

GIFTS TO THE HOLIDAY FUND
help children and others in need. Page 12

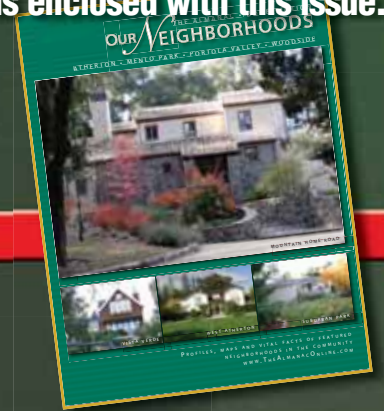
The Almanac

THE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER FOR MENLO PARK, ATHERTON, PORTOLA VALLEY AND WOODSIDE

DECEMBER 26, 2007 www.TheAlmanacOnline.com

| VOL. 43 NO. 17

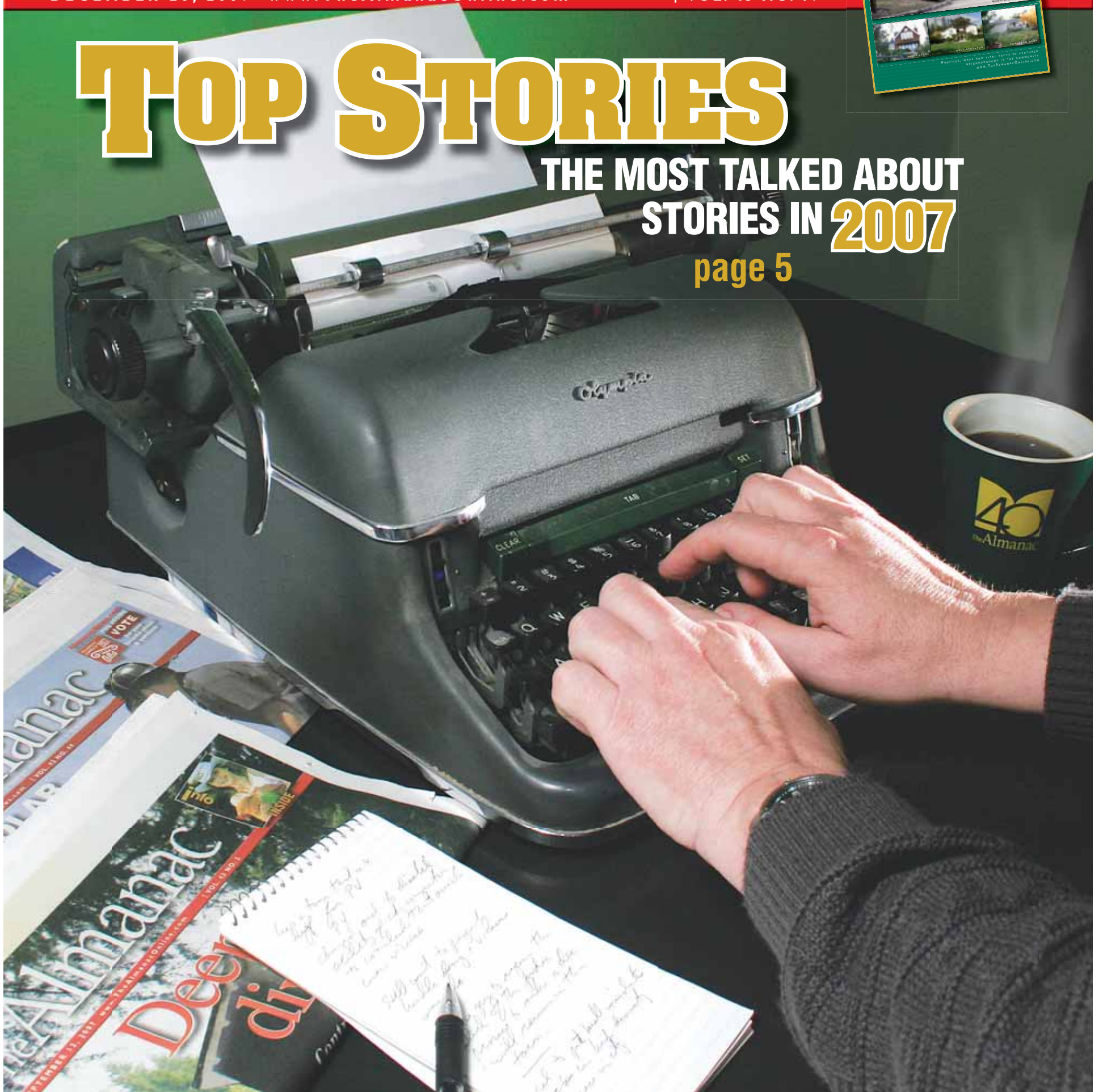
Here's a keeper:
The Almanac's annual profile
of 35 local neighborhoods
is enclosed with this issue.



TOP STORIES

THE MOST TALKED ABOUT
STORIES IN **2007**

page 5





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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF MENLO PARK CITY COUNCIL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Menlo Park, California is scheduled to review the following items:

Use Permit, Architectural Control, Heritage Tree Permit, Tentative Map, Environmental Review/1906 El Camino Real, LLC/1906 El Camino Real: Consideration of a use permit, architectural control, heritage tree permit, tentative parcel map, and environmental review to demolish an existing one-story, 5,750 square-foot commercial building (formerly The Acorn Restaurant) and construct a new two-story, 9,825 square-foot office building for medical/dental office use and the related site improvements at 1906 El Camino Real located in the C-4 (General Commercial applicable to El Camino Real) zoning district. The applicant also requests 49 parking spaces based on the use-based parking guidelines where 59 parking spaces would otherwise be required in the C-4 zoning district. The proposed project would require the following approvals: 1) Use Permit for construction of a new building and the number of parking spaces based on the use-based parking guidelines; 2) Architectural Control for design review of the new building and related site improvements; 3) Heritage Tree Permit for the removal of two heritage trees, 4) Tentative Parcel Map for the creation of four medical/office condominium units within the building; and 5) Mitigated Negative Declaration to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project. **(This item is up on appeal to the City Council and was referred back to the Planning Commission for review and comment on the traffic study and associated Mitigated Negative Declaration, architectural detail of the exterior design at the corner of El Camino Real and Watkins Avenue, and sidewalk modifications along Watkins Avenue).**

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that said City Council will hold a public hearing on this item in the Council Chambers of the City of Menlo Park, located at 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, on **Tuesday, January 8, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.** or as near as possible thereafter, at which time and place interested persons may appear and be heard thereon. If you challenge these items in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Menlo Park at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Documents related to these items may be inspected by the public on weekdays between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, with alternate Fridays closed, at the Community Development Department, 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park. Please call **Lorraine Weiss**, Contract Planner, at (415) 921-5344 or email her at lorraine@lorraine-weiss.com if you have any questions or comments.

DATED: December 19, 2007
Sherry M. Kelly, Interim City Clerk

Visit our Web site for public hearing, agenda, and staff report information: <http://www.ci.menlo-park.ca.us>

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on December 26, 2007.

Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT



Almanac photo by Veronica Weber

All aboard

Lauren Mercer of the West Bay Model Railroad Association operates one of the trains featured in the group's annual show, which was held Dec. 7 to 9 in the former baggage/freight building at 1090 Merrill St. in Menlo Park. The club meets every Wednesday night and every fourth Wednesday the layout is open to the public for viewing from 7 to 10 p.m. For more information, call Mr. Mercer at 322-9335.

Atherton

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Viewpoint

- Guest opinion: "High-speed rail: doomsday for Menlo Park," by Martin Engel. **Page 16**
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On the cover

Well, OK, we don't use typewriters anymore, but some of the top news of the year is reminiscent of years past, including an effort to save (at least the appearance of) the old Park Theatre movie house. Cover photo by Veronica Weber. See **Page 5**

CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

The Almanac offices are at **3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025.**

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■ E-mail news to (no photos please): **editor@AlmanacNews.com**
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To request free delivery, or stop delivery, of The Almanac in zip code 94025, 94027, 94028 and the Woodside portion of 94062, call **854-2626**.

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PUBLIC NOTICE


AVAILABILITY OF NOTICE OF PREPARATION/ INITIAL STUDY FOR PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

MENLO PARK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT ENCINAL SCHOOL – MODERNIZATION, EXPANSION AND TEACHER EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Menlo Park City School District intends to prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) for the proposed Encinal School Modernization, Expansion and Teacher Education Resource Center. A Notice of Preparation (NOP)/Initial Study (IS) is available that provides a description of the project and the environmental issues that will be addressed as part of the EIR. The NOP/IS is intended to serve as a basis to solicit any comments that you may have about the scope of the environmental review.

The documents will be available for a period of 30 days from Thursday, December 20, 2007, to Saturday, January 19, 2008, for review. Copies of the document are available at the Menlo Park City School District Office, the Menlo Park City Library and the Atherton Town Library. It is also posted on the internet at www.mpcsd.org/ facilities. Further information may be obtained by calling 650-321-7140, Option 6, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Comments must be submitted, in writing, to: Ahmad Sheikholeslami, P.E., Facility Planner/Program Manager, Menlo Park City School District, 181 Encinal Avenue, Atherton, CA 94027, within the 30-day review period.

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on December 26, 2007.



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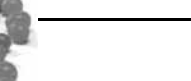


Let us help you
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Cocktail Prawn Platter Serves 15-20 people	\$50.00 ea.
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Spinach Dip Serves 15-18 people	\$30.00 ea.

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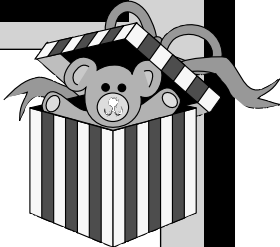

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Enough Champagne to go Around?

It seems there is so much reason to celebrate around the world that the demand for Champagne is about to exceed supply. As the economies of India, Russia, and China thrive, there has been a very significant increase in the demand for French bubbly. Consider the fact that global Champagne sales have risen sharply in recent years, from 287 million bottles in 2002 to 321 million in 2006. In 2007, sales were expected to reach 330 million bottles. At the same time, experts say that the maximum number of bottles that can be produced from the 32,6000 hectares of vineyards authorized to produce the black grapes needed for champagne is 350 million. The recommendation for consumers is to purchase Champagne early.

From New Years celebrations, to successful business ventures, champagne is in high demand. At ROBERTS MARKET, we can guide you on your way to picking champagne, or one of the many sparkling wine alternatives. In addition to the champagne for the party, we can help you cater the party yourself or visit our "heat and eat it" department for wonderful gourmet prepared foods. You can find prepared foods such as home-made hot soups, sandwiches, salads, and gourmet food stuffs.

HINT: While the production of French Champagne is strictly controlled, which limits production, there are numerous alternative sparkling wines that may be just as enjoyable.

BOB - WINE

WINE

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AThERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

High-speed trains may zip through Atherton, MP

■ Rail authority picks Peninsula route for high-speed trains.

By **Rory Brown**
Almanac Staff Writer

The California High-Speed Rail Authority Board has chosen Pacheco Pass as the preferred California high-speed rail route, meaning passenger trains traveling up to 220 mph between San Francisco and Los Angeles could zoom through Menlo Park, Atherton, and other Peninsula cities in as soon as 10 years if a \$10 billion bond measure passes in November.

The bond measure is only a first

step in a massive undertaking, estimated by the rail authority to cost in excess of \$40 billion. The state must attract matching federal funds, additional local funds and donations from the private sector before trains will be up and running.

Under the plan, high-speed trains would connect to Gilroy from the Central Valley, and shoot up the Caltrain corridor to San Francisco, and then back.

If the project is built, it would require grade separations — sepa-



High-speed trains that reach speeds up to 220 mph are proposed to zip up and down the Caltrain corridor.

Concept image by Newlands & Co. Inc.

rating the Caltrain tracks from the roadway at key intersections — and years of construction and traffic impacts as additional tracks are added for the faster trains.

The California High-Speed Rail Authority Board chose the route at its Dec. 19 meeting in Sacramento.

No vote was taken, but there was no objection to the choice of Pacheco Pass as the preferred route, said Dan Leavitt, high-speed rail authority deputy director.

Politicians and environmental groups point to high-speed rail as a big step toward cutting greenhouse

gas emissions. They see high-speed trains as an environmentally friendly alternative to congested freeways and air travel, and vital to accommodating the state's growing population.

See **RAIL**, page 8

TOP STORIES

The Almanac's most talked about stories of 2007

By **Andrea Gemmet**
Almanac Staff Writer

These are the stories that got people talking and kept reporters hopping in 2007. The events and decisions that caused upheaval and consternation, and kept the Letters to the Editor column full and The Almanac's online Town Square forum buzzing.

Newsroom staff chose these stories as among the top in 2007: In Menlo Park, the fate of a vintage movie theater polarizes the community; in Atherton, things get nasty over the finance director's firing; the county sheriff finds himself on the wrong end of a law enforcement raid in Las Vegas; Menlo Park schools say "bienvenidos" to Spanish lessons for grade-schoolers while parents uneasily eye boundary changes; and open space advocates gain lots of ground, but say farewell to a longtime champion.

The buck stops at Park Theatre

What started as one resident's interest in saving a 60-year-old movie theater, turned into a controversial plan to use city funds to aid a private business in Menlo Park's months-long Park Theatre saga.

Resident Andy Duncan approached the City Council in January with plans to restore the now-vacant El Camino Real movie house and convert it into a dance studio for the Menlo Park Academy of Dance.

But in August, Mr. Duncan asked for financial help from the city in order to pay for the expensive historical restoration of the building.

Council members flirted with different forms of Mr. Duncan's proposal for several months, and Mayor Kelly Fergusson — along with fellow council members Richard Cline and Heyward Robinson — eventually voted to try to negotiate a deal with Mr. Duncan, a decision that angered many residents who said taxpayer dollars should not be used to help a private business when there is so little public benefit.

The latest proposal called for the city to buy the theater for \$2.2 million and lease it to Mr. Duncan for up to 55 years, but the deal fell through in November, as council members decided the cost to the city was too great, and the public benefit too small. At the end, Mayor Fergusson was the last supporter standing on the council.

Atherton dumps finance director

Just when it seemed as if things had calmed down in Atherton following last year's upheaval in the building department, the town government scene erupted again, this time over Finance Director John Johns. Mr. Johns went from low-profile head of the finance department to become a controversial figure after leading the 2006 audits of the town's building department.

A hostile workplace complaint against Mr. Johns filed by Police Chief Bob Brennan in May, and counter allegations made by Mr. Johns, made it clear that two of the town's most senior department heads did not get along. An investigator was hired, Mr. Johns was suspended, then he was fired in October — and now he's pursuing a wrongful



Almanac photo by Veronica Weber

Cars zipped by the abandoned and sign-less Park Theatre. A public-private plan to restore — at least the appearance — of the former movie house went down in flames in 2007.

termination claim against the town.

Mr. Johns says the investigation of him was biased; he says he's been targeted because he blew the whistle on irregularities in the building and police departments.

Meanwhile, town officials recently bolstered their argument for firing Mr. Johns by releasing the highly unflattering investigator's report, in response to the Almanac's state Public Records Act request.

Adding to the turmoil was the departure of City Manager Jim Robinson, who retired this summer, shortly after the hostile workplace claim was made. The City Council is reportedly interviewing finalists for the city manager job.

Wrong place, wrong time

What happened in Vegas certainly didn't stay in Vegas in the case of San Mateo County Sheriff Greg Munks and

Undersheriff Carlos Bolanos, both of whom were caught on the premises of a Las Vegas brothel in April.

Mr. Munks and Mr. Bolanos were detained and questioned by Las Vegas police on April 21, spurring a media frenzy about the county's top two law enforcement officers.

In town for a law enforcement run, Sheriff Munks said the officers visited the brothel thinking it was a legitimate massage parlor.

Whether they were at the unmarked house three miles off the main strip for a massage, or something else, the officers ended up in the middle of a major raid orchestrated by Vegas law enforcement and the FBI to catch major players in the local prostitution ring — an effort labeled "Operation Dollhouse."

The only public comment issued by

See **TOP STORIES**, page 8

Residents pack council meeting, insist on vote, decry turmoil

■ City Council obliges: It agrees to hold June election to fill vacant council seat.

By Renee Batti
Almanac News Editor

If Atherton City Council members had any intention of appointing the replacement on the council for recently resigned member Alan Carlson, they abandoned it in the face of an intense lobbying effort by residents insisting on an election.

Voters will decide on June 3 who will take the council's fifth seat, the council unanimously decided Dec. 19. The decision was made after residents flooded the city clerk's office with e-mails and packed the room at the council meeting to urge the council to call an election rather than appoint Mr. Carlson's replacement.

In both the letters and the statements at the podium, residents decried the town's ongoing legal, personnel and Building Department problems, which, they complained, have created divisions among residents and council members and captured headlines in local newspapers.

"I believe that there is widespread concern among the residents of Atherton about what has been happening within the city

government as a whole," resident Jeffrey Wise wrote in an e-mail.

At the meeting, held in Holbrook-Palmer Park's Pavilion in anticipation of a crowd, Mr. Wise noted from the podium his "fatigue with the polarization and antagonism" in town, adding, "At times it seems as if we're living in New Jersey."

Several speakers who criticized the turmoil in Town Hall and council actions that have in some cases led to litigation pinned the blame for the town's problems on poor management.

Recent reports have suggested that Jim Robinson, who resigned as city manager in July, was a "hands-off" manager, and residents urged the council to find a strong leader for the position.

Councilman Jerry Carlson noted: "All of this that happened really didn't need to happen. It is extremely important ... to select a city manager who's a strong manager."

But most of the numerous speakers and e-mailers focused on the need to let voters decide on the fifth council member.

Even former town attorney Robin Faisant joined the chorus: "I

ATHERTON

think an election should be called to fill Alan's seat," he wrote in an e-mail. "I believe that would be the most likely way to get you some help in cleaning up the ongoing mess that is Atherton."

A major part of the town's turmoil centers on the controversy involving the town's Building Department, and the subsequent firing of finance director John Johns after he conducted audits of the department and reported a number of irregularities.

Mr. Johns, who was fired in October, has filed a \$500,000 wrongful termination claim

against the town. He contends that the town violated its own whistleblower protection policy.

But town officials point to an investigation by an attorney hired to look into allegations against Mr. Johns, which concludes that as finance director, Mr. Johns was disrespectful toward colleagues and frequently absent.

The town also has been mired in recent times in litigation with the Sequoia Union High School district and residents challenging council decisions.

The election

The council had several options for replacing Mr. Carlson: an all-mail-ballot election ending

on May 6 that would cost about \$16,700; the June 3 election that would coincide with the state's general election and would cost an estimated \$9,600; a special "urgency" election that could have been held much sooner; or an appointment by the four remaining council members.

Acting City Clerk Kathi Hamilton said an elections official with the San Mateo County elections office indicated that the June 3 election date would be preferable over the May ballot from a logistical standpoint.

The winner in the June 3 election will serve until December 2010. The candidate nomination period is Feb. 11 through March 7. ■

'All of this that happened really didn't need to happen. It is extremely important ... to select a city manager who's a strong manager.'

COUNCILMAN JERRY CARSON

Councilmen challenge allegations that they received 'favorable treatment'

By Renee Batti
Almanac News Editor

Two current Atherton City Council members and recently resigned council member Alan Carlson last week publicly challenged allegations made by a town volunteer that they received preferential treatment from the town's Building Department, but took no action to remove their accuser from his position on the town's Audit Committee.

Dr. Sam Goodman's allegations were made in a Dec. 12 letter to the Almanac editor about the ongoing battle between the town and former finance director John Johns, who is suing the town over his

October firing.

The matter was placed on the Dec. 19 council agenda to give Mr. Carlson and councilmen Charles Marsala and Jim Janz a chance to respond publicly to the allegations, said Mr. Janz, who was elected mayor earlier in the meeting.

Dr. Goodman chairs the town's Audit Committee, which received regular reports from Mr. Johns as he conducted audits of the Building Department after irregularities were turned up.



Sam Goodman

In the letter, Dr. Goodman defends Mr. Johns and criticizes a private investigator's report on the former finance director's conduct. The letter also said, "The fact remains that three members of the City Council had their hands in the cookie jar of favorable treatment by the building department, didn't want the news disseminated and therefore shot the messenger."

Mr. Carlson, Mr. Marsala and Mr. Janz gave lengthy and detailed statements challenging the accusation. They called into question why the matters of their building projects and permits were even

See GOODMAN, next page

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Almanac photo by Veronica Weber

Ringwood Avenue is split by the freeway, but connected by a pedestrian overpass. The overpass is used by Belle Haven residents who walk and bike to Menlo-Atherton High School.

Tensions peak over bridge

■ Homeowners on the west side say the pedestrian bridge gives Belle Haven residents easy access to commit crimes.

By Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

Emotional recollection of traumatizing crimes and frustration with the long-standing isolation of the Belle Haven neighborhood from the rest of Menlo Park vied for center stage last week as the City Council considered whether to replace a more than 40-year-old pedestrian bridge that connects the east and west parts of town.

The bridge connects Ringwood Avenue over U.S. 101, and serves about 50 students a day who walk and bike from the city's largely low-income Belle Haven neighborhood to Menlo-Atherton High School on the affluent west side of town.

But residents on the west side of the freeway say the bridge is a conduit for crime, providing criminals an easy escape route from their neighborhood to Belle Haven.

At a heated Dec. 18 meeting, council members voted 4-1 to accept a plan by Caltrans to replace the bridge, but exactly where the



new bridge will be built is still unknown.

The council asked Caltrans officials to work with city staff and a working group of neighbors on both sides of the freeway to figure out where a new bridge could be built as part of Caltrans' \$111 million effort to add lanes to U.S. 101 between Embarcadero Road

in Palo Alto and Marsh Road in Menlo Park. Due to the construction, a slightly higher bridge has to be built.

Councilman Andy Cohen voted in opposition, arguing that Caltrans' previous efforts to work with neighbors were inadequate, and that he had no faith future efforts would be any better.

Crime pattern?

About 15 homeowners — all of whom live on the west side of the freeway — blamed the bridge for crime in or near their neighborhoods.

"Some people call this the crime access route — it's an easy way to get away," said Paul Hugo a 22-year homeowner on Ringwood Avenue whose home was recently burglarized and a member of his family tied up. "I don't believe [the need for] this overcrossing trumps the safety of our residents."

Residents from nearby streets begged the council not to allow bridge access to their respective blocks, and urged the city to shuttle or bus students from Belle Haven to M-A High School

See **BRIDGE**, page 9

GOODMAN

continued from previous page

dug up during Mr. Johns' audit of the Building Department, raising questions about Mr. Johns' involvement and motives.

Mayor Janz noted that the project in question in his case dated back to 2000, yet Mr. Johns had said he was reviewing projects from the previous six years only. "Why was this project reviewed when it was outside the parameters

of the review?" Mr. Janz asked.

Mr. Marsala's case occurred in 1999, when he was a new resident in Atherton and well before he joined the council.

Resident Steve Ackley's comments from the podium reflected those of several others who spoke after the discussion of the allegations: "Where are we going with all this? Let's put it to bed. ... Let's move on."

After the meeting, Mayor Janz said, "As far as I'm concerned,

that's the end of it."

Dr. Goodman said the mayor, by putting the matter on the council agenda, was "trying to make himself and the council immune to criticism and also discouraging people from writing letters to the editor of newspapers."

By doing so, Dr. Goodman said, he blew the matter up "to extraordinary proportions and ... inevitably created a situation where they were going to have to defend themselves." ■

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Year End Real Estate Check List

This is the final week of 2007 and the last few days to make payments related to real estate that will affect your taxes for this year. For your primary residence, which includes your main house and any vacation property, you may want to pay the second installment of your property tax bill. This bill is due February 1, 2008 but is deductible on your federal tax return in the year it is paid. If you have mortgages (up to a limit of \$1.1 million) on your home including your second home, you can prepay the January interest payment and take the deduction.

If you have investment property that generates income, here too you can prepay the second installment of property taxes and mortgage interest,

as well as pre-pay planned repairs or maintenance items. If you have long or short-term capital gains on a property sold in 2007, you can offset these gains with applicable long or short-term capital losses on stocks and other investments from present or past years. You still have a few days to set this up.

Before making some of these payments, however, you should consult with your tax advisor to be sure that these deductions are available to you. You may be subject to the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) in which case you may not qualify to take some or all of these deductions. It is important that your accountant review your entire financial summary in order to determine if the AMT applies to you.

For answers to any questions you may have on real estate, you may e-mail me at mcorman@apr.com or call 462-1111, Alain Pinel Realtors. I also offer a free market analysis of your property.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF MENLO PARK PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING OF JANUARY 14, 2008

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the City of Menlo Park, California, is scheduled to review the following items:

The following items require a Notice of Public Meeting or Public Hearing:

Use Permit/Tioga Lassen LLC/1080 Lassen Dr: Request for a use permit to construct a new two-story, single-family residence on a lot that is substandard with regard to lot width in the R-1-S (Single-Family Suburban) zoning district.

Tentative Parcel Map Extension/Yahya Hamadani/135-139 O'Connor Street: Request for a two year extension of a previously approved tentative parcel map for the subdivision of one existing parcel into two conforming R-1-U (Single-Family Urban) residential parcels located in the R-1-U zoning district.

Use Permit and Variance/Pamela Culp/746-748 Partridge Avenue: Request for a use permit to demolish one single-family dwelling unit and associated accessory buildings and to construct two single-family dwelling units and associated site improvements on a substandard lot with regard to lot width in the R-2 (Low Density Apartment) zoning district. Request for a variance to build an accessory structure in the front half of the property, 69 feet from the front property line where 93.75 feet would be required. *Continued from the meeting of November 19, 2007.*

Architectural Control/Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation/2480 Sand Hill Road: Request for architectural control approval to enclose a 302-square-foot deck in the C-1-C (Administrative, Professional and Research, Restrictive) zoning district.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that said Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on this item in the Council Chambers of the City of Menlo Park, located at 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, on Monday, January 14, 2008, 7:00 p.m. or as near as possible thereafter, at which time and place interested persons may appear and be heard thereon. If you challenge this item in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Menlo Park at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Documents related to these items may be inspected by the public on weekdays between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, with alternate Fridays closed, at the Department of Community Development, 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park. Please note that the items listed are only the agenda items that require a public hearing. Please call the Planning Division if there are any questions and/or for complete agenda information (650) 330-6702.

DATED: December 19, 2007

Deanna Chow, Senior Planner, Menlo Park Planning Commission
Visit our Web site for Planning Commission public hearing, agenda, and staff report information: www.menlopark.org
Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on December 26, 2007.

Open space district seeks successor to Craig Britton

The next general manager of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District will have big shoes to fill.

The district is seeking applications to succeed Craig Britton, a 30-year veteran with the district, who will retire next March. The deadline to submit applications is Friday, Jan. 4.

When Mr. Britton came to the district as land acquisition manager in 1977, it owned 6,000 acres in eight open space preserves in the hills of San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

He became assistant general manager, and then general manager in 1994. Now he's in charge of close to 56,000 acres in 26 preserves.

In a farewell statement Mr. Britton wrote that he would retire when the district had preserved 60,000 acres. "With nearly 56,000 acres protected—and an additional 4,000 acres on the horizon, I've decided now is the time for a change in the greenbelt guard," he continued.

For the new general manager, the board is looking for a "people person" who is inspirational, visionary, supportive and strong. The board also wants someone who can communicate, listen, and work with people. He or she should have a sense of humor, the announcement says.

As the top executive in a special-purpose government agency, the general manager must also deal with budgets, policy, the board of directors, a staff of just over 100, other government agencies, and the public.

Anyone interested should send a resume and cover letter by Jan. 4 electronically to the executive search firm Peckham & McKenney. Applications may be emailed to apply@pechamandmckenney.com. For information, call 866-912-1919.



Craig Britton



Almanac photo by Veronica Weber

Open space was a big story in 2007, including Whaler's Cove, just south of Pigeon Point Lighthouse, which POST opened to the public.

Most talked about stories of 2007

TOP STORIES

continued from page 5

Sheriff Munks about the incident was a brief statement in which he apologized for the "undue attention and embarrassment" brought about by the incident, but said he "believed [he] was going into a legitimate business."

Mr. Bolanos told a Las Vegas television station that Mr. Munks was sore after the run earlier that day, and the two officers told a limo driver to take them to a massage parlor.

Schools push boundaries

Thanks to a bond measure passed in June 2006, the Menlo Park City School District is in the midst of a metamorphosis.

The changes went from the theoretical to the visceral this year, as parents and the community learned details about major campus construction projects, new attendance boundary lines, the creation of the district's first Spanish immersion kindergarten class, and the addition of Spanish lessons to the enrichment program for grade-schoolers.

District officials are expecting a jump in enrollment in the coming years, and are attempting to spread out children more evenly among the three grade-school campuses by rejiggering the boundaries for Oak Knoll, Laurel and Encinal schools. Families in Atherton's Lindenwood subdivision are not pleased with a boundary proposal that bisects their neighborhood.

There are still plenty of challenges ahead in the new year. A final boundary map has yet to be approved, the Spanish immersion program has to be fleshed out, and a curriculum must be created for the brand new incoming kindergarten class at Encinal. Currently, only grades 3 through 5 are taught at Encinal, but starting in August, incoming kindergarten classes will be added each year until the school is K-5.

Banner year for open space

This year saw two major anniversaries for agencies that helped change the course of development in San Mateo County and the Peninsula. Close to 80,000 acres of the Peninsula are scenic open space rather than wall-to-wall houses and streets, thanks to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) and the Peninsula Open Space

Trust (POST).

MROSD, a government agency that acquires and manages land for open space, marked 35 years since it began to acquire and preserve open space in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties in 1972. Just five years later, the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), a nonprofit land trust dedicated to preserving the Peninsula landscape, was formed.

Both agencies made substantial gains in 2007.

POST made several notable acquisitions in San Mateo County:

■ The Wavecrest property in Half Moon Bay. This 206-acre beachfront property had been slated for development with up to 600 homes.

■ Mindego Hill, a landmark west of Skyline and south of Page Mill (Alpine) Road. The 1,047-acre working cattle ranch also features 360-degree views, rich habitat and key watershed for San Gregorio Creek, which supports threatened Coho salmon and steelhead trout.

POST also opened to the public the beach at Whaler's Cove, just south of Pigeon Point Lighthouse; transferred the 416-acre Bolsa Point Ranch, just north of the lighthouse to the Muzzi family for farming; and moved its headquarters from Sand Hill Road to a green building at 222 High St. in Palo Alto.

Highlights for the open space district in 2007 include acquisition of the 707-acre Tunitas Creek Ranch in San Mateo County, and the 238-acre Stevens Creek Ranch in Santa Clara County, which it had been managing for POST.

The district also completed the purchase from POST of the 3,681-acre Driscoll Ranch in La Honda.

In July, complications from Parkinson's disease took Mel Lane, 85, a giant in the local and statewide environmental conservation movement.

An Atherton resident, Mr. Lane was the former co-owner of the company that published *Sunset* magazine and *Sunset* books, and the first chairman of the California Coastal Commission. His involvement in open space issues included chairing the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, which governs protection of the Bay and development of its shoreline, as well as a range of local conservation efforts. ■

Almanac reporters Rory Brown and Marion Softky contributed to this story.

RAIL

continued from page 5

The trains would whisk passengers from San Francisco to Los Angeles in about two-and-a-half hours. As proposed, the high-speed rail network would eventually stretch from San Diego to Sacramento.

But the fate of the project still depends on a \$10 billion bond measure slated for the November ballot.

In the past, bond measures for high-speed rail were pulled from the ballot by the state Legislature and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger due to the staggering costs. The same thing could happen this time around.

If the bond measure stays on the ballot and passes, and other funds are found, Mr. Leavitt said, the connection from Los Angeles to San Francisco would be the first segment built.

High-speed trains could stop in Palo Alto or Redwood City, although those details are still uncertain, Mr. Leavitt said.

"Ill-advised"

Menlo Park Mayor Andy Cohen, who lives near the Caltrain tracks, is less than thrilled with the idea of high-speed trains zooming through town.

"It's an ill-advised extravagance," Mayor Cohen said, echoing critics of the project who say costs will skyrocket far above the projected \$40 billion price tag, and construction

noise and traffic impacts will seriously affect nearby homes and businesses.

"It's not going to help people get around town, or even the Peninsula," he said. "It's some grandiose scheme to connect Los Angeles to San Francisco, and there is zero benefit to Menlo Park."

But high-speed rail supporters such as Jim Bigelow, chair of the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee, say high-speed rail is about thinking regionally, not locally.

"High-speed rail is an alternative that's quiet and comfortable," Mr. Bigelow said. "You have to be a little bit of a visionary, and think about how [high-speed rail] can ease the demands on the state's transportation system."

Atherton's take

Atherton Mayor Jim Janz said the town has stated a preference for the alternative that would traverse the Altamont Pass. "We're not eager to see high-speed rail coming through town," he said.

But even if the system is built on the Pacheco Pass route, the train could still be directed along an alternative route through the Peninsula, such as one parallel to Interstate 280, he said.

If the route along the Caltrain right of way is ultimately used, he said, the town is likely to advocate that the tracks be run through a trench or tunnel. ■

Woodside High students arrested in graffiti incident at PV school

■ One suspect is a graduate of Corte Madera Middle School, superintendent says.

By David Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Two male students from Woodside High School were arrested Dec. 20 and charged with felony vandalism with a hate crime enhancement for a Nov. 30 graffiti incident that defaced walls with spray paint at Corte Madera Middle School in Portola Valley.

The graffiti depicted “graphic caricatures of the human anatomy” and “references to the sexual preference(s)” of teachers at the school, according to a statement from the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office.

In an interview, Superintendent Anne Campbell of the Portola Valley School District said

that, according to the Sheriff’s Office, the students confessed and that one is a graduate of Corte Madera and a Portola Valley resident.

“We as a community really need to look at what’s happening with our young people,” she said, noting two areas of focus: promoting tolerance and respect for people’s differences in lifestyle, religion and race; and looking at alcohol abuse among students.

The boys charged also admitted to an incident of vandalism at the school last April, Ms. Campbell said. Two other boys watched the latest incident but did not participate, she added. The cost of cleanup was \$1,300.

The incident occurred between 10:30 p.m. on Nov. 30 and 9:30 a.m. the next day. Details of what was written are being withheld pending completion of the investigation. In a case like this, an investigation commonly takes about three weeks, said Sgt. Linda Gibbons of the Sheriff’s Office.

Sgt. Gibbons said she had no information as to the status of the two boys, but Ms. Campbell said they had probably been released to their parents.

Vandalism becomes a felony when the damage exceeds \$400, Sgt. Gibbons said. Adding the hate crime element to the charges is a decision made by the district attorney’s office, she added. ■

Almanac staff writer Marjorie Mader contributed to this report.

Book club shares the gift of reading

This year, instead of exchanging presents among themselves, Yale Road book club members presented Castano School in East Palo Alto with a gift of more than 100 books. They would like to see other book clubs do the same.

Yale Road book club was founded four years ago by Barbara Tyler of Menlo Park. Ms. Tyler is best known locally as a “superstar” real estate agent. In 1997, she ranked No. 2 in sales internationally out of 62,000 agents working for Coldwell Banker. She is now retired.

“With our love of books and literature, we felt it fitting to share our passion this holiday season with children and to encourage them to read,” says Ms. Tyler.

Gina Sudaria, vice principal of Costano, said the school had been trying to get a grant this year to purchase more books but had been having difficulty. The donated books are suitable



Yale Road Book Club members recently presented books to Castano School. Shown are, from left, Barbara Tyler, book club president; Noel Martinez, Martha Andrade, school librarian; Gina Sudaria, Castano vice principal; club members Jayne McCanne, Caroline Tonetti, and Sheree Lutrell. Seated is Ricky Martinez.

for children from preschool to fourth grade.

The Yale Road book club has eight members. The women meet once a month and plan the

books they will read six months in advance. They select books from several categories, including classics, biographies, and mysteries.

whole was being unfairly blamed for terrorizing residents on the other side of the freeway.

“All I’ve heard is that the people that cross that bridge break into your houses and commit crimes,” said Shintara Moore, a Belle Haven resident and substitute teacher. “The people crossing that bridge are taking the initiative to go to school in the morning.”

She noted that in the case of the bridge debate, as with other Menlo Park issues, the east side of the freeway is practically considered a separate city. ■

25 serious crimes this year from January to May: 12 home burglaries, 12 car burglaries, and one robbery.

Four other census tracts have seen more crime, including two areas near Middlefield Road, the Willows neighborhood, and Belle Haven, which has seen 93 serious crimes.

Unfair assumptions?

Neighbors’ tying the bridge to crime didn’t go over well with several Belle Haven residents, who said the neighborhood as a

BRIDGE

continued from page 7

instead.

Menlo Park Police Cmdr. Lacey Burt said residents’ claims that the bridge is the cause of more crime can’t be substantiated. She said the bridge is part of the regular police beat, but doesn’t get any special attention.

According to police records, the area bordered by Willow, Marsh and Bay roads and U.S. 101 — the census tract that includes the bridge — has seen

EYE CARE NEWS

**Presented by
Mark Schmidt
Licensed Optician**

GLARING PROBLEM

A fibrous network is responsible for the even distribution of the jelly like substance (vitreous) that fills the eyeball behind the lens. As we age, these fibers thicken and gather into bundles that scatter light within the eyeball, causing glare. While this is a common problem in bright light, glare can be especially bothersome in low light when pupils are dilated. In this case, the problem of glare is increased as the eyes dilate to allow in more

light. Those who experience glare can reduce its impact by wearing polarized sunglasses. Glare may also be minimized by ensuring that the correction for distance vision is accurate. It should be kept in mind that sensitivity to glare may also mean a developing cataract.

Our eyes, like the rest of our bodies, change as we get older. If you find that glare is interfering with your vision, wearing polarized sunglasses can help. Bring your eyewear prescription to MENLO OPTICAL at 1166 University Drive, on the corner of Oak Grove Avenue and University Drive. We carry a wide selection of eyewear for the entire family and fill prescription with the latest and best lens technologies. Call us at 322-3900.

P.S. Anti-reflective coatings on eyeglass lenses also help to substantially reduce glare.

Mark Schmidt is an American Board of Opticianry and National Contact Lens Examiners Certified Optician licensed by the Medical Board of California. He can be easily reached at Menlo Optical, 1166 University Drive, Menlo Park. 650-322-3900.

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County sets up new housing allocations: a first for the state

By Marion Softky
Almanac Staff Writer

San Mateo County has scored a first for California—in the opaque process of allocating responsibility to provide future housing among the county and its 20 cities.

At a Housing Finance Day Dec. 17, representatives of the county and cities voted unanimously to adopt a home-grown set of numbers of housing units each should provide to meet the state quota for the county.

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) has assigned the San Mateo County Subregion a quota of 15,738 housing units to be built in the seven years from 2007 through 2014.

This year, the county and the cities worked out their own allocation, adopted last week; in the past, the allocations were handed down by ABAG based on a complex formula. “We would rather allocate ourselves than have someone do it for us,” said Supervisor Rich Gordon.

“We are the first in the state;

this can be a model for other counties,” said Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson.

Even the revised numbers pose huge challenges for the county and its cities, as growth in population and development continues to outpace the housing supply. People who can’t afford to live here drive farther and farther, clogging roads and freeways.

While home sales have slowed in the county, it still takes a household income of \$168,280 to buy an entry-level home of \$816,000, according to the California Association of Realtors.

“We simply do not have enough units,” said Supervisor Gordon. He noted that “85 percent of people who own a house (in the county) could not afford to buy it today.”

Some numbers

The new housing numbers have been worked up over the last six months by a committee of the county and cities. While larger cities and those with a rail line have much higher quotas, no cities get off with nothing.

In the South County, Redwood City will have a target of 1,832 units; Menlo Park, 993; East Palo Alto, 630; Atherton, 83; Portola Valley, 74; and Woodside 65.

The three highest quotas in the county are near Caltrain or BART: San Mateo, 3,051; South San Francisco, 1,635; and Daly City, 1,207.

For contrast, some cities had very similar numbers in the previous allocation provided by ABAG for the seven-year period, 1999 to 2006. Then Atherton and East Palo Alto were assigned twice as many: 166 and 1,282 respectively. Menlo Park had 11 fewer; Portola Valley eight more, and Woodside 24 fewer.

These numbers are total num-

bers of units, without reference to whether they are homes, condos, rentals or granny units, or to the price range, noted county Housing Director Duane Bay.

The issues become more complicated when agencies look at including units affordable to lower-income people, projects that are convenient to transit, or housing for special groups like people with disabilities, or farm workers, for example.

Financing new homes

Some 50 housing bureaucrats, advocates, and developers at Housing Finance Day got a full tutorial on the multitude of programs available to finance various kinds of housing.

California is growing by 500,000 people per year, said State Housing Secretary Lynn Jacobs. “We need 220,000 housing units per year.”

Ms. Jacobs outlined a dizzying array of programs to help local agencies and developers meet these needs. Proposition 1C, a \$2.85 billion housing bond measure, passed in 2006, is the largest such measure ever passed in the U.S., she said. Other programs support affordable housing, housing near transit stations, infill projects, infrastructure upgrades, housing for youth leaving foster care and emergency housing.

Ms. Jacobs emphasized that all state loans and grants to local housing projects draw in funds from other sources, both public and private. “Our money is always leveraged at least three-to-one,” she said.

Ms. Jacobs also challenged the anti-growth forces. “It’s a mistake to think of housing as growth-inducing. People are growth-inducing,” she said. “Housing is part of infrastructure, like a new park or traffic light.” ■

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New ways to recycle batteries, cell phones

By Marion Softky

Almanac Staff Writer

It's a good bet that almost every Christmas tree on the Peninsula sheltered some toxic presents — and we don't mean Chinese toys.

Batteries, cell phones, fluorescent lights, thermometers, and a host of electronic gadgets harbor toxic materials. These can be safe while they are being used. But they should never go straight into the trash when you're through with them.

It's against California's Universal Waste Law to dispose of items containing toxic materials by tossing them in the trash.

On the up side, some county and state agencies, nonprofits, and local retailers are coming up with programs to make it easier to recycle these pervasive materials.

Allied Waste has collected almost 20,000 pounds of batteries and cell phones since October, when it began picking them up along with its curbside recycling. Household batteries can be placed in a plastic bag and put out on top of the recycling bin. Cell phones should be wrapped in paper and put in the bag.

A number of local stores will also take back batteries, cell phones — and now compact fluorescent lights (CFL). These are becoming popular, because they are so efficient and use far less power than regular light bulbs. But they contain toxics and should not end up in a landfill.

California's "Take It Back" program for retail stores got a boost

Dec. 11, when IKEA hosted a press conference to show off its new drop-off service for recycling not only batteries and cell phones, but compact fluorescent lights as well.

Also sponsoring the program were the South Bay Waste Management Authority (SBWMA), a joint government agency that coordinates waste and recycling for 12 cities in South San Mateo County; the California Department of Toxic Substances Control; and Assemblyman Ira Ruskin, D-Redwood City.

"We want consumers to know that they have convenient options to recycle all the household batteries generated through the holidays and have a green holiday season," said Kevin McCarthy, executive director of SBWMA.

And batteries are becoming ubiquitous, warned Stacey Manley, recycling outreach coordinator for SBWMA. Besides electronic gadgets, watches, and computers, batteries power things like tools, kids' flashing shoes, and talking gift cards.

In California, 288 billion batteries

■ INFORMATION

For more information on recycling, check:

■ South Bay Waste Management Authority at 802-3500, or rethinkwaste.org.

■ Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation at www.call2recycle.org (to find a retail drop-off site for used batteries and cell phones).

■ San Mateo County RecycleWorks at 888-442-2666, or recycleworks.org.

are purchased each year, according to the federal Environmental Protection Agency. Laid end-to-end these batteries would stretch over 9,000 miles, or the distance between San Mateo and the North Pole.

Larger items, such as television sets and computers, can be dropped off at SBWMA's Shoreway Recycling and Disposal Center at 333 Shoreway Drive in San Carlos. Goodwill Industries also operates several drop-off locations for used electronics. ■

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New trail planned in Portola Valley

A new trail for hikers and equestrians had been planned as a rather tight 800-foot loop in Portola Valley's Kersten open space area, a 12-acre parcel located northwest of Wayside Road and above the Hayfields subdivision and near the border with Woodside.

Now, with two \$25,000 gifts — one when the parcel was donated in 2005 by John Montgomery "Monty" Kersten and Sheryl Lee Heckmann of Los Altos Hills, and the other on Dec. 10 from residents Bill and Jean Lane — the trail loop may end up 1,000 feet longer, said Craig Taylor, a member of the Trails and Paths Committee, in a recent letter to

the Town Council.

To complete the proposed loop, the trail would cross the private Hayfields open space, for which the town will be seeking an easement. One alternative would be to follow the Kersten property line back to the existing trail, Mr. Taylor said.

Building the proposed trail would require \$60,000, but the Trails and Paths Committee budget would cover the shortfall, Mr. Taylor said.

The addition would have the effect of extending the Larry Lane trail, a 1.75-mile uphill trail built in 1979 and named after Mr. Lane's father.

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Giving to the Holiday Fund

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Contributions to the Holiday Fund will go directly to the programs that benefit Peninsula residents. Last year, Almanac readers contributed more than \$110,000, and with available matching grants, over \$150,000 was raised for 10 agencies that feed the hungry, house the homeless and provide numerous other services to those in need.

Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched

to the extent possible by generous community corporations, foundations and individuals, including the Rotary Club of Menlo Park, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. No administrative costs will be deducted from the gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

All donations to the Holiday Fund will be shared equally among the 10 recipient agencies.

This year, the Almanac's Holiday Fund will support these nonprofit organizations in the community

- Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula**
 Provides after-school and academic support and activities for 3,200 young people, 6 to 18, at clubhouses in Menlo Park's Belle Haven neighborhood, East Palo Alto, and Redwood City and offers programs at Flood and Belle Haven schools in Menlo Park, Hoover Community School in Redwood City, and McNair School in East Palo Alto
- Ecumenical Hunger Program**
 Provides emergency food, clothing, household essentials, and sometimes financial assistance to families in need, regardless of religious preference, including Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for more than 2,000 households.
- Free at Last**
 Provides recovery and rehabilitation programs for addicts in East Palo Alto, Belle Haven, North Fair Oaks and southern Redwood City. Founded in 1993, it serves about 4,200 people each year, predominantly African Americans, Latinos, and Pacific Islanders. Services include: street outreach; a drop-in center for youth and adults; intensive outpatient treatment programs; prevention and intervention for youth; a DUI first offender program; residential treatment programs for men and women; and transitional housing for men, women, and women with children.
- Ravenswood Family Health Center**
 Provides primary medical and preventive health care for all ages at its clinics in Belle Haven and East Palo Alto. It also operates a mobile clinic at school sites. Of the 16,500 registered patients, most are low income and uninsured from the ethnically diverse East Palo Alto, Belle Haven, and North Fair Oaks area.
- St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room**
 Serves hundreds of hot meals six days a week to people in need who walk through the doors. Funded entirely by voluntary contributions, St. Anthony's is the largest dining room for the needy between San Francisco and San Jose. It also offers emergency good and clothing assistance.
- Second Harvest Food Bank**
 The largest collector and distributor of food on the Peninsula, Second Harvest Food Bank distributed 30 million pounds of food last year. It gathers donations from individuals and businesses and distributes food to some 162,000 people each month through more than 700 agencies and distribution sites in San Mateo and Santa Clara County.
- Service League of San Mateo County**
 Provides services to inmates in county jails and programs to help them re-enter the community successfully after release. The league aids inmates in communication with families and provides a children's waiting room at the jails, a library, religious services, counseling, and Christmas gifts. In five residential Hope Houses some 30 men and women released from jail receive six months of drug and alcohol treatment, and training in life skills.
- Shelter Network**
 Provides short-term shelter and transitional housing services to more than 3,500 homeless people and children each year. Offers programs for families and individuals to become self-sufficient and return to permanent housing.
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition**
 Provides educational programs for youth and adults to help teens make healthy choices that will result in lower rates of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Its Teen Talk program last year served 3,650 youth at 23 public school sites in San Mateo County.
- Youth and Family Enrichment Services**
 Provides 22 programs to help people who struggle with substance abuse, domestic violence, mental health, relationship and communications issues. Helps strengthen youth, families, and individuals to overcome challenges through counseling, education, and residential services.

Name of donor _____ Amount \$ _____

Street address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I wish to contribute anonymously. Don't publish the amount of my contribution.

I wish to designate my contribution as follows:

In honor of: In memory of: _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: THE HOLIDAY FUND

Enclose this coupon and send to: **The Almanac Holiday Fund**
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Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

The organizations named below provide major matching grants to the Holiday Fund.



The William and Flora
Hewlett Foundation

The David and Lucile
Packard Foundation



Rotary Club of Menlo Park

The Almanac will make every effort to publish donor names for donations received before Dec. 31, 2007, unless the donor checks the anonymous box. All donations will be acknowledged by mail.

Holiday Fund donors

As of Dec. 20, 2007

- Anonymous (26 gifts)..... \$14,350
- Jerry Anderson & Betty Howell..... *
- Cynthia Dusel-Bacon & Charles Bacon *
- Art & Ruth Barker *
- Barbara Bessey & Kevin Gilmartin *
- Linda Beyce *
- Carmen Biland *
- Elizabeth Blair \$250
- Patricia Boyle *
- James Brice \$100
- Jerry & Shirley Carlson \$200
- Ron & Carol Clazie *
- Erla Coleman \$100
- Piers & Sally Cooper *
- Betty d'Arc \$100
- Nancy Davidson..... \$100
- Felix De Martis..... \$50
- Charmaine Eliason *
- Barbara & Bob Ells \$75
- James Esposto..... \$250
- The Fanning Family *
- Michael Fleice & Elizabeth Yasek... *
- Mary Fuller *
- Penny & Greg Gallo..... \$500
- Catherine Habiger & Richard Ruby.... *
- Irene Halbo..... \$100.00
- Mary & Doug Heller *
- Barb & Carl Jacobson *
- Sybille Katz *
- Dorothy Kennedy *
- Eileen & Ed Kennedy \$200
- Ladera Mens Tennis and Dominos..... \$100
- Jane Land *
- Michelle & Rick Lemos *
- Clay & Nita Judd \$1000
- Esther Judd..... \$1000
- Diana Laraway..... \$200
- Sheila & Don LeClaire *
- Richard Leitritz \$100
- Mary Lemmon *
- Carol & Hal Louchheim..... *
- Don Lowry..... *
- Robert & Nancy Luft \$100
- The MacKenzie Family..... *
- Donna & Martin Mackowski *
- Marjorie & George Mader..... *
- Jean Maher *
- Menlo Park Firefighters Association..... \$500
- F. W. Merrill \$100
- Frderick & Kayleen Miller..... \$50
- J. K. Monaghan & M.S. Voelke ... \$500
- John & Kate Mustain *
- Robert & Barbara Oliver *
- Bob & Marion Oster *
- Bob & Marna Page..... *
- Dorothy & Peter Polash..... *
- Gail & Susan Prickett \$200
- Lucy Reid-Krensky \$100
- Margo Ritter *
- Bill & Melba Rogoway..... *
- Joan Rubin *
- Vicky Rundroff \$500
- Marc & Mary Ann Saunders *
- Barbara & Martin Seaney \$100
- Nancy & Greg Serrurier *
- Barbara & Robert Simpsons.... \$100
- Pamela & Adair Slater..... *

- John & Thelma Smith..... *
- Marion Softky..... *
- Paula Stewart..... *
- Patricia & James Stocker..... *
- Lina Swisher & Daniel Rubin *
- Orlin & Onnolee Trapp..... *
- Bruce & Ann Willard *
- Sarah K. Wilmer..... \$100
- Jeanne Wohlers & Alan Herzig ... \$500
- Joe & Julie Zier..... \$100

In honor of

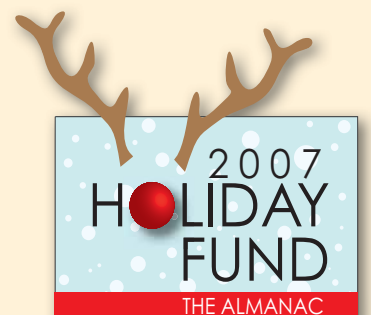
- Janada & Tom Clark for Jack Berghouse
- Adam Creeger for his teachers at La Entrada
- Anne & Stephen Galli for Wayne & Louise Daltin
- Joan & Dan Gray for Service League of San Mateo County volunteers
- Doug & Kathy Stevens for Nancy Stevens
- George & Barbara Uhler for Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Uhler
- George & Barbara Uhler for Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Renshaw

In memory of

- Anonymous for Monte Beeson
- Anonymous for Charles Holmes
- Anonymous for Bill Lend
- Anonymous for Annie Strem
- Atherton Lions Club for Lion Rita Gado
- John Barbour for Richard Barbour
- Erika Crowley for Jerry Crowley
- Gale & Bobbie Fullerton for Dorothy Baron
- John Giovanzana for Mary Giovanzana
- Carolyn & Colon Gulledge for Esther Johnson
- Andrea Julian for Doris G. Julian
- Bill & Jean Lane for Melvin Bell Lane
- Catie & Dennis O'Leary for Margaret Collins
- Phyllis Blum Quilter for Frank N. Blum & Joseph F. Quilter
- Bill & Jo Tagg for Bill & Elinore Tagg
- Barbara Varenhorst for Vern Varenhorst
- Abigail Wilder for Robert Homans & Fessenden Wilder

TOTALS: As of Dec. 20, a total of 121 donors have given \$87,130 to the Almanac's Holiday Fund.

* The asterisk designates that the donor did not want to publish the amount of the gift.



AYSO girls U19 team chalks up undefeated season

This report is by JoAnne Goldberg, an AYSO Region 109 board member.

The Menlo Park-Atherton AYSO Region 109 girls-under-19 (GU19) team completed an 8-0-1 regular season and advanced to the Area 2A championship on Nov. 11. A strong Mountain View team won the championship game over Menlo Park-Atherton in a close-fought 3-2 battle that went down to the final minutes.

John Henze, Matt James and Robyn Coultas were the coaches for the GU19 team, called the Ghostriders.

Team members are juniors and seniors at local high schools, including Menlo-Atherton, Woodside, Menlo, Castilleja and The King's Academy. Most of the girls have grown up playing soccer together in Region 109 AYSO.

The GU19 team was one of 143 teams that played soccer in Region 109 this year, with some 1,600 local children between the ages of 4 and 18 participating. Region 109 is part of Area 2A, which includes more than 1,000 Peninsula teams.

For more information on the league, go to www.mpsoccer.org.



Team members, from left, are, on ground, Sally Ramirez and Chelsea Mongird; bottom row, Ashley Parish, Emily Anderson, Luisa Westley, Jazmin Tovar and Evie Pless; middle row, Shelly Camarillo, Isabelle James, Kaitlin Henze, Katie Sherwin and Ameena Elbibany; and top row, Kelsey Fowle, Julia Robinson and Clarissa Coultas. Coaches are Matt James, John Henze and Robyn Coultas.

■ POLICE CALLS

This information is from the Atherton and Menlo Park police departments and the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office. Under the law, people charged with offenses are considered innocent until convicted.

ATHERTON

Grand theft report: \$6,000 and passport stolen from house, 100 block of Stockbridge Ave., Dec. 19.

Burglary report:

- Vehicle window smashed and purse taken, first block of Edge Road, Dec. 19.
- Vehicle broken into and iPod stolen, Menlo-Atherton High School at 555 Middlefield Road, Dec. 20.

MENLO PARK

Burglary reports:

- House broken into and laptop stolen, 1600 block of Stanford Ave., Dec. 14.
- Vehicle broken into and stereo stolen, 2100 block of Santa Cruz Ave., Dec. 15.
- Vehicle broken into and MP3 player and camera stolen, 800 Live Oak Ave., Dec. 15.
- Vehicles broken into, 900 block of Crane St. and 800 block of Coleman Ave., Dec. 15 and Dec. 19.
- Houses broken into, 500 block of Sandalwood St. and 400 block of Oak Grove Ave., Dec. 17 and Dec. 19.
- Vehicle broken into and turn signals stolen, 700 Pierce Road, Dec. 20.

Fraud reports:

- Counterfeit bills found, 700 block of Ivy Drive, Dec. 16.
- Unauthorized withdrawals from bank account, 600 block of Gilbert Ave. and

200 block of Oak Court, Dec. 18 and Dec. 19.

Theft reports: TV stolen from the Stanford Park Hotel, 100 block of El Camino Real, Dec. 16.

WOODSIDE

Burglary report:

■ Attempted burglary of three cases of vodka, 3000 block of Woodside Road, Dec. 12.

■ Vehicle broken into and bag and Bible stolen, 100 block of Glenwood Ave., Dec. 12.

■ Vehicle broken into and bag and medical equipment and toys stolen, 100 block of Glenwood Ave., Dec. 12.

Theft report:

■ Stereo and diaper bag stolen from unlocked car, 400 block of Old La Honda Road, Dec. 15.

■ BMW damaged and paperwork stolen from unlocked Toyota, 3000 block of Tripp Road, Dec. 15.

Incident report: Bomb squad removed suspicious plastic bottles, Old La Honda Road at Dennis Martin Creek, Dec. 15.

PORTOLA VALLEY

Vandalism report: Damage of \$560 done to 14 signs, 700 block of Portola Road, Dec. 12.

Domestic violence report: Arrest made, Pomponio Court, Dec. 15.

WEST MENLO PARK

Fraud report: Unauthorized \$120,000 wire transfer from victim's home-equity line of credit, 2000 block of Valparaiso Ave., Dec. 13.

Refugee Foster Care - Catholic Charities



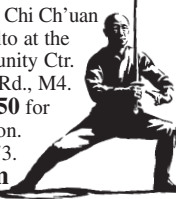
Change how life turns out. For them. For you.

Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County

Please call Coleen at 408-325-5159 or email refugeefostercare@ccsj.org

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Our classes in T'ai Chi Ch'uan are held in Palo Alto at the Cubberley Community Ctr. 4000 Middlefield Rd., M4. Call 650-327-9350 for detailed information. Established in 1973. www.ttopa.com



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Dr. Sangani has a strong background in preventive medicine and promoting **wellness** and education among her patients. In addition, she has extensive experience in **women's health** and chronic disease management.

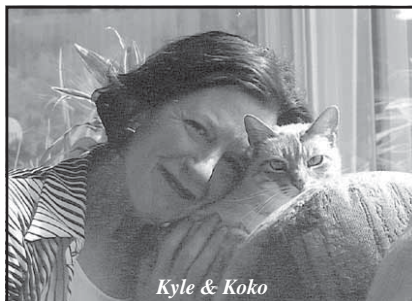
With her years of practice, Dr. Sangani has cultivated strong relationships among the physician and patient community in the Bay Area. She was also named one of **"America's Top Physicians"** in 2006 by the Consumers Research Council of America. Please give The Village Doctor a call to schedule your introductory meeting: 650.851.4747.



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Public comment period opens for Encinal EIR

A 30-day public review and comment period opened Thursday, Dec. 20, on a planned environmental impact report on a project to expand and modernize Encinal Elementary School in Atherton.

People are invited to view documents and comment on any issues that they think should be covered in the environmental impact report, required under state law. The 30-day review and comment period runs through Jan. 19, the Menlo Park City School District said.

The Encinal project includes the construction on the campus of a teacher education resource center next to the district office; a two-story classroom complex for fourth- and fifth-graders; and a multi-use facility. Existing classroom buildings will be modernized.

The school will be expanded over the next few years from a grade 3-5 school to a K-5 school.

Documents that describe the project and the environmental issues to be addressed in the environmental impact report

are posted online. To view them, go to www.mpcsd.org/facilities; and in the "Public Notice" text, click on the link "to review the document."

Copies of the documents also are available at the school district office at 181 Encinal Ave. in Atherton, and at the Menlo Park and Atherton public libraries.

Any comments must be submitted in writing to Ahmad Sheikholeslami, the district's facility planner and project manager, at the school district office within the 30-day review period.

For more information, call the district office at 321-7140, ext. 6, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

What are you doing New Year's Eve?

If you feel like putting on a party hat and celebrating New Year's Eve out on the town, here are a few options:

■ **Hillbarn Theatre**, located at 1285 E. Hillsdale Blvd. in Foster City, is presenting "Smokey Joe's Cafe" that night. The New Year's Eve gala begins at 6:15 p.m. with pre-show hors d'oeuvres and drinks. The show features song hits of the 1950s and 1960s by Leiber and Stoller, including "On Broadway," "Hound Dog," and "Yakety Yak."

A post-performance buffet dinner and dessert table will begin at 9 p.m. followed by dancing to the live music of Smokey Joe's Band. Tickets are \$110 for adults and \$75 for youth. For information, call the box office at 349-6411, or go to www.hillbarntheatre.org.

AROUND TOWN

■ **The Village Pub** at 2968 Woodside Road in Woodside will ring in the New Year with a four-course early dinner at \$100 per person. A six-course dinner, champagne toast, live music and dancing to the Freddie Brooks Band is \$140 per person. Both dinners include such goodies as parsley soup, Dungeness crab salad, a choice of scallops, seared bass, or New York steak, and a trio of chocolate. For reservations, call 851-9888 or visit www.thevillagepub.net.

■ Other local restaurants will be serving New Year's special dinners including the **Stanford Park Hotel**, 100 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, where dinner will be served between 5:30 and 10 p.m. at \$70 per person. For reservations call 322-1234.

■ Little House activity center at 800 Middle Ave. in Menlo Park is hosting a dinner dance from 7:30 p.m. to midnight. Dinner will include chicken cordon bleu, salad, asparagus, and rice medley, with carrot cake for dessert. There will be dancing to Mike Johnson and his Sound Wizards starting at 9 p.m.

Tickets are \$27 for dinner only, \$35 for dinner and dancing, and \$12 for dancing only. Reservations are a must. Call 326-2025, ext. 231.

Holiday train

The Caltrain holiday train received 4,179 donated toys and books and nearly \$1,900 in cash from visitors during its annual holiday train weekend Dec. 8 and 9.

Since the first holiday train in 2001, it has generated nearly 35,000 gifts for needy families in conjunction with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots program and the Salvation Army.

Save the date

Mark your 2008 calendar for March 10. That's the date for the Art in Action fundraiser to be held at Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club.

The benefit, "Atelier d'Artistes," begins at 10 a.m. and includes live art demonstrations, a boutique and silent auctions. Wildlife artist Laura Regan will be the featured speaker following the noon luncheon. Dorothea Nawas is chairing the event sponsored by the Art in Action Auxiliary.

Computer classes

Several classes will be offered during January in the computer classroom at Little House activity center, located at 800 Middle Ave. in Menlo Park.

On Thursdays, from Jan. 3 to 24, "Beginning Internet" classes will be held at 10:30 a.m.

"Introduction to Computers" takes place from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. and "Mousing Around" from 1 to 2 p.m. A "PhotoShop Elements" class will be held from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Fridays, from Jan. 4 to 25.

Cost for classes is \$20 for members, \$25 others. For more information, call 326-2025.



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9 am Soulwork — Education for Adults


10 am Sunday School — Children's Worship & Education

10-11:30 am Childcare

10:15 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II, with hymns, choir, & organ

INSPIRATIONS

A resource for special events and ongoing religious services. To inquire about or make space reservations please contact Blanca Yoc at 650-326-8210 x221 or email byoc@pawekly.com





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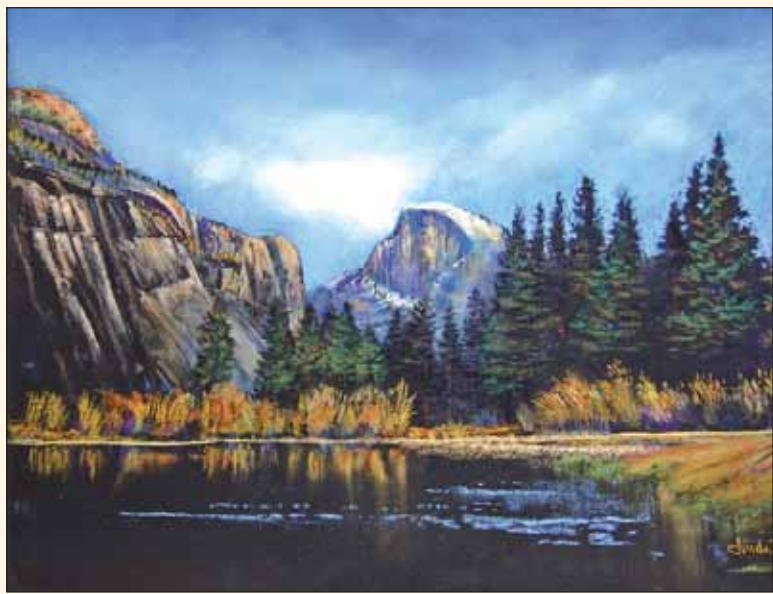
The *Mountain View Voice*, an award-winning weekly newspaper, seeks a full-time reporter to tackle local education, health and other community issues, break stories and work under deadline. Candidates must be self-motivated and eager to learn, working with experienced editors in a creative environment. Experience preferred.

Please send a cover letter, resume and two or three writing samples to Don Frances:

- by e-mail to editor@mv-voice.com
- by fax to (650) 964-0294
- or by mail to 655 West Evelyn Ave. Suite 3, Mountain View, CA 94041

Calendar

MEETINGS, MUSIC, THEATER, FAMILY ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS



The art of nature

California landscape paintings by Linda Patterson, including the pictured pastel "Half Dome," are featured in an exhibit through December at the Portola Art Gallery at Allied Arts, 75 Arbor Road in Menlo Park. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Special Events

Christmas Season at Little House. "Music Box Collection" in Glass Gallery, provided by Maggie Dominguez. Free. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 650-326-2025 PV Inc Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-326-2025. www.peninsulavolunteers.org

Talks/Authors

Beth Lisick discusses and signs her new book "Helping Me Help Myself: One Skeptic, Ten Self-Help Gurus, and a Year on the Brink of the Comfort Zone." Lisick attempts to determine, once and for all, whether or not 10 of the world's most famous self-help gurus can actually improve her life. Thu., Jan. 3, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com

On Stage

"Keep the Yuletide Gay." "Keep the Yuletide Gay" tells the story of five friends gathering for their annual Christmas dinner and gift exchange, an event that goes horribly wrong. Warning: Adult language and situations. Through Dec. 30, 8-10 p.m. \$10 - 25. Dragon Theatre, 535 Alma St., Palo Alto. Call 510-326-8197. www.theatre.org

Art Galleries

Impressionist Oil Paintings by Jean Groberg. Jean Groberg's "Hooked on Color." Still life, figures and landscapes achieved using multi-layered oil color technique. Exhibit runs through Feb. 2. Free. Little House, 500 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650 368-6776.

Pastels and Acrylics by Linda Patterson. Featuring the California landscape paintings of artist Linda Patterson of Hayward. The show runs through Dec. 31, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Portola Art Gallery, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park. www.portolaartgallery.com

Resident Artists Ring in the New Year. Come meet the artists at Art on Broadway and ring in the New Year with a champagne reception. Featured artists will be: Duke Collins, Cherry Harborne, Wendy Lee, Linda Roth and Jeanne Schapp. Fri., Jan. 4, 6-8 p.m. Free. Art on Broadway, 2625 Broadway, Redwood City. www.arton-broadway.net

Classes

Computer Classes at Little House. All December instruction will be individual sessions by appointment only. "Scanning Photo Memories"; "Survey of Google"; "Photo Slide Scanning"; "Survey of iLife"; "Beginning Mac"; "Survey of Mac OS"; "Quicken"; Reunion 9 for Mac only"; "Scanning Photo Strip Negatives." 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$10 per session. PV Inc Little House, 800 Middle

Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-326-2025. www.peninsulavolunteers.org

January Computer Classes. These computer classes will be offered at Little House, Jan. 3 to 24: Beginning Internet, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; Mousing Around, 1-2 p.m.; Introduction to Computers, 2:30-3:30 p.m.; Scanning Photo Memories, call 326-2025 ext.237 for appointment. All held in the Classroom 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. \$20 for members, \$25 for nonmembers. PV Inc Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-326-2025. www.peninsulavolunteers.org

PhotoShop Elements. PhotoShop Elements will be taught in the Computer Lab at Little House. You may bring your own laptop. Jan. 4-25, 10:30-11:30 a.m. \$40 members, \$50 nonmembers. PV Inc Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-326-2025. www.peninsulavolunteers.org

Clubs/Meetings

Clubs at Little House. The Stamp Club and Book Club meet on the first Wednesday of each month; Silverstrand Singers first Thursday; MUCHO (Mac Users Club) first Friday; Bowling Club every Monday; Drama Group every Friday. Call 650-326-2025 for times and dues. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. PV Inc Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-326-2025. www.peninsulavolunteers.org

Issues with food?. Food Addicts In Recovery Anonymous is for individuals recovering from addictive eating and anorexia based on the 12 steps of AA. No dues/no fees/no weigh-ins. Sundays. 7-8:30 p.m. Free. St. Marks Church., 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto.

Concerts

B-A-C-H in D-E-F-G New Year's Eve Concert. Ring in the new year with the music of J.S. Bach, performed by organist James Welch. This year hear organ toccatas, preludes, fugues and sonatas by Bach in the keys of D, E, F and G. Mon., Dec. 31, 8-9 p.m. \$10 at the door. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. Call 326-3800, 856-9700. www.welchorganist.com

Dance

New Year's Eve Ball. With: Paul Price's Society Orchestra. Dance to authentic arrangements of vintage music. Mon., Dec. 31, 8:30-12:30 p.m. \$20 to \$25. St. Mark's Hall, 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. http://www.paulpriceorchestra.com/NYE07.html

New Year's Eve Dinner Dance. Dining and dancing to the music of Mike Johnson and the Sound Wizards. Mon., Dec. 31, Dinner served 7:30 p.m. Dancing 9 p.m.-midnight. \$30 members, \$35 guests. Dinner only \$30/\$27; dance only \$12. PV Inc Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 326-2025. www.peninsulavolunteers.org

Exhibits

Sculpture Exhibit - New Venue. Belmont's 1870 Art Center sculptors BJ Stevenson and Rob Browne display work including several abstract stone sculptures, portrait busts and whimsical art. Through April 25, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Rotunda Gallery, 555 County Center, Redwood City. Call 650-261-1086.

Toys from the Attic. MOAH presents an eclectic collection of the toys from the past. Through Feb. 24, Free. Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-321-1004. www.moah.org

Kids & Families

Holiday Special: Sweets for the Sweet. Decorate a cookie with sprinkles and icing. Then munch on the creation while listening to some cookie stories. For all ages. Sponsored by the Friends of the Palo Alto Library. Wed., Dec. 26, 3:30-4:15 p.m. Free. Children's Library, 1276 Harriet St., Palo Alto. Call 650-463-4962.

New Language Center for Children Open Day. Open house for new language center. Jan. 2-4, 9:15-12:15 a.m. Free. All Saints Education Building, 555 Waverley St., Palo Alto. Call 415-673-2393.

Preschool Storytime @ Portola Valley. "Preschool age children are learning to sit for longer periods of time and may sit alone with caregivers close by. Storytellers will help develop preschoolers' attention spans and love of story by sharing longer books and using fewer movement and song breaks." Wednesdays, 1:30-2 p.m. Portola Valley Library, 4575 Alpine Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. www.smcl.org

Et Alia

Movies at Little House. The December Wednesday movies will be: Dec. 26 "Up in Central Park." 1-3 p.m. \$1 members, \$2 nonmembers. PV Inc Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-326-2025. www.peninsulavolunteers.org

Little House/Avenidas Walkers. Walks start on Thursdays at Little House. Dec. 27 "Shoreline Park & Environs." 9-11 a.m. Free. PV Inc Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-326-2025. www.peninsulavolunteers.org

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WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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Editor at the Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

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854-2626, ext. 222.

Menlo Park bike bridge gets a bad rap

The complex and sometimes racially charged tensions between the Menlo Park neighborhoods on the east and west side of U.S. 101 erupted last week during a discussion before the City Council.

Although the two areas are only several hundred feet apart and are connected by a 40-plus-year-old pedestrian-bike bridge, there is a huge demographic gulf between the neighborhoods that dates back to the

1950s. That is when hundreds of small homes were built on the east side for GIs returning from World War II, which a few years later gave way to a mostly lower-income black community that became known as Belle Haven. In recent years, the predominant ethnic group in Belle Haven has shifted to Hispanics.

Today, residents of the west side of the freeway tend to be white, own their own homes and earn relatively high incomes, while those on the east side are more often ethnic minorities who earn considerably less and often do not own their homes.

It was under this backdrop that residents from both sides of the freeway came to discuss the Caltrans plan to replace and possibly move the old bridge, which is mostly used by about 50 Menlo-Atherton High School students who walk to school from their Belle Haven homes.

But this benign use was elbowed aside by the testimony from west-side residents who blame the bridge for funneling criminals from Belle Haven into their neighborhoods and driving up the crime rate. More than a dozen spoke at the meeting and told stories ranging from one man's report of having his home broken

into six times to reports of sexual assault.

These were gripping accounts, and we sympathize with residents who are fed up with living amid what appears to be an ongoing crime wave. But according to Menlo Park police, it is difficult, if not impossible, to trace the escape routes of burglars, robbers or assailants who prey on those who live on the west side of the freeway.

Ultimately, the council gave its support for the new bridge on a 4-1 vote. Mayor Andy Cohen opposed the action, he said, because Caltrans did not keep residents who live near the bridge fully informed of its plans.

Mayor Cohen made a good point. Caltrans certainly has room to improve, but we strongly believe that the bridge is needed and should be rebuilt near its present location, with some new safeguards to prevent crime.

For example, during a hearing before the city's Bicycle Commission, members discussed various ways of taking the bridge out of any potential criminal's plan to attack a home or person on the opposite side of the freeway. For starters, the bridge could be closed down at night and police could schedule more patrols in the neighborhood. Another idea: Have the bridge touch down near a major street, rather than in the midst of a neighborhood, like the current model.

Finally, neighbors should discard the racially insensitive idea of doing away with the bridge altogether. This link between the neighborhoods has existed for more than 40 years, longer than virtually any of the current residents have lived in their homes. The best way to approach locating the replacement bridge is through collaborative work with all the parties — not by jumping to conclusions that cannot be substantiated by the police.

High-speed rail: doomsday for MP

By Martin Engel

There is a disaster coming to a city near you. No, wait, it's in your own city.

Do you believe that if you live in Menlo Park, but not near the rail corridor, whatever happens there won't affect you? Guess again. The only thing worse than high-speed rail for Menlo Park's downtown would be a tornado at the same time as a major earthquake. Menlo Park will look the same either way.

The high-speed rail is on the state ballot next year — 2008. It will, if it passes, be the down payment for the train to go through Menlo Park. But not quietly, unnoticed, in the middle of the night. Au contraire!

Just what will happen if the high-speed rail bond issue passes?

■ All four crossings — Ravenswood, Oak Grove, Glenwood and Encinal — will become major construction sites for three years, as will the entire 8,500

feet of the rail corridor through Menlo Park.

■ Caltrain states it wants to widen the corridor and lay four tracks regardless of the high-speed train.

■ The track bed will be raised 15 feet throughout Menlo Park.

■ When the rail corridor is electrified and widened, heritage trees will be cut down along the length of the right of way through Menlo Park.

■ Major downtown businesses will be lost due to construction.

Other cities have already suffered through this.

■ Major traffic disruptions will occur throughout downtown. Traffic will be rerouted. We can expect major gridlock throughout the three-year construction period.

■ Enormous air pollution will be caused by the diesel equipment and the ongoing construction.

■ Caltrain will need tempo-



GUEST OPINION



Jac Audiffred Collection

Our Regional Heritage

Longtime Woodside residents Albert and Beatrice Audiffred drove to Los Gatos in the early 1900s. Note the worn-out tires, which were stretched over new tires to extend their life.

See HIGH-SPEED RAIL, next page

HIGH-SPEED RAIL

continued from previous page

rary tracks outside of the rail corridor to continue operating during construction.

■ Construction easements and eminent domain takings along the rail corridor will be necessary for the construction process and the temporary tracks.

■ Caltrain projects that the costs for six grade crossings for Atherton and Menlo Park will be over \$1 billion. The only source of such large dollar amounts will be the high-speed rail bond issue.

What are the consequences of high-speed rail in addition to the downtown being torn up for three years? For one thing, a barrier will be created down the spine of Menlo Park; a Berlin Wall, 15 feet high, that separates east from west. Such massive barriers have to be seen to be believed. Their impact will be monumental.

Many people say, well, we don't want that, but we do want a trench that puts the tracks below ground. Good luck with that. All the engineering decisions for the rail corridor will be made by the high-speed rail authority. They will do what is in their best interests, not in ours.

Another consequence of high-speed rail will be maintaining the

Caltrain commuter schedule for three years or more on temporary or "shoofly" tracks. These tracks will run next to the rail corridor in construction easements and on city streets. It is difficult to imagine how intrusive this will be.

Let me make some predictions: There will be yet another grade crossing study, this one costing around \$250,000. It was initially promoted by our prior City Council. It will be done by BKF, the consulting firm that did the 2003 feasibility study of grade separations. At that time, they recommended the "10 feet up and 10 feet down" option.

They will again present a discussion of a number of options, and will again recommend this "split" solution, raising the rail beds and lowering the crossing streets. They will give us low-ball numbers for the construction costs. They will again play down the destructive and divisive consequences of the three years of construction.

Will this study bring us closer to grade separations? No, not unless the high-speed bond issue remains on the November '08 ballot. If that happens — and it passes — you can kiss the Menlo Park you love goodbye.

Martin Engel lives on Stone Pine Lane in Menlo Park.

Parents excited by Spanish program

By Tricia Barr

Congratulations are due the Menlo Park City School District board members who voted earlier this month to create a Spanish-English dual immersion program, starting with kindergarten, in the fall of 2008.

The action follows the board's approval in November to provide all elementary students with some Spanish instruction. The two-pronged foreign language program will offer students Spanish as an enrichment program, which incorporates Spanish into the core curriculum, and an option for Spanish immersion.

The board has been considering adding language enrichment to the elementary program for years. A recent survey of district families showed that of those currently enrolled and who will have children in kindergarten or first grade in fall 2008, nearly 40 percent would enroll their children in a Spanish immersion program and make a multiyear commitment.

The decision about which elementary campus will house the Spanish immersion program will be made after new boundaries are determined and after consultation with school principals and administrators.

School districts in Palo Alto, Cupertino, Mountain View, Foster City, Burlingame, Redwood City, San Jose, and San Francisco all offer elementary-grade students dual immersion, where students

are taught the same curriculum as English speakers, just in the target language, with increasingly more instruction in English by fifth grade. After completion of fifth grade, all students in the immersion program will be fluent speakers, readers, and writers in both Spanish and English.

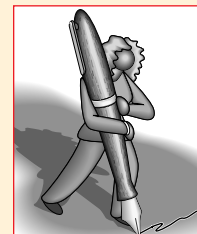
Research shows that children's cognitive growth is boosted by dual-language challenges.

In an immersion program students achieve bilingualism and bi-literacy while they are also able to communicate with members of other cultural groups and expand their world view.

This can improve empathy while also fostering cultural tolerance. For the Spanish-speaking English learners who participate in the program, it helps validate their culture and identity, while creating a bridge toward English immersion. The result: they don't fall behind in academic learning because of lack of English.

The reputation of a school district is by design, not chance. A Spanish immersion program puts Menlo Park at the forefront of districts in the Bay Area by offering comprehensive language education and helps retain our position as a leading school district. We commend the board and Superintendent Ken Ranella for embracing this important opportunity for our children.

The article was written by Ms. Barr with help from Loren Gruner and Elizabeth Ouren. All are parents of children who attend schools in the Menlo Park City School District.



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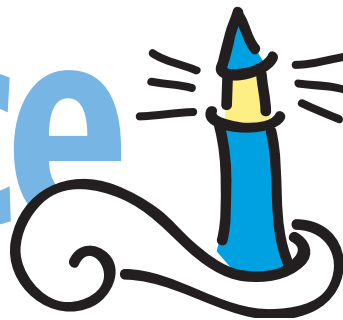


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PA: 744 San Antonio
Garden offices, parking, freeway
access. 300, 800, 915, 2365 sq. ft.
Lease \$2.25/sq. ft. Full service. 650-
856-6672

PA: Downtown
240-3065 sf offices for lease.
Photos, plans, pricing:
www.paoffices.com
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Lease \$2.25/sq. ft. Full service. 650-
856-6672

PA: Downtown
240-3065



Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 223399
The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, Elegant Beauty Center, 354 Broadway, Millbrae, CA 94030: Allan Cheung, 354 Broadway, Millbrae, CA 94030; Elsa Cheung, 1017 Magnolia Ave., #3, Millbrae, CA 94030 This business is being conducted by Co-Partners. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 1, 2007. (Almanac December 5, 12, 19, 26, 2007)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 223444
The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, Gooddogmom.com, 15 Snecker Court, Menlo Park, CA 94025: Rachel Mizenko, 15 Snecker Court, Menlo Park, CA 94025 This business is being conducted by an individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 5, 2007. (Almanac December 5, 12, 19, 26, 2007)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 223813
The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, Sunny Morning Graphics, 1106 Shoreline Dr., San Mateo, CA 94404: Andrew Bernstein, 1106 Shoreline Dr., San Mateo, CA 94404 This business is being conducted by an individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 28, 2007. (Almanac December 5, 12, 19, 26, 2007)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 223678
The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, Greenstreets, 1050 Elmer St., Suite C, Belmont, CA 94002-2872; 200 North Larchmont Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90004: King Street Trading LLC, 200 North Larchmont Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90004 This business is being conducted by Limited Liability Company. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on December 1, 2007. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on June November 20, 2007. (Almanac December 5, 12, 19, 26, 2007)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 223913
The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, Jack Schafer Consulting, 20 Fairview Avenue, Atherton, CA 94027: John William Schafer, 20 Fairview Avenue, Atherton, CA 94027 This business is being conducted by an individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on April 1, 2007. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 4, 2007. (Almanac December 12, 19, 26 2007, January 2, 2008)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 223793
The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, FP Investments, 230 Josselyn Lane, Woodside, CA 94062: Marvin Frankel, 230 Josselyn Lane, Woodside, CA 94062 This business is being conducted by an individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on July 1, 2007. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 27, 2007. (Almanac December 19, 26, 2007, January 2, 9, 2008)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 223909
The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, 1) Eurocentres Silicon Valley; 2) Language Pacifica, 585 Glenwood Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025: ENC Schools, Inc. CA, 585 Glenwood Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025 This business is being conducted by a Corporation. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on January 1, 2008. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 4, 2007. (Almanac 12/19, 26, 2007, 1/2, 9, 2008)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 223634
The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, Alpine Home, 526 Lincoln Avenue, Redwood City, CA 94061: Janet Thomas, 11296 Woodside Road, Redwood City, CA 94061 This business is being conducted by an individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 15, 2007. (Almanac December 19, 26, 2007, January 2, 9, 2008)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 224212
The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, Marble Care DBA Marble Life, 3291 Hoover Street, Redwood City, CA 94063: Rajeshwar Shankar, 3291 Hoover Street, Redwood City, CA 94063 This business is being conducted by an individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 18, 2007. (Almanac December 26, 2007, January 2, 9, 16, 2008))

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 224215
The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, The Unique Bride, LLC, 1209 Howard Avenue, Burlingame, CA 94010: Tosca J. Clark, Thomas J. Clark, 127 Palisades Drive, Daly City, CA 94015 This business is being conducted by a Limited Liability Company. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on January 1, 2008. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 18, 2007. (Almanac December 26, 2007, January 2, 9, 16, 2008))

997 All Other Legals

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF San Mateo No. 467670 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Gina Sarles filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Gina Gunter Sarles to Gina Sarles. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: January 16, 2008, 9am, Dept. PJ, Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063. A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: The Almanac. Date: November 21, 2007 /s/ Mark R. Forcum JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT (Almanac 12/5, 12, 19, 26, 2007)

TSG No.: 3446476 TS No.: 20079070802553 FHA/VA/PMI No.: Notice Of Trustee's Sale YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 12/29/2006 UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN

EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 1/2/2008 at 12:30 PM First American Loanstar Trustee Services, as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded 01/05/2007, as Instrument No. 2007-002302, in book , page , of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of San Mateo County, State of California. Executed by: Irene Villalobos, Agustin Garcia, will sell at public auction to highest bidder for cash, cashier's™s check/cash equivalent or other form of payment authorized by 2924h(b), (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States) At the Marshall St. entrance to the Hall of Justice and Records, 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA All right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State described as: As more fully described in the above mentioned Deed of Trust APN# 063-402130-7 The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 427 Larkspur Drive, East Palo Alto, CA 94305 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is \$512,072.50 The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to sell to be recorded in the County where the real property is located. Date: 12/12/2007 First American Title Insurance Company First American LoanStar Trustee Services 3 First American Way Santa Ana, CA 92707 First American Loanstar Trustee Services may be acting as a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Original document signed by Authorized Agent Chet Sconyers a " For Trustee's Sale Information Please Call (714) 573-1965 P338466 12/12, 12/19, 12/26/2007 (Published in The Almanac 12/12, 19, 26, 2007)

TS# 040-15047 Order # 30081764 Loan # 23614.06-FABBRO Notice of Trustee's Sale YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 12/4/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of

THE PENINSULA'S FREE CLASSIFIEDS WEBSITE TO RESPOND TO ADS WITHOUT PHONE NUMBERS GO TO WWW.FOGSTER.COM

sale. Trustor(s): Steven A. Fabbro, an unmarried man Recorded: 12/05/2006 as Instrument No. 2006-183318 in book , page of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of San Mateo County, California; Date of Sale: 1/2/2008 at 12:30 PM Place of Sale: At the Marshall St. entrance to the Hall of Justice and Records, 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$643,187.70 The purported property address is: 65 Granada Court Portola Valley, CA 94208 Legal Description As more fully described in said Deed of Trust Assessor's Parcel No. 079-009-092-27A, 079-092-270 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. Date: 11/30/2007 LandAmerica Default Services Summer Everts, Post Office Box 5899 6 Executive Circle Irvine, CA 92616 (949) 885-4500 Sale Line: 714-573-1965 Reinstatement Line: 949-885-4500 To request reinstatement/and or payoff FAX request to: (949) 885-4496 This office is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. P341163 12/12, 12/19, 12/26/2007 (Almanac 12/12, 19, 26, 2007)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: Jacob H. Godwin, Jr. #117140 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of Jacob H. Godwin, Jr. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by: Jacob H. Godwin III in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN MATEO. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Jacob H. Godwin III be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held on January 11, 2008, 9am, Dept. 14, of the Superior Court of California, San Mateo County, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063. IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in section 9100 of the California Probate Code. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner: /s/ Roger P. Kokores, Esq., 2600 El Camino Real, #501, Palo Alto, CA 94306 (650) 857-1818 (Almanac 12/12, 19, 26, 2007)

TS# 047-15336 Order # 30086393 Loan # 0046175964 Notice of Trustee's Sale YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 4/18/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's

check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor(s): Amilcar Sandoval, a single person Recorded: 04/30/2007 as Instrument No. 2007-066057 in book , page of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of San Mateo County, California; Date of Sale: 1/9/2008 at 12:30 PM Place of Sale: At the Marshall St. entrance to the Hall of Justice and Records, 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$523,956.98 The purported property address is: 330 Wisteria Drive East Palo Alto, CA 94303 Legal Description As more fully described in said Deed of Trust Assessor's Parcel No. 063-413-170 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. Date: 12/12/2007 LandAmerica Default Services Samir Khan, authorized signor Post Office Box 5899 6 Executive Circle Irvine, CA 92616 (949) 885-4500 Sale Line: 714-573-1965 Reinstatement Line: 949-885-4500 To request reinstatement/and or payoff FAX request to: (949) 885-4496 This office is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. P344970 12/19, 12/26, 01/02/2008 (The Almanac 12/19, 26, 2007, 1/2, 2008)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: Dolores R. Brown Case# 117163 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of Dolores R. Brown. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by: John S. Varich, Jr. in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN MATEO. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that John S. Varich, Jr. be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held on January 22, 2008, 9am, Dept. 14 of the Superior Court of California, San Mateo, 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063. IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in section 9100 of the California Probate Code. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you

may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner: /s/ Peter Bajorek, Hales & George, 19040 Cox Avenue, Suite 3, Saratoga, CA 95070 (408) 255-6292 (The Almanac 12/19, 26, 2007, 1/2/08)

T.S. No. 07-9852-CA Loan No. 2000308318 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 12/6/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor: Ray L. Mitchell and Alberta Mitchell, husband and wife as joint tenants Duly Appointed Trustee: Financial Title Company Recorded 12/15/2006 as Instrument No. 2006-189957 in book , page of Official Records in the Office of the Recorder of San Mateo County, California, Date of Sale: 1/16/2008 at 12:30 PM Place of Sale: At the Marshall St. entrance to the Hall of Justice and Records, 400 County Center, Redwood City, California Estimated amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$707,993.81 Street Address or other common designation of real property: 100 Garden St East Palo Alto, CA 94303 Legal Description: As more fully described in said Deed of Trust A.P.N.: 063-151-080-7 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. Date: 12/22/2007 Financial Title Company Trustees Sale Information 714-573-1965 www.prioriposting.com Eric Johnson, Financial Title Company 4665 MacArthur Court Suite 250 Newport Beach, CA 92660 949-252-2800 P345262 12/26, 1/2, 01/09/2008 (Published in The Almanac 12/26, 2007, 1/2, 9, 2008)

T.S. No. 7282 Loan No. 227603 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 2/6/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER.

A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest

and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale.

Trustor: SOSAIA TAKAI, A SINGLE MAN Duly Appointed Trustee: LAW OFFICES OF LES ZIEVE Deed of Trust recorded 2/15/2006 as Instrument No. 2006-022497 in book, page of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of San Mateo County, California, Date of Sale: 1/16/2008 at 12:30 PM Place of Sale: AT THE MARSHALL ST ENTRANCE TO THE HALL OF JUSTICE AND RECORDS LOCATED AT: 400 COUNTY CENTER, REDWOOD CITY, CALIFORNIA Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$639,619.89 Note: Because the Beneficiary reserves the right to bid less than the total debt owed, it is possible that at the time of the sale the opening bid may be less than the total debt owed.

Street Address or other common designation of real property: 1117 MADERA AVENUE, MENLO PARK, CA 94025 A.P.N #: 062-091-320 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale.

Dated: December 17, 2007 LAW OFFICES OF LES ZIEVE, as Trustee, 17682 Beach Blvd, Suite 204, Huntington Beach, CA 92647. Automated Sale Information Line: 818-487-8009 or www.elite-postandpub.com. For Non-Automated Sale Information, call: 714-848-9272. Carrie Gregg, Trustee Sale Officer THIS FIRM IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. EPP 1112. (Published in The Almanac 12/26, 2007, 1/2, 9, 2008)

NOTICE OF UNIFIED TRUSTEE'S SALE T.S. No.: PEC-064518 Loan No.: Bartels YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 1/25/2005 AND SECURITY AGREEMENT DATED 9/14/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 1/16/2008, 12:30 P.M., Standard Trust Deed Service Company, as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded on 2/2/2005, as Document No. 2005-017114, of Official Records in the Office of the Recorder of San Mateo, County, California, executed by Stanford Ventures Corp., a California Corporation, as Trustor, Pacific Equity and Capital, as Beneficiary. Will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States, by Cash, a Cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state.) At the Marshall Street entrance to the Hall of Justice and Records, 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA, all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County, California, describing the land therein: Lot 66, as shown on that certain Map entitled, "Map of Tract No. 825, Park Forest Unit No. 2", filed in the office of the recorder of the County of San Mateo, State of California, on June 9, 1964 in Book 60 of Maps at Page 21. A.P.N.: 060-343-450-7 The property heretofore described is being sold à céas isâ ü. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 1711 Stone Pine Lane, Menlo Park, CA 94025. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warrant, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of

Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the Trust created by said Deed of Trust, to-wit: \$232,185.12 estimated. Accrued interest and additional advances, if any, will increase the figure prior to sale. Beneficiary hereby elects to conduct a unified foreclosure sale pursuant to the provisions of California Commercial Code section 9604, et seq., and to include in the non judicial foreclosure of the real property interest described in the Security Agreement dated 9/14/2007, between the original Trustor and the original beneficiary, as it may have been amended from time to time, and pursuant to any other instruments between the Trustor and beneficiary referencing a security interest in personal property. Beneficiary reserves its right to evoke its election as to some or all of said personal property and/or fixtures or to add additional personal property and/or fixtures to the election herein expressed, as Beneficiary's sole election, from time to time and at any time until the consummation of the Trustee's Sale to be conducted pursuant to the Deed of Trust and this Notice of Trustee's Sale. See the Deed of Trust, if applicable. The personal property which was given as security for trustor's obligation is described as: Portfolio of Fine Photographic Art owned by Venture Risk Research and Management Corp This collection consists of black and white silver prints Portfolios: 15 Photographs Estimated Market Value \$75,000.00 White Sands Estimated Market Value \$55,000.00 Photographs: Windows, Mariposa 1950 11x14 Estimated Market Value \$12,000.00, Tide Pool Kelp 1975 8x10 Estimated Market Value \$15,000.00, Mono Lake (Vintage) 16x20 Estimated Market Value \$35,000.00, Mendenhall Glacier 11x14 Estimated Market Value \$18,000.00, Holland Canal 16x20 Estimated Market Value \$50,000.00, Conway Summit 8x10 Estimated Market Value \$12,000.00, Garapada Beach 8x10 Estimated Market Value \$20,000.00, Beach Forest (Horizontal/Vintage) 11x14 Estimated Market Value \$25,000.00, Beach Forest (Vertical/Vintage) 11x14 Estimated Market Value \$40,000.00, Dunes, Shoshone-2 11x14 Estimated Market Value \$40,000.00, Trees and Fog-2 11x14 Estimated Market Value \$35,000.00, Dead Megay 16x20 Estimated Market Value \$20,000.00 Total \$452,000.00. Portfolio of Fine Photographic Art owned by Venture Risk Research and Management Corp A. Six (6) eleven by fourteen-nch (11" by 14" black & white prints created by Brett Weston: Description: 1. Dunes and Clouds Shoeshone-1969 - Estimated Market Value \$11,800.00, 2. Cracked Glass-1953 - Estimated Market Value \$10,800.00, 3. Wegart Pass-1972 - Estimated Market Value \$9,700.00, 4. Cracked Plastic-1955 - Estimated Market Value \$11,800.00, 5. Refuge-Hawaii-1980 - Estimated Market Value \$9,800.00, 6. Ice-1971 - Estimated Market Value \$8,900.00 B. Six (6)-sixteen by twenty-inch (16" by 20") black and white prints created by Brett Weston: Description: 1. Wegart Pass-1973 - Estimated Market Value \$14,900.00, 2. Dune White Sands-1946 - Estimated Market Value \$15,700.00, 3. Austrian Landscapes-1972 - Estimated Market Value \$17,600.00, 4. Dune-1946 - Estimated Market Value \$16,800.00, 5. Ice-1977 - Estimated Market Value \$14,700.00, 6. Cracked Plastic-1954 - Estimated Market Value \$13,600.00 C. Two (2) eleven by fourteen-inch (11" by 14") framed Cikir prints created by Joseph Holmes: Description: 1. Muc-Grand Canyon - Estimated Market Value \$5,500.00, 2. Glacial Silt-Alaska - Estimated Market Value \$5,800.00 Estimated Market Valueâ "Grand Total of all 14 Fine Photographic Prints: \$167,400.00 No warranty is made that any or all of the personal property still exists or is available for the successful bidder and no warranty is made as to the condition of any of the personal property, which shall be sold "as is" "where is". The beneficiary under the Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned, a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a Written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the County where the real property is located and more than three months have elapsed since such recordation. We are attempting to collect a debt and any information we obtain will be used for that purpose. For Trustee's Sale information please call (925)603-

7342. Date: December 18, 2007 Standard Trust Deed Service Company, as Trustee, 2600 Stanwell Drive Suite 200, Concord, CA 94520 (925)603-1000 By: Amy Rigsby, Assistant Secretary. (RSVP# 99668)(12/26/07, 01/02/08, 01/09/08)(Published in The Almanac 12/26, 2007, 1/2, 9, 2008) TS No. 7282 Loan No. 227603 Notice of Trustee's Sale YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 2/6/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, Cashiera™s Check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed to Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor: Sosaia Takai, a single man Duly Appointed Trustee: Law Offices of Les Zieve Deed of Trust recorded 02/15/2006 as Instrument No. 2006-022497 in book, page of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of San Mateo County, California, Date of Sale: 1/16/2008 at 12:30 PM Place of Sale: At the Marshall St. entrance to the Hall of Justice and Records, 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$639,619.89 As more fully described in said Deed of Trust Note: Because the Beneficiary reserves the right to bid less than the total debt owed, it is possible that at the time of the sale the opening bid may be less than the total debt owed. Street Address or other common designation of real property: 1117 Madera Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025 A.P.N.: 062-091-320 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. Date: December 17, 2007 Law Offices of Les Zieve, as Trustee 17682 Beach Blvd, Suite 204 Huntington Beach, CA 92647 Sale Information Line: 714-573-1965 Non Sale Information: 714-848-9272 Carrie Gregg, Trustee Sale Officer This firm is attempting to collect a debt and any information we obtain will be used for that purpose. P347611 12/26, 1/2, 01/09/2008 (Published in The Almanac 12/26/07, 1/2, 9, 2008)

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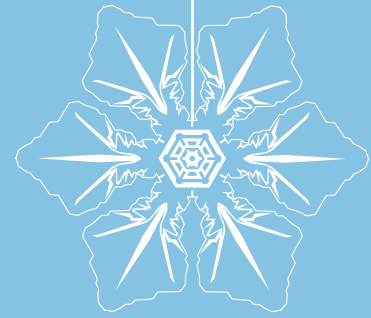
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