

ROUND TABLE PIZZA founder William Larson, who started a pizza shop in Menlo Park that became the national chain, dies at 73. Page 7

The Almanac

Woodside Film Festival
this weekend page 33



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

NOVEMBER 22, 2006

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VOL. 42 NO. 12

The Gift



of Giving

Holiday Fund

helps kids and families in need

Page 14



gratitude

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.

~John F. Kennedy

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Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT



Marjan Sadoughi/The Almanac

Dancing with the mayor

Ballroom dancer and Atherton native Cheryl Burke, fresh from her second victory on ABC-TV's "Dancing with the Stars," delights Atherton Mayor Charles Marsala with an impromptu dance. Mr. Marsala proclaimed Nov. 18 "Cheryl Burke Day" in Atherton and organized her appearance at an assembly at Menlo-Atherton High School on Monday morning, Nov. 20. See Page 8 for another picture.

Atherton

■ Town sues high school district over M-A's plans for a performing arts center. **Page 10**

Menlo Park

■ Utility tax measure now ahead in the vote count. **Page 5**

Portola Valley

■ Grocery store may return to Portola Valley; medical offices, pharmacy part of plan for former site of John's Valley Foods. **Page 9**

Woodside

■ Town OKs rules to protect its woods. **Page 19**

Schools

■ Las Lomitas school board seeks \$115 parcel tax hike. **Page 13**

Sports

■ CCS playoff action in football, volleyball and water polo. **Pages 12, 20**

■ Local vaulter's team wins silver at World Equestrian Games in Germany. **Cover, Section 2**

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On the cover

Activities at some agencies supported by reader donations to the Almanac's Holiday Fund are shown, clockwise from top: Haven Family House, operated by Shelter Network; Family Connections pre-school in Belle Haven; Nevada Butler at Ecumenical Hunger Program; Thanksgiving chickens at St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room; and studying at the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula. See **Page 14**.

CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

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Cranberry Sensations

Cranberries are at peak season, and their versatility and vibrancy make a great addition to sauces, salads, and baked goods. One of only three commercially grown fruits native to North America (the other two are blueberries and concord grapes), cranberries are cultivated primarily in Massachusetts, Wisconsin, New Jersey, Oregon and Washington. Cranberries are too tart to eat raw, so they need to be processed into a sauce for pie and tart fillings or a relish for a roasted dinner. Cranberry drinks have exploded in popularity because of the great taste and health benefits. And dried cranberries are a delicious snack eaten alone or as a topping for salads. Dried cranberries are a perfect addition to baked goods as well.

At ROBERTS MARKET we carry some of the freshest and most delectable produce: including fantastic fruits and vegetables. We guarantee you will find great food when you visit us. We have great cranberries that you can take advantage of. This is the perfect time of the season to do so. You can also find prepared foods such as home-made hot soups, sandwiches, salads, and gourmet food stuffs. Our deli department has an expansive display. Don't forget fresh cut flowers from our floral department to grace your table.

Hint: Make a spinach salad with dried cranberries, pecans, and feta cheese.

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C&H POWDERED SUGAR 1 lb. box - Also Brown - Dark Brown 73¢

VANITY FAIR DINNER NAPKINS 40 count - Also All Occasion \$1.99

DELI

Roberts Market Thanksgiving Menu 2006

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Large 16 - 18lbs. ~ Serves 14 to 16 people \$58.00

*The Diestel turkeys are pre-roasted and will need approximately 2 hours to reheat at 300° in your oven.



Starters & Sides

PUMPKIN SQUASH SOUP
Savory with a hint of curry and cream \$8.50 per qt.

STUFFED BAKED BRIE
With your choice of caramel apple, or cranberry chutney \$14.50 each

GREEN BEAN ALMANDINE
With caramelized shallots and butter \$5.50 per pint. \$11.00 per qt.

SWEET POTATO PUREE
Seasoned with nutmeg & cinnamon and candied walnuts and maple syrup \$5.75 per pint. \$11.25 per qt.

ROASTED BUTTERNUT SQUASH
With sage butter and brown sugar \$5.75 per pint. \$11.25 per qt.

WHIPPED POTATOES
Traditional potatoes with butter & cream \$5.00 per pint. \$10.00 per qt.

Freshmade Cranberry Sauce
Delicious with a hint of orange \$4.50 per pint. \$9.00 per qt.

Dressings & Gravy

TRADITIONAL STUFFING ~
With mushrooms, celery, onions, & water chestnuts \$5.00 per pint. \$10.00 per qt.

CORNBREAD SAUSAGE STUFFING ~
With dried cranberries and apricots \$5.00 per pint. \$10.00 per qt.

PORCINI MUSHROOM GRAVY ~
Rich and creamy \$5.50 per pint. \$11.00 per qt.

ONION SAGE GRAVY ~ Red wine, caramelized onion & sage flavor this rich gravy \$5.50 per pint. \$11.00 per qt.

Desserts

UPPER CRUST BAKERY ~
8" Pies, serve 6 to 8. \$14.99
Apple, Apple Streusel, Berry Supreme, Pumpkin, Pumpkin Amaretto, Cranapple, & Pecan

RUBICON BAKERY ~
8" Tarts, serves 6. \$14.99
Apple Almond, Apple Cranberry, Caramel Nut, & Lemon

6" Cakes, serves 6. \$14.99
Pumpkin Cheesecake, Chocolate Cake, Chocolate Turtle, & Carrot Spice Cake

WINE

TURKEY WINES

Roasted meats, including turkey, really go best with red wine. And, considering the diverse flavors and textures on the traditional Thanksgiving table, the wine should not be too tannic, nor lean. Here then are a few wines we believe offer exceptional quality, value and food-pairing flexibility.

2005 Louis Jadot Beaujolais -Villages Reg. \$9.99 — Sale \$8.99
A classic from a great vintage.

2005 Cantina del Pino Dolcetto d'Alba Reg. \$13.49 — Sale \$11.99
Soft, juicy cherry fruit and smoky tannins.

2005 Palmina Barbera, Santa Barbara County Reg. \$19.99 — Sale \$17.99
Bright, juicy, vivid fruits with low tannin and refreshing acids.

2003 Coyote Canyon "Big Pond," Pinot Noir, Santa Lucia Highlands Sale \$19.99
A silky, elegant, smooth Pinot. Perfect for turkey.

2005 Rusack Pinot Noir, Santa Barbara County Reg. \$23.99 — Sale \$21.99
Great Pinot and a great value. The best of California and France in one bottle.

— Beaujolais Nouveau Arrives Thursday 11/16! —

MEAT/POULTRY

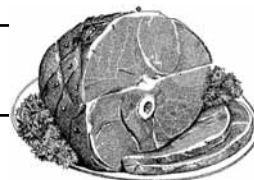
Thanksgiving Specials

Distel **BONELESS TURKEY BREAST** \$5.98 lb.

Distel **TURKEY BREAST** \$4.98 lb.

Distel **TURKEY** \$2.00 lb.

Curando **SPIRAL HAM** \$3.98 lb.





D.A.R.E. to protect trees

Winners of Atherton's annual tree awards got an unusual bonus last week along with their certificates and mayoral handshakes: leftover kickballs from the town's D.A.R.E. program. Earlier in the evening, school kids who graduated from the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program received prizes for their anti-drug artwork, but left a half-dozen unclaimed balls.

50 and fabulous

Woodside officials past and present showed up to celebrate the town's 50th anniversary of incorporation at a swanky-yet-casual party Thursday evening, Nov. 16. Inside a huge tent erected in front of Independence Hall, guests mingled and chatted in between slurps of oyster and bites of shrimp from the seafood bar.

A good number of the 56 Town Council members who've served Woodside since it became a town were present, including about a dozen ex-members or their designees. Mary Lou Putnam was on hand representing husband Joe, and Anne Dickey Schoebel came in memory of her late mother, Jeanne Dickey.

All seven current members tended to congregate inside Independence Hall, perhaps because they are so used to spending long evenings there conducting meetings. At one point, Town Manager Susan George gave them a tongue-in-cheek warning of "Brown Act!" referring to the state's law against a majority of council members fraternizing.

Mayor Deborah Gordon praised the residents who "thought boldly and acted boldly" in order to make Woodside a town.

"We owe the look and the feel of this place to those citizen activists who took up the call of incorporation 50 years ago," she said.

An evening of elegant noshing was capped by tiny birthday cupcakes from Sibby's.

Guests received copies of a commemorative coffee table book, "Woodside — Making of a Town," written for the occasion by Patsy Kahl and Marcia Bondurant.

Local News

MENLO PARK | ATHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Tax measure now ahead in vote count

■ Measure K leads by 80 votes, county reports.

By **Rory Brown**

Almanac Staff Writer

Measure K, the Menlo Park utility tax measure that looked all but defeated, is now ahead in the polls, according to election results updated by San Mateo County at 3 p.m., Thursday.

The tax measure is ahead by 80 votes, with 5,120 voters — 50.4 percent — supporting the measure, and 5,040 opposed, according to updated results from the county Elections Office.

The measure needs a simple majority to pass.

There are still about 15,000

ballots to be counted county-wide, said Elections Manager David Tom. It's unknown how many of those ballots were cast by Menlo Park voters.

The final election results updated is scheduled for 3 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 21. Check AlmanacNews.com for a news update.

Election results announced Nov. 10 showed the measure trailing by 70 votes, with 50.4 percent — 4,275 votes — against the measure.

If the two-tiered measure wins approval, the City Council could set a tax rate of up to 3.5 percent on utilities (water, gas and electric bills) and up to 2.5 percent

■ MENLO PARK

on communications (landline telephone, cell phone and cable TV and Internet bills).

The tax could generate about \$2.5 million a year, which would go to the city's general fund for city services.

"It will be helpful in the short term, but I don't want to see the city grow dependent on it," said John Boyle, a newly-elected council member. He said that making sure projects currently in the pipeline, such as the proposed auto mall, are vital to the city's long-term economic recovery.

Richard Cline, another new councilman, said he is "relieved" the tax will likely pass. He said

Measure K

(Menlo Park utility tax)

Yes	5,120	50.4%
No	5,040	49.6%

Count as of Nov. 20, 2006

his goal, although he acknowledged it may be optimistic, is to retire the tax in four years.

The tax on utilities would have an annual cap of \$12,000, meaning no single user — business or residential — would pay more than \$12,000 in taxes on electricity, gas and water.

If the tax does not pass, the City Council is expected to reduce spending on city services, increase fees, or both. ■

Rail service over Dumbarton Bridge delayed, more costly

■ New environmental studies start as opponents flood Menlo Park meeting.

By **Marion Softky**

Almanac Staff Writer

It takes a long time and a lot of money to build a railroad.

The dream of easing east-west traffic by running commuter trains across the Bay along the old Dumbarton rail line first emerged as a suggestion by former Atherton Councilman Malcolm Dudley more than 30 years ago.

In 1994, SamTrans bought the right-of-way from Southern Pacific, which had closed down its occasional freight runs some

10 years before. Caltrain agreed to take the lead in organizing the project, which involves a dozen or more cities, counties, and transit agencies between Redwood City and Union City.

After 10 more years of studies, negotiations and controversy — the folks living next to an almost-abandoned railroad don't want trains zipping by their back yards — there is now a specific project about to move on to another phase.

And a fresh outburst of controversy.

Just as an official environmental impact report on the proposed project gets under way, the interagency policy group guiding the project received



SamTrans map

This map shows the route of the proposed Dumbarton rail line, linking to the Caltrain line on the Peninsula and to rail lines and BART stations in the East Bay.

bad news. Operation of the new train service would be delayed from 2010 to 2012, and the price tag would almost double from \$300 to \$595 million.

That bad news for the project was good news for its opponents. They flooded a meeting

in Belle Haven on Nov. 16 that was intended to gather public input on what kinds of impacts needed to be studied in preparing the environmental studies.

Thirty people, mostly from

See **DUMBARTON**, page 8

Derry referendum: Contending parties are talking

■ Council delays action in hope a new deal can be struck.

By **Rory Brown**

Almanac Staff Writer

The developer of the proposed "Derry" condo-commercial project in downtown Menlo Park and the leader of a referendum drive against the project are in

■ MENLO PARK

negotiations with the aim of hammering out a compromise, the Menlo Park City Council learned Nov. 14.

Jim Pollart of the O'Brien Group, the San Mateo-based developer of the project, and Morris Brown, a spokesman for Menlo Park Tomorrow, the group that led the petition drive, approached the council jointly

Tuesday night to inform them of the negotiations.

Mr. Brown said the two sides have started what he hopes will be "very quick discussions to reach a compromise."

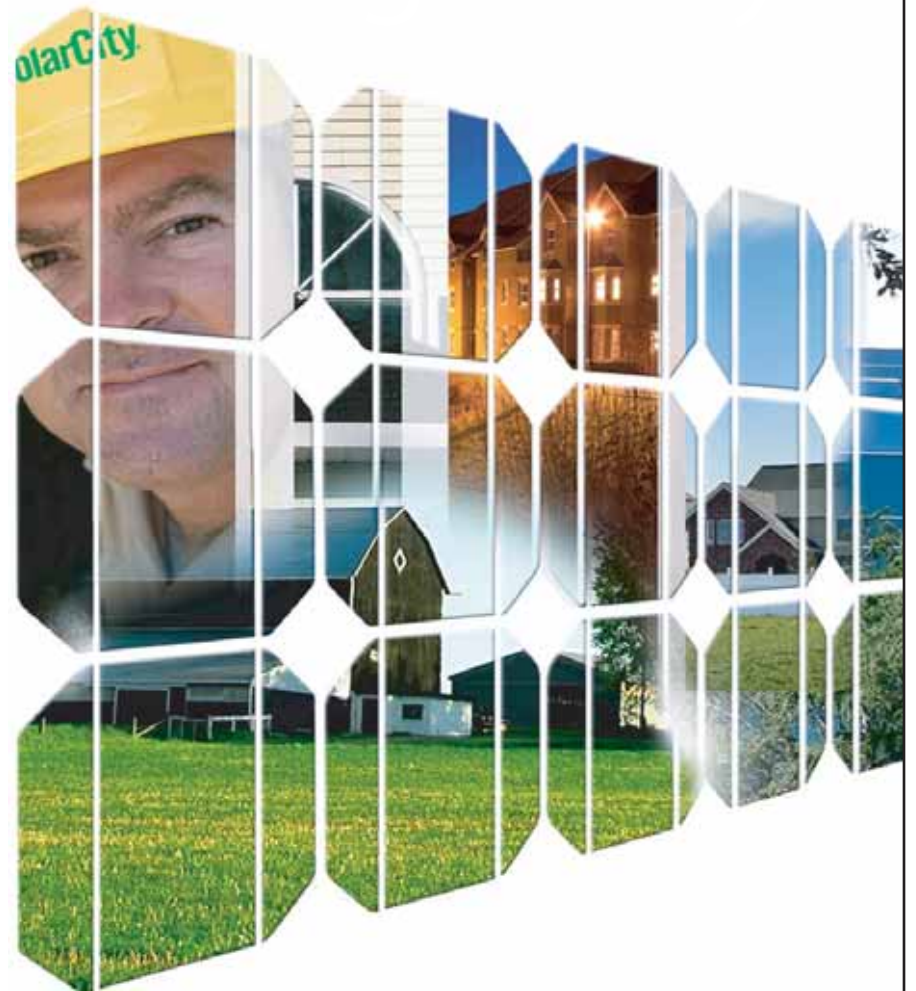
As a result, the council decided to postpone action on two sets of petitions challenging the project to build 135 condominiums and 22,525 square feet of commercial space on a 3.4-acre site bounded by El Camino Real,

Oak Grove Avenue and the train tracks — land owned by the Derry family.

The council has the option of rescinding two ordinances it adopted in approving project in September or putting the ordinances on the ballot for the voters to decide. It could also order staff to check into the legality of the referendum signatures

See **DERRY**, page 8

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Bill Larson, left, with his daughter and son, Linda and Bob Larson, in a 1999 photo.

The Almanac/Carol Ivie

William Larson, founder of Round Table Pizza, dies

William R. “Bill” Larson, whose original Round Table pizza parlor in Menlo Park grew into the national chain of 500 restaurants, died Nov. 15 in his hometown of Palo Alto.

“I never dreamed it would get that big,” said Mr. Larson. “I just wanted to provide the best quality pizza in a family environment. It was fun building it.”

“Mr. Larson divested his ownership interest in Round Table Pizza 14 years ago, but he never lost his interest or enthusiasm for the business,” says Jim Fletcher, chairman and CEO of Round Table Pizza, Inc.

He sold a portion of Round Table stock to a group of investors in 1979. The investors formed an Employee Stock Ownership Plan in 1985 and by 1992 Round Table was wholly

owned by its employees, according to Mr. Fletcher.

Services for Mr. Larson, who died after a long battle with cancer at age 73, will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 2, at Roller Hapgood & Tinney Funeral Home, 980 Middlefield Road in Palo Alto.

William Larson was a 26-year-old cheese delivery man when he took his savings of \$1,800 and bought the old water works building at 1235 El Camino Real in Menlo Park, according to an article in the Jan. 26, 2000, issue of *The Almanac*.

On Dec. 21, 1959, he opened the first Round Table Pizza Parlor and Pub. He named his restaurant Round Table after the round redwood tables he and his dad, the late Henry Larson, constructed. The most expensive item on the menu was a giant-sized Bill’s spe-

cial combination pizza for \$3.17.

The original shop relocated a few years later next door to 1225 El Camino Real in Menlo Park and other shops opened in Los Altos, and Palo Alto. Today, his son, Bob, still owns and operates the original Round Table Pizza in Menlo Park. “I’m very proud to be a part of the original pizza family,” he says.

Although Mr. Larson was no longer involved in the day-to-day operations of the company, his nine children and 25 grandchildren have carried on the tradition. Most of them have helped sell pizzas in some way, and two of his children, Bob and Debbie, own and operate their own shops.

Mr. Larson is survived by his nine children; 25 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. ■

Another accident at tricky intersection

A Menlo Park intersection known for accidents and pedestrian injuries recorded another accident — this one at 5:20 p.m. Monday, Nov. 13.

A 62-year-old woman was struck and rolled onto the hood of a 2005 Toyota Prius while crossing south on Menlo Avenue, at the intersection of University Drive, near Draeger’s market.

The victim was “incoherent” and “dazed” after the accident, and was taken to Stanford Hospital, said Sgt. Ron Prickett of the Menlo Park Police Department.

The car was driven by a 37-year-old woman turning left onto Menlo Avenue, and struck the victim in the crosswalk, Sgt.

■ MENLO PARK

Prickett said.

Accidents at the intersection — including a 2003 incident in which a 62-year-old woman was struck and killed — prompted the city to reconfigure a crosswalk and reposition a stop sign. Orange traffic flags were also placed at the intersection for pedestrians to carry while crossing.

Even after changes were made to the intersection, it is still “offset,” as the east and west portions of Menlo Avenue don’t line up, making it difficult for drivers to see pedestrians.

The safety improvements,

implemented in February 2005, were considered interim measures until a traffic light could be installed at the intersection, but federal funding for the traffic light fell through and derailed the project.

Transportation Manager Chip Taylor could not say how many accidents have taken place at the intersection before and after the interim measures were put in place.

He said city staff will evaluate the accident report, and determine if there is a need for a traffic light.

A traffic light would cost \$250,000 to \$300,000, Mr. Taylor said. ■

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Gloria Darke



Are The Holidays a Good Time for a Home Sale?

Q. We have been told it will be more difficult selling our house during the holiday season and that we should wait. In this market, is this true?

M/MBuxton.

need to fill and are serious. After all, buying a home is time consuming and those buyers with a serious need don’t mind adding to an already hectic holiday schedule.

A. Mr. & Mrs. Buxton,

Not true! Casual lookers may disappear during the holidays, but November through January can be a good time to sell your home. Why? Because families who need to buy a home during the holidays, perhaps because of a recent transfer, have an immediate

So, if you’re serious about selling, use the season to show your home at it’s best. Deck the halls, light the candles and fill your home with the scents and sounds of the season.

During the holidays your home will be warm, festive and inviting to buyers. Is there a better time of the year to show it? Perhaps not!

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Commuter rail service over Dumbarton bridge faces public scrutiny

DUMBARTON

continued from page 5

the residential neighborhoods along the railroad tracks that run through Menlo Park and North Fair Oaks, spoke. Most blasted the project and several demanded it be halted. A couple of speakers supported it; several others suggested alternatives like light rail, BART, and express buses.

"It was a mistake to purchase the right-of-way, and now I think you're throwing money away," said Kitty Craven, a Menlo Park neighbor of the tracks and long-time opponent of the project.

What's proposed

The Dumbarton Rail Corridor Project would start out with six trains a day running from Union City to Redwood City in the morning and back in the afternoon. In Redwood City, alternate trains would go north to San Francisco, and south to San Jose, allowing commuters access to the whole Caltrain Peninsula line.

Initial ridership is estimated to be about 6,000 boardings per day, doubling to 12,000 in 2025, according to Caltrain figures.

A new station at Willow Road in Menlo Park would serve commuters coming to work in the Menlo Park and East Palo Alto business areas. Some extra track would have to be built in Redwood City to allow trains to go south.

In the East Bay, riders could connect with buses, BART, the Altamont Commuter Express to the Central Valley, and Amtrak's Capitol Corridor line that runs between San Jose and Sacramento. There would be a new station in Newark, and improved stations at Centerville and Union City, where a connection with BART is planned.

Plans call for rehabilitating existing tracks and replacing the swing bridges across the Bay and Newark Slough, as well as station improvements and some relocation of rail lines in

the East Bay.

The purposes of the new rail service are to improve regional rail connections, relieve congestion on the highways, improve air quality, and accommodate future growth, said Project Manager Steve Minden of Caltrain.

The Thursday meeting was the kickoff for the major environmental review process. At three meetings, the public was invited to say what environmental impacts they thought should be analyzed, and should be mitigated in the final project. These ranged from noise and traffic to wildlife and air quality.

The study will analyze four alternatives for improving transportation in the Dumbarton corridor. The first two alternatives are variations of the rail service, with a slight difference in the East Bay. One alternative would increase bus service; the final alternative is "no action." Only the Coast Guard would require that the rail bridge across the Bay be removed if it is not used for trains.

The study process is scheduled to take another two years. A draft will be circulated in early 2008 for comment and more public hearings. The final EIR/EIS could be completed by spring of 2009. Only then could construction start.

Issues

The audience clapped enthusiastically as residents of West Bay neighborhoods that have grown up along the old freight railroad raised issues of noise, property values, safety, costs and benefits.

Beth Breedlove of Menlo Park spoke of the occasional train that still rumbles through the neighborhood on its way to some of the industrial areas on this side of the Bay. "I thought a helicopter had crashed in my back yard," she said.

Newton Craven of Menlo Park asked whether there would be freight trains on the track.

Yes, Mr. Minden replied. Under federal law, freight could



Marjan Sadoughi/The Almanac

Dancing with fans

A gaggle of admirers wait for a chance to speak with ballroom dancer Cheryl Burke, who made a special appearance at an assembly in Menlo-Atherton High School's auditorium on Monday, Nov. 20. Ms. Burke, an Atherton native who graduated from M-A in 2002, waltzed into first place with NFL legend Emmitt Smith on last week's season finale of "Dancing with the Stars" on ABC-TV. It was the second time she and a celebrity partner won the reality show competition. At the assembly, Ms. Burke was honored by a proclamation from Atherton mayor Charles Marsala and presented with a key to the city. See **Page 3** for another picture.

■ INFORMATION

One more "scoping" meeting for the environmental impact report on the Dumbarton Corridor Project will be held Wednesday, Nov. 29, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Niles Elementary School, 37141 Second St. in Fremont. For information, go to caltrain.com/dumbartonrail. Written comments may be sent by e-mail to dumbarton_comments@caltrain.com or by mail to Marie Peng, Environmental Manager, Caltrain, P.O. Box 3006, San Carlos, CA 94070-1306.

not be precluded. And Union Pacific might also cover some of the costs of the project. "We'll determine what levels of freight (we can handle)," he said. "We're going to address this directly."

Richard Brand of Palo Alto was a lone voice for the project. "When we built the Dumbarton (highway) Bridge, traffic got worse," he said. "Autos and buses are not the answer. We've got to get onto the rails."

Menlo Park Planning Commissioner Henry Riggs drew applause as he urged light rail as a more ecological alternative than heavy rail, which came out of the 19th century. "We need to divorce freight from passenger lines," he said. "We need to start that divorce now."

Howard Goode of Caltrain noted that alternative would require new tracks on both sides of the Bay to be separate from heavy rail, which carries freight. And everybody would have to transfer at Redwood City. "We would lose riders," he said. "It's even worse in the East Bay."

Several speakers wanted a seat for Atherton on the committees overseeing the project. Although the main Dumbarton line goes through unincorporated North Fair Oaks, the new turn to allow trains to turn south would bring some new track into Atherton, Mr. Minden said. He agreed to consider representation.

Mike Murphy declared: "I don't want to go to Newark in

the evening. What (benefit) will we receive?"

"The main benefits are regional," Mr. Minden replied. "There's a benefit to employers. There are more commute options for employees. There's a benefit to getting commuters out of cars and relieving congestion."

Menlo Park Councilman-elect Heyward Robinson asked that all measures to mitigate impacts be fully funded. "The cost of mitigation has to be part of the process," he said.

Mr. Minden noted that the costs of possible grade separations at Marsh and Willow roads were not included.

Jim Bigelow, chair of the Transportation Committee for the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce, has warned that this is a basic startup project for the corridor. "It's like a Christmas tree. If you hang too many lights and ornaments on it, it's going to fall over."

"We have to go back to basic startup service. Later is time to look at enhancements." ■

DERRY

continued from page 5

gathered by the residents' group, Menlo Park Tomorrow.

Instead, the council voted 5-0, Nov. 14, to delay a decision until its Nov. 28 meeting, in the hope the two sides can reach a compromise.

The referendum effort focused on two zoning ordinances — one that rezoned the Derry site to allow for high-density housing,

and another that changed the text of the zoning ordinance for the neighboring site at 1300 El Camino Real.

Referendum proponents gathered more than the required 1,848 signatures on each petition, San Mateo County officials said.

The two sides could come to an agreement on a revised project that could be considered by the council in place of the existing project, said City Attorney Bill McClure.

A new project would go before the Plan-

ning Commission and the council for approval, he said.

Signatures invalid?

Mr. Pollart of the O'Brien Group also asked the council to file a declaratory relief action to determine if the referendum signatures are, in fact, valid. An attorney representing the O'Brien Group has argued that the signatures are invalid for two reasons:

■ Referendum proponents didn't include a specific notice that is required

by the state elections code to be printed on the petitions.

■ The ordinances challenged aren't subject to the referendum process because the petitioners didn't challenge the general plan amendment that made adoption of the ordinances possible.

Although the council did not decide to file the declaratory relief action, the O'Brien Group could do so, or the council could take that action at its Nov. 28 meeting. ■

Standing water emphasizes the abandoned look of what was until recently John's Valley Foods in Portola Valley. A developer wants to reopen the building with medical offices, a convenience grocery and a pharmacy.



The Almanac/David Boyce

Grocer may return to Portola Valley

■ Medical offices and pharmacy are also part of developer's plan for former site of John's Valley Foods.

By David Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

A grocer may return to the building that once housed John's Valley Foods at the corner of Portola and Alpine roads in Portola Valley, but the grocery might be smaller and not alone in the 10,000-square-foot space.

"At the moment, we are thinking about 5,000 square feet of medical (offices), a grocery store and a pharmacy," said developer Jim Pollock, president of Portola Valley-based Pollock Financial Group.

Mr. Pollock said a post office is under consideration, but he has more investigation to do. A full-size grocery store would not be profitable, he said.

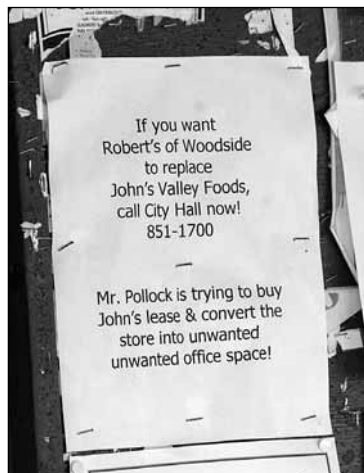
The plans require approval by the Planning Commission, and could be appealed to the Town Council.

Mr. Pollock told the Almanac that within the last month, he negotiated a contract with John's Valley Foods owner John Meany, who owns the building and has a long-term lease on the property.

The medical offices would house physicians "serving the people in town," Mr. Pollock said. The grocery would be a "convenience-type" store and may be an off-shoot of an established local grocer, he said.

The deal could end a lengthy search for a new leaseholder by Mr. Meany, who closed his store in July and retired after failing to find someone to take it over. Mr. Meany is still making lease payments, said Hazel Jelich, who owns the property.

Ms. Jelich may have some-



The Almanac/David Boyce

A sign posted near Portola Valley Hardware warns residents of possible changes at the former site of John's Valley Foods.

thing to say about the project. In an interview, she said she hopes Roberts market opens a grocery there. If she is unhappy with a particular use of the building, she said, she has the right to enter arbitration with Mr. Meany.

Roberts market owner George Roberts has expressed an interest in opening a Portola Valley store and has met with Planning Manager Leslie Lambert "a number of times in the past few months," Ms. Lambert said.

To fit the intended uses, the interior would have to be remodeled. Asked when that activity might begin, Mr. Pollock said it would follow "quite soon" after the town approves his plans.

A conditional use permit for a project like this can take three to six months to process, Ms. Lambert said.

Mr. Pollock said he has dis-

cussed his plans with Planning Commission chair Arthur "Chip" McIntosh. In an interview, Mr. McIntosh noted a permit requires "credible data" showing that at least 50 percent of the clientele will be from Portola Valley, Ladera and Los Trancos Woods.

An old wound

At least one person appears to be wary. On the community bulletin board near Portola Valley Hardware is a sign reading: "If you want Roberts of Woodside to replace John's Valley Foods, call City Hall now! 851-1700 Mr. Pollock is trying to buy John's lease & convert the store to unwanted unwanted office space!"


The store is in the so-called Nathhorst Triangle, the center of a roiling town-wide dispute resolved three years ago by a citizens' referendum. A slim majority of voters overturned a Town Council zoning decision that allowed for greater housing density on three parcels behind the store. Mr. Pollock owns one of the parcels.

Anyone trying to connect plans for the grocery store with improving the vacant Nathhorst parcels is on the wrong track, Mr. Pollock said, adding that he has "absolutely no interest" in developing those parcels at this time.

Residents seemed supportive of the plan. Steve Dunne, a key player in the referendum, when asked for a comment replied: "My comment would be enthusiastic support for sort of bringing that part of town back to life and returning services that many of us in town have sorely missed."

Patrick Yam, who lives on Golden Oak Drive, said he'd like to see revitalization that would attract people who otherwise have little reason to get together. "It would be kind of neat to have a place that's kind of communal," he said. "That's what a community is about." ■

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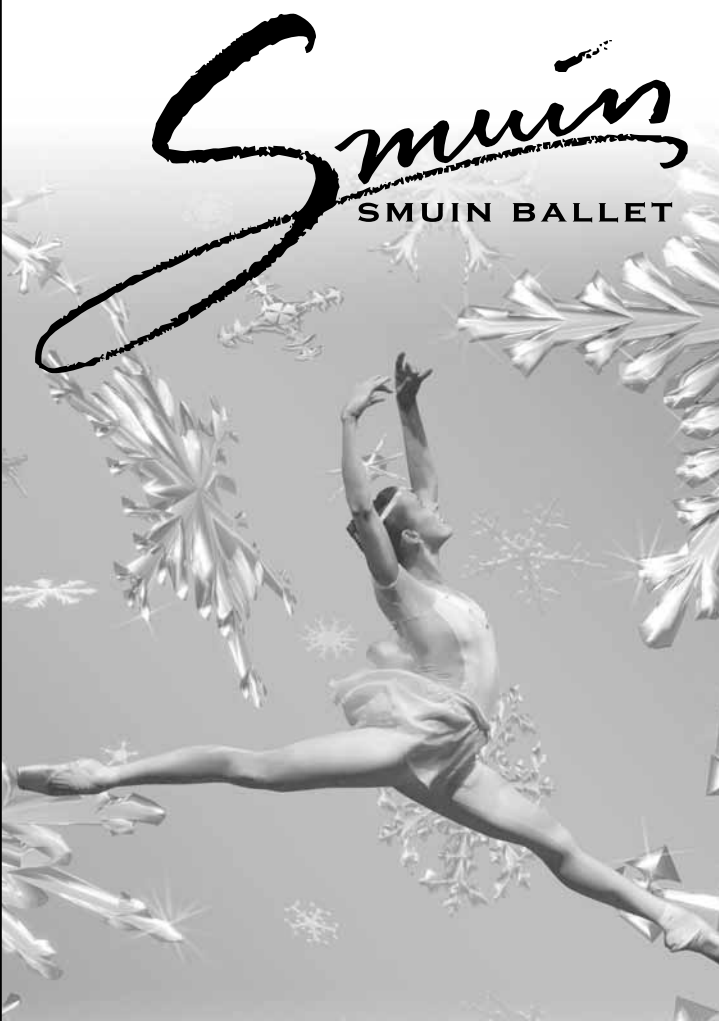
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Fatal shooting of MP man: trial date set for April 2

The trial of an East Palo Alto man accused of fatally shooting a Menlo Park man during a dispute in February has been set for April in San Mateo County Superior Court, defense attorney V. Roy Lefcourt said Nov. 17. Quindale Powell, 24, was arrested in March in Sunnyvale after police began to suspect he was the triggerman in the Feb. 25 shooting of 24-year-old Deshawn Stubbs.

The shooting occurred in the 1700 block of Woodland Avenue in East Palo Alto at around 10:30 p.m.

According to the district attorney's office, Mr. Powell confronted Mr. Stubbs for picking on Mr. Powell's younger brother earlier that

day, and when Mr. Stubbs offered to settle matters with a fistfight, Mr. Powell pulled out a handgun and shot Mr. Stubbs several times before fleeing. Mr. Stubbs was pronounced dead at the scene.

Mr. Powell was arrested March 1 after Sunnyvale police stopped a vehicle in which he was traveling. At the time, he was on probation for felony drug possession.

On July 18, he pleaded not guilty to murder and gun possession charges. He remains in custody on no-bail status. A pre-trial conference is set for Feb. 27 and the trial for April 2, Mr. Lefcourt said.

— Bay City News Service

Atherton sues high school district

By David Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

The town of Atherton has sued the local high school district in an attempt to stop the construction of a performing arts center on the campus of Menlo-Atherton High School in Atherton.

The complaint alleges that the Sequoia Union High School District misused a provision of the law to exempt the project from environmental analysis. Impacts of concern to Atherton include rainwater runoff, traffic congestion, and increased calls to the police department.

The district has offered to share the cost of a traffic study and plans to bore "dry wells" to handle rainwater runoff on campus, said Ed LaVigne, the Sequoia district's assistant superintendent of administrative services.

In the lawsuit, Atherton asks the court to "vacate and set aside" the district's theater plans until an environmental impact report is done.

Atherton officials are also concerned about the city of Menlo Park's plans to pay for \$2.6 million of the \$26 million project in exchange for rights to use the theater, said Sequoia district Superintendent Pat Gemma in an interview.

Atherton wants Menlo Park to apply for permits if events go past 9 p.m. and notify the town of schedule changes, in keeping with Atherton's ordinance meant to regulate use of school facilities for non-school activities, said Mayor Charles Marsala.

Menlo Park has refused the advance-notice request, he said. "I don't think the facility is going to be abused," he said. Notification would be a gesture, "but also a ges-

ture in writing." And the permit? "We can't just say 'Thanks for the notice,'" he said.

Since April, the school district has met a half-dozen times with officials from Atherton and Menlo Park, Mr. Gemma said, noting that the matter has still to go through mandatory mediation.

"We continue to go back and forth with the town," he said. "If it does go to court, I think it will be decided very quickly."

State law tends to support school districts in disputes with local governments. The Civic Center Act, part of the state's education code, states that public schools must serve as community gathering places and make facilities available for public use, such as artistic and recreational activities, with guidelines for use set by school boards. ■

Meeting set on solar panel bulk purchase plan

A roof may be a terrible thing to waste in the minds of a group of Portola Valley and Ladera residents trying to sign up neighbors to join them in a bulk purchase and installation of solar panels.

A community meeting on

the topic is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 29, at the Ladera Recreation Center at 150 Andeta Way in Ladera. Residents already using the sun to electrify their homes will be there, as will representatives from

Foster City-based SolarCity, the vendor chosen by a committee of residents for this project.

SolarCity needs to sign up to install at least 175 kilowatts in Portola Valley and Ladera before the end of the year to make the

plan work economically, said Lyndon Rive, the company president. The state's rebate is lower after the start of the new year.

A home with an \$85 monthly electricity bill requires a 3.5-kilowatt array, while a home with \$1,000 bill needs about 18 kilowatts, Mr. Rive said.

Residents who sign with SolarCity would save about 30 percent on the purchase and installation of the panels, Mr. Rive said. The deal includes permits, rebates, PG&E connections and Internet monitoring of the system.

For information, go to solarcity.com/cpp or call 888-765-2489.



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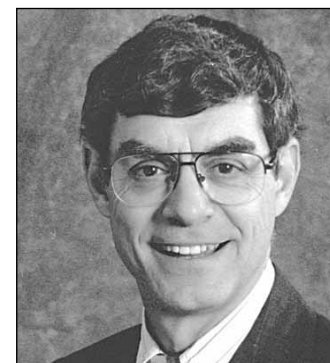
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Cal Water project to close Portola Road

By Andrea Gemmet
Almanac Staff Writer

WOODSIDE

A project to install a water pipeline is expected to close a portion of Portola Road in Woodside in the next few weeks.

California Water Service Co. is set to install about 1,800 feet of a new 12-inch water main in Portola Road between Woodside and Forrest View roads. The new water main will double the volume of water available

for fire protection and improve water pressure to residential customers, said district manager Darin Duncan.

At its Nov. 14 meeting, the Woodside Town Council agreed to allow Cal Water to close Portola Road to all traffic for four hours mid-day, as long as the road was open to one-way traffic, with 10-min-

ute delays, during school pick-up/drop-off hours.

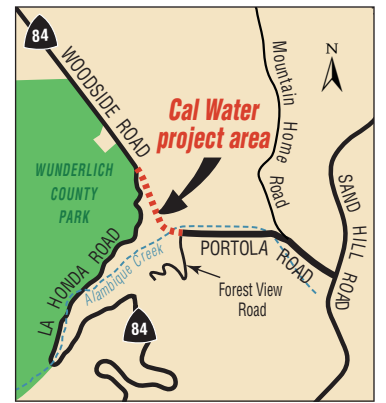
The council denied Cal Water's request to close Portola Road to all traffic between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on weekdays, citing traffic problems. The project is expected to last between three and four weeks, and could get under way as early as this week, according to Mr. Duncan.

Closing the road completely would shave about one week off of the length of the proj-

ect, he said.

A key advantage of the new water main is that it will provide a backup system for water lines on Mountain Home Road that serve as Cal Water's primary feed into Portola Valley and southern Woodside, Mr. Duncan said.

Councilman Pete Sinclair came up with the half-and-half construction schedule as a way to keep drivers from detouring through central Woodside and exacerbating morning and afternoon traffic at Woodside Elementary School. ■



Gail Thoreson/The Almanac

Cal Water is set to install a new water main on Portola Road, causing traffic delays and detours.

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Sports

NEWS OF LOCAL ATHLETES AND TEAM SPORTS

Three close losses for local football teams

■ Woodside, M-A, Menlo School all fall in CCS playoffs.

Woodside, Menlo-Atherton and Menlo School went into their Central Coast Section first round playoff games as the higher seeds, but all three schools were bounced from the postseason on Saturday.

Second-seeded Woodside stammered on offense, losing 12-6 at home to No. 7 Milpitas.

The Wildcats (7-4) failed to get much of anything going on offense, committing four turnovers and garnering just 31 yards on 27 rushes — less than 1.2 yards per carry.

Milpitas (7-4) clinched the game when defensive back John Lee intercepted a Matt Pelesasa pass on the Wildcats' final drive.

Milpitas quarterback Brandon Carswell and running back Havelock Pomele combined to rush for 204 of their team's 213 rushing yards.

Carswell also threw two touchdowns — the first two scores of the game.

Woodside's only score came on a 28-yard pass from Pelesasa to receiver Anthony Mendoza, with 2:21 left in the first half.

Woodside receiver Zack test

■ CSS PLAYOFFS

led all players with eight catches for 80 yards.

Turnovers end M-A

Third-seeded Menlo-Atherton saw its season come to a rapid end with a 14-7 defeat at the hands of No. 6 Santa Teresa (9-2) on Saturday in Atherton. The Bears (8-3) dropped their final three games of the season to Aragon, Woodside and Santa Teresa after starting the season with an 8-0 mark.

"We never recovered after the Aragon loss," said M-A first year coach Bob Sykes.

M-A's offense sputtered in the last three weeks of the season by not taking advantage of scoring opportunities, being inconsistent on offense, and committing 12 turnovers.

On Saturday, Santa Teresa gained a paltry eight yards in the first half, but capitalized by returning an M-A fumble on a punt and an interception for touchdowns for a 14-0 halftime lead.

The Bears found the end zone in the fourth quarter to cut the margin to 14-7 after junior quarterback Troy McCabe found junior tight end Matt Mosher on a 16-yard scoring connection.



Winners of the AYSO area championship are members of the Menlo Park-Atherton Boys Under 19 soccer team.

M-A boys under 19 team wins area title

The Menlo Park-Atherton Boys Under 19 (BU19) AYSO soccer team won the area championship on Nov. 12 for the first time, reports Region 109 publicity coordinator JoAnne Goldberg.

The team, which was in first place in the standings at the end of the season, triumphed over second place Mountain View in a game that was decided by penalty kicks after regulation play ended in a 1-1 tie.

The players now plan to head

to Southern California for a championship tournament over Thanksgiving weekend.

All team members are juniors and seniors at local high schools, primarily Menlo-Atherton High School. Many started playing AYSO soccer when they were 5 or 6 years old.

The team is coached by volunteer parents Pastor Guzman, Diego Medina and Arturo Abad.

Shown in the photo are:

■ Front row, from left: Coach

Pastor Guzman, Andy Cooper, Billy Widmer, Jose "Manuel" Garcia, Robert Jimenez, Mike Garcia, Aaron Sarfaty, Calvin Johnson and Jose "Daniel" Espinosa.

■ Back row, from left: David Hiltbrand, Luis Guzman, Tevis Nichols, Hector Cortez, Josue "Cruz" Rosales, Blake Stevenson, Homero Orosco, Mario Sanchez, Jimmy Delisle, Assistant Arturo Abad and Assistant Coach Diego Medina. (Not pictured: Miguel Llamas.)

M-A's dominant defense, which had sparkled all season, held the Saints to just 66 yards of offense and six first downs for the entire game.

Senior running back Pep Hanks paced M-A with 105 yards on 15 carries.

"I'm proud of the kids," said Sykes. "We did a lot of good things on and off the field and I was happy with the season."

M-A returns 31 players and a talented crop of frosh-soph players for next year in what should be another run at the PAL Bay

Division title and a return trip to the postseason.

Menlo loses shootout

Playing without its top offensive and defensive players, No.

See CSS PLAYOFFS, page 20




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City declares impasse in labor negotiations

■ City calls for mediator; union calls city's action "strange."

By **Rory Brown**
Almanac Staff Writer

The city of Menlo Park declared an impasse Nov. 17 in contract negotiations with the union representing 145 non-safety employees.

The next step is for the city and union to agree on a mediator, said Mayor Nicholas Jellins and City Manager David Boesch in a press release. The former contract expired at the end of October.

Mr. Boesch said the impasse was over wage increases, "how to manage the rising cost of health insurance premiums," and "the union's demands for enhanced retirement benefits."

"It is clear that out next City Council" will deal with the contract issue, Mr. Boesch said. Three newly elected council members will be sworn in Dec. 5.

It will take time for the new council to "be brought up to speed on the status of negotiations and be able to comfortable give further direction, if any," Mr. Boesch said.

Union's reaction

The city's declaration of an impasse was labeled "strange" by John Burnham, a steward and alternate negotiator for the Service Employees International Union Local 715, which represents the employees. He said the union was willing to continue negotiating.

Although the contract has expired, employees are "obligated not to strike," Mr. Burnham said.

The primary differences are over health insurance, not wages and benefits, he said. "[The city] is trying to take away health care as we have it today," said Mr. Burnham, who works in the city's building department.

Mayor Jellins, who noted the City Council has met with city labor negotiators three times, said he is "dismayed by the lack of progress" but hopes a third-party mediator can bridge the differences.

A state mediator was called in to resolve two other sets of Menlo Park labor negotiations earlier this year — talks with the Police Officers Association

■ MENLO PARK

and the Police Managers Association, which represent the city's line-level officers and sergeants, respectively.

In both cases, an agreement was reached and approved unanimously by the council.

Employee costs

Rising costs of employee benefits is a difficult issue, say city officials and council

members. The city aims to be an "average payer" in an attempt to attract and retain employees, officials say.

Employees represented by the SEIU have a "2 percent at 55" retirement plan, which means they can retire at age 55 and receive benefits equal to 2 percent of their highest one-year salary, multiplied by the number of years they've worked. Someone who has worked 30 years, for example, could retire at 60 percent of her

highest salary.

In addition to pension costs, the city owes employees post-retirement health benefits that cost the city about \$860,000 a year.

Over the past five years, the number of full-time-equivalent city employees has dropped about 13 percent -- from about 260 to 230 -- but annual personnel costs have risen about 27 percent to \$21.5 million over the same period.

Pensions cost the city about 9 percent of the current annual budget of \$32.5 million, officials say. ■

Las Lomas school board seeks \$115 parcel tax hike

By **David Boyce**
Almanac Staff Writer

A measure to increase the annual parcel tax by \$115 will be on the March 2007 ballot in the Las Lomas Elementary School District, located in western Menlo Park, Ladera and parts of Atherton.

After a short discussion at its Nov. 15 meeting, the district's Board of Trustees unanimously approved a resolution asking voters to increase the current \$196 parcel tax to \$311 beginning in July 2007 and, rather than voting to renew the tax after six years, have it continue year after year unless the board repeals it.

The district needs the money, according to the resolution, to meet its goals of "maintaining the highest possible quality of education" and "providing the best qualified staff available" in a state in which the education funding environment is described as "precarious."

Among the more specific priorities, the money would help to maintain the district's elective offerings such as foreign languages, music and art, and the science,

math and technology classes.


Board president David Bailard has said that current programs in the two-school district would suffer if the tax is not increased by \$200.

The measure will not include an automatic cost of living increase, in part because it could jeopardize community support, said Trustee Lee Anderson.

Community support is a delicate issue in the district, where a recent survey showed that any increase above \$98 a year would not garner the necessary approval by two-thirds of the voters. The \$115 figure came about after "very careful" analysis of the survey data, trustees said.

"We're trying to be as thorough as we can about what the community's tax tolerance is," Mr. Anderson said. "We're undertaking this decision carefully with as much information and deliberation as we can. ... There's quite a bit of logic in this proposal (consistent) with what we've done in the past."

As was the case with previous parcel tax measures, homeowners who are 65 or older can seek an exemption. ■



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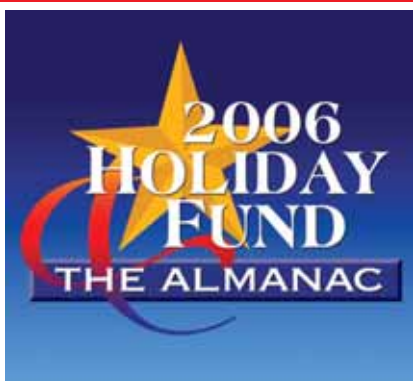
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Giving through the Holiday Fund 2006

For the 14th year, the Almanac offers readers the opportunity to multiply their charity dollars by giving through its annual Holiday Fund.

The Almanac has selected 10 local charities to benefit from donations to this year's Holiday Fund. These charities help the most vulnerable of our neighbors, be they homeless, hungry, sick or abused, young or old, native or immigrant.

In a series of articles over the next month, the Almanac will profile the organizations that benefit from the Holiday Fund.

For every dollar given to the Holiday Fund, the Almanac seeks matching funds from foundations and private donors. The total amount donated is then divided equally among the 10 charities.

The fund drive could not happen without the help of the Peninsula Community Foundation and the donors who provide the matching grants for most contributions.

Since the Holiday Fund started in 1993, it has contributed \$2.4 million to a wide range of local nonprofit agencies. More than half — \$1.3 million — came from readers, who have donated an average of \$111,000 a year over 14 years.

Community's grandmother

NEVIDA BUTLER HAS NURTURED THE NEEDY FOR 25 YEARS AS HEAD OF THE ECUMENICAL HUNGER PROGRAM

By Marion Softky

Almanac Staff Writer

Kids who have grown up with Nevada Butler call her grandma, says super-volunteer Donna Dunwoody of Woodside. "She has brought them through so much. Everyone knows her and relates to her."

Over 25 years, that's a lot of children — and grownups too — who have been warmed and helped by Ms. Butler through the Ecumenical Hunger Program in East Palo Alto, where she has been executive director since 1981.

With personal energy, Nevada Butler has fueled the growth of EHP from a small food pantry and clothes closet in 1981 to today's community haven. In 2005, EHP served more than 16,000 poor and troubled people with everything from food and bedding for families, to toys and tutoring for kids.

Figures for services delivered in 2005 are impressive. EHP, mostly with the aid of volunteers, distributed 5,100 food baskets, served 7,900 Monday Night Meals, received 11,400 visits to the Clothes Closet, and gave away 1,700 pieces of furniture. It provided \$1.3 million in in-kind donations to clients. Volunteers provided 11,900 hours of service.

"People in need can rely on EHP; it's always the place to go when you need food or clothing or furniture," says admirer Rose Jacobs Gibson, San Mateo County supervisor and former councilwoman in East Palo Alto.

"The organization is Nevada," says Ms. Dunwoody. "She has a huge heart, yet understands when to be strong and not to give. She understands the idea that handouts aren't everything."

But EHP is heading into uncharted waters; Ms. Butler is retiring next spring, and the board of directors is looking for a successor. This will be a hard task, all acknowledge.

At EHP, this giving comes with a personal touch that can mean so much. As Ms. Butler puts it, "We're here to make people



Nevada Butler — shown here in a warehouse crammed with mattresses, furniture, and other items — will lead the Ecumenical Hunger Program in East Palo Alto next April. For 25 years she has been the head of the program.

feel good about themselves."

An acre of giving

On a random Tuesday afternoon, tents shade rows of scrumptious vegetables in the parking lot of Ecumenical Hunger Program at 2411 Pulgas Avenue in East Palo Alto.

Some 400 families take advantage of the monthly food distribution put on by Second Harvest Food Bank at EHP. People load peppers and carrots, eggplant and greens into shopping carts and bags to take home.

"We have a lot of seniors, a lot of families," says Ms. Butler on a tour of EHP's headquarters and warehouse. "How thankful they are just to get a bag of veggies."

Nearby, a black Mercedes is packed to the roof with food packages. "Volunteers will take the leftovers to shut-ins," she says. "Everybody out here is a volunteer. We depend on volunteers from the community."

EHP is still developing the acre it acquired in 2002 to expand its services. Next to the offices is a former "Sunset House." Built as a model cabin for a Sunset magazine celebration in 2002, it was donated to EHP, fixed up by Peninsula Habitat for Humanity, and refinished inside by Ms. Dunwoody.

Ms. Dunwoody started with a \$100 donation from Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, raised several hundred dollars more, and put in close to \$16,000 worth of volunteer work, with the help of Rebuilding Together. Ms. Butler loves the bamboo floors.

The little Sunset House is waiting for Christmas, when it is decorated and staffed by Girls Scouts and volunteers as a Santa Claus Shop. "It's a mini-winter wonderland for kids while their

Giving to the Holiday Fund

Your gift helps children and others in need



Photo by Carien Veldpape

appliances ready to give to people in need — will be retiring as director of heart of an organization that has become the heart of the community.

families wait in line for food,” says Assistant Director Maleah Choi.

The rest of the year, children can use the little house for homework, tutoring, and fun things, Ms. Butler adds.

“God has been good to us here,” she says.

Across the parking lot, the warehouse is crammed with donated clothes and bedding, dishes and cooking utensils, mattresses and furniture, chests of drawers, washing machines, refrigerators and gas stoves (not electric — many homes don’t have 220 volts, Ms. Butler warns).

The building also has a large walk-in freezer and refrigerator. Nearby the TAP (Technical Access Point) holds computers installed by Plugged In, where people can come for job-hunting or to use the Internet. This room was also fixed up and decorated by the redoubtable Ms. Dunwoody.

EHP has a new program called an “Appointment Closet,” Ms. Butler says. People can make an appointment to come in and shop for what they need.

Ms. Butler talks joyously of other programs at EHP, like back to school. “This year we gave 300 backpacks filled with school supplies,” she says.

This season EHP is gearing up for the holidays. It expects to give away at Thanksgiving food for three days, to 500 or 700 families, and even more for Christmas.

So EHP is seeking food donations: hams, turkeys and canned goods. Two-pound boxes of sugar, and especially rice. “Rice is the universal food,” Ms. Butler says. A lot of people — Tongans especially — don’t eat beans.”

Contributions to the Holiday Fund will go directly to the programs that benefit Peninsula residents. Last year, Almanac readers contributed more than \$100,000, and with available matching grants, over \$150,000 was raised for 10 agencies that feed the hungry, house the homeless and provide numerous other services to those in need.

Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be

matched to the extent possible by generous community corporations, foundations and individuals, including the Rotary Club of Menlo Park, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. No administrative costs will be deducted from the gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

All donations to the Holiday Fund will be shared equally among the 10 recipient agencies.

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

- **Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula**
Provides after-school academic support and activities for 2,600 young people, 6 to 18, at clubhouses in Menlo Park’s Belle Haven neighborhood, East Palo Alto and Redwood City and offers programs at Flood and Belle Haven schools in Menlo Park and McNair School in East Palo Alto.
- **Ecumenical Hunger Program**
Provides emergency food, clothing, household essentials, and sometimes financial assistance to families in need, regardless of religious preference, including Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for more than 2,000 households.
- **Family Connections**
Provides free pre-school programs for children from low-income families in Belle Haven, parts of Redwood City and East Palo Alto. Parents must be involved in the education program, which operates on the Belle Haven School campus and the Clara-Mateo Homeless Shelter in Menlo Park Monday-Saturday mornings.
- **Ravenswood Family Health Center**
Provides primary medical 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 16,500 registered patients, most are low income and uninsured from the ethnically diverse East Palo Alto, Belle Haven, and North Fair Oaks area.
- **InnVision Peninsula Programs**
Works with homeless and at-risk families and individuals to reach self-sufficient living. Services reach 6,000 via Opportunity Center of the Midpeninsula, Palo Alto Food Closet, Hotel de Zink Rotating Church Shelter, Breaking Bread Hot Meals, Clara-Mateo Alliance Shelter, and Elsa Segovia Center.
- **St. Anthony’s Padua Dining Room**
Serves hundreds of hot meals six days a week to people in need who walk through the doors. St. Anthony’s, funded entirely by voluntary contributions, is the largest dining room for the needy between San Francisco and San Jose. It also offers emergency food and clothing assistance.
- **Second Harvest Food Bank**
The largest collector and distributor of food on the Peninsula, Second Harvest Food Bank distributed 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 and services to more than 3,100 homeless people and children each year. Offers five programs for families and individuals to become self-sufficient and return to permanent housing.
- **Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition**
Provides educational programs for youth and adults to help teens make healthy choices that will result in lower rates of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Its “Teen Talk” program last year served 3,650 youth at 23 public school sites in the county.
- **Youth and Family Enrichment Services**
Provides over 20 programs to help people who struggle with substance abuse, domestic violence, mental health, relationship and communications issues. The mission of YFES is to strengthen communities by empowering youth, families, and individuals to overcome challenges through counseling, education, and residential services.

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The foundations and companies named below provide major matching grants to the Holiday Fund.

 Community Foundation Silicon Valley

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peninsula
community foundation

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation



Rotary Club of Menlo Park

For more information about the Peninsula Community Foundation go to www.pcf.org. The Almanac will make every effort to publish donor names for donations received before Dec. 31, 2006, unless the donor checks the anonymous box. All donations will be acknowledged by mail.

GRANDMOTHER

continued from page 15

EHP is also collecting clothes and toys and other giveaways through mid-December. "Bring it here, clean and in good condition," says Ms. Butler.

And if there is demand, EHP may stay open after 5 p.m. to accommodate people. Ms. Butler says, "Need doesn't work from 9 to 5."

Grim childhood

Ms. Butler knows what her clients are going through; she's been there, and often worse.

Born on a farm in Arkansas to an abusive father, Nevada began picking cotton when she was 5. "It was terrible, terrible," she recalls. "We were slaves."

Later she went to live with her uncle and aunt. She no longer picked cotton; she picked peas and field corn, and fed pigs, and milked cows. And when a cow got lost in the woods, Nevada remembers, "We couldn't come home until we found her."

By 1973, Nevada had made her way, via Bakersfield, to East Palo Alto. She had married an abusive husband, and run away with her three children.

For most of the 1970s, Ms. Butler was a community worker for the Red Cross, based on Middlefield Road in North Fair Oaks. By 1979, she was service center coordinator, and had joined the board of a fledgling nonprofit in East Palo Alto called Emergency Hunger Program.

In 1981, Ms. Butler took the job of executive director at EHP, and it has grown ever since. Her children still live in the Bay Area, and have given her grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

For Supervisor Jacobs Gibson, EHP is a wonderful operation, and Ms. Butler deserves full credit. She admires Ms. Butler's "tenacity, and total commitment to the community and its people in need."

Bob Cool, longtime owner of the restaurant, Late for the Train, and a member of the EHP board for 18 years, admires the positive way Ms. Butler deals with desperate people. "She helps people redeem their dignity," he says. "They feel it's OK to ask for help. Instead of feeling ashamed, they come away with a sense of empowerment."

"That's a really amazing woman."

Ms. Butler has won numerous awards over the years for her work with the needy, including a Golden Acorn Award from the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce and a Tall Trees Award from Palo Alto. She was elected to the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame in 1989, and served one term on the Palo Alto City Council starting in



Photo by Carien Veldpape

Older girls make decorations for the Santa Claus Shop at the Ecumenical Hunger Program, where kids will see Santa and do fun things while their families wait for Christmas baskets. The cabin was donated by Sunset magazine and fixed up by volunteers.



Photo by Kainaz Amaria

Shelton, a foster kid graduating into the adult world, shoots hoops with a social worker at Daybreak, a shelter for homeless and troubled teens in Redwood City. Daybreak is a program of Youth and Family Enrichment Services, which benefits from donations to the Almanac's Holiday Fund.

1990.

"Nevada has been the breath of life for EHP," says board president Judy Kincaid. "Her spirit and faith and charity have completely formed the organization, and the way it is there for client families."

The board remains committed to the vision Ms. Butler has created, said Ms. Kincaid: "Caring for families in need with care and compassion. We want to continue that philosophy and mission."

A board subcommittee is looking for a successor through Craigslist and "any way that's free," Ms. Kincaid says. So far there are 10 applicants.

EHP is planning a Nevada Butler Garden at EHP headquarters.



The Ecumenical Hunger Program benefits from the Almanac's Holiday Fund. Its address is 2411 Pulgas Ave., East Palo Alto, CA 94011. For more information, call Nevada Butler or Maleah Choi at 323-7811; or go to ehpcare.org.



Named bricks start at \$150 for a single brick with four lines, \$250 for a double brick and eight lines of text, Ms. Kincaid says.

Meanwhile, Ms. Butler hasn't really planned her future. She plans to keep volunteering and hopes to stay in East Palo Alto — if she can afford it. "I love this community. The people here are my family," she says. "I've loved every moment of it." ■



The Almanac/Marjorie Mader

Valerie Brown, left, executive director of the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition, and health educator Leah Chalofsky use this "Wheel of Choices" game as a visual aid when they bring "Teen Talk," to students at local middle and high schools.

Teens ask tough questions

They get straight answers from Teen Coalition educators

By Marjorie Mader

Almanac Staff Writer

Today's teens ask some tough questions.

Should they agree to have sex to please someone they care about? Can a girl become pregnant if she has sex only once? Can a person get AIDS by kissing? Do birth control pills prevent sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)?

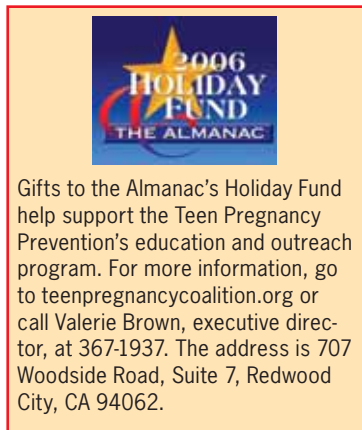
"For young people who do not or cannot turn to their parents or teachers for answers, there's the professional health educators of the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition of San Mateo County," said Nancy Mangini, coalition board chair.

They bring "Teen Talk," the coalition's comprehensive sexuality education program, to some 3,000 young people each year in 23 schools in San Mateo County.

Working in collaboration with the schools, health educators present "Teen Talk," a series of eight to 10 sessions, to freshmen in science classes at high schools, including Menlo-Atherton, Sequoia and Woodside, and to eighth-graders in Redwood City the Ravenswood City School District, and other schools, mainly in South San Mateo County.

"I think our program is really in touch with the realities of today's teenagers and gives them the information they need to make healthy choices," said Valerie Brown, the coalition's new executive director.

"Teen Talk" provides students information on preventing teen pregnancy, HIV infections and sexually transmitted diseases. It teaches them communication



Gifts to the Almanac's Holiday Fund help support the Teen Pregnancy Prevention's education and outreach program. For more information, go to teenpregnancycoalition.org or call Valerie Brown, executive director, at 367-1937. The address is 707 Woodside Road, Suite 7, Redwood City, CA 94062.

and decision-making skills in peer pressure situations, helping them clarify values and make healthy choices.

Ms. Brown knows the territory. She came to the coalition last August after managing for the last four years the University of California, San Francisco's New Generation Health Center for high-risk youth. The center focuses on pregnancy prevention and delivers information and services to more than 10,000 young people.

"It was a great opportunity to have the experience of working every day with teenagers," said Ms. Brown during an interview in the coalition's office off Woodside Road in Redwood City.

Ms. Brown received a master's degree in social work from Arizona State University and has 10 years of experience in social service management in the areas of teen pregnancy, HIV/AIDS and STD prevention.

"Valerie comes to the coalition during a time of transition when the organization moves into its teen or adolescent years," said

Ms. Mangini.

Cheri Livingston, the coalition's executive director since 1997, worked to establish the coalition's reputation for highly valued service to youth of San Mateo County.

The challenge now, said Ms. Mangini, is working toward financial sustainability by actively pursuing partnerships with local school districts and broadening the donor-support base.

The coalition operates its programs for teens and adults on a \$300,000 annual budget. The cost per student of providing "Teen Talk" is \$100. Most of the funds come from private foundations and individuals.

The coalition receives no funding from the federal government, which spends millions of dollars annually on "abstinence-only" programs.

In California, public schools are required to offer a broader "comprehensive sexuality education program."

Besides offering "Teen Talk" and "Teen Parent Panels," the coalition sponsors "Plain Talk," a workshop designed to help parents learn effective communication skills. The coalition also offers a teacher-training program in human sexuality education through San Francisco State University.

"While we have a strong program and the teen birth rate has declined in the county during the past 10 years, we can't be complacent. There's always a new crop of teenagers that are becoming sexually active," said Ms. Brown. ■

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Council approves 33 Willow Road homes

■ Units estimated to sell for \$1 million to \$2 million.

By **Rory Brown**
Almanac Staff Writer

Despite opposition from neighbors, a proposal to build 33 detached three- and four-bedroom homes in Menlo Park's Linfield Oaks neighborhood was approved 3-2 by the Menlo Park City Council on Nov. 14.

Council members Lee Duboc, Nicholas Jellins and Mickie Winkler supported the project, and council members Andy Cohen and Kelly Fergusson — although they commended the quality of the project — voted against it.

The proposal includes the demolition of a 40,000-square-foot office building at 75 Willow Road, next to the Sunset magazine campus, to make way for building the homes on the 4.5-acre site.

The homes range from 1,700 square feet to 2,400 square feet, and will sell for an estimated \$1 million to \$2 million, said Elaine Breeze, a senior vice president and managing director of



the Palo Alto-based Summer Hill Homes, which proposed the project.

Opposition

Residents of the Linfield Oaks neighborhood spoke against the project at the council meeting, arguing the 75 Willow Road proposal is one of several projects planned for the neighborhood that will cumulatively increase traffic and overburden schools.

A 56-home project for 110 and 175 Linfield Drive was approved in March, and a proposal to convert office space at 321 Middlefield Road to medical offices is scheduled to go before the council Nov. 28.

Building 37 homes at 8 Home-wood Place has also been discussed, but there is not an official project proposal.

"The residents did not ask

for this project, or any of the five development projects planned for Linfield Oaks," said Frank Carney, a Linfield Oaks resident.

The project requires a general plan amendment and rezoning, but some speakers said those actions show the city is working without a comprehensive plan.

"This is piecemeal development," said Stu Soffer, a former planning commissioner. "The cumulative effects of the five projects are totally ignored. ... It's time to have some planning in Menlo Park."

Council members Cohen and Fergusson cited neighborhood opposition in voting against the project.

Housing need

Mayor Jellins said the project will give the city much-needed housing, and noted that although the office building has been vacant only several months, the site was targeted for potential housing about five years ago.

"There is a need to add housing statewide," he said. "Our larger

community is served by the further development of this site."

Five of the homes will be below-market-rate units.

The city will receive a one-time payment of \$1.06 million from Summer Hill Homes to

compensate for the project's lack of a park. The Menlo Park City School District will receive \$112,000 a year in taxes and bond funds associated with the project, and the developer will pay the district a one-time payment of \$100,000, according to a city staff report. ■

General Motors still set on Menlo Park auto mall

By **Rory Brown**
Almanac Staff Writer

Although an auto mall proposed by General Motors for an east Menlo Park site may still be 18 to 24 months away from being built, the automaker is still set on moving forward with the project.

The city and GM have hammered out the details of a sales tax-sharing agreement that would evenly split sales tax revenue from GM auto sales between the city and the automaker if the auto mall is built.

The City Council is scheduled to consider the agreement at its

Nov. 28 meeting. GM representatives have said the tax-sharing arrangement is necessary if the auto mall plans are to move forward.

GM is finalizing a deal to buy 22 acres of the Tyco Electronics plant at the intersection of Bayfront Expressway and Willow Road to build the auto mall.

Under GM's initial plan, 8.5 acres would be allotted for GM dealerships, and non-GM dealerships or other retail uses would fill the remaining 13.5 acres. If all goes according to plan, the GM dealerships could be up and running in 18 to 24 months, according to Jim Gentry, a GM spokesman.

The sales tax agreement is proposed to last 15 years, or until GM receives \$10 million.

GM estimates first-year sales tax revenue from its dealerships at \$1.5 million, meaning the city would get \$750,000.

The company is requesting the agreement to offset the high cost of the land, estimated to be more than \$20 million, according to a staff report by David Johnson, the city's business development manager.

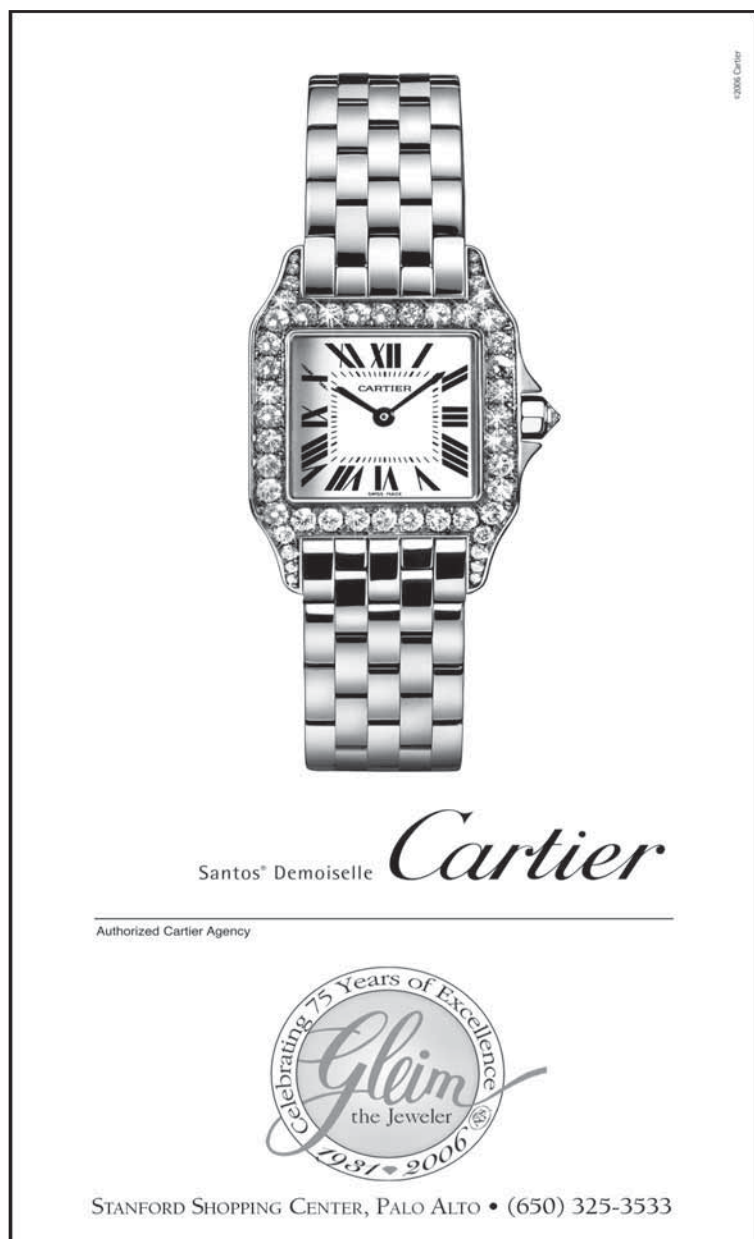
Constructing the auto mall and other site improvements could total an additional \$20 million, Mr. Johnson said.

GM has also pointed to the cost of ongoing environmental cleanup at the site and the risk of building an auto mall at a site with no adjacent retail, as reasons for the sales tax agreement, Mr. Johnson said.

Sales tax sharing agreements between cities and auto dealerships are currently used in Morgan Hill, Pittsburg and Redlands, Mr. Johnson said in the report.

Over the estimated 40-year life of the project, net revenues for the city are estimated at a minimum of \$38 million, according to Mr. Johnson.

The city would not share tax revenue from non-GM dealerships or other retail uses built at the site. ■



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Woodside OKs rules to protect its woods

By Andrea Gemmet

Almanac Staff Writer

Woodsman, spare that tree! After untold hours of debate, the town of Woodside finally will have an ordinance to protect its namesake trees.

Although there is general agreement on the Woodside Town Council that the town needs a clear set of rules governing tree removal and protecting significant trees, council members have been wrangling with the town's Conservation and Environmental Health Committee over the proposed ordinance's details.

At the Nov. 14 council meeting, the resolute committee members finally convinced the council to see things their way, and their favored version of the ordinance passed 7-0.

The ordinance singles out 14 native tree species for special protection, and imposes stiff fines on scofflaws who remove or kill trees without permits.

Most of the dispute boiled down to the definition of a "significant tree."

Dead, dangerous, and non-native trees such as eucalyptus may be removed with little fuss, but property owners are going to need a darn good reason for wanting to remove a healthy "significant" tree. The ordinance, which won't go into effect for another two months, makes exceptions for thinning trees, fire safety or tree removal associated with a building or grading permit.

Town staff, Mayor Deborah Gor-

don and Councilman Pete Sinclair supported the "one-size-fits-all" version of the ordinance, with any tree measuring 30 inches in circumference at chest height becoming a "significant tree." They said it would be easier to enforce and easier for people to understand.

But conservation committee members lobbied hard to create a separate category for some slow-growing native trees such as the blue oak, which would become significant when they achieved 24 inches in circumference. Committee member Stephanie MacDonald argued that the health of Woodside's ecosystem would benefit by protecting native species when they are reproductively active. She used herself to illustrate the concept.

"I'm reaching my reproductively latent period. Do you only want to protect species like me, or to preserve reproductively active 20-year-olds?" Ms. McDonald asked, as council members burst out laughing. "It doesn't make sense."

Ms. MacDonald showed samples of Web pages that could help residents identify protected native tree species and provide one-stop information shopping for residents seeking a tree removal permit.

"We don't have people clear-cutting smaller trees," said Mr. Sinclair. "We're fixing a problem that doesn't exist."

Mr. Sinclair argued that residents couldn't be expected to identify various tree species and would have to hire experts to do it for them.

Committee member Debbie Mendelson took issue with Mr. Sinclair's reasoning.

"I'm not cutting down a tree on

my property if it's dead," she said. "I'm hiring a tree company with professionals whose job it is to know what kind of tree it is."

Rob Flint said the council needed to give up the idea that the value of

'The values represented by trees here monumentally outweigh the relatively small additional difficulty.'

COUNCILMAN RON ROMINES

a tree is dependent on its size. "It's dependent on the species," he said.

"Woodside has the best trees on the Peninsula, and the point of the ordinance is to keep it that way," Mr. Flint said.

Committee members argued that their version was less onerous, because it singles out only 14 native

tree species for protection at smaller circumferences—half at 24 inches and half at 30 inches—and sets a larger circumference of 36 inches for all other "significant" trees.

Apparently, once council members agreed that blue oak trees needed to be singled out for protection at a smaller circumference, momentum shifted in favor of the conservation committee's point of view.

Councilman Dave Tanner, a landscape contractor, said that if the town could protect blue oaks, it could protect other species as well.

"Each tree is not the same as every other tree," Mr. Tanner said. "It's like separating out short people from tall people."

Mr. Sinclair pointed out that he and Mayor Gordon, who made up the council subcommittee, and conservation committee members agreed on 99 percent of the ordinance, and had brought only a small area of dispute before the council.

"The values represented by trees here monumentally outweigh the relatively small additional difficulty," said Councilman Ron Romines.

The council must vote again next month to adopt the ordinance, which would then take effect 30 days later. ■

■ INFORMATION

Key points in Woodside's new tree protection ordinance:

- "Tree destruction" permits will be required for all tree removal.
 - The size of a significant tree varies, from a 24-inch circumference for seven slow-growing native species, 30-inch circumference for seven faster growing natives, and 36-inch circumference for other trees.
- For information about the new tree protection ordinance, call 851-6790 or go online at WoodsideTown.org. Click on "Town Government" and then on "Town Council" and call up the agenda for the Nov. 14 meeting.

Woodside, county settle over back property taxes

By Andrea Gemmet

Almanac Staff Writer

The town of Woodside has agreed to drop its claim against San Mateo County in exchange for a \$1.2 million settlement check.

Woodside, Portola Valley and two other cities belatedly discovered that the county wasn't giving them the minimum amount of property tax revenues they were entitled to under a 1988 law. Rather than pursue a lawsuit against the county, the Woodside Town Council opted to take the cash settlement, which was

approved on a 7-0 vote in a closed session meeting on Nov. 14.

Woodside, Portola Valley, Half Moon Bay and Colma somehow managed to overlook a 1988 state law that guarantees the towns a 7 percent share of property tax revenues from their jurisdictions. Last year, Woodside received a \$1.1 million check from the county controller's office for money owed for the past two years, plus interest.

Woodside now expects to see an extra \$500,000 a year flow into its coffers as a result of the corrected payment formula.

However, that left open the issue of property tax money Woodside

was owed dating all the way back to 1988. County officials contended that they had closed the account books on past years, and there would be no more money forthcoming. The four towns then threatened legal action.

The agreement releases San Mateo County from all further claims to the unpaid property tax revenues, said Woodside Town Attorney Jean Savaree.

The Portola Valley Town Council also approved the settlement with the county at its Nov. 8 meeting, and will receive a little over \$900,000 as a result. ■

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The Almanac



No. 1

Menlo School girls volleyball team shows off its trophy after defeating No. 1 seed Harbor in three games in the Central Coast Section Division IV championship match on Saturday at Independence High in San Jose.

Photo by Keith Peters

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CSS PLAYOFFS

continued from page 12

2 Menlo (9-2) saw its magical season terminated on a two-point conversion in overtime as the Knights were edged by No. 7 Willow Glen, 39-38 in an opening-round game Saturday in Atherton.

The Knights, who were hit by injuries all season, were without team Offensive Most Valuable Player Leon Ivery (foot) and Defensive MVP junior linebacker Nate Coggins. Ivery sat out the last two games of the year after gaining 1,190 yards rushing for the season.

In an anticipated high-scoring affair on Saturday, Menlo led only 7-3 at the half. But, the two schools picked up the pace considerably in the second half by combining for 67 points and 550 yards of offense.

The finals two minutes of regulation were for the ages. After Willow Glen seized a 24-21 lead with 2:03 to play, Menlo answered with a one-yard scoring run from junior running back Jack Mosbacher with 54 seconds remaining and a 28-24 advantage.

Yet, the lead was short-lived.

Willow Glen quickly found the end zone in 26 seconds via a 63-yard touchdown pass to retake the

lead at 31-28 with 28 seconds left. With its wide-open, high-powered offense, Menlo quickly drove downfield with time running out to the Rams' 16-yard line to set up a game-tying 33-yard field goal from senior Anthony Bouvier.

His kick with 2.2 seconds remaining tied the game at 31-31 and sent the game into overtime.

After Menlo scored on its first possession of overtime on a 10-yard pass from senior quarterback Andrew Dixon to senior receiver Ricky Hawkins to hold a 38-31 lead, Willow Glen responded with a one-yard touchdown on a quarterback sneak on fourth down and succeeded on a risky two-point conversion to end Menlo's season.

"I'm extremely proud of our players and their ability to stick together through adversity all year," said Menlo coach Mark Newton. "Saturday was an exciting high school football game."

Menlo loses senior playmakers Dixon (2,740 yards passing), Bouvier (51 receptions for 879 yards), Hawkins (a CCS-leading 73 catches for 1,317 yards) and Ivery (1,190 rushing yards) to graduation.

Craig Wentz of the Palo Alto Weekly contributed to this report.



Photo by Keith Peters

Menlo rocks

Members of the Menlo School girls' water polo team show off their third straight CCS trophy after capturing the CCS Division II title on Saturday with an 8-7 overtime victory over Sacred Heart Prep.

Holiday Gift Guide

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Holiday Events

Community Events

Holiday Boutique at Sacred Heart
Nov. 30-Dec. 2, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Free.
Sacred Heart Prep, 150 Valparaiso Ave.,
Atherton. Call 322-1866. www.shschools.
org/shp/

Kara Candlelight Service In memory
of loved ones who have died. Interfaith
Service of Remembrance includes music
ends with a communal candle-lighting.
Dec. 7, 7-8:30 p.m. Unity Palo Alto Com-
munity Church, 3391 Middlefield Road,
Palo Alto. www.kara-grief.org

Santa Arrives by Helicopter Dec.
2, 10 a.m. Christmas Carols by the
community band and a chance to tell
Santa your wish list. Sat., Dec. 2, 9:30
a.m.-noon. The helicopter arrival and
Santa is free to the public. \$9 adult/\$6
youth admission to gallery. Hiller Aviation
Museum, 601 Skyway Road, San Carlos.
Call 654-0200. www.hiller.org

Concerts

California Bach Society Concert
Charpentier's Messe de Minuit pour
Noel; traditional melodies by Buxtehude,
Hassler, Praetorius, Scheidt and others.
Holiday reception following. Dec. 2, 8
p.m. General \$25/senior \$18/student \$10.
All Saints Episcopal Church, 555 Waverly
St., Palo Alto. Call (415) 262-0272. www.
calbach.org

Children's Christmas Concert
Featuring children's choirs, Bell Choir,
and the adult Chancel Choir presenting
choral songs and Christmas carols. Free
admission. Childcare provided for ages
3-36 months. Dec. 3, 6 p.m. Menlo Park
Presbyterian Church, 950 Santa Cruz
Ave., Menlo Park. Call 321-7136. www.
mppc.org

**Peninsula Symphony: A Holiday
Celebration** The Peninsula Symphony
and the Stanford Symphonic Chorus
present a festival of music. Dvorak, Mass,
Op. 86; Handel, excerpts from The Mes-
siah. Dec. 1, 8 p.m.; Dec. 3, 1:30 p.m.
\$20. Stanford Memorial Church, 450
Serra Mall, Palo Alto. www.peninsulasym-
phony.org

**Thanksgiving Weekend Quartet
Concert** Nov. 26, 2 p.m. The Ross-
moyné Quartet will perform the Haydn
"Fifths" Quartet; Beethoven's "Holy Song
of Thanksgiving"; Dvorak Quartet No. 14.
Free admission, donations accepted. Kol
Emeth Main Sanctuary, 4175 Manuela
Ave., Palo Alto. Call 941-6887.

Dance

"The Nutcracker" Presented by
Western Ballet. Featuring choreography
by Gonzalo Espinoza, with students of
the School of Western Ballet and guest
artists Katherine Wells, Travis Walker,
Ramon Moreno and Olivier Munoz. Dec.
8, 7 p.m.; Dec. 9-10, 1 and 6 p.m. Adults
\$23/children/seniors \$18. Mountain View
Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Cas-
tro St., Mountain View. Call 903-6000.
www.mvcpa.com

**Ballet America's "The Nutcrack-
er"** Fri., Dec. 1, 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Tickets available through ticketweb.
com and the Fox box office 369-4119.
\$16-\$37. Fox Theatre, 275A Linden St.,
Redwood City. Call 366-1222. www.
americanballet.com

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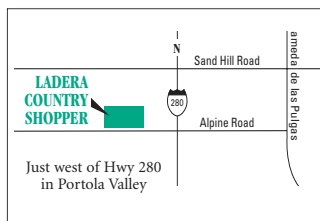
UPS Store - toys for tots with Karen Fryling and Rebecca Johnson
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Holiday Events

Family and Kids

Story Time "Elves and the Shoemaker" Sun., Nov. 26, 11:30 a.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 324-4321. www.keplers.com

On Stage

"Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge" A parody by satirist Christopher Durang. Wednesdays-Sundays, through Dec. 16, 8-10 p.m. \$22-\$32 Bus Barn Theater, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. Call 941-0551. www.busbarn.org

Special Events

Farmhouse Christmas Tea Lunches Nov. 30, Dec. 1-3 and Dec. 7-10, noon. A hot meal including appetizer, entree choice and Yuletide dessert with a Christmas Blend Tea. Guests age 12 and up. Reservations required. \$40 pre-paid. Yerba Buena Nursery, 19500 Skyline Blvd., Woodside. Call 851-1668. www.yerbabuenanursery.com

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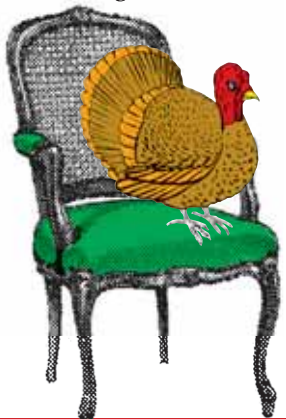
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LORIS "LARRY" FERRARI,
AT REST IN MENLO PARK
NOVEMBER 14, 2006



Born in 1924 in Italy. Owner of Ferma Corporation with his three brothers for the past 45 years, working until the time of his death. Preceded in death by his loving wife Laura. He died peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family. He is survived by his son Don Ferrari and wife Julie, and their children Marc, his wife Meegan, Donna and Brian of Menlo Park and his daughter Anna Raber and her husband Dan and their children Christopher, Jonathan and Patrick of El Macero, and great granddaughter Laura Ferrari. Vigil services and funeral Mass were held at St. Raymond Catholic Church, 1100 Santa Cruz Avenue, Menlo Park. Private burial, Holy Cross Cemetery, Menlo Park. Arrangements under the directions of the Menlo Park Chapel of Spangler Mortuaries. Contributions are preferred to Pathways Hospice.

PAID OBITUARY

■ OBITUARIES

Harmon Burns

Part owner of SF Giants

Harmon E. "Buzz" Burns, vice chairman of Franklin Resources Inc., a global investment management company headquartered in San Mateo, and part owner of the San Francisco Giants, died of heart failure Nov. 8 at his home in Atherton. He was 61.

Mr. Burns was a member of the original ownership group organized in 1992 to prevent the Giants from moving to Florida.

When others left the group, he acquired their interest and later became owner of the single largest stake in the team.

Growing up and playing all sports contributed to Mr. Burns' love of professional sports. His involvement with the Giants fulfilled a boyhood dream, say family members.

Mr. Burns was born in Hartford, Connecticut, and traveled the world with his parents, Air Force Brigadier General Harmon E. and Judith Burns. He earned a degree in business administration at George Washington University in 1969.

For two years he worked at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission before moving to California.

His wife, Sue, joked that his reason for moving to the West was so that he could watch Giants legend Willie Mays, also of Atherton, play, say family members.

He joined Franklin Resources in 1973 when it acquired Winfield & Co., where Mr. Burns was assistant secretary.

While running the legal compliance department at Franklin, Mr. Burns put himself through law school. Later he was named chief operating officer in charge of all administration and operations.

Throughout his career with Franklin, he held many positions, including chief operating officer in charge of all administration and operations, and secretary and vice president. In 1991, Mr. Burns was elected to the board of directors.

Beside his wife, Susan of Atherton, Mr. Burns' survivors include his daughters, Trina and Tori.

A funeral Mass was held Nov. 13 at St. Pius Church in Redwood City. The family prefers memorials to the Giants Community Fund or the St. Pius Building Fund.

Charles 'Stuart' McPherson

Member of first Woodside Planning Commission

The life of Charles "Stuart" McPherson of Sonoma will be remembered by friends and family at a gathering in the Golden Gate Room at Fort Mason in San Francisco on Dec. 15. He died at his home Nov. 5 after a battle with cancer. He was 82.

Mr. McPherson was born in San Francisco and attended UC Berkeley. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps, where he became a first lieutenant. He was a navigator of B-24 missions over Europe from his base in Norwich, England. After the war, he graduated from UC Santa Barbara.

During his business career, he focused on many phases of real estate on the Midpeninsula, including sales, development, management, finance and invest-

ment, say family members.

He lived with his wife, Barbara, and their three children in the newly established town of Woodside, where he was a member of the first planning commission and organized the local Boy Scouts.

In later years, he had a second family of two more children with his wife, Jan, in Saratoga and La Selva Beach.

He had a passion for travel and adventure and spent much time in Koloa, Kauai, where he owned a condominium. While there in 1991, he married his longtime friend, Karen. They eventually moved to Sonoma in 2003 to be near family.

Mr. McPherson is survived by his wife, Karen, of Sonoma; daughters Libby Mann of Woodside and Sandra Manilla of San Francisco; sons Stuart of Alamo, Cory of Sonoma, and Steven of Wheaton, Illinois; stepson Brady Berg of San Francisco; twin sister Bonnie Stafford of Woodside; and nine grandchildren.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the Sonoma Valley Hospital or Valley of the Moon Hospice.

Ellis M. Kirkham

Lifelong member, Mormon Church

Services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 25, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1105 Valparaiso Ave. in Menlo Park, for Ellis M. Kirkham.

Ms. Kirkham died Nov. 9 at the age of 96. Although a longtime resident of San Francisco, she lived for long periods at the home of her daughter, Judy Stillman, of Portola Valley.

Ms. Kirkham was born in Salt Lake City, Utah. She attended Mills College and received her bachelor's degree from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

In 1929, she married Francis Robison Kirkham in the Salt Lake Temple. Mr. Kirkham was a former partner in the law firm, Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro, and general counselor to Stanford Oil Co. (Chevron) of California.

Ms. Kirkham is survived by her four children, James F. "Kirk" Kirkham of San Francisco, Ellis Elizabeth "Judy" K. Stillman of Portola Valley, Katherine K. Movius (a former teacher at Phillips Brooks School) of San Francisco, and Eugene R. Kirkham of St. Helena; 13 grandchildren; and 26 great-grandchildren. Her husband of 67 years, Francis R.



McPherson



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See OBITUARIES, next page

■ POLICE CALLS

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

ATHERTON

Fraud reports:

- Possible online auction fraud as items received were not what was ordered, first block of Almedra Avenue, Nov. 2.
- Resident revealed identification information in response to fraudulent e-mail and later informed credit bureau, first block of Fredrick Avenue, Nov. 7.

Burglary report: Someone broke into cottage at rear of vacant house under construction and may have been staying there since Oct. 5, 200 block of Atherton Avenue, Nov. 6.

MENLO PARK

Grand theft reports:

- Laptop computer stolen from office, 1300 block of O'Brien Drive, Nov. 8.
- Laptop computer stolen, 1000 block of El Camino Real, Nov. 12.

■ Jewelry stolen, 800 block of Cambridge Avenue, Nov. 12.

Stolen vehicle reports:

- Silver 4-door 1988 Toyota Camry, 700 block of Ivy Drive, Nov. 11.
- Silver 1999 Chevrolet pickup, 1100 block of Carlton Avenue, Nov. 13.
- Windermere Avenue at Newbridge Street, Nov. 16.

Auto burglary reports:

- Papers stolen, 1200 block of Willow Road, Nov. 2.
- Stereo stolen, 400 block of Willow Road, Nov. 3.
- Stereo stolen, 400 block of Market Place, Nov. 16.

Burglary reports:

- Man charged with shoplifting liquor

had fight with store employee and was arrested, 1000 block of University Drive, Nov. 3.

■ Several rolls of copper wire stolen, 100 block of Jefferson Drive, Nov. 9.

■ Window smashed and jewelry stolen, 700 block of Laurel Drive, Nov. 9.

■ Home broken into, 700 block of Pierce Road, Nov. 16.

Terrorist threat report: Boy, 13, brought knife to Willow Oaks School, 600 block of Willow Road, Nov. 2.

Assault with deadly weapon report: Two people stabbed, 1400 block of Plumas Avenue, Nov. 17.

Domestic disturbance reports:

■ Spouses fighting, 800 block of Coleman Avenue, Nov. 2.

■ Spouses fighting and both arrested, 1100 block of Willow Drive, Nov. 8.

■ Arrest made, 700 block of Coleman Avenue, Nov. 15.

Battery reports:

■ Man assaulted by fellow employee at business, 100 block of Constitution Drive, Nov. 7.

Fraud reports:

- Identity theft, Nov. 14.
- Item over the Internet but payment never received, 200 block of Oakhurst Place, Nov. 14.
- Unauthorized charges made on credit card, 700 block of Laurel Street, Nov. 16.

WOODSIDE

Burglary report: About 45 bottles of wine and/or champagne valued at \$3,000 stolen from wine cellar after forced entry, 100 block Farm Road, Nov. 9.

Theft reports:

- Mobile phone stolen from unlocked locker at Woodside High School, 100 block of Churchill Avenue, Nov. 2.
- Bicycle stolen from driveway, 100 block Goya Road, Nov. 11.

■ WEDDING

Austin-Bower

Bernadette Austin and Michael Bower were married Sept. 9 at the Lucie Stern Center in Palo Alto in a ceremony that contained Filipino traditions and Irish readings in a nod to the bride's heritage.

During the reception, the Hiyas dance troupe of Silicon Valley entertained guests with traditional dances from the Philippines. One of the Filipino highlights of the buffet supper was the *lechon*, or pig roasted over an open fire. Instead of a traditional wedding cake, the couple chose to have a tiered chocolate fondue fountain.

The bride, who grew up in



Bernadette Austin and Michael Bower

Woodside, is the daughter of Pearlusia Gamboa and Rocky Austin. She graduated from Nativity School, Woodside Priory, and St. Mary's College in Moraga. She is employed at California Capital, a financial development corporation.

The bridegroom is the son of Peggy and John Bower of Gualala. He is a graduate of Woodside Priory and St. Mary's College. He is employed as a teaching assistant in the department of evolution and ecology at UC Davis.

Both the bride and bridegroom graduated from the Priory in the class of 1998. He was valedictorian, she was salutatorian. They are both pursuing master's degrees at UC Davis.

After a honeymoon in Hawaii, the couple is living in Davis.

Two stabbing victims in critical condition

Two victims of a Nov. 16 multiple stabbing in Menlo Park remained in critical condition early this week at a local hospital.

One male and one female, whom police have declined to identify, were found lying on the sidewalk in the 1400 block of Plumas Avenue at about 6:35 p.m.

"Each was stabbed six or seven times, mostly in the torso," said police Sgt. Sharon Kaufman, who arrived on the scene minutes after police were called.

"We believe the assault was preceded by an argument," said Sgt. Jim Simpson. "We have leads and are following them up

at this time."

The victims underwent surgery; both were able to identify themselves and next of kin for the hospital to notify, police said.

Police investigators are asking anyone with information about the incident to call the department's detective unit at 330-6345.

OBITUARIES

continued from previous page

"Czar" Kirkham, died in 1996. Evening visitation will be held at Roller Hapgood & Tinny Funeral Home, 980 Middlefield Road in Palo Alto, from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 24. Burial will take place in Lehi, Utah.

The family prefers donations to a favorite charity.

Patricia Berry

Cytotechnologist

Patricia F. Berry, a resident of Menlo Park since 1965, died Nov. 10 at the age of 79.

Ms. Berry was born in Michigan. She was employed as a cytotechnologist (one who studies and evaluates cells) by Stanford University Medical Center for 28 years, retiring in 1992.

She is survived by her daughter, Susan F. Berry of Menlo Park. Her husband, Rex Berry, died in 1999. Private family services have been held.



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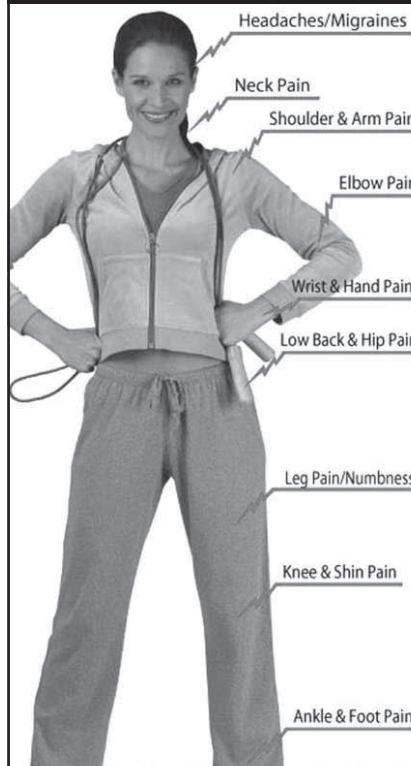
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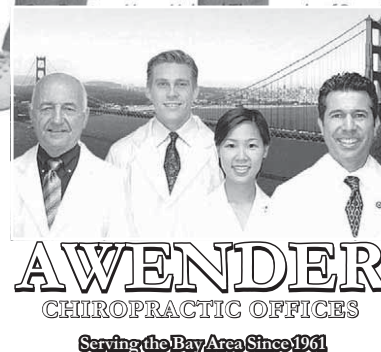
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The Almanac, established in September, 1965, is delivered each week to residents of Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside and adjacent unincorporated areas of southern San Mateo County. The Almanac is qualified by decree of the Superior Court of San Mateo County to publish public notices of a governmental and legal nature, as stated in Decree No. 147530, issued November 9, 1969. Voluntary subscriptions are available for delivery to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside at \$30 per year or \$50 for 2 years. Subscriptions by businesses or residents outside the area are \$50 for one year and \$80 for two years.



WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

All views must include a home address and contact phone number. Published letters will also appear on the Almanac Web site, www.AlmanacNews.com, and occasionally on the Almanac's Town Square forum.

TOWN SQUARE FORUM

POST your views on the Town Square forum at www.AlmanacNews.com

EMAIL your views to letters@AlmanacNews.com. Indicate if it is a letter to be published.

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

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

Give locally with the Holiday Fund

For many families, life in Silicon Valley means good jobs, good schools and a warm home to return to every night. But for too many local residents, that rosy scenario does not apply. They may be down on their luck and often are forced to seek help from the small safety net of local nonprofit agencies that offer food, shelter and other assistance to those in need.

These people are our neighbors who may have been laid off unexpectedly, who might have had a catastrophic illness, or who suffer from addiction or mental health problems. They deserve our help.

One of the best ways for Almanac readers to pitch in is by contributing to the Holiday Fund, which provides grants to 10 local nonprofit agencies. These are organizations that can offer a family a temporary home, arrange health care, or provide counseling to bring an end to the substance abuse that can cripple families and young children.

Last year, through the Holiday Fund, the Almanac and its partners — the Rotary Club of Menlo Park, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation — raised more than \$150,000 for 10 local agencies. More than \$100,000 of the contributions came from Almanac readers, and the remaining \$50,000 from the foundations. Each nonprofit organization received just over \$15,000.

This is the 14th year that the Almanac has supported the Holiday Fund Drive. Over the last 13 years, Almanac readers and the supporting foundations have contributed more than \$2.3 million to local social service agencies. More than half, \$1.32 million, came from Almanac readers, and the rest from generous individuals and foundations.

This year the Silicon Valley Community Foundation will hold and distribute the money, taking over for the Peninsula Community Foundation (which merged with the Community Foundation Silicon Valley earlier this year). No administrative costs or fees are deducted from Holiday Fund gifts, so 100 percent of all donations will be received by the nonprofit agencies.

Here are the agencies supported by the Holiday Fund this year:

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula

Provides after-school academic support and activities for 2,600 young people, 6 to 18, at clubhouses in Menlo Park's Belle Haven neighborhood, East Palo Alto and Redwood City, and offers programs at Flood and Belle Haven schools in Menlo Park and McNair School in East Palo Alto.

LETTERS

Our readers write

Signal needed at Menlo, University Drive

Editor:

It happened again! About 5:15 p.m. on Nov. 13, I saw a pedestrian hit by a car as she attempted to cross the street at the corner of Menlo Avenue and University Drive.

How many more people will be injured or killed before we deal with the safety and traffic issues at this corner?

Two years ago, the present council decided to reposition the crosswalks and stop signs. Poles equipped with orange crossing flags were also added. According to a report in the Almanac in

See **LETTERS**, next page

Ecumenical Hunger Program

Provides emergency food, clothing, household essentials, and sometimes financial assistance to families in need, regardless of religious preference, including Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for more than 2,000 households.

Family Connections

Provides free pre-school programs for children from low-income families in Belle Haven, parts of Redwood City and East Palo Alto. Parents must be involved in the education program, which operates on the Belle Haven School campus and the Clara-Mateo (InnVision) Homeless Shelter in Menlo Park Monday through Saturday mornings.

Ravenswood Family Health Center

Provides primary medical 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 16,500 registered patients, most are low income and uninsured from the ethnically diverse East Palo Alto, Belle Haven and North Fair Oaks area.

InnVision Peninsula Programs

Works with homeless and at-risk families and individuals to reach self-sufficient living. Services reach 6,000 via Opportunity Center of the Midpeninsula, Palo Alto Food Closet, Hotel de Zink Rotating Church Shelter, Breaking Bread Hot Meals, Clara-Mateo Alliance Homeless Shelter, and Elsa Segovia Center.

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room

Serves hundreds of hot meals six days a week to people in need who walk through the doors. St. Anthony's, funded entirely by voluntary contributions, is the largest dining room for the needy between San Francisco and San Jose. It also offers emergency food and clothing assistance.

Second Harvest Food Bank

The largest collector and distributor of food on the Peninsula, Second Harvest Food Bank distributed 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

See **EDITORIAL**, next page



Jac Audiffred

Our Regional Heritage

This two-room Woodside Elementary School building opened in 1910 at 3195 Woodside Road. It remained there until the 1960s, when it was destroyed to make room for a new administration building and library. Currently, the school is in the midst of a major rebuilding project, which will include 14 new classrooms, a band room, computer lab, administration building and community room, at a cost of \$12 million.

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

September 2004, the cost for a new traffic light was estimated to be "\$162,000 as opposed to \$6,500 for the stop sign and new striping."

This is one issue that needs to be revisited. Perhaps, when our new council is seated, we can find the money to avert injury, save lives, and improve the traffic flow at this dangerous intersection.

Amy Klein
Yale Road, Menlo Park

Urgently in need of a post office

Editor:

When are we going to get our post office back in Portola Valley?

The people that I talk to say maybe three months or not at all. We have had a post office here for over 50 years. Please get the powers-that-be going on another post office.

Willis Knapp
Corte Madera Road,
Portola Valley

The power to pardon a turkey

Editor:

This Thanksgiving, President Bush will pardon a turkey as a promotional gimmick for the turkey industry. This Thanksgiving, each of us has the same power to pardon a turkey, but as an act of kindness, compassion, and giving thanks for life, health, and happiness.

The 300 million turkeys abused and slaughtered in the U.S. each year have nothing to give thanks for. They breathe the toxic fumes in crowded sheds. Their beaks and toes are severed. At the slaughterhouse, workers cut their throats, and dump them into boiling water, sometimes still conscious.

The turkeys do get their revenge. Their flesh is laced with cholesterol and saturated fats that elevate the risk of heart disease, stroke, and cancer. Careful adherence to government warning labels is required to avoid food poisoning.

This Thanksgiving, I won't be reading the warning labels or calling the Poultry Hot Line. I won't be staying awake at night wondering how that turkey lived and died. I will be joining millions of other Americans in observing this joyful family holiday with nonviolent delicious products of the harvest: vegetables, fruits, and grains.

My holiday meal may include a mock "turkey" made from soy, lentil or nut roast, stuffed squash, corn chowder or chestnut soup, candied yams, cranberry sauce, pumpkin or pecan pie, and carrot cake. An Internet search on vegetarian Thanksgiving will provide more mail-order items and recipes than I'll ever need.

Malcolm Davidson
Encinal Avenue, Menlo Park

Woodside's almost famous country club

By Gordon I. Ratliff

For a fleeting moment in the Roaring 1920s, Woodside almost had its own top-quality golf course, designed by the famous Dr. Alister MacKenzie and draped over the picturesque hills of Portola Valley.

We know this due to the work of the late Dorothy Regnery, the Portola Valley town historian who did extensive research and kept excellent files on the course, which was launched in 1926 but failed long before it was completed due to the 1929 stock market crash.

The cache of recently discovered files reveals the mystery of the Woodside Country Club. What a surprise to find a MacKenzie golf course in the heart of Portola Valley (and also on the San Andreas Fault).

Needless to say, I was stunned recently when I opened the sales brochure while doing research at Stanford Library and saw the layout of a golf course with the caption, "I pledge the members of Woodside a course perhaps not the greatest in the West, but certainly one of the three outstanding courses of the Pacific Coast. To it I will devote more of my personal attention than I have given to the construction of any course within recent years, not even excepting Cypress Point." So said Dr. Alister MacKenzie, master designer of golf courses.

The country club would have been impressive. It was to have all the amenities you would expect. A nine-hole putting green was tucked in neatly near the clubhouse. There was room for stables and saddle horses, picnic grounds and flower gardens, kennels and tennis courts, and finally, a swimming pool and a bathhouse.

Alister was eloquent in his description. "When we turn to the Woodside Country Club we walk beneath nature's oldest living contribution to the loveliness of the outdoors. The redwood is as lovely as it is rare. Groves of this matchless tree are yours in perpetuity through membership in the Woodside Country Club."

The Woodside Country Club was established in 1926, when A. Roy Lyon, a San Francisco businessman, and other investors purchased 400 acres from Clarence (Dade) S. Crary, a Burlingame banker and Stanford graduate. The land had been the estate of Edwin R. Dimond, an internationally known sportsman. His residence was remodeled and became the clubhouse.

The price was \$237,500, and the intent of the new owners was to sell 400 lots for \$2,500 each. Mr. Crary had purchased the land for \$85,000 a year earlier as an investment. One of the conditions of the sale was that the trails would be maintained. Mr. Crary arranged the financing and borrowed money from his



Charles Crary saw his dreams of a Woodside Country Club vanish when the stock market crashed in 1929.

brother Charles, a local banker. The brothers received lots of their choice and became charter members. Stanford University leased 30 acres to the club with the stipulation that it be used for a golf course.

In 1926, the investors submitted papers to incorporate. Mr. Lyon was president. The charter members list read like a Who's Who of the Bay Area. Almon E. Roth, Stanford comptroller, Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, president of Stanford, and L. B. Zapoleon, a Stanford economist, were charter members. Leland W. Cutler, a Stanford trustee, "Sunny Jim" Rolph, mayor of San Francisco, and E. R. Dimond were members.

The Redwood City Standard of Dec. 15, 1927, announced that Robert Hunter and Dr. Alister MacKenzie had been chosen to design and build a golf course, which would be 6,400 yards long. The contract was for \$90,000, but the course never got past some preliminary grading because of the 1929 stock market crash.

The crash was the most significant factor in the failure of the club. Some of the lots were combined into three or four acres in an effort to sell them. Another downside could have been the lack of drinking water. The California Water Service Company did not provide service until later. On Nov. 11, 1930, a drawing was prepared for the layout of the irrigation system. This would indicate that there was an ongoing effort to keep the club alive.

Each member received a book, which describes the organization and membership requirements and included a list of charter members. Five hundred copies were printed as a special edition. The pictures of the clubhouse are excellent. An aerial view drawn by the Nahl Art Studio in San Francisco illustrated

the various features of the property. To the north was Searsville Lake, and on the south was the Family Farm, a country retreat. Portola Valley Road ran through the property, with the golf course site on the east (Searsville Lake) side and home sites on the west up to Skyline Boulevard along what is now Old La Honda Road. The country club is west of Jasper Ridge and the site where SLAC now sits.

Mrs. A. H. Audiffred, a member of the club, gave her son Jac her book, No. 200. He is an honorary Woodside fire chief and continues to live in Woodside.

One unique feature of the "club to be" was a swimming pool designed by Haig Patigian, an internationally known sculptor from San Francisco. He did the bust of General Pershing that was unveiled in Golden Gate Park in 1922, and was president of the Bohemian Club from 1920 to 1922. The pool was shaped like a cloverleaf and had a beautiful nymph statue on the edge. A dragon was painted on the floor of the pool. Eleanor Crary, daughter of Charles, remembers swimming in the pool, although the water was a bit cold.

When the club failed, the land reverted to Clarence Crary and Stanford University. Clarence lost everything and went to work for the WPA. He died in 1933. Charles Crary was given the upper portion of the land. The rest went to a Los Angeles banker.

The golf course was laid out directly over the San Andreas Fault zone. The east side is moving north and the west is going south. In 1906, the land in Portola Valley moved 8 feet horizontally and 3 feet vertically. Sausal Creek is on the fault zone and was most likely a fissure from the 1906 quake. Four holes were laid out across it. A quake today would move the area about 6 feet.

This was not the first effort to build a golf course in Woodside at the same location south of Searsville Lake. The Woodside Golf and Country Club filed papers of incorporation on May 31, 1910. In March a letter from W. N. Drown of Drown, Leicester & Drown of San Francisco was sent to the Stanford board of trustees requesting permission to use Searsville Lake for boating and swimming. Almon Roth was present at the trustees meeting in 1910. He most likely provided the link to 1926.

Gordon I. Ratliff lives in Los Altos and is a golf historian.



This rustic sign pointed the way to the country club, which briefly served meals in its rustic dining room, but never saw a round of golf played.

EDITORIAL

continued from previous page

agencies and distribution sites in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

Shelter Network

Provides short-term shelter and transitional housing and services to more than 3,100 homeless families and children each year. Offers five

programs for clients to become self-sufficient and return to permanent housing.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition

Provides educational programs for youth and adults to help teens make healthy choices that will result in lower rates of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Its "Teen Talk" program last year served 3,650 youth at 23 public school sites in the county.

Youth and Family Enrichment Services

Provides over 20 programs to help people who struggle with substance abuse, domestic violence, mental health, relationship and communications issues. The mission of YFES is to strengthen communities by empowering youth, families, and individuals to overcome challenges through counseling, education, and residential services.

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- Woodside Elementary Schoo **\$5,495,000**



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Located an easy stroll from Roberts and Woodside Elementary, this exquisite estate home provides the perfect setting for holiday entertaining or family get-togethers.



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\$5,250,000



Woodside Landmark
5 acres, listed at \$12,900,000



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