



JAZZ PIANIST, COMPOSER

Taylor Eigsti is grounded in tradition
— but goes far beyond. | PAGE 7

The Almanac

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

DECEMBER 2, 2009 | VOL. 45 NO. 14



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Chef Dmitry Elperin's cooking keeps Village Pub patrons coming back, and the Michelin star shining [SECTION 2]



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Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

From adversity, an inspiration

The Red Barn at Stanford, where Nancy Hey of Portola Valley has given horse-riding instructions for 38 years. Recently, Stanford said she had to leave to make way for a new trainer, a former Olympian. Ms. Hey, who says she looks for inspiration in adversity, has opened new quarters at Rancho Viejo, a private boarding and training facility at 2710 Alpine Road in Portola Valley, near Webb Ranch. See **Page 5**.

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On the cover

Dmitry Elperin, executive chef of the Village Pub in Woodside, talks about his early inspiration on the road to becoming a Michelin-star chef and his commitment to creating produce-driven meals that are "true to the seasons." Photo by Michelle Le. See **Section 2 cover** for the story.

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Sides

Traditional Stuffing

Mushrooms, onion, celery, water chestnuts and sage
\$10.75 qt..... \$5.50 pt

Cornbread Stuffing

Dried cranberries, apricots and green onion
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Mashed Potatoes

Fresh potatoes whipped with cream, and butter
\$12.00 qt..... \$6.25 pt

Porcini Mushroom Gravy

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\$12.00 qt..... \$6.25 pt

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Sauteed shallots, butter and almonds
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Bake with cheese garlic and cream
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Local News

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Damage control, or just damage?

For local residents who view the California High-Speed Rail Authority's decision to sign a six-year, \$9 million contract with a PR firm as an attempt to spread propaganda, it could have been worse: The rail agency almost hired a self-described "damage-control master."

Back in September, the authority's staff recommended handing the contact to Mercury Public Affairs, a firm headed by Adam Mendelsohn and Steve Schmidt (no relation to the former Menlo Park council member).

But the agency's board of directors balked after the Los Angeles Times detailed Mr. Mendelsohn's and Mr. Schmidt's connections to Gov. Schwarzenegger, raising conflict-of-interest issues. The agency later hired PR firm Ogilvy.

While the rail agency has characterized the PR effort as an attempt to clear up confusion about the project, the firm it almost hired describes its mission in more blunt terms.

"Our approach is designed to ... motivate and shape public opinion," Mercury writes on its Web site. "We not only respond to specific situations, but actively control them to its (sic) successful resolution."

On the site, the bio of Mr. Schmidt — a former assistant to Dick Cheney who has helped run campaigns for George Bush, Arnold Schwarzenegger and John McCain — lauds him as a "damage-control master."

Eerily familiar house

A film factoid courtesy of the Menlo Park Historical Association for all those Hitchcock fans out there: The ominous-looking house in the movie "Psycho" hails from Menlo Park. It was once part of the Hopkins estate at the corner of Laurel Street and Burgess Drive. The estate's Sherwood Hall was bought by Universal Studios in 1942, disassembled and used for film sets.

Sherwood Hall's furnishings are also part of film history, according to the historical association. Many can be seen in "The Unsinkable Molly Brown," starring Debbie Reynolds.



Portola Valley resident **Nancy Hey** rewards Claudius with a carrot after his post and rail jumping exercises.

Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Inspired by adversity: Nancy Hey teaches much more than riding

By Maggie Mah Johnson

Special to The Almanac

Nancy Hey's voice is sweet and cheerful with a musical lilt. Her walk is strong and determined. A few weeks ago, after 38 years of riding and training at Stanford's Red Barn, she was told she would have to be out before the end of the year.

Citing an increasing need for high-level training, the university announced its decision to bring in a new trainer, former Olympian Buddy Brown. Imme-

diately after Ms. Hey was told that there would not be room for both trainers, Stanford issued an e-mail to Red Barn boarders and students informing them of the change.

In the midst of the uproar from the horse community, and in particular, her clients, Ms. Hey, a resident of Portola Valley, has calmly gone about finding a new base of operations and home for 26 horses and ponies. She says all of her clients are making the move with her to new quarters at Rancho Viejo,

a private boarding and training facility at 2710 Alpine Road in Portola Valley, near Webb Ranch and next to the Portola Valley Training Stable.

Where others might feel victimized, Nancy Hey says simply: "I have always felt that when you are faced with adversity, rather than be frightened or defeated, be inspired. I'm inspired to make a better situation for my clients."

With many people up in arms and plenty of mud being slung, she has refused to lay blame on the institution and has only

positive things to say about her long association at the historic barn. "Of course, it was very hard at first and I will cry when I leave," she says. "My children literally grew up here."

Support has poured in from the horse community, including offers of help from other trainers. "When this is all over, I'm going to write a thank you to all of them," she says. "We're competitive but everyone has really rallied around."

See **HEY**, page 8

Ryan Ferrari, 21, of Woodside killed in car crash

By Andrea Gemmet

Almanac Staff Writer

Ryan Ferrari, a 21-year-old Woodside resident, died in a car accident early Saturday morning, Nov. 28, after the vehicle he was driving hit two trees and another vehicle before flipping over.

Mr. Ferrari was headed home at about 2:30 a.m. when he crashed in the 200 block of Woodside Drive, said Sgt. Wes Matsuura of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.

He lost control of his vehicle, went into the opposite lanes

and hit a tree. He then hit another tree and crashed into an oncoming car driven by a Redwood City resident, according to Sgt. Matsuura.

The vehicle spun out and flipped, and Mr. Ferrari was pronounced dead at the scene. Toxicology test results are pending, but the preliminary cause of Mr. Ferrari's death is multiple blunt trauma injuries, said Robert Foucraut, the San Mateo County coroner, on Nov. 30.

The driver of the other vehicle, Jerad Tondino, was found to be under the influence and booked

for DUI, Sgt. Matsuura said.

Mr. Tondino was not injured in the collision and it was determined that he was not at fault for the crash, the Sheriff's Office said.

Nearby resident Helen Steinberg said the accident occurred in front of the house of her Woodside Hills neighbors Shirley and Chuck Green. The noise of the crash woke them up and Ms. Green called 911 while Mr. Green rushed outside to help, said Ms. Steinberg.

Ms. Steinberg sent out an e-mail praising the Greens for taking

action, and expressing sympathy for the Ferrari family's loss.

"It's a wonderful family," she told The Almanac. "The father, all he talked about was how lucky he was to have three wonderful boys."

The Greens could not be reached by The Almanac's press deadline Monday afternoon.

Funeral arrangements for Mr. Ferrari are pending, and are under the direction of Spangler Mortuary in Menlo Park.

Bay City News Service contributed to this report.

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A career of note at 24

Menlo Park native Taylor Eigsti is grounded in tradition, but goes far beyond, as jazz pianist and composer

By **Renee Batti**
Almanac News Editor

At 24, Taylor Eigsti has a resume that most musicians twice his age would envy. Six recordings of his own, including the two-Grammy-nominated “Lucky to Be Me” and the most recent “Let it Come to You”; numerous performances as a sideman on other recordings; tour dates that have taken him to Japan, Brazil, and many European countries; and solid name recognition in the jazz world here at home — the birthplace of jazz.

And he’s not about to stop now.

He did slow down a bit on Thanksgiving Day, though. Mr. Eigsti, who grew up in Menlo Park, took a breather from a “draining, intense recording session for a new record” to catch up with e-mail and update The Almanac on his career.

The brief holiday was sandwiched between a Nov. 21 Cal Performance (Berkeley) concert with jazz guitarist Julian Lage, and his upcoming Peninsula performance with three other highly regarded jazz pianists in Piano Summit III.

In addition to Mr. Eigsti, pianists Susan Muscarella, Larry Vuckovich and Denny Zeitlin; bassist Peter Barshay; and drummer Akira Tana will take the stage at the piano summit, set for 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5. It will take place in Rothrock Performance Hall at Woodside Priory School, where Mr. Eigsti went to high school not so many years ago.

The three modern jazz piano summits have been sponsored by the Palo Alto Jazz Alliance, founded and led by Herb Wong of Menlo Park, who also produces the summits. The first was in 1997, and Mr. Eigsti was one of five featured pianists. That was half a lifetime ago — he was only 12 years old.

Mr. Wong — known as Dr. Wong in jazz circles and among radio audiences — has a long history of bringing together jazz musicians on local stages as a concert producer. A longtime DJ on the now defunct jazz radio station KJAZ, he also wrote, for decades, countless liner notes for jazz recordings. And he has a devoted following at the Palo Alto Adult School, where he has taught about jazz for about 15 years.

An important mentor to the young pianist, Mr. Wong is also a zealous fan of both Mr. Eigsti’s playing and his work as a composer. “Taylor’s direction will always be fresh,” Mr. Wong says. “He will always be looking at the prospect of the future.

“He can rely also on the tradition of jazz from its roots, but he doesn’t just rely on the past. I think that’s why his compositions are not what people might expect. He doesn’t expect that. It’s a sign of giftedness. You’re not going to get the same thing — not from Taylor.”

The admiration is mutual. Mr. Eigsti writes: “Dr. Wong is jazz royalty, simply put. ... He has had an immense impact in my life at all stages and gave me so many opportunities



Photo by Devin DeHaven

Taylor Eigsti will perform with three other acclaimed jazz pianists in Piano Summit III on Dec. 5 in Portola Valley.

to perform and grow as a musician early on in my development, and has always been a source of support, love and inspiration.

“But he has impacted so much of the larger jazz world, and has made such an important mark, by his eloquent words, and forward-thinking ideas.”

A New York City resident for just over two years, Mr. Eigsti has his gifted fingers in a number of pots. In addition to touring with his own trio and other ensembles, he has spent a considerable amount of time during the last year developing the concept and music for a new group.

Called Free Agency, it includes a rhythm section and two vocalists, but can expand to include a symphony. “The music is a freely associated combination of musical elements, influenced by rock music, classical, jazz (of course), folk music, and modern progressive R&B music,” he writes in an e-mail (on Thanksgiving day, of course).

Local audiences will have a chance to hear Free Agency on Jan. 22 at the Fox Theatre in Redwood City and on Jan. 23 at De Anza College in Cupertino when it performs with the Peninsula Symphony.

Meanwhile, he says he’s about half-way finished recording his next CD with his trio and vocalist Becca Stevens. “It’s my favorite one yet.” ■

INFORMATION

Piano Summit III will take place at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, in Rothrock Performance Hall, Woodside Priory School, 302 Portola Road in Portola Valley. Performers are pianists Taylor Eigsti, Larry Vuckovich, Susan Muscarella, and Denny Zeitlin; bassist Peter Barshay; and drummer Akira Tana. Produced by Herb Wong, the summit benefits the nonprofit Palo Alto Jazz Alliance. Tickets are \$30, general; \$25, Jazz Alliance members; and \$10, students. For tickets and information, call 345-9543, or e-mail harvey.mittler@myastound.net.

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NOTICE OF SCOPING SESSION FOR THE EL CAMINO REAL/DOWNTOWN SPECIFIC PLAN

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Division of the City of Menlo Park, California has scheduled a scoping meeting. At this meeting, members of the public will have an opportunity to comment on the issues to be analyzed in an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the **El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan**. The Specific Plan will contain elements such as land use regulations, design guidelines, traffic and circulation improvements, infrastructure plans, and implementation measures.

The scoping session will be held at the Menlo Park City Council Chambers, located at 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, in conjunction with the following meeting:

- **City Council Regular Meeting**
Tuesday, December 15, 2009 at 7 p.m.

(Note: the scoping session is one of several agenda items. The full meeting agenda will be published at the end of the week prior to the meeting.)

The scoping session will be informed by the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the EIR, which will be available for review at City offices or on the project web page by Tuesday, December 9, 2009.

The Planning Division is also accepting written comments on items to be included in the EIR. Please send written comments either by email to throgers@menlopark.org or regular mail to **Thomas Rogers, Associate Planner, Planning Division, 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park CA, 94025 by 5 p.m. on January 8, 2010.**

The project file 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. **For more information, please contact Thomas Rogers at (650) 330-6722 or throgers@menlopark.org.** In addition, you can review information and sign up for periodic updates regarding this project on the project page on the City’s website at: <http://www.menlopark.org/specificplan>

DATED: November 24, 2009 Thomas Rogers,
Associate Planner

PUBLISHED: December 2, 2009

Inspired by adversity

HEY

continued from page 5

In a pursuit driven by passion, it's not unusual for riders to change trainers at the drop of a rail. Nancy Hey, on the other hand, has an unusually devoted following.

She teaches beginners, advanced riders, children and adults, and even has parents and kids from the same family taking lessons. Many of her students start as young as age 4 and continue through high school. Some return after college and later bring their own children.

What inspires such loyalty? "I guess it's because they know I really care," she says. "Parents feel safe having their kids ride with me."

She also says she views her clients as friends and that together they form a community.

She credits her perseverance to a series of challenges she faced early on in life. At 13, she was diagnosed with uveitis, an autoimmune disorder of the eyes. Ironically, a similar ailment, commonly known as "moon blindness," afflicts horses. Although the disease was treated successfully, it caused damage to the retina and left her legally blind.

Just after she recovered and returned to school, her parents divorced.

"It was a double whammy," she recalls. "It was very hard but I found something inside myself. I realized nobody was going to do

this for me. From that point on, I decided to view adverse situations as obstacles to get over. This is one of those situations."

Despite her visual impairment, she soldiered on in school, taping lectures and using audio books to study. She went on to earn a teaching credential and a master's degree in speech pathology, and taught in Southern California while her husband, Randy Hey, attended law school.

She also paints and writes poetry. "I can do everything except get a driver's license," she says with a laugh.

Nancy's love of riding began with pony rides in Griffith Park in Los Angeles when she was a tiny girl back in the 1950s. "We were tied on to the saddle and went once around in a circle," she says. "I was so sad when we came to the end of the circle."

Later on, she spent summers at the family cabin in the Sierra and roamed the trails and back woods on packhorses that her grandmother had rented.

Back home, she saved money to rent horses in Griffith Park. "I remember wishing that I could afford to ride for more than an hour!"

Kit Stebbins, a fine rider and college sorority sister, encouraged her to take English riding lessons. "For a graduation present, she found me a horse I could lease for \$45 a month," she says. "Zorro and I would just run at the jumps."

Marriage did not dampen



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Allison Littlefield jumps Claudius over posts and rails during a training session with instructor Nancy Hey at the Red Barn at Stanford. Ms. Littlefield has been training with Ms. Hey for 13 years.

Nancy's enthusiasm for horses and riding. While she and her husband worked for Ralph Nader in Washington, D.C., during the summer of 1968, their apartment was burglarized. A small insurance policy covered their losses and upon their return to Southern California, her husband offered her a choice. "You can use the money to get new clothes or you can buy a horse."

No surprises here. A green 4-year-old named "Galley" was soon ensconced in the paddock behind the rented house.

After moving to Menlo Park

in 1971 (they moved to Portola Valley in 1978), Nancy continued to teach, working with developmentally disabled students. It was after her own children were born that she started to teach riding. "My daughter and her friends were my first students," she recalls.

The overall philosophy of Nancy Hey's teaching goes beyond such mechanical aspects as posting on the correct diagonal and picking up the right lead.

While her students learn the basics of riding and good horsemanship, they are also being

taught other valuable lessons. "Consideration for others is a big one," she says. "They learn to be aware of their hands and how keeping them low is being considerate of the horse's mouth. If they can become mindful of a horse's well-being, they can be mindful of someone else's well-being."

One of her clients, Jill Layman, whose daughter also takes lessons from Ms. Hey, says: "I'm not sure how she does it, but Nancy has a gentle and direct way of working with the kids. She is

See **HEY**, page 17

Councilman Rich Cline set to be next Menlo Park mayor

If Menlo Park's City Council follows its order of succession, Councilman Rich Cline will be sworn in as the city's next mayor at the council meeting Tuesday, Dec. 1.

John Boyle, the lone "minority" voice on the council, is in line to become vice mayor, if the council follows the order.

The mayor chairs council meetings, but has no executive authority. The position rotates among council members.

The brief, celebratory meeting will begin at 7 p.m. in the council chambers, located in the Civic Center between Laurel and Alma streets. A reception in the council chambers will follow.

Fire district dedicates new building

The Menlo Park Fire Protection District will celebrate the opening of a new administrative office building in a ceremony Tuesday, Dec. 1, at 9 a.m.

BRIEFS

The new building is located at 170 Middlefield Road.

Instead of starting from scratch, the fire district purchased and renovated an existing structure for \$5 million, according to Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman. Rebuilding the existing offices at 300 Middlefield Road would have cost an estimated \$19.7 million, Mr. Schapelhouman said in a press release.

Twice as large as the district's previous office, the new structure will house chief officers, support staff, and the fire prevention bureau, according to Mr. Schapelhouman.

The district serves Atherton, Menlo Park, East Palo Alto and nearby unincorporated areas.

Venture capitalist seeks Assembly seat

A Menlo Park man has thrown his hat into the ring as a candi-

date for the California Assembly's 21st district.

Josh Becker, a venture capitalist and philanthropist, will vie for the Democratic nomination for the seat to be vacated by Ira Ruskin, who will be forced out of office by term limits in 2010.

In a press release, Mr. Becker said he would "like to take some of the same principles of innovation I've experienced here in Silicon Valley up to Sacramento."

He is the founder and chair of the Full Circle Fund, a San Francisco-based philanthropy organization that gives grants to nonprofits. He also founded New Cycle Capital, an "early-stage" venture capital firm based in San Francisco.

More recently, he started the Clean Economy Network, a business networking group.

Other candidates to replace Mr. Ruskin include San Mateo County Supervisor Rich Gordon, and Palo Alto Councilwoman Yoriko Kishimoto.

The 21st district encompasses all of The Almanac's circulation area.

Talk on topographic maps of the future

Mark DeMulder, director of the National Geospatial Program for the U.S. Geological Survey, will discuss the future of topographic map-making in the Menlo Park offices of the USGS on Thursday, Dec. 10.

The presentation, "A New Generation of Maps: Topographic Maps for the 21st Century," is set for 7 p.m. in Conference Room A of Building 3 at 345 Middlefield Road.

The new Web-based topographical maps are quadrangles composed of PDF layers that, together, provide "more than a standard map," according to a flier for the event.

Go to online.wr.usgs.gov/cal endar for more information.

Church seeks online prayers for peace

Hopes for peace in the world's trouble spots will be a focus at

Valley Presbyterian Church in the weeks leading up to the holidays.

During November, church officials are asking the public — both here and around the world — to send prayers to the church's Web site. Artists in the congregation will incorporate the prayers in a 4-foot-by-20-foot banner at the church, at 945 Portola Road in Portola Valley.

The banner's principle message will be "Peace on Earth" in English, Arabic and Hebrew, and it will hang from the side of the church during December, the Rev. Cheryl Goodman-Morris said in an e-mail.

The church says it has given out small peace banners to children in local Muslim and Jewish communities with the intention of having the kids return them decorated in peace-related themes for display around the perimeter of the church's sanctuary, Ms. Goodman-Morris said.

Go to valleypreschurch.org and click on "Peace on Earth" Prayer Banner Project for more information. The church also has a Facebook page for the project.

City tries 3-hour holiday parking limit

By Sean Howell
Almanac Staff Writer

Holiday shoppers, be warned: If you're planning a marathon shop-'til-you-drop spree in Menlo Park, you may have to move your car once or twice.

That's because the city is tightening its holiday parking rules this year. In the past, the city allowed unlimited parking in the downtown plazas for about a month leading up to the new year. This year, people will be allowed only three hours (with the exception of the Draeger's lot, where the posted times won't change).

That may not go over well with some shoppers, but it's what downtown businesses requested, according to Fran Dehn, CEO of the Chamber of Commerce.

And if it works well, the three-hour limit may eventually become permanent, replacing the two-hour

limit that has been enforced the rest of the year.

The city is conducting a separate study that could result in changes to the current rules, such as extending parking to three hours in the plazas and on side streets, and charging people to park in the plazas. The chamber views the holiday window as a test case for potential new parking regulations.

The new rules will be in effect for a month: from Monday, Dec. 7, through Jan. 3, according to the police department. The department has not yet set dates for relaxed overnight parking on residential streets, a spokesperson said.

"We decided to give it a try and see how people react," Ms. Dehn said. "It's not going to be perfect, but it's an attempt."

Ms. Dehn also has a warning for people who may be used to relaxed enforcement of parking on Santa Cruz Avenue during the holidays: Not this year.

"It will definitely be enforced," she said. ■

Police arrest man, 79, in downtown shoplifting spree

Police arrested a 79-year-old Daly City man following a shoplifting spree in downtown Menlo Park on Nov. 17.

James Anderson of Daly City was arrested on charges of second-degree burglary, receiving stolen property and petty theft, said Officer Paul Phu. Another suspect, described as a white man in his 20s, is still at large, said Officer Phu.

Jewelry, a stuffed animal and other items were taken from four stores in the 600 block of Santa Cruz Avenue — Walgreens, Cheeky Monkey

toy store, Dolma, and Look clothing boutique, according to Menlo Park police Sgt. Sharon Kaufman.

The store manager of Look noticed two men acting suspiciously and reported them to the police. They were caught with jewelry from her store, as well as other things, she told The Almanac.

"It was clear that there were other stores that were being hit," she said.

In all, about \$350 in items from the four stores was recovered, police said.



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COMMUNITY MEETING SHARON HEIGHTS PUMP STATION REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The City of Menlo Park Municipal Water District (MPMWD) operates a drinking water pump station in Sharon Heights. It was installed in the early 1960's and has reached the end of its useful life. MPMWD is currently developing plans for a replacement pump station anticipated for construction in late 2010.

A community meeting will be held to provide residents with information about the pump station design, to hear concerns and to discuss impacts during construction.

Monday, December 7, 2009, 6:30 p.m.
City of Menlo Park Recreation Center
700 Alma St., Menlo Park, CA 94025

For more information, contact the City's Engineering Services Division at (650) 330-6740 or visit our website at www.menlopark.org (follow the links to the City's Capital Improvement Project Pages).

Published in THE ALMANAC on December 2, 2009.

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Proceeds to the Education Fund of Palo Alto Jazz Alliance Benefitting Music Education
Donated as a community service by the Palo Alto Weekly and the Country Almanac.

Police dog hangs up his badge

Atherton police dog Zar is retiring after serving with Officer Dean DeVlugt for six years. Zar joined the department in 2003 and provided "exceptional dog service," said Chief Glenn Nielsen. He will spend his retirement years at home with Officer DeVlugt, who is getting a new canine partner, funded by a donation from an Atherton family.



Photo from Atherton Police Department

Man chases burglar from Menlo Park home

A Menlo Park man chased a burglar from his home Friday, Nov. 13, though he wasn't able to recover the doormats the man stole.

The resident, 45, found a man in the hallway of his home in the 400 block of Bay Road around noon. He chased him out through a side door in the garage and about a block down the sidewalk, before the man cut into yards and jumped fences, according to police.

The burglar made off with

BRIEFS

what the victim described as two "antique" doormats, valued at \$2,500 to \$3,000 each, according to the owner, and a box of checks, police said.

The suspect is described as a white male in his 20s with a long pony tail. He was wearing a baseball cap, long shorts and a beige shirt.

The man entered the house by

breaking a lock on the garage door, police said.

No one was reported injured during the incident, and the resident reported that he did not see a weapon on the man.

Safe stolen from Left Bank restaurant

A burglar (or burglars) broke into the Left Bank restaurant in downtown Menlo Park through the roof and stole a safe overnight on Sunday, Nov. 15, according to the Menlo Park police department.

The safe contained about \$2,100 in cash and other items, police said. They are still searching for the suspects.

Left Bank is located at 635 Santa Cruz Ave.

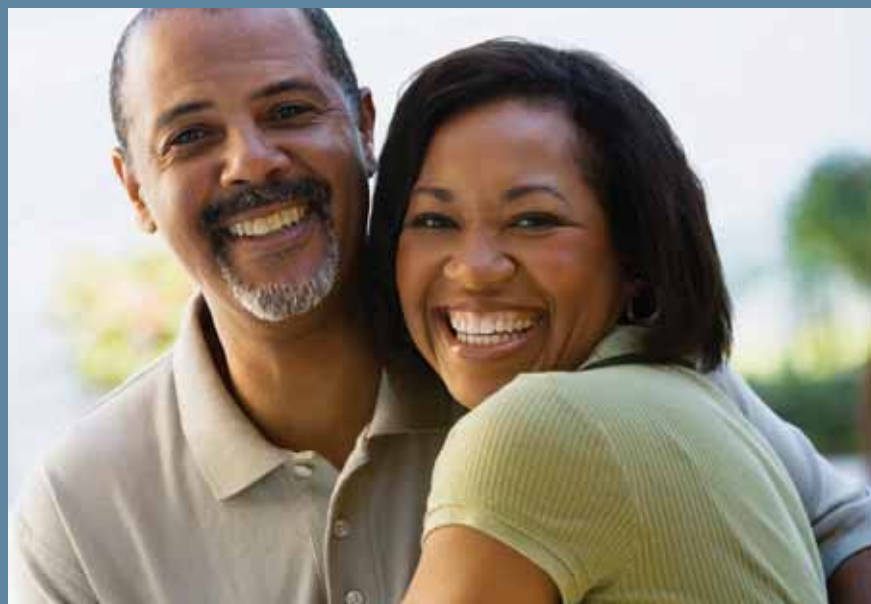
Gerry's Cakes not closing, yet

Rumors that Gerry's Cakes in Menlo Park is closing are not true, according to the owner, though she acknowledged that the bakery is not on firm ground.

The Almanac received an e-mail from a local resident lamenting Gerry's closing, but owner Vicky Waters said there are no plans to close — at least not yet. Ms. Waters is in discussions to sell the business, but "we still don't know when exactly that is going to happen," she said.

If she can't find a buyer, she said the bakery would likely be forced to close within the next few months. Business has been shaky during the recession, she said.

If she sells the business, it would remain independent, Ms. Waters said, adding that she is not in discussions with any chain retailers.



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Correction

In a story on several new buildings proposed for a 229-acre property located at 555 Portola Road in Portola Valley, The Almanac erred in stating that the structures would expand the Spring Ridge winery.

The buildings are residential in nature and would not be an expansion of the winery.

Be sure to SHOP LOCAL this holiday season

Thanks.

The Almanac





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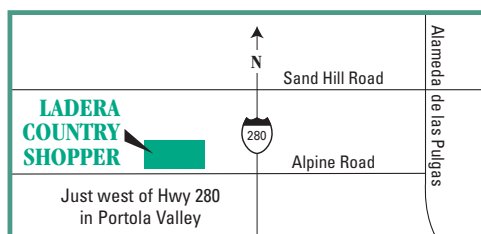


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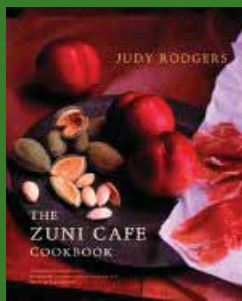


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- It creates local jobs. Local businesses are the best at creating higher-paying jobs for our neighbors.
- It helps the environment. Buying locally saves transportation fuel. Plus you get products that you know are safe and well made, because our neighbors stand behind them.
- It nurtures our community. Studies show that local businesses donate to community causes at more than twice the rate of chains.
- It conserves tax dollars. Spending locally ensures that your sales taxes are reinvested where they belong, right here in your community.

www.hometownpeninsula.org

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Holiday Calendar

MEETINGS, MUSIC, THEATER, FAMILY ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Submitting items for Holiday Calendar Submit information online. Go to TheAlmanacOnline.com and on the green navigation bar on the left, click on "Calendar Event."

Ballet America presents 'The Nutcracker'

Ballet America's production of "The Nutcracker" will be presented at Carrington Hall, 1201 Brewster Ave., in Redwood City. Performances will be at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11, and 1:30 and 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12.

The classic ballet will include a cast of more than 90 dancers. Professional dancers Alec Lytton and Jenna Mauel will perform with students of the Academy of American Ballet.

Ballet America is a performing group founded and directed by Julia Ball-Dugan, former professional dancer and current artistic director of the Academy of American Ballet in Redwood City.

Tickets to "The Nutcracker" range from \$20 to \$35 and may be ordered by calling 800-595-4849 or online at www.balletamerica.org.



Ballet America will give performances of "The Nutcracker" on Dec. 11 and 12.

Ladera merchants hold holiday fair

Merchants at the Ladera Country Shopper on Alpine Road in Portola Valley will hold their 21st annual holiday fair from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5.

Activities for kids will include crafts at Allegro Framing, Ladera Deli, and Red Lotus, planting bulbs at Ladera Garden Center, an Astro Jump, clowns and balloons, and making ornaments at Willis and Company.

Visitors may sample homemade cookies at Chase Bank and sip eggnog at Bianchini's. There will be carolers and accordion music.

Santa Claus will visit the Konditorei and pose for photos taken by Susan Thomas.

Teddy bear tea at Stanford Park

The Stanford Park Hotel will

Go to TheAlmanacOnline.com for more information on holiday events.

offer a teddy bear tea from 1 to 3 p.m. on three Sundays, Dec. 6, 13 and 20. Children may bring their favorite teddy bear to join them for sandwiches, holiday sweets and hot chocolate. Storyteller and pianist Liz Bongiorno will entertain.

Cost is \$30 for adults and \$20 for children 10 and under.

Stanford Park Hotel will also serve tea daily in the Duck Club restaurant from 1 to 4 p.m. Dec. 1 through 24. There will be an assortment of finger sandwiches, holiday sweets and teas. Cost is \$25 per person.

Reservations are required. Call 332-1234.

Snowflake Ball at Little House

Little House will hold its annual "Snowflake Ball" from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, at Little House, 800 Middle Ave. in Menlo Park. Formal attire is requested. The Jerry Jay Trio will provide music for dancing. Tickets are \$10. For more information, call 326-2025.

Women's chorus at St. Patrick's Seminary

The Peninsula Women's Chorus will present a holiday concert at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13, at St. Patrick's Seminary, 320 Middlefield Road in Menlo Park. Entitled "Snow and Soul," the program will include "The Snow" by Edward Elgar, "Five Hebrew Love Songs" by Eric Whitacre, and "Silent Night" by Franz Gruber.

The Peninsula Women's Chorus is a 50-voice choir, founded in 1966 and directed by Martin Benvenuto.

The chorus also will present a concert at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Palo Alto.

Tickets, at \$18 for general admission and \$15 for students and seniors, are available online at www.pwchorus.org.

'Tree Treasures' at history museum

The San Mateo County History Museum is holding "Tree Treasures" from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, when children can make old-fashioned holiday-tree ornaments to



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Woodside fire district holds open houses

For the typical kid, is there anything worse than Christmas without even one toy?

To prevent that from happening in this little corner of the world, the Woodside Fire Protection District, in its "Toys for Tots" drive, is asking residents to bring one new unwrapped toy to one of its three holiday open houses from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16.

The open houses will be held at the district's three stations at 3111 Woodside Road in Woodside, 135 Portola Road in Portola Valley, and 4091 Jefferson Ave. in Emerald Hills.

Santa Claus is expected at each station.



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take home, and visit with Santa inside the historic former courthouse. The museum is at 2200 Broadway in Redwood City.

Russian Christmas bazaar in Menlo Park

The annual Christmas bazaar and luncheon of the Nativity of the Holy Virgin Russian Orthodox Church, at 1220 Crane St. in Menlo Park, will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5.

For half a century, the church has held the bazaar, which is noted for serving authentic Russian food, prepared by the sisterhood of the church. For weeks the women have been preparing and freezing pirozhki and other homemade delicacies for the luncheon, which is held in the church social hall. Food may also be purchased for take-out.

A boutique will feature arts and crafts from Russia and many other gifts. Visitors will also have an opportunity to tour the historic church, originally built in 1886.

Nativity of the Holy Virgin Church in Menlo Park was founded by Russian emigres who came to California following World War II, says Father Hermogen Holste, the church's pastor. He says the Orthodox Church traces its history back to the first churches founded by the apostles in Jerusalem, Alexandria, Antioch, and other cities. Russia embraced Orthodoxy in 988.

M-A choir at MP council chambers

The Menlo-Atherton High School Choir will present a seasonal concert at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, in the Menlo Park City Council chambers, 701 Laurel St. in Menlo Park.

The choir is directed by Patrick Maier, who teaches choir and guitar at Menlo-Atherton High School.

The free family program is sponsored by the Friends of the Menlo Park Library. Free van service is available for Menlo Park seniors and people with disabilities. For more information, call 330-2512.

Breakfast With Santa

Kids and families are invited to have "Breakfast with Santa" on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Burgess Recreation Center, 700 Alma St. in Menlo Park.

Activities include a pancake breakfast, letter writing to Santa, holiday crafts, and a visit with Santa in person.

The charge is \$7 for adults and

\$5 for children. Reservations are required. Call 330-2200.

Holiday train

The Caltrain holiday train will stop at four Peninsula stations on Saturday, Dec. 5, and Sunday, Dec. 6, for a show featuring music and visits from Santa and Mrs. Claus.

The train will stop in Menlo Park from 7:25 to 7:45 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5. Visitors may drop off a new toy or book in barrels at the stops.

On Saturday, Masterworks Chorale of San Mateo will join the Salvation Army brass band. On Sunday, the band will accompany the Menlo Park Chorus. For more information, call 1-800-660-4287.

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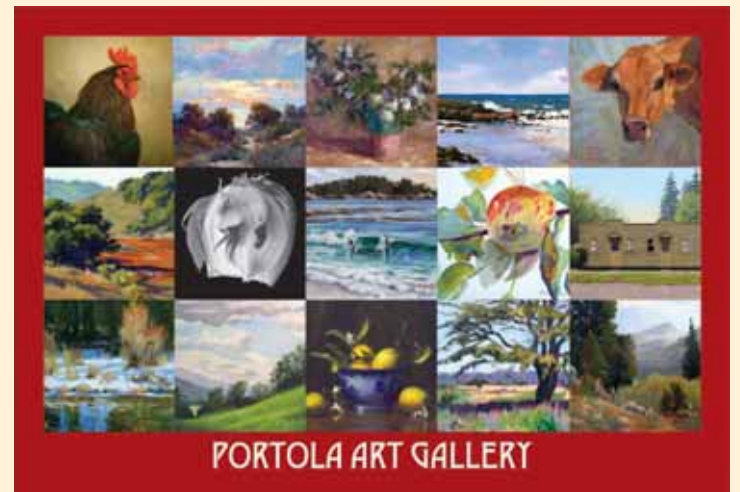
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Fire Station 8 135 Portola Rd

Fire Station 19 4091 Jefferson Ave

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PORTOLA ART GALLERY

'Small Treasures'

An exhibit of 15 Bay Area painters and photographers, entitled "Small Treasures," is on display during December at Portola Art Gallery in Allied Arts Guild in Menlo Park. The public is invited to join the artists for a reception and live music in the gardens of Allied Arts Guild from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5. Allied Arts is at 75 Arbor Road. For more information, call 321-0220.

Ex-Marché chef opens pizza spot

Former Marché chef Howard Bulka has opened his new pizza spot at Town & Country Village in Palo Alto.

The menu includes eight pizzas, ranging from putanesca to pancetta and egg. It also includes such items as mussels in marinara sauce, eggplant pillows stuffed with ricotta cheese, salads, sandwiches and Strauss Dairy soft-serve ice cream. The peppermint hot fudge sundae is topped with olive oil and fleur de sel.

Howie's Artisan Pizza is open daily for lunch and dinner. It is located next to Sur La Table and Kyra's Cupcakes at 855 El Camino Real in Town & Country. The phone number is 327-4992.

Film focuses on girls orphaned by AIDS

Coming to the Woodside Village Church at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1, is a one-hour documentary entitled "Where the Water Meets the Sky." The film tells the tale of 23 women from Zambia who learn filmmaking to show the plight of girls orphaned by AIDS.

The Rotary Club of Woodside/Portola Valley is sponsoring the event in recognition of World AIDS Day. Refreshments will be served.

The Campaign for Female Education, a nonprofit based in Cambridge, England, produced the film.

Go to www.camfed.org for more information, or call Joan Fuetsch at 599-9277.



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Inspired by adversity

HEY

continued from page 8

passionate about riding, sets high expectations and encourages the kids every step of the way.”

Ms. Layman’s daughter, Mak-ena Layman, picked Ms. Hey as the subject of a school essay on a person who has had a strong influence on her. Mak-ena wrote: “She has taught me not only how to be a good horseback rider but also to use patience in my own life.”

Ms. Hey encourages all of the kids to support each other and considers the constant routines associated with horses such as grooming and picking out hooves as a way to instill discipline. Even the simple act of checking a horse turned out in the field works to foster a sense of dedication to others.

The atmosphere of respect for the horses and for each other is evidenced by something that lately seems to be in short supply — manners! She says her students always thank her at the end of a lesson. “I never have to ask.”

While new quarters are being readied at Rancho Viejo, she is busy packing up 38 years’ worth of paraphernalia — tack, horse blankets, “lending libraries” of show clothing, and myriad types and sizes of Ariat boots.

About the place where she has spent over half of her life, she says she holds fond memories of the barn and its former dilapidated condition.

“I loved it when it was old and shabby. Some of the things I will miss the most are the owls that live in the trees near the barn.”

Looking ahead, her positive attitude shines through any momentary clouds that might gather about leaving. “I feel like the luckiest person in the world. So many people have been kind to me.” And as she is inspired by adversity, so she, herself, is an inspiration. ■

The author of this story, Maggie Mah Johnson, lives and rides horses in Woodside. For more information about Nancy Hey’s new stables, call 650-854-5211. Go to rvstables.com for more information about Rancho Viejo stables.

Be sure to SHOP LOCAL this holiday season

Thanks.

The Almanac




Community Health Education Programs

Palo Alto Center 795 El Camino Real

Lecture and Workshops

Vascular Disease Outside of the Heart

Presented by Erik Price, M.D., PAMF Cardiology
Tuesday, Jan. 12, 7 – 8:30 p.m., 650-853-4873

Living Well Classes 650-853-2960

What You Need to Know About Warfarin

Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2 – 3:30 p.m.,

Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction

Free orientation, Tuesday, Jan. 5,
6:30 – 9 p.m.



Nutrition and Diabetes Classes 650-853-2961

Adult Weight

Management Group
Thursdays, 5:30 – 7 p.m.

Bariatric Class

Tuesday, Dec. 1,
9:30 a.m. – noon

Prediabetes

Monday, Dec. 7, 9 –
11:30 a.m., Wednesday,
Dec. 16, 4:30 – 7 p.m.

Healthy Eating with

Type 2 Diabetes

Thursday, Dec. 10,
2:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Heart Smart Class

Must attend both sessions.
Tuesdays, Dec. 15 & 22,
5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Pregnancy, Breastfeeding and Child Care Classes

Preparing for Birth

Saturdays, Dec. 5, 12 & 19,
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.,
650-853-2960

Moving Through

Pregnancy
Monday, Jan. 4, 7 – 9 p.m.
650-853-2960

Support Groups

Cancer

650-342-3749

CPAP

650-853-4729

Diabetes

650-224-7872

Drug and Alcohol

650-853-2904

Healing Imagery for

Cancer Patients

650-799-5512

Kidney

650-323-2225

Multiple Sclerosis

650-328-0179

Los Altos Center 370 Distel Circle

Pregnancy, Breastfeeding and Child Care Classes

Feeding Your Toddler

Wednesday, Dec. 16, 6 – 8 p.m., 650-853-2961

Feeding Your Preschooler

Wednesday, Jan. 20, 6 – 8 p.m., 650-853-2961

Mountain View Center 701 E. El Camino Real

Lecture and Workshops

Understanding Our Children’s

Unique Learning Styles

Marvin Small Memorial Parent Workshop Series

Presented by Elizabeth Copeland, M.D.

Tuesday, Jan. 12, 7 – 8:30 p.m., 650-934-7373



Living Well Classes

Mind-Body Stress Management

(three part class)

Monday, Jan. 18, 7 – 9 p.m., 650-934-7373



HMR Weight Management Program 650-404-8260

Free orientation session. Tuesdays, Dec. 1 & 15, noon –
1 p.m., Thursdays, Dec. 10 & 17, 5 – 6:30 p.m.,

Weight Management Program 650-934-7373

Lifesteps® Weight Management (18-week program)

Starting Wednesday, Jan. 13, 6 – 7:15 p.m.

Nutrition and Diabetes Classes 650-934-7177

Healthy Living and Controlling Diabetes (2 part class)

Wednesdays, Dec. 2 & 9,
2 – 4:30 p.m.,

Tuesdays, Dec. 8 & 15,
9:30 a.m. – noon,

Wednesdays, Dec. 16 & 23,
2 – 4:30 p.m.,

Tuesdays, Dec. 22 & 29,
9:30 a.m. – noon,

Heart Smart Class

Tuesday, Dec. 8,
3 – 5:30 p.m.

Prediabetes

Thursday,
Dec. 17, 2
– 4:30 p.m.,
and Tuesday,
Dec. 22, 3 –
5:30 p.m.



Pregnancy, Breastfeeding and Child Care Classes

Feeding Your Toddler

Tuesday, Dec. 1, 7 – 9 p.m.

Preparing for Baby

Tuesday, Dec. 1, 6:30 –
8:30 p.m.

Infant Emergencies and CPR

Wednesday, Dec. 2, 23,
Jan. 6 or 20, 6 – 8:30 p.m.

Breastfeeding

Monday or Tuesday,
Dec. 7 & 8, Jan. 4 or 5,
6:30 – 9 p.m.

Baby Care

Saturday, Jan. 30, 10 –
11:30 a.m.

For all, register online or
call 650-934-7373.

Health Resource Center 650-934-7373

Ask the Pharmacist, Wednesday, Dec. 16, 1 – 3 p.m.

General Social Services, Friday, Dec. 4 and Jan. 8,
1 – 2 p.m., drop-in visits with our social worker

HICAP Counseling, by appointment

Advance Health Care Directive, by appointment



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For a complete list of classes and class fees,
lectures and health education resources,
visit: pamf.org.



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY

The Town Council for the Town of Portola Valley will conduct a public hearing to consider an increase to athletic field use fees, together with inclusion of an annual Consumer Price Index adjustment, at its regular meeting on:

Wednesday, December 9, 2009
7:30 p.m.

The Historic Schoolhouse
765 Portola Road
Portola Valley, CA

For more information, please contact Janet McDougall at (650) 851-1700, ext. 218 or through e-mail at jmcdougall@portolavalley.net.

Published in THE ALMANAC on November 25, December 2, 2009

TOWN OF WOODSIDE
2955 WOODSIDE ROAD
WOODSIDE, CA 94062

INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND SITE REVIEW BOARD

The Architectural and Site Review Board (ASRB) reviews and makes recommendations to the Director of Planning and Building on residential, site design and commercial applications.

Meetings are held on the first and third Monday of each month, 4:30 p.m. Appointment is for a term expiring in February 2013.

Interested residents may request information and applications from the Town Clerk's Office, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM-12 noon and 1-5:00 PM, Woodside Town Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, by telephone at (650) 851-6790, or through the Town's web site at www.woodsidetown.org. Deadline for applications is Monday, January 4, 2010, 5:00 p.m.

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Holiday Fund

About the author: A 2002 graduate of Menlo-Atherton High School, Mar Y Sol Alvarado is a master's program student at San Jose State University. She is academic director of Saint Francis of Assisi Youth Club, and an intern in both the San Mateo County juvenile probation department and the Santa Clara County adult probation department.



My Christmas story

By Mar Y Sol Alvarado

Ecumenical Hunger Program (EHP) has always provided a Merry Christmas for me and my family. As a single mom, my mother successfully raised three children, but definitely not on her own. She's been lucky to have the help and support of EHP. Just like a father, EHP has provided food, school supplies, warm clothing, housing items, toys, and a computer when most needed!

As a kid, I don't remember ever being hungry or wanting something I did not have. My brother, sister and I were always aware of how difficult it was for my mother to provide for us with a minimum wage job.

She was never shy about letting us know where the extra food came from every month. When Christmas time came, my mom always made it merry with the help and support of EHP. As the years went on and we grew into teenagers, she worried about being able to provide us with Christmas presents.

My mother talked to Lesia, EHP's executive director, about her economic situation and our academic achievements. We

■ HOLIDAY FUND

Your donations to The Almanac's Holiday Fund benefit the Ecumenical Hunger Program, which provides emergency food, clothing, household essentials, special children's programs, and, sometimes, financial assistance to families in need, including Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for more than 1,500 households.

were growing up and we needed things other than toys that particular Christmas.

My sister and brother were starting the college application process and I was starting my first year in college. We really needed a laptop, and like other teenagers we wanted electronic devices.

Lesia told my mother that although EHP was unable to provide Christmas presents for teenagers that year they would make a special effort to provide our family with gifts. We made a wish list and turned it into Lesia with high hopes.

Christmas day came and a black bag was delivered to our home. It contained a laptop, a DVD player, a soccer ball, and a CD player as well as our Christmas dinner. Lesia had found an

EHP donor family who shared their generosity with us!

We are all young adults now. My sister and brother are finishing biology degrees, and I'm working on a master's degree in sociology with an emphasis in criminology at San Jose State University.

My mom continues to work at the same place she has worked for more than 13 years, and although we don't need as many things as we needed when we were younger, we continue to get assistance from EHP when we require it.

We are very lucky that programs like EHP exist and bring a light of hope to families like ours. As a member of the East Palo Alto community, I feel very blessed and I look forward to a future when I, too, can contribute to EHP at Christmas time and make a family with teenagers happy and merry!

Go to www.ehpcare.org for more information about the Ecumenical Hunger Program. Mailing address: 2411 Pulgas Ave., East Palo Alto, CA 94303. Phone: (650) 323-7781. Fax: (650) 833-0371. E-mail: info@ehpcare.org.

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Fair Oaks Community Center: a place to go when in need

By Teri Chin

Human Services Manager, City of Redwood City

“I just want to say, thank you for all that you do for me.” Those were the words of Deborah when she stopped by my office recently.

Deborah is a single, working mom with a special needs child. Because of her son's condition, Deborah is unable to work full-time. She struggles to make ends meet on the \$20,000 a year her family receives between her son's disability income and her part-time bookkeeping job.

Deborah has been coming to the Fair Oaks Community Center's monthly food program for the last six years and had stopped by my office to say “thanks” one more time after completing her signup for our Holiday Toy, Book, and Tree Programs.

Deborah went on to say: “I'm really appreciative and humbled at the same time. I know there are more people who are out there who need this assistance — and maybe they need it even more than I do.”

In September of this year, Karina came to Fair Oaks Community Center seeking housing assistance. A single mother of three, she had recently separated from her spouse and needed assistance with her rent while stabilizing her employment situation.

Karina received financial assistance for her rent, was enrolled in the monthly food program for families, and was also referred to several additional programs that she qualified for. As a result of the assistance received from the Community Center, Karina is well on her way to stabilizing her family's situation.

Deborah and Karina's families are two examples of the more than 2,500 unduplicated households who receive assistance from the Fair Oaks Community Center's Information and Referral Program each year.

Services provided through this program include food assistance, shelter referrals, homelessness prevention/housing assistance, crisis intervention, forms and

HOLIDAY FUND

Your contributions to The Almanac's Holiday Fund benefit the Fair Oaks Community Center. Use the coupon on this page or go to TheAlmanacOnline.com.

translation assistance, advocacy, and referrals to appropriate programs and services throughout the county.

For community members in need from North Fair Oaks, Redwood City, Woodside, Portola Valley, or Atherton, the Fair Oaks Community Center is the place to go for assistance and information about available community resources.

The Fair Oaks Community Center is a multi-service community center that offers a wide variety of programs and services

Last year, the demand for services included 474 households seeking food assistance, 670 households seeking housing assistance, and 816 households seeking shelter.

Due to the current economic crisis, the demand for services has increased, with large numbers of community members being laid off or having their work hours significantly reduced, while others are being evicted due to the foreclosure of the property where they have been living.

Beyond the Information and Referral Program, the Fair Oaks Community Center is a multi-service community center that offers a wide variety of programs and services, including a subsidized child care program, a subsidized pre-school program, senior nutrition program, free and low-cost classes for seniors, a grocery program for low-income seniors, housing assistance, legal services, immigration and citizenship services, counseling, support groups, and more.

After 35 years of serving the community, the Fair Oaks Community Center remains committed to serving those in need in these very difficult times.

Go to tinyurl.com/FairOaks2009 for more information, or call (650) 780-7500, or stop by at 2600 Middlefield Road in Redwood City.

Giving to the Holiday Fund

Your gift helps children and others in need



Contributions to the Holiday Fund go directly to programs that benefit Peninsula residents. Last year, Almanac readers contributed \$146,045, and with available matching grants, over \$170,000 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 academic support and enrichment activities for 1,000 youths each day, ages 6 to 18. Operates clubhouses in Menlo Park's Belle Haven neighborhood, East Palo Alto and Redwood City, and after-school programs at schools in these communities designed to extend the learning day and supplement the school's curriculum.

Ecumenical Hunger Program

Provides emergency food, clothing, household essentials, special children's programs and sometimes financial assistance to families in need, regardless of religious preference, including Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for more than 1,500 households.

Teen Talk Sexuality Education

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 thousands of youth at public school sites in San Mateo County.

Project Read-Menlo Park

Provides free literacy services to adults in the Menlo Park area. Trained volunteers work one-to-one or in small groups to help adults improve their basic reading, writing and English language skills so they can achieve their goals and function more effectively at home, at work, and in the community. In 2007-08, a total of 120 tutors assisted more than 300 students.

Ravenswood Family Health Center

Provides primary medical care, behavioral health services 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 22,700 registered patients, most are low-income and uninsured.

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 counties.

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room

Serves hundreds of hot meals six days a week in a social and friendly atmosphere to anyone in need. Funded entirely by contributions from the community, St. Anthony's is the largest soup kitchen between San Francisco and San Jose. It offers groceries to take home and distributes clothing to families.

Fair Oaks Community Center

Serves more than 2,500 households each year with services ranging from food assistance to shelter referral to rental and crisis assistance. The center also has a subsidized child-care program and a fully operating senior center, and offers a variety of other social services and programs throughout the year.

Shelter Network

Provides short-term shelter and transitional housing services to more than 3,700 people and children each year. Offers programs for families and individuals to become self-sufficient and return to permanent housing.

Youth and Family Enrichment Services

Provides many programs to help people who struggle with substance abuse, domestic violence, and 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: _____

TO DONATE ONLINE GO TO: TheAlmanacOnline.com

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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, 2009, unless the donor checks the anonymous box. All donations will be acknowledged by mail.

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■ OBITUARIES

Frank C. Ruys

Orthopedic surgeon

Dr. Frank Ruys, a former chief of orthopedics at Sequoia Hospital in Redwood City, died Oct. 23 at the age of 89.

He was born in Maasluis in the Netherlands in 1920 and moved to the United States in 1927.

After graduating from UC Berkeley and Tulane University School of Medicine, he served in the U.S. Navy in post-World War II Japan. He also served on



Frank C. Ruys

the hospital ship, Repose, during the Korean War.

Dr. Ruys was an orthopedic surgeon and chief of orthopedics at Sequoia Hospital, practicing for 38 years.

An avid stamp collector and first violinist with the Peninsula Symphony, Dr. Ruys was a brilliant chess player, say family members. By his mid-20s, he was competing successfully in chess tournaments statewide, even playing multiple blindfold games, they say. He won the status of United States Chess Master in 1985 and played correspondence chess with internationally known experts all his adult life.

Survivors include his former wife, Joyce Ruys; children Elaine Ruys, Patricia Stearns, Tim Ruys, Jennifer Gill, Renee Iverson and Cassandra Ruys; and seven grandchildren.

Condolences may be sent to: Jennifer Gill, 36 Duane Street, # 7, Redwood City, CA 94062. Donations may be made to the Sequoia Hospital Foundation.

Ernest W. Collins

Co-founder of Bon Appetit Co.

Ernest W. "Ernie" Collins, a resident of Woodside since 1974, died Nov. 21 at home after a hard-fought battle with cancer. He was 67.

Born in Houston, Mr. Collins graduated from the University of Oklahoma and the University of Minnesota Law School.

After serving in the U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps (J.A.G.) during the Vietnam War, he embarked on a career in corporate law. Saga Corp. brought him and his family to the Peninsula, where he became vice president and general counsel for the company.

In 1985 he co-founded Bon Appetit, a sustainable catering company providing food service to corporations and universities. He retired from Bon Appetit Management Co. in 2003, after the company was acquired.

An avid golfer, Mr. Collins spent much of his retirement in Hawaii and exploring the globe. He enjoyed opera, collecting

contemporary art, crossword puzzles, and traveling the world with family and friends, say family members.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Susan Collins; daughters Megan Koch and Jessica Loneragan; and four granddaughters.

A celebration of his life will be held for family and close friends on Saturday, Dec. 5.

Memorials in his name may be made to the Jimmy V Foundation for Cancer Research, www.jimmyv.org, or Bring Me a Book Foundation, www.bringmeabook.org.

William A. Churchill

Architect

William Arthur Churchill, a former resident of Portola Valley, died Nov. 18 in Carson City, Nevada, of complications from diabetes and Parkinson's disease. He was 75.

Mr. Churchill was born in Oakland and attended UC Berkeley, where he obtained a degree in architecture. He headed architectural firms in San Jose, Portola Valley, Half Moon Bay and Lake Tahoe, designing custom residential homes.

After living in San Jose, Portola Valley, Monterey, Palm Desert, and Half Moon Bay, he and his wife, Carolyn, moved to Zephyr Cove, Nevada, to be near their oldest child.

The Churchills were world travelers throughout their marriage, making lifelong friends along the way, say family members.

When living in Portola Valley, Mr. Churchill served on the Portola Valley Planning Commission. He was a member of Spyglass Hill Golf Course in Pebble Beach, where his father, the late Ken Churchill, was a charter member.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Carolyn; daughters Catherine Collins of Minden, Nevada, and Leslie Graneman of Goleta; son Christopher Churchill of Las Cruces, New Mexico; brothers James Churchill of Cedaredge, Colorado, and John Churchill of Anchorage, Alaska; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

The family requests donations be sent to the American Diabetes Association or the Michael J. Fox Foundation.

Dinah Cross James signs book of paintings

Former Portola Valley resident Dinah Cross James will sign a large-format book of her paintings, "Journeys," on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Portola Valley's Historic Schoolhouse, 765 Portola Road.

Ms. James, now a resident

of St. Helena, paints in oil and acrylics and recently published the 341-page book that will be available for purchase at the event.

Go to dinahcrossjames.com for more information.

LUCILE PACKARD



CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Your Child's Health University

Lucile Packard Children's Hospital offers classes and seminars designed to foster good health and enhance the lives of parents and children.

► SIBLING PREPARATION CLASS

This class for children two years of age and older will help prepare siblings for the emotional and physical realities of the arrival of a newborn.

- Saturday, December 5: 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

► GRANDPARENTS SEMINAR

Designed for new and expectant grandparents, this class examines changes in labor and delivery practices, the latest recommendations for infant care and the unique role of grandparents in the life of their grandchild.

- Sunday, December 6: 1:00 - 3:00 pm

► ALL ABOUT PREGNANCY

Our newest class will offer an overview of pregnancy for the newly pregnant or about-to-be pregnant couple. The program will include the physical and emotional changes of pregnancy, comfort measures for pregnancy, maternal nutrition and fitness, pregnancy precautions, fetal development and growth, pregnancy testing, life changes and more.

Offered free of charge however seating is limited. Please call to reserve a space.

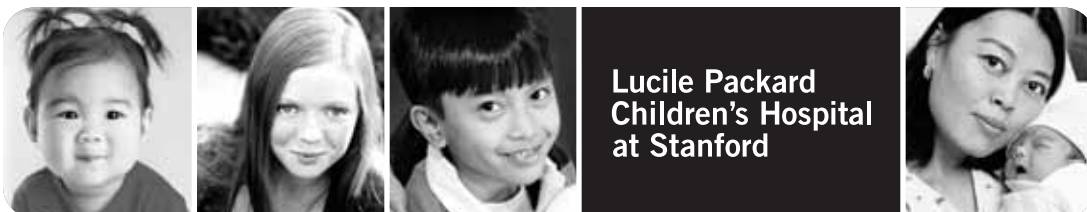
- Thursday, December 10: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

► INFANT AND CHILD CPR

This 2-1/2 hour course provides an opportunity for new parents, grandparents and other childcare providers to learn the techniques of infant and child CPR and choking prevention. Infant and child mannequins provide hands-on training.

- Monday, December 14: 4:30 - 7:00 pm

Call (650) 723-4600 or visit www.lpch.org to register or obtain more information on the times, locations and fees for these and other courses.



Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford

CALL TODAY TO SIGN UP FOR CLASSES (650) 723-4600

■ 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

Residential burglary reports:

- Gate lock cut, Barry Lane, Nov. 13.
- Stereo equipment and two televisions stolen, first block of Fairfax Avenue, Nov. 20.

Stolen vehicle report: El Camino Real, Nov. 15.

Fraud report: Unauthorized use of credit card, first block of Gresham Lane, Nov. 18.

MENLO PARK

Stolen vehicle reports: ■ Red 1986 Cadillac De Ville, 1200 block of Willow Road, Nov. 19.

■ Silver 1991 Toyota Corolla, 500 block of Central Avenue, Nov. 25.

■ Green 1995 Isuzu Rodeo, 200 block of Hamilton Avenue, Nov. 25.

Auto burglary reports:

■ Currency, credit cards and handbag stolen for total estimated loss of \$1,200, 1000 block of Hamilton Court, Nov. 13.

■ Four laptop computers valued at \$6,400 stolen, 4400 block of Bohannon Drive, Nov. 18.

■ Window smashed and property taken, 300 Sharon Park Drive, Nov. 24.

■ Front window pried open, Oak Grove Avenue at Laurel Street, Nov. 22.

■ Window smashed and property taken, 700 block of Bay Road, Nov. 22.

Residential burglary reports:

■ Front door damaged, 300 block of Ivy Drive, Nov. 13.

■ Bicycles stolen from storage room, 1100 block of Stone Pine Lane, Nov. 22.

Commercial burglary reports:

■ Safe and \$3,765 in cash stolen, Left Bank Restaurant 635 Santa Cruz Ave., Nov. 16.

■ Jewelry, stuffed toy, and other items stolen, four retail stores in 600 block of Santa Cruz Ave., Nov. 17.

Grand theft reports:

■ Bicycle valued at \$400 stolen, 1500 block of San Antonio St., Nov. 13.

■ Tent and car-top storage system, with total value of \$400, stolen, 2200 block of Sharon Road, Nov. 15.

■ Golf clubs valued at \$1,870 stolen, 600 block of Cambridge Ave., Nov. 18.

■ Tools valued at \$5,460 stolen, 2300 block of Loma Prieta Lane, Nov. 18.

■ Stereo stolen from unlocked vehicle, 1500 block of San Antonio St., Nov. 15.

Robbery report: Woman bumped in bar dropped her purse and found iPhone missing from purse later, British Bankers Club at 1090 El Camino Real, Nov. 16.

Fraud reports:

■ Unauthorized use of credit card with loss valued at \$1,000, 200 block of O'Connor St., Nov. 19.

■ 700 block of Laurel Street, Nov. 22.

Child Protective Services report: 1400 Modoc Ave., Nov. 18.

Spousal abuse arrest: Richard Ontiveros, 57, booked into county jail Nov. 26.

PORTOLA VALLEY

Commercial burglary report: Storage room broken into and construction tools valued at \$5,000 taken, 100 block of Mapache Drive, Nov. 18.

WEST MENLO PARK

Domestic violence arrest: Alexander Douglas arrested for domestic violence and making criminal threats, 2000 block of Cedar Avenue, Nov. 20.

WOODSIDE

Fraud report: Unauthorized use of credit card, 2000 Greenways Drive, Nov. 11.

Theft reports:

■ Cigarettes, iPod, iPod case and sunglasses missing from unlocked vehicle, 200 block of Hardwick Road, Nov. 11.

■ Cell phone chargers, audio cassettes and sunglasses stolen from unlocked vehicle, 200 block of Ridgeway Road, Nov. 11.

■ A laptop computer, cell phone, wallet and other items valued at \$2,000 stolen from vehicle and rear window smashed, Canada College, 4200 Farm Hill Blvd., Nov. 18.

■ Alcoholic beverages valued at \$200 stolen from Roberts Market, 3000 Woodside Road, Nov. 20.

Benefit concert for local kids

Musician Yasuko Hattori, a former violinist with the San Francisco Symphony, will perform with other musicians at a benefit chamber music concert at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, at the Eastside College Preparatory Performing Arts Center, 1041 Myrtle St. in East Palo Alto.

The concert is a benefit for the East Palo Alto Kids Foundation, which promotes educational opportunities in the Ravenswood School District serving Menlo Park and East Palo Alto.

A donor reception follows the concert. Suggested donation is \$20 per person, said Laura Roberts, president of EPAK.

Go to EPAK.org for more information or to make reservations.

‘Christmas at Our House’ tour

St. Francis High School Women's Club will host its 21st annual holiday home tour, “Christmas at Our House,” in Los Altos Hills. Three homes will be open for touring from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 4 and 5. There also will be a twilight tour and gala preview party Thursday, Dec. 3.

The twilight tour begins at 4 p.m. The preview party starts at 7:30 p.m. in a tent on the St. Francis High School campus, 1885 Mira-

■ BRIEFS

monte Ave. in Mountain View. The cost is \$100 per person.

The home tour will include a gift boutique and garden, and a “Santa’s Workshop” drawing room, featuring a variety of gifts. Tickets are \$40 in advance and \$50 at the door.

There will be a raffle of a “Twelfth Night” table setting from Tiffany and Co., which includes service for eight of crystal, china, flatware and table decor.

A catered buffet luncheon at St. Francis High School is \$25, with reservations required. For reservations and tickets, call 408-975-3512 or go to www.sfhs.com.

Putnams hold open studio

Dave and Martha Putnam will hold an open studio and sale from Friday, Dec. 4, through Sunday, Dec. 6, at 1101 Canada Road in Woodside. The hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be a reception from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4.

Mr. Putnam is a painter and sculptor. Ms. Putnam is a painter and interior designer. They said half of the proceeds from the open studio sales will be donated to St. Francis Center in Redwood City.

*City of Menlo Park
Community Services Department Presents*

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7:30am– 11:30 a.m.
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MARY HELEN SHIMMICK



Mary Helen Shimmick died on November 16, 2009 after a battle with mesothelioma. She was born Mary Helen Healis on December 18, 1937 in Camden, New Jersey, to parents John Theodore Healis and Mildred Wolf Healis. She attended the University of Miami, and graduated from UCLA. Mary joined Zeta Tau Alpha and met her future husband John Carl Shimmick, a UC Berkeley graduate, at a Theta Xi party in 1959.

Mary and John were married on June 23, 1960 and were married for 49 wonderful years. Mary taught kindergarten for over ten years and loved children and art projects, including oil painting. Their son, John Karl, was born on October 3, 1963.

In April 1973, the Shimmicks moved to their residence, the Boney Fingers Ranch on Skyline Blvd. For thirty-six years Mary

rode the wonderful local trails on horseback from Woodside to Castle Rock to Rancho San Antonio and met many wonderful people along the way. She completed scores of endurance rides, including the Tevis Cup in 1972, 1974, 1976 and 1995. Mary was an active member of the Los Altos Hunt and won the Point to Point in Pebble Beach in 1996.

Mary's love of sports extended beyond horses, and she was an active snow skier, water skier, swimmer and yoga enthusiast. She fused these sports in many creative ways and once did yoga while riding her horse with her feet behind her head. Her water skiing was like the Tevis Cup. Mary was always the longest skier in the water and skied throughout the Delta. Although slowed by her illness, Mary was able to single ski several times this summer and taught her grand daughter, Geneva, to water ski.

Mary is survived by her husband, John Carl Shimmick, her brother John Theodore Healis, sister Roseanne Palmer, son John Karl Shimmick, and grandchildren Geneva Rose Shimmick and John Jasper Shimmick. She will be missed by many others.

Editor & Publisher

Tom Gibboney

Editorial

Managing Editor Richard Hine

News Editor Renee Batti

Lifestyles Editor Jane Knoerle

Senior Correspondents

Marion Softky, Marjorie Mader

Staff Writers Andrea Gemmet,

David Boyce, Sean Howell

Contributors Barbara Wood,

Kate Daly, Katie Blankenberg

Special Sections Editors

Carol Blitzer, Sue Dremann

Photographer Michelle Le

Design & Production

Design Director Raul Perez

Designers Linda Atilano,

Laura Don, Gary Vennarucci

Advertising

Advertising Manager Neal Fine

Display Advertising Sales

Ella Fleishman

Real Estate and Advertising

Coordinator Diane Martin

Published every Wednesday at

3525 Alameda De Las Pulgas,
Menlo Park, Ca 94025

Newsroom: (650) 854-2690

Newsroom Fax: (650) 854-0677

Advertising: (650) 854-2626

Advertising Fax: (650) 854-3650

e-mail news and photos with

captions to:

Editor@AlmanacNews.com

e-mail letters to:

letters@AlmanacNews.com

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Subscriptions are \$60 for one year and \$100 for two years.



WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

All views must include a home address and contact phone number. Published letters will also appear on the web site, www.TheAlmanacOnline.com, and occasionally on the Town Square forum.

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POST your views on the Town Square forum at www.TheAlmanacOnline.com

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your views to: letters@almanacnews.com and note this it is a letter to the editor in the subject line.

MAIL

or deliver to:
Editor at the Almanac,
3525 Alameda de las Pulgas,
Menlo Park, CA 94025.

CALL

the Viewpoint desk at 854-2690, ext. 222.

Viewpoint

Ideas, thoughts and opinions about local issues from people in our community. Edited by Tom Gibboney.

Bargaining on the Bohannon project

Now that the preliminaries are over, Menlo Park is ready to begin negotiations with the Bohannon Development Co. over the company's massive Menlo Gateway development proposal at Bayfront Expressway and Marsh Road.

As currently proposed, the three office buildings, hotel and health club, and three parking garages would rival the Sun Microsystems campus as the largest single project ever proposed or built in the city. Menlo Park resident David Bohannon has asked the city to create a completely new zoning category for the project, whose three eight-story towers would contain 700,000 square feet of office space.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

Before the project moves ahead, the City Council has authorized closed-door negotiations between Mr. Bohannon and city staff that will address the size and scope of the final design, an attempt to shape the proposal into a project that could win a favorable vote by the council.

In those negotiations, the city will have to walk the fine line between softening the project's environmental impact, and securing as much revenue as possible for the city. It should not forget that it is bargaining from a position of strength in these talks. Mr. Bohannon does not want to build this project anywhere else. And all his pre-development work is for the unique site at Bayfront Expressway and Marsh Road.

Here are some of the things negotiations will touch upon:

■ **The traffic impact.** Given the council's promise to address global warming, a major bargaining thrust will be an agreement to reduce the number of car trips to and from the complex by a significant factor — some argue it should shoot for as much as 50 percent. With no mass transit nearby, this would almost certainly take the form of shuttles to Caltrain and Dumbarton Bridge buses.

■ **Housing.** Most of the approximately 2,500 employees at

Menlo Gateway will be out-of-town residents. But those workers who don't live in the area will just add to the city's already high jobs/housing imbalance. To alleviate some of this impact, the city could require the developer to build a significant amount of housing nearby, affordable and otherwise, so the entire burden will not be spread to other cities.

■ **Other compensation.** A consultant has estimated that the city would receive \$1.6 million per year from various taxes associated with the project, a not-insignificant number. But the city could secure additional guaranteed income from the developer through the development agreement. The negotiators should make sure the current economic conditions do not sway their judgment, given that it could be decades before anyone is employed at the site.

■ **Public benefits.** In return for the project's approval, the city could ask the developer for playing field space, parks or other amenities that would improve quality of life for residents.

All of these ideas represent potential starting points for negotiations with Mr. Bohannon, though it may take several rounds before the city comes up with a deal the council could approve.

Some local residents believe that the project should be drastically downsized, if it is approved at all. Others see no harm in building large office buildings in the city's "light industrial zone," as long as the impacts can be minimized. Belle Haven residents, who live closest to the site, hope the project would provide a huge boost to the neighborhood.

And that sets up another question: When the city negotiates benefits from Gateway project, how much of the money should be spent in Belle Haven and other nearby residential areas, where the brunt of the impact will be borne? How much should go to the general city coffers?

After a few months, we will begin to see what the city has in mind and what Mr. Bohannon is willing to agree to. Hopefully, negotiations will result in a project that most city residents can support.

LETTERS

Our readers write

Shady Trail funding had many helpers

Editor:

In reference to the attractive flier recently received about Portola Valley's open space program, Peter and I wish to make sure that townsfolk understand that credit for the town's acquisition of the open space parcel along Shady Trail belongs not just to Peter and me, but to the three other members of the Committee to Protect Shady Trail who worked diligently to raise the necessary funds.

Sure, Peter and I started the ball rolling by seeing the unique opportunity to protect the trail, and gave the "lead" donation, but the rest of the committee, composed of Al Schreck, Ginny Kavanaugh and Mary Hufty, pulled off a remarkable "coup" in securing the other funds so the town could make the purchase. Our committee raised \$1.5 million in three months.



Woodside Library Collection

Our Regional Heritage

In this 1900 photo, shoppers at Williamson Brothers store in Woodside drove their horses to market.

It was a challenging but vastly rewarding feat. All told, 34 individuals contributed, many with major gifts.

And for anyone who might

labor under the delusion that the town spends money carelessly, think again. Portola Valley made only a small contribution from the Open Space fund

toward the purchase price. This was disappointing to me at the time, but I do understand it

See **LETTERS**, next page

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

now, because of the town's need to keep the fund's "nest egg" in a position to take advantage of other opportunities to secure open space when they arise. And there are important purchases yet to be made.

**Bev Lipman, organizer
Committee to Protect
Shady Trail**

Many contributions from Elizabeth Lasensky

Editor:

Count me among the many admirers of Elizabeth Lasensky, who says she can no longer afford her Menlo Park apartment after a 62 percent rent increase from a new landlord.

I have observed her in action during the development of Menlo Park's long-term plan for El Camino Real and the downtown areas. She is always present, always upbeat, and her comments are always thoughtful and focused.

The city needs more people like her. Ms Lasensky has made many significant contributions to the civic life of Menlo Park, and hopefully while living nearby, she will continue at some level to contribute her insights.

**Jym Clendenin
Windsor Drive, Menlo Park**

Caltrain needs to add capacity for bikes

Editor:

Having bikes on Caltrain is a critical component of a mass transit plan for the Bay Area as most of the commute end-points are far from the stations. All too often, I am bumped from a train or several trains before I can board. This makes train service extremely unreliable for cyclists and leads to fewer riders over the year.

I know that cyclists cause issues for train staff. Some of these are unavoidable unless major redesigns are undertaken, but some of these would be better served simply by welcoming cyclists and eliminating the confrontational approach that sometimes occurs. If cyclists are not seen as the problem, but rather a valued constituent, then they are far more likely to abide by the rules and norms established, and do a better job of policing themselves.

Unless future planning includes new cycle cars — and more consistency in the number of cars — we are going to compound the present problems. We need capacity for at least 70 to 80 bikes in the peak commute hours. Planning for this now and ordering rolling stock that accommodates bikes will avoid

Details on PV plane crash

Last week we asked for more information about a small plane that crashed into a Portola Valley swimming pool July 19, 1988, at 120 Sausal Drive.

As it turns out, a search of The Almanac archives turned up a story and photos by then-staff writer Marjorie Mader, who identified the pilot as Edward (Buster) Paul Nicholson, a recent Stanford graduate, who died in the crash when the twin-engine Beechcraft hit the hillside, plowed into the ground like a corkscrew, then bounced upward, flipped and landed in the swimming pool, which was filled with water.

The owner of the home, veterinarian Thomas D. Whittenbrock, jumped into the pool and attempt to free the pilot, but the Mr. Nicholson had

already perished. Mr. Whittenbrock was called "quite heroic," by a police officer who was investigating the incident.

Numerous theories were mentioned as a possible cause of the crash, including engine problems, or an uncontrollable spin.

Another person replying to The Almanac's request for information gave the following account:

"In the evening, after it was completely dark, perhaps 9 to 10 p.m., we heard a small aircraft overhead, obviously at a very low altitude. From the sound, it was clear that it was circling around. My son went outside and watched its last few seconds.

"He reported that the plane was circling, with its landing lights on, in the vicinity of Sau-

the expensive retrofits that were done in 2009.

**Peter Scocimara
Riordan Place, Menlo Park**

How to safeguard your chickens

Editor:

I read your Nov. 4 feature story on chickens with interest. May I offer some advice based on experience to those thinking of acquiring chickens?

Chickens are smart and sociable, with a fascinating variety of temperaments, preferences, and habits. They are as interesting and unique as any other animal.

However, they must be protected from predators. We have a vibrant community of urban and other wildlife — raccoons, opossums, coyotes, bobcats, hawks, even mountain lions. They are all hungry and looking for food. Domestic chickens are extremely vulnerable unless they have a very safe coop and yard. An ordinary cage or pen will not do.

Wildlife biologist and rehabilitator Carmen Vaz Altenberg outlines the basics for safety. Adult chickens need to be locked up safely in a secure coop every night **before** twilight. If you arrive home after twilight and then plan to lock them up, it can be too late for your pet chickens. Several of chickens' most common predators are nocturnal. Of course, it goes without saying that baby chicks have a great many more predators than a full grown chicken.

A secure coop needs to have four walls, a roof, a cement pad floor, and a door that can be locked tight. Situate the coop near your house to keep close watch and take quick action if

trouble occurs. Vigilant chicken owners install baby monitors and security cameras in their coops and barns. Do everything possible to avoid encountering the bloody, torn-apart remains of your chicken friends.

A perimeter fence at least 5 feet high can keep the chickens protected when they are outdoors during the day. Chicken wire is too weak. Insistent raccoons can break through even the widely available welded wire fencing. Woven wire fencing (2-inch gauge or less) is best. There are no welds to corrode and break. Bury the fence at least a foot underground or fold it outward on the ground for 18 inches to deter predators that dig. Large concrete pavers can also be placed under the fencing instead of mesh to prevent digging.

A practical alternative to fencing with woven wire is an outdoor pen with prefabricated chain link panels (available at most pet stores and home building supply stores). They are economical, very sturdy, lightweight, easily assembled, and can be moved around and reconfigured easily.

Anchor the panels securely to the coop or other structure with wood adaptor fence clamps or brackets. Cover the top of the pen with UV resistant golf netting or a prefabricated kennel cover. Supplement the open chain link panels with a smaller mesh chicken wire secured with UV resistant cable ties at the top and bottom perimeters to deter climbing and digging.

Unless we take these fundamental safety measures, the lives of our chickens are at risk. They depend on us to keep them safe.

**Kay Bushnell
Northampton Drive, Palo Alto.**



Portola Valley Archives

This Beechcraft plane crashed into a swimming pool at 120 Sausal Drive in Portola Valley in 1988.

sal and Hillbrook. He reported that its altitude appeared to be at about the level of a number of tall eucalyptus trees that have since been removed.

"As he watched, he said that the plane suddenly tried to climb very sharply. (My son's description suggested that the

pilot had suddenly seen one or more of the trees right in front of him as his landing lights illuminated them.) As he continued to watch, the aircraft immediately went from the steep climb into a very steep dive, which I believe is a classic case of an aircraft stalling."

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF PALO ALTO • MID PENINSULA
PRESENTS

Finishing Touches

A HOLIDAY TOUR OF FINE HOMES

featuring elegantly embellished homes in Atherton



PHOTO BY ROBERT BARBUTTI

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**Sunday, December 6
10 am - 3 pm**

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FOR SALE



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FOR SALE



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SALE PENDING



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To view these properties and others, please visit my website at www.tomlemieux.com

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ASSOCIATES

DRE# 01066910

650 329 6645
tlemieux@cbsnorcal.com
tomlemieux.com

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