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gifts | PAGE 15

The Almanac

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

DECEMBER 23, 2009 | VOL. 45 NO. 17



WWW.THEALMANACONLINE.COM

A toast to the season

*As the old year ends,
it's time to break out
the bubbly*

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Holiday Greetings



from
The Almanac Staff

The Almanac
DECEMBER 2009

Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT

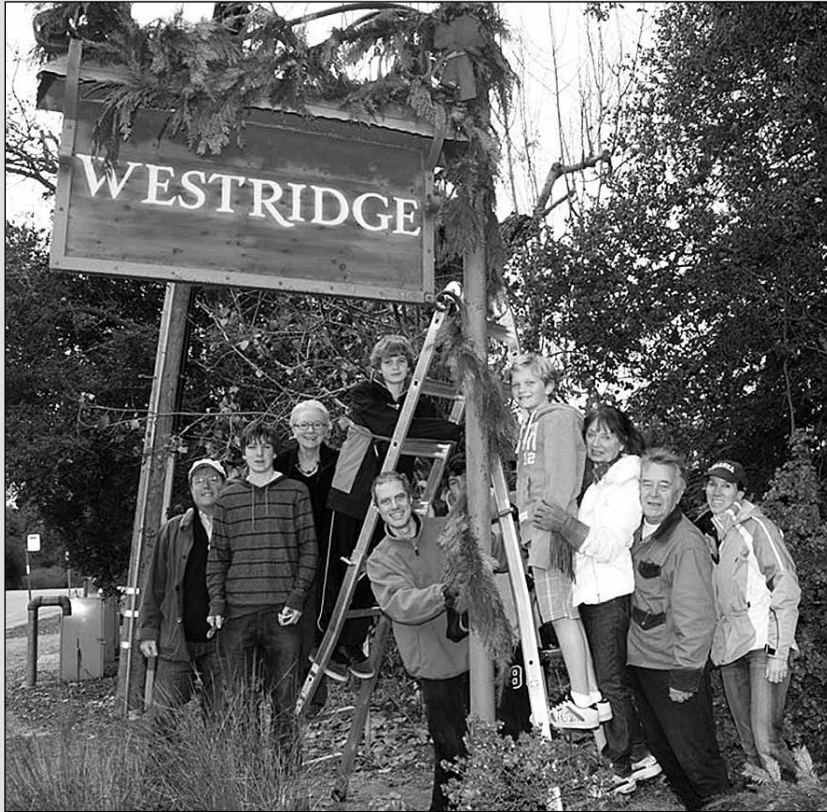


Photo by Joy Somersett.

Celebrating the season

Decking the entrance sign to Westridge with holiday greens is a decades-old tradition of the Westridge Garden Club in Portola Valley. The club was founded in March 1960 by Jean Lane, her mother-in-law, Ruth Lane, Louise Curtis, and Nelle Whipple. Brenda Lane Munks, Jean's daughter, is a third-generation member. After 50 years, two of the founding members, Ms. Lane and Ms. Curtis, are still active in the club, which plans a celebration luncheon in March to honor members, past and present.

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The closing days of 2009 call for a toast. First, congratulations that we made it through a rough year. Second, lift a glass in hope that 2010 brings brighter days. See **Page 11**.

CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

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

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REGISTRATION SCHEDULE:
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 • **Minors:** Registration closes January 6, 2010
 • **Players who wish to tryout for Majors:** Registration closes January 6, 2010
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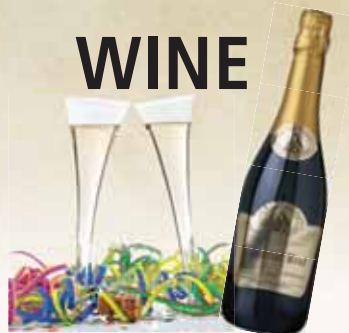
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Local News

MENLO PARK | ATHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

High-speed rail: Is this what you voted for?

■ New business plan for high-speed rail project raises new questions and leaves old ones unanswered, rail watchers say.

By Sean Howell
Almanac Staff Writer

There has been no shortage of newspaper headlines in the week since the release of a report on the California high-speed rail project, estimating higher fares and higher costs.

"Time to drop high-speed rail in California," the Media News Group opined. "Business plan shows deceit of bullet train push," the San Diego Union-Tribune wrote.

"Let's stop this train now" was the blunt headline of an editorial in the Dec. 18 Daily Post.

The sharp reactions to the plan came largely as the result of three revised projections: an increase in one-way fares from San Francisco to Los Angeles (from \$55 to \$104.75, or from 50 percent of current airfare costs to 83 percent, respectively); a concomitant 29 percent decline in ridership; and an increase in cost from \$33.8 billion to \$42.6 billion.

The High-Speed Rail Authority worked quickly to tamp reports of escalating prices, saying the higher fare estimates

are based on one of many possible assumptions, and that the agency's board will have sole discretion to set fares when the Los Angeles-to-San Francisco stretch of the rail line opens (scheduled for 2020).

The rail authority attributed the cost increase largely to a new calculation method to account for inflation, and estimated the "real cost" increase at only 7.2 percent.

The agency is "years away from making any determination on the cost of a ticket to ride the train — and that decision will be made publicly with the public's input," Jeff Barker, deputy director of communications for the rail authority, wrote in a press release following reports of new projected fare costs.

It's certainly possible that people have overreacted to the numbers in the plan, as Mr. Barker seems to imply.

Still, a few simple questions linger about why those numbers changed, and what the new estimates mean for the future of the project.

For one, why weren't California voters presented with the higher cost and price estimates before they passed Proposition 1A in November 2008, approving \$9.95 billion in bond funding for the project?

The fare estimate jumped because "of the importance of increasing the amount of private sector funding," accord-

ing to the business plan, which relies on \$10 billion to \$12 billion in private funding. The method of estimating costs changed because the application for federal stimulus funds required it, and because the new method is "more credible" than the old.

But wasn't it just as important to obtain that funding in November 2008 as it is in December 2009? And wasn't the new cost-calculation method just as credible then as it is now?

Elizabeth Alexis, co-founder of the group Californians Advocating Responsible Rail Design (CARRD), asks why the decision to use the higher fare estimate wasn't made by the board of directors, instead of the consultants who drafted the business plan.

"Fare policy is a *major* decision, and it should have been discussed by the board at a public meeting — instead of made by consultants responsible for getting the business plan finished, or by board members behind closed doors," Ms. Alexis wrote in an e-mail.

How would the rail authority respond? We don't know. Mr. Barker did not return several requests for comment.

See RAIL, page 8

Confusion over solar panels leaves Menlo Park with bill

By Sean Howell
Almanac Staff Writer

Construction on a new gymnasium in Menlo Park's Civic Center will be under way shortly, but whether it will feature solar panels is suddenly an open question.

When the City Council approved the project in July, city management said that Palo Alto real estate heavyweight and

major Stanford donor John Arrillaga, who has offered to pay the bulk of construction costs for the facility, had also agreed to provide the solar panels.

At the Dec. 15 council meeting, however, Public Works Director Kent Steffens said he had since learned that the solar panels were not within the scope of Mr. Arrillaga's donation. He did not say whether Mr. Arrillaga had changed his mind, or whether there had been a misunderstanding at the outset.

If the city decides to install the solar panels, the \$144,000 budgeted for them would now come out of proceeds from the voter-approved bond measure that is

funding \$7.3 million in design, construction and other costs. At the urging of Councilman John Boyle and the unanimous agreement of the council, the city will conduct a thorough study to determine whether the panels make sense at that location before making a final decision on whether to install them.

While according to Mr. Steffens the solar panels would

provide only a "small portion" of the building's electricity, their installation would help the building to attain the LEED Silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council that the builders are striving for. The city has already budgeted \$250,000 for the LEED certification process.

"We need to understand how much we're willing to spend for a real return in terms of lowering costs, versus a nice symbolic gesture — though there's value in that, too," said Mr. Boyle, who voted against the earlier decision to complete the certifi-

cation process.

'I wouldn't begin to say that (Mr. Arrillaga) changed his mind, or that staff made a mistake. It doesn't really matter to me.'

COUNCILMAN JOHN BOYLE

ever certification from the U.S. Green Building Council that the builders are striving for. The city has already budgeted \$250,000 for the LEED certification process.

See SOLAR, page 8



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Wearing one of his many memorable hats, Carl Jones (seated, second from right), is congratulated by parents on his retirement after 15 years of service as Laurel School's custodian and crossing guard.

Retiring custodian a man of many hats

By Andrea Gemmet
Almanac Staff Writer

In his 15 years as custodian and crossing guard at Laurel school in Atherton, Carl Jones managed to make himself indispensable. Mr. Jones, who may be best known outside the Laurel community for the collection of wild hats that he dons for daily crossing guard duty, is

retiring. His last day was Friday, Dec. 18.

"My life was so much easier at Laurel because of Carl," said former principal Nancy Hendry. "I'm filled with so much gratitude. He is going to be sorely missed."

Ms. Hendry, who recently retired herself, paid tribute to Mr. Jones at the Dec. 8 board meeting of the Menlo Park City

School District, where Mr. Jones was honored with a resolution honoring his service and a custom barbecue tools kit from the Menlo Park-Atherton Education Foundation.

Outside of his regular school duties, Mr. Jones donated a barbecued rib dinner to the school foundation's annual

See CARL, page 8

TOWN OF WOODSIDE

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INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR COMMITTEES

BICYCLE COMMITTEE

Meets third Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m.; appointed for two-year term.

The Committee advises and recommends to the Town Council on the policies for planning, developing, maintaining, and usage of Town's bikeways system.

CONSERVATION AND

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Meets fourth Monday of each month, 6:00 p.m.; appointed for two-year term.

The Committee advises and assists the Town Council, Planning Commission, and staff on conservation, open space, noise, public services and facilities as pertaining to the elements of the Town's General Plan.

LIVESTOCK AND

ANIMAL CONTROL COMMITTEE

Meets fourth Wednesday of each month; 5:30 p.m.; appointed for two-year term.

The Committee advises the Planning Director on applications for commercial stable permits, dog kennel permits, and exception requests to the private stable regulations.

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Meets fourth Thursday of each month, 6:00 p.m.; appointed for two-year term.

The Committee advises and assists the Town Council, Planning Commission and staff in implementing the policies and goals of the Open Space and Conservation elements of the General Plan, specifically with respect to acquisition and maintenance of conservation easements and open space preservation.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Meets on call of Chair; appointed for two-year term.

The Committee advises the Town Council and staff on issues of community public safety, including police and fire services provided within the Town.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Meets first Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m.; appointed for three-year term.

The Committee guides the activities of the community recreation programs.

TRAILS COMMITTEE

Meets second Thursday of each month, 3:00 p.m.; appointed for two-year term.

The Committee reviews land divisions, subdivisions and conditional use permits for locations for equestrian, pedestrian and bicycle trails and makes recommendations to the staff and to the Planning Commission.

WOODSIDE HISTORY COMMITTEE

Meets second Thursday of each month, 9:30 a.m.; appointed for two-year term.

The Committee advises the Town Council and staff regarding actions, policies and plans relating to historic preservation.

Committees are volunteer positions and serve in an advisory capacity to the Town Council.

Interested residents may request information and applications Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-12 noon and 1-5:00 p.m., from the Town Clerk's Office at Town Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, or telephone (650) 851-6790, or through the Town's web site at www.woodsidetown.org. Deadline for applications is Friday, January 15, 2010, 5:00 p.m.

Mayor unhurt in emergency plane landing

Dave Burow, Woodside's new mayor, came away with no major injuries after the small plane he was traveling in made an emergency landing in mountainous Truckee at about 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13.

Mr. Burow had flown there with a pilot friend to go skiing, Town Manager Susan George said. Weather conditions led to an emergency landing in a snow field, she said.

"Dave is OK. His back hurts and he has some aches and pains, but is otherwise doing well," Ms. George said in an e-mail, adding that Mr. Burow said he would rather not talk publicly about the incident.

The plane, a single-engine TBM 850, had lined up with a runway at the Truckee Tahoe Airport but landed a quarter-mile short in several feet of snow, Capt. Harwood Mitchell of the Truckee Police Department told *The Almanac*. Visibility was limited, he added.

With the plane in five feet of snow, Mr. Burow and pilot Charles Simmons of Los Altos



Photo by Dave Boyce/*The Almanac*

Dave Burow, Woodside's new mayor, walked away from a small plane after an emergency landing in the snow in Truckee.

Hills got out and walked 200 yards to Highway 267 and flagged down a police officer, Truckee Sgt. Dan Johnston said.

The cabin, he said, "looked very intact," but the plane had "moderate damage," sheared off the tops of several small trees and

came to rest between two large trees. "They were pretty lucky to have come down the way they did," Sgt. Johnston said.

The Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety board are investigating, police said.

Atherton to halt controversial road-impact fees

By **Andrea Gemmet**

Almanac Staff Writer

Atherton's road-impact fee, which has pumped nearly \$5 million into road repairs in the past nine years, is no more. After the city attorney told the City Council it is of "questionable legality," the council rescinded the controversial fee, which is charged to builders and meant to fund construction-related damage to roads.

The Atherton City Council voted 5-0 at its Dec. 16 meeting to stop charging the fee upon the advice of City Attorney Wynne Furth. Refunds will be sent out to anyone who has paid it in the past 90 days, or who paid it

under protest.

There's still an open question as to whether more refunds will be given. The council plans to take up that issue in the new year.

State law is contradictory on the topic of road-impact fees, which are authorized under one set of rules, but not allowed under another, said Ms. Furth.

"It's sufficiently uncertain that it's in the town's best interest to repeal it," she told the council.

The fee has been in place since 2000. Heavy trucks working at residential construction projects do serious and expensive damage to the town's roads, affecting them in a way that passenger vehicles do not, Atherton officials have said.

The town apparently used an illegal method of raising the fee in 2007, tying the road-impact fee increase to an increase in building permit fees, rather than conducting a cost-nexus study, as required, said Ms. Furth.

The \$5 million raised by the fee in the past nine years has greatly improved the condition of Atherton's roads, according to Duncan Jones, the town's public works director. Nearly all the money that's been collected has already been spent, so Atherton officials will be hard-pressed to finance any further refunds.

The notion that the town might issue refunds only for road fees collected in the past 90 days did not sit well with several members of the public who spoke at the Dec. 16 meeting.

"Clearly, you need to rescind the fee and look at a more equitable way of refunding the fee," said Atherton resident Jeff Wise. "You can't say, 'Yeah, it's of questionable legality but we're keeping the money.'"

Atherton resident Carol Flaherty told the council that she's been saying that the fee was illegal since 2008. Eventually, the town's lack of action led her to hire an attorney of her own, she said.

"We trusted you to do the right thing. We trusted you to follow the law, and we shouldn't






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See **FEES**, next page

Money woes threaten Atherton post office

By Andrea Gemmet
Almanac Staff Writer

During the busy holiday season, Atherton's little branch post office is a savvy mailer's best-kept secret. Located in the town's administrative offices building on Ashfield Road, it attracts people who want to avoid the interminably long lines found at most post offices in December and who don't mind paying in cash.

But by next Christmas, the town could be without its little post office.

The new fee structure by the U.S. Postal Service will make the branch post office even more of a money-losing proposition than it already is. The current reimbursement from the USPS is set to drop dramatically, and

if Atherton officials aren't willing to subsidize its operations, the branch post office is almost certain to close.

It already is costing Atherton about \$40,000 a year to keep the post office staffed, according to Eileen Wilkerson, Atherton's assistant city manager.

Under a new agreement sought by the post office, the town would instead be reimbursed for a percentage of stamp and postage sales. Estimates show that instead of being reimbursed nearly \$52,000 a year by the USPS to staff the branch post office, Atherton would receive around \$10,600 annually.

"They (USPS officials) are really looking to cut costs and shut it down," said City Manager Jerry Gruber at the Atherton City Council's December 16 meeting.

Resident Loren Gruner encouraged town officials to do more to promote the branch post office and drum up more business. "People love it," she said.

Declining revenue ended the town's weekday train service, but maybe people could be persuaded to stop buying stamps at Costco and do business at the town's post office instead, she said. "We lost the train, let's not lose the post office," Ms. Gruner said.

The Atherton City Council voted 5-0 to enter into the new agreement with the post office, and directed town staff to look for ways to increase revenues. The new contract can be ended with six-months' notice by either party.

"We need to buy ourselves some time," said Councilwoman Elizabeth Lewis. ■

Less junk mail means cuts for U.S. Postal Service

By Sean Howell
Almanac Staff Writer

You probably haven't noticed the difference, but the ranks of clerks in Menlo Park post offices and carriers on local routes have thinned over the last few months.

Faced with dwindling revenue thanks to the economic recession and something called the Internet, the U.S. Postal Service is cutting back. The cuts have come primarily through attrition, according

to Menlo Park Postmaster Jeff Gaskill. He said that much of the decline in revenue had come with businesses cutting back on sending mailers.

"With the economy where it's at, big mailers are shifting where they're spending their money; they're cutting back on advertising," Mr. Gaskill said. "Where you used to get three to five credit card solicitations in a week, now you might only get one."

Locally, that has meant longer routes for carriers, and less work for "on-call" employees

the Postal Service uses on a part-time basis. Some employees have been shifted to other territories; the post offices on Oak Grove Avenue and Avy Avenue (in Sharon Heights) each have one fewer full-time clerk than they used to, though they get some part-time help during "peak" hours.

Mr. Gaskill said he does not expect that residents will notice the change in service, except perhaps during those peak hours. He also emphasized that as yet there have been no layoffs on local routes. ■

Documentary on local man who was wrongfully convicted

The documentary "\$100 a day" about a wrongly convicted East Palo Alto resident's fight for compensation, will air on KQED-TV at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 27.

The award-winning documentary tells the story of Rick Walker's wrongful imprisonment and

his subsequent struggle for justice. The title refers to the \$100 in compensation Mr. Walker was entitled to for each day of the 12 years he was imprisoned.

The documentary was produced by Santa Cruz-based filmmakers Gwen Essegian and

Mark Ligon, under the auspices of the Midpeninsula Community Media Center. It won "Best Documentary Short" at the 2009 Sacramento Film & Music Festival and "Most Socially Engaging" film at the Eugene International Film Festival.

FEES

continued from previous page

have to, in total frustration, sue you!" Ms. Flaherty said heatedly. "They're not builders, they're your neighbors that you are treating this way."

David McAdoo, the director of operations at Menlo School, said that road-impact fees made up about 50 percent of the total cost of building fees — about \$150,000 — for its current building project. He said he sent a letter to the town when he first realized there was a potential problem with the fees — eight or nine months after

they were paid.

"I'd be very distressed to find out that that's not a timely protest," he said.

Legally, the town is required to refund fees only from the past 90 days, or fees paid under protest, said Ms. Furth. It's up to the council's discretion if members want to expand the time frame of refunds, she said.

Councilman Charles Marsala, who pointed out that he was the sole vote in opposition to the road-impact fees, said the council should consider issuing refunds dating back to the fee increase of 2007.

Rescinding the road-impact

fee marks the third time in recent years that Atherton has reversed itself on controversial fees, amid threats of legal action by irate residents.

Earlier this year, the town scrapped its method for collecting business-license fees and offered refunds going back two years, at a cost of \$1.1 million in refunds and lost revenue. In 2006, the highly unpopular excavation surcharge, or off-haul fee, was rescinded and \$350,000 refunded to builders.

"This is chapter three. We really need to get our house in order and get things right," said Mr. Wise. ■

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



New Laws Beginning January 1, 2010

A Sign of the Times: here are a few of the new laws affecting residential real estate in California that will take affect on January 1:

- The Homestead Exemption protecting a homeowner's equity from judgment creditors has been increased to \$75,000 for individuals, \$100,000 for married couples or family units as specified, and \$175,000 for persons over 65 years, disabled, or over 55 years with limited income as specified. Assembly Bill 1046.

- Mortgage fraud: As of January 1, 2010, anyone who deliberately makes any misrepresentation or

omission during the mortgage lending process with the intent of influencing that process will be guilty of mortgage fraud under California law (it is already a crime under Federal law)

- Mortgage brokers will have fiduciary duty to place the borrower's economic interest above his or her own.

- No one may claim any compensation for negotiating or arranging a loan modification until after that person fully performs each and every service as promised.

May you have happiness and prosperity in the New Year.

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. www.MonicaCorman.com

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Chinese Immersion Info Nights: January 20

Is this what you voted for?

RAIL

continued from page 5

Questions remain

The rail authority revised its business plan at the behest of the state Legislature, after state officials criticized the previous plan for a lack of rigor.

But rail watchers say that major questions still remain.

Foremost among those are assumptions that the train will have heavy ridership, and that the rail authority will be able to secure funding to pay for the system. In addition to the \$9 billion from Proposition 1A and the \$10 billion to \$12 billion from private sources, the plan counts on \$17 billion to \$19 billion from the federal government, and \$4 billion to \$5 billion from local jurisdictions and proceeds related to denser development around stations along the route.

The plan acknowledges that securing the federal funding will depend on “the creation of new programs designed specifically to advance high-speed rail projects,” and that the state would likely have to guarantee a return on private investment to attract financing.

“Someone has to own the risk, and there is a lot of risk,” Ms. Alexis wrote. “At the end of the day it will be California taxpayers, whether we want to be the ones or not.”

The plan outlines the following strategies to “mitigate” the risk that funding doesn’t come through: communicating often with investors, developing “back-up strategies,” and staggering construction.

“The funding plans are that they have plans to develop plans,” Nadia Naik, also a CARRD co-founder, wrote in an e-mail. “Clearly that is worrisome.”

CARRD is calling for the state

to conduct an independent ridership study, saying that the methods used in the current one are flawed.

The rail authority defended the projections, saying that a panel of transportation experts “concur with the approach and the reasonableness of the results,” and that the chance of lower-than-expected ridership “is not a highly likely risk but is worth mentioning.”

In an omission sure to attract the attention of local people, the plan does not analyze the cost of running trains through the Peninsula in a trench or tunnel.

Not surprisingly, the new plan has not changed the opinion of Menlo Park firebrand Martin Engel, a fervent high-speed rail opponent who sends several e-mails per day updating his followers on new developments.

“Barker (the communication director) says that ‘the figures are still subject to change in coming years,’” Mr. Engel wrote in one missive. “Sure they are. It’s easy to know things when you make them up. Does he mean that we shouldn’t believe these numbers either? Well, he’s convinced me. I didn’t believe the old ones. I don’t believe these.”

How did the news of increased costs and fares strike John Boyle, the lone council member from either Menlo Park or Atherton to publicly support the project?

“This is still the project I voted for,” Mr. Boyle said. “I’m not suggesting that (the costs) don’t matter; I’m disappointed. At some point, you say, ‘This isn’t what I supported, this isn’t what I voted for.’ But I think the changes to date are reasonable, and probably not outside the bounds” of what might have been expected. ■

CARL

continued from page 5

auction that, over the years, generated about \$100,000 for the school community, said Shari Conrad, a member of the foundation.

Board member Jeff Child joked that at his first foundation auction, he bid on the rib dinner only to see it go to someone else who bid about 10 times what he’d offered. Board member Laura Rich said she’d finally gotten him to disclose his secret recipe, but since it involved staying up all night to prepare the ribs, it was unlikely that she’d ever cook them herself.

Mr. Jones’ collection of outlandish hats, from wizard to cowboy to Cat-in-the-Hat, has swelled to over 100, and is stored in the school’s multi-use room.

“I remember that before my kids

ever went to Laurel, they saw him with his big hat and my kids knew that Laurel was a good place,” Ms. Conrad said.

Referring to the myriad other tasks that Mr. Jones took on, from serving as DJ at events to making sure the book fair ran smoothly, Ms. Conrad said, “There wasn’t a hat Mr. Jones couldn’t wear if you just asked him.”

Students at Laurel, a K-2 public school in Atherton, paid tribute to Mr. Jones at their Holiday Sing performance on Dec. 11.

The board’s proclamation praised Mr. Jones as “a giant amid his pint-sized charges” and a “custodian extraordinaire,” saying that board members “reluctantly” accepted his decision to retire.

“You guys have been family to me for a long time,” a visibly moved Mr. Jones told the school board and assembled faculty, staff and parents at the meeting. ■

Ladera signals season with Christmas star

This story was submitted by Nancy Segbarth of Portola Valley, a member of Ladera Community Church since the 1960s.

For fifty years a star shining from the top of a tall tree on Alpine Road next to the Ladera Community Church has signaled the holiday season for Portola Valley. It is lit from the beginning of Advent to Epiphany, or Twelfth Night. The first star was hung shortly after the young church congregation was able to construct its sanctuary in 1959.

Two of those early members were Charles Coale and Frank Coale, unrelated neighbors in Ladera. Together they built the original star and chose an old Italian cypress at the edge of the church’s parking lot as a good display site.

Frank was an avid rock-climbing expert with the Sierra Club and not at all deterred by the difficulties of ascending through the thicket of branches. Later, the two families enlisted the next generation, Frank’s son Kenneth and Charles’ son Roger, to continue the star in their fathers’ memory.

Firmly installed as a holiday tradition, the church formally took over the star project about the time the original cypress tree started to fail.

The cypress was removed and everyone agreed the star should be moved to the much taller redwood tree right next to Alpine Road, where it now resides.

The S.P. McClenahan company, arborists in Portola Valley, kindly agreed to bring their cherry picker equipment to safely install the star,

and a wonderful relationship was started. A McClenahan crew continued, without charge, to provide routine maintenance as needed over the decades.

When a strong storm with high winds managed to knock the star completely to the ground a few years ago, the star was rebuilt using new “green energy” light bulbs. Another McClenahan crew then reinstalled the star.

The members of Ladera Community Church sincerely thank The McClenahan company for its ongoing support, without which the star’s tradition would not have continued.

The star is lit in the early morning hours from 5:30 to 7 a.m., and in the evening from 5 to 10 p.m.

Merry Christmas to all in the community who enjoy its light! ■

Church lights 40-foot-high Christmas cross

Bethany Lutheran Church at the corner of Avy and Cloud avenues in Menlo Park, has set up a 40-foot-high lighted cross on its front lawn for Christmas, says Pastor Jon Coyne, who notes that the cross has been a symbol of the Christmas season in the community for 50 years.

■ BRIEFS

“With the days getting darker earlier and the clouds making the days a bit dreary, it is heartwarming to see the glow as you look up Santa Cruz Avenue from downtown Menlo Park,” says Pastor Coyne in an e-mail.

The cross will be lit each evening throughout the Christmas season and into the New Year, he says.

Bethany Lutheran Church offers three services on Christmas Eve: 5 p.m., family Christmas; 7 p.m. Christmas with QUADRE, The Voice of Four Horns; and 10 p.m., Candlelight Christmas.

“The children at Bethany’s Littlest Angels Preschool loved seeing the cross lit up when they arrived for their ‘Young Child’s Christmas Service’ earlier this week,” Pastor Coyne says.

See *AlmanacNews.com* for a picture of the cross.

Online review of ‘Civil War Christmas’

Atherton resident Valerie Gardner was greatly moved by the TheatreWorks production, “A Civil War Christmas,” and submitted a review of it, which you can see online (*AlmanacNews.com*).

The play runs through Dec. 27 at Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road in Palo Alto.



Photo by Kathy Dugan

Santa rides to the rescue

Ed Begun, vice chairman of the board of the National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy in Woodside, plays Santa at a holiday party for the children and families who come to the center. Ed, who has played Santa for several years, rides in on the therapy horse, Sebastian, at the Mounted Patrol Grounds in Woodside on Dec. 5. The nonprofit center, located at 880 Runnymede Road, uses horses in the treatment of children, adults and military veterans.

Tickets are \$26-\$62. For more information, call 463-1960 or go to TheatreWorks.org.

It’s not too late to give

If you haven’t donated to the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula in the last 12 months or more, here’s your chance to play Santa.

In response to concerns about declining donations to the clubs, three foundations have offered to match contributions from new donors dollar for dollar (up to a total of \$350,000), according to clubs’ spokesman Chris Canter.

Go to tinyurl.com/Clubs2009 or call 646-6128 for more information on how to donate.

SOLAR

continued from page 5

cation process.

Councilwoman Kelly Fergusson has argued that going through the LEED certification process could save the city in operating costs, because it would ensure that the building is constructed to specification.

And Mr. Steffens said that the city would eventually make back the money it spent on solar panels

in reduced energy costs.

“It’s sort of moot in my mind, the question of how this happened,” Mr. Boyle said. “I wouldn’t begin to say that (Mr. Arrillaga) changed his mind, or that staff made a mistake. It doesn’t really matter to me.”

Mr. Arrillaga is still expected to pay some \$8 million in construction costs, covering all costs over the city’s commitment.

Mr. Steffens and Mr. Arrillaga did not return calls seeking comment. ■

Fire chars ceiling in garage

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Radiant heat from a propane tank heater in a garage at 115 Shawnee Pass in Portola Valley ignited a couple of aerosol paint cans sitting nearby and started a one-alarm fire on the morning of Sunday, Dec. 20.

The homeowner held the fire in check with a garden hose until firefighters from the Woodside Fire Protection District arrived and quickly extinguished it, Battalion Chief Kevin Butler said. There were no injuries and no threats to either the vegetation or adjacent homes, he said.

The garage sustained about \$30,000 in structural damage, mainly to the rafters, and \$5,000 damage to paper materials stored above the rafters, he said.

The homeowner had been working on an automotive project and was planning to use the paint, Mr. Butler said. The owner left the

garage briefly and heat from the heater likely melted parts of the aerosol cans, which would have released flammable vapors that ignited, Mr. Butler said.

Though the garage doors were open, the lesson, he said, is never to use indoors a heater intended for outdoor use, even in an indoors/outdoors situation like an open garage.

Smoke triggered a smoke detector in the house, which led to the 911 call at 9:13 a.m.

Eighteen firefighters in four engines and a ladder truck responded from the station at 135 Portola Road, and were on the scene in about four minutes, Mr. Butler said. They had the fire under control in 10 minutes, he said.

Firefighters cut one hole in the roof to allow the escape of heat and gases, and installed a remote-viewing thermal imaging camera overnight to monitor the site for re-ignition, he said.

Lawn debate: Property rights vs. environmental responsibility

By Sean Howell

Almanac Staff Writer

If a showdown were brewing in Menlo Park between environmental activists and defenders of private property rights, what would be a more appropriate setting for the drama to play out on than a lawn?

No fisticuffs have broken out thus far, with the debate playing out only in the demure confines of the City Council chambers.

But deliberations over a revised water-efficient landscaping ordinance are sure to bounce between those two ideological poles, as the city weighs restricting the size of homeowners' lawns, and when they can water them.

The proposal currently on the table would prevent people from running their sprinklers during the day. It would also limit lawn size to 500 square feet, or 25 percent of the total landscaped area for properties with over 2,000 square feet of landscaping.

The new rules would only apply to properties that undergo a substantial renovation or landscaping overhaul.

"This would be a substantial take-away of private property rights," Councilman John Boyle said in an interview. "Go out and measure some lawns — 500 square feet is nothing."

When he remodeled his own house, Mr. Boyle moved the house forward to allow for a bigger backyard, he said. He called the ordinance a "quality-of-life question. I want to live in a place where kids can kick a soccer ball around in the yard."

Councilman Heyward Robinson said at the Dec. 15 council meeting that he sympathized with Mr. Boyle's concerns, noting that his own lawn probably wouldn't conform to the new ordinance, either.

"But we also have to balance that with the fact that our glaciers are melting, and our snow pack is melting, potentially at a very alarming rate," Mr. Robinson said. "I don't disagree that there isn't going to be some gnashing of teeth in adopting these. These are just the first of a lot of environmental regulations and belt-tightening that we're going to have to do collectively as a community as we deal with climate change."

Mr. Boyle was the only council member to take issue with the lawn-size requirement, with members of the council majority agreeing that the city needs to help wean people away from having large lawns. Councilwoman Kelly Fergusson has in the past toyed with the idea of a native plant policy; Mr. Robinson suggested a "water-less challenge," to go with the Green Ribbon Citizens Committee's "drive-less challenge."

"We have a water problem in California," Mr. Boyle said. "We need to figure out how to manage that. Lumping it all into, 'global warming is happening, therefore we need to do this' ... it's frustrating at times."

The council is scheduled to take up a draft of the ordinance at the Jan. 12 meeting. It would go into effect in January, to comply with a new state law. ▀

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Almanac staffer Joan Sellman dies at 81

Joan Sellman, a longtime resident of Woodside and a former staffer with The Almanac, died Dec. 10 at Brighton Gardens in Santa Rosa, following an extended illness. She was 81. Ms. Sellman was the wife of

the late George Sellman, who served as superintendent of Woodside Elementary School for 23 years.

In the 1990s, she retired after many years in The Almanac's business office, dating back to

the days when it was located in Woodside.

A memorial service for Ms. Sellman will be held in Woodside at a later date. A complete obituary will appear in a future issue of The Almanac.

TOWN OF WOODSIDE

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INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING COMMISSION

Districts 4

The Planning Commission participates in the administration of the planning laws and policies of the Town. It is responsible for recommending to the Town Council ordinances and resolutions necessary to implement the General Plan and adopted development policy. The Commission also conducts necessary public hearings to administer the planning laws and policies of the Town and acts upon applications for zoning amendments, conditional use permits, variances, subdivisions and other related functions as may be assigned by the Council.

The Planning Commission meets on the first and third Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.; Commissioners are appointed for a four-year term.

District 4 encompasses the Emerald Lakes area, the Cañada Road area north of Arbor Court/Olive Hill Lane, including the Runnymede Road and Raymundo Drive areas.

Interested residents may check residency requirements and request information and applications Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-12 noon and 1-5:00 p.m. at the Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, on the Town's web site at www.woodsidetown.org or by telephoning (650) 851-6790. Deadline for applications is Friday, January 15, 2010, 5:00 p.m.

Prosecutors decide not to retry M-A track coach

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

San Mateo County prosecutors have decided not to pursue a retrial in the case of Kelly Weston, a former Menlo-Atherton High School assistant track coach convicted Dec. 11 of misdemeanor battery for pushing a boy. The jury deadlocked on charges that Mr. Weston had made criminal threats and engaged in child endangerment, and on Dec. 15, prosecutors announced that they would not seek to retry him on those charges.

Mr. Weston pleaded not guilty to all charges.

The four-day trial, presided over by Superior Court Judge Robert Foiles, centered on an incident in which three Hispanic youth were playing outside Mr. Weston's trailer home in unincorporated Redwood City last May, and a soccer ball bounced against the wall of the home. According to prosecutors, he responded by coming out of his house, pushing one boy and making racially charged threats to all three.

"We feel that the court has sufficient (latitude) to sentence the defendant appropriately on the one count" of battery, Assistant District Attorney Karen Guidotti said in an

interview.

The jury deadlocked with majorities of 10-2 and 7-5 for not-guilty verdicts on the threat charges, and 11-1 for a guilty verdict on the child endangerment charge, Ms. Guidotti said.

"I'm gratified that (the jury) was not able to convict him on the other charges," defense attorney Harriotte Aaron said in an interview.

And the battery conviction? "I don't think he hit the boy," Ms. Aaron said. Her case was difficult, she said, because the prosecution had the boys testify, and a child's perceptions are "hard to dispute."

Asked if she had cross-examined them, she replied: "I did, gently."

A sentencing hearing is set for Friday, Feb. 5, Ms. Guidotti said. Mr. Weston could be fined up to \$2,000 and spend up to six months in jail. He remains free on \$50,000 bail.

Bettylu Smith, speaking for the Sequoia Union High School District, said that M-A "does not have plans to renew Mr. Weston's contract for the upcoming track season."

The boys — two 12-year-olds and an 11-year-old — say the soccer ball struck the house by accident. Mr. Weston, 63, allegedly came out and told the kids that he hated them, that he hated "your kind" and Mexicans in general, and that he could "kill" them "right now," prosecutors said.

The children reported the exchange to their parents, who reported it to a Sheriff's Office deputy, who then interviewed the boys, prosecutors said.

A deputy who interviewed Mr. Weston said "some of the hate language that was charged, some of that

was used in the interview," prosecutors said.

In the trial, prosecutor Brian Raft structured his case around testimony from the boys, the mother of two of the boys, a deputy sheriff, and the manager of the trailer park, who allegedly overheard some of the altercation, Ms. Guidotti said.

Ms. Aaron presented an elderly "ear" witness who claimed to be on the phone with Mr. Weston during the altercation. On cross-examination, the prosecutor challenged the witness's credibility by showing that he could not prove that the incident did not happen on another day, Ms. Aaron said.

Mr. Weston also testified. "I think it's a story that the jury wants to hear," Ms. Aaron said. The defendant "is the focus of the whole thing we're here for. The jury wants to draw its own conclusions."

At The Almanac's online forum at AlmanaNews.com, Mr. Weston's supporters praised his coaching, lamented the ignoble end to his career, discounted the boys' story, and criticized the district's attorney's office for spending tax revenues on such a case.

Mr. Weston coached at M-A "going on 40 years" and won the 2005-06 Coach's Honor Award from the Central Coast Section of the Peninsula Athletic League, he said in an e-mail to The Almanac. ■

ONLINE

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A toast to the season

As the old year ends, it's time to break out the bubbly



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

By Jane Knoerle
Almanac Lifestyles Editor

The closing days of 2009 call for a toast. First, congratulations that we made it through a rough year. Second, a lift of the glass in hope that 2010 brings brighter days.

When it comes to celebration, champagne, the bubbly that has launched a thousand ships, toasted countless brides and bridegrooms, and attended a million New Year's Eve parties, is the drink of choice.

True champagne is produced in the Champagne region of France. Sparkling wine made in the traditional French method and fermented in the bottle is termed champagne and produced in many countries.

The region of Champagne was a center of European trade during the Middle Ages and was famous for its fairs. This was centuries before the Benedictine monk Dom Perignon is said to have discovered the fermentation process that resulted in the bubbly wine.

Historians question whether Dom Perignon actually uttered the famous line, "Come quickly, brothers, I'm drinking stars." However, it is established that he was the cellar master for the abbey of

Herbed smoked salmon spread is festive when spread on cucumbers and endive, and goes well with a glass of champagne.

Hautvillers near Epernay in the 1600s. Bubbles in the wine were caused by Champagne's cold climate and short growing season. There wasn't time for the yeasts on the grape skins to convert the sugar in the grape juice into alcohol before the cold temperature stopped the fermentation process. When spring came, fermentation started again, this time in the bottle. Re-fermentation created carbon dioxide, which became trapped in the bottle. Thus, the sparkle.

Although Dom Perignon died in 1715, the basic principles he employed are still used to make champagne today.

Many California wineries, several associated with French wineries, produce a sparkling wine, as do those in Italy, Spain, Australia and New Zealand.

For John Akeley, wine manager of Roberts Market in Woodside, the holidays are his busiest time, and he sells a lot of champagne and sparkling wine.

A veteran of the wine business, having worked at both Beltramo's and Draeger's before coming to Roberts five years ago, Mr. Akeley is almost always on hand to give customers advice. "Customers feel

Champagne and food

Champagne, with its high acidity, pairs nicely with food. It's at home with Christmas dinner, mixed in a mimosa for brunch, or paired with hors d'oeuvres on New Year's Eve.

Caterer Margaret MacKenzie suggests a smoked salmon spread appetizer goes well with a glass of champagne. She pipes it onto endive spears or serves the spread in a bowl with assorted crackers.

Herbed smoked salmon spread

- 12 oz. cream cheese at room temperature
- 1/3 cup sour cream
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 1/4 teaspoon Tabasco sauce
- 8 oz. smoked salmon, coarsely chopped
- 1 tablespoon dried thyme
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh chives
- 3 scallions, finely chopped
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground pepper

Place cream cheese, sour cream, lemon juice and Tabasco in bowl of a food processor and pulse until smooth. Add capers, smoked salmon, herbs, scallions, and pepper and pulse well. Refrigerate for up to two days. Serve at room temperature, garnished with chopped chives.

Other Nutmeg Kitchen cocktail party favorites include:

Chicken, fig and pancetta bites

- 12 fresh or dried figs, split
- 2 pounds chicken breast tenderloins
- A drizzle of balsamic vinegar
- A drizzle of extra virgin olive oil
- Salt and pepper
- 24 slices pancetta
- 4-inch wooden party picks

If using fresh figs, proceed to the preheat instructions. If using dried figs, place a small pan of water on stove and bring to simmer. Add figs and plump them in water for 5 minutes. Drain and cool.

Preheat pan over medium to high heat. Cut chicken into large chunks. Drizzle chicken with balsamic and oil and toss to coat. Season chicken with salt and pepper.

Place half fig on each piece of chicken and wrap with a slice of pancetta. Skewer and place on grill. Grill chicken 4 to 5 minutes on each side.

Ginger-soy marinated shrimp

(from "At Blanchard's Table" by Melinda and Robert Blanchard)
1 1/2 pounds large shrimp with tails

Dipping sauce:

- 1 1/2 cups mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon freshly grated lemon peel
- 1 tablespoon freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1/4 cup grated parmesan cheese

Marinade:

- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 1/2 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 2 small garlic cloves minced
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh ginger
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup corn oil

For the dipping sauce: Mix together the mayo, lemon peel, lemon juice, Dijon mustard, and grated parmesan. Salt and pepper to taste. Set aside.

For the shrimp: Bring large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Add the shrimp and cook until pink and firm, about 2 minutes. Drain, and set aside.

For the marinade: In a bowl, combine soy sauce, lemon juice, minced garlic, ginger, sugar and corn oil and whisk until incorporated. Add shrimp and toss well. Marinate from 15 minutes to 5 hours.

To serve: Remove shrimp from marinade with a strainer, transfer to service place. Place dipping sauce in a bowl and serve with the shrimp.

Continued on page 12



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COVER STORY

Caterer Margaret MacKenzie of Portola Valley prepares herbed smoked salmon spread.

Photos by Michelle Le/The Almanac



John Akeley, wine manager at Roberts Market in Woodside, has lots of advice about selecting champagne.

A TOAST TO THE SEASON

continued from page 11

our wine selection is best for quality and diversity," he says.

Asked for recommendations for sparkling wine in different price ranges, Mr. Akeley suggests:

■ Low price range: N/V Roederer Estate Anderson Valley Brut, \$21.99; and 2005 Domaine Carneros (by Taittinger) Brut, \$26.99.

■ Medium range: N/V Duval-Leroy Brut (NM), \$35.99; N/V Chartron-Taillet "Sainte-Anne" Brut (RM), \$38.99; N/V Bollinger Special Cuvee Brut (NM), \$59.99; and N/V Jacquesson Cuvee 733 Brut (RM), \$54.99.

■ High range: N/V Krug Grande Cuvee Brut (NM), \$159.99; and 1996 Bollinger R.D. (recently disgorged) Extra Brut (NM), \$239.99

Mr. Akeley points out the term NV means non-vintage. These wines are usually at their best near release. The initials NM (Negoiant-Manipulant) appear on the labels of large champagne houses that outsource the majority of their grapes, rather than growing them. The initials RM (Recoltant-Manipulant) means the champagne maker is limited to only its own vineyard holdings.

If you want "to drink stars," a bottle of Moet & Chandon's 2000 Dom Perignon will set you back \$149.99, says Bob Toms, Mr. Akeley's assistant at Roberts. ■

Train collects thousands of toys

More than 4,000 toys and \$2,300 in cash was donated by visitors to Caltrain's ninth annual holiday train Dec. 5 and 6. Since the first holiday train in 2001, approximately 43,000 gifts have been provided for children in need.

The holiday train operates in conjunction with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots program and the Salvation Army.

Caltrain schedule

Trains will run on a weekday schedule on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, according to Caltrain spokesperson Tasha Bartholomew.

Free rides will be offered after 11 p.m. on New Year's Eve.

Caltrain will add four post-midnight southbound trains to the regular holiday schedule on Jan. 1. The extra trains will depart the San Francisco station at 12:45 a.m., 1:15 a.m., 1:45 a.m., and 2:15 a.m., making all local weekday stops to the San Jose Diridon station.

On Christmas Day and New Year's Day, the trains will operate on a Sunday schedule.

For more information, call 1-800-660-4287 or go to Caltrain.com.

SamTrans schedule

SamTrans will operate on its

HOLIDAY 2009

Go to TheAlmanacOnline.com and click on the "Community Calendar" link on the green navigation bar on the left for calendar listings.

regular schedule on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. It will operate on a holiday schedule Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Free rides will be offered on New Year's Eve from 11 p.m. until 2 a.m.

For more information, call 1-800-660-4287 or go to samtrans.com.

'Morning After' hike

You are invited to leave your stress behind and join docent Keith Johnsgard for a hike at Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 26. Mr. Johnsgard will lead you four miles over the ridge and back with a lunch stop at Alpine Pond. Bring your own lunch.

A second hike will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 29, from the Russian Ridge parking lot of the Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve. Docent Ed Lange will lead the 5-mile hike, visiting Alpine Pond and Horseshoe Lake along the Ridge Trail. For more information, go to openspace.org.



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LOCAL

Why we should shop locally this holiday season

When you are shopping for the holidays, remember your community and support your locally owned independent businesses. When you do, more of the dollars you spend remain in the local community compared to big box and chain stores.

Local merchants know the community and are experts in selecting merchandise that is based on what you like and want. Shop with awareness. In a down economy with many businesses at risk, you are voting with your dollars. If you value a diverse local economy, choose to support these and other independent, locally owned businesses.

Here are some good reasons to shop at locally owned businesses this holiday season and all year:

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- It makes us unique. There's no place like the Peninsula! Homegrown businesses are part of what makes us special.
- 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

This message is brought to you by Hometown Peninsula, an alliance of locally-owned independent businesses. We strive to maintain our unique community character, to educate local residents that purchasing locally creates a strong local economy and bring back the vibrant hometown to our communities that is being displaced by national chains and online stores.

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Happy Holidays

Project Read learners give back to their community

By Alice Bradshaw

Program Manager, Project Read-Menlo Park

Many adult learners at Project Read-Menlo Park, the adult literacy program in the Menlo Park Library, have gone far beyond studying English. They've become active members of the community.

For 25 years, Project Read has provided the only free adult literacy tutoring in the area, helping more than 3,000 adults.

After a 10-hour work day, would you study an additional three hours? Would you drive to Santa Clara from Menlo Park every month to practice public speaking in a language that is foreign to you? Would you give up two-days' pay, travel to a conference and present a workshop illustrating how low-level literacy students can improve their lives and give back to their communities? Project Read learners have done all of these.

Martha Chavez has taken

HOLIDAY FUND

Donations to the Holiday Fund benefit Project Read-Menlo Park.

advantage of what Project Read has to offer. She first attended our English as a Second Language (ESL) classes in the Belle Haven community and improved her English to the point where she was qualified to be matched with a tutor. Her tutor helped her get a library card and check out books, as well as get an e-mail account and search the Internet.

She prepared for the citizenship test with her tutor and is now a citizen of the United States. She won a refurbished computer for her family by writing an essay for our annual Win-A-Computer contest.

Another student, Raul Gonzalez, became a Project Read tutor one year after he began as a learner. He attended the Adult Learner Leadership Insti-

See **PROJECT READ**, page 18

Holiday Fund Donations

Anonymous (21).....	\$4080
Doug & Judy Adams.....	**
Arnold & Sylvia Ambrosini.....	100
Gerald Anderson & Betty Howell....	200
Charles R. & Cynthia Dusel Bacon....	**
Ruth A. Barker.....	**
Sue Bishop.....	50
Elizabeth Blair.....	500
Lee Boucher.....	100
James Brice.....	150
Meredith Buenning.....	100
Kirke & Dottie Comstock.....	**
Mary Cooper.....	100
Nancy Davidson.....	200
Paul & Anne DeCarli.....	**
Tim & Candy Eastham.....	**
Gloria Eddie.....	100
Bob & Barbara Ells.....	100
James E. Esposto.....	**
Tom & Nancy Fiene.....	**
Jan Fisher.....	50
Gale K. Fullerton.....	100
Gregory Gallo.....	500
D.Austin Grose.....	250
Andy & Sandy Hall.....	**
Doug & Mary Heller.....	**
Alan Herzig & Jeanne Wohlers.....	500
George Comstock & Anne Hillman.....	1000
Betty Howell.....	200
Carl & Barb Jacobson.....	100
Andrea G Julian.....	250
Eric & Phyllis Knudsen.....	**
Julia Kringle.....	**
Bill & Jean Lane.....	**
Diana Laraway.....	**
Bob & Nancy Luft.....	100
Lorraine Macchello.....	100
Jamis & Margaret MacNiven.....	100
Drew McCalley & Marilyn Green.....	100
Anne Moser.....	**
Mary Louise Moses.....	**
Frederick Mugler Jr.....	**
Jim & Stephanie Nisbet.....	**
Bob & Marion Oster.....	**
Bob & Marna Page.....	**
John & Carmen Quackenbush.....	**
Lucy Reid-Krensky.....	200
Michael Roberts.....	100
Bill & Melba Rogoway.....	**
Mr. & Mrs. Tim Rowland.....	**
Joan Ruben.....	**
Vicky Rundorff.....	**

George & Dorothy Saxe.....	**
Nancy B. Serrurier.....	1000
Robert & Barbara Simpson.....	**
Adair & Pamela Slater.....	**
Kayetta Slocum.....	500
John & Thelma Smith.....	**
Herbert & Marjorie Stone.....	250
Lina T. Swisher.....	100
Geoff & Colleen Tate.....	**
Onnolee Trapp.....	**
Anne Tuttle.....	500
Gloria Villagomez.....	100
Mark & Karen Weitzel.....	5000
Janice Whitlinger.....	50
Rose Wright.....	**
Joe & Julie Zier.....	100

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Dr. & Mrs. L.J. linnemann.....	**
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In memory of

Marilyn Holiday Binske.....	**
Frank Blum & Joseph Quilter.....	50
Joan Von Gehr.....	**
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Esther Johnson.....	50
Paul Katz & Inge Selig.....	**
Bill Land.....	**
Kenneth Larkin.....	100
Martin S. Seaney.....	200
John & AnnMarie Sisson.....	**
Vern Varenhorst.....	**
Jim Wangsness.....	**
Lisa Xavier.....	250

Businesses & Organizations

Lutticken's Market.....	125
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As a gift for

The Lund Family.....	100
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Totals: As of December 18, 2009, a total of 107 donors have given \$68,320 to the Holiday Fund.

** The asterisks designate that the donor did not want to publish the amount of the gift.

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 _____

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Signature _____

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



The William and Flora
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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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The Almanac, established in September, 1965, is delivered each week to residents of Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside and adjacent unincorporated areas of southern San Mateo County. The Almanac is qualified by decree of the Superior Court of San Mateo County to publish public notices of a governmental and legal nature, as stated in Decree No. 147530, issued November 9, 1969.

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.

TOWN SQUARE FORUM

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

EMAIL 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.

Another stinger for Atherton

The \$230,000 Atherton agreed to pay out last week to settle a civil lawsuit filed by police officer Pilar Ortiz-Buckley, who claimed she suffered ongoing sexual harassment from public works supervisor Troy Henderson, shows just how vulnerable a small town can be to the indiscretions of its employees.

In this case, Atherton apparently was eager to settle the case, and did before any depositions were taken. The town agreed to the nearly quarter-of-a-million dollar settlement despite the July acquittal of

Mr. Henderson on misdemeanor charges of assault and battery, stemming from a June 2008 incident involving Ms. Ortiz-Buckley. He denied most of her allegations.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

Nevertheless, given the history of the people involved, Atherton managers should have known that Troy Henderson might pop up as a major liability due to the 16 sexual harassment complaints filed against him by female employees over the last 15 years, according to testimony in the criminal case.

In today's workplace, one or two such complaints would be enough to send an employee packing. In this case, Mr. Henderson's alleged frequent use of sexual innuendoes when conversing with women in his own and other departments was evidently accepted behavior, at least until police officer Pilar Ortiz-Buckley decided she had had enough.

According to her complaint, Mr. Henderson followed her into the police station staff room while leering at her and making verbal sexual advances. After she rebuffed his comments, Mr. Henderson allegedly got inappropriately close to her, and she then warned him

to get out of her space, she said in the lawsuit.

That is when, Ms. Ortiz-Buckley alleges, Mr. Henderson lunged at her, forcing her to defend herself against the much larger man. The "assault" came to an end when another officer entered the room and defused the situation. The department's own camera recorded much of the incident on videotape, a key factor in Ms. Ortiz-Buckley's case.

But now, Atherton officials, including City Council members, must decide just how long they wish to keep Mr. Henderson on the payroll. At 58, and with more than 30 years as an employee, Mr. Henderson could easily retire, or just as easily, decide to continue until he is 60 or 65.

At this point, the town should not leave that decision up to Mr. Henderson, whose prior record exposes increased risk of another sexual harassment complaint. The best course for Atherton is to negotiate a separation with Mr. Henderson, hopefully with a solution that both sides can live with, and that would reflect Mr. Henderson's many years of service to the town.

A footnote: City Council members and town officials with knowledge of the case have been criticized for not making the terms of the settlement public prior to a critical parcel tax election Nov. 3. According to records provided by the city, the settlement wasn't finalized until Nov. 19. Even so, the council erred in not making the agreement public more than a month ago, when all parties signed off.

Given the size of the settlement, and Atherton's shortage of cash, the council owed residents an explanation. Instead, word of the deal leaked out on The Almanac's Web site last weekend, hardly the way Atherton should conduct its business.

LETTERS

Our readers write

Thanks to a Good Samaritan

Editor:

I want to thank Mark, a Good Samaritan delivery truck driver.

I fell in Menlo Park on Wednesday, Dec. 9. Mark immediately came to my aid, called 911 and stayed with me until help arrived.

I will be forever grateful for my Good Samaritan. Thank-you Mark, and everyone else who helped.

Sue Ebnetter

Sunrise Drive, Woodside

Rep. Speier signed on to heart bill

Editor:

As a woman and a cardiologist, I would like to publicly thank Congresswoman Jackie Speier for signing on as a co-sponsor of the HEART for Women Act.

This legislation, supported by the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, would help ensure that heart disease and stroke are more widely recognized and more effectively treated in women.

One important provision would



Portola Valley Archives

Our Regional Heritage

Members of the group known as the Family take their ease at a summer retreat at the Family Farm on Portola Road in Portola Valley in this undated photo. The light behind the seating area suggests members were watching one of their theatrical productions.

strengthen federal regulations for reporting sex-specific data from trials of new medications and medical devices. This is crucial because some medications and devices behave differently in men and women. The bill would also improve screening for low-income women at risk for heart

disease and stroke.

Heart disease is the No. 1 killer of women and stroke is the No. 3 killer of women. Heart attack, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases kill more women than the next five causes of death combined. But many women and even many health care providers

are not aware of the risks, prevention strategies and symptoms. This legislation would authorize grants to educate health care professionals about the prevalence and unique aspects of care for women in the prevention

See **LETTERS**, next page

Glitch in funding high-speed rail

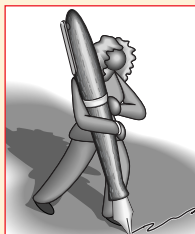
By Morris Brown

The \$9.95 billion Prop 1A bond measure for high-speed rail, which the California voters approved last year to provide a down payment on the 800-mile rail project, is a complicated document.

Amid much hoopla, the governor in October sent a letter to the Federal Rail Administration in which he promised to match any federal stimulus funds received for the HSR project with proceeds from the Prop 1A bond measure on a 1:1 basis. This letter was meant to convince the rail administration that California was the only state that could match federal dollars, and thus California should get most of the \$8 billion stimulus funding.

However, Prop 1A has restrictions on how bond proceeds can be used. One restriction states that before the Legislature can release bond funds for a construction project, full funding must be in place for that project, and that project must result in a complete usable segment or corridor for the high-speed rail program.

The High-Speed Rail Authority applied for \$4.7 billion in federal stimulus funding and promised to match it with \$4.7 billion in state bond proceeds. However, the funding application was broken into various pieces and none of the construction pieces, taken separately or together, will result in a complete useable segment or corridor for the rail project.



**GUEST
OPINION**

The governor has promised the Federal Rail Administration state matching funds he cannot legally provide, since Prop 1A has a legal restriction on how bond funds are to be applied.

This restriction did not have to be violated. Before the board approved the stimulus applications in September, I wrote the rail authority a letter saying that funding should be approved such that completion of

usable segments or corridors would be the result. If the application had been such that they asked for funds to, say, complete the Los Angeles to Anaheim segment, or Merced to Bakersfield segment, as examples, then Prop 1A matching funding would be appropriate.

However, the authority wants to dig holes all along the 800 miles, trying to get started on this major project, without having funds in place to complete anything. Concerns about using bond funds without getting anything useful when completed were exactly the reason this restriction was placed into Prop 1A. The authority has chosen to ignore this restriction. ■

Morris Brown lives in Menlo Park and is a founder of DERAIL.

LETTERS

continued from page 16

and treatment of cardiovascular diseases.

I urge Congress to pass this important legislation this session in order to protect and educate women about the important and deadly issue of heart disease and stroke.

**Rita Redberg, M.D.
San Mateo**

Health bill oversteps boundary on abortion

Editor:

The Stupak Amendment, which is part of the House health care reform bill, prohibits abortion coverage in any plan which receives even one dollar of federal subsidies from any of its subscribers.

Given the realities of the insurance market, it would effectively ban abortion coverage within the

health insurance exchange, even for women who pay with their own money, and even when the mother's health is at risk.

Reproductive health care is basic health care. Abortion is a legal procedure experienced by one in three women. Although I believe abortion should be covered and funded like any other medical procedure, an acceptable compromise would be to allow abortion coverage, but ensure that only private premiums, and not federal affordability credits, pay for abortion in the health insurance exchange.

This would be similar to the Medicaid system, in which federal funds are prohibited from paying for abortions (except in cases of rape, incest or life-endangerment), but state funds may. Both the pre-Stupak House bill and the current Senate bill have such a compromise, known as the Capps Amendment.

Let's keep it at that, and get

on with the business of passing much needed health insurance reform.

**Karen Grove, board member
Planned Parenthood-
Mar Monte, Menlo Park**

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P.S. The most common symptom associated with anisometropia is double-vision.

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.



**EYE
CARE
NEWS**



**Presented by
Mark Schmidt
Licensed Optician**



SEPARATE AND UNEQUAL

In much the same way that one leg is longer and/or stronger than the other, it is possible for eyes to have different refractive powers. This condition, known as "anisometropia," may be severe enough that a different corrective lens prescription will be needed for each eye. Because anisometropia can be so extreme that one eye is near-sighted while its counterpart is far-sighted, eyeglasses can be produced with a different prescription for each eye. If anisometropia is left untreated, the

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TOWN OF WOODSIDE

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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.

TOWN OF WOODSIDE

2955 Woodside Road
Woodside, CA 94062

INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING COMMISSION District 3

The Planning Commission participates in the administration of the planning laws and policies of the Town. It is responsible for recommending to the Town Council ordinances and resolutions necessary to implement the General Plan and adopted development policy. The Commission also conducts necessary public hearings to administer the planning laws and policies of the Town and acts upon applications for zoning amendments, conditional use permits, variances, subdivisions, and other related functions as may be assigned by the Council.

The Planning Commission meets on the first and third Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

District 3 encompasses the area east and south of Woodside Road, Bear Gulch Creek (south of Woodside Road), west of Mountain Home Road and Manzanita Way, and Sand Hill/Portola Roads, and the Family Farm/Hidden Valley areas east of Portola Road.

Interested residents may check residency requirements and request information and applications Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-12 noon and 1-5:00 p.m. at the Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, on the Town's web site at www.woodsidetown.org or by telephoning (650) 851-6790. Deadline for applications is Friday, January 15, 2010, 5:00 p.m.



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY

765 Portola Road
Portola Valley, CA 94028



In recognition of the
Holiday Season, the
Portola Valley Town Hall
will be closed from 1:00 pm on
Thursday, December 24, 2009
through Friday, January 1, 2010

Published in THE ALMANAC on December 16, 23, 2009

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■ 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 report: Power lines cut, first block of Greenoaks Drive, Dec. 10.

Auto burglary reports:

■ Back window smashed and black diaper bag valued at \$40 stolen, first block of Parker Ave., Dec. 10.

■ Window smashed on pickup truck, Encinal Ave., Dec. 13.

Stolen vehicle report: Gray 2003 Toyota Echo, first block of Toyon Road, Dec. 10.

MENLO PARK

Grand theft reports:

■ Jewelry valued at \$100,000 stolen, 1000 block of Valparaiso Ave., Dec. 4.

■ Bicycle valued at \$600 stolen, 700 block of Roble Ave., Dec. 5.

■ Bicycle valued at \$600 stolen, 1400 block of San Antonio St., Dec. 5.

■ Bicycle valued at \$450 stolen, first block of Kent Place, Dec. 13.

■ Laptop valued at \$1,200 stolen, 1200 Sharon Park Drive, Dec. 17.

Embezzlement report: Alicia Issac, 37, of Sunnyvale arrested on embezzlement, larceny and conspiracy charges in connection with \$51,000 loss, Singularity Institute for Artificial Intelligence in 1400 block of Adams Drive, Dec. 10.

Residential burglary reports:

■ Two laptop computers, video game system, two plasma TVs, iPod, BB gun, men's watch, sports photographs, jewelry, DVD player and jug full of coins stolen with total value of \$7,000, 700 block of Lemon Ave., Dec. 8.

■ Two bicycles valued at \$5,500 stolen from garage, 700 block of Stanford Ave., Dec. 10.

■ Laptop computer stolen, 1200 block of Crane St., Dec. 9.

■ Laptop and 32-inch TV stolen for loss valued at \$1,350, 300 block of Terminal Ave., Dec. 15.

■ Forty-six-inch TV stolen for loss valued at \$1,850, 800 block of Partridge Ave., Dec. 15.

■ Laptop valued at \$1,200 stolen, East Palo Alto Academy High School at 400 Pope St., Dec. 16.

Auto burglary reports:

■ Apple iPod valued at \$250 stolen, 200 block of El Camino Real, Dec. 7.

■ Car stereo, CD player/radio, and DVD video player with total value of \$540 stolen, 1100 block of O'Brien Drive, Dec. 9.

■ Two Apple iPods, DVD player, GPS, video game player, coins and sunglasses stolen for total loss estimated at \$2,100, 300 block of Sharon Park Drive, Dec. 14.

■ SPS, Apple iPod and car stereo front panel stolen for total loss valued at \$1,100, 300 block of Sharon park Drive, Dec. 15.

■ Window smashed and attempted theft of cell phone, Pope St. and Woodland Ave., Dec. 13.

■ Apple iPod valued at \$200 stolen, 300 block of Sharon Park Drive, Dec. 14.

Stolen vehicle report: Gold 1992 Mitsubishi Diamonte, 1200 block of Carlton Ave., Dec. 15.

Fraud reports:

■ Identity theft resulting in loss estimated at \$398, 1200 block of Carlton Ave., Dec. 4.

■ Unauthorized cell phone account opened in son's name, 400 block of O'Connor St., Dec. 10.

Spousal abuse reports:

■ 1300 Hollyburne Ave., Dec. 13.

■ 700 block of Coleman Ave., Dec. 15.

Adult Protective Services reports:

■ 100 block of Hamilton Ave., Dec. 8.

■ 400 Santa Margarita Ave., Dec. 11.

WOODSIDE

Theft report: Open and discarded mail from victim's mailbox found and collected for possible use as evidence, 1000 block of Mountain Home Road, Dec. 7.

PORTOLA VALLEY

Theft report: Two \$100 bills stolen from unattended purse in office, The Sequoias at 501 Portola Road, Dec. 7.

LADERA

Stolen vehicle report: 100 block of Durazno Way, Dec. 7.

WEST MENLO PARK

Auto burglary reports:

■ Window smashed and iPod and wallet containing small amount of cash, credit and ID cards stolen, 3000 block of Alameda de las Pulgas, Dec. 10.

■ Convertible roof cut and iPod transmitter and coins stolen with total loss estimated at \$400, 1000 block of Cloud Ave., Dec. 10.

■ Convertible roof cut for loss valued at \$500, 2000 block of Ashton Ave., Dec. 10.

■ Window smashed and wicker bag containing women's clothing stolen for loss valued at \$350, 2000 block of Gordon Ave., Dec. 10.

Sprinklers on Jan. 12 council agenda, inside and out

Menlo Park's City Council will take a three-week hiatus before its next meeting on Jan. 12. At that meeting, the council is tentatively scheduled to take up a revised ordinance governing lawn size and irrigation systems, and another ordinance that would set new requirements for fire sprinklers in homes.

Council approves labor agreement

A two-year virtual salary freeze for middle management employees was something Menlo Park's council had little trouble agreeing on at its Dec. 15 meeting.

The council unanimously approved the new contract, with minimal discussion and no comment from the public. The brief meeting stood in stark contrast to

■ MENLO WATCH

a lively debate over a sizable raise for police sergeants approved in January 2009, and to a meeting on the topic of employee costs in late September.

Meanwhile, members of Service Employees International, the union that represents 152 city employees, have been working without a contract since October, with negotiations ongoing.

Construction to begin on new gym

Menlo Park residents are invited to a groundbreaking ceremony for the new gymnasium in the Civic Center complex. The ceremony will begin at 3 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 8, next to the recreation center on Alma Street.

Councilman loses bids for regional seats

At the Dec. 18 meeting of the San Mateo County Council of Cities, Menlo Park Councilman Heyward Robinson failed in a bid to secure a place on two regional transportation boards.

Omar Ahmad of San Carlos bested Mr. Robinson for a seat on the SamTrans board in a 11-9 vote, and went on to win an appointment to the Caltrain board, as well. John Lee of San Mateo then beat out Mr. Robinson for a seat on the Transportation Authority, 12-8.

The cities appoint three representatives to each board, broken into geographical regions. Menlo Park officials often complain that the votes tend to favor cities at the north end of their region.

PROJECT READ

continued from page 15

tute (ALLI), which trains and motivates students to improve their public speaking skills and promotes civic engagement.

He has spoken for Project Read at local events featuring nonprofits. "I represent Project Read, and I feel privileged to be among you," he said at a recent event. "I feel inspired to give my best and to share my talents with others, and make this world a better place."

To date, 10 of Project Read's

learners have graduated from Adult Learner Leadership Institute.

Raul, who is an artist, volunteers at the farmers' market and summer block parties, where he does silhouettes and balloon art. He donates his tips to Project Read.

In October, at the California Library Association's annual conference in Pasadena, he was one of five students who presented a workshop on how adult learners can give back to their communities.

At Project Read, our volunteer

tutors helped their adult learners do many things, such as reading to their children, getting a better job, or learning to surf the Web. Then, the students gave back in ways we never imagined!

If you would like to become a Project Read tutor, please plan to attend our Tutor Training in January. Winter 2010 tutor training begins Wednesday, Jan. 27, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at the Burgess Recreation Center, 700 Alma St., Room 118, in Menlo Park. ■

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Bulletin Board

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Painters sending THANKS

Peninsula Women's Chorus Auditions

Santa Helpers Needed

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Hi,

I had a collision with a large dalmatian on the 3300 block of Middlefield Road (cross street of Ames Avenue) on Thursday (12/4) around 3:10 pm. A very helpful person stopped to check on the dog while I waited for the Palo Alto Animal Control to arrive. He was driving a black Subaru station wagon. I was in a dark blue station wagon with my 4 year old daughter. If you are a witness or are the person who stopped to help us, please call me at 650-906-7042.

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Warm glove lost

145 Non-Profits Needs

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150 Volunteers

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PA: 1BR/1BA
 In 4-plex. Rustic setting, hardwood flrs., gardener. \$1045 mo., lease. N/P. Contact Arn Cenedella, agent, 650/566-5329

PA: 1BR/1BA
 PA: 1BR/1BA Bike to Stanford. Year lease. N/P. Avail. now. \$1265 mo. 650/493-9576

Pa: 2bd., 2 BR/2.5 BA - \$2400

PA: 2BR/1BA
 From \$1350 mo. Upstairs. Bike to Stanford. Year lease. N/P. Avail. now. 650/493-9576

Palo Alto, 1 BR/1 BA - \$1175/mo

Palo Alto, 1 BR/1 BA - \$1,595/mo

Palo Alto, 2 BR/1 BA - \$1450/mo

Palo Alto, 2 BR/1 BA - \$1,500/mo

Palo Alto, 2 BR/2 BA - \$1700

Palo Alto, 2 BR/2 BA - \$2,395/mo

Palo Alto, 2 BR/2 BA
 Walking to downtown; gated; 2-car parking. W/D; call 650-269-5813

Palo Alto, 2 BR/2 BA - \$2100/mont

San Carlos, 1 BR/1 BA - \$1,250.00

San Carlos: 2BR/2BA
 1 car gar., \$1700. Also 1BR/1BA, 1 car gar., \$1250. N/S, N/P. 650/598-7047
 Sunnyvale, 3 BR/1.5 BA - \$1,895/mo

803 Duplex

Emerald Hills, 1 BR/1 BA - \$1299/mont

Mountain View, Studio BR/1 BA
 Mountain View Large Duplex studio. Laundry RM, 1BA, Kitchen, Alarm system, Cable T.V Internet, Utilities All Included \$1,200 mo. 1st & last. Don (650)965-2085 Dog ok

805 Homes for Rent

Menlo Park, 4 BR/2 BA - \$2700.

Mountain View, 3 BR/2 BA - \$2,700/mont

MP: 3BR/2BA
 West. 2 car gar. Lg. kit., hdwd flrs. Las Lomas schools. \$3500 mo. N/S, N/P. 650/598-7047

MP: Allied Arts
 Partly furn. 3+BR/1.5BA. 2 decks/patios, hot tub. All appliances and utils incl. EXCEPT PGE. \$3500 mo. Avail. now. 650/283-3371

Palo Alto, 2 BR/1 BA - \$2800/mo

Palo Alto, 2 BR/1 BA - \$2,850

Palo Alto, 2 BR/1 BA - \$3,500 mon

Palo Alto, 3 BR/1 BA - \$3000/mont

Palo Alto, 3 BR/2 BA - \$2400

Palo Alto, 3 BR/2.5 BA
 Downtown 676 Webster. Spacious. \$2900/mo. Updated, clean, with garden! (650)799-6367 for info.

Palo Alto, 4 BR/2 BA - \$3300, mon

Palo Alto, 4 BR/2 BA - \$3750

Palo Alto, 4 BR/2 BA - \$3,800/mo

Palo Alto, 4 BR/2 BA - \$3300, mon

Palo Alto, 5+ BR/2 BA - \$3,850/mont

Palo Alto, 5+ BR/4+ BA - \$5,000/mont

Redwood City, 3 BR/2 BA - \$2600/mo

Sunnyvale, 3 BR/2 BA - \$2400

Sunnyvale, 3 BR/2 BA - \$2350

Sunnyvale, 3 BR/2 BA - \$2400

809 Shared Housing/ Rooms

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Mountain View, 1 BR/1 BA - \$800/month

Palo Alto, 2 BR/1 BA - \$1060.00/m

Palo Alto/Portola Valley, 1 BR/1 BA

Sunnyvale, 3 BR/2.5 BA - \$640/month

810 Cottages for Rent

Los Altos Hills, Studio - \$1850.00

Woodside, 2 BR/2 BA
+ Den/Office. \$3750/mo. (Incl PGE, Water, Garbage & Gardener)
No smoking/pets, 851-2381

815 Rentals Wanted

Excellent Tenant Seeks 1br/1ba

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Large Unfurnished Room wanted

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Seeking Quiet Cottage/Guest Quar

825 Homes/Condos for Sale

Palo Alto, 3 BR/1 BA - \$798,500

Redwood City, 5+ BR/4+ BA - \$2999500

830 Commercial/ Income Property

PA: California Avenue
For sublease 2 prof. offices w/secretarial area. Contact Maureen: maureen@dotylaw.com or 650/327-0100.

Psychotherapy office
Beautiful, quiet office just south of downtown, \$1295, 650-646-2955.

Retail Space Available

840 Vacation Rentals/Time Shares

Bed & Breakfast B&B Hotel

Northstar Tahoe

Pajaro Dunes Condo
2BR/2BA or 1BR/1BA. On beach, ocean view. Cable TV, VCR, internet access, CD, tennis, W/D. Pvt. deck, BBQ. Owner, 650/424-1747. hherzenber@aol.com

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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

KONSULENT
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT
File No. 236058
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: Konsulent at 415 San Mateo Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County:
DAVID L. HUESTIS
415 San Mateo Drive
Menlo Park, CA 94025
WRAY H. HUESTIS
415 San Mateo Drive
Menlo Park, CA 94025
This business is being conducted by General Partnership.
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 01/02/1975.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 18, 2009. (Almanac Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2009)

JENSEN MASTERING AND AUDIO
RESTORATION
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT
File No. 236265
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: Jensen Mastering and Audio Restoration at 18 Perry Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County:
ROBERT S. JENSEN
18 Perry Ave.
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 25, 2009. (Almanac Dec. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2009)

AHURA DIGITIZING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT
File No. 236256
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: Ahura Digitizing at 2081 Whitman Way, #132, San Bruno, CA 94066, USA:
SAMAN NIKNAM
2081 Whitman Way
San Bruno, CA 94066
This business is being conducted by an individual.
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 05/09/1980.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 24, 2009. (Almanac Dec. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2009)

IMO DENTAL LABORATORY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT
File No. 236224
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: IMO Dental Laboratory at 111 Glen Way, Ste. 5, San Carlos CA 94070:
JAMES S NAGRAMP
3024 Melendy Drive
San Carlos, CA 94070
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 23, 2009. (Almanac Dec. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2009)

INVESTOR'S CAPITAL MANAGEMENT,
LLC
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT
File No. 236295
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: Investor's Capital Management, LLC at 1100 Alma Street #200, Menlo Park, CA 94025:
INVESTOR'S CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, LLC
1100 Alma Street #200
Menlo Park, CA 94025
This business is being conducted by Limited Liability Company.
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 05/30/2006.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 30, 2009.

(Almanac Dec. 16, 23, 30, 2009, Jan. 6, 2010)

REJOUVENCE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT
File No. 236471
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: Rejouvence at 1375 Burlingame Ave., Ste. 204, Burlingame, CA 94010.
Mail Address: 3529 Ryder St., Santa Clara, CA 95051:
JOUVENCE DAY SPA, INC.
3529 Ryder St.
Santa Clara, CA 95051-0700
This business is being conducted by a Corporation.
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 11, 2009. (Almanac Dec. 23, 30, 2009, Jan. 6, 13, 2010)

ZIBATECH
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT
File No. 236487
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Zibatech at 1057 Windsor Dr., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County:
TIM REDJAIAN
1057 Windsor Dr.
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 December 14, 2009. (Almanac Dec. 23, 30, 2009, Jan. 6, 13, 2010)

SEQUOIA SOLUTIONS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT
File No. 236468
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: Sequoia Solutions at 2995 Woodside Road, Suite 400-305, Woodside, CA 94062, San Mateo County:
RICHARD BOOTH
10520 La Honda Road
Woodside, CA 94062
This business is being conducted by an individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 07/18/2000.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 11, 2009. (Almanac Dec. 23, 30, 2009, Jan. 6, 13, 2010)

DAY'S-EYE PRESS AND STUDIOS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT
File No. 236543
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: Day's-Eye Press and Studios at 770 El Granada Blvd., Half Moon Bay, CA 94019, San Mateo County. Mailing Address: P.O. Box 628, El Granada, CA 94018:
DIANE LEE MOOMEY
770 El Granada Blvd.
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
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, 2009. (Almanac Dec. 23, 30, 2009, Jan. 6, 13, 2010)

997 All Other Legals

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE T.S. No. 1217943-08 APN: 036-073-270 TRA: 087076 LOAN NO: Xxxxx8293 REF: Morales, Misael IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED April 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. On December 29, 2009, at 12:30pm, Cal-Western Reconveyance Corporation, as duly appointed trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded April 20, 2007, as Inst. No. 2007-061704

in book XX, page XX of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of San Mateo County, State of California, executed by Misael Morales An Unmarried Man and Iveth Vidal An Unmarried Woman As Joint Tenants, will sell at public auction to highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on 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 At the main entrance of the city hall of records 401 Marshall Street Redwood City, California, 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: Completely described in said deed of trust The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 1155 Birch Street Montara CA 94037 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 held, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, condition or encumbrances, including fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to pay the remaining principal sums of the note(s) secured 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: \$571,291.52. 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. 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. Regarding the property that is the subject of this notice of sale, the "mortgage loan servicer" as defined in civil code § 2923.53(k)(3) declares that it has not obtained from the commissioner a final or temporary order of exemption pursuant to civil code section 2923.53 that is current and valid on the date this notice of sale is recorded. The time frame for giving a notice of sale specified in civil code section 2923.52 subdivision (a) does apply to this notice of sale. For sales information: Mon-Fri 9:00am to 4:00pm (619) 590-1221. Cal-Western Reconveyance Corporation, 525 East Main Street, P.O. Box 22004, El Cajon, CA 92022-9004 Dated: November 30, 2009. (R-275654 Almanac 12/09/09, 12/16/09, 12/23/09)

Trustee Sale No. 737294CA Loan No. 3010046518 Title Order No. 3206-247456 Notice of Trustee's Sale YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 8/21/2006. 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 PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 12/29/2009 at 12:30 PM California Reconveyance Company as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust, recorded on 08/29/2006, Book , Page , Instrument 2006-129493 of official records in the Office of the Recorder of San Mateo County, California, executed by: Armando Gomez Jimenez and, Marcela Gomez husband and wife as community property with right of survivorship, as to an undivided 50% interest Armando Gomez Jimenez and Marcela S Gomez husband and wife, as to an undivided 50% interest, as Trustor, Washington Mutual Bank, FA, as Beneficiary, will sell at public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a cashier's

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. Sale 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 the Deed of Trust. 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, interest thereon, estimated 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. Place of Sale: At the Marshall St. entrance to the Hall of Justice and Records, 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA Legal Description: As more fully described in said Deed of Trust Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$625,696.94 (estimated) Street address and other common designation of the real property: 1207 Sevier Ave, Menlo Park, CA 94025 APN NUMBER: 062-084-270-8 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". In compliance with California Civil Code 2923.5(c) the mortgagee, trustee, beneficiary, or authorized agent declares: that it has contacted the borrower(s) to assess their financial situation and to explore options to avoid foreclosure; or that it has made efforts to contact the borrower(s) to assess their financial situation and to explore options to avoid foreclosure by one of the following methods: by telephone; by United States mail; either 1st class or certified; by overnight delivery; by personal delivery; by e-mail; by face to face meeting. Date: 12/3/2009 SEE ATTACHED EXHIBIT EXHIBIT DECLARATION PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE SECTION 2923.54 Pursuant to California Civil Code Section 2923.54, the undersigned loan servicer declares as follows: 1. It has obtained from the commissioner a final or temporary order of exemption pursuant to Section 2923.54 that is current and valid on the date the notice of sale is filed; and 2. The timeframe for giving notice of sale specified in subdivision (a) of Section 2923.52 does not apply pursuant to Section 2923.52 or Section 2923.55. JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association Name: Ann Thorn Title: First Vice President California Reconveyance Company, as Trustee (714) 259-7850 or www.fidelityasap.com (714) 573-1965 or www.priorlyposting.com Deborah Brignac California Reconveyance Company is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Deborah Brignac, Vice President 9200 Oakdale Avenue Mail Stop N110612 Chatsworth, CA 91311 P643159
Almanac 12/9, 12/16, 12/23/2009

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE T.S. No. GM-227924-C Loan No. 0359152905 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 2/4/2005. 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 satisfy the obligation secured by said Deed of Trust. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. TRUSTOR:RONALD J. MIDDLE AND AMELIA R. MIDDLE, HUSBAND AND WIFE Recorded 2/16/2005 as Instrument No. 2005-024813 in Book , page of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of San Mateo County, California, Date of Sale:1/13/2010 at 1:00 PM Place of Sale: At the Marshall Street entrance to the Hall of Justice

and Records, 400 County Center, Redwood City, California Property Address is purported to be: 1016 BAY ROAD EAST PALO ALTO, California 94303-0000 APN #: 062-242-360-6 The total amount secured by said instrument as of the time of initial publication of this notice is \$341,341.00, which includes the total amount of the unpaid balance (including accrued and unpaid interest) and reasonable estimated costs, expenses, and advances at the time of initial publication of this notice. Pursuant to California Civil Code 2923.54 the undersigned, on behalf of the beneficiary, loan servicer or authorized agent, declares as follows: [1] The mortgage loan servicer has obtained from the commissioner a final or temporary order of exemption pursuant to Section 2923.53 that is current and valid on the date the notice of sale is filed; [2] The timeframe for giving notice of sale specified in subdivision (a) of Section 2923.52 does not apply pursuant to Section 2923.52 or 2923.55. Date: 12/17/2009 ETS Services, LLC 2255 North Ontario Street, Suite 400 Burbank, California 91504-3120 Sale Line: 714-730-2727 Omar Solorzano, TRUSTEE SALE OFFICER
ASAP# 3363680
Almanac 12/23/2009, 12/30/2009, 01/06/2010

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE T.S. No. GM-227924-C Loan No. 0357511722 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 6/22/2007. 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 satisfy the obligation secured by said Deed of Trust. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. TRUSTOR:JUAN L. IBARRA AND SOFIMA L. IBARRA, HUSBAND AND WIFE Recorded 7/9/2007 as Instrument No. 2007-103302 in Book , page of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of San Mateo County, California, Date of Sale:1/13/2010 at 1:00 PM Place of Sale: At the Marshall Street entrance to the Hall of Justice and Records, 400 County Center, Redwood City, California Property Address is purported to be: 2521 ANNAPOLIS STREET EAST PALO ALTO, California 94303-0000 APN #: 063-082-140-3 The total amount secured by said instrument as of the time of initial publication of this notice is \$530,925.00, which includes the total amount of the unpaid balance (including accrued and unpaid interest) and reasonable estimated costs, expenses, and advances at the time of initial publication of this notice. Pursuant to California Civil Code 2923.54 the undersigned, on behalf of the beneficiary, loan servicer or authorized agent, declares as follows: [1] The mortgage loan servicer has obtained from the commissioner a final or temporary order of exemption pursuant to Section 2923.53 that is current and valid on the date the notice of sale is filed; [2] The timeframe for giving notice of sale specified in subdivision (a) of Section 2923.52 does not apply pursuant to Section 2923.52 or 2923.55. Date: 12/17/2009 ETS Services, LLC 2255 North Ontario Street, Suite 400 Burbank, California 91504-3120 Sale Line: 714-730-2727 Omar Solorzano, TRUSTEE SALE OFFICER
ASAP# 3364363
Almanac 12/23/2009, 12/30/2009, 01/06/2010

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE T.S. No. 1238058-02 APN: 054-263-010-8 TRA: 73023 LOAN NO: Xxxxx9180 REF: Esquivel, Jose IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED July 13, 2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN

Public Notices
continued on next page

Public Notices
continued from previous page

EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On January 05, 2010, at 12:30pm, Cal-Western Reconveyance Corporation, as duly appointed trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded July 23, 2007, as Inst. No. 2007-110193 in book XX, page XX of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of San Mateo County, State of California, executed by Jose Luis Esquivel A Married Man, will sell at public auction to highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on 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 At the main entrance of the city hall of records 401 Marshall Street Redwood City, California, 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: Completely described in said deed of trust The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 2600 Marlborough Avenue Redwood City CA 94063 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 held, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, condition or encumbrances, including fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to pay the remaining principal sums of the note(s) secured 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: \$593,143.84. 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. 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. Regarding the property that is the subject of this notice of sale, the "mortgage loan servicer" as defined in civil code § 2923.53(k) (3), declares that it has obtained from the commissioner a final or temporary order of exemption pursuant to civil code section 2923.53 and that the exemption is current and valid on the date this notice of sale is recorded. The time frame for giving a notice of sale specified in civil code section 2923.52 subdivision (a) does not apply to this notice of sale pursuant to civil code sections 2923.52. DECLARATION PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE SECTION 2923.54 Pursuant to California Civil Code Section 2923.54, the undersigned loan servicer declares as follows: 1. It has obtained from the commissioner a final or tempo-

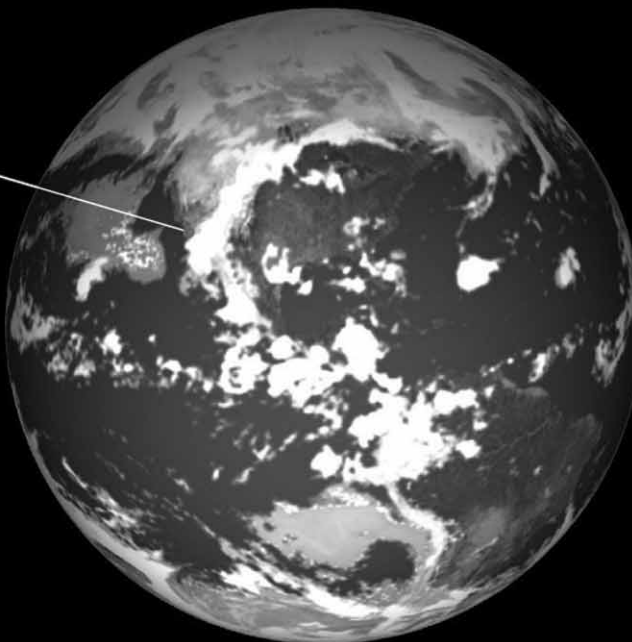
rary order of exemption pursuant to Section 2923.53 that is current and valid on the date the notice of sale is filed; and 2. The timeframe for giving notice of sale specified in subdivision (a) of Section 2923.52 does not apply pursuant to Section 2923.52 or Section 2923.55. Chase Home Finance LLC Name: Ann Thorn Title: First Vice President For sales information: Mon-Fri 9:00am to 4:00pm (619) 590-1221. Cal-Western Reconveyance Corporation, 525 East Main Street, P.O. Box 22004, El Cajon, CA 92022-9004 Dated: December 16, 2009. (R-278905 Almanac 12/16/09, 12/23/09, 12/30/09)

Trustee Sale No. 11929CA Loan No. 3002389769 Title Order No. 200020 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 10/30/2006. 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 PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On

1/5/2010 at 12:30 PM, MTDS, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION DBA MERIDIAN TRUST DEED SERVICE as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded 11/08/2006, Book , Page , Instrument 2006-168710 of official records in the Office of the Recorder of San Mateo County, California, executed by: Carlos C. Moreno, a married man as his sole and separate property as Trustor, Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for 1st National Lending Services, as Beneficiary, will sell at public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a cashier's 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. Sale 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 the Deed of

Trust. 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 notes (s) secured by the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, estimated 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. Place of Sale: At the Marshall St. entrance to the Hall of Justice and Records, 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA Legal Description: As more fully described in said Deed of Trust Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$504,045.52 The street address and other common designation of the real property purported as: 1107 Carlton Avenue , Menlo Park, CA 94025 APN Number: 062-092-380-5 See Declaration, as required by California Civil Code Section 2923.54, attached hereto and made a part hereof. California Foreclosure Prevention Act Declaration of Compliance (California Civil Code § 2923.54(a)) The undersigned mortgage loan servicer hereby

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declares under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California, as follows: [] The mortgage loan servicer has not obtained a final or temporary order of exemption pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 2923.53 that is current and valid as of the date that the Notice of Trustee's Sale was filed or given. Therefore, the mortgage loan servicer has waited an additional 90 days before giving notice of sale as required by Cal. Civ. Code § 2923.52(a). [X] The mortgage loan servicer has obtained a final or temporary order of exemption pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 2923.53 that is current and valid as of the date that the Notice of Trustee's Sale was filed or given. [] The timeframe for giving notice of sale specified in Cal. Civ. Code § 2923.52(a) does not apply because: [] The loan was not recorded between January 1, 2003 and January 1, 2008. [] The loan is not secured by residential real property. [] The loan is not secured by a first priority mortgage or deed of trust. [] The borrower did not occupy the property as his/her principal residence when the loan became delinquent. [] The loan was made, purchased or serviced by (1) a California state or local public housing agency or authority, including state or local housing finance agencies established under Division 31 of the Cal. Health & Safety Code and Chapter 6 of the Cal. Military & Veterans Code, or (2) the loan is collateral for securities purchased by any such California state or local public housing agency or authority. [] The borrower has surrendered the property as evidenced by either a letter confirming the surrender or delivery of the keys to the property to the mortgagee, trustee, beneficiary or authorized agent. [] The borrower has contracted with someone whose primary business is advising people who have decided to leave their homes on how to extend the foreclosure process and avoid their loan obligations. [] The borrower has filed for bankruptcy, and the bankruptcy court has not entered an order closing or dismissing the bankruptcy case or granting relief from the automatic stay. OneWest Bank, FSB By: Vicki Brizendine The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". DATE: 12/16/2009 MTDS, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION DBA MERIDIAN TRUST DEED SERVICE, As Trustee Sales Line: (714) 573-7777 (702) 586-4500 Gina Lanzino, Foreclosure Assistant Meridian Foreclosure Service 4675 MacArthur Court Suite 1540 Newport Beach CA 92660 MTDS, INC., A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION DBA MERIDIAN TRUST DEED SERVICE IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. P644859
Almanac 12/16, 12/23, 12/30/2009

Trustee Sale No. 737483CA Loan No. 3018889737 Title Order No. 3206-250655 Notice of Trustee's Sale YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 12/26/2007. 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 01/12/2010 at 12:30 PM, California Reconveyance Company as the duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded 12/31/2007, Book , Page , Instrument 2007-182690, and Re-recorded on 12/31/2007, Book , Page , Instrument 2007-182690 of official records in the Office of the Recorder of San Mateo County, California, executed by: FRANK BROOKS, A SINGLE MAN, as Trustor, WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK, FA, as Beneficiary, will sell at public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a cashier's 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. Sale 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 the Deed of Trust. 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, interest thereon, estimated 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. Place of Sale: At the Marshall Street entrance to the Hall of Justice and Records, 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA Legal Description: As more fully described in said Deed of Trust Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$1,548,557.14 (estimated) Street address and other common designation of the real property: 1894 OAK KNOLL WAY, Menlo Park, CA 94025 APN NUMBER: 071-151-020-6 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". In compliance with California Civil Code Section 2923.5(c) the mortgagee, trustee, beneficiary, or authorized agent declares: that it has contacted the borrower(s) to assess their financial situation and to explore options to avoid foreclosure; or that it has made efforts to contact the borrower(s) to assess their financial situation and to explore options to avoid foreclosure by one of the following methods: by telephone; by United States mail; either 1st class or certified; by overnight delivery; by personal delivery; by e-mail; by face to face meeting. See Attached Exhibit Exhibit DECLARATION PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE SECTION 2923.54 Pursuant to California Civil Code Section 2923.54, the undersigned loan servicer declares as follows: 1. It has obtained from the commissioner a final or temporary order of exemption pursuant to Section 2923.54 that is current and valid on the date the notice of sale is filed; and 2. The timeframe for giving notice of sale specified in subdivision (a) of Section 2923.52 does not apply pursuant to Section 2923.52 or Section 2923.55. JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association Name: Ann Thorn Title: First Vice President Date: 12-18-2009 California Reconveyance Company, as Trustee (714) 259-7850 or www.fidelityasap.com (714) 573-1965 or www.priorityposting.com California Reconveyance Company is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Deborah Brignac, Vice President 9200 Oakdale Avenue Mail Stop N110612 Chatsworth, CA 91311 P645553
Almanac 12/23, 12/30, 01/06/2010

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TSG No.: 4258392 TS No.: 20099070819384 FHA/VA/PMI No.: YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 03/31/04. 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 January 12, 2010 at 12:30 PM, First American LoanStar Trustee Services, as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded 04/07/04, as Instrument No. 2004-064822, in book , page , of Official Records in the Office of the County Recorder of SAN MATEO County, State of California. Executed by: YAN TING ZHANG., WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'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 Street entrance to the Hall of Justice at 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# 080-072-100-3. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 270 EL NIDO ROAD, PORTOLA VALLEY, CA 94028. 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 \$828,767.47. 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. The beneficiary or servicing agent declares that it has obtained from the Commissioner of Corporations a final or temporary order of exemption pursuant to California Civil Code Section 2923.53 that is current and valid on the date the Notice of Sale is filed and/or The timeframe for giving Notice of Sale specified in subdivision (s) of California Civil Code Section 2923.52 applies and has been provided or the loan is exempt from the requirements. Date: 12/18/09, First American LoanStar Trustee Services, 3 First American Way, Santa Ana, CA 92707 Original document signed by Authorized Agent, Chet Sconyers — FOR TRUSTEE'S SALE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 530-672-3033. 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. NPP0148638
Almanac 12/23/09, 12/30/09, 01/06/10

T.S. No. 272521 Order No. 3206-223766 Loan No. 272521 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 9/6/2007. 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 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: Franklin C. Walt, a married man as his sole and separate property Deed of Trust recorded: 10/04/2007 as Instrument Number 2007-145430 of Official Records in the Office of the Recorder of San Mateo County, California Date of Sale: 1/13/2010 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 reasonable estimated charges: \$977,223.51 Street Address or other common designation of purported real property: 300 Sand Hill Circle #202 Menlo Park, CA 94025 A.P.N.: 110-480-020 See Exhibit "A" (Legal Description) attached hereto and made a part hereof Exhibit "A" All that certain real property situate in the County of San Mateo, State of California, described as follows: (City of Menlo Park) Parcel A: Unit 62 in the Condominium Project Area as shown on the Subdivision Map entitled "Sand Hill Circle Unit 2, Menlo Park, San Mateo County, California", herein after referred to as "the Map", filed in the Office of the County Recorder of San Mateo County, State of California on July 9, 1971 in Book of Maps at Pages 25 through 26, inclusive. Excepting, however, the following: Any portion of the Condominium Common Area or the Development Common Area lying within said Unit. Parcel B: Together with the following appurtenant easements: A. Non-exclusive easements for ingress and egress and support of said Parcel A through the Condominium Common Area as defined on the Map and for repair of said Parcel A through all other Condominium Units and through the Condominium Common Area. B. The non-exclusive right of pedestrian and vehicular ingress and egress over the Development Common Area as

shown on the Map to and from the Condominium Project Area, provided, however, that such right shall not be exercised in a manner which will interfere with landscaped areas, recreational facilities or vehicular traffic on the Private Road Common Area as designated on the Map. C. The non-exclusive right of the owners and their invitees to use the Private Road Common Area as shown on the Map and on the Subdivision Map entitled "Sand Hill Circle Unit 1, Menlo Park, San Mateo County, California". D. The right to use, occupy and enjoy the recreational facilities and the landscaped portions of the Development Common Area. E. The right subject to prior approval of the Board of Governors to construct, maintain and operate through, in or across the Development Common Area, public or private sewers, wires, conduits for transmission of electricity, for lighting, power, telephone antennae and any other purposes and for the necessary attachments in connection therewith, and the right to construct any public or quasi-public utility through, in and across the Development Common Area. Said right shall be exercised along the shortest and most convenient route between the Condominium Project Area and the nearest public utility line or lines. F. An exclusive easement over the Development Common Area for a roof overhang, balconies and other building protrusions. G. An exclusive easements to use balcony area B-62 as shown on the Map. H. An exclusive easement to use parking area(s) P-19 & 20 as shown on the Map. I. An exclusive easement to use storage area(s) S-15 as shown on the Map. Parcel C: An undivided one-eighth (1/8th) interest as tenant in common in and to the Condominium Common Area. Parcel D: Together with the following easements appurtenant to the Condominium Common Area: A. Non-exclusive easements through each Unit for support and repair of the Condominium Common Area. B. Non-exclusive easements for encroachments upon the air space of all in the Condominium Units by and for the portions of the Condominium Common

Area lying within the Condominium Units. The easements and rights described in Parcels B and D above were created by that certain Deed recorded December 8, 1972 in Book 6286 of Official Records at Page 502 (File No. 85183-AF), Records of San Mateo County, California. Assessor's Parcel Number 110-480-020 Joint Plant Number 1101-048-480-02A 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. We are attempting to collect a debt, and any information we obtain will be used for that purpose. The undersigned mortgagee, beneficiary or authorized agent for the mortgagee or beneficiary pursuant to California Civil Code § 2923.5 declares that the mortgagee, beneficiary or the mortgagee's or beneficiary's authorized agent contacted the borrower to assess the borrower's financial situation and to explore options for the borrower to avoid foreclosure. For Sales Information, please call (714) 573-1965 or log onto www.priorityposting.com' Date: 12/15/2009 Rincon Asset Management, LLC, as Trustee 20700 Ventura Blvd., Suite 222 Woodland Hills, CA 91364 800.720.7827 Erik Haberstroh, Trustee Sale Officer P648540
Almanac 12/23, 12/30, 01/06/2010

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO Case No. CIV490222 TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner NICO ALEXANDER JAYNE filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: NICO ALEXANDER JAYNE TO NICO ALEXANDER DI VITA. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter 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. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING: January 28, 2010, 9:00 a.m., 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: December 11, 2009 /s/ Stephen M. Hall JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT (The Almanac Dec. 23, 30, 2009, Jan. 6, 13, 2010)

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Doyle Rundell
Ronald McDonald House



Linda Samaha
C.O.R.A.



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