japanese ances-

try, alien and non-alien..." they read. As a 10-year-old boy, born and raised in San Jose, Mineta looked at the signs in confusion. "What's a non-alien?" he asked his brother. "That's you," his brother replied. "I'm not a non-alien," insisted Mineta. "I'm a citizen!" "In this instance," his brother said, "they both mean the same thing."

On May 29, 1942, the Mineta family was forcibly evacuated. They boarded a train in a San Jose freight yard, not knowing where they were headed with military police in every car. Mineta was dressed in his Cub Scout uniform, holding his baseball bat and mitt. As he was getting on the train, a military police officer confiscated his baseball bat as it could be used as a weapon.

"I looked at my father sitting behind me and there were tears coming down his face," says Mineta. "The only other times I ever saw my dad cry were on Dec. 7, 1941, when the country of his birth was attacking the country he loved and when my mother, Kane, passed away in June of 1956."

The family was interned at Santa Anita Racetrack in Arcadia, California until Nov. 1942. Their next destination was Heart Mountain, Wyoming. "When we got off the train, the wind was blowing sand on our faces and sagebrush was flying around," he says. "It was freezing cold and we weren't wearing coats." At the barracks, the roofs were made of tar paper and sand was everywhere; coming up through the floor boards and through the windows. As they had no brooms to sweep it up, they had to use cardboard.

By June, more than 110,000 Japanese Americans were relocated to remote internment camps, living under poor conditions.

As Kunisaku wanted to help with the war effort, he offered to teach Japanese to U.S. Army personnel at the University of Chicago in March 1943. In Nov. 1943, the army allowed Mineta and his mother to leave the camp and join his father. On Thanksgiving in Nov. 1945, they returned to their home in San Jose.

"Japanese Americans did not hold rancor against the United States," says Mineta, "but they did hold a strong conviction that something like this should never happen again."

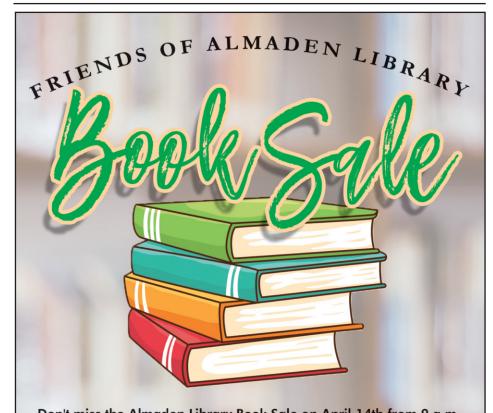
Mineta attended Jefferson Grammer School, Peter Burnett Jr. High School, San Jose High School and U.C. Berkeley. He started college as an aeronautical engineer. Then he took calculus. "I decided for the safety of the country that I should find something else to do," he laughs. He decided to be an Economics major and graduated from the School of Business Administration. As he was in the ROTC program, following graduation he joined the army to fight in the Korean War. In Jan. 1954, he was transferred to Japan and was stationed at Camp Zama until April 1956.

In 1974, at age 86, his father passed away. "I chose very carefully the family I was born into," he says. "I had a great father, a great mother, three great older sisters and a great older brother."

Public Service: Washington, D.C.

Mineta was a member of Congress for more than 20 years and served in the cabinets of both the Clinton and Bush administrations.

In 1974, the National Japanese-American Citizens League passed a resolution to seek an official apology and redress payments from the U.S. government. Mineta first worked on this with President Jimmy Carter, and then President Ronald Reagan. The redress proposal was named "House Resolution 442" in honor of the Japanese



Don't miss the Almaden Library Book Sale on April 14th from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Almaden Library located at 6445 Camden Avenue in San Jose. You will find a huge selection of gently used books and media with the majority priced at \$1.00 or less. And, you'll leave knowing that you're helping the Friends of Almaden Library support local library programs and additions to the library collection that benefit the whole community.

BYO bags and we'll see you there!

Images by Freepik

Times Feature

American 442nd regiment, the most decorated American combat unit in World War II. After two years, a commission concluded that the government had violated the constitutional rights of those of Japanese ancestry by interning them during World War II and recommended the issuance of an apology by the U.S. Congress and payment of \$20,000 per internee. They said the cause of the government action was based on historical racial discrimination, wartime hysteria and weak protocol leadership. This report of the commission of World War II wartime relocation and internment of civilians became the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. It was one of Mineta's proudest and most poignant accomplishments. He chaired the House the day it passed the legislation.

"It was a deeply emotional day," says Mineta, "and it was a great privilege. A country that was able to look at itself and admit a wrong, apologize for and redress it, is amazing. Throughout my political career, I fought for those who were underrepresented in the public discourse. It shows the greatness of this country that I was able to do these things."

Mineta's key legislative accomplishments include the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1991 and the Intermodal Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991. He also co-founded the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.

Due to his authoring the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, Mineta was made an Honorary Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers. A man wrote him a congratulatory letter and said he was touched by his story of losing his baseball bat in 1942 and wanted to share a bat from his collection. Mineta opened the box to see a bat signed by "Hammerin' Hank" Aaron and Sadaharu Oh, the homerun king of Japan. When a reporter learned that the bat was worth \$1500. Mineta had no choice but to return it as the gift limitation for members of Congress was \$250. He sent a copy of the letter to the reporter with a note in the corner, "The damn government's taken my bat again." When Mineta retired from Congress in 1995, the gentleman said he still wanted Mineta to have the bat and sent it back to him. It hangs in his office today, along with baseballs signed by Aaron, Sadaharu and "Iron Man" Cal Ripkin, who invited him to throw the first ball at Baltimore's Camden Yards in 1995.

After leaving Congress, Mineta operated a company for Lockheed Martin, developing E-ZPass, an electronic toll collection for toll



President Ronald Reagan signs the redress law, H.R. 442. Photo courtesy of Norman Mineta

booths at the Port Authority in New York

In 2000, Mineta was appointed by President Bill Clinton as the United States Secretary of Commerce.

One night the phone rang. It was John Podesta, Chief of Staff to President Bill Clinton letting Mineta know he was on the short list to be the new Secretary of Commerce. "Would you be interested?" Podesta asked. "John, do you want me to crawl through the telephone wire to give you my answer?" answered Mineta. "Okay," Podesta said, "I'll put you down for a 'Yes." On Thursday morning, President Clinton called to tell him he was being nominated for Secretary of Commerce. He was soon confirmed.

At the Department of Commerce, Mineta was known for his work on technology issues, streamlining the patent and trademark process and achieving international cooperation.

At the end of that term, Vice President Dick Cheney called him as President George W. Bush was interested in having him serve as the Secretary of Transportation. Mineta had some misgivings being a Democrat working for a Republican cabinet and consulted President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore about taking the job.

He and his wife, Danealia (Deni), flew by private jet to Austin, Texas, and then rode in a motorcade to the governor's mansion. In the governor's mansion, they were driven into a tent so that reporters couldn't tell who was arriving. The President invited them to join him in the library. "You're one of the few people I want to talk to about this job," he said, "and my father agrees." They spoke about transportation for an hour and 45 minutes. "When the president officially offered me the position," says Mineta, "I looked to Deni and she nodded so I turned to him and said, 'Mr. President, it would be my honor to accept."

Mineta was the longest-serving Secretary of Transportation in history, serving President George W. Bush from 2001 to 2006. Following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, he led the Transportation Security Administration, an agency with more than 65,000

He later took a position as vice chairman with Hill & Knowlton, a strategic global planning firm.

9/11

On September 11, 2001, after two planes deliberately crashed into the World Trade Center and a third into the Pentagon, Mineta said, "That's the third commercial airliner used as a missile today.

Bring all the airplanes down." When Air Traffic Control told him they would bring the airplanes down per pilot discretion, Mineta replied, "Screw pilot discretion! Bring all the damn planes down!"

They had 4,638 airplanes in the air over the United States and in 2 hours and 20 minutes, they were able to bring them all down safely. At 9:45 a.m., Mineta called David Collenette, the Minister of Transport in Canada, saying, "David, we need your help. We have planes coming from Europe and Asia." They sent back 250 planes which hadn't crossed the halfway point and asked Canada to take the 224 remaining.

"Within minutes, an aerial wall had been erected around the United States of America, and Canada found itself on the front line," wrote Collenette in an article for Maclean's.

"We had no way of knowing who was on

the planes. In addition, as news of the attacks in New York was broadcast, there were bomb threats at Canadian airports. Accepting these aircraft might put Canadian lives at risk, but the alternative was unthinkable: planes running out of fuel and crashing. Canada had to accept them and the risks."

Collenette knew that although Montreal and Toronto were the largest airports with the best

and hijackers could easily redirect flights to nearby American cities. As Newfoundland and Labrador were staging areas for troops during WWII, they had airports with long | your colleagues.'

runways ideal for receiving a large number of planes.

"We also had to deal with the Pacific: there were still 90 flights en route to North America and many did not have the fuel to get back to Asia," he says. "There was significant risk to landing planes in Vancouver, given the population density and the proximity of the airport to the downtown area." They did it anyway.

Watching the terrorist attack unfold on television, Collenette says that his chest tightened at the sight of the impact, followed by the unbelievable belching up of fire and smoke. "Then the second tower was hit, followed by the image of both towers crumbling in one last gasp to the ground. I looked out the window of my office toward the Parliament Buildings and the majestic Peace Tower and tears welled up. I abruptly switched the television off. I needed to make dispassionate, reasoned judgments. There would be time to grieve later."

In Halifax, Nova Scotia that day, their population of 5000 to 6000 doubled. "Planes were parked at their small airport nose to tail, wingtip to wingtip," says Mineta. "They had a couple of motels and people in that town set up cots in schools, social halls and opened their homes."

Mineta called Collenette back around 4 p.m. thanking him for the efforts of the Canadian government and the Canadians who had welcomed strangers stuck at their airports. "I felt an immense pride," says Collenette, "in what Canada was doing to help our American friends."

Accolades

In San Jose, in addition to the airport, California State Highway 85 and the Mineta Transportation Institute at San Jose State University were named after Norman

Mineta

In 2006, Mineta was awarded Presidential Medal of Freedom from President George W. Bush. In 2012, he was awarded the Distinguished Medal of Honor for Lifetime Achievement and Public Service by the Japanese American National Museum.

"I always tell young people there are two things you own: your name and your integri-

infrastructure, they were densely populated 1 ty," says Mineta. "You have to protect both. In my life in politics, I have tried to protect that integrity because without it you don't have credibility with your constituents or





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Sunday.

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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

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and adults can be

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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.

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www.ThePoint.Church 3695 Rose Terrasse Circle. San Jose CA 95148. Located at the top of Aborn Rd and Murillo Ave. Come be inspired and build your faith as we worship together this Sunday @ 10:30 AM KidsPoint is our children's ministry, serving infants through 5th grade. It is a fun and safe experience for kids as they grow in their walk with God. ONE is our student ministry, serving 6th through 12th grades. We help lead students into a growing relationship with Jesus through con-

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



God is One ਰੱਬ ਇਕ ਹੈ Rab Ik Hai

SAN JOSE GURDWARA 3636 Gurdwara Ave. San Jose, CA 95148 The word Sikh (see-kh) means "disciple" or "student." A Sikh is a practitioner of the faith founded in the 15th century by Guru Nanak in Puniah 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

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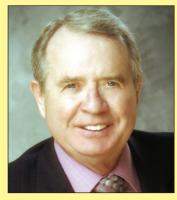
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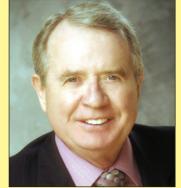
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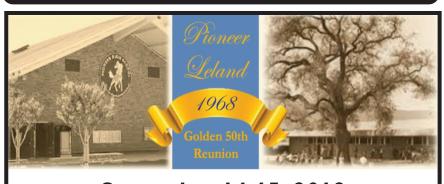
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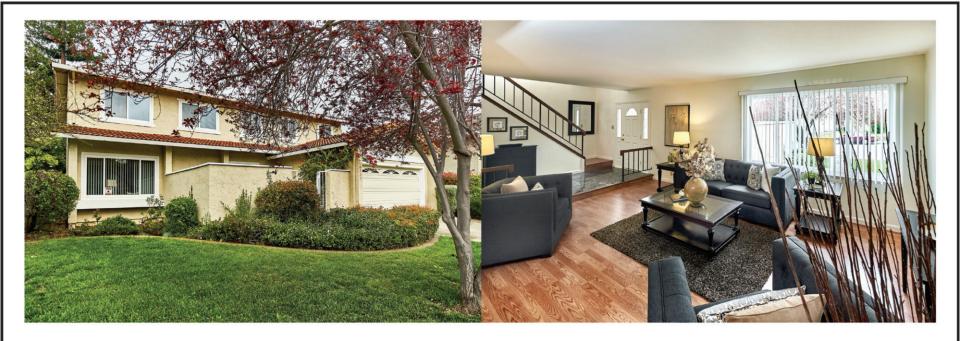
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