

# The Almanac

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

DECEMBER 23, 2015 | VOL. 51 NO. 16

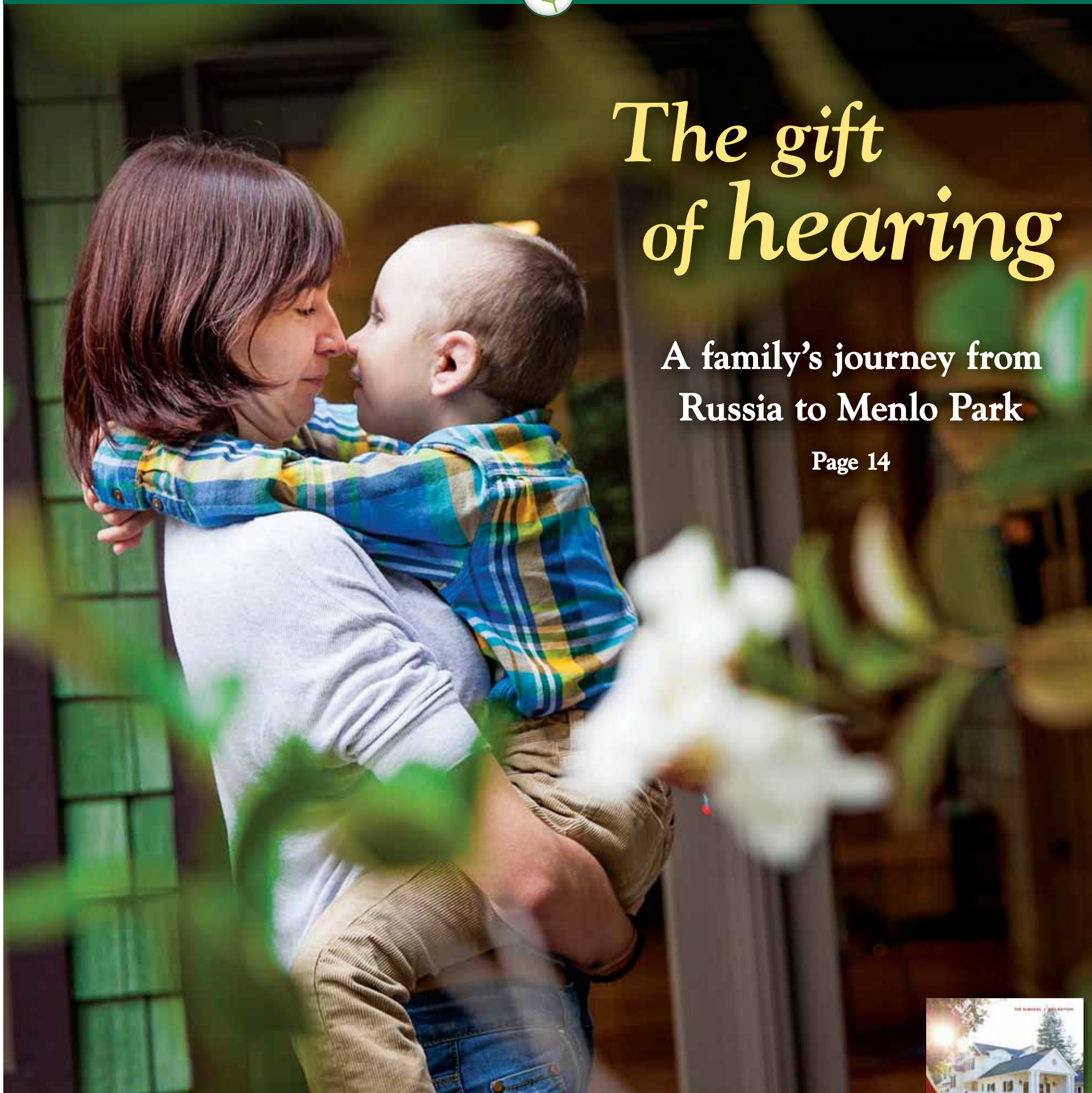


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## *The gift of hearing*

A family's journey from  
Russia to Menlo Park

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**Our Neighborhoods**





# Happy Holidays



*from all of us at*

The Almanac

Palo Alto  
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VOICE

2015



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

**Leah, 7, meets Santa** (George Edwards) at the Woodside fire station during an annual holiday open house on Dec. 16. Families were encouraged to bring new unwrapped toys for the Toys for Tots program.

## Firefighters, cops deliver thousands of toys to kids

By **Kate Daly**  
Special to the Almanac

Christmas came early this year for hundreds of local children, thanks to the efforts of a large group of volunteers involved with the Redwood City/San Mateo County Toy and Book Drive.

In fact, Santa arrived so early on his toy delivery route one night last week on Third Avenue in Redwood City, he experienced a couple of near misses.

On his first stop, Santa (aka Woodside Fire Protection District firefighter/paramedic Hansen Perkins) had to wait for a 9-year-old boy to get home from class. The boy bounded up the steps of his home to receive a bag filled with five wrapped items including a book, a stuffed animal and other toys, and then paused long enough to pose for a picture with

Santa next to the family's Christmas tree.

Santa then jumped back on the fire engine with fellow firefighter/paramedics Justin Werle and Michael Lambrechts, and Mr. Lambrechts' wife, Stefanie, to drive down the street to another home.

Next, Santa grabbed a bag filled with gifts for two girls, ages 11 and 6, rang the doorbell and belated, "Ho, ho, ho!"

This time the grandmother answered the door, explaining that the girls were at church. Santa handed over the goods, said farewell in Spanish, then took off to visit some apartments on Oakside Avenue, with impromptu stops to hand out candy canes and stocking stuffers to people along the way.

Mr. Perkins had been on the job with the Woodside fire district for less than a week when he was

asked to put on the big red suit. He received a little coaching and lots of encouragement from his more seasoned coworkers who, too, have played Santa on toy deliveries in years past.

"Our ambulance services this area quite a bit," Mr. Werle says. "It's our way of giving back, a part of the fire department tradition."

For Battalion Chief Emil Picchi, that tradition goes back 10 years ago to when he started bringing his wife, Danielle, and kids to what's called the wrapping party.

Toys and books are collected in bins placed at various locations around San Mateo County and then stored in a Redwood City warehouse for free, courtesy of Alyn Beals with commercial contractor Beals Martin.

Toys are sorted into piles to match them with recipients,

See **FIREFIIGHTERS** page 7


## William Robert "Bob" Shaw

November 16, 1918 - December 2, 2015

Bob Shaw passed away on December 2, 2015 after a courageous struggle with lung cancer and advanced Parkinson's disease. His family was at his side during his final days at the VA Hospital Hospice unit in Palo Alto. Bob was born and raised in Boise, Idaho. He is survived by his wife, Kathie; daughter Teresa Crisp (Rick); son, Steve Shaw (Debby); and granddaughter, Juliann Crisp.



In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research. Please visit [skylawnmemorialpark.com](http://skylawnmemorialpark.com) for more information.

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THE ALMANAC (ISSN 1097-3095 and USPS 459370) is published every Wednesday by Embarcadero Media, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Periodicals Postage Paid at Menlo Park, CA and at additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation for San Mateo County, The Almanac is delivered free to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside. Subscriptions for \$60 per year or \$100 per 2 years are welcome. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Copyright ©2014 by Embarcadero Media, All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Photo courtesy Portola Valley School District

**A spiral staircase** leading from one floor to another in the Museum of Tolerance has photos of victims of the Holocaust on some of its walls.

## Portola Valley School District sends 33 to visit Museum of Tolerance

By **Barbara Wood**  
Almanac Staff Writer

Current events provided a poignant backdrop to a recent visit to the Los Angeles Museum of Tolerance by 33 teachers, administrators, board members, parents and classroom aides from the Portola Valley School District that took place just two days after the Nov. 13 terrorist attacks in Paris.

“It seems intolerance is growing at a higher rate than tolerance right now,” said Wayne Rickert, a third-grade teacher at Ormondale who went on the two-day trip. “It’s very timely to think about,” he said, “it’s a never ending process.”

The museum’s exhibits about topics such as the Holocaust and the civil rights movement were “a lot about perspective-taking,”

said Mr. Rickert.

The museum, a project of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, has the goal of promoting tolerance and understanding. Mr. Wiesenthal was a concentration camp survivor famous for hunting down Nazis.

“Our programs challenge participants to question their own assumptions, raise self-awareness and present fresh perspectives to redefine personal responsibility and taking action,” the museum’s website says.

Ormondale Principal Kevin Keegan also made the trip, which was paid for by a grant through the museum. The experience, he said, was “just super powerful and exciting.”

The fact that such a wide array of people from the district were able to attend, he said, was a chance “to bring this

broad community to a common theme.”

“Very rarely do we all get together around anything,” he said.

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**‘It seems intolerance is growing at a higher rate than tolerance right now.’**

WAYNE RICKERT,  
ORMONDALE TEACHER

Principal Keegan said the district wanted “a cross section of our community ... so we had everybody’s voice.”

Corte Madera Principal Cyndi Maijala said even a two-school district can be fragmented. “There’s a need to come together from time to time and calibrate

and test your assumptions ... and trust,” she said.

Corte Madera music and theater teacher Juliet Green said it worked. The trip “made you feel like you were all working toward a common goal,” she said. Now, she said, “I feel like I’m looking at everything through a different lens.”

Interim district superintendent Eric Hartwig said the visit “was a huge reminder of all the different shapes intolerance takes and how subtle they are.”

“We already believe in tolerance,” he said. However, the museum gave the participants a chance to “turn that into a message that will stick and resonate and change people’s lives.”

Parent Paris Hill, whose eighth-grade daughter is a Tinsley transfer student, said the trip “forced us to look at our

biases.” Facilitated discussions allowed “people to be vulnerable with each other,” and to discuss “how we can move forward and what we can do,” she said. “We all have to partner together and work together” to teach the district’s children, she said.

“Having a place to have open and real dialogue is important,” she said.

“What I learned is not to judge,” she said, and to “step back.” “You have to do more research ... to really find out the facts and the details.” For instance, she said, at the museum she learned that Hitler was originally elected by Germans, something she had not known.

Principal Keegan said the experience “made me pay way

*Continued on next page*

# A visit to Museum of Tolerance

Continued from previous page

more attention to what's going on in America and the world." In the past, he said, "people stood by."

Not standing by is important, Mr. Rickert said. "I remember as a child being told, stay out of trouble," he said, "for example, to just step away if he saw someone being bullied." He learned at the museum, however, that to see something and do nothing is to condone it.

Corte Madera Principal Cyndi Maijala said the spiral staircase leading from one level of the museum to another with photos and stories of Holocaust victims taught her to "never turn your head." "How many times do we turn our heads?" she asked.

Superintendent Hartwig agreed. "Somebody makes a slur and we ignore it rather than step up and correct it."

Principal Maijala said she also learned a lot in the museum's media room, where messages from a wide array of media were presented. "We tend to listen to people who are like-minded and have similar views," instead of those "who have a broader view," she said. Doing that "doesn't challenge our thinking," she said.

Superintendent Hartwig said seeing all the messages going out made him aware that "many of them are of intolerance."

Mr. Rickert said the experience "also made you look at your perspective of privilege." An example, he said, was when a museum docent told them about a hate crime in which Hispanic men were lured into a warehouse and beaten. White residents said they could not understand how such a thing could happen in their area, while Hispanics said they could not understand how others did not know such things were going on.

Principal Keegan said after



Photo courtesy Portola Valley School District

**The 33 teachers**, administrators, board members, parents and classroom aides from the Portola Valley School District who visited the Museum of Tolerance in November had a chance to listen to a concentration camp survivor tell about his life.

returning from the visit he found himself being sure to stop to listen to a student who wanted his attention, remembering that he had learned at the museum that children "need accountable relationships."

Children need to have teachers, coaches, scout leaders and other adults who make time for them, but sometimes those adults are so busy "you don't give them your whole attention," he said. "When the opportunity

is there, just slow down and be present for any kid," he said.

The group had a chance to listen to a 92-year-old Holocaust survivor, who made a strong impression on Ms. Hill. The man told about how, having survived a concentration camp, he had ended up in the United States at age 22 without skills or any English. "He didn't have any hatred, or bitterness," she said. "He was saying you have to live your life to the fullest

and live your life every day," she said.

Principal Maijala was also impressed. "He made that conscious effort to surround himself with positive people," she said, "so he could avoid bitterness and conquer fear."

Principal Keegan said listening to the stories of others is important. "If you take the time to listen to someone's story, they're connected to you," he said.

The participants in the trip will be meeting to try to figure out "how do we carry the message and the energy" from the visit forward, Superintendent Hartwig said.

Las Lomas Elementary School District has also sent groups to visit the Museum of Tolerance several times.

MuseumofTolerance.com, the museum's website, has more information about its programs and exhibits. ▀

## Holiday hours for local public facilities

Local town halls and other public facilities will have special hours and be closed a number of days during the holiday period.

### Menlo Park

Menlo Park's city hall operations and public works department will be closed from Wednesday, Dec. 23, through Sunday, Jan. 3.

The Arrillaga Family Recreation Center will be closed Thursday, Dec. 24 through Sunday, Jan. 3.

The Arrillaga Family Gymna-

sium will be closed Dec. 24-27 with limited hours the following week, including early closures Dec. 23, 28, 30, and 31 at 3 p.m.

Classes at the gymnastics center ended Friday, Dec. 18, and will resume Monday, Jan. 4, with the exception of several classes that will have make-up sessions.

The Menlo Park main library will close at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 23, remain closed Dec. 24 and 25, and reopen Saturday, Dec. 26, at 10 a.m. It will close again for the holidays at 5 p.m. on Dec. 31, remain closed Jan. 1,

and then reopen Saturday Jan. 2 at 10 a.m.

The Belle Haven Library will be closed Dec. 24, 25 and Jan. 1 and the Belle Haven Child Development Center will be closed Dec. 23-25 and Dec. 31-Jan. 1.

### Atherton

Atherton's administrative offices will be closed from Dec. 24 until they reopen Monday, Jan. 4, but police services and emergency public works activities will remain in operation.

The building department will conduct pre-scheduled critical inspections, but offices will be closed. Construction activity is allowed Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., except on holidays.

The Atherton Library closes at 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve and is closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

### Portola Valley

Portola Valley Town Hall at 765 Portola Road will close for the holiday at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 23, and reopen at 8 a.m. Monday, Jan. 4.

The public soccer and baseball fields in Portola Valley have been closed since Nov. 23 and will remain closed until Feb. 15 for maintenance. Anyone with questions should contact Public Works Director Howard Young at [hyoung@portolavalley.net](mailto:hyoung@portolavalley.net).

In equestrian-related news, the Larry Lane Trail and Portola Valley Ranch trails in Portola Valley are closed to horse traffic for the winter.

### Woodside

Town Hall in Woodside will close at noon on Wednesday, Dec. 23, and reopen at 8 a.m. Monday, Jan. 4, 2016.



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

**Wyatt**, 5, sits in the driver's seat as kids take a tour of the truck during the annual holiday open house at the Woodside fire station on Dec. 16. The event was also an opportunity to donate toys for the Toys for Tots program.

## Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24

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## Christmas Day

Friday, December 25

10:00 am

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# Firefighters, cops deliver toys

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mostly families that have been screened by social workers at the Fair Oaks Community Center, run by Redwood City. Teri Chin, the city's human services manager, estimates that close to 11,000 toys were processed this year for about 700 families.

The toys are taken by the truckload to Red Morton Community Center, where hundreds of volunteers wrap them.

On Dec. 14, volunteers, including Boy Scouts and Sequoia High School Upward Bound students, shared tables, tape and scissors with veterans such as the Picchis, who brought their teenager Michael and his Scottish soccer

coach to help wrap.

On the other side of the cavernous room, Capt. Marshall Hird of the Woodside fire district, attended the wrapping party for the first time with his wife, Monica, sons Cooper and Parker, and two neighbors.

Parker admitted liking a football he giftwrapped, but sounded more excited about the possibility of accompanying his father on the toy deliveries.

Capt. Hird, who has done deliveries for four years, likes being a driver. Chief Picchi has a longer track record and feels fine about driving or being Santa. Either way he usually brings his family along and finds the take away is "they get to appreciate what they have."

Sgt. Dan Smith of the Redwood City Police Department has been helping run the program for 18 years. It's a big job to coordinate all the participants from the many agencies involved, including the Redwood City and San Carlos' fire departments, Woodside fire district, and San Mateo County Sheriff's Office. Sgt. Smith acts as a dispatcher, sending the participants out in their official vehicles on three nights.

The officers and firefighters do the deliveries in uniform, but are off-duty, said Sgt. Smith.

"We usually see each other on calls, and in bad situations," Sgt. Smith said. "This allows us to get tighter for a common good. Everyone benefits." ▀

# Peninsula Clean Energy a step closer to reality

By Barbara Wood

Almanac Staff Writer

## ATHERTON

The effort to bring clean energy to San Mateo County moved a little closer to reality on Wednesday night when the Atherton City Council cast the first vote needed to join the Peninsula Clean Energy joint powers authority, which will offer electric energy from renewable resources to customers in member communities.

"It's an opportunity for us to be part of something that will

save our environment," said Mayor Elizabeth Lewis.


"It's a great program and we're really excited about it," said council member Bill Widmer. The vote was unanimous.

When it meets in January, Atherton's council will vote on final adoption of the ordinance that would make the town a member of the Peninsula Clean Energy joint powers authority. Other local communities, including Menlo Park, Por-

tola Valley and Woodside, have indicated interest in joining the group.

Peninsula Clean Energy will buy power from renewable resources that will be delivered and billed for by Pacific Gas & Electric. Details of what plans will be offered will be determined later. Customers will be able to opt out of the plan and remain with PG&E. They will probably be able to choose to pay slightly more to get a higher percentage — or all — of their electric energy from renewable resources.

Joining the group should help local communities meet state mandates to lower their greenhouse gas emissions. ▀



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# Town clerk retires after 27 years in Town Hall

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

At the very least, for Woodside Town Clerk Janet Koelsch, she no longer faces hours in front of a keyboard, cassette recorder at her side, to fashion official minutes for Town Council meetings. She is retiring on Dec. 18 after 27 years in Town Hall, with 18 of those years as town clerk, a keeper of the town's records.

Her signature as town clerk first appears on minutes from a council meeting in September 1997, when she was promoted from clerk of the Planning Commission by then-town-manager Susan George. "I thought it would really be exciting and rewarding to be the town clerk in my own town," Ms. Koelsch said.

Ms. Koelsch has composed proclamations and signed checks. In addition to preparing meeting minutes, she has been a resource on election law, new legislation, record retrieval, and implementing the Brown Act, a state law that oversees transparency in government. She attended yearly conferences to keep up to date.

After some 430 council meetings since her first meeting in 1997, Ms. Koelsch has officiated for the last time.

She was "instrumental in all that we do at Town Hall and making sure that we do it right," said Town Manager Kevin Bryant. She has been, he added, "the heart, soul, and conscience of the Town Hall staff."

If there are signs of meticulous attention to the preparation of documents for Woodside council meetings, and to capturing a meeting's tone and substance for the record, it is due to the efforts of Ms. Koelsch.

"I can usually see the urgency or the passion that (people) put in their comments," she said in an interview in her office.



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

**Janet Koelsch** is retiring after 27 in Woodside Town Hall, including 18 years as town clerk.

She nodded toward a set of file cabinets in her office. Inside are copies of minutes, ordinances and resolutions since 1956, she said. Town records are also electronically archived. "It was costly at the time, but it's paid for itself many times over," she said.

Ms. George, reached via email, said Ms. Koelsch was the obvious choice when the

clerk's position opened up in 1997. "As a resident of the Town and long-time Town employee, her knowledge about the Town and the Townspeople was unsurpassed and her integrity, work ethic, and people skills were superlative. I didn't need to ponder the decision," she said.

At the time, and for 38 years, Ms. Koelsch lived in Woodside with her husband. The couple

had three children, one of whom was born in Puerto Rico, where they lived for three years, Ms. Koelsch said. They moved to San Jose in 2008.

"The traffic just gets worse and worse and worse," she said of her commute. "I love this job. It's really great, (but) it's time for me to retire. ... It's going to be fun. I can go to the library on Wednesday at noon time, that kind of stuff."

She was a founder of the Woodside Parent Nursery School, past president of the school PTA, and a board member of the Woodside Elemen-

tary School foundation and of the National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy.

Ms. Koelsch is part of an extended family of 16, with eight grandchildren on the Peninsula. When a significant birthday comes along, they all make their way to some interesting place — Havana on one occasion, Cape Cod on another, she said — and celebrate.

When people come in Town Hall clearly frustrated with government, Ms. Koelsch has a simple approach. "You really just can't take any of that personally," she said. ■

**'She was instrumental in all that we do at Town Hall and making sure that we do it right.'**

TOWN MANAGER KEVIN BRYANT

## Home fire destroys Woodside workshop

A residential fire at 275 Olive Hill Lane in Woodside on Dec. 17 destroyed a workshop and the tools and materials inside, but firefighters prevented damage to a barn attached to the shop, according to Fire Chief Dan Ghorso of the Woodside Fire Protection District.

Firefighters are looking at a device used to melt candle wax as the ignition source, Chief Ghorso said. An investigation is underway. The resident may

have been making candles and left the device unattended for a time, the chief said. "It was definitely unintentional," he said.

No one was injured, but initial estimates are that everything in the shop, including many tools, was destroyed, the chief said. Firefighters do not yet have an estimate on damages, he said.

The fire was reported at 5 p.m. and firefighters arrived less than four and a half minutes later, the chief said. They had the fire

knocked down in 30 minutes and extinguished in 90 minutes, he said.

The one-alarm fire drew about 24 firefighters in all — from the Woodside and Menlo Park fire protection districts and from the Redwood City Fire Department, the chief said.

The threat of the incident becoming a wildfire was not an issue in that the area around the shop was not heavily vegetated, the chief said.

## Holiday train collects 2,500 toys for Salvation Army, Toys for Tots

The Caltrain Holiday Train, which runs along the Peninsula in early December and is organized by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, collected more than 2,500 toys for Bay Area children this year.

Since the first Holiday Train in 2001, more than 50,000 toys have been collected and donated to the Salvation Army and the U.S. Marine Corp Reserve's Toys for Tots program, the organizers say.

Volunteers worked every Saturday for two months decorating the train and volunteers also passed out candy canes and programs at the train stations. Local entertainers provided free entertainment at each station before the train arrived, says Caltrain spokesman Tasha Bartholomew.

# SHP falls short of its goal in state championship game

By Ed Wehde

Special to Palo Alto Online Sports

For the second time in three seasons, Sacred Heart Prep reached the state championship game.

Unfortunately for the Gators, they also came up short for the second time as Rancho Bernardo handed SHP a 35-14 loss in the CIF Division III-A state championship game at Rancho Bernardo on Saturday, Dec. 19.

"This one hurts just as much or even more than the last one," said Gators senior Andrew Daschbach, who was a starter on the SHP team that lost to Corona del Mar in the 2013 title game. "I'm just honored to get a chance to play in this game, and it's a great Rancho Bernardo team. So, a lot of respect for those guys over there. But this one hurts as much as any of them."

Despite the loss, SHP coach Pete Lavorato deemed his team's season a success.

"We won a CCS championship for the first time in Open Division III, and we beat some great teams doing that," Lavorato said. "We started the season 1-2 and came back and now we're 11-4. We won the NorCals and made it to the state championship game. There's nothing to be ashamed of."

The Gators had averaged nearly 250 yards per game on the ground this season, but the San Diego Sec-

tion Division II champion Broncos (13-2) held the SHP running game to 119 yards on 34 carries.

Junior Isoa Moimoi led the way with 59 yards on 15 carries, and senior Lapitu Mahoni ran for 35 yards on 14 rushes. Both rushed for more than 1,000 yards this season with Mahoni exceeding 1,600.

"I'll have to look at the tape," Lavorato said. "Maybe we got away from our running game a little too soon."

Lavorato credited the Broncos' defense for his team's struggles.

"The other team played really well," Lavorato said. "They were flying to the football. They were just tough. Instead of making six or seven yards, we were only making two or three yards a carry."

With their running game scuffling, the Gators were unable to sustain any long drives.

Trailing 14-0, they went 55 yards in the final 37 seconds of the second quarter and got on the board with a 21-yard TD pass from senior Mason Randall to Daschbach as time expired in the half.

SHP then received the second-half kickoff but managed only one first down before punting.

"That (touchdown) was a big play to get us momentum," Randall said. "I thought we were going to come out after halftime and roll down the field and score. It didn't work out, but credit Rancho Bernardo for battling and playing a great game."



Photo by Gigi Larson

**Sacred Heart Prep** senior Andrew Daschbach (20) finished his high school football career with seven catches for 166 yards and two touchdowns in a 35-14 loss to Rancho Bernardo in the CIF Division III-A state bowl game finale Saturday night.

After Rancho Bernardo scored to take a 21-7 lead late in the third quarter, the Gators responded with a one-play drive. Randall scrambled away from the rush and hit Daschbach, who finished with seven catches for 166 yards and two scores, for a 76-yard TD, cutting the lead to seven again.

But, SHP would get no closer as its next four drives ended with a punt, a failed fourth-down play and a pair of turnovers. Rancho Bernardo took advantage and put

the game away with two fourth-quarter touchdowns.

Randall threw for 237 yards and two scores.

"He's a great athlete. He's a great quarterback. He's a great kid," Lavorato said of his signal caller. "All of the above. He's led us to two state championship games, three CCS championships. What else can you say. The kid's great."

Rancho Bernardo's offense was led by junior running back Milan Grice, who ran for a game-high

127 yards and two touchdowns, and junior quarterback Mark Salazar, who was nearly perfect, completing 12 of 14 throws for 186 yards and two scores.

Randall was sporting a beard because he hadn't shaved since the Gators' last loss eight games ago, thinking his facial hair brought good luck.

"I brought a razor," Randall said. "I thought it was going to be a happy shave, but it's going to be a little bit of a sad shave." ▀

## Facebook, Little House give to senior center

By Kate Bradshaw

Almanac Staff Writer

Red umbrellas hung festively from the ceiling of the Menlo Park Senior Center while the girl scouts of Beechwood Elementary School sang carols at the center's annual holiday party on Dec. 15.

The umbrellas overhead hinted at the roughly 130 packages under the tree, which contained umbrellas and blankets donated by Facebook to be distributed to the visitors at the Senior Center. The contribution was estimated to be worth roughly \$2,000.

Lauren Swezey, sustainability and outreach manager at Face-

book, announced that the gifts were intended as "a small token of appreciation for having us in your neighborhood."

The donations from Facebook were not the only contributions from the community that will keep Menlo Park's senior citizens warm this winter.

Little House, Menlo Park's private senior center across town, organized a coat drive and brought about 60 coats of various sizes to the center's visitors, said Avidah Yaghmai-Samarda, recreation supervisor at the Menlo Park Senior Center. The coat drive at Little House will go through the end of the year, she said. ▀

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Rebecca D., Educator

## Train, bus holiday schedule

On Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24, Caltrain will operate a regular weekday schedule of 92 trains. SamTrans will run regular weekday service, but will not operate bus routes that primarily serve local schools.

On Christmas Day, Friday, Dec. 25, Caltrain will operate a Sunday schedule of 32 trains between San Francisco and San Jose. SamTrans will operate its regular Sunday service.

# San Mateo County has lowest unemployment rate in state

By Barbara Wood  
Almanac Staff Writer

San Mateo County has the lowest unemployment rate of any county in the state and steadily rising home prices, with property tax revenues going up in tandem, a just-released annual county financial report says.

In June, the report from Controller Juan Raigoza said, the county's unemployment rate was 3.3 percent, down from 4.2 percent a year earlier. The state unemployment rate is 6.2 percent and the national rate, 5.3 percent.

Housing prices are steadily increasing in San Mateo County, with the median single-family home price going up 12.8 percent to \$1.3 million from June 2014 to June 2015, the report says.

Commercial real estate rental prices were also up, with the average rent going up by 14.9 percent from June 2014 to June 2015 — to \$4.40 per square foot.

That translated to a \$10.5

million increase in property tax revenues for the fiscal year, the report says. The county also had a \$7.4 million increase in sales and use taxes, including \$5 million in sales taxes due to Measure A, a 10-year, additional half-cent sales tax approved by the voters in 2012 that is to fund county facilities and services.

The report says the latest figures on income in the county, which are from 2013, show that while the per capita personal income was on the rise, increasing 7.1 percent from the previous year to \$79,893, the county's estimated median family income decreased to \$88,202, a 9.7 percent decline from the previous year. The median family income has been decreasing since 2010.

This affordability index, a metric put together by the National Association of Realtors, for San Mateo County is only 13 percent. This means only 13 percent of the households in the county have the income traditionally deemed

sufficient to buy the median priced home in the county.

The Bay Area's affordability index is 20 percent. The state's is 30 percent and the nation's is 57 percent, the report says.

The report shows that the public school population of the county has grown to 95,187 in 2015, up 3.3 percent from 2014.

It also says that implemen-

tation of the Affordable Care Act in San Mateo County "has been a great success." By the end of the 2015 enrollment period, the report says, approximately 91 percent of county residents were insured, with 31,000 additional residents enrolled in Medi-Cal and 32,000 in subsidized private health insurance.

The outlook for the coming year is good, with the overall assessed value of property in the county expected to grow by 7.7 percent in the 2015-16 fiscal year, the report says. That would generate \$21.6

million in additional general fund revenue for the county.

"In the near term, the forecasted low unemployment rate, steady growth in gross domestic product, and local indicators such as growth in the technology business sector and continued growth in property tax revenues will allow the county to maintain its sound finances if prudently managed," the report says.

The county's approved budget for 2015-16 is \$2.5 billion.

Go to [tinyurl.com/2015cafr](http://tinyurl.com/2015cafr) for the entire report. ■

## Safeway: No card skimming at Menlo Park stores

By Kate Bradshaw  
Almanac Staff Writer

Safeway Inc. is denying reports that incidents of bank card skimming may have occurred at stores in Menlo Park.

Skimmers are devices on payment terminals that illegally collect data from the magnetic stripe of a debit or credit card.

KPIX-TV (Channel 5) has been reporting that Safeway is investigating card-skimming incidents in the Bay Area, cit-

ing a "Krebs on Security" blog post that says: "In California, banks there strongly suspect Safeway locations in Castro Valley and Menlo Park may also have been hit."

Safeway spokesperson Wendy Gutshall, said those reports "regarding stores in Castro Valley and Menlo Park are inaccurate."

Two skimmers were discovered at Safeway locations in Dublin and Walnut Creek in September, during routine inspections, she said, but no credit or debit card data was

compromised. "No skimmers have been discovered since that time," she said.

Nicole Acker, spokesperson for the Menlo Park Police Department, said that there have been no cases reported involving card skimmers in Menlo Park Safeway stores.

Ms. Gutshall said that Safeway customers who have concerns about the Safeway card skimming reports should review their bank activity during September and October or contact their cardholder or bank directly. ■



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# Locals make Michael Pollan documentary

By Barbara Wood  
Almanac Staff Writer

On Dec. 30, just in time for all those New Year's resolutions about eating healthier and more sanely, a documentary by Menlo Park filmmakers Michael Schwarz and Kiki Kapany about Michael Pollan's "In Defense of Food" will air on KQED, and on public television stations around the country, starting at 9 p.m.

"In Defense of Food" focuses on the simple answer author and journalist Mr. Pollan found from years of research into what exactly goes into a healthy diet.

"It's very rare in our lives where the answer to a complicated question is so simple," he says in the documentary, "but when it comes to eating it is." His simple answer: "Eat food. Not too much. Mostly plants."

PBS is urging viewers to hold "New Year's Resolution" dinner parties to watch the documentary, and on the PBS.org website offers a discussion guide, recipes and additional information.

## Working with a friend

Mr. Schwarz and Ms. Kapany, a husband and wife team who live and work in Menlo Park, previously made a documentary about Mr. Pollan's "Botany of Desire." Mr. Schwarz and Mr. Pollan have been friends since they worked together in the 1970s.

Mr. Schwarz says working with a friend has advantages. "It makes it easier," he says. "We know each other really well. I know the books and tend to know how he thinks."

Because Mr. Pollan is often involved in a new project by the time the funds have been raised to make a documentary, "he pretty much leaves us alone

to make the movie," Mr. Schwarz says. "He trusts us to be able to take the work and translate it."

While Mr. Pollan is onscreen in much of "In Defense of Food," it only took about three days to film those scenes, Mr. Schwarz says.

The two-hour documentary looks at some of the people and places Mr. Pollan visited during the course of his research, from Tanzania to Paris and around the United States, including a visit to a community of Seventh Day Adventists who have a longer average lifespan than almost any other group.

The on-site filming "is the best part of our jobs," said Mr. Schwarz. They get to meet and talk to people "who are doing things that really matter," Mr. Schwarz says, or peo-



Photo by John Chater

**Michael Pollan** says it's much better to eat real food such as fruits and vegetables than the "edible foodlike substances" found in grocery store aisles.

ple they're never otherwise come in contact with, such as members of the Hadza tribe in Tanzania, who live much as they have for centuries.

"We get to film them and ask them intimate questions," Ms. Kapany says. "They end up feeling quite close to us."

## Family business

Because the couple's two daughters, Misha and Ariana, are now young adults, they often are involved as well. Misha traveled to Africa with Mr. Schwarz and took still photos for the production.

After graduating from University of California, Los Angeles, Misha is thinking of going into the family business and trying to decide on a film school. In the meantime, she recently served as a director's assistant on "Viceroy House" in India, which she is familiar with from annual visits to relatives there.

Ariana, who graduated from the University of California, Santa Cruz, also has been involved in the family video production company, known as Kikim Media, and traveled to locations such as Brazil. She still lives in Menlo Park and is a yoga teacher. Both sisters graduated from Menlo-Atherton High School.

The family ended up in Menlo Park mostly because Ms. Kapany's parents live in Woodside. The couple had been living in Berkeley, but once they had children, "when we started thinking about schools and grandparents, the combination brought us here," Ms. Kapany

said. She grew up in Woodside and attended Castilleja School in Palo Alto.

Kikim Media got started in 1996 after Mr. Schwarz's employer, KQED, had some funding problems. Mr. Schwarz decided to try filmmaking, and fundraising, on his own; in 2016 the company will celebrate its 20th anniversary.

Kikim Media originally had offices in San Carlos, but has been in Menlo Park since the early 2000s, when the couple wanted to be more available for their daughters who were then at Hillview Middle School. Ms. Kapany cut back on her law practice and devoted more time to running Kikim. "It turns out she's much better at that than I am," Mr. Schwarz says.

## Not all glamour

While travel to places like Paris and Tanzania, or London, Spain, Brazil and Peru makes documentary making sound romantic, some aspects are a little less so, the couple says. Raising the funds to make a documentary can take as much time as making the film, they say, and they have become adept at writing grant proposals.

Their work has won numerous awards including three national Emmys, two George Foster Peabody awards, the Alfred I. DuPont-Columbia University journalism award, and the grand prize in the Robert F. Kennedy journalism awards for coverage of the disadvantaged.

Past projects Kikim Media has been involved in, in addition to "The Botany of Desire," include "Capturing Grace," about the Mark Morris Dance group working with people with Parkinson's disease; "Extreme by Design,"



Photo by Kiki Kapany

**Documentary makers** Michael Schwarz and Kiki Kapany.

about design thinking in schools; and "Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet," a biography of the Muslim prophet (which includes no images of Muhammad or those close to him).

Current projects include "The Valley," a three-hour history of Silicon Valley, and "The Ornament of the World," a two-hour history of medieval Spain.

## 'Nutritionism'

"In Defense of Food" talks about some of the aspects of the Western diet that have negatively affected the health of those who eat it. Mr. Pollan sees "nutritionism" as "the reason something as simple as eating has become so complicated," he says in the film.

Nutritionism looks at foods as their components, and not as a whole, he says, and "in nutritionism there is always a blessed nutrient and an evil nutrient." Those blessed and evil nutrients are then often advertised on the packaging of processed food and often sway consumer's choices.

An example is the low-fat craze which swept the U.S., which encouraged people to eat more

sugar instead, while obesity and diabetes steadily increased. "It's tragic," he says, "because in the process of doing this ... we may have made the public health worse."

While low-fat foods seem to have fallen out of fashion, there are still lots of pitfalls to be found in the grocery store, he says. In the film, Mr. Pollan shows a container of yogurt, which most think of as a "healthy food," which contains as much sugar as a soda. "It's really gotten treacherous out there," he says.

One consequence of Kikim's work on "In Defense of Food," Ms. Kapany says: "Our office has been eating much better since we've been working on this film." ▀

## Information

PBS.org/indenseoffood has a preview of the documentary, healthful recipes, study guides and tips for holding a viewing dinner party. A series of 10 middle school class lessons based on "In Defense of Food" are available, and screenings of the film can be arranged. Contact eatfood@kikim.com for more information.

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**Rimma Krivtsova** embraces her 5-year old son, Vanya, at their host family's home in Menlo Park. She traveled with him from Russia to California for ear reconstruction surgery at the California Ear Institute in East Palo Alto.

# The gift of hearing

*A family's journey from Russia to Menlo Park*

Story by Kate Bradshaw | Photos by Michelle Le

“Ga ga ooh la la.” Five-year old Ivan “Vanya” Priimak, sat on the floor of a Menlo Park home, glued to an iPad streaming a YouTube video of Elsa from “Frozen” dancing to Lady Gaga’s song, “Bad Romance.”

Seeing Vanya, who was born in Russia and speaks only Russian, enjoying this mashup of American culture in Menlo Park, California, was not nearly as strange as the fact that this particular kid was observed enjoying music at all.

Vanya was born in Russia without two fully-formed ears, with a condition called bilateral microtia. His right ear had

only about a 50 percent hearing ability, and he had no hearing at all in his left ear, which did not have an ear canal.

From the time he was about 5 months old, Vanya had worn a device on his head with a small piece of plastic that helped amplify sound near his functional ear. The device magnified vibrations to help Vanya hear better, but would become less effective as Vanya aged, according to Michael Yurieff, president of Rusfond U.S.A., a nonprofit that raises funds for children in Russia with rare medical conditions to receive medical care around the world. Without prompt intervention, Vanya would

soon begin to lose speech skills, Mr. Yurieff said.

His mother, Rimma Krivtsova, trained him every day to help him decipher the muffled sounds that he could register.

“Thud, thud” was the sound of a basketball bouncing.

“Clink, clink” was the sound of a spoon banging against a teacup.

But unless something happened fast, all he was going to be able to pick up from his teachers when he started school was “Wah wah wah,” a la Charlie Brown.

Yet his options were limited. The usual treatment for his condition is a series of surgeries that used cartilage from

the ribcage to shape an ear, then graft it onto the body, and then later construct an ear canal. But that was a process that would likely take several years and require a number of costly surgeries. Plus, the process couldn’t even start until he was 10 years old, since the cartilage removal process on younger children can cause chest deformities.

However, that all changed in April of this year. Vanya’s mom attended a conference in Moscow hosted by two American doctors from California, who talked about a single operation that used a different technique to both create an ear canal and reconstruct the

external ear, without having to painfully remove chest cartilage.

Dr. Joseph Roberson, an inner ear specialist working at the California Ear Institute in East Palo Alto, and Dr. John Reinisch, an ear surgeon based in Los Angeles who had pioneered a new external ear reconstruction technique in 1991, met at a conference 10 years ago and developed an operation combining their two skills, said Dr. Reinisch.

They’ve been doing that operation — called a combined aural atresia repair/microtia reconstruction — together for about eight years, with Dr. Reinisch flying to the



**Vanya Priimak**, 5, plays with a Lego set at his host family's home in Menlo Park.

California Ear Institute in East Palo Alto two to three times a month. They each do more operations separately for patients who do not require both ears to be done at once.

About two and a half years ago, the duo had operated on a girl from Russia, and her family was so pleased with the results that they had invited the doctors to give a presentation to other Russian families of children with microtia. The two doctors presented their techniques and conducted screenings of potential candidates for the operation.

Vanya, who attended the conference with his mother, was screened and found to be a strong candidate for the operation, said Dr. Reinisch, because he had a healthy inner ear and because the condition was bilateral, meaning there was an urgency to prioritize his case. The sooner the doctors could get hearing to Vanya's brain, the more it would help his development.

Ms. Krivtsova said then when she left the conference



**Michael Yurieff**, president of Rusfond, USA, a nonprofit that raises funds for children in Russia with rare medical conditions to receive medical care around the world. He helped to coordinate the logistics of Vanya's operation and medical care in the United States.

See **VANYA**, page 16

## VANYA

continued from page 15

that day, “It was as if a door to another world had opened.”

Yet when she learned what the operations would involve — a cost of about \$113,000 and two month-long trips to California — she said she felt trapped on the threshold of that new world. Her husband is an engineer who works in car repair and she is an accountant, so the kind of money needed for the operation would be extremely difficult for their family to raise.

Then she thought of Rusfond, the nonprofit that raises funds to help Russian children find medical care. The organization raises funds by using Russian national TV to tell the stories of the children it supports, and then invite people to text in donations. After receiving an application from Ms. Krivtsova, Rusfond decided to take on Vanya’s case. Soon after, the video aired twice, several hours apart. Before the second showing, Ms. Krivtsova said, they had raised the funds needed to move forward with the operation.

Her older daughter, now a university student training to become a speech therapist (partly because she wants to help kids like Vanya, she said), also recruited her friends to text in donations.

With the funds for the surgery, the family began making their preparations for their journey to the U.S. The surgery was set for Nov. 8 at the California Ear Institute in East

Palo Alto, which is the only place in the world he could get the specialized operation, said Dr. Reinisch.

Mr. Yurieff, president of the U.S. branch of Rusfond, and logistics coordinator for the families seeking medical treatment, said Ms. Krivtsova and Vanya arrived in New York City several days before the operation. They stayed at the Ronald McDonald House there for several days to overcome jetlag before flying out to the institute.

Then the surgery began. The operation took between eight and nine hours, Dr. Reinisch said. His portion of the operation, the reconstruction of the external ear, started with a plastic mold for the ear, which he covered with skin grafted from other parts of the body. Dr. Roberson, meanwhile, created an ear canal by drilling a cylinder into the bone, lining it with skin from the scalp, and making an eardrum.

After the operation, though, Vanya couldn’t stay at the California Ear Institute since it is not a hospital and cannot host people overnight. Mr. Yurieff learned that the Ronald McDonald House at Stanford requires that the children it serves be patients at Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital or Stanford Hospital and Clinics, so that was out. Furthermore, after the operation, Vanya could not travel by air for at least a month, given the sensitivity of his new eardrum to any changes in air pressure.

So Mr. Yurieff asked the priest of the Russian Orthodox church in Menlo Park to reach



**Vanya plays** with Legos at his host family’s home in Menlo Park while he practices listening with his new ear, which was surgically created for him about a month earlier.

out to the community to see if a family would consider opening their home to the mother and child while Vanya recovered from his surgery.

Katya and Dr. Joseph Derrough, parents of Alexander, 7, and Katie, 14, were at the Menlo Park Russian Orthodox church when they heard Rusfond’s request. Dr. Derrough, a physician in obstetrics and gynecology at Kaiser Permanente in San Jose, and Ms. Derrough agreed that their home would be a good place for Vanya to recover since he would be able to play with their 7-year-old son, Alexander, who even speaks a little Russian.

The hunch was right, accord-

ing to Ms. Krivtsova. She said having another kid around the house helped Vanya to “come back to happiness” after the surgery — to feel more like a child rather than a patient.

“I think that’s a wonderful thing to do for a family in need,” Ms. Derrough said, of opening her home to the visitors. “It gives me a feeling of purpose.”

The families had fun traveling to downtown Menlo Park, including visits to Cheeky Monkey and Cafe Borrone. Vanya and his mom also spent some time in Los Angeles, where he received additional post-operative care.

The two left Menlo Park on Dec. 9, but will return in

March for another operation, this time on his other ear. The family is still looking for somewhere more permanent to stay for their next month-long visit.

Vanya’s hearing has already shown marked improvement, his mother said.

One evening after the operation, as she went to tuck him into bed, she whispered, “I love you very much.”

Before, he wouldn’t have heard her, but now he whispered back, “I love you too.”

*Note: Thanks to Michael Yurieff and Katya Derrough for translating the interview from Russian.*



**Vanya, 5,** pauses while playing in his Menlo Park host family’s backyard, a month after ear reconstruction surgery.



**Katya Derrough** heard at her Menlo Park Russian Orthodox church that Vanya and Rimma needed somewhere to stay, so she and her family opened their Menlo Park home to them for about a month.

## Man pleads no contest in Menlo Park burglary

In exchange for eight months in jail and no time in state prison, Christopher Sheard, 21, of Hayward, pleaded no contest Dec. 14 in a Redwood City courtroom to one count of residential burglary in connection with a June 2015 burglary of a Menlo Park home.

Prosecutors did not object to the terms of the plea agreement, District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe said in a report. Mr. Sheard is out of custody on \$50,000 bail. A sentencing hearing is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Feb. 19, prosecutors said.

Mr. Sheard's attorney, Olga Kelley of Redwood City, could not be reached for comment.

Police had been called to Lexington Avenue in Menlo Park on June 8, 2015, by residents who reported seeing two men loiter-

ing in a front yard of a neighbor known to be away.

Police arrived, set up a perimeter around the house and ordered two men who were seen inside the house to come out, according to police reports from the time. The men were apprehended at the front door.

The house had been ransacked, police said, and possessions allegedly belonging to the two men were found inside the house. A vehicle allegedly belonging to the two men was found nearby, police said.

Police arrested Mr. Sheard and Brandon Tyrell Fields, 21, a resident of East Palo Alto.

Mr. Fields pleaded not guilty in July, and is in custody on \$50,000 bail, prosecutors said. He had been scheduled for a jury trial to begin Dec. 14.

## City has \$14 million in affordable housing fund

By Kate Bradshaw  
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park has more than \$14.1 million set aside to spend on below-market-rate (BMR) housing, according to the city's annual report.

About \$6.2 million of that amount has been committed to affordable housing projects.

The "below market rate" housing program, established in 1987, is intended to increase the supply of housing that is affordable for low- and moderate-income people in Menlo Park. The policy requires residential developers to make 10 to 15 percent of the housing they build available at below-market rates, or to pay an in-lieu fee.

Commercial developments have to pay a fee per new square foot of floor area. The rate varies depending on the project's expected number of employees. That fee is intended to mitigate the demand for housing that the new building's additional employees will create.

Ideally, the report says, the policy should lean toward construction of new units, rather than putting in-lieu fees into a city fund. After five years, unspent funds must be returned to the developers who paid the fee unless the city can justify holding them based on a continued existing need.

As proof of that continued existing need, the report pointed out that Menlo Park's current "below market rate" waiting list is 125 households deep. Only 66 households are now housed by the BMR program, while 118 units are under construction or not yet occupied.

Fifty-nine of those units are at the new affordable-housing complex on the Menlo Park Veterans Affairs campus at 605 Willow Road. That complex is administered by Core Affordable Housing, which gives priority to housing homeless veterans. Move-in dates start in mid-December.

Thirty-seven BMR units will be at the St. Anton development at 3639 Haven Ave. in Menlo Park.

This is the third consecutive year that the pool of funds held for five or more years and intended for BMR construction has been greater than the amount of funds committed to current projects, according to the report.

In December 2014, the City Council eliminated the use of purchase assistance loans, which had used BMR funds to help qualifying low- or middle-income first-time home buyers purchase homes. The program gave loans of about \$75,000 or 20 percent of the home price, whichever was lower, while charging a 5 percent interest rate. Now those



[Lewis, Elizabeth, and Lempres, Mike, swearing in - Dec. 2015 Photo by Joe Lewis]

Elizabeth Lewis and Mike Lempres take the oath of office Dec. 16 as Atherton's mayor and vice mayor, respectively.

## Elizabeth Lewis elected mayor; Mike Lempres is vice-mayor

By Barbara Wood  
Almanac Staff Writer

■ **ATHERTON**

Elizabeth Lewis has been elected by the Atherton City Council to serve as mayor for the coming year, with Mike Lempres elected as vice mayor.

Both were elected unanimously by their fellow council members when the council met on Dec. 16.

"It is a true honor to represent and serve the people of Atherton," Mayor Lewis said after being handed the gavel. "It's really a very important job we all do and I do not take it lightly."

She said she hopes the council members can work "collegially and cordially" during the coming year.

Mayor Lewis said she was impressed by the list of projects outgoing Mayor Rick DeGolia said the town had accomplished

during the last year. "It really is amazing," she said, noting that many of the projects had begun years earlier. "Government is a marathon, not a sprint," she said.

Mayor Lewis praised the town's staff and her fellow council members. "We live in a very exciting time for the town of Atherton," she said.

Mayor Lewis said she will keep Rick DeGolia's tradition of holding "office hours" in the council chambers. Mr. DeGolia had been meeting with any interested residents on Tuesdays from noon to 2 p.m.

Ms. Lewis was first elected to the council in 2008 and was re-elected by a substantial margin in 2012. She last served as mayor in 2013.

Among the town's recent accomplishments mentioned by

outgoing Mayor Rick DeGolia was the progress in designing the new civic center, the move toward installing a fiber-optic network through the town, and adding software to the town's website to allow for easier resident comment on issues.

He also talked about the council's "commitment to conservative fiscal policy as we experienced our third substantial annual budget surplus in a row" with money being put into infrastructure projects including roads, Holbrook-Palmer Park, the town's drainage system, and bicycle and pedestrian paths.

"I want to thank members of the council for their dedication to Atherton," Mr. DeGolia said, as well as "every member of our staff for their professionalism and dedicated work" and residents who serve on town committees. ■

funds are all going toward developing new affordable units in Menlo Park.

To use the funds, though, affordable housing developers have to come forward with projects, using a process called "NOFA," or notice of financial ability. The 2015 NOFA pro-

cess yielded three applicants that are now under review, the report said.

Jim Cogan, the city's housing and economic development manager, is leading the effort to address the affordable housing shortage.

He said there's a misconcep-

tion in Menlo Park about affordable housing. "People think it's somehow lower-quality housing," he said. "Some people have that 'projects' mindset."

Perhaps, he said, that's because "we haven't had a lot of new affordable housing built." ■

# Give to The Almanac Holiday Fund

Your gift helps local children  
and families in need



Contributions to the Holiday Fund go directly to programs that benefit Peninsula residents. Last year, Almanac readers and foundations contributed \$172,000 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 organizations, foundations and individuals, including the Rotary Club of Menlo Park Foundation, 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.

## Boys & Girls Clubs

Provides after-school academic support, enrichment, and mentoring for 1,800 low-income K-12 youth at nine locations across Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, and the North Fair Oaks neighborhood of Redwood City.

## 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 reading, writing and English language skills so they can function more effectively at home, at work and in the community. Basic English classes, weekly conversation clubs and volunteer-led computer enrichment are also offered.

## Ravenswood Family Health Center

Provides primary medical and preventive health care for all ages at its clinic in East Palo Alto. 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 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

This multi-service facility, serving the broader Redwood City community, provides assistance with child care, senior programs, citizenship and immigration, housing and employment, and crisis intervention. Programs are available in Spanish and English.

## Health Connected

Serves over 5,000 students and their families each year through comprehensive sexual health education programs. Students learn to have on-going communication with parents and to make informed decisions which will apply to their lives, now and in the future.

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



*The William and Flora  
Hewlett Foundation*

*The David and Lucile Packard  
Foundation*

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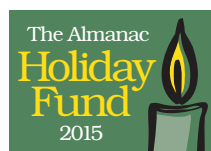
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# Thank you for donating to the Holiday Fund

## Almanac Holiday Fund Donor List

As of December 18, 2015,  
119 donors have donated \$76,180

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## Project Read learners unlock personal stories

### HOLIDAY FUND

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

Story by Mike Goodkind, Project Read-Menlo Park volunteer.

The guests filed by in small groups to the table where authors, some smiling shyly, were ready to autograph the book that had unlocked their life stories in English, a language many of the authors had only recently begun to write or even speak.

The 83-page “Pearls of Wisdom: A life of learning” was unveiled at Project Read-Menlo Park’s 30th anniversary celebration in September.

The event, attended by more than 175 people, was a literary testament to the unique educational style that Project Read has brought to local learners who need literacy and other skills to improve their lives. The event also honored the tutors and staff, whose lives have been enriched by helping their neighbors.

The authors include Jose from Guatemala, who writes how he started assembling fireworks at age 6 to earn some money for his family. Fourteen years later, Jose journeyed to California to begin life as a dishwasher. He soon realized that he would need English to advance to a



Some of the 28 learner/authors celebrated the publication of “Pearls of Wisdom: A life of learning” by signing autographs at Project Read-Menlo Park’s 30th anniversary celebration. Seated, from left, are Joaquin Basulto, Luis Romero and Camiela Abduraham.

better job as a waiter, and then grow even further.

Tatyana, unlocking an even older memory, wrote of the doll she loved at her girlhood home in Kiev many years ago.

“The stories in the book are truly compelling and amazingly diverse, but the still untold tales of our volunteers who help our learners develop the skills they need for school and job are just as inspiring,” says Roberta Roth, Project Read-Menlo Park program manager.

Volunteer tutor Debbie says she not only feels happy after tutoring sessions with Jose, but the whole experience “makes me

feel good about the potential of human beings.”

“What better way to celebrate our anniversary than to give our 28 authors a seat at the autograph table, an opportunity to sign their names on someone’s copy of the book, and say and feel, ‘I wrote that,’” Ms. Roth says.

The book is available in the library’s permanent collection.

Contact Roberta Roth at [rlroth@menlopark.org](mailto:rlroth@menlopark.org) or (650) 330-2525 for information about obtaining a copy of the book, volunteering, or finding a tutor.

Website: [projectreadmenlopark.org](http://projectreadmenlopark.org)

## Community resource helps neighbors

### HOLIDAY FUND

Gifts to the Almanac’s Holiday Fund benefit St. Anthony Padua Dining Room.

Story by Patricia Papalian, a volunteer with St. Anthony Padua Dining Room.

Since 1974 the Dining Room’s mission has been to provide a hot, nutritious meal to anyone in need. The rules are simple: no fees, no questions, and no one is turned away.

Six days a week this bustling soup kitchen serves 500 guests a complete hot meal while providing take-home groceries, health services and a free clothing store. The Dining Room is a place of refuge from a harsh world most of us will never know.

Anne is a bright and dynamic woman. As a former business owner, she fondly recalls her store-

front on a charming street. The last decade, however, saw her business phase out. “I just couldn’t compete with all the e-commerce” she explains. She was finally forced to shut down. Just when she thought things couldn’t get worse, Anne suffered a major health crisis.

One year later Anne was unrecognizable, ill and wasting away. She was barely scraping by on government benefits. Crippling financial anxiety, stress about an unknown future, a devastating illness and grueling treatments culminated in sleepless nights and dangerous weight loss.

“It was more than I could bear,” she says of this terrible period.

A caring nurse familiar with Anne’s situation directed her to St. Anthony’s. The free meals and take-home groceries mitigated some of her financial strain while providing the regular nourishment her body desperately needed

to recover.

But it was “the kindness and sense of community at St. Anthony’s” she says, “that really kept me going.”

Today Anne is back in the industry she loved. Though her health-crisis is well behind her, she will never forget the sustenance and stability the Dining Room community gave her in those dark days as she struggled to get well. Now it is Anne, who volunteers at the Dining Room, helping to fortify others who are vulnerable.

The Dining Room serves a hot nutritious meal from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 52 weeks a year. More than 220,000 meals will be served this year.

Go to [paduadiningroom.com](http://paduadiningroom.com) or call (650) 365-9664 for more information on St. Anthony’s Padua Dining Room, located at 3500 Middlefield Road in Menlo Park.

## Jean Chandler Trotter, World War II veteran

■ OBITUARY

Jean Van Rensselaer Chandler Trotter of Menlo Park and Sun City West, Arizona, died peacefully Nov. 26. A World War II veteran, researcher, volunteer, poet and artist, Ms. Trotter was 97.

She grew up in Norwalk, Connecticut, and attended Wellesley College. Upon graduation, she joined the Navy's first class of WAVES and was assigned to the chief of Naval Operations office in Washington, D.C., where she spent the war years as a code breaker and analyst.

As Lieutenant Chandler, she met fellow intelligence officer George C. Trotter and was married in the National Cathedral. They were married for 54 years until his death in 1999.

After the war, Ms. Trotter began her lifelong career as a researcher and analyst at Harvard University. Later she moved with her husband to Los Altos Hills, where they

raised their two children and he set up the computer lab for IRMA, the first industrial computer, the family said.

On her husband's retirement, she moved to Arizona, returning more recently to stay with her daughter.

She is survived by her son, Douglas C. Trotter of Albuquerque, New Mexico; daughter Carolyn C. Trotter of Menlo Park; and nieces and nephews.

Services will be held in Washington, D.C., where she will be buried with her husband in Arlington National Cemetery. The family prefers donations be made to Wounded Warriors or Castilleja School in Palo Alto.



Jean Chandler Trotter



Photo by Chuck Sullivan

**TigerBots Team Captain** Serena Grown-Haeberli checks out the team's robot "PIP" (Parts in Progress) before going into a round of competition at Menlo School in Atherton on Dec. 6. The all-girl TigerBots from Notre Dame High School in Belmont won the competition.

## All-girl TigerBots team wins local robotics competition

By Barbara Wood  
Almanac Staff Writer

The TigerBots all-girl robotics team, made up of students from Notre Dame High School in Belmont, won the FIRST Robotics NORCAL Qualifier tournament at Menlo School in Atherton on Dec. 6.

Team captain Serena Grown-Haeberli, who attended the German-American International School in Menlo Park through eighth-grade, won the "Dean's List Award" (named for Dean

Kamen, FIRST Robotics founder and Segway inventor) in April and was featured in the video introducing the game challenge.

Serena leads both the all-girls Notre Dame Belmont TigerBots, which she founded three years ago, and the mainly boys Junipero Serra High School "SWAT" Robotics team, which she joined as a freshman but found lacking in girls.

Because Menlo School hosted the competition, its team will also advance to the FIRST Robotics NORCAL Regional

Championships.

There are 16 girls on the TigerBots team. Team members use tools, build robots, do electronics work, program in Java and do computer-aided design. They also do business and marketing tasks to support the team.

Experienced members teach rookies their skills. The team is in its third season and was founded by two girls, Serena Grown-Haeberli and Kate Moley, in their sophomore year.

Tracey Grown is the volunteer coach. ■

## Patrick Corcoran, veteran, longtime Menlo resident

■ OBITUARY

Patrick Grover Corcoran, a resident of Menlo Park since 1967, died peacefully on Oct. 27.

Born in San Francisco in 1925, he joined the U.S. Army at the age of 17, the youngest soldier in his battalion. He fought with the 280th combat engineers in the Battle of the Bulge, the Rhineland Campaign, and the Central Europe Campaign in World War II. He was awarded the Bronze Star for bravery.

He married Bernice Theresa Clarke in 1954 and they raised their four children in South San Francisco before buying the Clarke family home in 1967.

Mr. Corcoran was the owner of P.G. Corcoran Co., a distributor of supermarket equipment. He held a patent on the first grocery store wine rack, the family says.

After retiring from the supermarket business, he founded PGC Enterprises, dealing in commercial real estate holdings, which is ongoing today.

He loved spending time in the family cabins in Twain Harte, where he particularly enjoyed swimming in the lake, say family members.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Bernice Corcoran of Menlo Park; children Carole Corcoran-Williams of La Honda, Patrick Corcoran of San Jose, Diane Serrano of Souldsbyville; best friend Steve Ellerman of Sacramento; 10 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.



Photo by Chuck Sullivan

Eden Grown-Haeberli, left, (programming lead) and Dominique Sullivan (builder) with robot PIP in the "pit" working on their robot at a recent competition at Menlo School in Atherton won by their all-girl TigerBots team. Eden is a junior and Dominique is a freshman at Notre Dame High School in Belmont.

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# Jogger killed by SUV in Menlo

A 41-year-old Palo Alto man who was jogging was struck and killed Saturday morning by a Chevy Tahoe SUV at the intersection of Sand Hill Road and Santa Cruz Avenue in Menlo Park, police report.

The man was identified as

Amit Goutam Bagchi by the San Mateo County Coroner's Office.

The Menlo Park Police Department, the Menlo Park Fire Protection District and San Mateo County Sheriff's Office responded to the accident at about 6:45 a.m., about

half an hour before sunrise.

Paramedics provided medical aid to Mr. Bagchi, who was found lying just east of the intersection, but he was pronounced dead at the scene.

The identity of the driver is not being released since this is an ongoing investigation,

police said. The vehicle, a 1998 green Chevy Tahoe, was traveling east on Sand Hill Road, police said.

Sand Hill Road between Santa Cruz Avenue and Oak Avenue was closed for several hours while police investigated the accident. It reopened to traffic at 2 p.m.

Menlo Park police with the assistance of the South San Mateo County Accident

Investigation Team is conducting the investigation to determine the cause of the accident.

Witnesses or others with information about this accident, including anyone who took photos or videos of the scene, are asked to call Corporal Nicholas Douglas at 650-330-6300 or the Menlo Park police anonymous tip line at 650-330-6395.

## POLICE CALLS

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

### MENLO PARK

#### Robbery:

■ A man walking in the 800 block of Willow Road was struck on the face and robbed of his wallet, police said. The man was headed home when three people approached him and asked him for money, police said. When he declined and tried to run away, one of the robbers struck him on the bridge of his nose and on his face, police said. He fell and the person that struck him took his wallet. The man did not have details on the description of the robbers and did not immediately call police because his cellphone was dead, police said. Dec. 13.

#### Residential burglaries:

■ At a construction site on North Lemon Avenue, a thief or thieves cut the padlock on a fence surrounding the site, entered the house and stole power tools. Also stolen were building materials from a padlocked storage container in the driveway. Estimated loss: \$3,500. Dec. 10.

■ Someone pried open a locked bedroom door in a house on Henderson Avenue and stole cash from the dresser. Estimated loss: \$1,500. Dec. 9.

■ Police arrested David Clark, 39, of Sunnyvale on suspicion of residential burglary, resisting arrest and possession of burglary tools, including large bolt cutters. Police allege that Mr. Clark stole a locked bicycle from the carport of an apartment building on Live Oak Avenue. No estimate on losses. Dec. 12.

■ **Commercial burglary:** Police have not determined exactly how a burglar entered a locked building under construction on Jefferson Drive, and then stole construction tools. Estimated loss: \$1,900. Dec. 11.

■ **Auto burglary:** Someone stole a diaper bag and a backpack with two laptop computers inside from a vehicle parked on Constitution Drive that was found with a window smashed. No estimate on losses. Dec. 14.

#### Thefts:

■ Someone stole a laptop computer from an unlocked vehicle parked in the driveway of a house on Stanford Avenue. Estimated loss: \$2,400. Dec. 15.

■ A man being shown a model 6s iPhone that had been locked to a display in a Staples store at 700 El Camino Real waited until the clerk walked away, then used force to remove the phone and then left the store with it. Police described the man as having red-and-blond hair in a crew cut, was unshaven with crooked teeth and wearing a red plaid shirt and blue jeans. He was driving a Ford Explorer. Estimated loss: \$700. Dec. 12.

■ A resident of Noel Drive told police that

someone had stolen \$400 out of his bedroom. Police reported no signs of forced entry and no leads. Dec. 14.

■ The District Attorney's Office is reviewing two cases involving a Christmas tree lot in the 1400 block of El Camino Real: one in which a chainsaw and extension cable were stolen, and another in which a tree was stolen. A Santa hat was also taken, but returned. No estimate on losses. Dec. 9.

■ Packages were stolen from the front porch of a house in the 800 block of Woodland Avenue. Estimated loss: \$80. Dec. 14.

■ Someone stole the tires and a light from a bicycle locked to a bike rack at the public library on Alma Street. No estimate on losses. Dec. 7.

■ A woman recovered her wallet after leaving it on a counter at the Safeway supermarket on Sharon Park Drive. Dec. 14.

■ **Dog bite:** A man delivering a parcel to a home on Middle Avenue was bitten on the left arm by a dog at the residence. He declined medical attention. Dec. 9.

■ **Embezzlement:** Police are investigating the possible theft and online sale of two sets of headphones from Facebook Corp. on Hacker Way. Estimated loss: \$162. Dec. 3.

#### Fraud:

■ A resident of the 900 block of Santa Cruz Avenue deposited a cashier's check for \$10,000 in the account of someone falsely claiming to be a real estate agent so as to pay alleged closing costs on a house the resident was buying. Dec. 8.

■ Two counterfeit personal checks allegedly from the account of a resident in the 1000 block of Santa Cruz Avenue were used to make purchases of \$85 and \$2,112 at Costco. The bank account has been closed and an investigation is underway. Dec. 9.

■ Someone obtained bank checks for a resident of the 1600 block of El Camino Real and tried three times to cash checks. Dec. 10.

### WOODSIDE

■ **Hit and run incident:** A vehicle crossed a double-yellow line on Highway 84 near Grandview Drive and collided with a vehicle going the other way. The driver left the scene without providing identifying information. Nov. 30.

■ **Stolen vehicle:** Someone stole a trailer that had been parked on a vacant property on Lakeview Drive. Estimated loss: \$5,000. Dec. 1.

■ **Fraud:** Using a new ATM card owned by a resident of the 2900 block of Woodside Road, someone withdrew \$4,000 from ATMs in San Francisco. Dec. 3.

### PORTOLA VALLEY

■ **Theft:** A resident of Willowbrook Drive contacted the U.S. Postal Service with a complaint that someone had broken into her locked mailbox and stolen several days worth of mail. The resident claims the postal service will not investigate because the resident did not suffer a financial loss. Nov. 30.

## CALENDAR

Go to [AlmanacNews.com/calendar](http://AlmanacNews.com/calendar) to see more local calendar items

### Art Galleries

■ **'Chasing Light and Reflection'** The Portola Art Gallery is showcasing a collection of oil and acrylic paintings by Alice Weil entitled "Chasing Light and Reflection," which captures Weil's passion for rolling hills and majestic oaks. The show will benefit the Ronald McDonald House. Monday-Saturday, Dec. 1-31, 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Free. Portola Art Gallery, Allied Arts Guild, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park. Call 650-321-0220. [www.portolaartgallery.com](http://www.portolaartgallery.com)

■ **'Oil Paintings of Christmas, Stories of Santa'** Peabody Fine Art Gallery in Menlo Park has on display an exhibit called "Oil Paintings of Christmas, Stories of Santa," which is composed of paintings by artist Riki R. Nelson that are inspired by antique Christmas ornaments and the artist's original holiday stories. Nov. 23-Jan. 1, Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday, noon-5 p.m. Free. Peabody Gallery, 603 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park. Call 408-623-3544. [www.riki-arts.com/christmas-art-exhibits-2015.html](http://www.riki-arts.com/christmas-art-exhibits-2015.html)

■ **'Splendid Peacocks'** The exhibit at Cafe Borrone "Splendid Peacocks" will feature the newest work of local artist Flo de Bretagne. Nov. 23-Jan. 10, regular cafe hours. Free. Cafe Borrone, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-473-1317. [www.florencedebretagne.com](http://www.florencedebretagne.com)

### Benefits/Fundraisers

■ **Holiday Food & Gift Collection** Ecumenical Hunger Program, an independent nonprofit organization assisting local families living with financial hardships, is seeking donations and volunteers to help with its holiday giving programs. Visit the website or email or call the organization for more info. Nov. 30-Dec. 24. Ecumenical Hunger Program, 2411 Pulgas Ave., East Palo Alto. [www.ehpcare.org/holiday-and-special-programs](http://www.ehpcare.org/holiday-and-special-programs)

■ **Holiday Winter Coat & Gift Card Drive** Little House Activity Center is collecting new and slightly used winter coats of all sizes and gift cards that will be delivered to Meals on Wheels recipients and clients at the Onetta Harris Senior Center in Menlo Park. Donations can be dropped off at Little House. Monday-Thursday, Dec. 8-23, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Free. Little House Activity Center, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-326-2025 ext. 242. [www.penvol.org/littlehouse](http://www.penvol.org/littlehouse)

### Classes/Workshops

■ **Beginning Improv Class** Led by Bay Area improvisation veteran Terry Sandke, this six-week course, meeting one evening each week, will provide opportunities for both new and experienced players to create characters, stories and scenes spontaneously. Tuesdays, Jan. 5-Feb. 9, 7-9 p.m. \$200 six weeks. The Dragon Theatre, 2120 Broadway, Redwood City. [dragonproductions.net/activities/classes.html](http://dragonproductions.net/activities/classes.html)

■ **Free lipreading classes in Menlo Park** Taught by an experienced audiologist and lipreading instructor, these free weekly classes sponsored by Foothill College will provide help to those who have difficulty understanding rapid speech or hearing in noisy environments or other situations. Tuesdays, Jan. 5-March 22, 9:10-11:50 a.m. Free. Menlo Park Senior Center, 100 Terminal Ave., Menlo Park. Email [brownjulie@foothill.edu](mailto:brownjulie@foothill.edu)

### Community Events

■ **Monday Night Pub Quiz** Each week Free-wheel Brewing Company hosts a Monday Night Pub Quiz, where teams and individuals can test their knowledge of fun and challenging trivia. Those interested should arrive early to secure seating. Mondays, Nov. 9-Dec. 28, 7:30-9:30

p.m. \$3. Freewheel Brewing Company, 3736 Florence St., Redwood City. Call 650-365-2337. [freewheelbrewing.com](http://freewheelbrewing.com)

### Concerts

■ **Main Stage Concert: 'Farewell to 2015'** The San Francisco Chamber Orchestra will bid farewell to 2015 with a concert program with four all-star musicians performing Haydn's Sinfonia Concertante; three young violinists taking on Bach's Concerto for Three Violins; two soloists leading the string section in Copland's "Quiet City"; and one chamber orchestra presenting Haydn's "Farewell" symphony. Jan. 1, 3-5 p.m. Free. First United Methodist Church, 625 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto. Call 415-692-3367. [www.thesfco.org/contact/contactinfo/](http://www.thesfco.org/contact/contactinfo/)

### Exhibits

■ **'Speed and Power'** The exhibit "Speed and Power" at the Cantor Arts Center will look at how artists have represented the impact of trains, planes and automobiles on modern life. Wednesday-Monday, Dec. 2-March 21, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursday til 8 p.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford. [museum.stanford.edu](http://museum.stanford.edu)

### Kids & Families

■ **Countdown To Noon** At this children's event, local business Cheeky Monkey Toys will mark the New Year with craft activities and a balloon drop at the stroke of noon. Dec. 31, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Cheeky Monkey Toys, 640 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park. [www.cheekymonkey-toys.com](http://www.cheekymonkey-toys.com)

■ **Forte: Music Enrichment Program** The Forte after-school program at Bethany Lutheran Church will give students ages 4 to those in fourth grade the opportunity to sing, play hand chimes and handbells, and participate in music and theater games. The spring session will last 12 weeks and include a performance. Visit the website or call for more info. Jan. 11-April 12, Mondays, 3:30-5 p.m. (grades one to four); Tuesdays, 3:15-4:30 p.m. (age 4 through kindergarten). \$240 (price drops for multiple students). Bethany Lutheran Church, 1095 Cloud Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-854-5897. [www.bethany-mp.org/Forte](http://www.bethany-mp.org/Forte)

■ **New Year's Eve Party** The Portola Valley Library host a family-friendly New Year's Eve party, offering treats, a countdown at noon and photos with a special guest. Dec. 31, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. [www.smcl.org](http://www.smcl.org)

■ **Toddler Storytime** This weekly Portola Valley Library event will lead toddlers 18 to 36 months in songs, stories and movement activities that encourage them to listen and read. Age-appropriate toys will be available for play at the end of each session. An activity will follow story time on the third Tuesday of the month. Tuesdays, Dec. 1-29, 11-11:30 a.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. [www.smcl.org](http://www.smcl.org)

### Film

■ **12 Days of Christmas: 'A Christmas Carol'** Little House Activity Center will celebrate the 12 Days of Christmas from Dec. 8 to Dec. 23. The event series will wrap up on the 12th day with a screening of a movie version of Charles Dickens' tale "A Christmas Carol." Dec. 23, 1-3 p.m. Free. Little House Activity Center, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-326-2025 ext. 242. [www.penvol.org/littlehouse](http://www.penvol.org/littlehouse)

### Health

■ **Pilates Cardiocamp in Woodside** Pilates Cardiocamp morning fitness classes aim to help students develop better posture, a stronger back and a firmer body while reducing body fat. Visit the website for specific class prices. Year-round, Tuesday and Thursday, 7 a.m., and Wednesday, 9 a.m. (Town Hall); Monday,

9 a.m., and Friday, 7:30 a.m. (Village Church). \$12-\$25 per class. Woodside Town Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, and Woodside Village Church, 3154 Woodside Road, Woodside. Call 866-339-4438. [pilatescardiocamp.com/contact-us/](http://pilatescardiocamp.com/contact-us/)

### Food & Drink

■ **Facebook Certified Farmers' Market** Facebook has partnered with West Coast Farmers' Markets and the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce to hold a year-round farmers market, offering produce from up to 30 vendors, live entertainment, food trucks and a children's area. Sundays, year-round, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Facebook Parking Lot, 1 Hacker Way, Menlo Park. [www.facebook.com/events/1499866463665724/](http://www.facebook.com/events/1499866463665724/)

■ **Portola Valley Farmers' Market** Thursdays, year-round, 2-5 p.m. (winter hours). Free. Portola Valley Farmers Market, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. [pvfarmersmarket.com](http://pvfarmersmarket.com)

### Live Music

■ **Haybale Murphy** Apple Jack's bar will ring in the New Year with three sets of live music by Haybale Murphy. Dec. 31, 9 p.m. Free. Apple Jack's, 8790 Highway 84, La Honda. 650-747-0331

### On Stage

■ **'Emma'** For its holiday production, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley will stage a musical romance, Jane Austen's "Emma," with music, lyrics and book by Paul Gordon. See the website for specific dates and times. Dec. 2-Jan. 2. \$54 adult; \$45 senior, educator; \$25 age 30 and under. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-463-1960. [www.theatreworks.org](http://www.theatreworks.org)

■ **Candlelight Christmas** At this peaceful late night service at Bethany Lutheran Church, attendees will hear the Christmas story, consider the gift of Jesus, and enjoy candles and familiar carols. Dec. 24, 10-10:30 p.m. Free. Bethany Lutheran Church, 1095 Cloud Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-854-5897. [bethany-mp.org/pages/page.asp?page\\_id=400882](http://bethany-mp.org/pages/page.asp?page_id=400882)

■ **Christmas Eve Family Service** This Christmas service at Stanford University's Memorial Church will feature a children's sermon by Rev. Joanne Sanders, associate dean for religious life. Attendees are encouraged to bring new, unwrapped gifts, which will be distributed to needy children. Those planning to attend should arrive early. The doors will open at 3 p.m. Saving seats will not be allowed. Dec. 24, 4-5 p.m. Free. Memorial Church, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. Call 650-723-1762. [events.stanford.edu/events/537/53791/](http://events.stanford.edu/events/537/53791/)

■ **Christmas Eve Festival Communion** At this Christian inter-denominational service, there will be candlelight, holiday music from Organist Robert Huw Morgan and The Choral Project, and a sermon by Rev. Dr. Jane Shaw, dean for religious life at Stanford University. Dec. 24, 8-9 p.m. Free. Memorial Church, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. Call 650-723-1762. [events.stanford.edu/events/537/53793/](http://events.stanford.edu/events/537/53793/)

■ **Classical Music Christmas** This Christmas Eve service at Bethany Lutheran Church will offer music, singing and proclamation that remembers, celebrates and contemplates the birth of Jesus. Dec. 24, 7-7:45 p.m. Free. Bethany Lutheran Church, 1095 Cloud Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-854-5897. [bethany-mp.org/pages/page.asp?page\\_id=400882](http://bethany-mp.org/pages/page.asp?page_id=400882)

■ **Family Christmas Eve Service** At this Bethany Lutheran Church event, all children will be invited to participate in a retelling of the Christmas story. There will also be a singing of favorite Christmas carols and a gift for each child. Dec. 24, 5-5:45 p.m. Free. Bethany Lutheran Church, 1095 Cloud Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-854-5897. [bethany-mp.org/pages/page.asp?page\\_id=400882](http://bethany-mp.org/pages/page.asp?page_id=400882)

### PLACE AN AD

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650.326.8216

Now you can log on to **fogster.com**, day or night and get your ad started immediately online. Most listings are free and include a one-line free print ad in our Peninsula newspapers with the option of photos and additional lines. Exempt are employment ads, which include a web listing charge. Home Services and Mind & Body Services require contact with a Customer Sales Representative.

So, the next time you have an item to sell, barter, give away or buy, get the perfect combination: print ads in your local newspapers, reaching more than 150,000 readers, and unlimited free web postings reaching hundreds of thousands additional people!!

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## Bulletin Board

### 115 Announcements

**Pregnant?**  
Thinking of adoption? Talk with caring agency specializing in matching Birthmothers with Families Nationwide. LIVING EXPENSES PAID. Call 24/7 Abby's One True Gift Adoptions. 866-413-6293. Void in Illinois/ New Mexico/Indiana (AAN CAN)

**Pregnant?**  
Considering adoption? Call us first. Living expenses, housing, medical, and continued support afterwards. Choose adoptive family of your choice. Call 24/7. 1-877-879-4709 (CalSCAN)

An Open Studios Pre-Event!

Free Family Music Fun 12/21

HIPPIE HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE - FREE

Nice Guys & Women Who Love Them

Stanford Museum Volunteer

### 130 Classes & Instruction

**Airline Careers**  
begin here - Get started by training as FAA certified Aviation Technician. Financial aid for qualified students. Job placement assistance. Call Aviation Institute of Maintenance 800-725-1563 (AAN CAN)

### 133 Music Lessons

**Christina Conti Private Piano Instruction**  
Lessons in your home. Bachelor of Music. 650/493-6950

**Hope Street Music Studios**  
Now on Old Middlefield Way, MV. Most instruments, voice. All ages and levels 650-961-2192 www.HopeStreetMusicStudios.com



**Piano Lessons**  
Quality Piano Lessons in Menlo Park. Call (650)838-9772 Alita Lake

### 135 Group Activities

Learn to Square Dance

### 145 Non-Profits Needs

DONATE BOOKS TO SUPPORT LIBRARY

WISH LIST FRIENDS OF PA LIBRARY

### 150 Volunteers

Become a nature volunteer!

Become an EcoCenter Docent!

Fosterers Needed for Cats

FRIENDS OF THE PALO ALTO LIBRARY

JOIN OUR ONLINE STOREFRONT TEAM

### 152 Research Study Volunteers

**Did You Know**  
7 IN 10 Americans or 158 million U.S. Adults read content from newspaper media each week? Discover the Power of Newspaper Advertising. For a free brochure call 916-288-6019 or email elizabeth@cnpa.com (Cal-SCAN)

### 202 Vehicles Wanted

**Cash for Cars**  
We Buy Any Condition Vehicle, 2002 and Newer. Nationwide Free Pick Up! Call Now: 1-888-420-3808 www.cash4car.com (AAN CAN)

**Donate Your Car, Truck, Boat**  
to Heritage for the Blind. Day Vacation, Tax Deductible, Free Towing, All Paperwork Taken Care of. Call 800-731-5042 (Cal-SCAN)

**I Buy Old Porsches**  
911, 356, 1948-1973 only. Any condition. Top \$\$ paid. Finders Fee. Call 707-965-9546 or email porscheclasics@yahoo.com (Cal-SCAN)

**Older Car, Boat, RV?**  
Got an older car, boat or RV? Do the humane thing. Donate it to the Humane Society. Call 1-800-743-1482 (Cal-SCAN)

**210 Garage/Estate Sales**  
Menlo Park, 877 Santa Cruz Ave, Dec. 14-24

**240 Furnishings/Household items**  
Christmas Dish Sets - \$75.00 Ea.

**245 Miscellaneous**  
**AT&T U-Verse Internet**  
starting at \$15/month or TV and Internet starting at \$49/month for 12 months with 1-year agreement. Call 1-800-453-0516 to learn more. (Cal-SCAN)

**Cash for Diabetic Test Strips**  
Up to \$35/Box! Sealed & Unexpired. Payment Made SAME DAY. Highest Prices Paid!! Call Juley Today! 800-413-3479. www.CashForYourTestStrips.com (Cal-SCAN)

**DirectTV**  
Starting at \$19.99/mo. FREE Installation. FREE 3 months of HBO SHOWTIME CINEMAX, STARZ. FREE HD/DVR Upgrade! 2015 NFL Sunday Ticket Included (Select Packages) New Customers Only. CALL 1-800-385-9017 (CalSCAN)

**Dish Network**  
Get MORE for LESS! Starting \$19.99/month (for 12 months). PLUS Bundle & SAVE (Fast Internet for \$15 more/month) CALL Now 1-800-357-0810 (Cal-SCAN)

**DISH TV**  
Starting at \$19.99/month (for 12 mos.) SAVE! Regular Price \$34.99 Ask About FREE SAME DAY Installation! CALL Now! 888-992-1957 (AAN CAN)

**Home Break-ins**  
take less than 60 SECONDS. Don't wait! Protect your family, your home, your assets NOW for as little as 70¢ a day! Call 855-404-7601 (Cal-SCAN)

**500 Help Wanted**  
**Dry Cleaners**  
Experience spotter/presser needed for Dry Cleaners. Will train exp presser. Full time Mon-Fri. Call (650) 329-0998.

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## 754 Gutter Cleaning

**Roofs, Gutters, Downspouts**  
cleaning. Work guar. 30 years exp.  
Insured. Veteran Owned. Jim Thomas  
Maintenance, 408/595-2759.

## 757 Handyman/ Repairs

**AAA HANDYMAN & MORE**  
Since 1985  
Repairs • Maintenance • Painting  
Carpentry • Plumbing • Electrical  
All Work Guaranteed Lic. #468963  
**(650) 453-3002**

**Handyman Services**  
Lic. 249558. Plumb, elect., masonry, car-  
pentry, landscape. 40+ years exp. Pete  
Rumore, 650/823-0736; 650/851-3078

## 759 Hauling

**J & G HAULING SERVICE**  
Misc. junk, office, gar., furn.,  
mattresses, green waste, more.  
Lic./Ins. Free est. 650/743-8852  
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## 771 Painting/ Wallpaper

**Glen Hodges Painting**  
Call me first! Senior discount. 45 yrs.  
#351738. 650/322-8325

**STYLE PAINTING**  
Full service painting. Insured. Lic.  
903303. 650/388-8577

## 775 Asphalt/ Concrete

**Roe General Engineering**  
Asphalt, concrete, pavers, tiles, sealing,  
artificial turf. 36 yrs exp. No job too  
small. Lic #663703. 650/814-5572

## 781 Pest Control



**Attic Clean-Up & Rodent Removal**  
Are you in the Bay Area? Do you  
have squeaky little terriers living in  
your attic or crawlspace? What you  
are looking for is right here! Call  
Attic Star now to learn about our  
rodent removal services and cleaning  
options. You can also get us to take  
out your old, defunct insulation and  
install newer, better products.

Call (866) 391-3308 now and get your  
work done in no time!

## 500 Help Wanted *Continued from previous page*

### TECHNOLOGY

**salesforce.com, Inc. has openings for the following positions (various levels/types/multiple positions) in the San Francisco Bay Area including: San Francisco, CA; San Mateo, CA; and Palo Alto, CA. Some positions may allow for telecommuting.**

**Software Engineers-Applications:** Develop, create, modify and/or test enterprise cloud computing applications focusing on Customer Relationship Management (CRM). Ref# SWA1132.M

**Software Engineers-Systems:** Research, design, develop, and/or test operating systems-level software for enterprise cloud computing applications. Ref# SWS1133.M

**Computer Systems Analysts:** Analyze science, engineering, business, and other data processing problems to implement and improve enterprise cloud computing systems and business performance. Analyze user requirements, procedures, and problems to automate or improve existing systems and to review computer system capabilities, workflow, and scheduling limitations. May provide implementation recommendations. Ref# CSA1121.M

**Managers - Software Engineering:** Plan, direct, or coordinate various engineering-related activities in enterprise cloud computing solutions. Ref# SWM3021.M

**Database Engineers:** Administer, develop, modify, test and/or implement computer databases to improve quality of data and data systems. May plan, coordinate, and implement security measures to safeguard computer databases. Ref# DE1141.M

**Database Administrators:** Administer, test, and implement computer databases, applying knowledge of database management systems. Ref# J155J20

**salesforce.com, Inc. has openings for the following positions (various levels/types/multiple positions) in the San Francisco Bay Area including: San Francisco, CA; San Mateo, CA; and Palo Alto, CA. All positions require travel to various unanticipated sites throughout the U.S. Some positions may allow for telecommuting.**

**Software Engineers-Applications:** Develop, create, modify and/or test enterprise cloud computing applications focusing on Customer Relationship Management (CRM). Ref# SWA1132.MT

**Computer Systems Analysts:** Analyze science, engineering, business, and other data processing problems to implement and improve enterprise cloud computing systems and business performance. Analyze user requirements, procedures, and problems to automate or improve existing systems and to review computer system capabilities, workflow, and scheduling limitations. May provide implementation recommendations. Ref# CSA1121.MT

**Product Managers-Logistics:** Analyze and coordinate the logistical functions of company's enterprise cloud computing product(s). Responsible for product life cycle: translate product strategy into requirements and prototypes; work with designers, developers, and quality engineers to implement features. Collaborate with cross-functional partners to meet client requirements. Ref# ML1081.MT

**Computer Systems Analysts:** Analyze science, engineering, business, and other data processing problems to implement and improve enterprise cloud computing systems and business performance. Analyze user requirements, procedures, and problems to automate or improve existing systems and to review computer system capabilities, workflow, and scheduling limitations. May provide implementation recommendations. Requires travel to various unanticipated sites throughout the U.S. and internationally. Ref# J15D15

Mail resume to **salesforce.com, inc.**, P.O. Box 192244, San Francisco, CA 94119. Resume must include Ref. #, full name, phone #, email address & mailing address. salesforce is an Equal Employment Opportunity & Affirmative Action Employer.

## Real Estate

### 805 Homes for Rent

Los Altos Hills, 3 BR/2.5 BA - \$5450.00

Menlo Park - \$5,000.00

Menlo Park, 3 BR/2 BA - \$5,200.00

Mountain View, 3 BR/2.5 BA - \$3990.—

Palo Alto, 3 BR/2 BA - \$4350/mo

Palo Alto, 4 BR/2 BA - \$5,800

Portola Valley, 2 BR/2 BA - \$5,500.00

Redwood City, 3 BR/2 BA - \$4,800.00

Redwood City, 3 BR/2 BA - \$5,500

### 809 Shared Housing/ Rooms

Menlo Park, 1 BR/1 BA - \$1500

### 815 Rentals Wanted

**All Areas: Roommates.com**  
Lonely? Bored? Broke? Find the perfect roommate to complement your personality and lifestyle at Roommates.com! (AAN CAN)

### 820 Home Exchanges

Seasoned, local Architect

### 840 Vacation Rentals/Time Shares

Licensed Architect.

### Premier South Boulder Rental

Gorgeous 4 BR 3 ba home on 1 acre with 360 views. Avail. 1/1/16 for 6-12 mo lease \$4300/mo. Contact jay-athom@hotmail.com

Seasoned/experienced Architect

**fogster.com**

**Think Globally,  
Post Locally.**

## 845 Out of Area



### 4 homes on 30 acres

Vacation where you live in Nevada City!! Looks like Disneyland with rock walls, manicured gardens, private lake, HUGE outdoor entertaining area and even its own mining museum!! 15 car garages for all your toys!! Priced to sell only \$2M!! Seller financing. Call Edie 530-913-0150 cell

## 855 Real Estate Services

**Did You Know**  
Information is power and content is King? Do you need timely access to public notices and remain relevant in today's highly competitive market? Gain an edge with California Newspaper Publishers Association new innovative website capublicnotice.com and check out the Smart Search Feature. For more information call Elizabeth @ (916) 288-6019 or www.capublicnotice.com (Cal-SCAN)

## Public Notices

### 995 Fictitious Name Statement

WM PAINTING  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 267304

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

WM Painting, located at 3015 E. Bayshore Rd., #203, Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):  
MANUEL AREVALO GARCIA

3015 E. Bayshore Rd. #203

Redwood City, CA 94063

This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 17, 2015.

(ALM Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2015)

It's easy to Place your ad via the internet. just go to — [www.TheAlmanacOnline.com](http://www.TheAlmanacOnline.com)

PORTOLA SPRINGS  
THOMAS FOGARTY WINERY  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 267325

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

1.) Portola Springs, 2.) Thomas Fogarty Winery, located at 19501 Skyline Blvd., Woodside, CA 94062, San Mateo County; Mailing address: 3130 Alpine Rd. #288-603, Portola Valley, CA 94028.

Registered owner(s):  
THOMAS FOGARTY WINERY LLC

19501 Skyline Blvd.

Woodside, CA 94062

This business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 19, 2015.

(ALM Dec. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2015)

CARE BY DELIVERY M.C.C.  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 267398

The following Person(s) is (are) doing business as:

Care By Delivery M.C.C., located at 732 Rockaway Beach Ave., Pacifica, CA 94044, San Mateo County.

Is (Are) hereby registered by the following owner(s):  
TYLER SHA

732 Rockaway Beach Ave.

Pacifica, CA 94044

This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 1, 2015.

(ALM Dec. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2015)

BLU INTERIOR DESIGN  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 267409

The following person (s) is (are) doing business as:

Blu Interior Design, located at 32 Reservoir Road, Atherton, CA 94027, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):  
MAILE W CREAMER

32 Reservoir Road

Atherton, CA 94027

This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1/1/2016.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 2, 2015.

(ALM Dec. 16, 23, 30, 2015, Jan. 6, 13, 2016)

EAST SIDE MARKET  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 267386

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

East Side Market, located at 2368 Clarke Ave., E. Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):  
ISA YASIN

2368 Clarke Ave.

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 above on N/A.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 30, 2015.

(ALM Dec. 16, 23, 30, 2015, Jan. 6, 2016)

TESS Research Foundation  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 267439

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

TESS Research Foundation, located at 655 Oak Grove Ave. #53, Menlo Park, CA 94026, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):

Treatments for Epilepsy and Symptoms of SLC13A5 Foundation

655 Oak Grove Ave. #53

Menlo Park, CA 94026

California

This business is conducted by: A Corporation.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 7, 2015.

(ALM Dec. 23, 30, 2015, Jan. 6, 13, 2016)

LOST GNOME PRODUCTIONS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 267499

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

Lost Gnome Productions, located at 110 Saint Francis St., Redwood City, CA 94062, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):  
ERIC ROBIN HILBERT

110 Saint Francis St.

Redwood City, CA 94062

This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 14, 2015.

(ALM Dec. 23, 30, 2015, Jan. 6, 13, 2016)

### 997 All Other Legals

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Case No.: CIV536394

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: GENGHONG ZHOU filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

GENGHONG ZHOU to KEVIN G. ZHOU. 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 15, 2016, 9:00 a.m., Dept.: PJ, Room: 2D 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: 12/1/15

/s/ John L. Grandsaert  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
(ALM Dec. 16, 23, 30, 2015 Jan. 6, 2016)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Case No.: CIV536335

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: KAREN LEE NEWTON filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

KAREN LEE NEWTON to SHANDY NEWTON DUNN.

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 15, 2016, 9:00 a.m., Dept.: PJ, Room: 2D of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.

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/s/ John L. Grandsaert  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
(ALM Dec. 16, 23, 30, 2015, Jan. 6, 2016)

Proposition 65 Warning

L-3 Randtron Antenna Systems operates facilities located at and around 130 Constitution Dr., Menlo Park which uses and emits chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm.

We do not believe that any person is exposed to these chemicals at levels constituting a health or safety risk. However, we have not made a formal determination that actual exposure levels are below the Proposition 65 "no significant risk" levels for carcinogens or "no observable effect" levels for chemicals known to cause reproductive harm, and we have not performed a risk analysis to determine the precise amount of exposure that any individual would receive over a 70 year period.

Proposition 65 therefore obligates us to provide this warning to potentially effected individuals. Further information may be obtained by contacting L-3 Randtron Antenna Systems at 650-326-9500 Ext. 483.

(ALM Dec. 23, 2015)

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- a \$1,000 gift card to The Home Depot.
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  - inclusion in newspaper inserts (64,500 copies).
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  - full-page newspaper ads.
  - Google & Facebook ads.
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  - 12 or 28-page custom brochures.
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\*\*Includes all fees associated with design, delivery, set-up, de-staging, and the first month of furniture rental.

Disclaimer: This offer applies to listings with a signed listing agreement, entered between Nov. 1, 2015 and Jan. 22, 2016. This is a limited-time offer for homes that will be listed on the MLS by May 1, 2016. Past listings and transactions are excluded from this offer. This offer applies to select single-family homes, condominiums, and townhomes in San Mateo County and Santa Clara County.

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