

The Almanac

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Top stories of 2013 | Page 5

Inside this issue
Our Neighborhoods 2013



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Bohannon to tweak Menlo Gateway

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

It's back to the drawing board for at least part of Menlo Gateway. The project remains a concept three years after voters approved it in 2010, and in the face of a changing economy, developer David Bohannon plans to make some adaptations.

The plan is to build an office-hotel complex with nearly 1 million square feet of floor space on 16 acres along Independence and Constitution drives on the east side of U.S. 101. In addition to a seven-floor hotel, there would be office buildings, a restaurant, parking garages and a fitness club.

Mr. Bohannon told the Planning Commission on Dec. 16 during the annual project review that his company was "talking to somebody about the hotel and hopefully we'll reach an agreement with those folks soon, and then we can move forward."

But what will that hotel look like? Originally Menlo Gateway was going to incorporate

a type of Marriott Renaissance hotel-sports club combination, but according to Mr. Bohannon, that ran into some problems for a couple of reasons. The model "did not really take hold and capture the fancy of institutional financing," and, as a result, Marriott has abandoned it. Also, funding for hotel construction has been "extremely limited since 2008" and full-service hotels are still not favored by lenders, he said.

Type of hotel, sports club likely to change.

So, about nine months ago, Mr. Bohannon also decided to walk away from the concept and start looking for hotel developers who had the ability to finance their own deals. "... We're down to final discussions with someone who's extremely capable, and once we're reached an agreement with them I'll be able to be

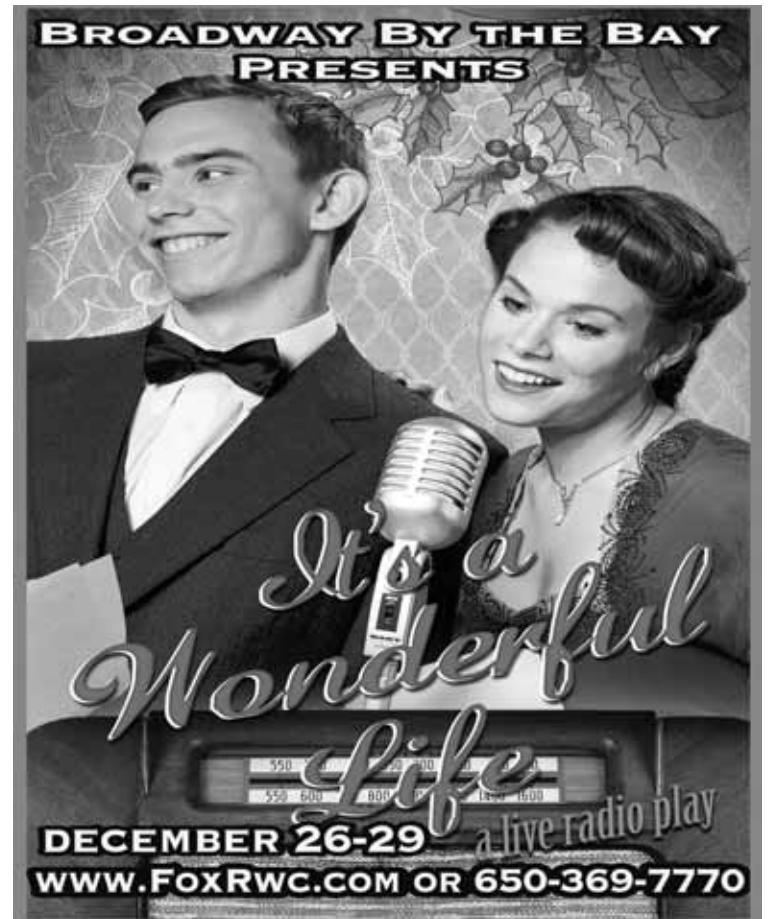
much more forthcoming about a change we want to introduce. So we will be back asking to modify the permit."

Planning commissioners expressed encouragement for the success of the project, and curiosity about the changes, which for now remains unsated.

Mr. Bohannon described the change as "a very tough decision" and noted: "As much as I love you all, I'm not in love with coming back and having to go through that whole process again."

The hotel represents a key aspect of the development to Mr. Bohannon, who said he can't build it without also building the office space that will pay for the hotel's essential parking garage. Once the hotel financing is secured, he can then market the office space in hopes of securing 60 to 70 percent lease commitments to kick off funding for construction of the entire complex.

He remains optimistic. "We have so much interest in the project (that) I believe it will be successful." ■



Mysterious cop in suit identified

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

When a Menlo Park resident filed a lawsuit that alleged illegal stops, searches and harassment and named three police officers, his complaint included an officer that technically didn't exist: "Officer Jeffries."

No such officer works for the Menlo Park Police Department. But according to the city's response to the lawsuit, the mysterious officer is actually Officer Jeffrey Vasquez, who made headlines earlier this year for unrelated reasons when revealed as the veteran officer who was busted naked in a motel room with a prostitute.

In its response, the city denies

the allegations, made by Hiruy Amanuel, that officers Ed Soares, James Luevano and "Officer Jeffries" violated his rights during two traffic stops, one on Jan. 13 and another on Oct. 31.

The second stop, according to Menlo Park, actually took place on Nov. 2, and did not include a search as alleged by the plaintiff. The city's response also denies that any civil rights violations or harassment occurred.

Mr. Amanuel is represented in the civil action by attorneys Greg Walston and Thomas O'Brien. Mr. Walston did not respond



Jeffrey Vasquez

to questions from the Almanac regarding the misidentification of one of the police officers.

According to the police department, the first stop was recorded via a digital audio recorder, and the second recorded with both video and audio.

Mr. Amanuel currently faces criminal charges in San Mateo County Superior Court in connection with a misdemeanor driving under the influence causing injury and a hit-and-run. In 2010, he pleaded guilty in federal court to a felony count of using a telephone to facilitate drug trafficking. Two related charges, of conspiracy to distribute and possession of cocaine with intent to distribute, were dismissed. ■

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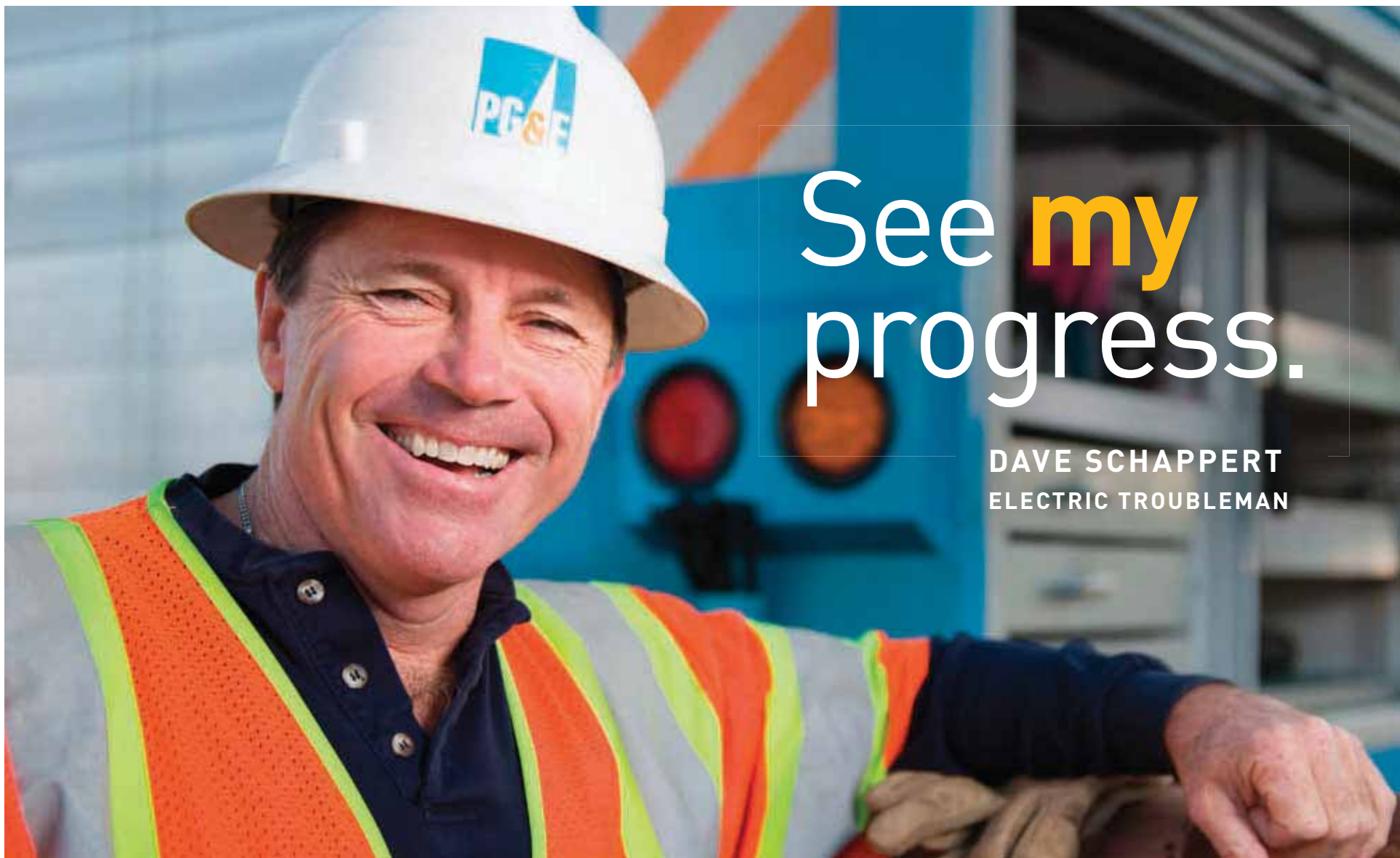
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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of the Woodside Fire Protection District County of San Mateo, State of California, pursuant to California Health and Safety Code section 13869 will adopt by reference, the 2012 International Fire Code with the 2013 California Amendments including all adopted standards as specified prescribing regulations governing conditions hazardous to life and property from fire or explosion within the territory of the Woodside Fire Protection District, establishing a Bureau of Fire Prevention and providing officers therefore and defining their powers and duties for all the geographical territory within the District; and that a public hearing will be held January 27th, 2014 at 7:00pm, at Fire Station #7, 3111 Woodside Road, Redwood City, California.

FURTHER NOTICE HEREBY GIVEN that the following such public hearing, the Board of Directors of the District intends to enact all, or part of said ordinance; and

FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that copies of the 2012 International Fire Code along with the 2013 California amendments and the proposed adopting ordinance, are on file with the Secretary of the Board of the District and are open to public inspection at 3111 Woodside Rd. Woodside, California 94062.

John Gardner, Secretary of the Board
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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

See AlmanacNews.com for news updates. This issue went to press Dec. 20.

Top stories of 2013

Schools deal with growing enrollment; large developments proposed in Menlo Park

By Sandy Brundage, Renee Batti and Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff

This was not a year reporters spent idling at their desks, desperate for news to write. On the contrary, 2013 brought a deluge of stories. Menlo Park struggled with growth pains; Woodside brainstormed how to grow. Atherton took a large step toward better transparency.

Local voters showed solid support for their elementary schools throughout the year, most dramatically in November, when hefty bond measures passed in two school districts. The Sequoia Union High School District will likely propose a bond measure as it attempts to accommodate a surge in enrollment.

Ups and downs in Menlo Park

Going by news headlines, Menlo Park residents have seen the best and the worst sides of the city this year — corruption, car crashes, accidents and drive-by shootings captured the city's attention, even as the recovering economy helped restore services, encouraged development and added jobs.

In January the Almanac broke the story of veteran detective Jeffrey Vasquez, who got his job back despite being fired for getting busted naked with a prostitute in a Sunnyvale motel room, and despite reportedly admitting it was not the first time he'd solicited a hooker for sex. He appealed the termination through binding arbitration and was reinstated with \$188,000 in back pay.

Data obtained by the Almanac showed that the confidential binding arbitration process, carried out without any public disclosure, is broken: Arbitrators reduce or reverse public safety employee discipline approxi-

mately 50 percent of the time. Officers in other cities fired for conducting inadequate investigations, drug use on duty, and other severe breaches of public trust were all reinstated, with the public none the wiser as to what had transpired. The Menlo Park City Council tweaked the arbitration process during contract negotiations with police unions this year, yet retained the binding clause.

Two crashes with different outcomes stood out: A 90-year-old driver crashed into a pair of young twin brothers outside Walgreens on Santa Cruz Avenue on Oct. 17, leaving one with a broken arm and the other fighting for life. Bystanders rushed to help. Both boys are now home.

Another accident, seven days later, had a tragic ending. An alleged drunken driver killed Balbir and Kamal Kaur Singh on Oct. 24 as they walked their dog. The Menlo Park couple leaves behind three teenage children; the community rallied to create funds to help support them.

The Menlo Park Fire Protection District, serving Menlo Park, Atherton, East Palo Alto and nearby unincorporated areas, persevered through an off-duty fall that paralyzed Chief Harold Schapelhouman in May and a November election that unseated incumbent Jack Nelson while returning Peter Carpenter to the Board of Directors, accompanied by newcomer Chuck Bernstein and incumbent Rex Ianson. All three victors disavowed campaign support from the firefighters' union, while Mr. Nelson and slate partner Carolyn Clarke had welcomed the assistance with open arms.

A spate of drive-by shootings, with four in the past month alone, inspired police to try a new tactic — letting landlords know when a violent crime occurs on their properties. After



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Tragedy struck when an alleged drunken driver killed a Menlo Park couple, Balbir and Kamal Singh, who left behind three teenage children.

being notified, the landlords of properties targeted in recent gang-related cases decided to evict the tenants, according to the police.

The police department is on track to open soon a long-awaited and staffed substation in Belle Haven. The department also expanded its technological arsenal, getting council's approval to buy automated license plate readers and surveillance cameras, as well as incorporating body cameras into the daily uniform. The council voted 4-1 to renew a contract with Redflex, an embattled red-light camera contractor losing business in many other California cities, and to add a fifth camera.

The license plate readers await deployment until the council formulates a privacy policy to govern data retention and sharing with outside agencies. Matters on the civic front weren't much quieter. The downtown/El Camino Real specific plan underwent a review while the public got a look at two large developments proposed under the new regulations. The Stanford Arrillaga mixed-use complex at 300 to 500 El Camino Real underwent changes, including the elimination of medical office space and a collaborative redesign of a public plaza.

Greenheart Land Company stepped up with its own development, this one at the long-empty Cadillac dealership site

at 1300 El Camino Real and the former Derry project site, proposing to build 420,000 square feet of office space, apartments and retail.

The specific plan emerged from the review relatively unscathed despite vocal — sometimes vitriolic — criticism from some residents. Opponents of the large-scale Stanford development have threatened to take legal action.

For the first time in 10 years, Menlo Park passed an update to the city's housing plan to comply with state law. The city identified five sites as potential locations for high-density housing and created guidelines for legal secondary, or "granny," units. Another update, still in progress, will zone at least one area, probably on the Veterans Affairs campus off Willow Road, to allow construction of a homeless shelter.

All the incoming development is taxing the resources of city staff, and not everyone stuck around. Two planners left, as did City Clerk Margaret Roberts and Finance Director Carol Augustine. Long-time Executive Secretary Pat Carson retired in December, while Police Cmdr. Lacey Burt did so earlier this year. The council approved a package of salary and benefit increases — a total of 7.1 percent — for management, hoping to stem the outflow of talent and increase Menlo Park's attractiveness as an employer for newcomers.

One returning employee exited again via the revolving door in January as CalPERS, the state's retirement system, declared former human resources director Glen Kramer's post-retirement work as a contractor for Menlo Park illegal.

Another employee's exit also raised eyebrows. The firing of popular gymnastics instructor Michelle Sutton stirred debate as well as scrutiny of internal strife within one of the city's busiest recreational programs. Staff leveled allegations of harassment and bullying against Karen Mihalek, Ms. Sutton's supervisor; the same complaints the fired teacher had tried to raise shortly before being let go. Ms. Sutton's complaint, now filed with the state, continues to work its way through the system and the Almanac has learned that another gymnastics staffer recently filed a similar complaint.

But finally, more than two years after her death in a drive-by shooting, the city created a memorial at its new gymnastics center to teacher Cate Fisher, Ms. Sutton's 19-year-old daughter, which had been delayed by what public records suggested was bureaucratic pettiness.

Outgoing Mayor Peter Ohtaki made allies in far places as he signed a friendship agreement in October with the Irish city of Galway, the area from which early settlers in the Menlo Park

See **TOP STORIES**, page 8

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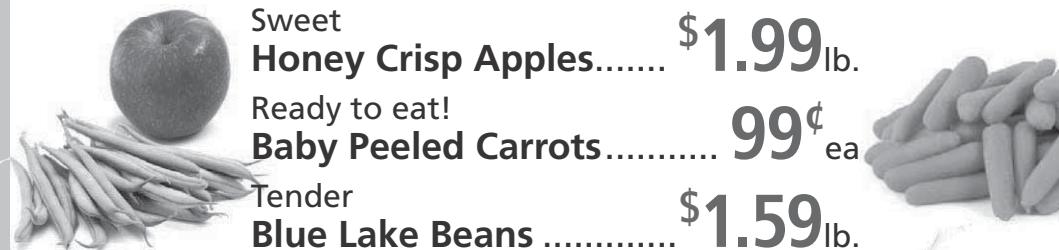
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Cary Wiest chosen as Atherton's new mayor

By Barbara Wood

Special to the Almanac

Cary Wiest, elected a little more than a year ago to the Atherton City Council, was chosen by his fellow council members at their Dec. 18 meeting to serve as mayor for the next year, with just-elected Rick DeGolia elected as vice mayor.

Mr. Wiest, 49, has lived in Atherton for four years. Before his election to the Atherton council in 2012, he served on many county and community boards and committees. He owns a small business in San Mateo called Wiest and Associates.

In 2010, less than a year after moving to Atherton, Mr. Wiest was one of four candidates running for three open seats on the council.

Council members traditionally — though not always — choose the council's vice mayor as mayor for the following term. Although Mr. Wiest's support by his colleagues to step up to the mayor's post was unanimous, his election last July to serve as vice mayor was not so smooth.

Jerry Carlson had been chosen vice mayor last December, but when he resigned, effective in July, the council majority pushed to appoint a new vice mayor before Mr. Carlson's resignation took effect. In June, with council members Jim Dobbie and Bill Widmer protesting the action, Mr. Wiest was named vice mayor. Then-mayor Elizabeth Lewis, Mr. Carlson, and Mr. Wiest voted for the appointment; Mr. Dobbie voted no and Mr. Widmer abstained.

"It is not appropriate for council member Carlson to be voting

on the future mayor when (Mr. Carlson) is leaving," Mr. Dobbie said before the June vote.

Mr. DeGolia was elected in November to fill the seat left vacant by Mr. Carlson's resignation. He is an attorney who currently serves as a board member and governance committee chair of the Cleantech Open, which supports clean technology startups, and as an advisory board member of the nonprofit Clean Coalition. He served on the Community Center Advisory Committee as chair of its library subcommittee.

Mr. DeGolia was elected vice mayor on a 4-1 vote, with Councilman Jim Dobbie voting no. Mr. Dobbie had nominated Bill Widmer for the post.

After he was sworn in, Mr. Wiest thanked outgoing mayor Elizabeth Lewis for her service and promised "we are going to be staying on course." "Transparency is very important," he said while vowing to continue to work on priorities such as reducing long-term liabilities.

Before the election of Mr. Wiest, Ms. Lewis highlighted some of the council's accomplishments during the last year, including what she said was the No. 1 accomplishment: allowing "transparency through technology" by upgrading the town's website and sending out more information via email.

"As a town we ask a lot from our residents," Ms. Lewis said. "But I know that our residents are up to the task."

—Renee Batti contributed to this report.



Cary Wiest

Rotary funds available for nonprofits

The Rotary Club of Menlo Park has announced \$20,000 will be made available to local nonprofit groups that demonstrate a compelling public need and offer a project to help solve the problem.

Grants will range from \$1,000 to \$10,000. Deadline

to apply for grants is Jan. 31. They will be awarded by April 30.

In recent years Rotary has awarded grants to more than a dozen nonprofits, including the Menlo-Atherton High School Foundation for the Future Honors Program.

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Two districts don't plan to offer transitional kindergarten

By Barbara Wood
Special to the Almanac

The bad news for Menlo Park parents whose children will turn 5 between Sept. 1 and Dec. 2 of next year is that neither the Las Lomas nor Menlo Park City districts plans to offer the transitional kindergarten programs that all other local districts provide.

It turns out that the opinion by the districts' attorneys that the current law isn't really mandatory is also the opinion of the state Legislature's own attorneys.

There is, however, a sliver of hope for these parents. State Democratic legislators have announced that one of their priorities for the 2014-15 budget is to "make transitional kindergarten universal for all 4 year-olds." If the measure is passed early in the session, it could go into effect in time to force the two local districts to offer transitional kindergarten next fall.

Transitional kindergarten is an extra year of kindergarten that currently is offered only to the children affected when the birth date for kindergarten admission was pushed back from Dec. 2 to Sept. 1. A study by the American Institutes of Research found that in 2012, only 4 percent of California districts with any eligible children did not have a two-year kindergarten.

But the two local districts have been advised by their attorneys, who work for the San Mateo County Counsel's office, that the law is not mandatory. "The law doesn't say that it's mandatory," said Eugene Whitlock, San Mateo County deputy county counsel and legal adviser for the Las Lomas District.

Representatives of both districts say that if the law isn't mandatory, they have higher priorities for spending their money.

According to Menlo Park City School District board member Terry Thygesen, her district's board discussed transitional kindergarten at its December meeting and confirmed it will not continue the program offered for the past three school years. The Las Lomas Elementary School District has never had a transitional kindergarten program and board president Jay Siegel says it has not been discussed by the board at any recent meetings.

State Senator Jerry Hill says he, along with Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, will introduce a bill in January to make the extra year of kindergarten mandatory for

disagrees with the opinion, which he points out "is not a legal determination, it is just an opinion. It has no binding force of law."

What the opinion misses, he says, is the context in which the transitional kindergarten program was created. Transitional kindergarten was designed so that children who under previous state law could have started kindergarten can still begin schooling at the same age, but in the transitional program.

Sen. Hill says the language that makes transitional kindergarten optional was an error in drafting the bill, and "we need to take some action to correct that error, however it was made. It needs to be clarified."

The new bill, Sen. Hill said, is now being drafted and should be introduced early in January. Current plans would call for a class size of 20 students with two teachers. Districts could offer half-day or full-day programs.

The senator acknowledges the program will not be inexpensive. "It would cost about \$266 million per year over the five-year phase-in," he said. "It's a lot of money."

However the state's budget is currently showing a surplus and he said he is "optimistic" about the chances of passage for the bill.

"It makes good sense since we know the benefit is there," he said. "We know the investment is a valuable one, and it pays great dividends in the long term, so it makes sense to do it."

The local districts, already bursting at the seams with new students, could have problems finding funding and classrooms for even more students, but Sen. Hill said such issues will be considered. "I'm sure that will be part of discussion as the bill moves forward — to see how that can be done," Senator Hill said. "There's ways around both of those." ■

State legislators may make kindergarten mandatory for all 4-year-olds.

all school districts. He also wants to expand the program to include all 4-year-olds, not just the 25 percent who are now eligible, phasing in the program over five years.

Sen. Hill recently told the Almanac that he and other legislators thought the program they approved in 2010 was mandatory. "It was my intent when I voted for it that it would be mandatory," he said adding that he thinks that view was shared by "everyone else in the Legislature."

However, he recently asked the legislative counsel for an opinion on the current law. "It is our opinion that a school district is not required to offer a transitional kindergarten program," the opinion concludes.

Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian, a state senator at the time and author of the Kindergarten Readiness Act,

Fire board chooses new leaders

Rex Ianson and Virginia Chang Kiraly were elected by fellow board members as president and vice president, respectively, of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District Board of Directors at its Dec. 17 meeting.

The meeting also saw the swearing-in of Peter Carpenter, Chuck Bernstein and Mr.

Ianson as board members. The three ran as a slate during the 2013 election. Incumbent Jack Nelson, whose campaign for re-election proved unsuccessful, also bid farewell to the board during the meeting.

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

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Top stories of 2013

continued from page 5

area migrated. In December, the council selected Ray Mueller as mayor and Catherine Carlton as vice mayor for 2014; both are finishing up their first year on the council.

Atherton catches up with technology

In her final speech to the public and her colleagues as Atherton's mayor, Elizabeth Lewis on Dec. 18 listed what she considers the town's five top accomplishments for 2013. At the top: "Transparency through technology."

Anyone familiar with the town's moldy old website only has to visit the transformed ci.atherton.ca.us to know what she means. With the new website's launch earlier this year, affluent Atherton — home of a slew of high-tech heavy-hitters — finally came of age, technologically speaking.

Features include an alert system that residents can subscribe to, for notices of and updates on local emergencies. There's also a tool residents can use to report a concern on a range of issues — from illegal construction to flooding, to trees down, to graffiti, said City Manager George Rodericks. And the "Citizen Rims" feature allows users to track and access crime information "up to the minute," he said.

In a town where residents sometimes complained that information was too difficult to access, the new system has helped turn that around, according to council members, town officials and residents. News flashes are sent out to subscribers regularly, Mr. Rodericks said, adding that staff is committed to posting three to four news items per week.

Atherton Online is a weekly electronic release that gathers together all current news flashes, upcoming special events, and community events, and the online calendar lists meetings and events, with email pushes sent to residents who subscribe. Council meetings are now reported on the day after with "That's a Wrap," Mr. Rodericks' summary of each agenda item and council action.

An archive center makes budgets, audits, meeting agendas and minutes, and a range of other documents easily accessible to the public, and videos of council meetings can be accessed online as well.

A website overhaul has long been talked about, and when Mr. Rodericks began his job

in October 2012, funding was already in the budget but no work had been done. Councilman Bill Widmer made a technology upgrade for better public access part of his campaign platform in 2010, and he was a key proponent of the effort after his election.

With support of the council, Mr. Rodericks made the overhaul a top priority, "as I believe good communication and transparency are two cornerstones of good government," he said in an email one morning after finishing another edition of "That's a Wrap" after the Dec. 18 council meeting.

Woodside brainstorms

The past year in Woodside was remarkable for the turmoil that arose in parts of the community when a few ideas emerged from a couple of brainstorming sessions on how to relieve the Town Center's traffic congestion and what is commonly thought to be a chronic shortage of parking spaces.

From the springtime sessions emerged several trial balloons. Some were the subject of complaints over the summer and successfully targeted for deflation in the fall: a multi-tier parking garage; a rearrangement of traffic lanes at the central intersection in town, where pumpkin festivals and large bicycle tours can generate mile-long traffic jams; and the use of a colored polygon on a neighborhood map to indicate residential areas affected by a comprehensive effort to improve routes for children walking or biking to school.

Responding to complaints from a boisterous standing-room-only crowd of residents worried about Woodside's "rural character" at the council's Oct. 29 meeting, the council agreed to dispose of those three ideas. If the parking garage or the traffic-lanes redesign had any chance at all, they are now definitively off the table as a community task force considers options for the Town Center's next 20 years, a project called the Town Center Area Plan.

The residents' concerns were summarized in a letter to the council by resident Greg Raleigh, cited by many as representing their views. Along with the three ideas already mentioned, the letter requested guarantees of no "residential uses" in the Town Center and no changes to measures designed to protect the Town Center's character.

"If these things go forward, you're going to fundamentally change the nature of Woodside



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Voters showed solid support for their elementary schools, most dramatically in approving hefty bond measures, including in the Menlo Park City School District. In this photo, fourth-grade Encinal School students work in a Spanish immersion class.

and I think that's a tragedy," said Leon Campbell.

"We want to know where our council stands on those five items," said Malcolm MacNaughton.

"Brainstorming is great," said Rob Solomon, "but these five are really bad ideas."

"I think you have some trust to earn back," said a resident of Tripp Court.

Other points of view saw value in brainstorming.

"I don't understand what all this upsetness is about," said Marne Page. "The crazy ideas will be jettisoned. ... We're supposed to be able to talk about controversial ideas."

"I think when you do a planning process, you think of all ideas," said Thalia Lubin, a member of the task force involved in the brainstorming. "All we're talking about here is ideas. I'm not going to throw out any ideas until we've heard all of them."

The council was not swayed from its determination to hire a professional facilitator to conduct a series of community meetings in 2014.

Big support for schools

Local voters showed solid support for their elementary schools throughout 2013, most dramatically in November, when hefty bond measures passed in two school districts.

Both districts — Menlo Park City and Las Lomas — serve children in Menlo Park and Atherton, and both have been struggling to accommodate the number of students on their campuses in recent years because of significantly higher-than-projected enrollment.

The Menlo Park district will

use revenue from the \$23 million Measure W bond measure to build a fifth school. The district is taking back its campus at the so-called O'Connor School site in the Willows neighborhood of Menlo Park; it has leased the site to the German-American International School since 1991, but earlier this year terminated the private school's lease a year early to build a grade 3-5 school that would open in fall 2016.

Measure W passed with nearly 75 percent approval; it needed 55 percent approval to pass. The district estimates that the 25-year, \$23 million bond measure will cost property owners an average of \$8.70 per \$100,000 of assessed value, and district leaders have said they're aiming for a single-series current interest bond issue.

In the two-school Las Lomas district, about 73.5 percent of voters approved Measure S (it also needed 55 percent approval), which will raise \$60 million to build new two-story buildings, eliminate 18 portable classrooms, and renovate existing buildings at Las Lomas (K-3) in Atherton and La Entrada (4-8) in Menlo Park.

The Las Lomas district estimates that property owners' Measure S assessment will be \$30 annually per \$100,000 of taxable property. According to the school board, the payments would likely be ongoing through 2045.

Bonds weren't the only funding mechanism voters were asked to support this year. In the spring, mail ballots were sent to all registered voters in the two-school Portola Valley School District, which had been able to raise nearly \$1 million annually

with a parcel tax.

The tax was set to expire next year, and the district got a jump on renewing it at a higher rate for another eight years. Measure O, which increased the annual tax to \$581 from \$458, was approved by 69 percent of voters.

Neighboring Woodside Elementary School District officials are hoping local voter support for education carries over into the new year. The school board is likely to put a bond measure before voters in 2014 to pay for construction, safety and modernization projects at the district's only school.

The highest-cost item would be the demolition of the Sellman Auditorium and construction of a new building that would include a permanent stage, added storage, connection to the campus' music room, a new food service area, and restrooms, according to a report from earlier this year. That project would cost an estimated \$7.67 million.

District volunteers have been working for months to raise private funds for the project to reduce costs that will have to be borne by taxpayers.

Sequoia Union High School District

Using projections based on current enrollment at elementary schools that feed students into the high school district, the Sequoia Union High School District expects a 22 percent enrollment increase by 2020 at its four comprehensive schools, including Menlo-Atherton and Woodside high schools.

Relatively underpopulated, Woodside High has room for

See **TOP STORIES**, page 10



Happy Holidays



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2013

Woodside: Man seeks emergency assistance, and winds up in jail

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

A man who sought emergency assistance for a stranded truck on a Woodside road in the early morning hours of Friday, Dec. 13, ended up in jail later that day when deputies found stolen goods in his truck.

Donald Elliot, 30, of San Jose was booked into San Mateo County jail shortly after noon on Dec. 13 in connection with an early morning burglary that day at a Tripp Court residence in Woodside. He bailed out of jail on Dec. 16, said Deputy Rebecca Rosenblatt.

Authorities became involved when a man knocked on the door of a Tripp Road residence about 5 a.m. on Dec. 13, saying his truck had stalled about half a mile away in the 3600 block of Partition Road. The man said his fiancée was waiting in the truck and they needed roadside assistance. The Tripp Road resident called 911 on the man's behalf.

Firefighters and medics from

Deputies find stolen goods in truck stranded on a Woodside road.

the Woodside Fire Protection District arrived and took the couple to Sequoia Hospital for a weather-related condition. The man and the woman were released from the hospital and took a taxi back to their truck.

Meanwhile, deputies had arrived and were arranging to have the truck towed since it was partially blocking the road. The truck was up against a thin tree trunk that prevented the vehicle from rolling off the road and down a steep hill, deputies said.

Before towing a vehicle, deputies are obligated to make an

inventory of its contents in case something should go missing from the vehicle. As they were doing this, the list of contents appeared to match a list of items missing from a burglary reported that morning.

The reported missing items included wheels, two Olympic Games souvenir pins, and a black leather case containing the owner's manual to a Land Rover, its vehicle registration, and its evidence of insurance, the Sheriff's Office said.

The Tripp Court resident reporting the burglary told deputies that he had discovered the gate to his property "wide open" that morning after having been shut at 10 p.m. on the previous night, and evidence that someone had rummaged through his two unlocked vehicles. The missing items had an estimated value of about \$1,000.

When Mr. Elliot and his fiancée arrived by cab around noon at the scene of the stalled truck, deputies made the arrests. The woman was questioned and released. ■



Photo courtesy of San Mateo County Sheriff's Office
Donald Elliot

Top stories of 2013

continued from page 8

more students, but much of the expected growth is concentrated in neighborhoods that serve M-A. Enrollment is burgeoning in the Las Lomas and Menlo Park elementary school districts. At M-A, there is no more room for horizontal expansion and classrooms will need second floors, as they likely will on the other three campuses.

The district board is all but certain to propose a bond measure to pay for it all, but only after hearing from a community task force now engaged in preparing a ballpark plan on how to expand the facilities.

The enrollment surge generated controversy over which areas would be assigned to M-A and which to Woodside. M-A is known for the consistent high academic performance of its students and the high quality of its advanced-placement classes. Enrollment there is perceived by some parts of the community as on a par with a private school, but at a public-school price.

Many Las Lomas households are physically closer to Woodside than to M-A, and 10 to 12 households are actually assigned to Woodside. But in the interest of keeping the Las Lomas cohort together, those 10 to 12 households have long had guaranteed admission to M-A upon request.

Across town in East Palo Alto, which is physically closer to M-A than to any other high school, students have been bused to Woodside and Carlmont High (in Belmont) for 30 years. The East Palo Alto community had been served by Ravenswood High School until it closed in 1976. The school had declining enrollment and a concentration of people of color, according to a Ravenswood alumni association history. A 1983 court order required the Sequoia district to establish populations at each high school that fell within 5 percentage points of reflecting the district's ethnic diversity as a whole.

The consent decree expired after six years, and East Palo Alto parents and students now care more about the integrity of their eighth-grade community. They wondered aloud about who really benefits from this orchestrated socio-economic diversity. Over the years, many households have asked to attend M-A and many of those requests have been granted, but unlike the guarantee enjoyed by Las Lomas households, East Palo Alto students have to participate in a lottery.

At a series of community meetings held in the spring, Sequoia Superintendent Jim Lianides laid out the situation, then stood back and fielded concerns from parents: What did the Sequoia district think it was doing, risking the property values of homes assigned to M-A?

"Expropriation!" said one parent who predicted a loss of \$300,000 to \$500,000 in his property value.

"It's politically inappropriate to say, but (property value) does need to be taken seriously," said another. "This is a huge investment to live in this community."

The disrespect for Woodside High was not lost on parents assigned to Woodside from Portola Valley and Woodside. At the community meetings, they stood up for their school. "It makes me really sad that people who cannot go to M-A think that Woodside isn't a good school," said one woman. "I wish people had a little bit more of an open mind about the equality of schools."

"It's a nice school," said another Woodside parent. "I get the feeling that we're the red-headed stepchild. I'm a nice person, and I spent a lot of money on my house!"

"It's hard to look at that (neighborhood assignment) map and think it's not awkward," said one East Palo Alto parent. "It's a head scratcher. ... Does this make sense if we're building communities and community schools? I'm sorry, but I can't help thinking of a gerrymandered district when I look at this map."

Mr. Lianides said everybody in the M-A community will be assigned to M-A, except a neighborhood in North Fair Oaks currently assigned there, but with a stronger affinity for Woodside High.

Toward that end and with due consideration given to an enrollment bulge that cannot be ignored, the Sequoia district board will also be looking at how to redraw the map that assigns neighborhoods to schools. The initial proposal to have each of the four schools share the load equally appears to be off the table, given the demand for attending M-A.

The district is also serious about building two new magnet schools for about 300 to 400 students each. The schools would be "very attractive" in terms of what they offer and located so as to relieve enrollment pressure on the comprehensive schools, Mr. Lianides said. ■

PENINSULA



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Long-time city employee Pat Carson bids farewell to city

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Thirty-two years ago, Pat Carson came to work for the city of Menlo Park.

"That makes me feel ancient," she said, laughing. Now the executive secretary to the city manager, she started as a part-time office assistant in the recreation department, called community resources back then, in 1981.

And she fell in love. "I grew up in East Palo Alto. That community, as much as I love it and as much as it's home for me, doesn't have the amenities that are here in Menlo Park. There's no pool. We don't have manicured parks, we don't always feel safe. ... Prior to my being hired here, even though I grew up 10 minutes away, I had never seen the campus (Menlo Park Civic Center) and I fell in love at first sight, with the nature, the trees, the ponds. I had never known this even existed. So it was like the unfolding of a jewel."

She liked the job, liked her office, liked the people she worked with. So when an opening in the city manager's office came up eight years later, well,

Ms. Carson didn't exactly leap at it.

"I was referred to the city manager's office by the community resources director," she recalled, who told her it was a temporary three-month assignment to start with.

"I went home and cried because I thought she was trying to get rid of me." Ms. Carson laughed. "I really did."

The new position soon captured her interest. "When I did move (to city hall) it was really different. I met the mayor, learned who the council was. I felt like I worked for city government and I had never felt that for the first seven years."

Ms. Carson filled in as deputy city clerk, swore in police, notarized documents and earned certification as a mediator. She also served as staff liaison to the Housing Commission.

Safe to say no one wants to get rid of her now, either, even after three decades of service under five city managers. The announcement of Ms. Carson's December retirement led to fallen faces at city hall, based



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Pat Carson, executive secretary to the city manager, prepares to retire after 32 years with Menlo Park.

See **CARSON**, page 14

"We can't imagine spending our best years anywhere but home."



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Helping families recover from life's tragedies

By Teri Chin, human services manager, city of Redwood City.

Over the last few months, the Fair Oaks Community Center has been deeply involved in the relief and recovery efforts for over 140 households displaced by two six-alarm multi-unit apartment fires that occurred in July and October of this year.

Our assistance has included food, transportation, shelter referrals, and deposit assistance in addition to being a hub for relief and recovery assistance, informational meetings, and support groups.

We have worked closely with the Red Cross, the county of San Mateo, InnVision Shelter Network, and other community partners to provide relief and support to the individuals and families displaced by these fires.

Norma Lara's family was displaced by the July Hallmark Apartment fire. Norma participates in our monthly food distribution, so I recognized her when she walked into the evacuation center at the Fair Oaks Community Center at 3 a.m. on July 7.

That night her two grandchildren were staying with her and her 15-year-old son, and thankfully, all four of them were safely

evacuated.

Like everyone else displaced by this fire, Norma and her son lost everything. With a bit of luck and lots of hard work on her part, Norma found a new place to live within just a few weeks of the fire.

But the new place was going to be \$300 more per month than she had been paying for the last 14 years. Fair Oaks Community Center partnered with the Housing Industry Foundation and the Red Cross to provide assistance toward her deposit and first month's rent.

She told me that as a single working mom, this was going to be a struggle, but that she would find a way to make it work. I referred her to a financial education workshop series at the community center, where she learned how to budget and save and reduce expenses.

Since then, Norma has become a regular volunteer with our monthly food program in addition to being a beneficiary of that program. She shows a resilience that is so common among the people we see every day seeking assistance at the Fair Oaks Community Center.

Each year, the Fair Oaks Community Cen-



Gifts to the Almanac's Holiday Fund help 10 local organizations, including the Fair Oaks Community Center.



Photo by Teri Chin

Norma Lara places her "leaf of thanks" on the Tree of Thanks created by Hallmark Apartment fire survivors at a recent potluck gathering.

ter Information and Referral Program serves approximately 2,300 households, providing food assistance, housing assistance, shelter referrals, utility assistance, transportation assistance, and other vital services to help families and individuals recover from life's tragedies and challenges and survive in our high-cost community.

Go to tinyurl.com/Fair-272 or call (650) 780-7500 or stop by 2600 Middlefield Road in Redwood City for more information. ■

Contributions to the Holiday Fund go directly to programs that benefit Peninsula residents. Last year, Almanac readers and foundations contributed \$162,000 for the 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 Foundation and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard 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 listed on this page.

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The Almanac will make every effort to publish donor names for donations received before Dec. 31, 2013, unless the donor checks the anonymous box. All donations will be acknowledged by mail.

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula

Provides after-school and academic support and activities for 1,750 at-risk K-12 youth at nine locations in Menlo Park and the North Fair Oaks neighborhood of Redwood City. Members attend at least twice a week during the academic year and receive essential tutoring, mentoring, and academic support.

Ecumenical Hunger Program

Provides emergency food, clothing, household essentials, and sometimes financial assistance to families in need, regardless of religious preference, including Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for more than 2,000 households.†

Project Read

Provides free literacy services to adults in the Menlo Park area. Trained volunteers work one-on-one 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. Volunteers also help students acquire basic keyboard and computer skills.

Ravenswood Family Health Center

Provides primary medical and preventive health care for all ages at its clinics in Belle Haven and East Palo Alto. It also operates a mobile clinic at school sites. Of the more than 17,000 registered patients, most are low-income and uninsured and live in the ethnically diverse East Palo Alto, Belle Haven, and North Fair Oaks areas.

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room

Serves hundreds of hot meals six days a week to people in need who walk through the doors. Funded entirely by voluntary contributions, St. Anthony's is the largest dining room for the needy between San Francisco and San Jose. It also offers emergency food and clothing assistance.

Second Harvest Food Bank

The largest collector and distributor of food on the Peninsula, Second Harvest Food Bank distributed 52 million pounds of food last year. It gathers donations from individuals and businesses and distributes food to more than 250,000 people each month through more than 770 agencies and distribution sites in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

InnVision Shelter Network

Provides shelter/housing and supportive services across 18 sites in Silicon Valley and the San Francisco Peninsula. Serves thousands of homeless families and individuals annually on their path back to permanent housing and self-sufficiency.

StarVista

Serves more than 32,000 people throughout San Mateo County, including children, young people, families with counseling, prevention, early intervention, education, and residential programs. StarVista also provides crisis intervention and suicide prevention services including a 24-hour suicide crisis hotline, an alcohol and drug helpline, and a parent support hotline.

Fair Oaks Community Center

Provides housing and food assistance, emergency shelter referral, legal services, a childcare program, older adult nutrition, and low-cost exercise programs for youth and adults.

Teen Talk Sexuality Education

Teen Talk helps young people feel confident and supported to make informed decisions about their own sexual health through in-school programs, parent education, and training for youth program providers.

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Compassion in action

By Kathleen Alexander, communications director, Ravenswood Family Health Center.

Juvenal comes with his parents to the Belle Haven Clinic in east Menlo Park for his 6-month well-child checkup. When asked how he is doing, his mother laughs as she watches her son chewing vigorously on a teething ring.

"He's doing great. He's happy, laughing, yelling and he cries." He is thriving.

This young family lives in Redwood City. His father just started a new job at Recology and the mom takes care of her son. They seem confident of the future, at ease with life.

Ravenswood Family Health Center's Belle Haven Clinic in Menlo Park is a peaceful oasis where you won't hear a debate about health care reform. The clinic is fulfilling its mission to guarantee access to quality health care because it is needed. There are no disqualifiers.

What strikes you at Ravenswood is that patients are being cared for by a cultural cross-section of staff that is diverse as the patients. Like other community health centers in the nation, Ravenswood operates on the premise that cultural and linguistic

sensitivity matters a lot, and people are best served by people who are similar, which is why both staff and board are representative of the population served.

The majority of the people who come to Ravenswood are the working poor (85 percent live at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level — that's \$23,050 for a family of four); many are recent immigrants, willing to work at low wages. They have set down roots in the dynamic, multi-ethnic communities of East Palo Alto, Belle Haven and North Fair Oaks in Redwood City.

Ravenswood Family Health Center has become the largest non-profit organization in East Palo Alto/Belle Haven with a staff of 147. It operates two primary care medical clinics, a state-of-the-art dental clinic, a behavioral health counseling program, and a Center for Health Promotion with a Stanford Health Library and Eligibility and Enrollment services for public coverage, including Medi-Cal, and eight trained Covered California certified enrollment staff.

Ravenswood is a gateway to a family of primary care services for all ages. In 2013, more than 11,000 patients received medical, behavioral health and dental care as well as referrals for social services. It is bursting at the seams.



Dr. Terri Wong attends to baby Juvenal Jr., being held by his father, Juvenal Santos.

Now its long-planned construction of a new 38,000 square foot health center is about to break ground on January 22, with a completion date of April 2015. The new center, located at the intersection of Bay Road and Pulgas Avenue in East Palo Alto, will allow Ravenswood to serve 22,000 patients.

Go to ravenswoodfhc.org or call (650) 330-7418 for more information. Ravenswood Family Health Center is located at 1798A Bay Road, East Palo Alto, 94303. ■

Man pleads no contest to assault

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

■ PORTOLA VALLEY

A Palo Alto man accused of assaulting a 13-year-old Portola Valley boy with a baseball bat and crashing his SUV into a ravine following a police chase pleaded no contest Dec. 17 to charges of felony assault and felony auto burglary.

Alexander Stefan Dombovic, 22, agreed to a plea deal with a maximum of two years in state prison, prosecutors said. He is scheduled to be sentenced on Feb. 26, and is out of custody on \$50,000 bail.

Mr. Dombovic was arrested April 21 after he lost control of his vehicle during a police chase and crashed down an embankment in the 900 block of Westridge Drive in Portola Valley, according to San Mateo County Chief

Deputy District Attorney Karen Guidotti and the Sheriff's Office.

"He was ordered out of the car and he yelled to the officers in a Russian accent, 'This has nothing to do with Boston,'" Ms. Guidotti said. Mr. Dombovic is a Chechen who lives in Palo Alto, she said.

The officers found about 129 pieces of mail from 18 local addresses in the car, she said. A Sheriff's Office report adds that Mr. Dombovic "forcibly entered" three mailboxes on Alamos Lane and two on Westridge Drive, both entries made with a baseball bat.

The string of incidents began at 10 p.m. Sunday, April 21. A 13-year-old Portola Valley boy reading

in his bedroom heard a car come down the driveway of his home and park near his room. He went out to see what was going on and said he saw a man rummaging through his father's vehicle.

The boy asked the man what he was doing. The man allegedly yelled at the boy and charged at him with an aluminum baseball bat, hitting him in the shoulder, Ms. Guidotti said. The man then fled in a gold Toyota SUV, deputies said.

Deputies were already in the area to respond to a nearby car burglary. They saw the SUV driving on the wrong side of the road with the car lights off. The deputies swerved to avoid him and a car chase ensued, with the pursued car accelerating to 60 miles per hour, Ms. Guidotti said. ▀

Safe routes to school a priority for Woodside Mayor Dave Burow

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

■ WOODSIDE

Dave Burow, on the Woodside Town Council since 2007, was elected on Dec. 10 in a unanimous vote to serve as mayor for the next 12 months.

Mr. Burow served as mayor pro-tempore for the previous 12 months and was in line to hold the gavel. His colleagues last elected him mayor in 2009.

The council elected Councilman Tom Shanahan as mayor pro-tempore for the coming year.

It's common practice for the mayoralty to rotate among council members. The job is largely ceremonial and includes setting the agenda and chairing council meetings.

The highest priority for the year ahead is making it safer for children to walk and bike to school, Mr. Burow said. Also high on the list: rationalizing the regulations regarding properties that have been grandfathered

in when zoning regulations changed, and improving communication between residents and the town.

The NextDoor network is likely to be pivotal in that effort, Mr. Burow said. It's taken hold in Woodside and is among the top 20 most active NextDoor communities in the company's network, according to a NextDoor spokesperson.

Mr. Burow, 61, is the chief executive officer and co-founder of CloudOpt, a Redwood City-based provider of services to accelerate data into and out of the computing cloud.

Mr. Burow has a bachelor's degree in engineering from Purdue University and a master's degree in business from the University of Chicago. He has held executive positions in many high-technology start-up companies. ▀

CARSON

continued from page 11

on the Almanac's observations, with staff and residents alike sad about losing her trademark warmth and graciousness.

"It's been a pleasure. What I have truly found is a tremendous commitment to work hard and have excellent services for the community," Ms. Carson said. "I like that because that's my work ethic. What's important to me is

customer service, and I really enjoy the opportunity to work with so many community members who call in to the city manager's office."

The silly moments stand out, she said. One day a young mother called to ask whether someone could go look for a beloved stuffed toy left behind after her daughter had fed ducks at the Civic Center. "And just as I was thinking — 'Is this in my job description?' — she says her daughter's just not going to

sleep tonight if she doesn't have it."

Sure enough, Ms. Carson found the toy on a bench near the council chambers. "I have never forgotten that; maybe it connected with me being a mother and knowing that children have their favorite toys ... things like that make me feel like I've accomplished something that's real and meaningful."

Frustration, of course, is also part of the job description.

"It's been very difficult the last few years to read emails and articles in the paper — the public changed their opinion of workers when the economy went sour. At one point in time we were loved workers that did our jobs, and suddenly the focus transferred to what kind of retirement income we would receive and what type of salary."

Private sector perks like extended holidays and bonuses didn't come with the city employee package, Ms. Carson said, but her job provided stability when she was a single mother, and she enjoyed the work. "It's good, decent hard work — that is what we do here. I've always paid into my retirement. I know what comes out of my paycheck and it's not little. It's just sort of very frustrating that the public sees it differ-

ently now."

She paused for a moment, thoughtful, when asked how she retains a sense of optimism and pleasure in the face of a cynical public. "I'm happy with my life — I'm happily married, I have two wonderful adult children. I think a person has to be happy first before they can be happy with anything else that they do. And because I know the truth and I know it's easy sometimes to make comments when you don't know the whole story."

Retirement beckoned with horizons both new and familiar as she wrapped up her last week with the city. "We've definitely got some travel plans. We're going to go to Paris, I think we're going to go to New York, so many places I've never been to. We're just going to keep going. Once I have the chance to get a little of that out of my system ..." — there's home improvement projects, doing something with family property in East Palo, reading and exercising and perhaps even returning to work, as a mediator. ▀

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Note

In a Dec. 18 story, the Almanac attributed to the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) the fact that Tim Hanretty, the former superintendent of the Portola Valley School District, retired at 55. He did retire at 55 but CalPERS says that should not be attributed to CalPERS.

F. Tracy Schilling, 'a gentle force for good'

Memorial services are pending for F. Tracy Schilling, a Woodside resident and "a gentle force for good ... with great generosity of spirit, unfailing kindness, and an eternally gracious presence," the family said. Ms. Schilling, 92, died on Nov. 26 at The Sequoias retirement community in Portola Valley.

Ms. Schilling grew up in New York City and Paris. She graduated from the Spence School and attended Barnard College before marrying August H. Schilling in February of 1941.

The couple moved to Atherton in 1946 and to Woodside in 1954, where they raised a family.

Ms. Schilling was active at Woodside Elementary School and served on the school board. She volunteered with Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic and was a docent at the Filoli estate.

As a member of the Woodside Atherton Garden Club, she helped establish the garden at the Woodside public library. For her efforts in horticulture

OBITUARIES

Obituaries are based on information provided by the family.

and flower arranging, she was recognized by the Garden Club of America.

Ms. Schilling is survived by her brother Robert M. Pennoyer of New York; sister Jessie P. Snyder of Burlington, Vermont; daughters Tracy, Jessie and Sandra; and 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband and her sons Tony Schilling and Raly Schilling.

In lieu of flowers, gifts in Ms. Schilling's memory may be made to: The Morgan Library and Museum, 225 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016; or the Tomorrow Fund at The Sequoias Portola Valley (checks payable to Senior Services of Northern California, 1525 Post St., San Francisco, CA 94109; write in memo line: "Tomorrow Fund Portola Valley").

John Donegan, attorney

John M. Donegan died Dec. 6 at his residence at The Sequoias in Portola Valley. He was 96.

Mr. Donegan, a prominent Palo Alto attorney, served as president of the Palo Alto Area Bar Association, Palo Alto Rotary Club, Stanford Golf Club, the Stanford Area Boy Scouts Council and the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce.

Born in Algona, Iowa, Mr. Donegan grew up in Phoenix, Arizona, graduating from the University of Arizona in 1939. He enlisted in the military in 1941 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army Air Corps. He was deployed to New Guinea as a B-25 bomber pilot in the Fifth Air Force, where he flew 48 combat missions.

On Aug. 18, 1943, he and most of his crew were badly wounded while attacking the enemy airfield at Wewak, New Guinea. Under repeated attack from fighters, he managed to reach and crash land at his home base despite destroyed rudder controls and more than 250 bullet and shrapnel holes in the fuselage. He received the Distinguished Service Cross, the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star and other decorations.

After his return to the U.S., he served as a test pilot at Wright Patterson Field in Dayton,

Ohio, where he met his future wife, Joan Claggett. They were married in 1945.

Following his discharge from the military, the couple settled in Palo Alto, where he attended Stanford Law School. He joined a local law firm, quickly rising to partner. He established his own law firm in 1968 and retired in 2000. He took great pride in being asked by President Reagan to establish, along with another attorney, the Reagan Presidential Foundation and library, say family members.

Mr. Donegan was an ardent golfer and a member of Palo Alto Hills Golf Club, Stanford Golf Club, and Menlo Country Club. His enthusiasm for the sport led him to golfing trips in Scotland, Ireland, and Hawaii. His other interests included backpacking, travel, collecting antique maps, and the study of history.

Mr. Donegan is survived by sons John and Bruce, and daughter Kelly; brother Jim Donegan; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. His wife, Joan, died in 2001.



John Donegan

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Herman Christensen

April 18, 1930 - December 9, 2013

Herman was born on April 18, 1930, at San Francisco Children's Hospital (later CPMC) to Eleanor and Herman Christensen Sr. The family moved to San Mateo Park, where he attended San Mateo Park School and San Mateo High School, Class of 1947.

Following high school, Herman made the bold move to travel across the country to attend Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH. He was an active member of the Bones Gate/Delta Tau Delta fraternity, the Undergraduate Council and business manager of the yearbook. He ran for the Track and Cross Country teams and later instilled a love of running in his children.

After graduating Dartmouth in 1951 with an AB in Art and Architecture, Herman stayed loyal and connected to Dartmouth the rest of his life, including serving as chairman of his 30th reunion.

Following college, Herman joined up with the United States Marines, serving as a Lieutenant. He then received a Master's degree in Political Science from Stanford University in 1954.

Herman was able to utilize both his Architecture and Political Science background when he joined his father's home building business. He and his younger brother and partner, Raymond, improved and expanded their father's business into a general building contractor and real estate development company.

The company, Herman Christensen and Sons, developed and/or built many large apartment complexes and many large office complexes. During this time, Herman was the youngest president ever of the Peninsula Home Builders Association. He also built a beautiful home in San Carlos. Herman met his wife of 53 years, Isobel Smith, on a tennis court in San Francisco. They married in 1960 and lived in that award-winning San Carlos home until they built their dream home in Atherton in 1965.

Herman and Isobel had four children, all of whom inherited his clever sense of humor and quick smile. Herman and Isobel raised all their children in Atherton: daughter Maren (Bill Welch), sons Gavin (Tricia) and Andrew (Jenny) as well as his youngest daughter Amy (Drew Curby).

Herman was so fortunate to have a close relation-

ship with his seven grandchildren: Brady Welch, William, Brian and Caroline Christensen, twins Pierce and Alicia Christensen and Ford Curby. His grandchildren called him "Grumps" and they will remember him running around on "Team Boy" with the boys as well as bantering with the girls.

Grumps loved to tease his grandkids, creating adventures for them including the dinosaur egg in the backyard and the "claw." He also loved to read and enjoyed discussing the Harry Potter books with his grandchildren.

Herman's contributions to the Bay Area were vast and not limited to the many real estate projects he and Raymond built here.

Passionate about education, Herman served on and was president of the Menlo Park School Board. He was also a member of the Castilleja School Foundation Board from 1980-1990, becoming president in 1985.

Later in life he became a supporter of Eastside College Preparatory School in East Palo Alto. Herman was interested in local history and served on the board of the San Mateo County Historical Society. He also served as Chairman of the San Mateo County Grand Jury.

Not wanting to fully retire, Herman stayed active in the family business and was currently serving as chairman of the town of Atherton Planning Commission.

An active tennis player throughout his adult life, Herman and Isobel joined the Menlo Circus Club in 1961. He served as president in 1982 and 1983 and remained an active member, taking tennis lessons and working out at the gym, until the day of his death.

Herman is survived by his immediate family, his brother Raymond (Marian) and numerous nieces and nephews. He will be remembered for his warm smile, happy nature, and dry sense humor.

A celebration of Herman's life will take place in late January.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Herman's name to Eastside College Preparatory School 1041 Myrtle Street East Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County Historical Association 2200 Broadway Street Redwood City, CA 94063, or Castilleja School, 1310 Bryant St., Palo Alto, CA 94301.

PAID OBITUARY

■ POLICE CALLS

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

LADERA

Residential burglary reports:

■ A home on Gabarda Way is missing a safe containing \$50,000 in jewelry, an Apple iPad and Mac PowerBook computer, \$800 in cash and various items of personal identification, including passports and social security cards. The burglary happened sometime between 11:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. and there was no evidence of a break-in. Dec. 13.

■ A significant number of items of personal property are missing from "throughout" a La Mesa Drive home, where a downstairs bedroom window had been left unlocked. A deputy photographed the house and attempted to find fingerprints. Dec. 14.

■ Deputies responded to a call about a collection of discarded property on the side of La Mesa Drive. Among the items were a white cloth belt, a pair of white earmuffs, a somewhat torn-up white gift box, and five shot glasses decorated with a Christmas theme. Although an

Apple iPad was reported to be included, deputies did not find one. Dec. 13.

■ A Raleigh 13 Detour road bike with an estimate value of \$600 is missing from the front porch of a Pecora Way home. Dec. 16.

WOODSIDE

Auto burglary report: Someone broke the driver's door lock on a vehicle parked at a Woodside Park N Ride lot and stole an amplifier, speaker and tools, a loss estimated at \$2,900. Dec. 16.

MENLO PARK

Residential burglary report: A spool of copper wire with an estimated value of \$1,200 is missing from an unlocked garage on Terminal Avenue. Dec. 16.

Commercial burglary report: Someone broke a glass door into St. Raymond School at 1211 Arbor Road, but it appears that nothing was taken. Dec. 15.

Theft reports:

■ An Apple iPad Mini with an estimated value \$712 was stolen from a carrying case left on a park bench in the 200 block of Bay Road. Dec. 17.

■ Someone stole a \$550 bike locked to

a metal pole in the 600 block of Menlo Avenue. Dec. 16.

■ An unlocked vehicle parked in the 900 block of Hobart Street is missing \$5 in cash, an Apple iPod radio transmitter and sunglasses, a total loss of about \$205. Dec. 15.

■ A \$37 box of baby formula is missing from Safeway supermarket on Sharon Park Drive, Dec. 14.

WEST MENLO PARK

Found property report: At the Dutch Goose restaurant in unincorporated Menlo Park, a deputy had a community service officer collect for storage an abandoned bike found leaning against a dumpster. A check on the bike's serial number came back with no information. Dec. 12.

PORTOLA VALLEY

Theft report: A backpack and camera bag were reported missing from a bench at the Woodside Priory School at 302 Portola Road. Dec. 11.

Newly elected PV mayor sees full agenda in 2014

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

■ PORTOLA VALLEY

A busy year is ahead for Ann Wengert, Portola Valley's new mayor.

After her election at the Dec. 11 Town Council meeting, Ms. Wengert listed the issues facing the council, in no particular order, to include affordable housing, aircraft noise, the Portola Road scenic corridor, skateboard ramps, a green building ordinance, updates to the zoning code, and the town's 50th anniversary.



Ann Wengert

The meeting began with a farewell to Councilman Ted Driscoll, who concluded his fifth four-year term on the council as newly elected Councilman Craig Hughes was sworn in to begin his first term. Encomiums for Mr. Driscoll were plentiful and long, including one from state Sen. Jerry Hill, D-San Mateo, who came in person to deliver a framed statement from himself and Assemblyman Rich Gordon (D-Menlo Park). A story on Mr. Driscoll will appear in a future issue of the Almanac.

Ms. Wengert's colleagues on

the council elected her on a unanimous vote. She had served as vice mayor in 2013. The vice mayor for the coming 12 months is Councilman Jeff Aalfs.

The mayor, town manager and vice mayor set the agendas for council meetings. It's common practice for this otherwise ceremonial job to rotate among council members. Ms. Wengert last served as mayor in 2009.

Ms. Wengert is the co-founder of Property Capital Corp. and Briggs Wengert Associates, LLC, both San Francisco firms.

Over her 28-year career, she has represented investors in transactions worth more than \$5 billion, she has said. Her list of clients included Alaska's state investment fund, and teacher retirement funds for California and New York.

She has raised some \$6 million in venture and angel financing and has arranged corporate acquisitions and institutional financing worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

Ms. Wengert has a bachelor's degree in psychology from Bucknell University and a master's degree in business from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. ■

MP council OKs loan to managers

Menlo Park City Manager Alex McIntyre will receive a home improvement loan from the city and other benefits during the next year of his employment.

The council voted 4-0, with Rich Cline absent, to give the city manager a \$360,000 home improvement loan at 2.5 percent interest; reduce the interest on the \$1.1 million loan for the purchase of his home from 3.5 to 3

percent; and increase the city's contribution to his retirement savings account by about \$100 a year if he opts out of the city's health insurance program.

Mr. McIntyre's annual \$199,000 salary will not change, according to the staff report, and the approved changes won't increase Menlo Park's contribution to the state retirement system on his behalf.

— Sandy Brundage



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Calendar

MEETINGS, MUSIC, THEATER, FAMILY ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Visit AlmanacNews.com/calendar to see more calendar listings

Art Galleries

'Art Meets Technology' Art Meets Technology presents work by 10 individuals whose accomplishments reside at the intersection of art, science, mathematics and technology. The exhibit draws on manuscript collections from the Stanford University Libraries. Ongoing every day through Jan. 15, 2014. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Peterson Gallery and Munger Rotunda, Green Library Bing Wing, 459 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. www.events.stanford.edu/events/391/39145/

Carrie Mae Weems Exhibit This exhibit is dedicated to contemporary artist and photographer Carrie Mae Weems. More than 100 photographs, installations and videos are on display until Jan. 5, Wednesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford.

Jim Dine and Claes Oldenburg Exhibit Jim Dine and Claes Oldenburg are two American artists who depict every day objects in various ways; 20 of their prints will be on display. Ongoing from Dec. 11 to April 27, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford. <http://events.stanford.edu/events/385/38539/>

Portola Art Gallery Group Show At Portola Art Gallery during the month of December, artists will participate in the group show, "Small Works...Great Values." Artists will showcase original works of art that are small in size but "large on value and creativity." Dec. 2-31, every day except Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Portola Art Gallery, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park. Call 650-321-0220. www.portolaartgallery.com

Classes/Workshops

'Fondue and Bubbly' Class Whole Foods Market hosts this class on fondue techniques for cheese and chocolate. Participants will also taste bubbly sparkling wines; non-alcoholic sparkling options available. Reserve a spot online. Dec. 26, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Whole Foods Market, 774 Emerson St., Palo Alto. Call 650-326-8676. www.fonduebubbly.eventbrite.com/

Beginning Clothing Construction Class Learn a new skill or update sewing skills with professional sewing teachers in this Canada College Fashion Department class. Class participants will work with knits and wovens to create a variety of garments. Open to all skill levels. Jan. 14-May 20, Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-noon. \$138 and up. Canada College, 4200 Farm Hill Blvd., Redwood City. Call 650-306-3370. www.canadacollege.edu/fashion

Foothill College Winter Quarter Registration Foothill College Winter Quarter classes will run Jan. 6-March 28. Continuing students can register Nov. 25-Jan. 5 and new/returning students, Nov. 30-Jan. 5. Review more registration dates and instructions at www.foothill.edu. No fee to apply for admission; California residents pay \$31 per unit plus basic fees. Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-949-7325. www.foothill.edu/admissions.php

Intro to Yoga Workshop This four-week workshop series, hosted by Blue Iris Studio in Palo Alto, is designed for yoga beginners or anyone wanting a step-by-step review of the basics. Jan. 6-29, Mondays and Wednesdays, 7:15-8:15 p.m. \$160. Blue Iris Studio, 3485 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. Call 650-858-1440. www.clients.mindbodyonline.com/ASP/adm/home.asp?studioid=20841

iPad Drawing Class Learn to paint, draw, sketch and animate on an iPad or mobile device in this City of Menlo Park art class. Jan. 6-March 17, Mondays, 4-5 p.m. \$130/\$174. Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, 700 Alma St., Menlo Park. Call 650-330-2200. www.egovlink.com/menlopark/rd_classes/class_categories.aspx

Persian & Central Asian Dance Class This Persian and Central Asian dance class (for ages 16+) will feature classical miniature and regional folkloric Persian dances fused with the instructor's background in yoga, flamenco, whirling and Odissi Indian styles. Jan. 6-March 29, Thursdays, 3-4 p.m. \$159 residents; \$213 non-residents; \$15 drop-in. Arrillaga Family Rec Center, 701 Laurel St., Menlo Park. Call 925-348-0026.

Sustainable Home Vegetable Gardening Learn from UCCE Master Gardeners how to establish a successful and environmentally responsible food garden that provides vegetables and herbs every month of the year. Emphasis on sustainable gardening. Meets every Tuesday from Feb. 4 to March 11, 7-9 p.m. Register online at www.paadultschool.org or by calling 650-329-3752. \$84. Palo Alto High School, 50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. www.mastergardeners.org/sc.html

Zoom In - Digital Video Workshop Zoom In is a 15-hour intensive video workshop that covers how to create a digital video, edit it, upload it to Youtube and produce a DVD. Class includes all software, equipment plus a booklet. Feb. 3-12, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$145 Mid Peninsula Media Center, 900 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-494-8686 ext. 11. www.midpenmedia.org/

Clubs/Meetings

Portola Valley Library Winter Reading Club Students in grades K-12 can join the Winter Reading Club. The rules are: finish a book, come into the Portola Valley Library and fill out a raffle card. All completed cards will be entered into a drawing to win raffle prizes. Dec. 16-Jan. 11, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. www.smcl.org

Community Events

Free First Friday Program at San Mateo County History Museum This program continues through to January 2014. Admission is free the entire day. At 11 a.m., preschool children will be invited to learn about local inventors who changed the world. They will also create robots out of cardboard. At 2 p.m., docents will lead tours of the museum for adults. Jan. 3, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. San Mateo County History Museum, 2200 Broadway St., Redwood City. Call 650-299-0104. www.historysmc.org

New Year's Eve at LB Steak LB Steak in Menlo Park will host a New Year's Eve celebration including \$71.50 four-course prix fixe menu, a la carte options, decorations, a complimentary midnight toast and party favors. Prix fixe entree choices of carnaroli risotto with perigord truffle, filet of beef "Wellington" or truffle crusted turbot. Dec. 31, 4-10 p.m. Varies. LB Steak Menlo Park, 898 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-321-8980. www.lbsteak.com

New Year's Eve at Left Bank Left Bank in Menlo Park will host a New Year's Eve celebration including a \$64.50 4-course prix fixe menu, a la carte options, decorations, complimentary midnight toast and party favors. Prix fixe entree choices of herb roasted beef sirloin medallions or salmon roulade. Regular lunch service. Dec. 31, 11:30 a.m.-11 p.m. Varies. Left Bank Brasserie, 635 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-473-6543. www.LeftBank.com

New Year's Eve at The Sea The Sea by Alexander's Steakhouse in Palo Alto celebrates New Year's Eve with a \$185 six-course prix fixe tasting menu which includes big eye tuna, wild Maine scallops, Hawaiian mero, lobster with osetra caviar, bison and milk chocolate mousse. Optional wine pairing for an additional \$85. Dec. 31, 5-9 p.m. \$185. The Sea by Alexander's Steakhouse, 4269 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. Call 650-213-1111. www.theseaUSA.com

New Years Eve at Palo Alto Grill On New Year's Eve, Palo Alto Grill will be serving holiday a la carte menu specials including beef tenderloin with lobster wellington, squash and vegetable pt pie, crispy chicken breast and waffle and a whole grilled branzino. There will also be live music and a complimentary champagne toast at midnight. Dec. 31, 5 p.m.-midnight. Cost of food. Palo Alto Grill, 140 University Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-321-3514. www.PaloAltoGrill.com

Portola Valley Farmers' Market This farmers' market at the Portola Valley Town Center features organic fruits and vegetables, local grass-fed beef, free range eggs, fair trade coffee, wild and local seafood, HOT free range rotisserie chickens, local honey, organic olive oil, gluten free baked goods, organic fruit popsicles, nuts and nut butters, pickles and jerky, artisan breads, empanadas, goat's milk chocolates, flowers,

crafts and music. The market runs Thursdays, year-round. 2-5 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Farmers' Market, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. www.portolavalleyfarmersmarket.com

The Mountain Goat Farmers' Market This farmers' market features organic fruits and vegetables, wild and local seafood, free range eggs, jam, local honey, freshly baked focaccia, fair trade coffee, goat's milk chocolates, nuts and nut butters, gluten-free focaccia and baked goods. It takes place in front of the Skywood Trading Post and Penelope's Den, across from Alice's Restaurant and runs on Wednesdays until Dec. 18, when it closes for the winter. 2-6 p.m. Free. The Mountain Goat Farmers' Market, 17285 Skyline Blvd., Woodside. www.mountaingoatfarmersmarket.com

Kids & Families

Annual LEGO Holiday Extravaganza See a variety of LEGO creations made by members of Bay Area LEGO User Group and Bay Area LEGO Train Club, featuring train layouts, Bay Area landmarks, castles, miniature cities, and more. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times in the exhibit. Open Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays from Dec. 13 to Jan. 19. 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. \$2 per person; BayLUG and MOAH members are free. Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. www.moah.org

Atherton Library: Toddler Dance Party Join children's musician Pam Donkin in "A Hop, Skip and a Jump," a toddler dance party for ages 18 months and up. Jan. 7, 10:30-11 a.m. Free. Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 650-328-2422. www.smcl.org

Cheeky Monkey Toy Store Event This Menlo Park toy store will mark the arrival of 2014 with crafts, activities and a balloon drop at noon. Dec. 31, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Cheeky

Monkey Toys, 640 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-328-7975. www.cheekymonkeytoys.com

Film

'Flesh and Metal' on Film A variety of films by or about artists featured in the Cantor Art Center exhibit "Flesh and Metal: Body and Machine in Early 20th-Century Art" will run continuously concurrent with the exhibition. Ongoing every day from Nov. until March 16. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays. Wed.-Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Thursdays until 8 p.m. Free. Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Center for Visual Arts, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford. www.events.stanford.edu/events/397/39751/

On Stage

'It's A Wonderful Life' Inspired by the classic American film, this story is performed as a 1940s live radio broadcast in front of a studio audience. Five Broadway By the Bay actors perform the dozens of characters in the radio play as well as produce the sound effects. Dec. 29, 2 p.m. \$25-\$45. Fox Theatre, 2215 Broadway St., Redwood City. www.foxrwc.com

Seniors

29th Annual New Year's Eve Day Bash The Oshman Family JCC hosts a New Year's Eve Day event, with a buffet lunch, ballroom dancing, raffle prizes and a special champagne toast to the New Year. Dec. 31, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. \$15 in advance; \$18 at the door. Oshman Family Jewish Community Center, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Call 650-387-7048. www.cityofpaloalto.org

Special Events

Christmas Dining at Four Seasons Hotel Quattro at the Four Seasons in East Palo

Alto will serve a three-course Christmas Eve dinner from 5:30 to 10 p.m. and a four-course prix fixe menu from noon to 8 p.m. on Christmas. Dec. 24-25, \$79-\$89; children under 12, \$21. Four Seasons Hotel Silicon Valley, 2050 University Ave., East Palo Alto. Call 650-566-1200. www.fourseasons.com/siliconvalley/

New Years Eve at Four Seasons Hotel Quattro at the Four Seasons in East Palo Alto will serve a New Year's Eve dinner. Two seatings will be offered - 6 p.m. for \$90 per guest and 9 p.m. for \$119 per guest (which also includes after party and midnight toast). Dec. 31, 6 p.m.-midnight. \$90-119. Quattro Restaurant at Four Seasons Hotel, 2050 University Ave., East Palo Alto. Call 650-470-2889. www.quattrorestaurant.com

Lectures & Talks

'What Matters to Me & Why': Yvonne Maldonado Yvonne A. Maldonado, MD, professor in the Departments of Pediatrics and Health Research and Policy, and chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases at Stanford University School of Medicine, will speak as part of "What Matters to Me and Why," a Stanford Office of Religious Life program. Jan. 8, Noon-1 p.m. Free. Old Union, 520 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. Call 650-723-1762. www.events.stanford.edu/events/407/40771/

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The Almanac, established in October 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 December 21, 1969. ©2013 by Embarcadero Media Company. All rights reserved.

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



WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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

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

Call the Viewpoint desk at 223-6507.

Viewpoint

IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES FROM PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY. EDITED BY TOM GIBBONEY

Permanent solution needed for noisy planes

Surely there is a way for the Federal Aviation Administration to address the sea-change in noise impact caused by a small airline's eight flights per day over North Fair Oaks and Atherton into the San Carlos Airport.

This small, public-use airport has traditionally served privately owned recreational aircraft, but now is hosting a small airline called Surf Air, which flies noisy, single-engine turboprops eight times a day on a northbound incoming route that often follows Middlefield Road on final approach. Homeowners along the route say they never experienced any noise impact before, but now can't hear themselves think when a Surf Air plane is descending into San Carlos. They are livid and have rightly been taking their concerns to the Atherton City Council, the owners of Surf Air, San Carlos Airport officials and anyone else who will listen.

The problem is that when the Surf Air planes line up at 2,000 feet over Palo Alto, their noisy northbound descent reverberates on either side of Middlefield Road. The lower the aircraft fly, the more noise impact that is felt over a wide swath of homes below. Residents also are quick to point out that there are numerous local schools along the route, including Menlo-Atherton High, Encinal elementary, Summit Preparatory and Taft School, near Bay Road.

Some strategies to try to mitigate the noise have been put in place. For example, Surf Air representatives and the FAA agreed that whenever possible, the planes would use a visual flight approach into San Carlos on a route east of Middlefield Road, which will move most of the noise over some other neighborhoods and uninhabited

areas or the Bayshore Freeway. At a Dec. 9 meeting with Atherton officials and some 75 neighbors, Surf Air representatives said its pilots were instructed "not to fly over the same house in the same day," when possible. These are steps in the right direction, although weather conditions must be right for pilots to descend using the visual flight approach.

By all reports, Surf Air is an innovative start-up airline that in particular appeals to business travelers who fly frequently to other California cities. Rather than a ticket for every flight, fliers purchase an "all-you-can-fly" membership. And boarding is simple, with no security checks or baggage fees. For the right type of passenger, Surf Air is a perfect way to reach Santa Barbara, Burbank and other Southern California cities.

But while Surf Air is a way for some travelers to avoid the challenges of flying out of San

Francisco, Oakland or San Jose, the airline should not be permitted to do so while damaging the quality of life of those beneath its glide-path into San Carlos Airport. And a solution is even more important since Surf Air has announced that it soon may double the number of flights per day. We wonder if the airline ever considered other nearby airports, like Palo Alto, for example?

When the San Carlos Airport was built, it was not surrounded by residential development. And even today, residents say prior to Surf Air's arrival, there was rarely, if ever, concerns about noisy traffic. But Surf Air changed all that. We hope the airline and the FAA will hear the neighbors' concerns and approve a permanent remedy that will move Surf Air planes east of Middlefield Road for good.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS

Our readers write

A tribute to Ted Driscoll

Editor:

Ted Driscoll stepped down from the Portola Valley Town Council Dec. 11 after five terms of office and five stints as mayor — an unprecedented 20 years of service to our town government. I sat on the Town Council alongside Ted for eight of those 20 years, and I have deep admiration for his tireless devotion to every facet of our community life.

Over the past two decades Ted has been a steadfast guardian of all that's best about Portola Valley — fiscal responsibility, protection of the environment, and citizen engagement in public affairs. He brought a brilliant, creative mind to bear on all the issues facing the town. No problem was too small for Ted's attention, right down to squabbles between neighbors.

Ted played a pivotal role in the redevelopment of the Portola Valley Town Center, which was completed on time and under budget in 2008. Over the past 20 years he attended untold numbers of citizen committee meetings,



Atherton Heritage Association

Our Regional Heritage

Elmwood, the 22-acre estate of Silas and Olive Holbrook Palmer, is surrounded by foliage in this 1881 photo. The Holbrook Palmers lived in the home until it burned down in 1958, the same year Olive died. Although the property had been bequeathed to the Town of Atherton, Silas immediately replaced Elmwood with a one-story home on the original foundation and continued to spend his summers there until his death in 1963.

always helping shape discussions in constructive ways.

Behind the scenes he defused innumerable conflicts among residents with his quiet diplomacy. In Town Council meetings, he constantly sought to understand the perspectives of residents, even those whose

attitudes were hostile and who were sometimes misinformed on the facts. Never once did he lose his composure from the dais.

Ted once told me that his volunteer service on the Town Council stemmed from a desire to set an example for

his children — to give back to a community that had given his family so much. He has left a profound mark on Portola Valley, and we are all the richer for his service.

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— Roger Smith

The idea of moving from a long-time home is daunting at best, and may even seem impossible. There are so many things to think about:

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- How will I get my house repaired and ready for sale?
- How will I finance work that needs to be done?
- How will I find responsible, affordable contractors, plumbers, electricians, etc. to do the necessary work?
- How do I price my house to get the most money?
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Helping seniors successfully move from their longtime homes is Chris Iverson’s specialty. He knows the unique challenges—physical, emotional, and financial—of these types of moves, and has helped many seniors manage these issues and sell their houses in record times for prices far above what they expected.

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— Karen Olson

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INDEX

- **BULLETIN BOARD**
100-199
- **FOR SALE**
200-299
- **KIDS STUFF**
330-399
- **MIND & BODY**
400-499
- **JOBS**
500-599
- **BUSINESS SERVICES**
600-699
- **HOME SERVICES**
700-799
- **FOR RENT/
FOR SALE
REAL ESTATE**
800-899
- **PUBLIC/LEGAL
NOTICES**
995-997

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Los Altos Hills, 1 BR/1 BA - \$925

825 Homes/Condos for Sale

Central Woodside: 4BR/4BA
2 car. Updated 6 Stall Barn.
Offered at \$4,950,000.
Email timckeeagan@sbcglobal.net
Phone: 650-208-0664

Menlo Park, 3 BR/2 BA - \$1099000

Mountain View, 3 BR/2 BA - \$149000

Palo Alto, 3 BR/2 BA - \$899000

Sunnyvale, 3 BR/2 BA - \$599999

855 Real Estate Services

All Areas: Roommates.com
Browse hundreds of online listings with photos and maps. Find your roommate with a click of the mouse! Visit: <http://www.Roommates.com>. (AAN CAN)

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

GRANDVIEW/ESPINOSA ROAD COMMITTEE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 258568

The following Person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Grandview/Espinosa Road Committee, located at 205 Grandview Drive, Woodside, CA 94062-4803, San Mateo County.
Is (Are) hereby registered by the following owner(s):
GORDON VON RICHTER
138 Grandview Drive
Woodside, CA 94062-4803
LINDA SCHWEIZER
205 Grandview Drive
Woodside, CA 94062-4803
TIMOTHY A. JOHNSON JR.
895 Espinosa Road
Woodside, CA 94062-4803
LOUISE ADDIS
145 Grandview Drive
Woodside, CA 94062-4803
JOSEPH ANDROLOWICZ
111 Grandview Drive
Woodside, CA 94062-4803
ROBERT COCHRAN
320 Grandview Drive
Woodside, CA 94062-4803
KEITH DEN BESTEN
810 Espinosa Road
Woodside, CA 94062-4803

This business is conducted by:
Unincorporated Associates.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 04/30/2010.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 19, 2013.
(ALM Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2013)

TODAM TOFU HOUSE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 258605
The following Person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Todam Tofu House, located at 260 El Camino Real, San Bruno, CA 94066, San Mateo County.
Is (Are) hereby registered by the following owner(s):
MINYU KIM
954 Henderson Ave.
Sunnyvale, CA 94086

This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 11/20/2013.

PAUL'S BREAD
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 258871
The following Person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Paul's Bread, located at 429 Concord Dr., Menlo Park, CA 94025-2905, San Mateo County.
Is (Are) hereby registered by the following owner(s):
DECKCHAIR SOFTWARE LLC
429 Concord Dr.
Menlo Park, CA 94025-2905

This business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 11/01/2013.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 5, 2013.
(ALM Dec. 18, 25, 2013, Jan. 1, 8, 2014)

BUDDY'S DOG BOARDING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 258751
The following Person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Buddy's Dog Boarding, located at 145 Phillip Road, Woodside, CA 94062, San Mateo County.
Is (Are) hereby registered by the following owner(s):
SHAE LOVAZZANO
145 Phillip Road
Woodside, CA 94062

This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 09/27/2013.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 6, 2013.
(ALM Dec. 11, 18, 25, 2013, Jan. 1, 2014)

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 21, 2013.
(ALM Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2013)

MEDICAL AESTHETICS OF MENLO PARK
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 258491
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Medical Aesthetics of Menlo Park, located at 885 Oak Grove Ave., Suite 101, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
NIKKI MARTIN M.D. INC.
100 Irish Ridge Rd.
HalfMoon Bay, CA 94019
California
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact 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 13, 2013.
(ALM Dec. 11, 18, 25, 2013, Jan. 1, 2014)

FENZI DOG TRAINING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 258780
The following Person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Fenzi Dog Training, located at 937 Canada Road, Woodside, CA 94062, San Mateo County.
Is (Are) hereby registered by the following owner(s):
CAMILLO FENZI
937 Canada Road
Woodside, CA 94062
DENISE FENZI
937 Canada Road
Woodside, CA 94062

This business is conducted by: Married Couple.
The registrant commenced to transact 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 6, 2013.
(ALM Dec. 11, 18, 25, 2013, Jan. 1, 2014)

TOP MOVE MGMT
TOP M MOVES
TOP MOVE MANAGEMENT
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 258620
The following Person(s) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Top Move Mgmt, 2.) Top M Moves, 3.) Top Move Management, located at 240 Sand Hill Circle, Menlo Park, CA 94025-7105, San Mateo County.
Is (Are) hereby registered by the following owner(s):
T.O.P. MOVE MANAGEMENT, LLC
240 Sand Hill Circle
Menlo Park, CA 94025-7105

This business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 09/27/2013.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 22, 2013.
(ALM Dec. 18, 25, 2013, Jan. 1, 8, 2014)

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Is (Are) hereby registered by the following owner(s):
SHAE LOVAZZANO
145 Phillip Road
Woodside, CA 94062

This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 11/01/2013.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 5, 2013.
(ALM Dec. 18, 25, 2013, Jan. 1, 8, 2014)

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The following Person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Paul's Bread, located at 429 Concord Dr., Menlo Park, CA 94025-2905, San Mateo County.
Is (Are) hereby registered by the following owner(s):
DECKCHAIR SOFTWARE LLC
429 Concord Dr.
Menlo Park, CA 94025-2905

This business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company.
The registrant commenced to transact 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 12, 2013.
(ALM Dec. 18, 25, 2013, Jan. 1, 8, 2014)

MI PUEBLITO RESTUARANT AND BAKERY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 258895
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Mi Pueblito Restuarant and Bakery, located at 2150 University Av., E. Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
MARIBEL TINOCO
2136 Lincon Av.
E. Palo Alto, CA 94303

This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact 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 16, 2013.
(ALM Dec. 25, 2013, Jan. 1, 8, 15, 2014)

BAY AREA PARTY SUPPLY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 258896
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Bay Area Party Supply, located at 2154 University St., E. Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
MARIA MANDUJANO
208 Winslow St.
Redwood City, CA 94063

This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact 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 16, 2013.
(ALM Dec. 25, 2013, Jan. 1, 8, 15, 2014)

ELIZABETH CLISSOLD BOLTEN to MOLLY ELIZABETH BOLTEN.
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 3, 2014,

9:00 a.m., Dept.: P.J. of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.
A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: THE ALMANAC
Date: November 26, 2013
/s/ Robert D. Foiles
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Dec. 11, 18, 25, 2013, Jan. 1, 2014)

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF LAWRENCE GAYLORD ELLIOTT, AKA LARRY G. ELLIOTT
CASE NO. 123969
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: Lawrence Gaylord Elliott, aka Larry G. Elliott
A Petition for Probate has been filed by Jok Legallet in the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo.
The Petition for Probate requests that Jok Legallet be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
The Petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.
The Petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A hearing on the petition will be held in this court on Jan 13, 2014 at 9 AM in Dept. 28 located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063-1655.
If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.
Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
Petitioner/Attorney for Petitioner: James E Reed, 3433 Golden Gate Way, Suite C, Lafayette, CA 94549, Telephone: (925) 299-7893
12/18, 12/25, 1/1/14
CNS-2567104#
THE ALMANAC

NOTICE OF HEARING: January 3, 2014,

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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.
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IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION
Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua potable.
Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.
Dear water user,
The Skylonda Mutual Water System has been cited by the California Department of Public Health for distributing water containing quantities of Barium above the Maximum Contaminant Level of 1 mg/L (one part per million.) NOTE: the EPA (national) standard for Barium is 2 mg/L.
The September 23, 2013, and the October 14, 2013 monthly Barium monitoring results for the surface water treatment plant effluent were 1.3 mg/L and 1.2 mg/L, respectively. Water in our reservoir (the Lake), and water coming from Well #6, also contain more Barium than the MCL allows.
What should I do?
***You do not need to use an alternative water supply (e.g., bottled water).**
*This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years may experience an increase in blood pressure.
*If you have other health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor. More information on the effects of Barium in drinking water can be found at the US EPA web site: <http://water.epa.gov/drink/contaminants/basicinformation/barium.cfm>.
The primary source of Barium in our water is Well #6, which is our best producing source of water. Due to the dry conditions, we are currently unable to dilute this water with water from La Honda Creek.
We are presently seeking quotes from engineers to investigate ways for us to remove the Barium from our water, and discussing other potential mitigations. If you have tenants, please inform them of this.
With further questions please contact: Jim Smith, SMWS Board President, 851-1358.
Cliff Hudson, SMWS Board Vice President, 851-2192.
Terry Adams, Chief Water Operator, (650) 704-4009.
Karen Nishimoto, CDPH, (510) 620-3461.
(Alm Dec. 25, 2013)

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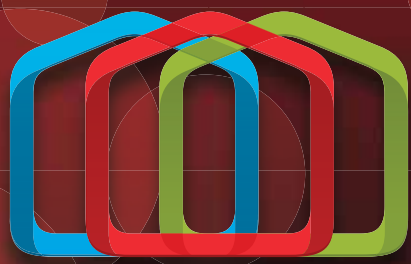
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*Happy Holidays
from DeLeon Realty*

Wishing you and your family a wonderful 2014



deleon

www.deleonrealty.com

650.543.8500