

The Almanac

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

DECEMBER 5, 2018 | VOL. 54 NO. 14

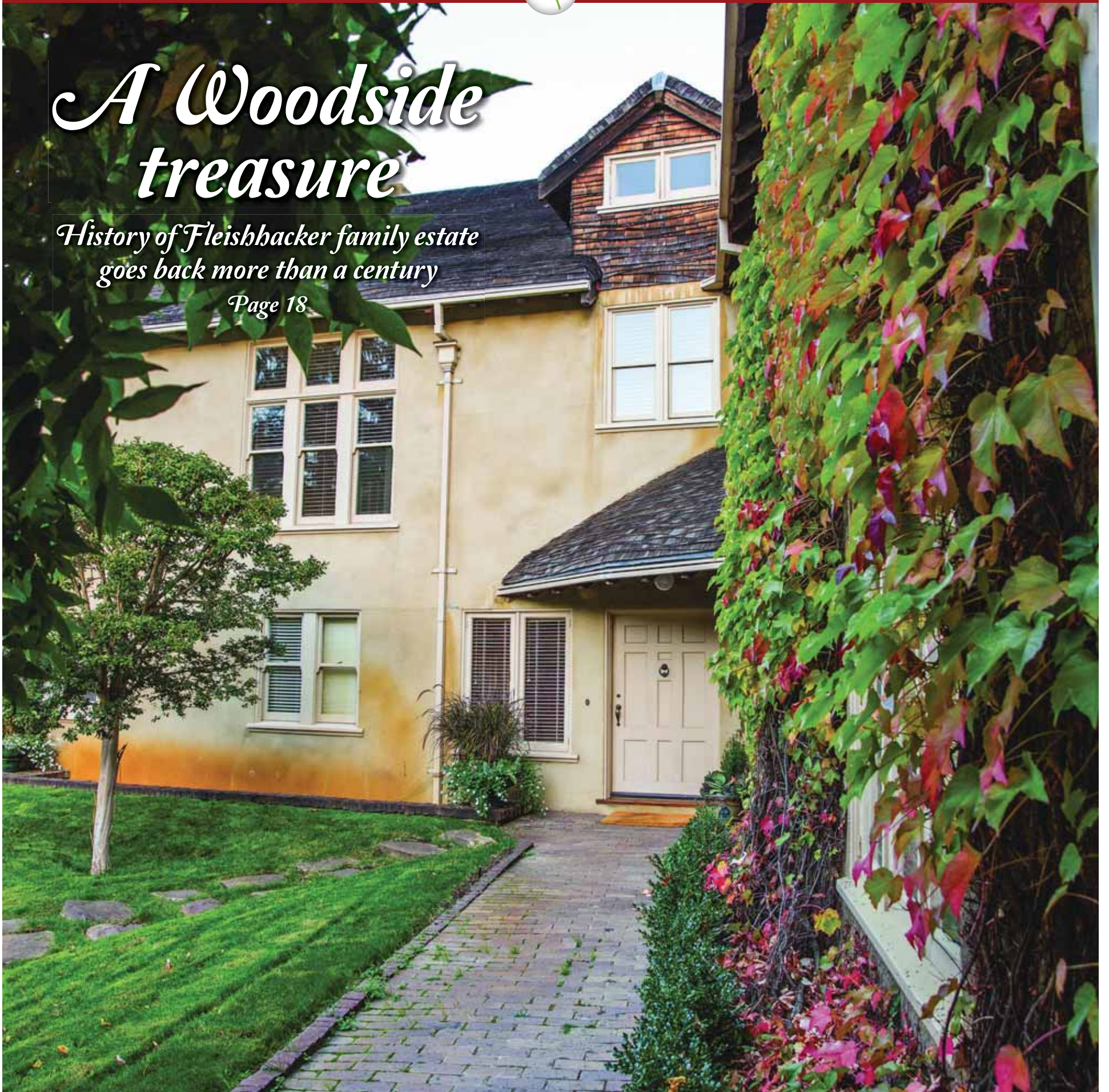


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A Woodside treasure

History of Fleishhacker family estate goes back more than a century

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Facebook International drama hits local courtroom | Page 5

Jackie Speier: Resilience after trauma | Page 5

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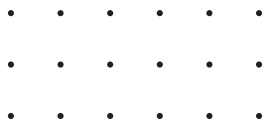
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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Celebrating Hanukkah

Skylonda residents Erin Gleeson, in photo, and Rabbi Jonathan Prosnit celebrated the Jewish holiday with friends and family, who gathered in the couple's forest cabin. Read the story on Page 22.

Surviving trauma, and life in D.C.

40 years after being shot in Jonestown, Speier writes about her experience

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

She was shot five times and left for dead in the jungles of Guyana. She lost her first husband in a fatal car accident. She experienced difficult miscarriages, and had an adopted child she loved reclaimed. She lost elections.

But Jackie Speier, undaunted, hasn't let personal tragedy or professional challenges stop her from rising through the ranks of elective office to her current position as representative for California's 14th Congressional District, which runs from parts of San Francisco as far south as East Palo Alto on the Midpeninsula and San Gregorio on the Coastside.

Her new memoir is titled: "Undaunted: Surviving Jonestown, Summoning Courage and Fighting Back," and was released earlier this month.

In the book, Speier talks about surviving the Jonestown massacre, in which more than 900 followers of cult leader Jim Jones died after drinking poison in Guyana, a country in South America. Speier, then an aide for Congressman Leo Ryan, was shot when she went with Ryan to

Guyana to investigate the San Francisco-based cult. Ryan and four others were shot and killed.

In advance of her appearance at Kepler's Books in Menlo Park on Dec. 2, The Almanac spoke with Speier to discuss her book, her political career representing San Mateo County, and the state of the union.

Questions and responses have been edited for clarity and length.

Q: One of the themes throughout your book is that of resilience through personal tragedy — of which you've

been through a lot. What has helped you move forward through difficult times?

A: Well, I refer to the three "F's": family, friends and faith. And I've relied heavily on all three. We all have a difficult understanding of what people need when they're going through trauma. In our society, we are reluctant to offer help. We tend to back up and wait for some sign. But the message in the book, in part, is that you've got to ask for what you need,

See JACKIE SPEIER, page 7



Photo courtesy of Little A Publishing

Congresswoman Jackie Speier at her desk in Washington.

Facebook's international drama has its day in county courthouse

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

A years-old lawsuit in San Mateo County has made international headlines in recent days after a man who started a company that is now suing Facebook handed a committee of British lawmakers an unknown number and selection of highly confidential Facebook documents that, under court orders, were strictly limited for access by his attorneys.

San Mateo County Superior Court Judge Raymond Swope, who had issued a court order that the documents be sealed, called together the legal counsels for Facebook and Six4Three the afternoon of Friday, Nov. 30, to find an answer to that very question: Why and how had his court order been violated?

"When I issue a valid court order governing the conduct of parties in this case — or any other such court order — I expect these to be followed," he said during the court proceedings. "I do not expect a compromise of the integrity of this judicial system."

The breach

On Nov. 26, Ted Kramer, founder of a company called Six4Three that is suing Facebook, was ordered, while in London, to hand over the confidential documents to the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee of the U.K. House of Commons.

Kramer's company had, during Facebook's heyday of looser restrictions regarding user data, developed an application, called "Pikinis," that enabled Facebook users to search friends' photos that depict people wearing swimwear. The application shuttered after Facebook clamped down on the user data it permitted third-party app developers to use.

In April 2015, Six4Three filed a lawsuit against Facebook; the suit has been working through the county court system ever since. As part of the discovery process, the attorneys representing Six4Three had been granted access to confidential Facebook documents.

However, Kramer, as a plaintiff, was not supposed to have access to them. But he somehow gained access, and so was able to deliver Facebook's confidential documents to Parliament, which he handed over on a thumb drive. Just what was on that thumb drive was a key concern of both Swope and Facebook's legal team, and was not known by those parties at the time of Friday's hearing.

The seizure of the documents occurred in advance of a Nov. 27 international grand jury hearing on fake news and disinformation; the panel had invited CEO Mark Zuckerberg to the hearing, but he declined to attend.

According to the newspaper The Observer, the set of documents released is alleged to contain "significant revelations about Facebook decisions on data and privacy controls that led to the Cambridge Analytica scandal, which involves suspected Russian involvement in the 2016 U.S. presidential election. It is claimed they include confidential emails between senior executives, and correspondence with Zuckerberg."

How it happened

So how did Kramer get access to the confidential documents? The only people who could have granted him access were his attorneys, Swope said.

During the hearing, Swope vigorously questioned two of Kramer's attorneys, Stuart Gross of Gross & Klein, and David Godkin of Birnbaum & Godkin. Both mentioned a third member of Six4Three's legal team, Thomas Scaramellino, who was also a former investor in the company. He was not present, but they said he may have played a role in granting Kramer access to the files through a company Dropbox account that may have had "syncing" features they were unaware of.

After the files were delivered to Parliament, some of the confidential Facebook files in the Dropbox account had been marked for deletion, but hadn't yet been deleted, according to

See **FACEBOOK**, page 7

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Weekly

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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. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Copyright ©2018 by Embarcadero Media, All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

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NEWS

Recycled-water irrigation coming to Menlo golf course

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

At a cost of \$22.6 million, most of which is funded through a low-interest loan from the state's Clean Water State Revolving Fund, the West Bay Sanitary District has begun construction of a wastewater recycling facility on the grounds of the Sharon Heights Golf Course in western Menlo Park.

When Phase 1 of the project is completed at the end of the summer in 2019, the facility will be providing the golf course with the means to replace some 400,000 gallons of Hetch-Hetchy system potable water that it uses every day with recycled water, the sanitary district said in a statement.

The recycling facility can easily produce 500,000 gallons a day and up to 900,000 gallons a day on a short-term basis, West Bay District Manager Phil Scott said. Phase 2 of the project involves how to make use of that excess. The district is in talks with the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory as a potential customer for irrigation water and water for its cooling towers during winter months and other non-peak irrigation periods for the golf course, Scott said.

"But an agreement with (SLAC) could take some time," Scott said in an email. "Another option for Phase 2 is to look at some of the Homeowner Associations nearby to see if recycled water would fit their irrigation needs."

"This is the first public recycled water system in Menlo Park," Fran Dehn, a member of the sanitary district's governing board, said in the statement. "We're proud to implement this project, which will conserve the state's most valuable resource and benefit all of Menlo Park."

The district has also done a feasibility study for putting a treatment facility near Bedwell Bayfront Park to produce up to 1 million gallons of recycled water per day, the statement

said. Another project being planned would provide recycled water for eastern Menlo Park in a partnership with Facebook.

"Investing in recycled water now can (ensure) more stable water prices and more secure water delivery in the future," Scott said.

'As green as they come'

The sanitary district provides wastewater collection and transport services to Menlo Park, Atherton and Portola Valley as well as parts of East Palo Alto, Woodside and unincor-

porated areas in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

Crews recently broke ground for the golf course recycling facility in a dedicated easement along Sand Hill Road near the northbound on-ramp at Interstate 280. In addition to that

facility — which will have a "very small footprint," Scott said — a pipeline will run along Sand Hill Road, and work has begun on a pump station along Sand Hill in the vicinity of a frontage-road intersection with Oak Avenue.

Project financing includes a \$5.3 million grant from the state. The golf course will repay the \$17.3 million loan the district received from the state, Scott said.

The golf course's participation in the financing makes the enterprise neutral to ratepayers and will mean more potable water available in dry years, Scott said. It's not practical for the golf course to rely on well water, and the price of potable water is expected to climb "very high and very fast," he said, citing Menlo Park's Urban Water Management Plan.

The project "is as green ... as they come," Scott said. "We're treating the raw wastewater as a resource and recovering it and reusing it," he said in the email. "We're not just sending it all to the treatment plant in Redwood City, treating it and sending it out to the Bay to the fish who don't want it and never asked for it." ▀

**'Investing in
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now can (ensure)
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prices and more
secure water delivery
in the future.'**

WEST BAY DISTRICT MANAGER
PHIL SCOTT



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JACKIE SPEIER*continued from page 5*

and reach out to people who can be helpful to you, because they clearly want to be.

The other message is that we're much stronger and more resilient than we think we are. It's surprising what we can overcome.

Q: In the book you talk about your political mentor Leo Ryan and his "experiential" approach to legislation. How did his approach impact your approach to legislation — based on both the issues you've experienced on a personal level, and issues you've made an effort to go out and understand through experience?

A: I would say it's impacted me greatly on both levels. When I adopted a baby and the birth mother took the baby back, I realized the heartache associated with losing an adopted child is great. While the birth mother had every right to take the baby back, in my case, if it's six months down the road, is that realistic (to give the baby back)? When my husband was killed in an automobile accident, I wanted to make sure people had auto insurance, because while I was able to scrape together the money for his funeral, many other people (couldn't). And if we had a requirement that everyone carry at least minimum auto insurance, then there'd be money to pay for the funeral costs. So I carried legislation that required proof of auto insurance at the time of registration, and then a low-cost auto insurance policy in California so that everyone could afford auto insurance.

So (my personal experiences) absolutely have impacted the way I legislate.

In terms of how I've been experiential, I took a page from Congressman Ryan's book and I spent a night in a high-security women's state prison when I was still in the Legislature. I spent

the night at a local homeless shelter to appreciate the impact of what homelessness is in the area. I've taken the Food Stamp Challenge and lived on \$4 a day of food. I think it really helps to inform our decision-making if we have those experiences.

Q: So what do you do to ensure you remain independent?

A: My luxury is that I came very close to death and survived, and so I have a fearlessness that I probably wouldn't have, had I not encountered the experiences that I've encountered in my life. I guess I'm more prepared to stand up and speak out because I don't have anything to fear. Once you've looked death in the eye, you're not afraid of much anymore.

Q: What do you think politicians can do to alleviate the Bay Area housing crisis?

A: I think it's (taking) steps to make sure that Section 8 housing vouchers are used. There was a period of time when they weren't being used, and it was the equivalent of two or three apartment buildings. So I worked with many of the apartment owner associations to try and get them to participate. I think that what we need to do is regain more affordable housing that is accessible through mass transit.

High-speed rail can be a part of that solution. I think of the people who can be an hour from their job on rail from San Francisco to Silicon Valley on Caltrain. If we have high-speed rail, you can get from Fresno to Silicon Valley in an hour, and all of a sudden there's many more opportunities for affordable housing within a reasonable time frame of your work.

Obviously, these solutions aren't enough. From a federal level, the tax credit is basically what developers rely on to build senior housing and workforce housing — if we don't protect those, there won't be any housing built. As it turns out, the tax credits pay for about 60 percent

of the cost to develop (housing).

Q: You've called the November elections a "pink wave." How do you think having more women in Congress will change its dynamics?

A: I think women tend to want to compromise and move the ball forward. Sometimes we get so fixed on political machinations that it's all about winning battles instead of winning the future. I think for women's issues in particular, whether it's paycheck fairness or the Equal Rights Amendment or repealing the "pink tax" — I look forward to trying to get all that legislation passed.

Q: What's your point of view on how the split in the Democratic Party between more establishment and more progressive members will play out? Is it good or bad for the party?

A: It's the nature of our party. But we've also seen it in the Republican Party, where they had their Freedom Caucus and then the moderates. So it's all part of politics. We just need to come to common ground in times that there is a solution. We all share the same values. It's just oftentimes how something is being implemented that needs to be reconciled between two or three different interest groups.

Q: What are your biggest concerns right now regarding some of the tech companies in your district and how their actions relate to democracy?

A: Tech has been the darling of the economy for a very long time. They've enjoyed a very positive run. There is growing interest in Congress to look at regulation. It's even coming out in Silicon Valley, the recognition that self-regulation isn't working. So there's going to be some efforts to develop some forms of regulation, whether it's around truth in advertising and campaigning, or the size of companies and whether it becomes monopolistic. I think all those

from the other party or parties in a lawsuit.)

Swope ultimately ordered that Kramer's laptop and phone, any storage devices, including cloud storage details and all relevant passwords, be handed over by 9 p.m. that night and Scaramellino's laptop, storage devices and cloud storage details and passwords be handed over by noon the following day, as he was in New York. They were to be evaluated by an agent from Stroz Friedberg, a third-party forensics firm, to capture the evidence.

A discovery conference has been scheduled for Friday, Dec. 7. ■



Photo courtesy of Little A Publishing

Jackie Speier with Congressman Leo Ryan in Washington, D.C., while working as one of his staffers in 1973.

issues will be looked at.

We've got some great companies. They employ lots of people in our region. They're doing very innovative things, so I don't want to see that dampened at all, but a certain level of regulation is appropriate and I think everyone needs to feel confident that their privacy isn't going to be breached.

I mean, Marriott just announced that 500 million people had their privacy breached and their passports identified, so, you know, we don't necessarily get it right. We've got to anticipate that everything is hackable. So how do we protect personal, identifiable information in a way that makes it less susceptible?

Q: You've been tough with Pacific Gas and Electric Company in the past. How do you think PG&E should mitigate the wildfire threats its infrastructure poses?

A: I would just say, when they argue that undergrounding utility wires in high-risk areas is too costly, ask the 50,000 people who lost their homes in Paradise how costly that is, or the insurance companies that are going to be picking up the tab. So there's got to be some better techniques, whether there's a substance you can spray out there, which is something they're looking at, or insulating the wires, or whatever it is. There has to be some steps taken that are smarter technologically than the PG&E of yesteryear.

One thing I'll say in PG&E's defense is: When the transmission lines exploded in San Bruno, so many people lost their homes and lives. I introduced a bill to make them much more accountable, and they responded, even though the bill never got passed in Congress. They installed automatic and remote shut-off valves in high-consequence areas, which is where seismic action could take place. They developed plans to work with local first responders. They informed persons who live within so many feet of a transmission line. I mean, they're capable of doing the right thing. I just don't know if the leadership today is willing to do that. It's somewhat out of my jurisdiction now that I'm on the federal level.

For an expanded version of the interview, go to AlmanacNews.com.

FACEBOOK*continued from page 5*

Gross, who said he viewed the contents of the Dropbox account after learning of the document delivery but didn't make any changes.

A sense of urgency

The potentially imminent deletion of those files created a sense of urgency in the courtroom. Facebook attorney Joshua Lerner expressed concern about the contents of the thumb drive in Parliament and urged the judge to order that the court take immediate steps to find out what was handed over.

He asked that a third-party computer forensics expert be deployed immediately to capture any evidence that might be available on the laptops of Kramer and Scaramellino.

"We don't know what exists, who has access to it, (or) who else, perhaps, by the way, is traveling around with this stuff. It needs to be handled now," he said.

"The whole system of discovery breaks down if lawyers can't be trusted with confidential information," said Facebook attorney Sonal Mehta. (Discovery is the part of the legal process whereby lawyers can request documents and evidence

NOVEMBER REAL ESTATE REVIEW WITH MANDY MONTOYA

November 2018



Our housing market slowdown has been reported of late and we are definitely seeing longer days on market and price reductions. Interestingly, comparing November 2017 vs. 2018, home prices in these four communities are up or, in Portola Valley, essentially flat. All sample sizes are very small but it's interesting to look at actual sales numbers and see that we are not declining in prices. The double-digit gains from the past 10 years are not sustainable but our market is still very strong with employment growth and low inventory.

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	# of Active/ # of Sold Homes	Average Sales Price*	# of Active / # of Sold Homes	Average Sales Price*
Atherton	24/8	\$3,692,500	14/10	\$6,437,500
Woodside	24/8	\$2,600,000	24/3	\$2,928,888
Portola Valley	10/15	\$3,150,000	16/2	\$2,954,000
Menlo Park	26/23	\$2,100,000	28/22	\$2,845,000

*Small sample size

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Measure W passes with razor-thin margin

Some county residents are calling for a recount

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

Measure W, a half-cent sales tax in San Mateo County, barely cleared the super-majority voter threshold required to pass, according to county officials, based on what they say was a rush of votes in favor of the measure that were counted last.

The half-cent countywide sales tax, which would collect some \$80 million in revenues annually for transportation projects in the county, needed two-thirds of the votes to pass. And, in the final count available Nov. 27, the measure had received 180,895 votes in favor of its passage, or 66.9 percent. For weeks, that number had hung just below the 66.67 percent of votes required for approval. The difference between the measure's passage and failure is roughly 500 votes.

In response to the measure's shifted outcome, several of the measure's critics have expressed interest in a recount.

San Mateo County Sheriff Deputy Heinz Puschendorf, a candidate for the office of sheriff in June, is spearheading plans to request a recount. According to county government watchdog Michael Stogner, Puschendorf is asking that the Board of Supervisors authorize public funding of the cost and is organizing volunteers to conduct a by-hand recount of the ballots.

According to Jim Irizarry, San Mateo County assistant chief elections officer, a recount must be requested within five days of the county certifying the election, scheduled for Dec. 6. After that, the vote recount must be completed within seven days.

Andrew Boone, one of the lead opponents of the measure, said he hoped a recount would be done, but noted that the measure's organized opponents hadn't discussed the possibility of a recount. "I think the recount definitely could be successful," he added.

He noted that proponents of

Measure W also put out mailers and advertisements in the week or so before the election, so it's also possible that the people who voted last voted in favor of the measure in higher proportion than people who voted earlier in the election cycle.

"That's our guess," he said. "There's no way to know."

What Measure W will do

Plans call for directing the tax revenue toward addressing congestion on highways and local roads, safety improvements, grade-separation along the Caltrain tracks, bike and pedestrian improvements, regional transit connections, and the public transit agencies that serve the county: SamTrans and Caltrain.

Measure W will generate about \$80 million a year and \$2.4 billion over 30 years — for the San Mateo County Transit District. The tax would apply to all sales transactions of "tangible goods" that take place in the county, not including groceries or services.

According to county Board of Supervisors President Dave Pine, "Our transportation systems haven't kept pace with the growth of our economy."

Measure W proposes to put the tax revenue toward a "congestion relief plan," broken down into transportation project types, each intended to receive a designated percentage of the revenue, and each with a list of sample projects that could be funded over the duration of the tax.

Some of the sample projects for road improvements (22.5 percent of the revenue) include building grade separations on Bayfront Expressway in Menlo Park; installing express lanes on Bayfront Expressway in Menlo Park and East Palo Alto; reconfiguring Interstate 280 and Alpine Road in unincorporated San Mateo County; making highway interchange improvements along U.S. 101 at Woodside Road and University Avenue; and creating a countywide transportation demand management program



Photo courtesy of SamTrans.

An electric bus recently purchased by SamTrans, which plans to convert its entire fleet to electric vehicles but has been short on funds. Half of the tax revenue generated by Measure W would go to SamTrans.

to promote alternatives to solo driving.

Ten percent of the funding would go to cities for projects like street paving, pothole repair, shuttles, car pools, promoting biking and pedestrian programs, coordinating signals, and pursuing Caltrain grade separations. Two and a half percent would be strictly for grade separations.

Funding for each city would be determined based on its population and road mileage. About 1.88 percent of the funding in this category would go to Atherton, 3.2 percent to East Palo Alto, 4.89 percent to Menlo Park, 1.49 percent to Portola Valley, 1.79 percent to Woodside, and 12.54 to unincorporated parts of the county. In areas where roads are bad, the funding would have to go toward paving improvements until the roadways reach a standard level of quality.

Another 5 percent of the funding would go to bicycle, pedestrian and other "active transportation" projects aimed at making walking and biking safer and more convenient in the county.

Ten percent would go toward infrastructure and services to improve transit connectivity in the region. This is the funding pool that could support a Dumbarton corridor project — a collection of proposals approved by the county transportation agency to get people to and from the East Bay along the Dumbarton vehicle bridge and possibly via a rebuilt rail bridge.

This funding pool could generate as much as \$240 million over

30 years, substantially more than the \$130 million dedicated to Dumbarton corridor improvements that voters approved as part of Regional Measure 3 (the bridge toll tax increase) in June, according to Pine.

The other half of the measure's funding would go toward supporting operations and capital needs of the SamTrans bus and paratransit service, Caltrain, "and other mobility services administered by the district." Projects in this category include initiatives for SamTrans such as increasing bus frequency, expanding bus service hours, and providing better options for commuters to travel more easily between home, transit and job centers. For Caltrain, those projects include investments to expand service after electrification and boost ridership capacity.

Measure W funding

Sponsors of Measure W received significant contributions from large property owners, receiving \$100,000 each from Facebook and the David D. Bohannon Organization; \$25,000 from the Sobrato Organization; and donations of \$15,000 from the San Mateo County Economic Development Association, \$15,000 from Woodland Park Property Owner LLC, and \$10,000 from Sequoia Hospital Dignity Health.

Donations also included \$100,000 from Genentech in South San Francisco, \$40,000 from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, and \$5,000 from

the Plenary Group in Los Angeles, which has partnered with Facebook to conduct environmental analysis on a proposal to rebuild the Dumbarton rail corridor.

Other donations greater than \$10,000 include \$50,000 from Prometheus Real Estate Group in San Mateo; \$50,000 from Herzbog Contracting Corp. in Missouri; \$50,000 on Oct. 4 from Harbor View Property, San Francisco, and later, on Nov. 2, \$49,500 from Harbor View Property LLC; \$25,000 from the California Conference Board Amalgamated Transit Union Issues Committee; \$25,000 from San Francisco Laborers' Local 261, San Francisco; \$25,000 from American Medical Response in Granite Bay; \$25,000 from Hanson Bridgett LLP in San Francisco; \$25,000 from Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3 in Alameda; \$20,000 from the Northern California Carpenters Regional Council Issues PAC; \$12,000 from KP Financial SVCS OPS in Pasadena; \$15,000 from the Yes on W campaign in Burlingame; and \$15,000 from the California Teamsters Public Affairs Council Issues Account in Sacramento.

The formal campaign opposing Measure W, the "Committee Opposing the San Mateo County Sales Tax Increase Measure W" according to filings, was funded largely by Adam Cozzette of San Bruno, who contributed \$5,500 to the campaign. Thomas Weissmiller of San Mateo also contributed \$200. ■

Almanac reporter Dave Boyce contributed to this story.

String of home burglaries reported in Atherton

Police say among stolen items was \$225K worth of jewelry

By Angela Swartz
Almanac Staff Writer

Atherton police said on Nov. 26 that they are investigating four recent residential burglaries — including theft of nearly a quarter of a million dollars worth of jewelry.

In each of the incidents, an unknown person smashed residents' windows to get into the homes, according to the Atherton Police Department.

Between Nov. 23 and Nov. 25, someone shattered a master bedroom window of a home on Broadacres Road and stole

a safe containing jewelry and other items. The 400-pound safe is valued at about \$2,200, according to police. The jewelry inside the safe is valued at about \$225,000, police said.

One burglary took place in the 200 block of Camino al Lago between Nov. 16 and Nov. 23. In

that incident, someone shattered a master bedroom window and stole jewelry.

In Lindenwood, someone shattered a master bedroom window of a home on Greenoaks Drive between 3 p.m. on Nov. 25 and 9 a.m. on Nov. 26. The suspect took jewelry and other items, according to police.

Police reported on Nov. 21

that someone smashed a glass door of a home on Alta Vista Drive at around 6:06 p.m. that day. Nothing was stolen in that incident. Police said a burglary alarm activated, which may have scared off the suspect(s).

An investigation into the burglaries is ongoing, police said, adding that they have not determined whether the crimes are related. ■



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All donations to the Holiday Fund will be shared equally among the 10 recipient agencies listed on this page.

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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.

Health Connected

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

LifeMoves

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.

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 by voluntary contributions and community grants, St. Anthony's is the largest dining room for the needy between San Francisco and San Jose. It also offers take-home bags of food, as well as emergency food and clothing assistance.

St. Francis Center

Helps low-income, working families become self-supporting members of the community by providing long-term solutions through educational programs for children and parents, as well as after-school programming at Siena Youth Centers. St. Francis Center also provides housing, food and clothing services to address short-term needs.

StarVista

Serves more than 32,000 people throughout San Mateo County, including children, young people and 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.

Upward Scholars

Upward Scholars empowers low-income adults by providing them with financial support, tutoring, and other assistance so they can continue their education, get higher-paying jobs, and serve as role models and advocates for their children.



HOLIDAY FUND 2018

Helping homeless youth build brighter futures

By Lauren Heminez, grant writer at StarVista

When Greg* entered Daybreak, he, his mother, and his little brother had been homeless together for many years. Rotating between shelters, people's homes, and hotel rooms, moving was a constant part of family life, and they never stayed in one place for long. Against a backdrop of family substance abuse, emotional abuse, and unstable adult role models, Greg did not feel that he and his brother were a priority and avoided getting attached to anyone.

Despite these challenges, Greg persevered and graduated high school. In addition to being extremely intelligent and astute, Greg was very dedicated to helping others. From helping his mother through her emotional ups and downs and lack of motivation, to supporting his brother through suicidal thoughts and attempts, Greg naturally took on the pain of those around him.

As time went on, Greg began to realize he needed help to better support his family, and through researching, he found Daybreak. Though leaving his family was tremendously hard,

■ HOLIDAY FUND

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he knew this would teach him how to become independent, and this began Greg's Daybreak journey.

Greg's confidence and self-worth blossomed as he learned to trust and open up to Daybreak staff and peers

When he arrived at Daybreak, a program of the nonprofit StarVista, Greg had never cooked before and the thought of creating a meal terrified him. Daybreak staff took him under their wing and began by teaching him how to saute an onion and cook a piece of chicken. This foray into cooking led to many more, and Greg began taking great pride in his ability to prepare healthful meals. As he progressed through the program, he continued to seek

out and successfully acquire new skills to help him support his family.

Greg also came to Daybreak with internalized emotional challenges and experienced physical pains and stomach problems that doctors couldn't explain. This physical manifestation of trauma can happen when an individual has been living under stressful conditions for a long period of time.

With staff support and therapy through the program, Greg started learning how to cope with these issues to begin healing. His confidence and self-worth blossomed as he learned to trust and open up to Daybreak staff and peers, and soon enough, he even became the house comedian and mentor for residents seeking advice.

When Greg graduated the program, he identified Daybreak as being "the home he has never had," and stated he would always take this experience with him through the rest of his life.

To learn more about Daybreak and StarVista, visit us at star-vista.org, or reach us at 650-591-9623 or 610 Elm St., Suite 212, San Carlos, CA 94070.

**Name changed to protect confidentiality*



Photo courtesy of StarVista

Adrian Esqueda, Daybreak residential counselor, gets ready to lead the house residents in a gardening project in Daybreak's backyard.

Upward Scholars offers 'life-changing' educational help

By Linda Prieto, executive director of Upward Scholars

Nine months ago, Upward Scholars student Isabel Guerra earned her living cleaning other people's houses. Now, she's an administrative assistant.

Isabel's trajectory was made possible by Upward Scholars, a local nonprofit that provides financial and academic support to low-income adults, mostly immigrants, so they can continue their education in community college, get better jobs, and serve as role models and advocates for their children.

Isabel is a native of Guatemala, and after arriving in the U.S., Isabel, age 29, enrolled in ESL classes, first at Sequoia Adult School, where she took basic ESL classes, and then at Canada College where, after completing a rigorous ESL sequence, she ultimately completed freshman-level college English. She then started taking paralegal classes with a goal of obtaining her paralegal certificate.

During her three-year tenure

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at Canada, Upward Scholars paid for Isabel's books, which often cost several hundred dollars a semester, gave her a laptop, and provided her with a volunteer tutor, Menlo Park resident Rick Trushel.

'I'm happy because, in my new job, I'll be able to help other people the way Upward Scholars helped me.'

— ISABEL GUERRA

Rick, a retired software engineer, says: "Witnessing Isabel achieve fluency in written and spoken English has been so rewarding. Seeing her honor commitments to her studies, family, and community inspires

me as she puts her many talents to use in her new job."

Knowing about Isabel's outstanding academic record and her interest in legal issues, Upward Scholars staff referred her to an administrative assistant job opening at the International Institute of the Bay Area, a local nonprofit that provides immigration-related services to residents from low-income backgrounds.

"Upward Scholars made my new job possible," Isabel says. "I'm happy because, in my new job, I'll be able to help other people the way Upward Scholars helped me."

Isabel says that learning English has also made her a better mother. "I want to be able to help my children with their homework and communicate with their teachers," Isabel says. "Now that I can speak English, I have the confidence to do that."

This semester Upward Scholars is supporting 280 students at Canada College, Skyline College, and College of San Mateo, up from 220 students a year ago.

Once Upward Scholars students are proficient in English,



Photo courtesy of Upward Scholars

Isabel Guerra at work at the International Institute of the Bay Area.

they are primed to move from low-wage occupations (less than \$18 an hour) into middle-wage occupations (between \$18 and \$30 an hour). After completing ESL classes, many go on to earn certificates in areas such as medical assisting, early childhood education, or bookkeeping, and a few transfer to

four-year institutions.

"By giving students the support they need to take advantage of high-quality, advanced ESL classes, we're providing them with opportunities that wouldn't otherwise be available," says Upward Scholars founder Elizabeth Weal. "Our work really is life-changing."

Ikie Kurose of former Nak's Oriental Market dies at 78

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

Ikie Kurose, a longtime fixture of the community at the former Nak's Oriental Market in Menlo Park, died Saturday, Nov. 24, at age 78.

She was born on May 8, 1940, in Kawasaki-shi Kanagawa-Ken, Japan. In Japan, she wrote cooking articles for the NHK newspaper and was a chef at a Japanese restaurant. Her husband, Seikichi, or as he was known in the U.S., Sam, had been a news reporter at that newspaper, said her son, Ken.

The family moved to the U.S. in 1970, and later, in 1984, took over ownership of Nak's Oriental Market. The shop had originally been opened in 1968 by relatives of the Kurose family, but the relatives later moved to Japan for medical reasons.

OBITUARIES

Obituaries are based on information provided by the family.

The store, located at 1151 Chestnut St. in downtown Menlo Park, was known for its customer service and unique selections of not only Japanese groceries but Dutch and Indonesian foods as well.

The store closed on May 1, 2015, and the family lived in Nevada for about a year before they moved to Florida, where they have been since, Ken said.

Her children say that Ikie loved to cook and feed people. Her limited English didn't keep her from showing kindness and making friends wherever she went, said her daughter, Tamami Hansen, in an email.

"It always amused us as she gesticulated wildly with her hands,

her face animated and expressive as she communicated in her Japanese/English with one of her customers at Nak's or a stranger that she just met on the streets. Noting that these 'conversations' were always one sided, we would ask, 'Do you understand what she is saying?' People were always kind, and would reply with a smile, 'Of course we understand,' and my mother would feel vindicated," Hansen said.

To further overcome the language barrier, she said, Ikie used food and cooking to show love to those she cared about. She often cooked in the small kitchen in the back of Nak's and fed her customers various snacks.

Suzanne Rocca-Butler, a longtime customer of the store, recalled that Ikie once made her a sandwich made up of smoked salmon, mango, cilantro, mayonnaise and black pepper. "It

was very tasty, she noted, adding that she continues to make the sandwich to this day.

Ikie also helped Rocca-Butler once when she was tasked with teaching Japanese folk dances at a festival by providing translations.

She recalls, too, that Ikie would display beautiful floral arrangements from her garden at the store counter.

Juri Kameda, another longtime customer, credits Kurose with three decades of friendship, and remembers her as someone who embodied "motherly kindness." Kurose was a provider of life advice, marriage counseling and cooking instruction, she said. When Kurose needed to explain complex Japanese recipes, she would enlist her husband to translate.

"Ikie and Seikichi were inseparable, as if they were two Japanese

beautiful cranes," Kameda wrote in an email.

According to Ikie's son Ken, she and her husband loved to visit Mount Rose in Nevada, and visited there whenever they had time off away from the store.

She loved flowers, he said. "She would take seeds with her to Mount Rose and scatter her flower seeds where the wildflowers grow," Ken said in an email.

He said the family plans to eventually scatter her ashes at Mount Rose, as she had requested.

Kurose is preceded in death by sisters Tamie Nakamura and Carroll Minako, and brother Yasuaki Igarashi. She is survived by her husband Seikichi "Sam" Kurose; her son, Ken Kurose; her daughters, Naomi Harrington and Tamami Hansen; sisters Chihoko Iwasaki and Nobue Kokubu; and sons-in-law John Harrington and Eric Hansen. ■

Virginia Nalley Woodson

Former staff member of Menlo Presbyterian

Virginia Nalley Woodson, a longtime staff member at Menlo Presbyterian Church (now Menlo Church), died Nov. 13 at age 86 at Stanford Hospital, surrounded by close family.

Woodson was born in

Oklahoma and moved around the Midwest as a child. Her dad was a Christian minister and her mom was a choir director and vocalist, and together they built church congregations from town to town.

During World War II, her family lived in the Bay Area while her dad was a chaplain in

the Pacific theater.

Later, the family moved to Kansas City. Woodson attended the University of Kansas, where she received her bachelor's degree and a master's degree in education.

She spent the majority of her career as an elementary school teacher and pioneered

the concept of magnet programs for gifted children, her family said.

When her first grandchild was born, she moved to the Bay Area and took a position on the staff of Menlo Presbyterian Church, where she was the administrative assistant to the executive pastor. When she retired, she

stayed involved with the church community as a volunteer.

Her family said that she loved her extended family and friends from the church community and enjoyed attending athletic events for her grandsons, praying, participating in Bible study, playing cards, reading mysteries and science fiction, listening to "classic oldies" and cheering for her favorite NBA stars.

She is survived by sons Riley David Woodson and Wade Woodson; daughter-in-law Brenda; grandsons Wyatt, Connor, and Riley; brother and sister-in-law Victor and Virlee Nalley of Orange County; and sister and brother-in-law Gloria and Claude Jardon of Joplin, Missouri.

The family prefers memorial donations be made to Menlo Church or the Ravenswood Education Foundation.

Barbara Sonsini

Teacher, bridge competitor

Woodside resident Barbara Condon Sonsini, a language teacher and a competitor in bridge and, in her youth, tennis, died Nov. 28 in the company of her family. She was 79.

See OBITUARIES, page 14

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Fiscal responsibility, high academic standards are key priorities

By Angela Swartz
Almanac Staff Writer

There will be some new faces looking out from the dais at Menlo Park City School District board meetings starting Dec. 11, the day district parents Sherwin Chen and Scott Saywell begin their terms on the school board.

Both served on the campaign team for the district's most recent parcel tax, Measure X, and both have served on school board and superintendent advisory committees. As members of the Board of Education, both Chen and Saywell want to prioritize fiscal responsibility and maintain high-quality education.

Chen, Saywell and incumbent Stacey Jones were the only candidates for the board's three open seats, so the Nov. 6 board election was automatically canceled. Incumbents Terry Thygesen and Joan Lambert did not run for re-election.

There are 2,932 students enrolled in the district this school year. The district has four schools: Encinal and Laurel School in Atherton, and Hillview Middle School and Oak Knoll School in Menlo Park.

The district opened a preschool this year, which is funded separately from the other schools.

Sherwin Chen

Chen, 46, moved to the district in 2005. He has two children: a fifth-grader at Oak Knoll and an eighth-grader at Hillview. He has an investment background and most recently served as a managing director at a technology investment firm that he helped co-found.

"It's a natural next step for me," he said of becoming a school board member. "I'm incredibly grateful to the district. My kids have had a great experience (in the schools)."

Chen said he has a passion for education and at one time considered becoming a teacher. Joining the board is one way to satisfy that interest, he said.

He also brings his professional training in finance and strategic thinking to the board, he said. He holds a bachelor's degree from Harvard University and an MBA from Stanford University.

Among Chen's priorities as a board member will be to help the district address the challenges it faces in achieving financial



Sherwin Chen, left, and Scott Saywell begin their first terms on the Menlo Park City School District board on Dec. 11.

stability with rising pension costs. It's also important, he said, to maintain the district's high academic standards and to maintain a high level of transparency in communicating with the public.

The district is prioritizing teacher compensation, developing a formal philosophy to guide its decision-making in that area. Officials found that 34 percent of teachers and staff who left the district at the end of the 2017-18 school year did so because of long commutes and high cost of living.

"At the end of the day, all the stuff we do only really works if we have great teachers," he said.



Scott Saywell

Saywell, 45, grew up in Menlo Park's Sharon Heights neighborhood and attended Menlo School. This is his second run for the school board; he first ran in 2016, he said, out of concern that two parcel tax bond measures had failed in May of that year.

"I wanted to get involved so we got on the right track," he said. "I didn't want to start taking steps backward. The parcel tax (failing) pushed me over to run."

Saywell has a bachelor's degree from University of California at Los Angeles and an MBA from Northwestern University's

Kellogg School of Management. He has children in second and fourth grade at Laurel School.

Saywell, who is a senior director of business development at Theravance Biopharma, said his children have received an education that is second to none. The district's community values high-quality, comprehensive education for all students, he said.

"I want to continue to bring the best educational product for all kids in the district and to continue to work on the education gap," he said, referring to a prevailing achievement gap between students from affluent families and underprivileged children.

Saywell said that although the board was fortunate to have three good candidates, a contested election would have brought awareness and attention to the district. During the last contested election, he said, community engagement was high.

He said he is aware that teachers commute long distances because of the high cost of living in this area. Good compensation and allowing teachers' children to attend schools in the district are two ways to address the issue, he said. ■

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La Entrada school floods for second time in five weeks

By Angela Swartz

Almanac Staff Writer

A water main break at La Entrada Middle School in Menlo Park on Nov. 29 flooded the campus for the second time in five weeks, leading officials to cancel classes.

The Menlo Park Municipal Water Department worked through that night and into the morning to repair the line, Public Works Director Justin Murphy said in an email.

The flooding began after a water main broke at the city/school connection point, Las Lomas Elementary School District Superintendent Lisa Cesario said in an email. The district did not say what time the main broke.

Officials dismissed students around 12:45 p.m. because all water was shut off, cutting off

students' access to bathrooms, she wrote. School resumed on Nov. 30 with port-a-potties and bottled water provided to students, said Menlo Park City Councilman Ray Mueller. The city restored water service to the school midday on Nov. 30, Murphy said.

Water leaked into four classrooms and officials relocated classroom materials to other spaces on campus.

The water department worked on repairs during the day on Thursday, but as the rain continued, a second break occurred in the evening, said Mueller. At that point, California Water Service stepped in to help, he said. The affected pipes also run through private property, which has added some complexity to the repair process, he said.

The city plans to replace the water main at Monte Rosa

Drive, according to Murphy. Earlier this year, the City Council approved a water system master plan for increased staffing and \$90 million of capital improvements. The water main replacement should improve the reliability of the system near La Entrada, Murphy said.

On Oct. 25, a pipe burst at nearby 720 Monte Rosa Drive, flooding numerous classrooms and prompting officials to close the school for two days.

Parent Jud Hoffman emailed

council members on Thursday night to make sure they were aware of the main breaks, he told The Almanac.

Both Hoffman and his wife work, so the school cancellations were "understandably, really inconvenient," said Hoffman, who has twins in the sixth grade. He said the district has done a good job keeping parents updated about the flooding.

The district was still in the process of assessing damage from the October incident when

the campus flooded last week.

In the October incident, water leaked into nine of the 21 classrooms in the school's new two-story building, which opened this fall. The water main break impacted 17 classrooms at the school, which has about 800 students enrolled.

None of the four classrooms impacted Thursday is in the new building, according to Cesario. ■

Almanac staff writer Kate Bradshaw contributed to this report.

Menlo Park district registering preschool students

By Angela Swartz

Almanac Staff Writer

Registration is underway for enrollment in Menlo Park City School District's new preschool next school year.

Registration opened last month for children born between Sept. 1, 2014, and Dec. 1, 2016, for the preschool, called the Early Learning Center (ELC). The center opened on the Laurel School Lower Campus in Atherton in August and serves children ages 2.9 years to 5 years old.

There are 54 students enrolled in ELC this year, and the district hopes to expand the program to 72 next school year. District

staff is exploring the possibility of opening an ELC classroom at Oak Knoll School in the west side of Menlo Park in 2019-20 if there's demand.

Tours of the ELC are available on Dec. 12 and Jan. 17 from 9 to 9:45 a.m.

The preschool's enrollment priorities are as follows:

■ Priority 1 — Current ELC students and their siblings.

■ Priority 2 — District residents and children eligible for the Tinsley Voluntary Transfer Program who qualify for an Early Learning Center scholarship.

■ Priority 3 — Children of district staff (children of ELC staff

will receive first priority among staff).

■ Priority 4 — Children who live outside of district boundaries.

■ Priority 5 — Children whose families apply after Feb. 15.

The program offers scholarships for 25 percent of enrollees. There are full- and part-day options.

The application period closes on Feb. 1.

Parents can apply on the district's website at mpcsd.org. For more information, email ELC director Jessica Mihaly at jmihaly@mpcsd.org. For information in Spanish, email Wendy Valencia at wvalencia@mpcsd.org or call 650-324-0186, ext. 8900. ■

Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

CRYPTO MARKETING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 279364
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Crypto Marketing, located at 157 Bellevue Ave., Daly City, CA 94014, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
BRYAN JUDSON HAUPT
157 Bellevue
Daly City, CA 94014
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on October 31, 2018.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on Oct. 31, 2018.
(ALM Nov. 14, 21, 28; Dec. 5, 2018)

CAMINO VILLA'S
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 279396
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Camino Villa's, located at 1280 El Camino Real, Millbrae, CA 94030, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
TINA FATICA
155 Tiptoe Lane
Burlingame, CA 94010
MARGARET BENEDETTI
2750 Belmont Cyn. Rd.
Belmont, CA 94002
MARY DELUCA
175 Tiptoe Lane
Burlingame, CA 94010
This business is conducted by: A General Partnership.
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 2, 2018.
(ALM Nov. 14, 21, 28; Dec. 5, 2018)

TACOS EL GRULLENSE C&D
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 279428
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Tacos El Grullense C&D, located at 60 31st. Ave., San Mateo, CA 94403, San Mateo

County; Mailing address; 513 Hurlingame Ave., Redwood City, CA 94063.
Registered owner(s):
TACOS EL GRULLENSE C&D INC.
513 Hurlingame Ave.
Redwood City, CA 94063
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 11/6/2018.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 6, 2018.
(ALM Nov. 28; Dec. 5, 12, 19, 2018)

TIDY TRANSFORMATIONS
GREGOIRE MARTINEAU
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 279591
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Tidy Transformations, 2.) Gregoire Martineau, located at 1770 Oakdell Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
GREGOIRE JACQUES MARTINEAU
1770 Oakdell Drive
Menlo Park, CA 94025
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 26, 2018.
(ALM Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2018)

HAIGHT & ASSOCIATES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 279635
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Haight & Associates, located at 380 Cotton St., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
HAIGHT INVESTMENT CORPORATION
380 Cotton St.
Menlo Park, CA 94025
This business is conducted by: A Corporation.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on April 23, 1990.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on November 28, 2018.
(ALM Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2018)

Call Alicia Santillan at 650-223-6578 or email asantillan@pawebly.com for assistance with your legal advertising needs. Deadline is Friday at noon.

WHOA! responding to animals in need

By Maggie Mah

Special to The Almanac

The toll of losses from the Camp Fire in Butte County continues to climb. Along with the devastation to the human population, thousands of animals have been impacted. To date, hundreds of them have been rescued and are being cared for by the North Valley Animal Disaster Group.

WHOA!, the Woodside area equestrian organization, responded to the situation with a call for donations to assist NVADG in feeding and caring for the animals. Donors were asked to purchase items on a specific list and to bring contributions to the parking area adjacent to Woodside's Town

Hall on Nov. 17.

According to Fawni Hill, a member of the WHOA Steering Committee who organized the event, the response was generous. "One woman drove to Half Moon Bay to pick up small-animal feed that the local stores didn't carry," Hill said.

With help from the Redwood City-Canada 4-H Club, The Woodside Pony Club and others, WHOA volunteers collected more than 150 bags of feed and enough equipment and other supplies to fill three trucks and trailers.

Donations were delivered to the Butte County Fairgrounds in Gridley — currently home to 600 evacuated animals including horses, miniature horses, ponies, donkeys, mules, calves,

llamas, sheep, goats, pigs, rabbits and chickens — and to the North Valley Animal Disaster Group location in Chico.

The animals are being cared for by a team from NVADG, an all-volunteer nonprofit organization. The group's Livestock Rescue Unit worked in conjunction with volunteers from another group, Cowboy 911, to collect stranded animals and transport them to shelters.

"There will be an ongoing need for these animals, Hill said. "We plan on another delivery as needed."

Those wishing to foster or provide shelter to animals can send information on animal type and facilities via text to the NVADG coordinator at 530-788-8400. ■

OBITUARIES

continued from page 12

Barbara Sonsini was married to Larry Sonsini, a founder and partner in the Palo Alto law firm Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati.

She was a native of San Francisco and had a bachelor of arts degree from Pomona College and a master's degree in education from Stanford University, a family spokesperson said. Her

studies also took her to Switzerland, Austria and Mexico, and she taught German and French language classes at Cupertino High School for many years.

She is the granddaughter of Charles G. Harvey, who attended the United States Military Academy at West Point at the same time as General Douglas MacArthur and served with him in the Philippines during World War II, her family said.

She played in regional and

national bridge tournaments and accumulated 7,500 masterpoints "in a relatively short time," her family said. She represented the United States on a team that played at the World Bridge Teams Championships in Indonesia in 2013.

Barbara Sonsini is survived by her husband Larry; her daughter Allison Buttles of San Francisco; stepsons Matthew Sonsini and Peter Sonsini, both of Menlo Park; and eight grandchildren.



Photo by Leslie Bergman

More than 30 wild turkeys move through a Woodside yard.

Love 'em or hate 'em, they're roosting in a yard near you

Wild turkeys are becoming more of a presence on the Peninsula

By Kate Daly
Special to The Almanac

Thirty-three. That's how many wild turkeys crossed the road in front of a visitor driving through Portola Valley Ranch in Portola Valley the other day.

The 350-acre open space and wilderness preserve creates a perfect place for a rafter — as a group of turkeys is called — to thrive, because there are plenty of seeds, leaves, grains, berries, bulbs, roots, insects and reptiles for the omnivorous birds to devour, and many trees to roost in.

Nearby on Willowbrook Road, Patti McClung has counted about 30 turkeys pecking around her garden, preening in her clerestory windows, and gobbling away. When she first moved in 12 years ago, there were no turkeys. Now she notices more of the wild birds, which are not native to the state, showing up every year.

On Albion Avenue in Woodside, gardener Leslie Bergman has worked alongside dozens of wild turkeys in one yard.

"They push all the mulch around and make a mess. I have no idea how to keep them away. I actually enjoy them. ... they make a lovely sound," she says.

Portola Valley Ranch land manager Miriam Sachs Martin says that when she sees wild turkeys roosting on residents' roofs and uprooting plantings on patios, it's both "an inconvenience and a concern."

She believes with fewer predatory coyotes and mountain lions living in the region, a growing

population of wild turkeys is "an emerging issue." She also wonders if the turkeys are edging quail out of their native habitat and causing a shift in the ecosystem.

Records show that wild turkeys were introduced into the state in 1877. California Department of Fish and Wildlife's "Keep Me Wild" campaign brochure states: "Wild turkeys now occupy about a quarter of our state, and are a highly valued upland game bird."

CDFW public information officer Peter Tira says, "We don't do turkey population estimates; generally populations are increasing, they do very well and are colonizing more urban and suburban landscapes."

Like Canada geese, wild turkeys are turning up on golf courses, in cemeteries, at schools, and at vineyards where food and water are readily

available, so more complaints are coming in, he says.

"Turkeys are a breed that people either love or hate, depending on where you live," Tira says. "In urban areas people don't like them pooping on their cars."

Whereas in rural areas, hunters are happy when the state's fall turkey hunting season opens. It lasts this year until Dec. 9.

Wild turkeys are organic, lean, and "very delicious," which is why some people like to hunt them for their Thanksgiving meal, Tira says.

"A lot of people will pay money to hunt them," he says, primarily on private properties in Napa, Sonoma, Butte and Glenn

counties where wild turkeys are known to roam.

CDFW's website has details on hunting regulations. For example, a license and upland game bird stamp are required. The website also offers some turkey recipes.

CDFW wildlife biologist Terri Kasteen says her department has received "steady but few" reports of turkeys in Portola Valley and Woodside. Each year CDFW has issued three to six depredation permits to give locals permission to kill birds that are damaging property. Wildlife control companies can be hired to handle the situation.

CDFW provides no trapping

or relocation services. "We don't relocate any wildlife because it doesn't work; it causes more conflicts," Tira says.

CDFW suggests that to deter turkeys, never feed them, remove bird feeders, install motion detection sprinklers, and get a dog.

Wild turkeys can weigh more than 20 pounds and tend to act more aggressively — possibly charging and threatening humans — during their spring mating season.

Tira warns that when turkeys are accustomed to people, the birds don't scare away easily. One recommendation is to shoo them away with an open umbrella. ▀



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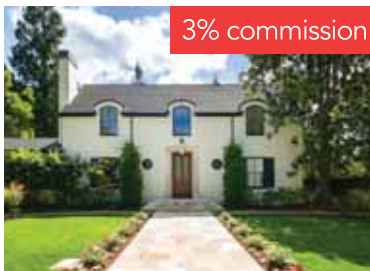
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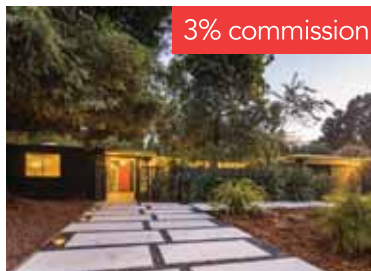
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Sold for \$3,605,000
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10 days on MLS



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10 days on MLS



112 Laurel Ave
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10 days on MLS



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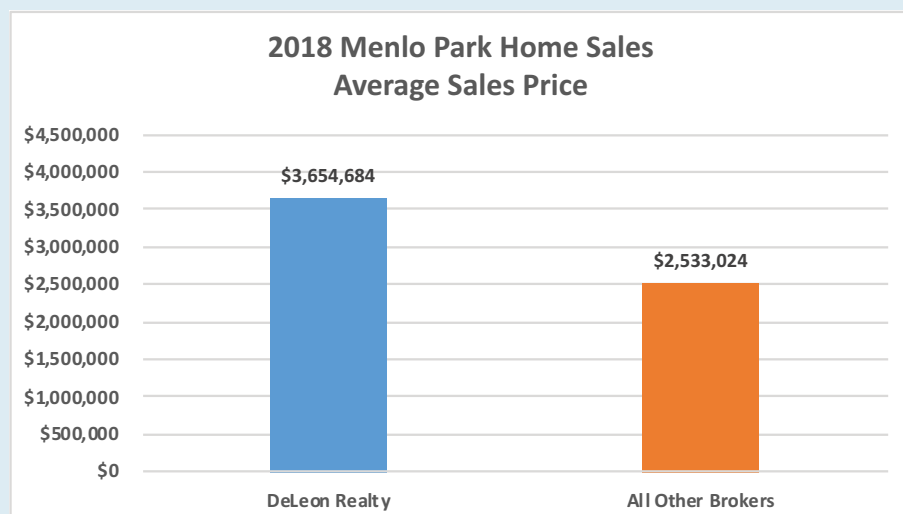


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A Woodside treasure

History of Fleishhacker family estate goes back more than a century

By Barbara Wood
Special to The Almanac

Although the Woodside estate the Fleishhacker family named Green Gables takes up close to 75 acres in central Woodside and is less than a 20-minute walk from the town's civic and commercial center, the casual passerby is more likely to catch a glimpse of a flock of wild turkeys, a pair of coyotes or an eight-point buck than any sign of the history spanning more than a century contained within its boundaries.

The property, recently revealed to be on the market for an unnamed price that local real estate agents speculate could surpass \$150 million, has been a summer retreat for members of the Fleishhacker family for more than a century. Its centerpiece is a 29-room home that is the largest ever designed by Charles Sumner Greene of the iconic California architectural firm Greene and Greene.

Easement protects property

Although the property may soon have new owners, it's unlikely to change much. That's because 15 years ago David and Mortimer Fleishhacker and Delia Fleishhacker Ehrlich, whose grandparents Mortimer and Bella Fleishhacker built the estate, took steps to assure that its history and open space is preserved forever by granting a perpetual

conservation easement to the Garden Conservancy.

The easement says the property may never be subdivided or used for any commercial purpose other than renting its homes or for educational purposes, and limits the expansion or replacement of the existing structures.

The purpose of the easement, the document says, is to ensure that Green Gables "will be retained forever as a natural, scenic, historic and horticultural resource."

The property, located near the intersection of Albion and Manuella avenues, includes seven houses, three swimming pools, and an 18,000-square-foot reflecting pool surrounded by a faux Roman stone arcade.

The main house

The main house, also known as Green Gables, has been listed on the National Registry of Historic Places since 1986. San Francisco banker and businessman Mortimer Fleishhacker and his wife, artist Bella Gerstle Fleishhacker, began buying land in Woodside in 1909.

Charles Greene was hired to design a home for the property in 1911. Greene worked on the property for decades, designing not only the main house but landscaping and the water garden, a large free-form swimming pool, and a small stone dairy/tea house. He designed, and sometimes crafted, furniture, pottery, woodcarvings and decorative



Photo by Natalia Nazarova

Top: The terrace and lawn of the Green Gables main house has been used for weddings, charity fundraisers, Fourth of July events and other entertaining over the past century. **Above:** Off the kitchen and dining room is an outdoor dining table that offers diners a view of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

painting, both inside and outside the house.

Mr. Greene is said to have chosen the home's site only after spending hours sitting on the property, contemplating the views and exposure. It sits on a knoll with sweeping views of the Santa Cruz Mountains, but even today — with the Sand Hill Road venture capital offices that fund much of Silicon Valley only a five-minute drive away — few signs of civilization, and none of the property's other homes, can be seen from the main house.

"It just happened that my

grandfather made a brilliant choice" in choosing the site, David Fleishhacker told The Almanac in 2013. "This is an island in Woodside. It is part of but apart from (the town). That is how it was originally intended."

The home differs significantly from other Greene and Greene Craftsman-style houses in that it is built to resemble an English country cottage with walls that look like stucco but were actually constructed using gunite, a type of spray-on concrete used to build swimming pools, topped by

a "thatched" roof made from hand-steamed and molded redwood shingles.

Only one room, known as the card room, bears the signature Craftsman-style details common to Greene and Greene. The 1986 nomination for the historic register describes the card room this way: "Here are fascias, cupboard doors and panels in natural color woods with Charles Sumner Green's own delicate carvings of the seasons, gently stained, polished, waxed and rubbed. He also carved the leather-covered main furniture: an armchair, four side chairs



Photo by Natalia Nazarova

The card room in the Green Gables main house bears its original Greene and Greene Craftsman-style details, including carvings and furniture made by Charles Greene himself.

and a card table.”

The room still has its original furniture, wrought-iron light fixtures and dark tile floors.

A ‘big cottage’

In a 2013 interview, David Fleishhacker told *The Almanac*: “My grandfather wanted a cottage, basically — a big cottage. He didn’t want a fancy house.”

The historic register nomination describes the “big cottage” this way: “The main house is in Greene and Greene’s English style, not that of their more famous, carving-bedecked ultimate bungalows. Interior woodwork has a white lacquer-like finish and includes plain broad moldings and two beamed ceilings. The plan combines formality and informality. ... Ceilings are of

medium height, public rooms ample but not awesome in size. Exterior elevations repose in balance but are decidedly asymmetrical. Dormers, gables, eyelids and clipped gables enliven the imitation thatch roof, which is composed of wood shingles that were steam-bent around corners and laid in wavy courses.”

At least one bedroom still has the original furnishings designed by Elsie de Wolfe, one of the first professional interior designers. Even the light fixtures are embellished to match the painted furniture.

Mortimer Fleishhacker, whose investments included a power company, a paper box company and a chemical company, and who eventually became a banker, built the home as a getaway from San Francisco, especially its cold

and foggy summers.

Green Gables, David Fleishhacker told *The Almanac* in the 2013 interview, “has always been used only as a summer house. It was never intended to be lived in during the winter,” he said. “The way it was used, my grandfather and grandmother would come down here at the beginning of the summer,” he said, bringing along a cook, a maid, a butler and a chauffeur. “They came in early June and left for the opera (opening),” he said.

A large free-form swimming pool, designed around several mature oak trees, was completed around 1917, and served as the site of many family and social gatherings.

Childhood summers

Delia Fleishhacker Ehrlich, who died in 2016, remembered



Photo by Natalia Nazarova

Instead of staging what Mortimer Fleishhacker’s grandson David Fleishhacker called “a big cottage,” the house is still furnished just as the Fleishhacker family had furnished it.



Photo by Natalia Nazarova

Fleishhacker family photos grace the hallway walls, showing some of the five generations of descendants of Bella and Mortimer Fleishhacker who have used the property since it was purchased starting in 1909.

some of her childhood summers at Green Gables in a 2003 interview with *The Almanac*. She said she remembered “being set outdoors every day in the morning. We were just told to amuse ourselves.”

Among the estate’s possible sources of amusement for the Fleishhacker children, their cousins and guests were a retired San Francisco cable car and a decommissioned yellow cab. The property once had a small golf course and has tennis courts.

Children ate in a separate children’s dining room until they were old enough to dine with the adults. “You had to be 10,” Delia Ehrlich said. “But we had to wear shoes, so no one wanted to.”

When they were older, the children learned to drive on the grounds of the estate.

In a 2004 interview with *The Almanac* David Fleishhacker said his grandfather commuted by train to his work in San Francisco during the summers. “His chauffeur would take him to the train in Redwood City,” he said.

Over the years, the property has been the site of many family weddings and Fourth of July parties, charity fundraisers, and even — in 1991 — an American Society of Interior Designers’ Designer Showcase. The home was also featured in the 1999 Robin Williams’ movie, “Bicentennial Man.”

What’s next?

The next chapter in the history of Green Gables remains to be written. Listing Realtor Michael Dreyfus of the Sotheby’s International Realty franchise in Palo Alto said that potential buyers include Silicon Valley tech executives, company founders and international clients, but that he hopes a local family might decide to make the estate its own Silicon Valley getaway. **A**

On the cover: The main house on the Fleishhacker estate in Woodside, which has been on the National Registry of Historic Places since 1986, was used in the Robin Williams movie “Bicentennial Man.” Photo by Natalia Nazarova.



Photo by Natalia Nazarova

The estate’s “Roman” pool can be glimpsed by a visitor only after crossing the expansive lawn of the main house, and peering down just past the reflecting lily pond.

ClassGuide

The new year is right around the corner, which means it's another chance to reflect and write down resolutions. Looking to become more physically fit this year? Want to become a better cook? Spend more time with friends and family? Learn another language and travel more? Whatever it is, fulfill your goals more easily this year and have fun while doing it with the plethora of classes and other activities offered along the Midpeninsula this season. Our list of local offerings is bound to help fulfill at least one of your goals, interests or passions.

The Class Guide is published quarterly by the Palo Alto Weekly, The Almanac and the Mountain View Voice.

BUSINESS, WORK AND TECHNOLOGY

ReBoot Accelerator for Women

655 Oak Grove Ave., P.O. Box 445, Menlo Park. 650-427-9433
reboot@rebootaccel.com
rebootaccel.com.

ReBoot Accelerator for Women keeps local women current, connected and confident about re-entering the workforce through workshops taught by instructors from LinkedIn, Google, Apple and Enjoy and social media experts.

DANCE

Dance Connection

4000 Middlefield Road, L-5, Palo Alto. 650-322-7032 / info@danceconnectionpaloalto.com
danceconnectionpaloalto.com.

Dance Connection offers a pre-school combination class for pre-school-age children (beginning at age 3), graded classes for youth and adults and other programs to meet dancers' needs. Ballet, jazz, tap, hip-hop, lyrical, Pilates and other instruction is available for students at various levels of ability. See 2019 schedule online.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS

Advantage Aviation

1903 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. 650-494-7248
info@advantage-aviation.com
advantage-aviation.com.

With many instructors,

Advantage Aviation has a selection of flying classes that train new pilots, as well as help more experienced ones acquire needed licenses.

Kim Grant Tennis Academy

3005 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. 650-752-8061

admin@kimgranttennis.com
kimgranttennis.com.
The Kim Grant Tennis Academy organizes an array of tennis classes and programs for adults and children, including those with special needs. Winter registration is open online.

YogaWorks Palo Alto

440 Kipling St., Palo Alto. 650-468-2929 / yogaworks.com/location/palo-alto.

With locations across the nation, YogaWorks studio holds classes on yin and yang, Vinyasa flow, Iyengar, power and restorative yoga, as well as TRX, a circuit workout and circuit training.

SENIORS

Menlo Park Senior Center

100 Terminal Ave., Menlo Park. 650-330-2280 / menlopark.org (search "senior center")

Menlo Park's Senior Center offers more than 100 classes year-round in exercise/movement, arts and crafts, sewing, cooking, language and more for adults aged 55 and older. Membership costs, fees and class descriptions are listed on the website.

Avenidas

4000 Middlefield Road I-2, Palo Alto. 650-289-5400 / avenidas.org
Avenidas offers a plethora of classes, as well as lectures and workshops, for Midpeninsula seniors focusing on topics such as general health, physical fitness, languages, humanities, computing, music and writing. Membership costs, fees and class descriptions are listed on the website.

LANGUAGE COURSES

German-American School of Palo Alto

GAIS Campus, 475 Pope St., Menlo Park. 650-520-3646
contact@gaspa-ca.org
gaspa-ca.org

Started in 1960, the German-American School of Palo Alto (GASPA), a Saturday school, teaches immersive German language classes, which also cover culture and traditions. Sessions are available for all skill levels and students ages 3 to 18. No prior knowledge of German is required.

Language classes at the Palo Alto Adult School

Palo Alto High School, Tower Building, 50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. 650-329-3752
adultschool@pausd.org
paadultschool.org/class/world-languages

Classes are offered in Spanish, French, Italian and Mandarin Chinese. The classes cover beginning and advanced skills and sometimes literature and arts.

MUSIC, ARTS AND CRAFTS

Art with Emily

402 El Verano Ave., Palo Alto. 650-856-9571
emilyjeanyoung@gmail.com
artwithemily.com

Emily Young teaches mixed-media and multicultural art classes in small groups for children and adults at her studio in Palo Alto, as well as individual lessons. Classes

will resume January 2019.

The Midpen Media Center

900 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto. 650-494-8686
info@midpenmedia.org
midpenmedia.org

The center offers workshops for a range of media arts, including video production, photo enhancement, studio work and more. The center suggests starting with one of its free hour-long orientation sessions.

Sur La Table Cooking School

Town & Country Village, 855 El Camino Real, #57, Palo Alto. 650-289-0019
cooking073@surlatable.com
surlatable.com/category/cat2211278/Cooking+Classes
Sur La Table offers hands-on cooking classes, guiding students in making regional cuisines, themed meals or special foods like bread, croissants and baked goods. Classes for kids, teens and adults are available.

PARENT EDUCATION

Children's Health Council

650 Clark Way, Palo Alto. 650-326-5530
info@chconline.org
chconline.org

Children's Health Council holds a variety of classes touching on child-behavior issues, dyslexia, anxiety and depression, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, autism and other topics related to encouraging all children's success. All classes are taught by the organization's experts.

SCHOOL DAYS

HeadsUp! Child Development Center

2800 W. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto. 650-424-1221
pacdc@headsup.org
headsup.org/headsup
HeadsUp! Child Development Center serves infants, toddlers and preschoolers (to age 6) with

a full-day program, year-round. The Montessori curriculum focuses on building thinking skills and personal values. A bilingual Chinese-English preschool classroom is also available.

Lydian Academy LLC

815 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. 650-321-0550
lydianacademy.com

Lydian Academy is a middle and high school offering individualized instruction to prepare students for college. Lessons include a mix of one-on-one teaching and group sessions. It also tutoring, after-school and summer school programs.

Peninsula School

920 Peninsula Way, Menlo Park. 650-325-1584
peninsulaschool.org

Peninsula School is a progressive institution teaching about 250 students from nursery through eighth grade, with an emphasis on choice and experience. Classes cover core subjects as well as instruction in music, physical education, drama, ceramics, woodshop and more.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Stanford Continuing Studies

Littlefield Center, 365 Lasuen St., Stanford. 650-725-2650
continuingstudies@stanford.edu
continuingstudies.stanford.edu
Stanford Continuing Studies organizes classes in liberal arts and sciences, creative writing and professional and personal development. Courses are held in the evenings or on Saturdays. Stanford Continuing Studies also presents lectures, performances, conferences and other events.

Class Guides are published quarterly in the Palo Alto Weekly, Mountain View Voice and the Almanac. Descriptions of classes offered in Palo Alto, Stanford, Menlo Park, Mountain View, Atherton, East Palo Alto, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Portola Valley and Woodside are provided. Listings are free and subject to editing. Due to space constraints, classes held in the above cities are given priority. To inquire about submitting a listing for the next Class Guide, email Class Guide editor Christine Lee or call 650-223-6526. To place a paid advertisement in the Class Guide, call the display advertising department at 650-326-8210.

ADVERTISER DIRECTORY

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Wireless companies can make offers that cannot be refused

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

The infrastructure in Portola Valley is not ready for the next wave of wireless technology — so-called small-cell antennas — but Town Hall is taking steps to prepare for the day when wireless companies, with expectations of quick approval, apply to install antennas.

And quick approval they must get, Town Attorney Cara Silver said in a Town Council study session last month. A recent ruling by the Federal Communications Commission that takes effect in January establishes “shot clocks” to prevent towns from using tactics to slow the approval process.

“Small cell sites have a more limited range by serving only users within the immediate proximity and thus the industry is planning for far greater density,” Silver said in a staff report.

The FCC’s ruling stated that if there are local laws in place, they must not “materially limit or inhibit” a wireless carrier’s abilities, Silver told the council.

Carriers have been complaining that California cities and towns have made it “very difficult” for the wireless companies to get to permits for antennas, she said. The routine in Portola Valley, for example, is a monthslong process that can require a carrier to obtain a conditional use permit, which calls for review and public hearings by the Planning Commission.

With the FCC’s ruling, cities and towns are switching away from a use-permit process to a staff-level permit process, especially when the antennas are going to be installed in the public right-of-way, Silver said.

A city or town will have 60 days to approve a permit for antennas if poles for mounting the antennas already exist in the right-of-way. Officials have 90 days if the installation would require new poles.

Wireless companies may also submit applications in batches — applying for many antennas on many poles at once.

Towns cannot charge fees that are higher than what it costs to process the applications, Silver said. Some cities have acquired leverage in negotiating the use of city-owned poles, but for Portola Valley, with no poles of its own, that advantage is not available.

Radio frequency (RF) emissions are a frequently voiced concern for residents. Local governments are prohibited from

regulating these emissions if the carrier complies with federal law, Silver said. A city or town can’t discriminate against a carrier or prevent one from doing business in town, she said.

The FCC’s ruling was referred to in a recent National Law Review article as “a big win for the wireless industry.”

Focus on aesthetics

Towns do have discretion to regulate aesthetics, but the regulations must be “reasonable, no more burdensome than those applied to other types of infrastructure deployments, and published in advance,” Silver said in a staff report.

Town Hall staff will be crafting an ordinance to address aesthetic issues.

Towns cannot establish rules that effectively block or slow down a carrier’s ability to install the antennas, such as requiring equipment to be placed underground or mandating minimum distances between poles, according to the report.

Keeping poles a minimum of 200 feet apart is probably

close to what wireless companies need, Planning & Building Director Laura Russell told the council. “This (technology) is for data,” she said. “It’s for the internet of things. It’s the house that needs to be connected.”

Councilman Craig Hughes suggested that the town discourage equipment mounted on poles and said that if it has to be above ground, it should be screened with landscaping and painted in an appropriate color that does not reflect light.

Mayor John Richards added another restriction: no antenna poles camouflaged to look like trees.

Councilwoman Ann Wengert suggested creating incentives for companies to use poles in partnership with each other. That idea warrants consideration, Hughes said, to avoid roadside collections of equipment boxes the size of small refrigerators.

These preferences need to be clear from the beginning, Russell said, so that staff can “hold that line” after determining what local regulations are defensible. ■

Barbara Condon Sonsini

November 7, 1939 - November 28, 2018

Barbara Condon Sonsini, the wife of Larry Sonsini, a Founder and Senior Partner of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, died on November 28, 2018, surrounded by her loving family. She was 79 years old. The cause of death is ovarian cancer, which was diagnosed in June of this past year.

Barbara was born in San Francisco on November 7, 1939 to Colonel John Condon and Betty Condon of San Mateo.

Her grandfather, Charles G. Harvey, attended the U.S. States Military Academy at West Point at the same time as General Douglas MacArthur and served with him in the Philippines during World War II.

Barbara graduated from Pomona College and received a Masters of Education from Stanford University. She also studied in Geneva, Vienna, and Mexico. For many years, she taught German and French at Cupertino High School in California.

Barbara grew up an avid tennis player, competing in several junior tournaments in her youth. Later, she became a devoted and accomplished bridge player, accumulating over 7,500 masterpoints in a relatively short time, while playing in several regional and national tournaments, as well as the World Bridge Team Championships in Indonesia in 2013.

Barbara is survived by her husband Larry, daughter Alison, stepsons Matthew and Peter, and eight wonderful grandchildren. Her sister, Joan Condon Paul, passed away in 2016.



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June Schoknecht Dewey

August 27, 1932 – November 17, 2018

June Schoknecht Dewey died on Saturday, November 17, 2018, at her home in Graeagle, California. She was 86.

Born on August 27, 1932, in St. Louis, Missouri, June attended Washington University School of Nursing at Barnes Hospital and earned a nursing degree. While there, she met her future husband, Richard Ryder Dewey, a student intern at Washington University Medical School.

They graduated in 1955 and were married for 62 years.

In 1959, June and her husband moved to Los Altos, California, where Dr. Dewey started a private practice in Palo Alto. June was active in her community and volunteered for many organizations. She is Past President of the Women’s Auxiliary to the Santa Clara Medical Society, the Bellarmine Prep Mother’s Guild, and the San Francisco Symphony Mid-Peninsula League. She was also a member of Allied Arts and the Peninsula Volunteers.

An avid golfer, June was captain of the Stanford Women’s Golf Club, and played regularly with women’s groups at Stanford Golf Course, Graeagle Meadows Golf Course, White Hawk Ranch Golf Course, and De Anza Country Club in Borrego Springs. She and close friend Moo Anderson co-founded the Medalist Club to raise money for the Stanford Women’s Golf Team, now a perennial NCAA title contender.

For 19 years, June and Dick assisted with the Super Bowl Golf Tournament, which raised money for NFL Charities. They also helped with the Pro Bowl tournament in Hawaii.

June was outgoing, generous and devoted to her family. She loved to entertain, often hosting dinner parties for friends, doctors, professors, Stanford student-athletes and clergy. June also enjoyed collecting modern art.

She is survived by her husband, Dr. Richard Dewey, her son Richard Ryder Jr., daughter-in-law Lynnie Tuck Dewey, daughter Valerie Dewey Soltau, son-in-law Mark Soltau, and grandchildren Richard Ryder III (Trey), Jenna Michelle Dewey and Shelby June Soltau, and great grandson Ryder Dewey.

The family will hold a private memorial service. In memory of June, they ask that donations be made to the Peninsula Volunteers, 800 Middle Avenue, Menlo Park, California, 94025.



PAID OBITUARY

Local author cooks up easy entertaining

Friends, family join Skylonda couple in their forest cabin to celebrate Hanukkah

By Kate Daly
Special to The Almanac

Hanukkah is a “sweet holiday to have people over,” says Erin Gleeson, who with her husband Jonathan Prosnit, associate rabbi at Congregation Beth Am, enjoys welcoming family and friends into their cozy two-bedroom cabin in the redwoods in Skylonda. The couple strive to make the occasion “simple, but still special,” she says.

Those words could also sum up Gleeson’s business model ever since the couple moved here from New York seven years ago. Leaving the bustle of Brooklyn behind

and resettling has brought along many changes, including a pivot in Gleeson’s career that led to her becoming a best-selling cookbook author known around the world.

More than 250,000 copies of her three “The Forest Feast” vegetarian cookbooks have been published in 10 different languages. Her fourth book is due out in fall 2019.

Relocating reinforced her objective of wanting to create a sense of community and build relationships around eating healthful food. Gleeson was raised in Sonoma County eating “mostly vegetarian” for health and environmental reasons.



Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

Skylonda resident Erin Gleeson is the author of the best-selling cookbook series “The Forest Feast.”

Gleeson and Prosnit have two young boys, and she says that “as a parent, I’m always trying to get more vegetables into their food.”

When she makes latkes for Hanukkah, for example, she might add grated carrots and zucchini or minced cauliflower to the potato pancakes.

Another recipe variation she has published is for sweet potato latkes, which she suggests serving with Greek yogurt and chopped scallions. (See recipe, next page.)

Otherwise, the family loves sticking to their Hanukkah traditions of lighting the menorah candles every evening, playing dreidel with chocolate gelt, and making spice cookies in the shape of the Star of David, dreidels and menorahs.

They exchange one gift during the eight-day celebration, which this year began on Dec. 2. Christmas with their relatives in Sonoma is another story.

In New York, Gleeson worked as a professional food photographer. When she came to California, editors told her that her work needed to look more informal and rustic, so she started cooking food to photograph for a new portfolio.

The Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm box of seasonal fresh produce that arrived each week inspired her,

and so did her cabin’s natural setting.

She found that simply walking outside with her Nikon camera and placing the food in artistic and colorful arrangements in the natural late afternoon coastal light — on mossy logs, rocks, and fallen trees — provided an abundance of texture and possibilities.

Gleeson, 38, started writing a blog about her experiences, and within six months a literary agent contacted her about turning her recipes into a book, “The Forest Feast,” which came out in 2014.

Gleeson then took 20 of that book’s 100 recipes and concocted 20 more to create “The Forest Feast for Kids.” She then published 100 new recipes in “The Forest Feast Gatherings.”

Her next book, “The Forest Feast Travels,” is based on the three months she spent with her family eating their way through Spain, Portugal, France and Italy, focusing on small plates or favorites such as romesco, a roasted red pepper sauce with tomato that was sampled in Barcelona, and a walnut pesto with marjoram that stood out in the Cinque Terre region of Italy.

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Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

Gleeson’s family loves Hanukkah traditions, including lighting the menorah candles every evening, playing dreidel and making spice cookies.



Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

Gleeson likes to artfully arrange dishes she makes before photographing them.

Gleeson adapted the tasty garbanzo bean and cod salad they dined on at a beach in southern Portugal, substituting torn mozzarella for the fish.

Her goal in putting together the books is to take recipes with only a handful of ingredients and present them visually “to make them more approachable and easy.” She uses no printed fonts, just handwritten notes, diagrams, stylized photos and drawings.

Gleeson, who started taking watercolor classes when she was 5, keeps a small studio in her garage for painting illustrations.

She also teaches Photoshop at Stanford Continuing Studies, but what really keeps her busy

is maintaining her social media presence.

She has a website, theforest-feast.com, a Pinterest account, a Facebook page and an Instagram account that has more than 35,000 followers.

On Thanksgiving she was excited to see fans tagging her in posts about making her persimmon salad and asparagus tart.

Recently she Skyped with a book club group in San Jose when the members used her recipes in creating a meal and invited her to join their dinner party.

Her home, a 1950s cabin with pine wood paneling, a stone fireplace, a corner of floor-to-ceiling glass windows and doors, and



Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

Gleeson makes sweet potato latkes for Hanukkah. Her fourth cookbook is due out in fall 2019.

a wraparound deck, is featured prominently in her work. Gleeson plates her food and stages photos with a flair that makes the space seem at times intimate and at other times expansive.

Her kitchen is small, “5-by-10,” she jokes.

And yet she likes to entertain, and has these suggestions for

keeping the stress level down: Choose one thing to make, buy the rest; float fresh cranberries or pomegranate seeds in champagne; have people bring dessert, or serve chocolate and fruit; light the candles; and turn on the music.

Looking for some instant holiday spirit? Gleeson shares

her special Skylonda Cocktail recipe: Soak three cinnamon sticks in a 12-ounce jar of bourbon for three days, then strain. Mix four tablespoons of the cinnamon-infused bourbon with two tablespoons of dry vermouth and one teaspoon of bitters. Serve over ice with a slice of orange. ■



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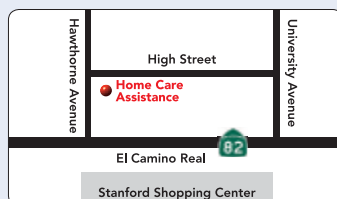


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Man, 22, killed by train in Menlo Park

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

A 22-year-old man from Redwood City was struck and killed by a train in Menlo Park around 1 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 24.

Connor Redman McElroy is the 10th person to die on Caltrain tracks this year.

According to Caltrain spokesperson Dan Lieberman, "It

appears the individual (who) was struck fell into the train as it was moving."

McElroy was apparently struck while the rear of the train was passing, and the conductor did not see it happen, Lieberman said. Menlo Park police later found the body and began investigating with support from the transit police, he said, adding that the case is still under investigation by the transit police.

The San Mateo County Coroner's Office is also investigating the cause of death.

What seemed out of the ordinary was that Caltrain did not report the incident to the public. Lieberman said this was because the fatality occurred when the last train of the day was in operation, so "there wasn't a service interruption."

He added that this is the only Caltrain fatality in his

experience that the agency hasn't publicly reported, and instead deferred further questions to the Coroner's Office.

"This was an odd case," he said.

An Eagle Scout who loved the outdoors

McElroy, born May 2, 1996, was a lifelong Coastsider resident who attended St. Matthew Catholic School and Junipero Serra High School, according to an online

obituary his grandmother cited when contacted by The Almanac.

He was a Boy Scout who earned an Eagle Scout rank with Troop 42. He loved the outdoors and spent much of his time camping and dirt-biking in the forests of Mendocino. He also liked to wake board, snowboard and ride motorcycles.

He is survived by his wife, Cindy Anabel McElroy, parents Brent Robert McElroy and Antoinette Marie McElroy, and younger brother, Devin Robert McElroy. ■

■ POLICE CALLS

These reports are 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

Fraud:

■ Police are looking into a scam in which a woman residing on Sand Hill Circle sent, over a period of a year, more than \$100,000 to a man she met on an internet dating site. The man convinced her that he was in danger of losing his job and going to jail if she didn't send him "large amounts of money," police said.

■ A resident of Roble Avenue told police that someone had accessed her bank account by means unknown and stolen nearly \$14,300. Nov. 13.

■ A resident of Hill Avenue received a letter from a finance company telling her that she owed money, though she has no account with the company. Nov. 13.

■ Someone with access to the bank account of a resident of Waverley Street attempted to place a hold on the account and then attempted to create four new accounts under the victim's name. No losses, but the bank is investigating. Nov. 14.

Residential burglaries:

■ After breaking into a lockbox and taking out the keys to a home on Continental Drive, someone entered the house and opened a storage container and stole lamps, a garbage disposal and a washer and dryer. Estimated loss: \$5,440. Nov. 13.

■ A resident of an apartment undergoing renovation in the 300 block of Sharon Park Drive left his apartment and returned

to find that someone had entered through a rear sliding door and stolen a tool bag, a voice-activated cloud-based robot, and money from his wallet. Estimated loss: \$547. Nov. 19.

Commercial burglaries:

■ Someone broke into and damaged the locks of the front door of the Pet Place animal supply store on Santa Cruz Avenue. The office was ransacked, but nothing was taken. Estimated loss: \$400. Nov. 17.

■ Police arrested and booked into jail a 23-year-old Redwood City man who picked up a tablet computer from the hostess stand at the Park James Hotel at 1400 El Camino Real and concealed it. Police stopped him before he could leave the lobby. Nov. 20.

Thefts:

■ Thieves stole five bicycles, all unlocked. One bike was stolen from a side yard on

Arbor Road, two from an open garage on Oak Court, one from an apartment carport on Live Oak Avenue, and another from a front yard on Cambridge Avenue. Estimated losses: \$3,800, \$2,100 (for both bikes), \$170 and \$100. Nov. 18, 15 and 20.

■ Three women entered Big 5 Sporting Goods at 700 El Camino Real and walked out with clothing they had not paid for. They left the scene in a Nissan with tinted windows and black-and-orange license plates, police said. Estimated loss: \$1,000. Nov. 19.

■ An employee of the Willows Market near the corner of Middlefield and Willow roads chased two men out of the store who stole three bottles of alcoholic beverages and fled the scene in a four-door sedan with paper license plates. Estimated loss: \$120. Nov. 14.

■ Three women entered the CVS

pharmacy and left with cosmetics, hygiene products and a \$20 hair dryer, all of which they had not paid for. They fled in a white Honda SUV. Nov. 15.

PORTOLA VALLEY

Theft: Deputies responded to a report of a woman in a vehicle blocking Willowbrook Drive as she was looking into a mailbox. The woman sped off after being asked to move. While looking over the area, deputies found several pieces of mail. Nov. 15.

ATHERTON

Animal call: An Atherton resident was walking his dog in the first block of Selby Lane when a dog of an unknown breed ran out of a driveway and attacked the walking dog, injuring the walking dog's left front paw. The case has been referred to county animal control. Nov. 21.

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Calendar

MEETINGS, MUSIC, THEATER, FAMILY ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

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Theater

'Into the Woods' Los Altos Stage Company presents "Into the Woods," a musical that combines the stories of several fairytale characters to show what happened after their "happy ever after" storybook tales ended. Nov. 29-Dec. 23, times vary. \$20-\$41. Bus Barn Theater, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. losaltosstage.org/into-the-woods

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley Presents 'The Santaland Diaries' TheatreWorks Silicon Valley presents "The Santaland Diaries," at the 180-seat Lohman Theatre. Written by David Sedaris, directed by Jeffrey Lo and starring Max Tachis, the show runs Dec. 5-23, times vary. \$45, discounts available for students and subscribers. Lohman Theatre, 12345 S. El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. theatreworks.org

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley Presents 'Tuck Everlasting' TheatreWorks Silicon Valley presents "Tuck Everlasting," which tells the story of a young girl who meets a family who has found immortality and must decide between returning to her life or choosing immortality as well. Nov. 28-Dec. 30, times

vary. \$40-\$100. Lucie Stern Center, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. theatreworks.org

'A Conversation with Edith Head' Award-winning actress Susan Claassen stars in the Bay Area premiere of "A Conversation With Edith Head." The show features behind-the-scenes stories about Hollywood stars that provide an intimate portrait of Hollywood's legendary costume designer. Dec. 6-16, times vary. \$15-\$35. The Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida St., Mountain View. thepear.org

Concerts

37th Annual Gryphon Carolers Holiday Concert This year's concert will feature vocal and band arrangements by Ed Johnson and Carol McComb with a 30-voice choir. Dec. 9, 6:30-9:30 p.m. \$15-\$25. Woodside Village Church, 3154 Woodside Road, Woodside. brownpapertickets.com/event

A Chanticleer Christmas San Francisco's men's choir brings its annual holiday celebration blend to Memorial Church. Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m. \$64. Memorial Church, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. Search events.stanford.edu for more info.

Friends of Music Holiday Musicales The Friends of Music at Stanford present its annual holiday showcase in Memorial Church

featuring the Stanford Philharmonia, Early Music Singers and organist Ethan Chi. Dec. 8, 2:30 p.m. \$13-\$18. Memorial Church, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. Search events.stanford.edu for more info.

Ragazzi Winter Recital The concert will feature Ragazzi's beginning Primary, Intermediate Premiere, and touring Avanti boys. Dec. 8, 3-5 p.m. \$12-\$29. First United Methodist Church, 625 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

Schola Seraphica The 12th Annual Performance of Schola Seraphica Choir, directed by Margaret Sullivan Durando, will be performed by St. Francis High School students augmented by adults from the local communities. The performance will feature music by Bach, Palestrina and more. Dec. 9, 2-3:30 p.m. \$15-\$20. St. Patrick's Seminary, 320 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park. Nativitymenlo.org

Museums & Exhibits

Public Tour: Contact Warhol: Photography Without End The exhibition brings to life Warhol's many interactions with the social and celebrity elite of his time with portraits of stars such as Michael Jackson, Liza Minnelli and Dolly Parton; younger sensations in the

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Go to **AlmanacNews.com** and see the Community Calendar module at the top right side of the page. Click on "Add your event." If the event is of interest to a large number of people, also e-mail a press release to **Editor@AlmanacNews.com**.

Gardens, 86 Old Canada Road, Woodside. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

Lessons & Classes

'Solving Today's Great Problems? Lessons from Engelbart's Demo' "Solving Today's Great Problems? Lessons from Engelbart's Demo" at the Computer History Museum will feature concepts of overpopulation, pollution and hunger. Dec. 12, 6 p.m. Computer History Museum, 1401 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. computerhistory.org/events/upcoming

'The American Advertising Calendar Plate: a Window to Our Rural Past' David Hoexter shares ads on porcelain that teach about the cultural, historical and even geological features of a rapidly growing nation. Dec. 11, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Downstairs program room, Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. menlopark.org

Health & Wellness

Changing the Dialogue Series Sequoia Union High School District hosts a new Changing the Dialogue Series, where speakers discuss ways of navigating a rapidly changing world. Dec. 5, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Sequoia Union High School District Office, 480 James Ave., Redwood City. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

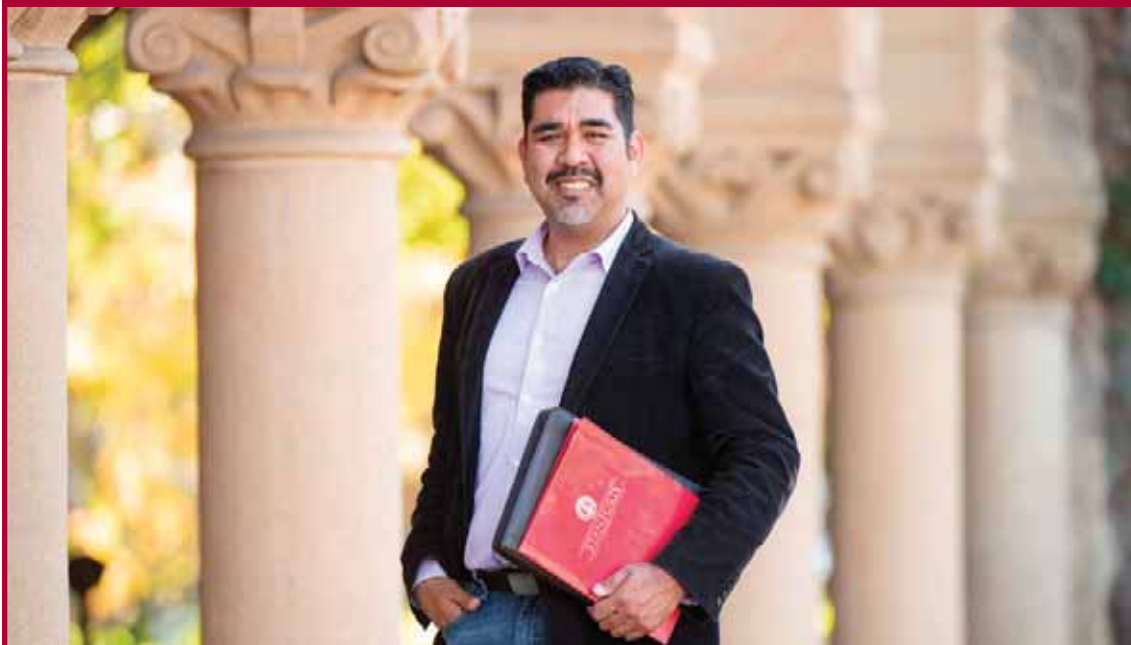
Business

'How is AI Evolving? A Look at the Startup Landscape in the U.S. and Asia' Jim Adler, the founding managing director of Toyota AI Ventures and an executive adviser at Toyota Research Institute, will speak at the seminar, "How is AI Evolving? A Look at the Startup Landscape in the U.S. and Asia." Dec. 6, 4:30-6 p.m. Free. Skilling Auditorium, 494 Lomita Mall, Stanford. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

Food & Drink

Christmas Luncheon 2018 Filoli Gardens hosts its annual Christmas luncheon, featuring the classic Swedish Lucia procession and traditional delicacies like glogg, herring, salmon and ginger snaps. There will also be a silent auction and attendees can visit the historic Filoli house and surrounding gardens. Dec. 7, noon-3 p.m. \$130-\$1,500. Filoli

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2432 Whitney Drive, Mountain View
Offered at \$1,798,000
Penelope Huang · 650.281.8028
License #01023392
Michael Huang · 650.248.0006
License #01984666



619-623 Virginia Street, Vallejo
Offered at \$749,000
Penelope Huang · 650.281.8028
License #01023392
Michael Huang · 650.248.0006
License #01984666



12340 San Mateo Road, Half Moon Bay
Offered at \$1,249,000
Marian S. Bennett · 650.678.1108
License #01463986



3255 Mauricia Avenue, Santa Clara
Offered at \$1,849,000
Tom Martin · 408.314.2830
License #01272381



2837 Sycamore Way, Santa Clara
Offered at \$1,500,000
Tom Martin · 408.314.2830
License #01272381



Listed by **Michael Repka** of the DeLeon Team

650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com | www.deleonrealty.com | DRE #01903224



ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES IN PRESTIGIOUS PALO ALTO

128 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

Offered at \$1,988,000

Located near Downtown Palo Alto, this charming 2 bedroom home rests on a 4,361 square foot lot (per city) and offers a unique opportunity to rebuild your dream home with preliminary plans drafted by famous Tobin Dougherty Architects. A private wooden fence surrounds this Craftsman home, complemented by blooming rose bushes, redwood trees, a putting green, and a wisteria-covered pergola that's perfect for alfresco dining and entertaining. The arched entryway and beautiful bay window frame the spacious living room, while two sun-lit bedrooms and a vintage eat-in kitchen await beyond. In this excellent location, you'll be moments away from award-winning restaurants along University Avenue, Stanford Shopping Center, San Francisquito Creek Trail, city parks, and world-class schools.

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday
1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

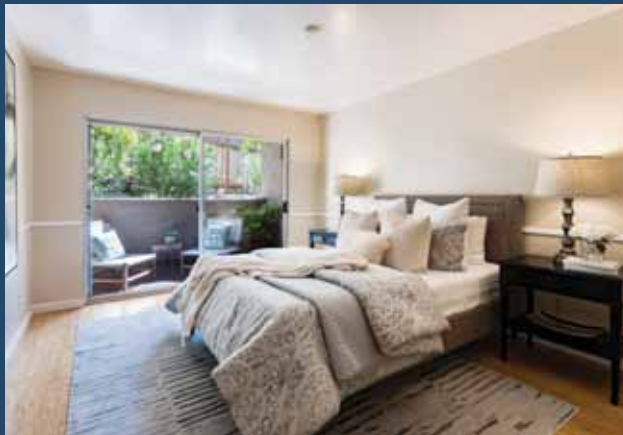
For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit:

www.128MiddlefieldRoad.com



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FLEXIBLE LIVING IN A PRESTIGIOUS LOCATION

675 Sharon Park Drive #134, Menlo Park

Offered at \$1,288,000

Nestled in the esteemed Sharon Heights neighborhood of Menlo Park, this 3 bedroom, 2 bath condominium offers upscale convenience, efficiency, and centrality to top attractions. Occupying a ground-floor end-unit space, this property offers privacy and peaceful views of the grounds. The spacious interior is outfitted with custom closets that provide valuable and abundant storage space. Marble detailing, bamboo floors, granite kitchen countertops, a master suite, and two patios offer desired style and serenity. Enjoy the common swimming pool at your leisure, dine at award-winning Madera or Mitsunobu, or explore Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club, peaceful Sharon Park, scenic Sand Hill Road, and hiking trails along Alpine Road. Children can attend excellent schools in the Las Lomas School District, including Las Lomas Elementary, La Entrada Middle, and Menlo-Atherton High (buyer to verify eligibility).

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit:

www.675SharonPark134.com



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FLEXIBLE MULTI-FAMILY HOME IN MENLO PARK

773 & 775 Partridge Avenue, Menlo Park

Offered at \$4,288,000

Located in the prime Allied Arts & Downtown neighborhood, this recently remodeled multi-family property offers two ground floor units and additional upstairs space with 3 more bedrooms and 2 baths across a 7,500 square foot lot (per county). Perfect as potential rental property or extra room to house overnight friends and family, this unique design allows for a world of possibilities. The first unit features an inviting arch window that brings natural light into the combined living, kitchen, and dining rooms. Two bedrooms share a jack-and-jill bath and a walk-in closet, while another full bath services the third bedroom. The second back unit offers two additional bedrooms that share a full bath, a granite kitchen, and a relaxed lounge area. Upstairs, a rooftop deck provides excellent entertainment potential, while a great room, master suite, and two other bedrooms await inside. In this great location, you'll be moments away from popular Santa Cruz Avenue, Fremont Park, Allied Arts Guild, and top-rated schools.

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit:

www.773and775Partridge.com



1066 Metro Circle, Palo Alto

Newly-Built Modern Masterpiece in Palo Alto

Just completed construction in October 2018, this stunning 6 bedroom, 5.5 bath estate of 4,068 square feet (per county) showcases a stunning range of modern innovations blended beautifully with classic midcentury virtues. Andersen windows, vaulted ceilings with skylights, Nest-controlled HVAC, LaCantina folding doors, and Carrara and Calacatta marble finishes reign throughout three bedroom suites, a jack-and-jill unit, luxurious master suite, great room, and dedicated home office. Liebherr and Thermador appliances command the chef's kitchen, which creates a striking indoor-outdoor connection to the large patio, lush backyard, and expansive lot of 13,072 square feet (per county). In this prestigious location, residents are moments away from 22-acre Greer Park, vibrant Midtown Shopping Center, world-class schools, and award-winning restaurants.

For video tour & more photos, please visit:

www.1066Metro.com

Offered at \$4,788,000

OPEN HOUSE

**Saturday
1:30 pm - 4:30 pm**

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PRIVATE TUSCAN ESTATE IN WOODSIDE

Beautifully landscaped grounds of 3.24+/- acres
Old world charm with the luxuries for the 21st century
4 bedroom, 4.5 bath main home
2 bed, 2 bath guest house with full kitchen
1 bed, 1 bath caretaker's cottage
Cabaña fitness center with half-bath
Customized wine cellar and tasting room
Detached 3-car garage | Pool and spa
Clay tennis court | Golf practice area
Bocce ball court | Potential for equestrian facilities
Las Lomitas Schools | GULLIXSON.COM



THEY ARE RANKED THE #18 TEAM IN THE NATION IN
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL REPORT OF THE TOP RESIDENTIAL
REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS
(PUBLISHED IN JUNE 2018). SINCE THESE RANKINGS WERE
INITIATED THE GULLIXSONS HAVE CONSISTENTLY BEEN IN THE TOP 20,
EITHER INDIVIDUALLY OR BY TEAM.

MARY GULLIXSON
650.888.0860
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DRE# 00373961



BRENT GULLIXSON
650.888.4898
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DRE# 01329216



Information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed. Square footage and/or acreage information contained herein has been received from seller, existing reports, appraisals, public records and/or other sources deemed reliable. However, neither seller nor listing agent has verified this information. If this information is important to buyer in determining whether to buy or to purchase price, buyer should conduct buyer's own investigation.