

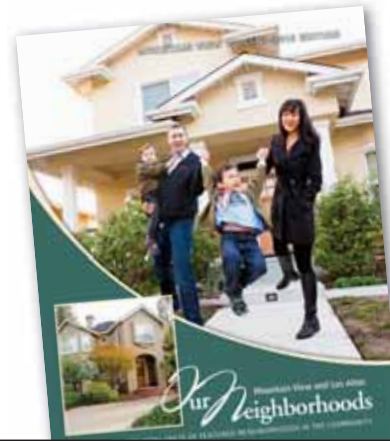
Mountain View VOICE

DECEMBER 25, 2015 VOLUME 23, NO. 48

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THIS ISSUE
**Our
Neighborhoods**

Traffic deaths, injuries topped the news in 2015

SAFETY A GROWING CONCERN ON MOUNTAIN VIEW ROADWAYS FOLLOWING SIX FATALITIES

By Kevin Forestieri

The Mountain View Police Department faced a tough year in 2015, after six traffic fatalities and a sharp increase in bike and pedestrian accidents had many residents demanding safety improvements through the end of the year.

In October, 54-year-old Los Altos resident Michelle Montalvo was struck and killed by an SUV while walking through a marked crosswalk at the intersection of El Monte Avenue and Marich Way. The death prompted a public outcry for more traffic safety measures at the dangerous intersection, and citizens appealed to Mountain View's Bike/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) in November. Residents near the intersection, including family members of Montalvo, urged the city to place a stoplight or at least a stop sign to ease the speed of traffic along the major thoroughfare.

That accident was just the most recent pedestrian fatality on Mountain View's roadways this year. In August, a man was hit by a vehicle in the Trader Joe's parking lot in the San Antonio Shopping Center, and later died of his injuries. And in February, a 68-year-old Los Altos man was struck and killed by a car at the intersection of Charleston Road and Independence Avenue. Robert Schwehr of Los Altos was walking in a crosswalk when he was struck by a car making a turn.

A bicyclist was also killed near

2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

a busy intersection in Mountain View this year. In July, bicyclist Eric Palmquist, 63, of Palo Alto was struck by a car near the intersection of San Antonio Road and El Camino Real. Palmquist was taken to Stanford hospital, where he died.

Motorists were also among the victims in fatal accidents this year. In August, a man driving down eastbound Central Expressway collided with a tree and later died of his injuries. And in May, a motorcyclist was struck and killed in a traffic collision on southbound Moffett Field near the Highway 85 overcrossing.

All the incidents occurred during a year when the Mountain View Police Department is down one traffic officer. And each fatality has to be treated like a homicide by the department, including extensive evidence-gathering and mathematical calculations to determine who, if anyone, is at fault, according to traffic Sgt. Saul Jaeger of the police department.

The driver responsible for the death at the intersection of Independence and Charleston, David Lam, was charged with manslaughter without gross negligence. On Nov. 10, Lam pleaded no contest and was sentenced to 350 days of community service, three years of probation, a fine

► See **FATALITIES**, page 7



MICHELLE LE

WARM AND FUZZY

Puppets are "a family affair" for Pearl, Jerry and Jennifer Kruss of Mountain View, who, according to Pearl, "have every kind of puppet you can imagine." See story, Page 10.

El Camino bus-lane trial wins committee's backing

By Mark Noack

A controversial proposal to create dedicated bus lanes along El Camino Real gained a major boost last week when a committee of city representatives along the route signaled a willingness to try out the idea as a pilot program.

If approved by the full Valley Transportation Authority board in the coming weeks, the test phase of the program known as bus-rapid transit (BRT) would

reserve the right lanes of El Camino exclusively for buses, shuttles and high-occupancy vehicles. Under the plan, the trial would be enforced for the full 17-mile stretch running from Palo Alto to San Jose during peak traffic hours: 7 to 9 a.m. and 3 to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The proposal to test the idea was brought Dec. 16 before the transit agency's BRT Policy Advisory Committee, a group of elected leaders from the six cities along the route as well as

Santa Clara County. For months, those cities had signaled hesitation over the BRT program and particularly the traffic impacts of shutting down one-third of a major roadway to solo motorists.

But the committee members agreed they were willing to test the BRT program in a pilot phase that would be cheaper and more flexible than VTA's original \$223 million proposal.

Presenting the pilot program,

► See **BUS LANE**, page 11

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Voices

A R O U N D T O W N

Asked in downtown Mountain View. Photos and interviews by Kevin Forestieri.

“What’s the big thing you look forward to during the holiday season?”



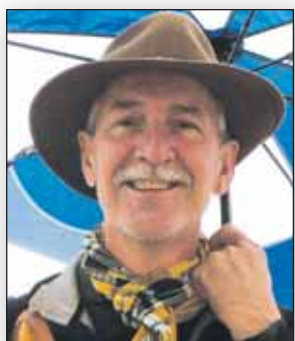
“The traveling. This year we’re going to Costa Rica. We really like to mix it up.”

Kellen Bonner, Seattle



“Seeing the family. I get to see all three of my sisters and my parents all at the same time. It’s a rare occasion.”

Tom Fairfield, Indiana



“I love the cooking! I like to make chicken and dumplings.”

Gary Fleeman, Mountain View



“I look forward to the presents each year.”

Bob Michel, Mountain View



“Experiencing American Christmas for the first time. There’s going to be plenty of turkey, I suppose.”

Axel Sammehall, Sweden

Have a question for [Voices Around Town](#)? Email it to editor@mv-voice.com

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Denis Reynolds Camp

(1944 – 2015)

Denis Camp, 71, passed away on December 2, 2015. Denis graduated from Mountain View High School and went on to become a Theta Chi at Oregon State University where he graduated with a BS in business. He served as an Army officer in Germany for two years. The majority of his professional career was spent as a Call Center Manager for IBM and later Digital Equipment Corporation. During his career he lived in Menlo Park, San Jose, Minneapolis, Denver, and Colorado Springs. He enjoyed snow and water skiing, golfing, wine/beer making, and traveling.



He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Gay-Leigh Camp; his brother, David Camp of Knoxville; his sister Elaine Johnston (Bill) of Atlanta; an aunt and many cousins, nieces and nephews. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Denis is preceded in death by his parents, Reynolds and Juanita Camp of Mountain View, California and his daughter, Jennifer Marie Camp of Colorado Springs as well as several aunts and uncles.

A Celebration of Life will be June 25, 2016 at 1 pm in the Rotundra at The Club at Flying Horse in Colorado Springs.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, P. O. Box 758517, Topeka, Kansas 66675 or a favorite charity.

PAID OBITUARY

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CRIME BRIEFS

FAMILY DISPUTE LEADS TO ARREST

A 23-year-old Mountain View man was arrested last week after he allegedly attacked a woman during an argument.

Demer Dan Billones allegedly got into an argument with a relative, a 46-year-old woman, in a dispute over money sometime before 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 16, in a home in the 1300 block of Dale Avenue. When the woman refused to give Billones money, he became upset and began attacking her, according to police spokeswoman Leslie Hardie.

Billones allegedly threw the woman's belongings on the ground, pulled her hair, scratched her face, punched her shoulder and kicked her in the thigh, Hardie said. The victim suffered minor injuries, but wasn't taken to a hospital, Hardie said.

Billones was arrested on charges of battery, and was booked into Santa Clara County Main Jail with a bail set at \$10,000.

ROBBERY ARREST AT KOHL'S

Police arrested a 53-year-old Redwood City woman after she allegedly stole clothes from a Kohl's store, pepper-sprayed store security and tried to flee in her vehicle.

Proversa Marie Ardoin allegedly tried to take about \$250 in clothing from the store on Wednesday, Dec. 16, just after 3 p.m. When Ardoin was confronted by store security, she pepper-sprayed one of the officers and tried to drive away, according to police spokeswoman Leslie Hardie.

Ardoin allegedly drove around vehicles and over curbs, and ignored a stop sign before she was stopped a short distance away from the store. She was arrested on charges of robbery and reckless driving, and booked into Santa Clara County Main Jail.

—Kevin Forestieri

POLICE LOG

ASSAULT WITH DEADLY WEAPON

Castro St. & Villa St., 12/15

AUTO BURGLARY

1900 block Leghorn St., 12/15
1000 block N. Rengstorff Av., 12/16
300 block N. Rengstorff Av., 12/17
300 block N. Rengstorff Av., 12/17
100 block N. Rengstorff Av., 12/17
San Antonio Rd. & Terminal Blvd., 12/20

BATTERY

2500 block Grant Rd., 12/15
500 block Escuela Av., 12/15
1300 block Dale Av., 12/16
1000 block Terra Bella Av., 12/17
200 block Castro St., 12/18

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

1900 block W. El Camino Real, 12/15
500 block N. Rengstorff Av., 12/18
200 block N. Bernardo Av., 12/18
800 block Sierra Vista Av., 12/19

1900 block W. El Camino Real, 12/21

GRAND THEFT

100 block E. El Camino Real, 12/18
300 block Showers Dr., 12/20

INDECENT EXPOSURE

600 block Cuesta Dr., 12/17

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

1200 block Dale Av., 12/15
600 block Rock Ct., 12/18

ROBBERY

300 block Showers Dr., 12/16

STOLEN VEHICLE

1600 block Morgan St., 12/18
Castro St. & Dana St., 12/19
1000 block Space Park Way, 12/21
800 block N. Shoreline Blvd., 12/21

VANDALISM

E. El Camino Real & Highway 85, 12/19
900 block Farley St., 12/21

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MICHELLE LE

Mentor Connie Webb, left, and Nikoo Parsizadeh share some thoughts about the bond they formed through their involvement with Mentor Tutor Connection.

Moving from role models to friends

MENTOR TUTOR CONNECTION PROVIDES CRUCIAL OUTREACH FOR STRUGGLING TEENS

By Mark Noack

As Nikoo and Connie put it, their relationship for the last three years is phasing out, but their

friendship is something that will endure into the future.

Back when they first met, Nikoo Parsizadeh was 15 and had just emigrated from Iran to join her family in



Mountain View. That culture shock would be a scary proposition for anyone, but especially for a teenage girl entering a foreign land and a high school with no friends and shaky English skills.

Meanwhile, Connie Webb was coming from the other

► See **MENTOR**, page 9

Schools face widening achievement gap, plan for construction projects

By Kevin Forestieri

Local schools in Mountain View made big headlines this year, as school districts search for new ways to narrow the achievement gap and build new facilities on a tight budget.

This year marked the first Common Core-aligned state standardized test, and with it came some dismaying news. Results showed low-income and English-learner students in all of

the local school districts are performing well below their peers, revealing a gap in achievement that is larger than the state average. The widening performance gulf prompted all three local districts to seek outside help from education consultants, including the commissioning of a \$275,000

review of the Mountain View Whisman School District's program performed by Cambridge Education.

Major school construction plans for the future were also a topic for discussion, but many of them remain unresolved going into 2016. The Mountain View Whisman district board agreed to open a new school, but details remain vague.

► See **SCHOOLS**, page 6

City grapples with affluence and affordability

2015 TESTED LIMITS ON SPREADING CITY'S BONANZA

By Mark Noack

2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

In many ways, Mountain View's situation would seem the envy of pretty much anywhere else: a standard of living among the best in the world, a vibrant tech sector bringing solid jobs, and developers falling over each other for the chance to rebuild the town. But in years to come, 2015 might be remembered as the time when the development boom and tech bonanza left Mountain View bursting at the seams.

Throughout the year, Mountain View officials faced an ongoing series of questions about the direction the city was heading. As city leaders approved more housing and office space than any other year in recent memory, many detractors expressed fears that the area could be changing for the worse. A large swath of the community complained they were feeling left behind or priced out as Mountain View's prospects soared.

A review of the year's top city-related news stories indicates that the city's leaders were occupied with trying to design a careful balance between keeping the local economic engine chugging and spreading its benefits to a wider population.

Tech sector growth

It was a banner year for tech development in Mountain View, and the resulting bonanza and dilemmas were on full display for city leaders.

In May, the City Council laid out its vision for North Bayshore, the city's tech hub where Google, LinkedIn and other tech giants are headquartered. Many of these companies wanted to expand, and it was clear there wouldn't be enough office space to go around — the city is nearing its limits.

City officials set a cap of 2.2 million square feet of allowable new North Bayshore office space, but they received development bids for more than double that amount. What resulted was a curious City Council meeting that many dubbed a "beauty contest" as tech firms and developers each presented

their ambitious plans and the benefits they would bring to the city.

In a surprising turn of events, council members opted to grant Google only a fraction of what the company wanted — just 515,000 of the requested 2.5 million square feet of office space. The council majority instead embraced plans by LinkedIn to build a new 10-building campus off Shoreline Boulevard.

By the year's end, the city had approved a total of 2.7 million square feet of new office development citywide, the highest amount in the last two decades. Through almost every approval, city officials acknowledged they had to deal with byproducts such as increased traffic demand and housing availability.

Transportation

The city faces transportation challenges throughout town, but perhaps no other spot generated as much attention this year as El Camino Real.

The bustling corridor has been jam-packed with traffic for as long as most can recall, but a proposal by the Valley Transportation Authority to create dedicated lanes for buses and thereby restrict regular road traffic sparked a fiery debate.

In April, the City Council made a surprising decision to come out in support of the dedicated-lane proposal, known as bus-rapid transit (BRT). Council members in support — Mike Kasperzak, Ken Rosenberg and Pat Showalter — framed the issue as a matter of future planning to move away from a car-centric culture. It was a matter of "social justice" in that it would provide better mass transit for low-income riders, they argued.

But the backlash was swift and fierce. Opponents spearheaded a recall effort against Showalter and Rosenberg, saying the pair had reneged on

► See **AFFLUENCE**, page 7

SCHOOLS

► Continued from page 5

The Los Altos School District also continues to weigh its options on how to spend the \$150 million Measure N school bond revenue following a close vote at the ballot box last year. The district has conducted several community meetings and continues to meet with Los Altos city officials, but myriad options appear to be on the table to address growing enrollment.

Mountain View Whisman

The year saw a steady barrage of big challenges, upsets and surprises for the Mountain View Whisman School District this year. Former Interim Superintendent Kevin Skelly, who parted ways with the district in June, set up two committees to hash out a plan for new school boundaries and new facilities, and to decide whether it was time to open a new elementary school.

The district's Boundary Advisory Task Force formulated options that included closing down several of the district's schools. Many of the options incorporated the possibility for a new school in the Whisman-Slater area, but often at a cost to other schools. A number of the scenarios included relocating Stevenson PACT, the district's highly popular choice program, and closing down Stevenson Elementary.

Early in the year, families and teachers often showed up at school board meetings en

masse to lobby for their school. The discussions on new boundaries would occasionally pit one school community against another because of competing interests, particularly between Whisman-Slater area residents demanding a new school and the Stevenson PACT community. Board member Bill Lambert said at a recent board retreat that he believed the whole process had been mishandled.

The school board also faced a host of problems this year, including the resignation of board president Chris Chiang. Chiang announced his plans to step down in an email immediately following the June 11 board meeting, citing hostility by board member Steve Nelson, which he said continued to cause "devastating harm" to the district. He wrote that Nelson was allowed to "insult and harass district staff, teachers and members of the public, without rebuke from the rest of the board."

The resignation prompted an avalanche of requests by former board members and dozens of parents demanding that Nelson resign. A short-lived effort to recall Nelson fizzled out within two months of Chiang's resignation.

Nelson's conduct on the board came up as an issue earlier in the year as well. In February, members of the community began questioning the resignation of former Superintendent Craig Goldman, who last year received a \$230,000 severance payment on his way out. But because it was a resignation,

and not a termination, the payout was questioned by several residents, including parent Brett Pauly.

In a special agenda item on the issue, it became clear that the payout was in exchange for Goldman's signing of a non-disparagement agreement and waiving his legal right to sue the district. But details were sparse as to why the former superintendent would want to sue the district in the first place, and the meetings discussing the severance agreement were held in closed session.

Chiang said he would have voted for the payout in an open-session meeting, and that Nel-

The school board also faced a host of problems this year, including the resignation of board president Chris Chiang, who cited hostility by board member Steve Nelson.

son's conduct was so hostile he believed it had become a legal liability.

Still, the district reached some closure this year. The board ultimately decided, in a split vote, to open a new school at Slater Elementary, which would bring a neighborhood school back to the northeast region of Mountain View. How the district will finance the new school, redraw boundaries and balance enrollment, however, remain unanswered questions heading into 2016.

The district is also expected to welcome in the new year with big changes following a \$275,000 audit of all the schools and the district office that found several major deficiencies that are holding students back. The new superintendent, Ayiné Rudolph, said he will develop a strategic plan early next year, which will guide the district towards raising student achievement and eliminating the achievement gap.

Mountain View-Los Altos

The normally quiet Mountain View-Los Altos High School District also had its share of time in the limelight this year after the district grappled with — and eventually resolved — claims of racial bias in the way it placed minority students

in ninth-grade mathematics. The district also sparked a tremendous parent and student outcry when it didn't renew the contract of a popular drama teacher.

In June, a civil rights group called the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area (LCCR) released a report claiming that the high school district disproportionately places black and Latino students in lower-level math compared with placement of their white and Asian peers. As a result, the group claimed, the minority students were not on track to complete higher-level math classes such as calculus by senior year, putting them at a disadvantage when applying for college.

The root of the problem, according to the LCCR, was that the district had no concrete, written math placement policies, and the use of subjective measures, such as teacher recommendations, could be adversely affecting minority students.

District administrators, including former Superintendent Barry Groves, vigorously denied that they hold minority students back, and maintained that the district's placement policies were equitable and allowed for plenty of mobility for students who want to try a more challenging math class.

In August, the LCCR and the Silicon Valley Community Foundation filed a formal complaint with the federal Office for Civil Rights regarding the district's math placement policy.

But the problem was averted when the new superintendent, Jeff Harding, decided the district should adopt a formal math placement policy that clearly outlines what criteria determine how students are placed in ninth-grade math. The policy still allows for wiggle room, including the ability for students to request a more challenging math class. Shortly after the board adopted the new policy, the LCCR and the Silicon Valley Community Foundation dropped the complaint.

In March, the board was loudly criticized for supporting the superintendent's decision not to re-hire a popular drama teacher at Mountain View High School, Rob Seitelman. More than 150 students and parents packed the multipurpose room at Alta Vista High School as the board considered whether to retain Seitelman and grant him tenure after his second year of teaching.

Students made a passionate appeal to the board for more than an hour at the meeting about how Seitelman changed

their outlook on life and gave them a renewed sense of confidence. But the board unanimously approved a "resolution to non-reelect" Seitelman.

Parents stepped in after the decision and demanded an explanation from the board of their decision, delaying the board from moving on to the next agenda item for more than 10 minutes.

The district also has some loose ends to be resolved next year, including a revision to its homework policies. Concerned with stress and mental health issues, board members mulled over possible changes earlier this year that would reduce homework loads on students, particularly going into finals week and holidays.

Los Altos

It's been over a year since the Los Altos School District passed the \$150 million Measure N school bond, but board members continue to explore options for where to open a new school to deal with growing enrollment at the district's existing campuses.

Early in the year, the district began negotiating with the owner of the three-acre property at 201 San Antonio Circle, home to a two-story office building near the San Antonio Caltrain station. The location — in Mountain View and north of El Camino Real — would be well-placed to serve the growing number of students in Mountain View within the Los Altos School District boundaries. But building a new school there would be very expensive, as the district would have to buy up private land in a hot real estate market.

To help sweeten the deal, the board asked whether the Mountain View City Council would be willing to set aside any money to help purchase adjacent land for a field, which could be used by the school during the day. The council tentatively agreed to a partnership with the district, which means roughly \$7.5 million of the city's dedicated park fund could be used to acquire shared land.

The district also continues to meet with the city of Los Altos in an attempt to hash out a deal to share public land. More options could be open for the district following the landslide defeat of a \$65 million city bond to rebuild the Hillview Community Center.

Since the early half of the year, the district has also started to look at options for its own land, including using the large Covington Elementary and Egan Junior High for another campus. ▀

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AFFLUENCE

► Continued from page 5

last year's campaign promises against the BRT plan.

Despite the political cost, it's not clear whether Mountain View's support accomplished much for the project. Other cities along the El Camino corridor avoided taking a stand on the issue for months. In recent weeks, a VTA advisory committee recommended VTA should first test out dedicated lanes through a limited pilot project.

Housing affordability

Perhaps no other issue affected so much of the community as the rising cost of rental housing. Following a summer recess,

City Council members returned to a surprise, finding more than 200 protesters demanding immediate action on what they described as a crisis in the rental housing market.

Pressure continued to mount as a large number of tenants shared heart-wrenching accounts of how their monthly rents had spiked dramatically in a matter of months.

What resulted essentially changed the course of city government for the remainder of the year, and rent regulations suddenly became a centerpiece debate at every city meeting. At nearly every meeting, a large showing of tenants warned they were on the verge of being displaced from Mountain View, and pleaded for swift action to

curb rising rents. Eventually, landlords organized to present their side of the argument, urging the city not to impose price controls on the housing market.

The evidence the city found indicated rents were indeed increasing dramatically, going up on average by 53 percent over the last four years.

The majority of council members roundly dismissed the idea of bringing rent control to Mountain View. Yet, after months of long meetings, city officials endorsed a package of mediation and rent-relief programs that could penalize landlords who hike rents too quickly. The end result was really "soft rent control," one councilman said.

Exactly how these new pro-

gram will operate remains to be seen as city leaders expect a formal proposal by the city staff in the coming weeks.

Minimum wage

In a related discussion on affordability issues, Mountain View became the first South Bay city to boost the minimum wage to \$15 an hour by the start of 2018.

According to the plan, the city's minimum hourly wage — currently \$10.30 — will increase to \$11 this Jan. 1. That rate would continue notching up at the start of each year, to \$13 an hour in 2017, and \$15 in 2018. The city pledged that from that point on, the base wage could continue to rise, depending on the performance

of a Bay Area-focused Consumer Price Index.

The decision came after the council heard tales from Mountain View workers who described holding down multiple service jobs as the only way to eke out a living in the area. A smaller group of restaurant owners said they weren't much better off than their employees, trying to survive amid tight margins, fierce competition and rising expenses all around.

While Mountain View took the lead in approving the minimum-wage hike, it was followed a few weeks later by Sunnyvale, which approved a nearly identical roll-out schedule. Many other South Bay cities could follow that charge in the coming months. ▀

FATALITIES

► Continued from page 1

and a general order of restitution, according to Deputy District Attorney Robert Philbrook.

Philbrook said of the accident, "He made a horrible mistake when he made that left turn, but it was not a case where he was under the influence of drugs or alcohol (or) intended to kill someone that day."

The city of Mountain View responded to the fatal accident at Independence and Charleston by altering the traffic light at the intersection to prevent drivers from making an unprotected left turn while pedestrians are crossing.

Major fires kill one, displace others

The city also saw its first fire fatality in years, after a Mountain View resident was found dead inside his home following a house fire in the Cuesta Park neighborhood.

The single resident inside the home at the 700 block of Lola Lane, Dan Theodore, was described by neighbors as a gun enthusiast, and was well known for developing new types of long-range ammunition. He was also described as reclusive, mostly keeping to himself.

When the fire broke out in the early morning of April 23, neighbors tried to alert Theodore, but did not get a response. The fire had also spread to the garage of the home, which was full of guns and ammunition that had begun to go off in the intense heat.

Another major fire in Mountain View that topped headlines this year was the two-alarm blaze at the Park Vista Apartments on Escuela Avenue in July. The fire damaged 29 units and forced hundreds of people to take ref-

uge inside the nearby Mountain View Senior Center for the night, with some returning as fire crews cleared the area.

Then, on Aug. 18, as many as 13 families living in the damaged units received a lease termination notice from the apartment management. The notice claimed the families' apartments had been damaged and "deemed uninhabitable for an indefinite period of time." They were told that they had 48 hours to vacate the premises. Other residents claimed to have received 30- and 60-day termination notices as well. But questions arose about the evictions because only one apartment unit was red-tagged by the Mountain View Police Department.

Mountain View city staff stepped in immediately after the notices were issued, and contacted the apartment owner's lawyer to get the evictions rescinded. Through the lawyer, city staff discovered that the landlord of the large apartment complex planned to remodel "numerous" apartment units, including the ones damaged and destroyed in the fire, once the current tenants left.

In such a case, the landlord would have to follow the city's Tenant Relocation Ordinance, which requires a 90-day notice and relocation assistance equal to the tenant's full deposit, plus three months of market-rate rent.

The move by Mountain View city staff to intervene was atypical, according to Krishan Chopra, senior assistant city attorney. But in this case, it seemed like the right thing to do.

"Although the city does not enforce landlord-tenant laws, it felt compelled to bring this to the landlord's attention out of concern for the residents," Chopra said. ▀

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Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched dollar for dollar to the extent possible and will go directly to the nonprofit agencies that serve Mountain View residents. Last year, more than 150 Voice readers and the Wakerly, the William and Flora Hewlett and the David and Lucile Packard foundations contributed \$91,000, or \$13,000 each for the nonprofit agencies supported by the Voice Holiday Fund. We are indebted to the Silicon Valley Community Foundation which handles all donations, and deducts no administrative costs from your gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law. All donations will be shared equally with the seven recipient agencies.

This year, the following agencies will be supported by the Holiday Fund:

Day Worker Center

The Day Worker Center of Mountain View provides a secure place for workers and employers to negotiate wages and work conditions. It serves an average of 60 workers a day with job placements, English lessons, job skills workshops or guidance.

Mentor Tutor Connection

Mentor Tutor Connection matches adult volunteer mentors with at-risk youth in the Mountain View, Los Altos and the Los Altos Hills area and offers tutoring to many students, including some in high school and beyond.

Community School of Music and Arts

The Community School of Music and Arts provides hands-on art and music education in the classrooms of the Mountain View Whisman School District. Nearly 45 percent of the students are socio-economically disadvantaged, and 28 percent have limited English proficiency.

Mountain View RotaCare Clinic

The RotaCare Free Clinic provides uninsured local residents with primary care and many specialty care services. The clinic is frequently the last resort for this underserved demographic group.

YWCA Support Network for Domestic Violence

This group operates a 24-hour bilingual hotline and a safe shelter for women and their children. It also offers counseling and other services for families dealing with domestic violence.

Community Services Agency

CSA is the community's safety-net providing critical support services for low-income individuals and families, the homeless and seniors in northern Santa Clara County, including Mountain View, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills.

Community Health Awareness Council

CHAC serves Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills and seven school districts. Among other things, it offers school-based programs to protect students from high-risk behaviors, such as drug and alcohol abuse.

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MENTOR

► Continued from page 5

side of life's arc. After emigrating from Germany decades ago, she had established a career for herself at Mountain View-Los Altos Adult School. She was entering her 50s with bittersweet feelings as she watched her two sons grow into adults. It was the typical case of the "empty nest" syndrome, and she was in a quest for new purpose.

The pair probably would never have met if not for the Mentor Tutor Connection, a local nonprofit that matches teens dealing with adversity with adult volunteers interested in taking them under their wing. The program operates much like the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization, rooted in the idea that what struggling teens often need is someone who will just listen and try to understand them.

This year, Mentor Tutor Connection is one of seven local nonprofits picked as a beneficiary of the *Voice's* annual Holiday Fund. Donations to the fund are divided equally among these organizations, and will be matched by the Wakerly Family Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Lucile Packard Foundation. With the support of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, 100 percent of donations go directly to these nonprofits.

Those donations are particularly important for the Mentor Tutor Connection, which oversees about 140 volunteers across schools in the Mountain View and Los Altos area. Now entering its 20th year, the nonprofit is heavily involved at local elementary and middle schools, offering an array of tutoring services to help students succeed academically.

One area where the non-

profit really shines is its mentoring program for students like Nikoo who could benefit from an older guide. The mentorship program, which pairs teens with adults usually on a one-on-one basis, allows them to slowly develop a relationship that goes beyond schoolwork. The students may be facing economic hardship, poor family life or just general stress from life's school of hard knocks. Nikoo's struggle

'It's especially hard in this area. Now more than before, students have this expectation for perfection and a lot of self-inflicted stress goes with that.'

CAROL FISHER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
MENTOR TUTOR CONNECTION

was similar to what any immigrant feels getting dropped in the thick of a new country.

In many ways, teens these days need broader life guidance for dealing with the setbacks and stress of society, said Carol Fisher, Mentor Tutor Connection executive director. That goal is especially important now as students face ever-mounting pressure to excel academically, she said.

"It's especially hard in this area," Fisher noted. "Now more than before, students have this expectation for perfection and a lot of self-inflicted stress goes with that."

Both women admit that they were wary at first when they were "connected" through Mentor Tutor Connection, ask-

ing: "Just who *is* this stranger I've been paired with?" But the relationship soon blossomed. Webb remembers that early on, the teenage girl was shy and almost overbearingly courteous, always trying to please those around her, sometimes to her own detriment. Over time, she built up the confidence to know and express herself.

"I needed to see what someone else can give me and learn from how they live," Parsizadeh said. "With Connie, her background was like mine, and that made me feel better."

Webb and Parsizadeh developed a routine of meeting up and doing something social about every other week. Early on, this would be a basic activity such as walking Webb's dog through the neighborhood or chatting at a coffee shop. Over time, they moved on to visiting museums, art festivals, even a zoo. Parsizadeh brought her mentor to the local Persian restaurant to show her native cuisine. One rule they set for themselves was to always try something new, Parsizadeh said.

For Webb, this experience offered a glimpse of another side of parenting that she never got from raising two sons. Tagging along with a teenage girl as she tried out prom dresses or chatted about life was revelatory, she said.

"Now I know all the shopping malls in the area," she laughed.

Now a high school senior, Parsizadeh is preparing to move to the next stage of her life, and she is already eying colleges. When she graduates, her mentor-tutor relationship with Webb officially ends, but both women are pledging it won't end there.

"The program is ending, but not our friendship," the teenager said. ▀

Email Mark Noack at
mnoack@mv-voice.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Race for Assembly seat draws more aspirants

Longtime Mountain View Councilman Mike Kasperzak's bid to replace Rich Gordon as the 24th District state assemblyman just got a bit more competitive.

In recent days, Menlo Park Councilman Peter Ohtaki announced he would throw his hat into the contest.

Other city council members with higher political aspirations have also declared candidacy, including Palo Alto Councilman Marc Berman and Cupertino Mayor Barry Chang. Vicki Veenker, a Palo Alto intellectual property attorney, is also running for the office.

Assembly District 24 is split between San Mateo and Santa Clara counties and includes about a dozen cities and town in the region.

Gordon will be termed out of office in 2016; he has indicated he will likely retire from politics.



The puppet-loving Kruss family, from left, Pearl, Jerry and Jennifer.

MICHELLE LE

The puppet-masters of Mountain View

FOR KRUSS FAMILY, PUPPETS ARE MORE THAN DOLLS

By Mark Noack

A family as unique as any other, the Kruss household gathered on a recent Friday morning for a family meeting in the living room. Almost everyone was already assembled on the couch — Lotta in her striped tights; Joshua wearing his classic green overalls, Little Jenny sporting her corduroy dress. They and about 20 of their siblings were waiting idly around as mom and dad — Pearl and Jerry Kruss — joined them in the room.

Choosing whom to play with, Pearl grabbed Holm and began practicing the motions of sign language with his digits. Jerry hoisted up Lotta and pantomimed a little jig with her on his knee. Occasionally they had the two join together for a handshake or a kiss on the lips.

It should be noted at this point that Lotta, Joshua and pretty much everyone on the couch are puppets — not that this makes a huge difference in the Kruss household. Pearl and Jerry readily admit they have a love for puppets bordering on the obsessive.

They estimate they have about 50 puppets, and the collection continues to grow.

“We have hand puppets, California puppets, marionettes — we have every kind of puppet you can imagine,” Pearl explained. “It’s a family affair.”

Every family has quirks, and the Krusses’ love of puppets is something they aren’t afraid to share. When they’re shopping at Costco, they bring along a puppet to ride in the shopping cart. If they’re eating at a restaurant, they grab a highchair and plant one at the table. When other people wonder what the heck is going on, they go further and put on a puppet show with singing, dancing or begging for a high-five from the onlookers.

Are they used to getting plenty of odd stares? “No, people love it!” Pearl said.

“People may not warm up to another human, but they’ll open up to a puppet,” Jerry said.

For Pearl, it all began when she was 9 years old and designed a papier-mache dragon — her first puppet. Since then, she’s collected enough puppets to easily fill the cast of a Jim Henson movie.

Jerry came from a different background, and in his younger days he eked out a living performing at children’s birthday parties as a stage magician. He and his nimble hands later found a calling in locksmithing while dabbling in puppetry on the side.

‘People may not warm up to another human, but they’ll open up to a puppet.’

JERRY KRUSS

The puppet obsession is also strong with their daughter, Jennifer, who is a member of the San Francisco Bay Area Puppeteers Guild and wants to make a living from the art.

For the first time, the Kruss family is now turning their love for puppets into a business venture. While vacationing in Europe, Pearl and Jerry were enchanted by Living Puppets, a German brand that looks some-

what like a Muppet spliced with a troll doll. The main selling point for the Krusses was the puppets’ dexterity — for a human operator, the puppets fit like a glove and allow a wide range of movements, including sign language.

After hearing that Living Puppets weren’t yet available in the U.S., the Krusses decided to buy a sizable inventory to see if they could be the first to offer them locally.

For now, the family’s stockpile of Living Puppets is sitting in a row on the living room couch at their Monta Loma house. As all three Krusses played with a puppet on their knee, it was clear they don’t mind hanging onto their inventory while the business takes off. They admit that two of the Living Puppets have become too dear to sell.

Pearl, who formerly worked as an English teacher, insists that these puppets would be a perfect educational tool, especially for hard-to-reach students with disabilities. She touted the puppets’ ability to make young students feel comfortable and interested in the lesson at hand.

In some ways, puppets have

become the string tying together the family. Decades ago, both Pearl and Jerry were in a romantic relationship in the South Bay before they separated. At the time, Pearl decided abruptly to leave the country and move to Israel. Their lives diverged, yet despite the separation they stayed in loose contact by writing letters.

The old flame was suddenly rekindled just last year. Pearl contacted Jerry, then a widower with a daughter, and the pair decided to take an impromptu trip to Disneyland together after all those years. Not long afterward, they decided to marry.

Puppets soon became something all of them could bond over. The Kruss family is intent on scheduling puppet shows soon at the local library or hospitals. They also are considering sharing videos of their puppet plays online through a streaming service.

More information about the Living Puppets available from the Kruss family can be found at tinyurl.com/ossyoxg.

Email Mark Noack at mnoack@mv-voice.com

BUS LANE

► Continued from page 1

VTA transportation planner Adam Burger explained that the trial would provide the best information to date on how bus ridership and drivers respond to streamlined bus routes. He recommended at least a 3-mile section to test the program, but anything longer would provide better data, he said.

Several committee members asked whether it made more sense for the test to include the entire El Camino stretch. Going that route would provide the best indication of how the program works, and it would keep pressure on all cities to participate.

“Not only should we recommend this entirely, we should commit to go back to our councils (and recommend) that we take part in this pilot,” said Mountain View City Councilman Lenny Siegel. “This way, cities will have heard that everyone’s moving in the same direction.”

The pilot program agreed on by the committee would involve repainting portions of El Camino and installing signs to alert drivers of the new rules for dedicated bus lanes. The dedicated lanes would be those farthest right; however, sections of the street could still have bike lanes or parking along the shoulder. Making those modifications is expected to cost more than \$6 million, VTA staff estimated.

Many safety matters still need to be considered for the plan, Burger said. Drivers trying to make right turns onto or off of El Camino would need to cross the dedicated lanes, and traffic engineers would need to study whether this poses any dangers. Drivers trying to parallel park along the road would need to maneuver through the dedicated lane.

The politics surrounding BRT are heated, to put it mildly. Many advocates have touted dedicated lanes as a forward-looking measure that would make bus transit appealing to many new riders. But the idea drew a fierce backlash from nearby homeowners and merchants who feared the program would push drivers away from El Camino and onto side streets.

Over protests, the Mountain View council earlier this year came out in support of BRT in a 3-2 vote. The action spurred opponents to launch a recall effort against two of the council members who voted in favor of BRT.

That stormy background wasn’t lost on committee members last week as they considered the new pilot version of BRT. Serving as one of the committee members, county Supervisor Joe Simitian urged his committee colleagues to make it clear that cities weren’t being forced to participate in the program.

“As someone who represents four or five of these cities, my constituents are going to have a very different view,” he said. “They’ll say: ‘You voted for the full (El Camino) length over our objections.’”

‘Not only should we recommend this entirely, we should commit to go back to our councils (and recommend) that we take part in this pilot.’

CITY COUNCILMAN LENNY SIEGEL

Simitian asked that it be explicitly noted in the record that he wants BRT participation to be optional for each city.

The pilot proposal will now go to the full VTA board of directors for a final decision as soon as February. VTA staff indicated each city along the route would be asked to participate in the pilot, although the agency doesn’t have to get the cities’ support. However, Burger explained, local backing would be important as the project goes to Caltrans for approval.

“Caltrans wants concurrence — they don’t want to step in the middle of a disagreement,” he said. “It’s just good government to make sure you have local buy-in from cities.”

In a series of votes, the committee opted for the most minimal implementation of the BRT pilot, which would restrict the lanes only during weekday peak traffic hours. The votes were all unanimous and will be taken to the full VTA board as a recommended action.

No matter what happens, implementing the BRT pilot is a long way off. The program would still need to be studied, and VTA staff indicated it could take two years to fully prepare. ■

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FD1041

Stanford, Menlo Park hospitals penalized over patient safety

EL CAMINO HOSPITAL IN MOUNTAIN VIEW HAD THE BEST SCORES OF LOCAL HOSPITALS

By Sue Dremann and Kevin Forestieri

Stanford Health Care and Palo Alto Medical Foundation's Menlo Park Surgical Hospital will see their Medicare reimbursements drop by 1 percent after Medicare found their patients had too many hospital-acquired conditions, according to documents recently released by the federal Hospital-Acquired Condition (HAC) Reduction Program.

The results of the program also showed that El Camino Hospital will not be penalized, as it had some of the lowest incidences of hospital-acquired infections in the entire state.

The program was created in 2010 as part of the Affordable Care Act to improve hospital quality. The fines are based on assessments of complications

The results are 'a pat on the back for going in the right direction. But we (already) knew, since we were monitoring this along the way.'

JOY PAO, DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL QUALITY AND PATIENT SAFETY, EL CAMINO HOSPITAL

from hospital stays, including infections, sepsis and hip fractures. This year, Medicare is penalizing 758 hospitals nationwide. It is the first time that Stanford and the Menlo Park facilities

have been on the list, according to the documents.

Medicare ranked the nation's hospitals on a score of 1 to 10, with 10 being the worst in three categories: central-line associated bloodstream infections; catheter-associated urinary-tract infections and serious complications, which include eight types of injuries, including blood clots, bed sores and falls.

Hospitals with total HAC scores above 7 will be penalized, according to Kaiser Health News, which analyzed the documents.

El Camino Hospital's total HAC score was only 1.75. Joy Pao, the hospital's senior director for clinical quality and patient safety, said the results reflect all the patient quality policies they have in place to reduce hospital-acquired conditions. The

► Continued on next page



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hospital has a strong infection-control program, Pao said, which helped to foster a culture among nurses and physicians focused on patient care.

"Everyone is on it," Pao said. "It's ingrained in what we do."

Hospital board member David Reeder, who chairs the hospital's patient quality committee, said he is "very proud" of what El Camino's doctors and nurses are doing to improve patient care. He said it's no easy task to control things like surgical site infections in an environment full of sick people.

"You can do a lot in the operating room in terms of hand washing and sterilizing equipment, but when you have a patient in the room and you're cleaning a surgical wound, you've got all kinds of germs floating around," Reeder said. "It requires a lot of special attention."

The results of the Hospital-Acquired Condition Reduction Program were not a surprise to Reeder, who said most of the metrics are frequently reported to the board. But he said he was surprised to see other prominent hospitals in the area, such as Stanford, not doing as well.

The results are "a pat on the back for going in the right direction," Pao said. "But we (already) knew, since we were monitoring

this along the way. We've really moved on to other things." Those things include reducing patient falls and medication errors, as well as patient length of stay, she said.

The government assessed incidents in 2013 and 2014 for patients who developed infections after having central lines

'... We have already significantly reduced the rates — some by 50 percent — for each of the conditions.'

RAJNEESH BEHAL, CHIEF QUALITY OFFICER, STANFORD HEALTH CARE

inserted into veins and/or urinary catheters. Most of these complications were part of last year's penalty assessments; incidents of infections from incisions from colon operations and hysterectomies were added to the calculations this year, Kaiser noted.

The remaining assessments were based on eight other complications, including surgical tears, collapsed lung, broken

hips and reopened wounds that occurred between July 2012 and June 2014.

Congress exempted veterans' and children's hospitals and critical-access hospitals, which are generally the sole providers in their area, the Kaiser report noted. Therefore, only one in six hospitals is being penalized.

The penalties are in effect from October 2015 through September 2016 and Medicare estimated they will cost hospitals about \$364 million, the Kaiser report noted.

Of local hospitals, Stanford, Menlo Park and Kaiser Redwood City scored above the penalty threshold of 7 for total hospital-acquired conditions. Rajneesh Behal, Stanford Health Care chief quality officer, said in a statement that the hospital fully supports public reporting and sharing these quality and safety indicators.

"In the timeframe covered for this program (2012-2014), Stanford's rates for some of the included conditions were higher. All of these conditions are included in our quality improvement plan, and we have already significantly reduced the rates — some by 50 percent — for each of the conditions. It should be noted, the HAC program lags and does not reflect our current performance," he said. ▣



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■ WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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

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■ EDITORIAL THE OPINION OF THE VOICE

Trustees, lower the lance and face reality

An open letter from the *Voice* to Mountain View Whisman School District board trustees Greg Coladonato and Steve Nelson:

Dear gentlemen, your views on a flat-rate parcel tax now being considered by your school board to replace the soon-to-expire existing tax without doubt reflect the sentiments of many reasonable people who prize fairness. But unlike most reasonable people, you appear willing to disregard, at great risk to the district's financial health, a recent high court ruling declaring it illegal to exact a tiered-rate parcel tax like the one the district now has in place, which charges owners of larger parcels more than small-parcel owners.

At the Dec. 10 school board meeting, both of you argued that, in the interest of fairness, the district should put a parcel tax measure on the ballot next year that would flout the court ruling, and thereby almost guarantee a legal challenge that would risk halting the flow of the district's badly needed parcel tax revenue after the current tax expires. You want to stand on principle, you said, and launch a court fight when the inevitable lawsuit is filed.

Both of you are educated men, and you both appear to have noble intentions. But can it be that in pursuing your degrees you skipped the World Lit class whose reading list included "Don Quixote"? As you probably know, that's the book that made the expression "tilting at windmills" famous — a metaphor based on the actions of the hapless gentleman from La Mancha, driven by noble intentions but untethered from reality. His story ends badly.

Gentlemen, your colleagues are also interested in fairness; it is likely that they wish as fervently as you that the district had the option of continuing a tiered-rate parcel tax. But after being advised by the district's legal counsel and its parcel tax consultant that only a flat tax that treats all parcels the same would pass legal muster, they are prepared to approve a flat-rate parcel tax measure for the spring ballot in order to increase the chances that the district will continue to receive the \$2 million-plus in tax revenue it has depended on for years. As board member Jose Gutierrez put it, the political question of the tax's fairness must be considered separately from how the district will meet the needs of its students.

There are ways to fight an unfair law, but turning the Mountain View Whisman School District into the state's battleground on this issue by making a political decision at the school board level is not a reasonable way to do so, particularly when the stakes are so high.

Now, the district is at a crossroads: Putting a parcel tax measure on the ballot requires approval of four of the five board members. If the measure is to be placed before voters in May, the board must act soon. That means one or both of you can decide to put your lances aside and join your colleagues in approving a tax measure for the spring ballot that will be legally watertight, or you can continue to tilt at windmills. What will you do? ■

■ LETTERS VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

CITY NEEDS MORE TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

It should be obvious to most that the task of traffic law enforcement in Mountain View is well beyond the capacity of the current police force. It's my impression that there is basically no enforcement of traffic laws in Mountain View — speeding, stop sign, yielding to pedestrians, red lights, etc. I observe rampant disregard for the traffic laws as those who live and/or work in the city value their time much more than the safety or lives of others — pedestrians and bicyclists are the least of their worries.

As I see it, the only solution, unless you are willing to spend a lot of money hiring more police officers and buying more police cars, is to proactively go to passive traffic control measures. Currently, the city operates in a reactive mode — nothing is done until a pedestrian or bicyclist is killed, or a bunch of local residents get sufficiently worked up.

Proactive measures for traffic control could include things like red light cameras, speed cameras (if allowed by California), better marking and lighting at all pedestrian crosswalks, bike lanes everywhere, speed humps in all residential blocks, and other traffic-calming measures such as traffic circles, etc. One

interesting observation: There are huge differences in the number of traffic-calming measures in various parts of the city. What has caused this and what are the consequences?

One obvious result of putting speed bumps on one residential street would be to drive the cut-through traffic to the next street over. We need to have the same traffic-control measures everywhere.

Another thought, based on what is done in Europe, is to install a lot of surveillance cameras around the downtown and other areas; this is not prohibited by current state privacy laws, and would be a significant force multiplier for the police, giving them both the ability to monitor a much wider area of Mountain View and, after the fact, provide significant information about crimes committed in the city. Four cameras at every intersection, a couple of cameras in the middle of each block on each side of the street, would give the police both real-time information and information after the fact when something of consequence has happened.

You can watch any number of recent British television detective shows on KQED to see what is possible with such a system.

David Lewis
Oak Street



Year in review

MIDPENINSULA DINING by Elena Kadvan



The endless cycle of restaurants moving in and out of the MidPeninsula persisted in 2015, with continuing growth in cities like Palo Alto, Mountain View and Los Altos. Was 2015 the year of boba in Palo Alto? Perhaps, with four milk-tea cafes — and three of them, large international chains — setting up shop on or around University Avenue. Palo Alto also saw the opening of Bill's Cafe, a breakfast staple in San Jose; the news that Stanford Shopping Center will house three new restaurants and one bakery in 2016; and the temporary closure of Gordon Biersch Brewery Restaurant, set to reopen its doors in January with a new name, new menu, new beers and new look — among other notable comings and goings. It was also a big year for sleepy Los Altos, with the openings of Turn Bar + Grill (upscale American comfort-food restaurant, opened by two lifelong Los Altos residents this summer), Charley's Noodle & Grill (Hawaiian-style ramen, which supplanted Muracci's 2), Cetrella (the second outpost of the Half Moon Bay favorite) and Cho's Mandarin Dim Sum (the reincarnated version of the venerable Palo Alto hole-in-the-wall on California Avenue). Los Altos also is now, technically, the home of the reinvented Amber India, dubbed Amber Club, in a new, enormous space just barely across the Los Altos-Mountain View border on El Camino Real.

Charley Cheng, a beloved figure in Los Altos, opened Charley Noodle & Grill at 244 State St. this spring. The Hawaiian-style ramen restaurant replaced Muracci's 2.

See YEAR IN REVIEW, page 16

YEAR IN REVIEW

► Continued from page 16

The year 2015 also bid farewell to many longtime local establishments, from Fran's Market and Scott's Seafood in Palo Alto to Fiesta del Mar in Mountain View (which technically moved to the owners' Agave Mexican Bistro on Castro Street) and Hunan Home's in Los Altos. Menlo Park, for its part, suddenly lost the popular and new Borrone MarketBar in June, but in October gained Mademoiselle Colette, a true Parisian bakery on Santa Cruz Avenue.

Read on for the top food-related happenings of 2015, and the most anticipated opening of the new year.

TOP PENINSULA FOODIST POST OF 2015... By leaps and bound, the most-viewed post on this writer's Peninsula Foodist blog was the one announcing the sale of **Su Hong To Go** in Menlo

Park to a new owner. The news rocked generations of Su Hong fans in the area (including this writer) who for years had been loyally and regularly consuming owner **Bee King's** delicious General's Chicken, potstickers and Chinese chicken salad. King, who had been at the helm of the to-go outpost as well as a now-shuttered sit-down restaurant on El Camino Real for more than three decades, decided to retire in late September. She said some customers cried upon hearing the news. After 38 years and working seven days a week, she said she felt it was time to "reserve some time" for herself. So she sold both the Menlo Avenue to-go outpost and the sit-down restaurant to another longtime local restaurant owner, **Jason Kwan**, also owner of **Jason's Cafe** just down El Camino. Kwan kept the venerable Su Hong menu but changed the restaurant's name to **Chef Kwan's** (though die-hard fans will never cease referring to it as Su Hong).

He and other staff members spent the last days of official Su Hong business — and many, many after — reassuring panicking customers that everything was the same, except for the name. The sit-down Su Hong restaurant first opened at 1039 El Camino Real in 1977. (Kwan also owns this space now and places to open a dim-sum restaurant called **Yum Cha Palace**— there next year.) In 1982, another Su Hong opened in Palo Alto, which is still in operation though under independent ownership. Su Hong To Go opened at 630 Menlo Ave. in 1991.

MOST EXCITING OPENING OF 2015 ... Arguably the most exciting opening of the year is **Bird Dog**—, a contemporary small-plates restaurant that opened at 420 Ramona St. in Palo Alto (the former home of Mandarin Gourmet) in November. The concept is the brainchild of well-known Santa Barbara chef **Robbie Wilson** and his wife, **Emily Perry Wilson**, who teamed up with Silicon Valley power couple **Chamath Palihapitiya** and **Brigitte Lau** (they're behind The Social+Capital Partnership, a venture capital firm based in Palo Alto) to open the restaurant. Robbie Wilson, who is now living in Menlo Park, did his culinary training in France. He has since worked in many renowned



VERONICA WEBER

After 24 years, four landlords and generations of customers, local favorite **Fiesta del Mar** on Shoreline Boulevard in Mountain View closed its doors in late September. The restaurant relocated to a banquet room at one of the owners' other restaurants, **Agave Mexican Bistro** on Castro Street.

kitchens, including **The French Laundry** in Yountville and **Nobu** in New York City. The Bird Dog menu is split into three sections — raw, proteins and vegetables/grains — with intriguing items found nowhere else in Palo Alto, such as wood-grilled avocado with ponzu and ocean lettuce, and delicate Thai snapper with lime, chili, sesame and pecan. And what's with that name? Bird dog is both a term — "It means, by definition, to seek out and return with dog(-like) determination," Robbie explained — and

an actual breed that is trained to hunt or retrieve birds or small game animals. "When you seek something out with determination of bringing it back — essentially, we're doing that every night," he added, comparing a dog's hunt to finding locally sourced ingredients and bringing them to diners.

BIGGEST REVAMP ... Those who built downtown Palo Alto's **Varsity Theatre** in 1927 could not have even conceived what the space would become today: a techie-focused "innovation hub" (whatever that means) caffeinated by none other than third-wave coffee pioneer **Blue Bottle Coffee**. Palo Alto-based German software company **SAP** bought the historic landmark with plans to open **HanaHaus**, described on its website as "a community of purpose defining a new cafe experience where creative individuals and entrepreneurs can come together to meet, socialize, share ideas and connect with experts." Translation: Silicon Valley movers and shakers (or just regular people) can for a small fee reserve spaces for meetings, network at events, attend design-thinking workshops and the like — or, just drink coffee. Blue Bottle's first-ever Peninsula location at 456 University Ave. serves its usual goods — espresso, coffee, pastries, even Belgian waffles — in the admittedly gorgeous renovated space. The outdoor patio, with string lights and ample seating, is not to be missed. Blue Bottle — which got its start in Oakland in 2002 and now operates more than 10 locations in the Bay Area, East Coast and more recently, Tokyo — still honors a vow made by its founder, James Freeman, when he first opened: "I will only sell coffee less than 48 hours out of the roaster to my customers," the company's website reads.

SHORTEST SHELF LIFE ... Despite its best efforts, artisan

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Cetrella, an acclaimed Mediterranean restaurant in Half Moon Bay, opened a second location on Main Street in Los Altos in August.

hot-dog eatery **Chez Franc** in Palo Alto did not outlast criticism of the price of its haute dogs. The restaurant at 415 California Ave. closed in May after only four months of business. Owner **Jacquetta Lannan**, a former attorney and culinary school graduate, opened Chez Franc in January after months of unanticipated delays and funding challenges. She opened a food truck while waiting for the brick-and-mortar to move forward and launched a \$37,000 Kickstarter campaign to

be able to purchase a new meat chopper, sausage stuffer and smoker. Just two months before closing, Chez Franc slashed its prices by several dollars, from \$6 to \$13 per dog instead of \$12 to \$15. Other menu items' prices also went down. Lannan said this was both in response to negative feedback that prices were too high and a result of making their own dogs in house rather than buying. Now, somewhat bittersweet, is Lannan's award this year from the **Palo Alto Chamber of Com-**

merce as the first recipient of the new Athena Young Professional Leadership Award. The award honors emerging leaders who demonstrated excellence, creativity and initiative in their business or profession while contributing time and energy to improve the quality of life for others in the community. "We are all sad that this restaurant didn't succeed in the way we hoped," Lannan wrote in an email announcing the closure to her Kickstarter backers in May. "However, please be

proud of us for taking a bold leap and following our dream; I know that I am."

MOST ANTICIPATED OPENING OF 2016 ... Easily, the most anticipated opening of the new year will be a new Los Altos outpost of **Manresa Bread**, the popular bakery spinoff of David Kinch's celebrated Manresa restaurant in Los Gatos. The Los Gatos bakery announced the impending expansion on its Instagram two weeks ago, posting a photo of the space at 271 State St. with the caption, "Dear Los Altos, hope you're as excited as we are #comingsoon." **Andrew Burnham**, partner at Manresa, said Monday that they've long been eyeing Los Altos as one piece in a larger expansion puzzle. (He said they even looked at the same 271 State St. space several years ago with plans to open a bar, but that fell through.) They took notice of a changing downtown landscape, with Google co-founder Sergrey Brin buying up real estate and new developments being built (as well as new restaurants moving in). "A couple years ago, we started seeing a lot of activity," Burnham said. "It's not New York City; it's not the most vibrant nightlife scene at the moment, still, but things, I think, have been changing a little bit and hopefully we'll play a role in that." Burnham

said the Los Altos Manresa Bread will be similar to the existing bakery, which opened in February, not far from its Michelin-starred parent restaurant. But Los Altos will have full espresso and coffee service with **Verve Coffee**, something the Los Gatos bakery doesn't yet have. There will also be cold-brew coffee flowing from a nitrogen tap, kefir on tap, and all of the famed breads and baked goods. "Weekly staples" include levain bread, brioche, sourdough baguettes, croissants, kougin amanns and more, plus seasonal goods like pumpernickel buckwheat rye, fruit-and-nut loaves, polenta cakes, quiches and tartines. After opening, they hope to start making macarons and chocolate, which hasn't yet been done in Los Gatos, Burnham said. Los Altos will "basically be a better reflection of what we want the experience to be like from the very beginning," he said. He stayed mum on a targeted opening date, but he said they're aiming for sometime in the first quarter of 2016. ■

Staff Writer *Elena Kadvany* can be emailed at ekadvany@paweekly.com.

Check out more food news online at *Elena Kadvany's* blog, *Peninsula Foodist*, at paloaltoonline.com/blogs.

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■ MOVIE OPENINGS

'Joy' to the World

J-LAW INVENTS, HAWKS MIRACLE MOP IN COMEDY-DRAMA

★★★1/2
(Century 16, Century 20)

Like all of David O. Russell's films from the past decade, "Joy" is a bit of a mess. But this one's self-cleaning! For the low, low price of \$8.75, if you head on down to your theater now, you get this Miracle Mop! And if you act now, we'll also give you two hours with Jennifer Lawrence, Bradley Cooper and Robert De Niro!

Taking us from squalid domesticity to the QVC showroom (that's the "Quality, Value, Convenience" home-shopping network), "Joy" spins a fable of an American Dream still attainable with the right combination of heart and smarts, pluck and luck.

The film tells the tale of Joy Mangano (Lawrence), a single mother depicted by writer-director Russell as the only thing keeping her family from coming apart at the seams. Joy raises three children with little help from her ex-husband, aspiring lounge singer Tony (Édgar Ramírez), her nutty estranged parents, Rudy (De Niro) and Terry (Virginia Madsen), or her grandmother, Mimi (Diane Ladd), who narrates. It's a



TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

Jennifer Lawrence plays single mother Joy Mangano, inventor of the Miracle Mop, in "Joy."

crazy life and a full house with all of these characters under one roof, and though Joy's "dreams are on hold," she never stops working on the big idea that'll be her ticket to a less stressful existence.

In unspoken solidarity with other harried working mothers, Joy comes up with invention after invention. As Mimi puts it, "Joy was one of those people who rejoiced in making things." The Big One comes in the form of the Miracle Mop, a self-wringing, no-fuss, no-muss mop designed by Mangano to clean using a continuous loop of 300 feet of cotton. Taking the Mop to market starts local, with Rudy's latest girlfriend, the well-off Trudy (Isabella Rossellini). A succession of business headaches eventually lead to a pitch session with Neil Walker (Cooper) at QVC.

Russell gets good work from his cast, and if his improvisatory approach to directing always results in films that feel

synthetic, at least he deliberately undercuts claims to telling a true story. Despite the sloppiness (a death scene played as pivotal, though we haven't been made to care about the deceased) and restlessness (an entirely unnecessary dream sequence), Russell's working in an old-Hollywood myth-making vein that's more reliant on extraordinary acting than ordinary truth.

As for Lawrence, she's again playing a part for which she's roughly a decade too young, but she pulls it off with ferocious spirit. If "Joy" is about anything, it's about the kind of character we still want to believe can succeed through excellence and persistence. Though everything around this resilient central figure is wan sitcom, "Joy the Doer" provides a rooting interest potent enough to justify the film.

Rated PG-13 for brief strong language. Two hours, 4 minutes.
— Peter Canavese

Good greed

THEY GOT GRUBBY LITTLE FINGERS IN WALL STREET DRAMEDY

★★★1/2
(Century 16, Century 20)

Back in the go-go 1980s, fictional corporate raider Gordon Gekko of "Wall Street" famously intoned, "Greed is good." In the new comedy-drama, "The Big Short," the financial-whiz anti-heroes aren't so sure.

In bringing to the screen the nonfiction book, "The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine," producer-star Brad Pitt again mines the work of author Michael Lewis ("Moneyball"). Director Adam McKay ("Anchorman"), best known for his comedy collaborations with Will Ferrell, may have been an unconventional choice, but he turns out to be just the man



JAAP BUITENDIJK/PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Wall Street dramedy "The Big Short" brings a blend of cynicism and absurdity to the global financial crisis of 2008.

(along with co-writer Charles Randolph) to elucidate the fiscal rigmarole leading up to the bursting of the housing and credit bubble circa 2008, while also whipping up a palatable froth of cynicism and absurdity.

"The Big Short" sets the tone with a Mark Twain epigram: "It ain't what you don't know that gets you into trouble. It's what you know for sure that just ain't so." What will follow is a quintes-

centially American tale of intelligence, foolishness and chicanery, and the subject is that great collective delusion we call money.

"The Big Short" follows multiple narrative threads that intertwine, each anchored by a movie star. Christian Bale plays Dr. Michael Burry, the carte-blanche captain of Scion Capital who sees the housing crash coming and declares, to the horror of his investors and colleagues, "I want

■ MOVIE TIMES

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip (PG)

Century 16: 8:15, 9:15 & 11:55 a.m., 2:25, 4:55, 7:25 & 9:55 p.m.

Century 20: 9:50 & 10:50 a.m., 12:10, 1:15, 2:35, 3:45, 5:05, 7:30 & 10 p.m.

The Big Short (R) ★★★1/2

Century 16: 8:30 & 10:05 a.m., 1:20, 2:45, 4:25, 7:30, 9:15 & 10:35 p.m.

Century 20: 9:50 a.m., 1, 2:45, 4, 7:05, 8:50 & 10:15 p.m.

Bijirao Mastani (Not Rated) Century 16: 10 a.m., 6:05 p.m.

Brooklyn (PG-13) ★★★1/2 Palo Alto Square: 4 & 7 p.m.

Carol (R) Palo Alto Square: 1:15, 4:15, 7:15 & 10 p.m.

Concussion (PG-13)

Century 16: 8:15 & 11:10 a.m., 2:10, 5:05, 8 & 10:55 p.m.

Century 20: 10:45 & 11:45 a.m., 1:45, 4:45, 5:50, 7:45 & 10:45 p.m.

Creed (PG-13) ★★★

Century 20: 10:10 a.m., 1:20, 4:20, 7:25 & 10:30 p.m.

Daddy's Home (PG-13)

Century 16: 8:25 & 10:55 a.m., 1:30, 4:05, 7:10 & 9:45 p.m.

Century 20: 9:55 a.m., 12:25, 2:55, 5:25, 8 & 10:35 p.m.

The Danish Girl (R) Aquarius Theatre: 1:15, 4, 4:45, 7:05, 9:55 & 10:15 p.m. Century 20: 10:15 a.m., 1:10, 4:10, 7:15 & 10:10 p.m.

Dilwale (Not Rated) Century 16: 2:15 & 9:50 p.m.

The Good Dinosaur (PG) ★★1/2 Century 16: 9 a.m., 11:30, 2 & 4:30 p.m. Century 20: 11:05 a.m., 1:50, 4:25, 7 & 9:35 p.m.

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 2 (PG-13) ★★1/2

Century 16: 9:30 a.m., 12:40, 3:50, 7:05 & 10:15 p.m.

Century 20: 11:40 a.m., 3:30, 6:50 & 10:05 p.m.

Joy (PG-13) ★★1/2

Century 16: 9:55 & 11:30 a.m., 12:55, 4, 6:05, 7:20 & 10:25 p.m.

Century 20: 10:25 a.m., 1:35, 4:35, 6:15, 7:40, 9:15 & 10:40 p.m.

Point Break (PG-13)

Century 16: 1:15 & 7:15 p.m. In 3-D at 10:10 a.m., 4:15 & 10:10 p.m.

Century 20: 1:30 & 7:20 p.m. In 3-D at 10:30 a.m., 4:25 & 10:20 p.m.

Sisters (R) Century 16: 10:15 a.m., 1:05, 3:55, 7:05 & 10:05 p.m.

Century 20: 10 & 11:20 a.m., 12:50, 2:10, 3:40, 5, 6:35, 7:50, 9:30 & 10:40 p.m.

Spectre (PG-13) Century 16: 7:15 & 10:35 p.m.

Spotlight (R) ★★★1/2 Palo Alto Square: 1 & 9:45 p.m.

Star Wars: Episode VII - The Force Awakens (PG-13) ★★★

Century 16: 9 & 10:20 a.m., 12:20, 1:40, 3:40, 7, 8:20 & 10:20 p.m. In 3-D at 8:20, 9:40, 11 & 11:40 a.m., 1, 2:20, 3, 4:20, 5, 5:40, 6:20, 7:40, 9, 9:40 & 11 p.m. Century 20: 10:40 a.m., 12:30, 2, 3:50, 5:20, 6:30, 7:10, 8:40 & 10:30 p.m. In 3-D at 10:05, 11:15 & 11:50 a.m., 1:25, 2:35, 3:10, 4:45, 5:55, 8:05, 9:15 & 9:50 p.m. In XD 3-D at 9:45 a.m., 12:55, 4:15, 7:35 & 10:50 p.m. In D-BOX at 12:30, 3:50, 7:10 & 10:30 p.m. In 3-D D-BOX at 11:15 a.m., 2:35, 5:55 & 9:15 p.m.

Trumbo (R) ★★★ Aquarius Theatre: 1:45, 4:45, 7:30 & 10:15 p.m.

Youth (R) ★1/2 Guild Theatre: 1, 4, 7:05 & 9:55 p.m.

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For show times, plot synopses and more information about any films playing at the Aquarius, visit www.LandmarkTheatres.com

★ Skip it
★★ Some redeeming qualities
★★★ A good bet
★★★★ Outstanding

For show times, plot synopses, trailers and more movie info, visit www.mv-voice.com and click on movies.



to short the housing market." Steve Carell is outspoken money manager Mark Baum (based on Steve Eisman); Ryan Gosling is trader Jared Vennett (based on Greg Lippmann) and Pitt plays trading whiz Ben Rickert (based on Ben Hockett). These men come to believe that doomsday is coming, and though some carry a measure of premature survivor's guilt about it, each sees a way to capitalize on the disaster.

Haunted by his greatest success,

Baum rages, "We live in an era of fraud." That our nation forever struggles with inadequate education compounds the crimes of financial exploitation laid bare and left unprosecuted in the most recent financial crisis. The laughs catch in our throats as "The Big Short" convincingly insists we're about to do it all over again.

Rated R for pervasive language and some sexuality/nudity. Two hours, 10 minutes.

— Peter Canavese

‘EMMA’

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

ART GALLERIES

‘Got Art?’ Gallery 9 in Los Altos will offer a holiday exhibit show during the month of December, featuring pieces by all its member artists. Dec. 1-Jan. 3, Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4 p.m. Free. Gallery 9, 143 Main St., Los Altos. Call 650-948-2961. gallery9losaltos.com

‘Santa Cruz and San Francisco’ Viewpoints Gallery will next arrange a show of oil paintings by Katherine McGuire called “Santa Cruz and San Francisco,” presenting cityscapes and landscapes of the two locales. Dec. 1-Jan. 2, Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. Viewpoints Gallery, 315 State St., Los Altos. www.viewpointsgallery.com

BENEFITS/FUNDRAISERS

Book drive for Reading Partners Linden Tree Books is holding a book drive, accepting donations of new and gently used books for Reading Partners. The nonprofit matches children with one-on-one tutors that assist them in reaching grade-level reading goals. Titles for beginner readers are particularly needed. Through Dec. 27; Saturday and Sunday, 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Free. Linden Tree Books, 265 State St., Los Altos. Call 650-868-2766. www.lindentreebooks.com

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Adult School Winter/Spring Classes Registration Registration for Mountain View-Los Altos Adult School Winter and Spring classes began on Nov. 20. The winter session will run from Jan. 4 to March 18, and the spring session from March 21 to June 3. Visit the website or

call for more info. Nov. 20-Jan. 4. Prices vary. Mountain View-Los Altos Adult School, 333 Moffett Blvd., Mountain View. Call 650-940-1333. www.mvlaae.net

Foothill College Winter Quarter Registration Winter Quarter registration at Foothill College began on Nov. 18, and courses will meet from Jan. 4 to March 25. A full class schedule and registration instructions are available on the website. There is no application fee. Nov. 18-Jan. 3, 12:15 a.m.-11:45 p.m. \$31 per unit for California residents, plus basic fees. Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-949-7325. www.foothill.edu/admissions.php

CLUBS/MEETINGS

ESL Conversation Club in Mountain View This Mountain View Public Library club for those learning or improving their spoken English provides practice opportunities with casual conversation and friendly company. All levels are welcome. No registration is required. There will be no meeting on Dec. 23. Wednesdays, July 29-Feb. 24, 5-6 p.m. Free. Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St., Mountain View. Call 650-526-7020. www.mountainview.gov/library

CONCERTS

‘Around the World in Eight Languages’ For its Winter Concert Performance, the Moldaw Singers will begin the new year with a program entitled “Around the World in Eight Languages.” It will feature music performed in the native languages of various countries. The public is welcome. Jan. 7, 7:30 p.m. Free. Schultz Cultural Arts Hall, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Call 650-433-3629.

The Saint Michael Trio Annual Gala

Composed of pianist Russell Hancock, violinist Daniel Cher and cellist Michel Flexer, the Saint Michael Trio will celebrate its nine years together with world premieres, guest artists, celebrity appearances and a program of pieces spanning from the blues to Beethoven. Jan. 8, 7:30 p.m. \$15 adult; \$5 child (age 12 and under). Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. www.saintmichaeltrio.com

DANCE

‘Nutcracker in China’ Presented by Mountain View’s New Century Dance School, this performance will combine ballet and classical Chinese dance to portray what transpires in a girl’s dreams when she is given a nutcracker by the Monkey King. Jan. 3, 7:30 p.m. \$28 adult; \$18 child (age 12 and under). Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. www.newcenturydance.com

New Year’s Eve Dance The Friday Night Dancers and Tuxedo Junction will host a New Year’s Eve event, an evening of social ballroom dancing. The event includes an hour-long waltz dance lesson, performances, a countdown to midnight with a sparkling cider toast and lots of dancing opportunities. Dec. 31, 8 p.m. \$15. Cubberley Community Center, Pavilion, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-648-3633. www.cubberleyballroom.com

EXHIBITS

‘Beyond Space and Time’ The Oshman Family JCC has on display an exhibit of work by Chagit Ofir, a Bay Area-based artist who is inspired by her daily experience, family and friends, and Israeli history. Born in Israel, Ofir

mainly works in the medium of oil painting, but she has recently branched out into sculpture. Dec. 7-March 21, regular facility hours. Free. Goldman Sports & Wellness Complex and Schultz Cultural Arts Hall, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. paloaltojcc.org/Events/beyond-space-and-time-by-chagit-ofir

‘Spirits Return’ The Los Altos History Museum is currently offering an exhibit called “Spirits Return: Cultural Traditions Keeping Memories Alive,” which gives a multicultural look at how communities remember their ancestors. Thursday-Sunday, Oct. 29-April 17, noon-4 p.m. Free. Los Altos History Museum, 51 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. losaltoshistory.org

‘The Sum of Parts’ Students and faculty from the Community School of Music and Arts’ visual arts classes will share their work in a collaborative art exhibition. Dec. 11-Jan. 18, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-10 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Free. Community School of Music and Arts, Mohr Gallery, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. www.arts4all.org/attend/mohrgallery.htm

FAMILY AND KIDS

Holiday Art Camps at CSMA The Community School of Music and Arts will hold Holiday Art Camps for students in kindergarten to eighth grade, with full-day, half-day and extended-day-supervision options. Tuition assistance is available. Visit the website to learn about specific camps and to register. Dec. 28-30, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. \$110 three-day camp (half-day program). Community School of Music and Arts, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. register.asapconnected.com/default.aspx?org=3596

HEALTH

Pilates Cardiocamp in Los Altos Pilates Cardiocamp morning fitness classes aim to help students develop better posture, a stronger back and a firmer body while reducing body fat. Visit the website for specific class prices. Year-round, Monday-Friday, 6 a.m. (Christ Episcopal); Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m. (Marti’s). \$12-\$25 per class. Christ Episcopal Church, 1040 Border Road, and Marti’s Dance Studio, 1140 Riverside Drive, Los Altos. Call 866-339-4438. pilatescardiocamp.com

LIVE MUSIC

Red Rock Coffee Open Mic Each Monday night, Red Rock Coffee holds an open mic event on its second floor, where musicians, poets and comedians of all ages and experience levels can share their art. Each act is given 10 minutes or two songs, whichever comes first. Sign ups begin at 6:30 p.m., and performances begin at 7 p.m. Mondays, Nov. 2-Jan. 4, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Free. Red Rock Coffee, 201 Castro St., Mountain View. Call 650-967-4473. redrockcoffee.org

SENIORS

Learn to play Pickleball Held next to the tennis courts at Rengstorff Park, this event will teach seniors how to play pickleball, a growing sport in the U.S that is easy on the joints. All equipment will be provided; participants should wear court shoes. Wednesdays, Dec. 9-Jan. 27, 1-3 p.m. Free (donations accepted). Rengstorff Park, 201 S. Rengstorff Ave., Mountain View. Call 650-254-1041. www.usapa.org

Countdown to the New Year

RING IN 2016 WITH A POP, A BANG OR QUIET CONTEMPLATION

by Elizabeth Schwyzer

December is winding its way to an end, which means it’s time to say goodbye to 2015 and usher in the new year. For some, the shift in the calendar year is cause for all-out celebration. For others, it’s a time for reflection, renewal and resolution.

Whatever your style, the Midpeninsula

offers a range of events to help you honor the start of 2016, from champagne brunches to nightclub parties to nature hikes in wide open spaces. Read on for a few ideas on how to spend Dec. 31, and feel free to create your own tradition — there’s no wrong way to welcome the New Year.

Club the year away

Over at Mountain View’s Opal Night Club, the last night of the year will go down in high style at The Gatsby Experience. Dress to impress and dance your way into the wee hours of Jan. 1 to the tunes of DJ EZ & BENOFICIAL. Those with plenty of friends and extra dough to spare may even want to splurge on VIP bottle service.

Where: Opal Nightclub, 251 Castro St., Mountain View
When: Thursday, Dec. 31, 9:30 p.m.
Cost: \$25; \$500 for VIP bottle service
Info: Go to opalnightclub.com or call 650-318-6732.

Dance, drink, repeat

Those serious about getting their party on should check out Mountain View’s Monte Carlo Latin nightclub, where everyone

from the DJs and bartenders is dedicated to throwing the best New Year’s eve party in the region. That’s a subjective claim, of course, but if you’re looking for thumping techno, smoke machines, disco balls and cheap drinks, look no further. DJs Hector and Adrian Gonzalez will be spinning tunes, and those who make it to midnight will be treated to a balloon drop, confetti and party favors.

Where: Monte Carlo, 228 Castro St., Mountain View
When: Thursday, Dec. 31, doors open at 9 p.m.
Cost: \$20 before 10 p.m.
Info: Go to montecarloniteclub.com or call 650-988-1500.

Celebrate with salsa

Lots of us like to shake it on the dance floor, but nobody

boogies quite like Latin dancers. If you don’t know your bachata from your horchata, there’s still time in 2015 to learn some sizzling moves. Just head to Alberto’s Salsa Studio in Mountain View on Dec. 31 for beginner or intermediate salsa lessons followed by a night of partying the year to an end, Latin-style.

Where: Alberto’s, 736 W. Dana St., Mountain View
When: Thursday, Dec. 31; beginners lessons begins at 8:30 p.m., intermediate at 9:30 p.m. The balloons will drop at midnight.
Cost: \$15 cover, includes Champagne and finger foods
Info: Go to albertos.com or call 650-968-3007.

Hike Bald Mountain

Fancy spending the last hours of 2015 taking in fresh air and

panoramic views? Join docents from the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District for a New Year’s Eve group hike at Sierra Azul Preserve, located in the hills above Los Gatos. The fast-paced, 11-mile hike will travel through mixed woodland, chaparral and grassland.

Where: Sierra Azul Preserve
When: Thursday, Dec. 31, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Cost: Free
Info: Go to goo.gl/vO6tqa.

Toast Auld Lang Syne

This one’s strictly for those who’ve earned it: The city of Palo Alto once again hosts the annual New Year’s Eve champagne brunch for seniors. The afternoon of feasting and celebration features live swing music from the 10th Avenue Band, dancing and raffle prizes. For those too young to make the cut, a ticket to the brunch makes a great stocking stuffer for grandpa.

Where: Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto
When: Thursday, Dec. 31, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Cost: \$15-\$18. Tickets can be purchased at any Palo Alto community center or at the Avenidas Senior Center.
Info: Call 650-289-5400.

Take heart in art

Among the highlights of 2015

for Midpeninsula art lovers has been the flourishing of the Stanford arts district. While most art galleries close for the holidays, the Cantor Arts Center and the Anderson Collection will remain open on both New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day. Take time to reflect on the passing of the New Year while soaking in the abundant creative riches of the community.

Where: Anderson Collection, 314 Lomita Drive, Stanford. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford
When: Anderson and Cantor: Thursday, Dec. 31, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Cost: Free
Info: Go to anderson.stanford.edu or museum.stanford.edu, or call 650-721-6055 or 650-723-4177.

Party with the China Cats

The year may be nearly dead, but the Dead live on! Join Grateful Dead cover band the China Cats at Redwood City’s Club Fox for a night of Dead-style jamming and feel-good vibes. The line-up also features Bay Area singer-songwriter Pat Nevins. Sorry kids; you gotta be 21 or over to party with these guys.

Where: Club Fox, 2209 Broadway St., Redwood City
When: Thursday, Dec. 31. Doors open at 8 p.m.; show starts at 9 p.m.
Cost: \$25-\$35
Info: Go to goo.gl/5dsNFL or call 877-435-9849.

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Bulletin Board

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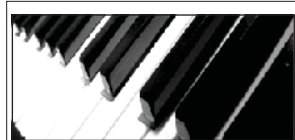
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Software Engineers-Applications: Develop, create, modify and/or test enterprise cloud computing applications focusing on Customer Relationship Management (CRM). Ref# SWA1132.M

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Mountain View, 3 BR/2.5 BA - \$3990.—

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

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

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

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

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

809 Shared Housing/ Rooms

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815 Rentals Wanted

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

820 Home Exchanges

Seasoned, local Architect

830 Commercial/Income Property

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

Seasoned/experienced Architect

845 Out of Area



4 homes on 30 acres
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995 Fictitious Name Statement

TRAIN YOUR BEST
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 611483

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Train Your Best, located at 128 Ada Ave., Apt. 6, Mountain View, CA 94043, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: An Individual. The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):

KATHI GUERRANT
128 Ada Ave., Apt. 6
Mountain View, CA 94043
Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 24, 2015. (MVV Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2015)

CINZILLA DESIGN
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 611126

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Cinzilla Design, located at 321 Anna Avenue, Mountain View, CA 94043, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: An Individual. The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):

MARY PARTLAN
321 Anna Avenue
Mountain View, CA 94043
Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 13, 2015. (MVV Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2015)

THE MUSCLE DOC: INTEGRATIVE PERFORMANCE THERAPY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 611631

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

The Muscle Doc: Integrative Performance Therapy, located at 241 Polaris Ave., Mountain View, CA 94043, Santa Clara County.
This business is owned by: An Individual. The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):
JORDAN SHALLOW
65 Rio Robles E
San Jose, CA 95134
Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on December 2, 2015. (MVV Dec. 11, 18, 25, 2015, Jan. 1, 2016)

PUNJABI PAPA CONSULTING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 611688

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Punjabi Papa Consulting, located at 2421 Villa Nueva Way, Mountain View,

CA 94040, Santa Clara County. This business is owned by: An Individual. The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):

ROHIT SAWHNEY
2421 Villa Nueva Way
Mountain View, CA 94040
Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on December 4, 2015. (MVV Dec. 11, 18, 25, 2015, Jan. 1, 2016)

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
File No. 611529

The following person(s)/ registrant(s) has/have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s).

The information given below is as it appeared on the fictitious business statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME(S):
MIXEDESJGNS
100 North Whisman Road, Apt. #4011
Mountain View, CA 94043

FILED IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY ON:
03/01/2011
UNDER FILE NO.: 548598

REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):
JOANA LUISA PEIXOTO DOMINGUES
VIEIRA DE MAGALHAES
103 Ballentrae Court
Hendersonville, TN 37075

THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY: An Individual.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of Santa Clara County on November 25, 2015 (MVV Dec. 11, 18, 25, 2015, Jan. 1, 2016)

AXTEL IMPORTS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 611764

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Axtel Imports, located at 2030 California Street, Apt. #12, Mountain View, CA 94040, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: An Individual. The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):

TAMANNA D GOVANI
2030 California Street, Apt. #12
Mountain View, CA 94040
Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on December 7, 2015. (MVV Dec. 11, 18, 25, 2015, Jan. 1, 2016)

DEEPAK GOVANI SERVICES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 611765

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Deepak Govani Services, located at 2030 California Street, Apt. #12, Mountain View, CA 94040, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: An Individual. The name and residence address of the owner(s)/registrant(s) is(are):

DEEPAK GOVANI

2030 California Street, Apt. #12
Mountain View, CA 94040
Registrant/Owner began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on December 7, 2015. (MVV Dec. 11, 18, 25, 2015, Jan. 1, 2016)

poppypeach
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 611853

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as: poppypeach, located at 38 Devonshire Avenue Apt. 6, Mountain View, CA 94043, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: An Individual. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):

TRISHA PEACH
38 Devonshire Avenue Apt. 6
Mountain View, CA 94043

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/21/2010. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on December 9, 2015. (MVV Dec. 18, 25, 2015, Jan. 1, 8, 2016)

SK2X, INC.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 611684

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
SK2X, Inc., located at 1185 Bordeaux Drive, Suite C, Sunnyvale, CA 94089, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: A Corporation. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):

SK2X, INC.
1185 Bordeaux Drive, Suite C
Sunnyvale, CA 94089

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/15/15. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on December 3, 2015. (MVV Dec. 25, 2015, Jan. 1, 8, 15, 2016)

SHAZAMBA LLC
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 611857

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Shazamba LLC, located at 803 Killarney Court, Sunnyvale, CA 94087, Santa Clara County.

This business is owned by: A Limited Liability Company. The name and residence address of the registrant(s) is(are):

SHAZAMBA LLC
803 Killarney Court
Sunnyvale, CA 94087

Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of Santa Clara County on December 9, 2015. (MVV Dec. 25, 2015, Jan. 1, 8, 15, 2016)



Do You Know?

- The Mountain View Voice is adjudicated to publish in the County of Santa Clara.
- Our adjudication includes the Mid-Peninsula communities of Palo Alto, Stanford, Los Altos and Mountain View.
- The Mountain View Voice publishes every Friday.

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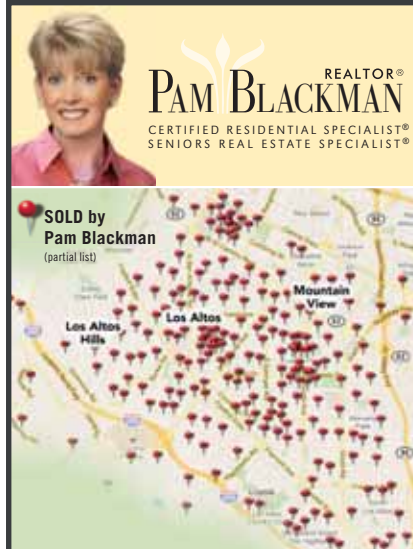
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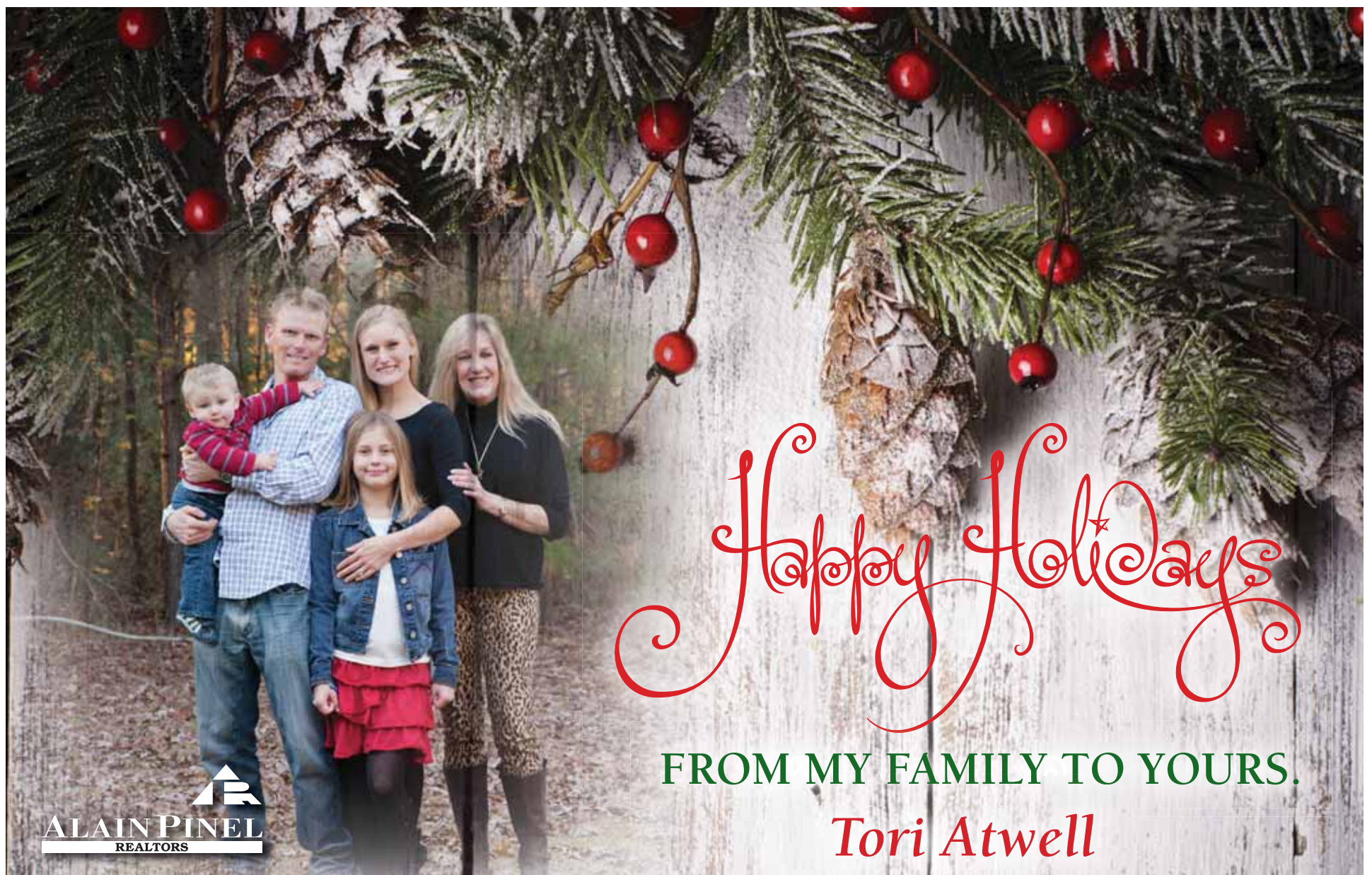
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Happy Holidays

FROM MY FAMILY TO YOURS.

Tori Atwell



Happy Holidays! from DAVID TROYER

Troyer Got Us Top Price for Our Rancher

*Sung to the tune of
"Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer"
- just the chorus
(as that's all most of us know)*

Troyer got us top price for our rancher,
Even though it weren't a sight to see
You may not believe in transformations
As for us at our house, we believe.

We had skipped on all the renovations
Hadn't changed a thing since '83
Troyer's team of experts got to workin'
We felt footloose and fancy free

Soon our hardwood floors they were a-gleamin'
Not a spec of old stuff did they leave
You may not believe in transformations
As for us at our house we believe.

Ready buyers, they-a-came-a-knockin',
Open houses crowded out the door,
When the time came for negotiatin'
We had offers fly-in by the score.

So if your home does not seem market-ready,
But a good price you'd still like to see
Call Troyer and get the transformation
Then just like us at our house, you'll believe!

From My Family to Yours
Happy Holidays and A Joyous New Year!



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Home is the Heart of the Holidays!



Dear friends, clients
and neighbors...
Thank you for
entrusting me with
your greatest asset —
your home. I am
thankful for your
referrals, your business
and your friendship.
May you and your
families share many
warm holiday memories
this season!

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

*No one knows (and appreciates)
your neighborhood like your neighbor!*

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