M-A’s TECH COORDINATOR named San Mateo County teacher of the year. Page 5

Teacher’s inauguration trip gives students a glimpse of the historic event

PAGE 12
2008

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In you go...
Jessica Thorson, 11, un-pots and prepares to install a native plant on the bank of Sausal Creek where it runs through a 300-foot section of restored stream bed at the Portola Valley Town Center. Jessica was part of a team of residents involved in a now-completed project to landscape the creek bank.

Menlo Park
- Council OKs 30 percent pay hike for police sergeants on 4-1 vote. Page 9
- Developer forms “sustainable” group, then steps aside for former councilman to take over. Page 5

Schools
- Cash-out refinancing of school bonds is illegal, says state attorney general. Page 14
- Inez Paepcke is M-A High’s technology coordinator and computer applications teacher — and, she was recently named San Mateo County’s teacher of the year. Page 5
- Menlo Park district expanding its bilingual program to Laurel School. Page 7

Los Trancos water district
- Water district collects taxes, but doesn’t provide water; grand jury says it should be dissolved. Page 5

Regional
- Locals fund 1 percent of inaugural festivities. Page 7

Arts scene
- Eight hands, one voice offer a winter evening of music. Page 24

Family Almanac
- Miles’ Files: Stranded in Seattle. Cover, Section 2

On the cover
Teacher Jacqueline Gebrian’s plan to show her students at Oak Knoll School in Menlo Park her view of Barack Obama’s inauguration uses video-conferencing for a Q&A with students while she’s at the National Mall in Washington, D.C. She’s one of several local residents who traveled to the nation’s capital for the historic event. Photo by Michelle Le/ The Almanac. Story begins on Page 12.
Money is tight. Imports are sitting on expensive inventory facing the release of new wines. The answer is to sell existing stocks at huge discounts to free up capital for the new arrivals. Their pain is your gain. Here are a few exceptional deals that should not be ignored, or passed up.

**Burgundy Bonanza**

- **REDs:**
  - 2006 Delarche Pernand Vergelesses, Iles des Vergelesses
  - 2006 Bocquenet Nuits St-Georges, Aux St. Julien
  - 2006 Bocquenet Echezeaux, grand cru
  - 2006 Frederic Magnien Gevry-Chambertin “Les Jeunes Rois”
  - 2006 Frederic Magnien Gevry-Chambertin Seuvrees, V.V.
  - 2006 Michael Magnien Chambolle-Musigny Chabots, 1er cru

- **WHITES:**
  - 2006 Boyer Martenot Meursault “Les Tillets”
  - 2006 Boyer Martenot Meursault-Perrieres, 1er cru
  - 2006 Boyer Martenot Puligny-Montrachet Calleieres, 1er cru

Solid case purchases will receive an extra 10% discount.

---

**Tender BLUE LAKE BEANS** 99¢ lb

**Sweet ORGANIC BUNCH CARROTS** $1.29 ea

**Minneola TANGELOS** 99¢ lb

**THOMPSON SEEDLESS GRAPES** $1.99 lb

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**Swordfish** $14.98 lb

**Cowboy Steaks** $9.98 lb

**Chicken Apple Sausage** $4.98 lb

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**Special this week at Roberts**

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**SOLID CASE PURCHASES WILL RECEIVE AN EXTRA 10% DISCOUNT**

**AMYS ORGANIC FAMILY MARINARA PASTA SAUCE** 24oz Also Tomato Basil $4.99

**Nature’s Path Organic Pumpkin Granola** 11 oz $2.99

**Batter Blaster Organic Pancake Batter** 18 oz $3.99

**White Castle Microwaveable Cheeseburgers** 11 oz $3.49

**Roberts American Gourmet Pirates Booty** 4 oz $1.89

**Newman’s Own Organic Cat Food** 5 oz – Chicken + Salmon – Turkey $1.19

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**Deli Roberts Market Deli**

**Pot Roast** Slow cooked tender Chuck Steak $9.99 lb

**Whipped Potatoes** $5.99 lb

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**Roberts Tip of the Week**

A White Wine Worthy Of Note

One white wine that has been garnering increasing interest in recent years is Gruner Vetliner. This white wine variety is grown primarily in Austria, where it is the most widely planted grape. In this country, it has developed a devoted following largely because it is one of the most food-friendly wines. Gruner Vetliner seems to go with everything, from oysters to osso bucco. While older examples of this white wine may be confused with Chardonnay, its younger counterparts suggest something of a cross between Sauvignon Blanc and Viognier. Gruner Vetliner also posses aromas that are often associated with Riesling and Pinot Gris. If these comparisons don't wet your interest in this estimable white wine, perhaps your sense of adventure will.

White wine is the preferred wine to many and Gruner Vetliner, being as food friendly as a white wine can be, is not only good news for white wine lovers but for those who may not normally choose a white wine. At ROBERTS MARKET, we are your local wine source. We can help you find the perfect wine. Our wine is the most extensive in the area, more than most liquor stores. Don’t forget fresh cut flowers from our floral department to grace your table.

*Hint: Gruner Vetliner has a perfumed nose that suggests hints of peach and white pepper.*
**Local News**

**Menlo Park | Atherton | Woodside | Portola Valley**

**Water district collects taxes, but doesn’t provide water**

Grand jury wants the district dissolved, but residents seem happy with its new role.

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

Residents of unincorporated Los Trancos Woods and Vista Verde don’t seem to be losing sleep over the fact that the Los Trancos Water District doesn’t control their water but taxes them as if it did.

A San Mateo County civil grand jury takes a sterner view: In December, it issued a report recommending that the district be dissolved.

The Los Trancos district’s water distribution system was sold to California Water Service Co. in 2006, but the district still owns land and collects taxes, about $220,000 for the 2007-08 fiscal year, past board president Charles Krenz said in a telephone interview.

About 50 percent of those revenues come back to residents as a 70 percent rebate on their first 187,000 gallons of water, a bit above the district’s average per home per year, Mr. Krenz said. The subsidy “is designed to not incentivize high levels of consumption,” he added.

Some money goes to district staff: an attempt to meet a demanding secretary who receives a $200 monthly stipend, he said.

The district also subsidizes efforts to reduce wildfire risks, covering part of the cost to residents of replacing wood-shake roofs and clearing flammable vegetation from around homes, Mr. Krenz said.

Those revenues could be used “to benefit the broader community,” the grand jury said. The report also cited the district for failing to find a steward for its five acres of unimproved land, which includes a small reservoir.

Recommendations to dissolve the Los Trancos district are not new. After Cal Water took over in 2006, the county agency charged with overseeing public agency jurisdictions (known as LAFCO) recommended dismantling the water district.

Recently in Sacramento, the Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) labeled the Los Trancos district an “extreme” example of misdirected use of property taxes.

The LAO is proposing that California water and waste-water districts that are funded by property taxes change to a fee-based system, in part because it would encourage water conservation and because the tax revenues could then be redirected, for example, to county services.

The LAO is proposing to transfer supervision of “lower level” prison parolees to county probation departments.

**What’s in a name?**

About the time that Cal Water took over, the water district surveyed its residents. Of the 58 percent of households that participated, 87 percent wanted to maintain the district and its new fire-risk-abatement mission, Mr. Krenz said.

Residents also want to keep intact the rural character of district lands; the board is intent on maintaining that character and may seek a managing partner later, Mr. Krenz said. The grand jury recommended several, including the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and the town of Portola Valley.

The district is sprucing up the reservoir, removing invasive plants and addressing wildfire hazards, Mr. Krenz said.

“The grand jury report was a little harsh,” he said. The water district, he said, “is the only local government there is up here. We live in a tinderbox up here. The Woodside Fire Protection District cannot provide the one-on-one awareness (of wildfire risk). We’re filling a needed niche.”

Recommendations by the LAO and the grand jury do not have the force of law, and until the state Legislature acts on the issue, the Los Trancos district will continue business as usual, Mr. Krenz said.

**Developer forms ‘sustainable’ group, then steps aside**

The group’s goal is to bridge partisan divide, David Bohannon says.

By Sean Howell  
Staff Writer/The Almanac

David Bohannon raised some eyebrows (and may have induced some eye-rolls) around Menlo Park when he founded a group called Sustainable Menlo Park over the summer.

After all, Mr. Bohannon is a developer, and the word “sustainable” isn’t usually associated with massive development projects such as the million-square-foot hotel and office complex he wants to build near Marsh Road and U.S. 101 in eastern Menlo Park. And Mr. Bohannon has (until fairly recently) kept a rather conspicuous hand in Menlo Park politics.

But while some residents remain skeptical of the group’s purpose — you can count Councilman Andy Cohen and former councilman Paul Collacchi among those who maintain that Mr. Bohannon founded it in an attempt to build support for his development interests — Mr. Bohannon seems to have largely removed himself from the group’s operations, though he still attends its meetings.

In August, he responded to criticism of his intentions by hiring former councilman Chuck Kinney to chair the group, and both men maintain that Mr. Bohannon has not been involved in choosing speakers at the group’s monthly forums (one of whom, incidentally, was Mr. Cohen).

Mr. Bohannon stresses that the group’s primary purpose is to keep residents involved in and aware of issues pertaining to the community. He originally envisioned the group focusing on land-use issues, though its scope has since broadened to include a host of other concerns. He has maintained that political advocacy is not within the group’s purview.

In an interview, Mr. Bohannon underscored his desire to elevate debate in the city and bridge the “polarizing” gap between the “pro-development” and “residentialist” camps.

“If we can elevate the level of discussion, maybe that polarization falls away, and we can get to a more informed, insightful, meaningful discussion of the issues that are of importance to the community when trying to make decisions,” he said.

See SUSTAINABLE GROUP, page 8

**Tech coordinator named teacher of the year**

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

I was not long ago that classroom technology meant an overhead projector. The geometry teacher couldn’t even draw a nice circle! Get used to his ovals! The history lesson on the Battle of Hastings included just a mention of the Bayeux tapestry and you wanted more? Get thee to a library.

Today, computerized whiteboard software allows every geometry teacher to “draw” a perfect circle, a perfect triangle and a perfect parallelogram. A Web search for the Bayeux tapestry, whether from white board or touch-screen phone, yields copious references and images.

Technology changes things, as Inez Paepcke knows well. Ms. Paepcke is Menlo-Atherton High School’s technology coordinator and computer applications teacher and was recently named San Mateo County’s teacher of the year by a panel if the county’s Office of Education.

Having current technology in the classroom helps teachers relate to the image-oriented world that students inhabit, Ms. Paepcke said in an interview. “We can’t just ignore it,” she said. “If we can get these tools into the classroom, that’s definitely how to interest the kids and keep them motivated.”

See PAEPCKE, page 8
Nine years ago, Ka’apeha was in dire need of a new liver. Until they could find a suitable donor, Ka’apeha’s doctors gave him the next best thing: time. They did it using a new method of “liver assistance” known as CVVH (continuous venovenous hemofiltration). The treatment was unconventional to say the least. But CVVH allowed Ka’apeha to remain stable until a donor became available (an unprecedented 80 hours). The results were ideal. Ka’apeha got a healthy new liver and his mom, Averi, got a healthy new profession. She was so inspired by the care her son received that she changed her career path. Today she works at Packard Children’s Hospital as a nurse. And Ka’apeha, well, he spends his time elsewhere.

Visit www.lpch.org for more information.
District expanding its bilingual program to Laurel School

By Andrea Gemmet
Almanac Staff Writer

When the new school year begins, kindergartners entering the Menlo Park City School District’s fledgling language immersion program will be divided between Laurel and Encinal schools.

The Spanish immersion program, which launched this school year with two kindergarten classes at Encinal, aims to make students bilingual and literate in both Spanish and English by fifth grade.

Superintendent Ken Ranella said that the constraints of campus construction and classroom space make it feasible to house the entire program at Encinal.

At a well-attended meeting held Jan. 13, the Menlo Park school board voted unanimously to launch the program at Laurel with a single kindergarten class in the fall. Another Spanish immersion kindergarten class will be housed at the Encinal campus.

In a compromise, the entire current crop of kindergarteners will stay at Encinal through fifth grade and not be divided up. One of Mr. Ranella’s options would have sent half of those kindergarteners to Laurel next year, with the other half remaining for first through third grades.

Dividing the program between two campuses did not sit well with worried parents who crowded the board chambers and said the program has benefited from the extensive collaboration between its two kindergarten teachers. A bigger pool of students at a single campus will make it easier to balance class composition by gender and language skills, said two parents who spoke at the meeting.

“Now that it’s clear to us the educational value of having those two classes together, what can we do to preserve that?” asked parent John Osmer.

Mr. Ranella argued that teacher collaboration across a single grade is only one of several successful models for immersion. There will be plenty of opportunities for collaboration among immersion teachers of different grade levels at both schools, he said.

“I know various models work,” Mr. Ranella told board members.

“I know because I’ve been in education for 32 years.”

Board members concurred with Mr. Ranella’s opinion that bilingual immersion students, who come from all three of the district’s elementary schools, should not displace children in regular classes attending their neighborhood schools. Devoting two out of each grade’s four classrooms at Encinal to bilingual immersion would likely cause involuntary transfers of students to other schools, Mr. Ranella said.

“Right now the construction has to take some role in this,” said board member Laura Rich. “We can’t deny the mess we are living in and the lack of space we have.”

Construction on Encinal’s new wing for grades 4-5 is behind schedule, adding to the space constraints.

It remains to be seen exactly how many new kindergarten students will enroll to start school in the fall, and how many will sign up for the 42 slots in the Spanish immersion program. District officials are expecting a continuation of the enrollment bubble that necessitated a record 17 kindergarten classrooms this year.

Local funds 1 percent of inaugural festivities

Of the $63 million donated to President Barack Obama’s inauguration fund, residents from or connected to The Almanac’s circulation area donated $56,875—about 1 percent.

A list at the Web site of the Presidential Inaugural Committee includes the names of donors, their town of residence and amounts given.

Menlo Park led with 11 donations totaling $332,005, a figure that includes two bundled donations totaling $302,500. The Weston Group, led by former state controller and chief fiscal officer Steve Weston, collected $190,000, and Sports Potential Corp. founder Steven Spinner assembled $112,500, according to the Web site.

The committee received total of $106,250 from seven Atherton donors; $100,500 from four Woodside donors; and $30,000 from five Portola Valley donors.

The inaugural committee said it is breaking with past practices and refusing contributions from corporations, political action committees, labor unions, currently registered federal lobbyists, non-U.S. citizens and registered foreign agents.

The committee’s list shows $35 million in individual contributions, including $43 at the $50,000 maximum; 2,513 individuals gave $200 to $250. The total from 217 bundlers was $28 million, including 34 who gave the maximum of $300,000.

Local donations to Presidential Inaugural Committee

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REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman

Pricing in this Market

Q: We bought our house in 2007 and now need to sell. What is your advice on pricing?

A: Looking back at the real estate market of the past two years, the peak was in 2007 and continued during much of the first half of 2008. The market slowed in the summer and then on September 15, it almost stopped entirely as the financial crisis unfolded. Credit markets have been too tight for jumbo loans that jumbo rates have remained relatively high even as the conforming rate loans, i.e. those under the Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac limits, have come down to the lowest rates in decades. Jumbo rates are just beginning to come down.

Prices were higher when you bought your house in 2007 than they are now. In order to sell it today you may not be able to get all that you paid for it when you bought it. It is not certain when the housing market will return to 2007 prices. However, if sales pick up prices should strengthen and this will work in your favor.

For answers to any questions you may have on real estate, you may email me at mcorman@apr.com or call 462-1111, Alain Pinel Realtors. I also offer a free market analysis of your property.
RecycleWorks plans series on green building practices

A series of presentations by building professionals on sustainable construction practices is scheduled for three upcoming Thursday evenings at 5 p.m. at the Redwood City Council Chambers. The series is a program of RecycleWorks in San Mateo County.

On Jan. 22, representatives from Santa Clara-based Earth Bound Homes and San Francisco-based Forest Ethics are scheduled to talk on buying wood that sustains forests.

On Feb. 5, Berkeley-based architects Catie Leger of Leger WANASJEL Architecture and Ian MacLeod of MacLeod Design & Construction will talk about building more with less when building with wood.

On Feb. 19, Ciro Giamotto and Trace Kannell, both of Harrell Remodeling in Mountain View, are set to talk on the use of recyclable materials in building “finishing touches” to a home.

The Redwood City Council Chambers are located at 1017 Middlefield Road. To make a reservation, call 599-1485 or send e-mail to greenbuild@recycleworks.org.

Volunteers needed to count the homeless

It’s census time in San Mateo County, but perhaps not in the way you’re thinking.

The county’s Human Services Agency is looking for around 200 volunteers to spend four hours — between 5 and 9 a.m. — on Thursday, Jan. 29, to count the number of homeless people in the county.

“Over the last several months, there’s been a marked increase in the demand for shelter services,” Tish Birkby, a county homelessness analyst, said. “If we can count them, we can help them get back on their feet.”

An accurate count also matters in determining the level of federal funding for the county and local nonprofits that deal in homelessness, agency spokeswoman Amanda Kim said.

He plans to be trained and new volunteers are paired with experienced counters. A two-hour training session in Menlo Park is scheduled for 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21, at the Clara Mateo Shelter in Building 323 D at 795 Willow Road.

There are two Redwood City evening sessions on Jan. 21 and 22 and a mid-day session on Jan. 27. To volunteer and for more information, contact Ms. Birkby at 802-7656 or at tbirkby@smcusa.org.

Drop-off day for hazardous waste

Residents of Menlo Park, Atherton, Woodside and Portola Valley may drop off hazardous waste in Menlo Park on Saturday, Feb. 7, by appointment only.

Acceptable items for drop-off include paint, paint thinner, motor oil, batteries, fluorescent tubes, pool chemical, thermometers, and household cleaning products — but not tires, explosives, or any waste in a container larger than five gallons.

The event is sponsored by the San Mateo County health department. To make an appointment for drop-off, call 363-4718, or go to www.amhla.org/hhw.

Waste must be dropped off between 8:30 a.m. and noon. Residents are encouraged to register early.

Menlo Park cat burglar sent to prison for decades

It’s at least 30 years in prison for Scott James Froberg, 42, of Santa Cruz, who in September pleaded “no contest” to three residential burglaries in January 2008 — including two night-time burglaries in Menlo Park when the residents were at home and asleep.

The San Mateo County Superior Court Judge Clifford Cretan handed down a sentence of 40 years and four months on Jan. 7. The sentence included 10 years in recognition of Mr. Froberg’s 12 previous burglaries, Chief Deputy District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe said in a telephone interview.

Mr. Froberg must serve at least 80 percent, 32 years, of his sentence before being eligible for parole, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

Mr. Froberg was a “cat burglar” who burgled occupied homes but has never been caught with a weapon, and has never had a violent confrontation with his victims, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

He entered the homes through unlocked garage doors. He also left a fingerprint in one home, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

The sentence included a $220 fine and restitution to the victims in an amount to be determined.

Kinney hired as chair of ‘sustainable’ group

SUSTAINABLE GROUP
continued from page 5

But he acknowledged that an informed debate about land use that puts development projects “in their proper context” would benefit his company in the long run.

He cited the example of the Derry corn-commercial proj- ect, sidelined in its late stages by the objections of residents who hadn’t been aware of the propos- al. He said it’s possible that might have been broken on the project, had residents been better informed.

Sustainable Menlo Park has met once a month since August, featuring a series of speakers that have included council members, a local real estate developer, the city’s business development and community engagement managers, and the executive director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Pen- insula, according to Mr. Kinney.

Kinney’s role

When he handed the reins of the group to his successor, Mr. Bohannon also ceded control of Sustainable Menlo Park’s mis- sion. Mr. Kinney has broadened its scope to allow for discussion of economic development, “good government” and transportation.

The men differ on the purpose of the group. While Mr. Bohan- non says that he would be content if the group limited itself to holding monthly forums, Mr. Kinney sees a possible, as-yet-undefined role in advocacy or action.

“I hope we would be in a posi- tion to understand the issues, have buy-in (from group mem- bers), and advocate in a positive way,” he said.

But Mr. Bohannon disavowed the suggestion, floated by Mr. Kinney, that the group would take a stance on particular issues — though he also stressed that Mr. Kinney has complete autonomy over Sustainable Menlo Park.

Mr. Kinney said that he would not have agreed to run the group if he felt Mr. Bohannon was trying to use the organization as a mouthpiece for his development agenda.

“He can kick me out any time he wants, but he can’t tell me what to do,” Mr. Kinney said. As for the inclusion of the word “sustainable” in the group’s title? “Mr. Kinney wasn’t sure why Mr. Bohannon put it there, but he interprets it in the broadest sense of the term. ‘You hope you can sustain the things you like during inevitable change,’” he said.

Chuck Kinney, a former Menlo Park councilman, is the paid chairman of Sustainable Menlo Park, a group founded and financed by developer David Bohannon.

Chuck Kinney, a former Menlo Park councilman, is the paid chairman of Sustainable Menlo Park, a group founded and financed by developer David Bohannon.

German native

Ms. Paepcke is fluent in Ger- man and taught the language at M-A during her 10 years there. German classes ended in part because students came from middle-school prepared for other languages, she said.

She was born in Germany, came to this country at age 6, returned to Germany at 14, spent 14 more years there, and taught English and physical education. She has bachelor’s degrees in English and physical education from Johannes Gutenberg Uni- versitat and a master’s degree in secondary education from Albert Ludwigs Universitat.

She was named teacher of the year by a three-person panel in the San Mateo County Office of Education, said board of education administrator Porter Sexton. The panel included Mr. Sexton, county Superintendent Jean Holbrook and one member of the county education board, he said.
Council OKs 30 percent pay hike for police sergeants on 4-1 vote

By Sean Howell
Almanac Staff Writer

Though the economy has taken a nose dive since the city of Menlo Park awarded its police officers a substantial raise in April, the City Council on Jan. 13 signed off on a similar raise for the sergeants who supervise those officers.

Amid the specter of weakened morale among those sergeants — and despite scores of impassioned, oppositional missives sent by residents to council members — the council voted 4-1 to approve the pay increase, which will elevate the sergeants’ total pay 30 percent by 2011.

The new contract will increase the average base salary for the city’s eight sergeant positions — one of which is currently vacant — from $107,086 to $131,452 by 2011, according to Glen Kramer, the city’s personnel director. Sergeants will receive additional benefits based on their tenure in the department and the number of night shifts they work, a fact that Mr. Kramer said would result in an average raise of 30 percent for sergeants by 2011.

In calendar year 2011, Mr. Kramer estimates that the new contract will cost the city $2.29 million — $529,000 more than the $1.76 million the city would have spent on sergeant salaries and benefits in the fiscal year of 2008-09, had the sergeants not received a raise.

Acrimony over raise

The new contract was designed in large part to maintain a 20 percent differential between the salaries of sergeants and the officers they supervise — a buffer that has shrunk since line-level officers were awarded a raise last July that will bump their salaries 25.7 percent by 2011.

By the end of the contract, sergeants will receive, on average, a base salary 49 percent higher than entry-level line officers, according to numbers provided by Mr. Kramer. It is unclear from the staff report which figures were used to calculate the 20 percent differential. Mr. Kramer was unavailable for comment before The Almanac’s press deadline.

The contract for line-level officers, designed to halt an exodus of officers out of Menlo Park, saw little opposition from residents, and was approved unanimously by the council.

The sergeants’ contract, however, was a different story.

One representative e-mail to the council, written by Menlo Park resident Bruce Gallup, read: “In today’s economic turmoil, I personally do not think this is the proper time for ANY increase of salary for ANY public or private office.”

But several council members, while acknowledging financial concerns, called this contract a logical follow-up to the earlier pay increase negotiated with the Police Officers Association.

“This feels like the second half of a project that we committed to,” Councilman Rich Cline said.

“I think we made this commitment to the sergeants and the POA back in April, and we’re following up on that,” said Mayor Heyward Robinson. Councilman John Boyle, the lone dissenter in the Jan. 13 vote, disagreed.

“I don’t think that’s a credible argument at all,” Mr. Boyle said in an interview. “I don’t believe there was any explicit promise. (The sergeants) might feel there was one in spirit, but I don’t even think that was the case. It’s a different time and place, and each contract has to be negotiated separately.”

While he said he supported the desire to make sergeants’ pay fair and competitive, Mr. Boyle cited fears that the pay increase would exacerbate a cycle of “spiralizing competition” between local cities to attract new officers, and to maintain their forces.

Mr. Kramer, the personnel director, estimates that the new contract will make Menlo Park sergeants the third- or fourth-highest-paid group among their peers in 12 comparable cities and towns by 2011 — a jump Mr. Boyle called excessive. He suggested that a more reasonable approach would have been for the city to try to match the average salaries awarded by other agencies when negotiating contracts.

City Manager Glen Rojas acknowledged that the competition between cities for police officers is a cause for concern, but he argued that the issue must be addressed at the county or state level.

Morale, public notice

While attrition among sergeants is not a major concern, Police Chief Bruce Goitia suggested that the sergeants’ dedication to the job might have been in jeopardy if they had not received a substantial raise. Had the council not approved the raise, Chief Goitia said, “I don’t envision that I would have seven sergeants walk out the door, but I also don’t envision that I will have their hearts and souls in the job.”

Mr. Goitia also said that the city would likely have had a tougher time filling sergeant positions when they become vacant, had the sergeants not received a raise.

Safety first?

Councilman Cline acknowledged that the new contract might raise the hackles of residents who are concerned about the budget, but he said that the city must consider safety before it can have the luxury to think about its finances.

“I support (the measure), knowing that there are a number of people in the community who will try to wage war with us on money,” Mr. Cline said. “And you know why they can do that? Because they feel safe. Because they don’t have to worry about security.”

Mr. Boyle saw the issue differently.

“It is imperative we behave in a fiscally responsible way, or else we will find ourselves in the position of not being able to afford the police department that we have,” he said at the council meeting.

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January 21, 2009 ♦ The Almanac ♦ 9
Arthritis No Longer Unstoppable: Treatment Advances Reduce Its Impact

Laura Guglielmoni was still a teenager when doctors diagnosed her with rheumatoid arthritis, a chronic autoimmune system disorder that, in its most obvious symptom, inflames the body’s joints until they are too painful and distorted to move. Guglielmoni felt its full force. Getting out of bed was painful and exhausting. She couldn’t stand long enough to take even a short shower.

Guglielmoni had already seen the effect of arthritis on her aunt, whose hands had been stiffened and swollen by the same condition. Yet her aunt had found a way to can all her own fruit and vegetables and to raise three children. That example, Guglielmoni said, “made me more determined not to let the arthritis slow me down much.”

She had to stop playing softball. She liked to run, but she could no longer do that either. She was only able to attend school part-time and had to finish her studies from home. After extensive physical therapy and with the right medication, she finally returned to a somewhat normal routine, but with new goals. “I knew I would never be a fighter pilot,” she joked, but she did determine to “get in and out of college as fast as possible, get a job and start saving money” for a future that was more problematic than before her diagnosis. She earned a bachelor’s degree in accounting and found full-time work.

She married and had a daughter. “I was in an elevator and I couldn’t straighten my knees. ‘This is a problem,’ I thought. ‘I really need to get this fixed.’”

— Arthritis patient Laura Guglielmoni

Guglielmoni never forgot that one day it was likely the arthritis would damage her joints so much that replacement would be her only option. About a year ago, the arthritis in her knees became so painful that she could not climb even a short flight of stairs, making the trip to work on BART difficult. She couldn’t pick up her then three-year-old daughter or get down on the floor to play with her, because she wouldn’t have been able to get back up again. Bit by bit, her ability to live her life was falling away. On the day she found herself standing in an elevator unable to straighten her knees, she said to herself, “I need to get this fixed.”

Her physician recommended that she go to Stanford Hospital & Clinics to see Dr. William J. Maloney, Chair of the Department of Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine. The size of Maloney’s team and its resources have made the Hospital one of the few facilities able to do multiple joint replacements in one surgery— and Guglielmoni did not want to go through two surgeries.

Maloney replaced both Guglielmoni’s knees and her recovery was rapid. “A week and a half after surgery, I was able to stand up by myself,” she said. At 33, she is a young woman given back a real life.

More than 50 million Americans currently face a daily encounter with what arthritis does—that’s more than one in five of us. It is the leading cause of disability in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As the Baby Boomer generation continues to age, case counts will rise. Arthritis appears in more than 100 forms; what triggers it is not thoroughly understood. But the end result is the same: joints fail, producing an impact as comprehensive as what Guglielmoni endures or perhaps one that’s just a bit of stiffness when getting up in the morning.

“The team has also created a unique protocol for joint replacement based on evidence that the right kind of multi-modal pain management—before, during, and after surgery—has an important impact on success. The challenge is to reduce pain without interfering with the activity crucial to quick recovery. Maloney replaced both Guglielmoni’s knees and her recovery was rapid. “A week and a half after surgery, I was able to stand up by myself,’ she said. At 33, she is a young woman given back a real life.

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“Sometimes, even little girls need quiet time. Now, when her four-year-old daughter, Brianna, is up and running, Laura Guglielmoni can keep up.”

— Arthritis patient Laura Guglielmoni

Age raises arthritis risk

Guglielmoni’s rheumatoid arthritis is the second most common variety. It strikes without respect to age and involves a permanent misfire of the immune system. Osteoarthritis is the type of arthritis that many more of us will come to know. Trauma or excessive use will sometimes be the cause, but generally it will appear after years of typical wear and tear. Reaching a certain age increases the likelihood of osteoarthritis by substantial amounts: More than half of us 65 or older are likely to suf-
ABOUT ARTHRITIS:

The two major forms of arthritis affect joints for different reasons. Osteoarthritis, the most common diagnosis, usually appears with age, but can also arise after an injury to the bones of our joints. The cartilage that cushions those bones breaks down, and the joint becomes painful to use. Knees, hips, hands and shoulders, the joints we use the most, are typically the first to be made painful by osteoarthritis.

Rheumatoid arthritis disrupts the immune system, affecting the membranes of every joint in the body. Other immune system illnesses, like Lupus erythematosus, can also produce arthritis.

HOW TO LIVE WITH ARTHRITIS:

- Stay active. Muscles are the joints’ support system, keeping them in proper position to do their work. Without regular exercise, muscles shrink, leaving the joints more vulnerable and speed up their wear and tear. Consult your doctor about what kind of exercise is appropriate for you.

- Maintain a healthy weight—extra weight stresses joints.

- If you have joint replacement surgery, make sure you follow your doctor’s orders about rehabilitative exercise.

- Managing arthritis pain includes a variety of methods: acupuncture, massage, mindfulness training and the right combination of medications. The Stanford Health Library is open to the public and offers many resources as well as free lectures. The Stanford Pain Management Center also has information about how to combine various therapies.

- Physicians now understand that a cross-disciplinary treatment plan is the most effective. Your surgeon or rheumatologist might recommend that you consult with a physical therapist, psychologist, dietitian or pain specialist.

For more information, contact Stanford Hospital & Clinics at (650) 723-4000 or the Stanford Health Library. It has three locations: Stanford Shopping Center, (650) 725-8400; Stanford Hospital, (650) 725-8100; Stanford Comprehensive Cancer Center, 875 Blake Wilbur Dr., (650) 736-7157.

To learn more about joint replacement surgery, the Immunology and Rheumatology Clinic and the Pain Management Center, visit www.stanfordhospital.com.

The Arthritis Foundation also has in-depth information: www.arthritis.org.

Stanford Hospital & Clinics is known worldwide for advanced treatment of complex disorders in areas such as cardiac care, cancer treatment, neurosciences, surgery, and organ transplants. Consistently ranked among “America’s Best Hospitals” by U.S. News & World Report, Stanford Hospital & Clinics is internationally recognized for translating medical breakthroughs into the care of patients. The Hospital is part of the Stanford University Medical Center, along with the Stanford University School of Medicine and Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital at Stanford.
By Andrea Gemmet
Almanac Staff Writer

When the time President-elect Barack Obama took the stage on election night, Menlo Park teacher Jacqueline Cebrian knew exactly where she'd be on Jan. 20 — in Washington, D.C., for the inauguration.

"While he was doing his acceptance speech, I was booking my (plane) tickets," says Ms. Cebrian, a reading specialist at Oak Knoll elementary school in Menlo Park.

Ms. Cebrian doesn't have any special entree to inaugural balls, and she hasn't snagged any coveted tickets to see the swearing in of the 44th president of the United States. Instead, she, her husband, and their 4-year-old daughter will be part of the crowd on the National Mall — and thanks to a video camera and Skype's online videoconferencing, students at Oak Knoll will get a first-hand glimpse of the scene at the nation's capital.

"I'll be with the huddled masses, watching on the JumboTron," Ms. Cebrian laughs.

In the morning, students will watch the inauguration in their classrooms, and around 2 p.m. they'll watch Ms. Cebrian's video clips, then quiz her, live via Skype, about her experience, she says.

"As they get more excited, I get more nervous," she admits. "I've never been to an inauguration, and I've never seen three million people in the same place at once."

To get into the spirit of the event, Oak Knoll students have been doing a variety of inauguration-themed activities and projects for the past week. Kids in the "mileage club" are running around the school and tallying up their laps to equal the number of miles between Menlo Park and Washington, D.C. Ms. Cebrian's classroom has a selection of Obama biographies written for a variety of reading levels.

In Barbara Cottrell's art class, fifth-graders are designing and making ball gowns for First Lady Michelle Obama out of candy wrappers. Oak Knoll's

Continued on next page

Photos by Michelle Le/The Almanac:

At left, Sydney Williams (right) and Sophia Beau De Lomenie, both age 7, examine the inaugural gown designs for First Lady Michelle Obama used to inspire a fifth-grade art project in Barbara Cottrell's class at Oak Knoll school. Top right: a bulletin board in Jacqueline Cebrian's classroom shows her with her former students in Chicago. Bottom right: biographies of Barack Obama for young readers are on display in reading specialist Ms. Cebrian's room.
staff has magnanimously assisted by eating the contents of those wrappers. “We’ve been collecting candy wrappers since October,” Ms. Cottrell says. It took a little convincing to get the boys on board, Ms. Cottrell says. “We talked about the fact that boys are fashion designers as well, and I told them to think of it as an engineering project.”

“It is a big deal”
Oak Knoll’s focus on the inauguration isn’t just about tying lesson plans to a historic event. It’s part of a broader outreach effort to the school’s students of color, especially Tinsley students who transfer in from East Palo Alto and Menlo Park’s Belle Haven neighborhood, according to Principal David Ackerman. School officials are actively trying to make the school more multicultural, and focusing on the election of the country’s first African American president is a great opportunity, he told the school board at a recent meeting.

In fact, it was an offhand comment made to Mr. Ackerman that really drove the point home at Oak Knoll. A young student remarked to the principal that he could be Barack Obama’s son, noting that since the president-elect already had two daughters, he could use a son.

“It is a big deal,” says Vice Principal Maria Clemo. “Just that fact that he’s thinking that is great. This little boy’s life is not much different than Barack’s. With hard work and a good education, and perseverance, he could do the same things.” Perhaps it’s natural for teachers to feel an affinity for an erudite, well-educated president whose speaking style is often described as professorial. For Ms. Cebrian, not only is Mr. Obama’s election a validation of a good education, it also highlights the potential of children raised in single-parent and non-traditional families.

“Now it’s OK to be an eloquent speaker, it’s OK to be smart,” she says.

Ms. Cebrian isn’t a recent arrival to the Obama bandwagon. Her husband attended law school at the University of Chicago when Mr. Obama was teaching there, and told her that Mr. Obama was one to watch. Ms. Cebrian says. A year after her husband graduated, Mr. Obama leapt into national politics when he gave the keynote address at the 2004 Democratic National Convention.

“We’ve been watching this eagerly,” she says. “It’s the first time in my adult life that I voted for someone I wanted instead of against someone I didn’t want.”

Ms. Cebrian started her teaching career on Chicago’s heavily segregated South Side, and the stark contrast in teaching conditions between her first job and Oak Knoll aren’t lost on her. Back in Chicago, only two of her third-grade students started the year reading at grade level, and school supplies were kept in a locked vault, she says. By comparison, the Menlo Park district is “the land of plenty,” she says.

Teaching in Chicago was a great experience, despite the challenges, she says. Her African American students accepted her so whole-heartedly that they told a substitute teacher that Ms. Cebrian wasn’t white, she was just light-skinned. “I was so shocked

See TEACHER’S TRIP, page 14

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**Locals plan to soak up the big event in Washington**

By Sean Howell
Almanac Staff Writer

Several local residents are among the hundreds of thousands swarming Washington, D.C., this week for the inaugural of Barack Obama as the 44th president of the United States.

Though there has been a widely reported scramble to find lodging, everyone The Almanac spoke to had a place to stay — though tickets to the inauguration ceremony were a little harder to come by.

“I have a good line on one,” said a hopeful Katie Ferrick in an interview last week. Ms. Ferrick, a teacher who lives in Menlo Park, put her name in the lottery for tickets with Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Menlo Park, but was relegated to the waitlist. Shortly before boarding a plane for D.C. on Sunday, Ms. Ferrick received word that she would get a ticket after all.

While Ms. Ferrick had planned to go to the capital whether she had a ticket or not, Vivienne Virani, an Atherton resident who will be in D.C. for the event, didn’t even try for one. She’s just going to “soak up the atmosphere and be a part of the event,” she said.

Menlo Park resident Julie Brenner, who served as the office manager for the Democratic headquarters in San Mateo County in the months leading up to the election, was able to get a ticket through Ms. Eshoo’s office. She hadn’t initially planned on attending the inauguration, but several of her co-workers convinced her to sign up for the ticket lottery in the days following the election.

“It seemed like a natural step” after spending so much time campaigning, she said. “Kind of like putting a period at the end of a sentence.”

Heyward Robinson, the mayor of Menlo Park, is also in the capital for the inauguration. He attended the U.S. Conference of Mayors, held over the weekend, and stuck around to watch Mr. Obama be sworn in. On Monday, Mr. Robinson sent an e-mail to the principals of several local schools, urging them to allow students to watch the event via television in classrooms.

**Reasons for attending**
Much has been said about Mr. Obama being the first African-American president, but the people The Almanac spoke with said they decided to attend for different reasons.

Ms. Virani said she was inspired by a speech Mr. Obama gave at a fundraising event in Atherton in January 2008; she promised herself back then that if Mr. Obama were elected, she would go to his inauguration.

Ms. Brenner, who joined the San Mateo County Democrats as a paid staffer before the Democratic primary had been decided, said she came to appreciate the fact that people who hadn’t previously been interested in politics seemed to come out of the woodwork to support Mr. Obama.

Ms. Ferrick said all the talk about Mr. Obama’s race following the election caught her off-guard.

“I can see why it’s such a huge deal, and a monumental reason to celebrate, but I was really just thinking about his ability to bring change during the election,” she said.

**Logistics**
In anticipating the inauguration, Ms. Brenner and Ms. Ferrick were certain of two things: Mr. Obama would give a speech, and getting around town would be difficult.

Though the ceremonies weren’t set to begin until noon EST, Ms. Brenner had planned to leave as early as 4 a.m. to stand in what she expected would be an hours-long line for the Metro. (Ms. Brenner and her husband bought Metro tickets by mail, so they could at least skip out on that line.)

Ms. Ferrick said she planned to ditch the Metro and pretty much just get around on foot — an adventurous proposition, because she’s not familiar with D.C. She planned to go to a couple of parties, as well as a ball; in the week before the inauguration,
Cash-out refinance of school bonds is illegal, says attorney general

The Las Lomitas district added $2.6 million in debt obligation to taxpayers; the Woodside school district added $572,000.

By Andrea Gemmet
Almanac Staff Writer

For homeowners, cash-out refinancing is a popular way to lower monthly mortgage payments while walking a lump sum of cash in the bargain. However, when school districts use a similar practice to refinance school bonds, they’re breaking the law, according to state Attorney General Jerry Brown.

In the past 10 years, Las Lomitas and Woodside elementary school districts both used this method to generate extra money for school bond refinanced projects, according to the San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury.

Attorney General Brown’s recently issued opinion says that school districts run the risk of having the entire bond issue invalidated if they fail to get voter approval of certain bond refunds.

At issue are so-called cash-out refinancing of school bonds, in which school districts take advantage of lower interest rates to refinance a bond issuance, but agree to pay something higher than the prevailing interest rate in exchange for a cash “premium.”

For example, if a school district originally issued bonds at a 10 percent interest rate and then seeks to refinance when the prevailing rate is 8 percent, district officials could agree to pay 9 percent interest in exchange for an upfront cash premium.

In Mr. Brown’s Jan. 9 opinion, he says that this runs contrary to provisions for voter approval in the California Constitution. Districts may issue refinancing bonds — refinancing the debt, in other words — only if the proceeds are to pay off the original bonds. Anything else requires a new vote.

School bonds are repaid via property tax assessments, and a cash-out refinancing of bonds results in an additional debt burden on property owners, according to Mr. Brown. Such bonds “categorically result in the creation of new indebtedness” and therefore require new voter approvals, he writes in his opinion.

The attorney general’s opinion also dismisses counter arguments used by school districts to justify cash-out refunding.

The legal opinion comes at the request of state Sen. Joe Simitian, and follows a 2008 San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury report questioning the practice.

According to the grand jury report, the Woodside district added $572,000 in debt obligation to taxpayers, gaining an additional $352,000 for its bond projects. The cost of reissuing the bonds was $220,000.

For Las Lomitas, the additional debt obligation incurred is $2.6 million, adding an extra $2.25 million to its building fund at a cost of $355,000 for reissuing the bonds.

While the attorney general’s opinion may end the practice in the future, it appears that cash-out refunding bonds issued in the past are safe. There is a 60-day time limit for legal challenges, starting from the date the bonds are authorized, according to Mr. Brown’s opinion.
Green parking lots in the city’s future?

Put the word “green” in front of most anything these days, and you’ll get people talking. But green parking lots? Not as strange as it may seem, says Menlo Park Councilwoman Kelly Ferguson. In reviewing preliminary plans for a renovation of a parking plaza between Crane and Chestnut streets at Oak Grove Avenue, the City Council unanimously passed a motion put forward by Ms. Ferguson for the city to consider various “green” measures when it drafts the final plans for the lot. The suggestions include porous asphalt, native plants, drought-tolerant landscaping, and a charging station for electric cars (a suggestion by Menlo Park resident Charlie Bourne).

The ideas were proposed as suggestions — not recommendations — and it remains to be seen how seriously they will be considered by the engineers designing the lot.

Boyle left off rail subcommittee

Menlo Park Councilman John Boyle was a bit miffed when Mayor Heyward Robinson left him off a two-person subcommittee that will address issues related to the high-speed rail project.

“To address sort of the elephant in the room, I clearly represent a slightly different perspective on this than the rest of the council,” Mr. Boyle said at the Jan. 13 council meeting, alluding to his status as the lone supporter of the bond measure for the rail. He also cited his interest in and experience with transportation issues as an argument in his favor — Mr. Boyle served on the Transportation Commission, and he now acts as the council’s liaison to that commission.

But Mr. Robinson skipped over Mr. Boyle in nominating Kelly Ferguson and Rich Cline — a motion Ms. Ferguson seconded. In August, Mr. Cline and Ms. Ferguson cast the two affirmative votes to sue the High Speed Rail Authority, with Mr. Boyle dissenting.

“To create a subcommittee with the two members who voted to sue (the authority), I don’t understand that,” Mr. Boyle said in an interview.

“In the ideal world, we would all be able to participate,” Mr. Robinson said at the meeting, noting that council members can weigh in when the subcommittee reports to the council.

Motorcyclist dies in Highway 84 crash Jan. 17

A motorcyclist who died after colliding Saturday, Jan. 17, with a sports utility vehicle on Highway 84 in unincorporated Woodside has been identified by the coroner’s office as Troy Lee Manuel, 42, of Redwood City.

The collision was reported around 2:30 p.m. in the 900 block of the highway and blocked traffic until about 7:45 p.m., according to the California Highway Patrol. Mr. Manuel was pronounced dead on the highway. No other injuries were reported.

The San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office is investigating the cause of the collision.

— Bay City News Service

M-A Little League sign-ups end soon

The registration deadline for the 2009 Menlo-Atherton Little League baseball season is Jan. 25. Boys and girls between the ages of 5-1/2 and 16 (by April 30) are eligible to join.

Play begins late in February and extends through the end of the school year. Registration after Jan. 25 is subject to a waiting list and a late fee of $25.

Menlo-Atherton Little League boundaries are west of U.S. 101 and east of El Camino in Menlo Park (incorporated area only) and all of Atherton. To register, go to www.m-all.org.

Correction


Free Speaker Series on “BULLYING" FOR PARENTS & EDUCATORS

Presentations are from 7-9 pm at Bethany Lutheran Church

1095 Cloud Avenue, Menlo Park

Thurs. Jan. 29 – “Breaking the Cycle of Bullying: Building a Caring School and Involved Community”. Speaker: Gloria Moskowitz-Sweet, PPSC, LCSW. Create a shared understanding of bullying in the school and community through the use of a “community conversation”. When everyone works together, a safer community and school can be achieved. Target audience: Parents of elementary & middle school age children; educators.

Thurs. Mar. 19 – “Relational Aggression: How Girls Bully”. Speaker: Karen Friedland-Brown, MA. Understand the world of girls, their roles and relationships within their peer groups and the characteristics of those who bully. Learn strategies for prevention and intervention in bullying behavior at school and in the community. Target audience: Parents of late elementary & middle school age children; educators.

Thurs. Apr. 16 – “Cyber-Bullying”. Speaker: Erica Palavin, LCSW, PhD. Cyberspace has become a new locale for bullying and relational aggression. Gain an understanding of cyber-bullying, the trends, and strategies for stopping it at home and at school. Target audience: Parents of middle school & high school age children; educators.

Reservations required. Adults only, please.

Reservation Deadline: 7 days prior to presentation.

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January 21, 2009 ■ The Almanac ■ 15
Jean Bone, Menlo Park Historical Association stalwart, died Jan. 6 at Canyon House in Menlo Park after a long illness. She was 89.

Ms. Bone was born in Manila in the Philippine Islands, where her father, Adrian F. Ward, was director of welfare for the Knights of Columbus at the U.S. Army base in World War I. In 1923 the family moved to Menlo Park, where Mr. Ward worked at the veterans hospital and later became health and welfare director for San Mateo County.

Ms. Bone graduated from St. Joseph’s Elementary School in Atherton, Mercy High School in Burlingame, and San Jose State University, where she received a bachelor of arts degree in 1941. She worked as an administrative secretary at Dibble Hospital and at Ames Aeronautical Laboratory in Mountain View until joining the U.S. State Department. In the 1950s and 1960s, she worked at embassies in Rio de Janeiro, Saigon, Teheran, Salisbury (Rhodesia) and Ouagadougou, Africa, sometimes serving as a private secretary to ambassadors.


After retiring, she was active in many local organizations including the chaplaincy service at Stanford Medical Center; Oakwood, a retirement home and infirmary for the Religious of the Sacred Heart in Atherton; and, especially, the Menlo Park Historical Association. She was proud to receive an emeritus award from the association at her retirement, says her brother, Adrian Ward.

Throughout her lifetime, she was interested in travel, literature, sports and her religion, and she had great affection for friends, says Mr. Ward, her only survivor.

Following a Mass of Christian burial on Jan. 9, Ms. Bone was buried at her family’s plot at Santa Clara Mission Cemetery.

Martha Arthur, Retired registered nurse, Martha Anne Arthur, a resident of Menlo Park since 2006, died Jan. 2 at her home at the age of 75. Ms. Arthur had been living at the home of her daughter and son-in-law Sandra and Lewis Darrow since moving from Northfield, Minnesota.

Ms. Arthur was born in Washington, D.C., grew up in Columbus, Ohio, and attended Antioch College. She also studied at the University of Connecticut and the University of Vienna, and graduated from the University of Minnesota.

Married to Professor Hans Wendt, she raised three children. In her 40s, she studied to become a nurse and began a 20-year career as a registered nurse in hospital psychiatric departments.

A second marriage to Robert Arthur lasted 23 years until his death in 2003. Ms. Arthur was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church and attended Rosener House. She expressed her creative gifts as a painter, quilter and antique collector.

She is survived by her children, Alexander Wendt, Christopher Wendt, and Sandra Darow; sister Joan Rice; and seven grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held
Margaret Tiffany
Antique collector and longtime Atherton resident
A celebration of the life of Margaret Watson Clark Tiffany of Woodside will be held at 3 P.m. on Saturday, Jan. 31, at Woodside Village Church. Ms. Tiffany died Dec. 29 after a short illness. She was 91.

Ms. Tiffany was a collector of antique furniture and porcelain. Until recently, she participated in many antique shows in the Bay Area and occasionally lent pieces to San Francisco museums for exhibition.

Born in Virginia, Ms. Tiffany graduated from Mary Washington College. She married Forrest Fraser Tiffany in 1941, two days after Pearl Harbor. The family lived in Connecticut before moving to Woodside in 1963. Ms. Tiffany was an accomplished hostess and entertainer, say family members. She performed with the Woodside Village Players, and her renditions of Five Dollar Shoes Don’t Fit My Feet” and “Frankie and Johnny” at her 90th birthday celebration are immortalized on YouTube, says her daughter-in-law Terri Tiffany.

At the time of her death, Ms. Tiffany was active in the Woodside Village Church, the Glass & Decorative Arts Club of Garden House in Los Altos, and her bridge club.

She is survived by her son, Joseph Tiffany of Menlo Park; daughters Gretchen Hersel of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Beverly Tiffany of Los Angeles; brother Blake Clark and sisters Ava Spencer and Dr. Eloise Clark; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Donations in Ms. Tiffany’s name may be made to the Memorial Garden Fund at Woodside Village Church or to the Sequoia Hospital Foundation.

Morial gathering for
Walter Freeman Gamble
A gathering for family and friends is set for 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24, at 513 Lexington Ave. in Menlo Park for Walter Freeman Gamble, 86, of Menlo Park, who died Jan. 13.

The Almanac will publish a complete obituary in a future edition.

Working together on housing the right idea

Editor: I want to thank you for your editorial, “Let’s work together on housing” in the Jan. 7 edition.

As a seven-year member of the Menlo Park Housing Commission, I am overjoyed that The Almanac supports the search for positive and sensible solutions to our city’s housing problems. I look forward to the creation of attractive and appropriate transit-oriented-housing along El Camino Real and increased housing options for our senior population. I am painfully aware of the need for a greater number of below market rate units for those who live or work in Menlo Park.

My colleagues and I recognize that the number of those seeking housing will greatly increase with the expansion of the Stanford Medical Center. It is my great hope that the community will work together cooperatively to meet these challenges.

Carol S. Louchheim
Brent Court, Menlo Park

This information is from the Atherton and Menlo Park police departments and the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office. Under the law, people charged with offenses are considered innocent until convicted.

ATHERTON
Residential burglary report:
Window broken and suit stolen, 300 block of Atherton Ave., Jan. 9.
Auto burglary report: Window pried open and purses and keys stolen, Valparaiso Ave. and El Camino Real, Jan. 10.

MENLO PARK
Commercial burglary report: Three storage units broken into, 3700 block of Haven Ave., Jan. 9.
Grand theft report:
• GPS and Bluetooth devices stolen from unlocked vehicle, 4500 block of Bohan
  non Drive, Jan. 9.
• Apple iPhone missing, 300 block of Trinca Ave., Jan. 14.
Auto burglary report:
• Guitar, monitor, speakers and microphone stolen, 1200 block of Chico St., Jan. 10.
• Window smashed and GPS device stolen, 1000 block of Nool Drive, Jan. 10.


Fraud reports:
• Online fraud, 400 block of Oak Grove Ave., Jan. 13.
• Identity theft, 100 block of Jefferson Drive, Jan. 13.

Unauthorized use of credit card, police station at 701 Laurel St., Jan. 14.

Resident said six of her checks had been altered, police station at 701 Laurel St., Jan. 15.

Online fraud, police station at 701 Laurel St., Jan. 15.

WOODSIDE
Theft report: Unauthorized charge of $1,428 made to victim’s charge card, 900 block of Canada Road, Jan. 7

PORTOLA VALLEY
Theft report: Diamond tennis necklace stolen, The Sequoia retirement community, 601 Portola Road, Jan. 7

LADERA
Security guard allegedly kicked by grocery store employee after guard left note on Ladera’s windshield regarding expired parking permit, 3000 block of Alpine Road, Jan. 7

TOWN SQUARE
Post your views and comments on TownSquare:
www.TheAlmanacOnline.com

FRANCES BLAIR AUBREY

Frances Blair Aubrey, aged 50 died peacefully on December 21, 2008 in Gustavus, Alaska where she was cared for by devoted friends. In October 2006, she was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer in Tucson, Arizona, where she was treated for seven months. Thereafter, she moved to her family home in Atherton, CA and made several visits to Gustavus until her final trip there on September 2008, Blair, a fifth generation Californian, was born in Berkeley. She graduated from Menlo Atherton High School, attended the University of Puget Sound, the California Culinary Academy in San Francisco, and later the Cordon Bleu in Paris, France. Blair’s skill as a chef was her passport to a lifetime of traveling adventures; among the places where she soujourned were San Francisco, London, Gstaad, Madrid, Marbella, New York, Nantucket, Anchorage and San Miguel de Allende. Blair migrated to Alaska where she ultimately discovered the small town of Gustavus on Glacier Bay and became part of the community there. She spent most winters in Mexico where she adopted an abandoned puppy, Aria, with whom she later logged many miles on road trips from Mexico to Alaska. In early 2006, Blair volunteered at the Mission San Ildefonso in Queretaro serving the Otomi people of central Mexico. Blair was intrepid and her passion for life was infectious. She was an avid fly-fisherman, a formidable scrabble player, and enjoyed playing the cello. Blair is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Aubrey of Atherton, a brother, Craig Aubrey of Saratoga, and a sister, Lisa Aubrey of San Francisco; other family includes two uncles, a number of cousins, and three nieces. A memorial is pending in Gustavus and there will be a memorial at the Saratoga Federated Church Chapel, 2029A Park Pl, in Saratoga, CA at 11 a.m. on January 31. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Breast Cancer Connections, 390 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306; KARA, 457 Kingsley Ave., PA., CA. 94301 or the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, 795 El Camino Real, PA. CA. 94301.

Continued from previous page

at All Saints Church in Northfield, Minnesota, on Jan. 24.

Continued from page 18

puzzle based on decisions they had made last April with respect to police department personnel. Maybe the Majority Four believe Menlo Park exists in a bubble and that we need not heed what is going on around us. I guess I was raised differently because I was taught when there’s an economic crisis, all the reins get pulled in immediately, no matter what was previously planned and there is no discretionary spending.

I was supportive of raises for our police last year. However, I am not supportive now because we and every city around us are facing some unprecedented fiscal issues. We are all going to suffer the decline in sales tax revenues while our union employee costs will continue to rise out of control. And, all of us, including the police, should not be expecting raises. In fact, we are all lucky to be able to keep our jobs.

The undeniable fact is that the Majority Four of Mayor Heyward Robinson, Rich Cline, Kelly Ferguson and Andy Cohen were endorsed and well supported during their campaigns by the unions; (it) is the underlying reason that the Menlo Park residents come second with respect to the decisions. Our tax dollars are being used to make the unions happy and guarantee the re-election of the Majority Four. It is time for the residents to stop electing people who serve the unions and elect people who are free to make timely and independent decisions that are fiscally responsible.

Mary Gilles Hermosa Way, Menlo Park

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Holiday Fund donors dig deep

The down economy did not deter Almanac readers from supporting the Holiday Fund this year, as they dug deeper to contribute $146,045, a significant increase from last year’s donations.

The added income, coupled with nearly $30,000 from the Rotary Club of Menlo Park, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, means that the 10 nonprofit organizations listed below will each receive a check for about $17,300 in early February.

More than 200 readers contributed to the Almanac’s Holiday Fund this year, responding to the increased need resulting from the financial crisis gripping the country. Some significantly larger donations raised the average gift per person to nearly $700, a substantial increase over last year.

The Holiday Fund is a partnership of the Almanac, the matching donors, and the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, which processes all contributions. No fees or other charges are assessed to any Holiday Fund donation; 100 percent of all funds raised go directly to the participating nonprofit. Each of the following agencies will receive checks next month:

Boys & Girls Club of the Peninsula
Provides after-school academic support and enrichment activities for 1,000 youth each year, ages 6 to 18. Operates clubs in Menlo Park’s Belle Haven neighborhood, East Palo Alto and Redwood City, and after-school programs at schools in these communities designed to extend the learning day and supplement the school’s curriculum.

Ecumenical Hunger Program
Provides emergency food, clothing, household essentials, special children’s programs and sometimes financial assistance to families in need, regardless of religious preference, including Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for more than 1,500 households.

Ravenswood Family Health Center
Provides primary medical care, behavioral health services and preventive health care for all ages at its clinics in Belle Haven and East Palo Alto. It also operates a mobile clinic at school sites. Of the 22,700 registered patients, most are low-income and uninsured.

St. Anthony’s Padua Dining Room
Serves hundreds of hot meals six days a week in a social and friendly atmosphere to anyone in need. Funded entirely by contributions from the community, St. Anthony’s is the largest soup kitchen between San Francisco and San Jose. It offers groceries to take home and distributes clothing to families.

Second Harvest Food Bank
The largest collector and distributor of food on the Peninsula, Second Harvest Food Bank distributed 30 million pounds of food last year. It gathers donations from individuals and businesses and distributes food to some 162,000 people each month through more than 700 agencies and distribution sites in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

Shelter Network
Provides short-term shelter and transitional housing services to more than 3,700 adults and children each year. Offers programs for families and individuals to become self-sufficient and return to permanent housing.

Youth and Family Enrichment Services
Provides many programs to help people who struggle with substance abuse, domestic violence, mental health, relationship and communications issues. Helps strengthen youth, families and individuals through challenges counseling, education, and residential services.

Project Read-Menlo Park
Provides free literacy services to adults in the Menlo Park area. Trained volunteers work one-on-one or in small groups to help adults improve their basic reading, writing and English language skills so that they can achieve their goals and function more effectively at home, at work and in the community. In 2007-08, a total of 120 tutors assisted more than 300 students.

St. Francis Center (North Fair Oaks)
Provides services for families in need with the goal of helping them to live in dignity and become self-supporting community members. The center assists 2,400 people each month with such services as low-income housing, food and clothing, shower and laundry, counseling, community garden, and education.

Family Connections
Provides a free-parent-participation preschool program that includes parent education, parent leadership, preschool and pre-kindergarten for 400 people, including parents and children, ages newborn to 5, at three sites in the Belle Haven neighborhood of Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, and the North Fair Oaks neighborhood of Redwood City.

 WHAT’S YOUR VIEW!

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

TOWN SQUARE FORUM

PSU’s your views on the Town Square forum at www.TheAlmanacOnline.com

EMAIL your views to: letters@AlmanacNews.com and note this is a letter to the editor in the subject line.

MAIL or deliver to: Editor of The Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

CALL the Viewpoint desk at 854-2626, ext. 222.

LETTERS

Our readers write

Our Regional Heritage

A team of oxen pulls into the Dudfield sawmill in what is now Loma Mar on Pescadero Road. The mill belonged to John Dudfield, who operated it to supply his lumberyard in Palo Alto. The trip over the Haskins Grade to La Honda and then to the summit and on to Palo Alto and back took a six-horse team three days. Photo is undated but is thought to be from around 1916.
Obama victory spreads hope among local black youth

Editor’s Note: The following letters were provided by the Boys & Girls Club of the Peninsula. The writers attend the Menlo Park club as well as the Center for a New Generation.

Obama’s achievement will open doors for blacks

Editor:
Barack Obama’s inauguration makes me believe that anything can happen.

Even though I am young, I have always thought I’ve had a pretty good understanding of the way the world works. I always hoped there would someday be an African American president, but I never believed it would happen so soon. I think that Mr. Obama’s inauguration will open many doors for young black males like me because people will have higher expectations for us.

I’ve been lucky to be a part of a program like the Center for a New Generation because it provides me with a number of opportunities. At CNG I can grow socially, academically, and athletically. The best thing about CNG is the fact that it has opened my eyes to academic and career opportunities.

I hope to attend a prep school next year as a ninth-grader and I think Mr. Obama’s victory in the presidential election will help me once I get there. Barack Obama has changed people’s perception of black males; he is an example of a successful black man who does something besides playing sports or rapping.

I play sports, but I am more than just an athlete. I like to learn and contribute to my community in a number of different ways. I think more people will see me for who I really am now because of what they’ve seen with Mr. Obama.

Mr. Obama is the kind of role model people need in the United States. He has broken stereotypes in order to become something that very few people believed he could become. I hope that as I move forward with my life I will be able to inspire the next generation the way he has inspired me. We all need to know that we don’t have to act a certain way because of our skin color, we just have to be true to ourselves and follow our dreams no matter what they are.

Dae’ Von Bishop, 13

Elective inspires blacks to reach higher

Editor:
My teachers, parents, friends, and mentors have always told me I can be whatever I want in life.

To be honest, I never really believed them. I’m a good student with a 4.0 GPA. I run track and compete in gymnastics, go to the Boys and Girls Club, and am a part of my school’s student government. I’ve even been in commercials and movies. I don’t mean to brag, but I pretty much take advantage of all the opportunities that are available to kids in my community of East Palo Alto. That’s just who I am. I love trying new things and being my best.

Even though I’ve done all these things, I’ve always thought there was a limit to what I could accomplish in my life. I’ve never thought I could win a Nobel Prize, walk on the moon, or be president. I’ve wanted to do these things, but I’ve never truly believed that it was possible. I’ve never seen anyone who looks like me accomplish any of these feats. Most of the successful African American people I have seen are celebrities in entertainment and athletics. I still try my hardest because I hope for the best, but I can’t really say that I’ve ever truly believed I can do everything I dream of.

Barack Obama’s inauguration means that my teachers, parents, and mentors are right. I really can do anything in life if I set my mind to it. There are very few people out there who have broken stereotypes such as the ones African Americans face, but I have always wanted to be in that group of people. I want to be somebody who does something that no one has ever done before. I want to do something like Barack has done.

Mr. Obama’s victory has made me realize just because I have never seen anyone do something, that doesn’t mean that I can’t do it myself. I can be the first. From watching him, I’ve learned that I can overcome any obstacles or barriers people try to set for me. Mr. Obama has given me the ability to believe in myself and my dreams. Thank you, Barack.

Tajianna Robinson, 13

Blacks will now be taken more seriously

Editor:
To me, President-elect Obama’s inauguration means hope and change. Mr. Obama is what I have hoped for my whole life.

Growing up, the only time I would ever hear about an African American president was when someone was making a joke. It would really upset me that I lived in a world where no one even thought a black man or woman could be taken seriously.

Mr. Obama’s inauguration gives me hope that I will be judged by the content of my character as I continue to get older. It’s inspiring for me to see that Mr. Obama did not win because of his race, age, or gender; he won because he’s the best person for the job. It makes me proud to be a part of a country where people achieve their goals based on their merit. I know that if I continue to be my best I will be able to reach my goals regardless of racism and prejudice that has existed in the past. Mr. Obama has made me even prouder of my African American heritage.

Many people in my community are excited about the change that will come with Mr. Obama’s inauguration as president. He has made so many people proud. It’s exciting for me to see people want to make changes in my own community because they witness Mr. Obama preparing to make changes in our nation and world. I believe that a change is coming to my community of East Palo Alto as a result of Mr. Obama’s inspirational victory.

Tajianna Robinson, 13

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