Business



PHOTOGRAPH BY JUDY PETERSON

MrCoupler is a quick garden hose connector that was invented by Los Gatos product engineer Ron Smith, who received a standing ovation when he showed it off at the National Hardware Show held earlier this year in Las Vegas.

Business

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"Could this little bee be any cuter? This ring didn't take any official honors, but I heard many an editor admiring it on press day. So kudos to Teel's for this national recognition," JCK's Jennifer Heebner wrote. Teel's is a family-owned jeweler that opened in 1981.

family-owned Another business, Thrasher Termite & Pest Control, was recently named a **Diamond** Certified company by the American Ratings Cor**poration.** The business was started in 1979 by Janet Thrasher and her late husband, Duff. When Duff passed away in 2000 from a heart attack, Janet was left with both a household and business to run.

"Suddenly I had to make all the decisions while learning more about termites, ants, bees and fleas than I ever thought I would," she said. "When I was at my lowest, my family, my staff and other pest control operators stepped in to help." Since then, the company has tri-pled in size, and Janet has established the **Duff Thrasher** Memorial Youth Fund, which offers scholarships to local youth and provides grants to youth-focused community organizations.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF SUSAN HARE

Janet Thrasher owns Thrasher Termite & Pest Control, which was recently named a Diamond Certified company.



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF JON TEEL

The Bee Ring was designed by Robert Martinez for a Teel's Jewelry client. The ring received good reviews from editors attending the American Gem Trade Association Spectrum Awards, held last month in New York.

In the technology world, Saratoga-based Roku is moving to Los Gatos in January. Roku manufactures streaming media players that allow you to watch programs on TV, via the Internet, that you'd normally only be able to watch on a computer or mobile device.

"We are moving to the Net-flix campus," Roku spokeswoman **Tricia Mifsud** said. "As you probably know, they have vacated some space so we are leasing from them." Roku has about 400 employees and has outgrown its Saratoga location.

Charlotte Fors, founder of **Women in Wireless**, has been named Nexmo vice president of sales and account management. Nexmo is a cloud communications company, and Fors is a Los Gatos resident. In addition to founding the 12,000-member Women in Wireless group, Fors received a 2014 **Stevie** Award recognizing outstanding businesswomen.

Businesswoman Sara Fung, who owns the Cotton Works at 58 N. Santa Cruz Ave., has filled the store's walls with paintings by Los Gatos artists Noreen **Christopher** and **Jeanette Turkus**. The idea is to offer clients one-stop shopping, so the art was selected to complement the furniture that's

for sale.

The Cotton Works is nearly 40 years old and has evolved over time to become a lifestyle store that specializes in fabric, draperies and custom bedding. Visit cot-



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF JANE ANDERSON

Los Gatos resident Charlotte Fors was recently named vice president of sales and account management at Nexmo.

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tonworkshomes.com.

Home sales are the new forte of Sharon Dauskardt, who has just joined the Coldwell Banker office in Los Gatos. Previously, Dauskardt was a manager at Stanford's Graduate School of Education. Locally, she's active with the nonprofit Dove's Club of Los Gatos.

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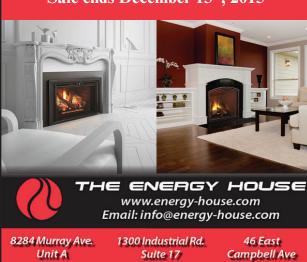
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