

**BICYCLIST**, run over by truck, is up and around. She wants to start a 'bicyclists against drunken driving' group. Page 8

# The Almanac

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

JANUARY 24, 2007

www.AlmanacNews.com | VOL. 42 NO. 21

## Standing TALL

*With the help of  
7-foot-1 center Greg Somogyi,  
Woodside Priory School's  
basketball team is suddenly  
a force to be reckoned with*

[See Page 12]



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### ATHERTON

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# Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

## FIRST SHOT



The Almanac/David Boyce

### Hollowed halls

In the foreground stands the shattered remains of the multipurpose room, once part of Portola Valley School and later used as the town's community hall. In the distance rises the shed roof and wooden framing of a one-story maintenance building — the first new building of the new Town Center complex.

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### On the cover

Woodside Priory School's basketball team warms up before a recent game against Harker School in San Jose. The Panthers are 13-3, including a perfect 6-0 in league play, and are set for a much-anticipated showdown with rival Sacred Heart Prep on Jan. 30. Photo by Marjan Sadoughi. See **Page 12**.

### CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

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**THE ALMANAC** (ISSN 1097-3095 and USPS 459370) is published every Wednesday by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-4455. Periodicals Postage Paid at Menlo Park, CA and at additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation for San Mateo County, the Almanac is delivered free to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside. Voluntary subscriptions for \$30 per year or \$50 per 2 years are welcome from residents of the above circulation area. Subscription rates for businesses and for residents of other communities is \$50 per year and \$80 for two years. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Almanac, P.O. Box 7008, Menlo Park, CA 94026-7008. Copyright ©2006 by Embarcadero Publishing Co., All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

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# ROBERTS

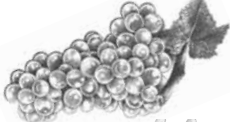
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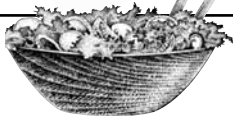
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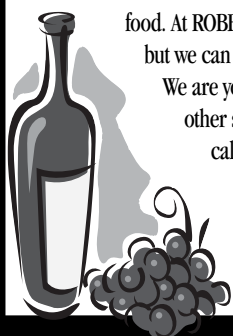
## Which Wine With What Food?

Pairing wine with food can pose a challenge. When attempting to do so, try to remember to place more emphasis on the wine's weight and structure than its flavor. For instance, it is best to match wines with high alcohol and tannin content with strong foods. Conversely, try pairing delicate wines with more delicate dishes. When foods with rich, creamy cheese sauces are on the menu, reach for such high-acid wines as Sauvignon Blanc or Muscadet. For fatty foods, choose wines that are high in tannins because their astringent character cuts through the fat. Also, remember that foods such as artichokes and asparagus contain compounds that trick the taste buds into perceiving flavors that may not actually be present.

There is usually a specific variety of wine to go with a particular food. By matching the wine with the food in question correctly it improves the experience of both the wine and the food. At ROBERTS MARKET, not only can we help you find wine to go with any meal, but we can help you get the freshest ingredients for the meal itself. It's our pleasure.

We are your source for specialty foods including Indian, Asian, European, and other specialties. If you have questions regarding wine, food, or flowers please call or stop by!

*Hint: Artichokes contain the chemical compound known as cynarin, which imparts a sweet flavor where none exists, and asparagus contains methyl mercaptan, which is a sulfur compound that imparts wine with a vegetal flavor.*



## DELI

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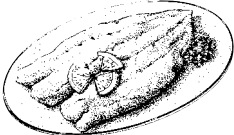
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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AThERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

## Council upholds appeal to keep antique urns in neighborhood

■ Test of new law may show council's deference to Lindenwood neighborhood.

By David Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

### ■ AThERTON

A pair of antique plant-filled urns are likely to stay in Atherton's historic Lindenwood neighborhood now that the City Council has upheld an appeal to prevent their departure. The decision could indicate a council trend of interpreting a recently enacted artifact preservation law in deference to residents' opinions rather than the Planning Commission and state and national guidelines.

The five-member council, on a 4-1 vote with Councilman Charles Marsala dissenting, denied the request of residents Randy and Lisa Lamb to take with them two antique urns from their Lindenwood property at 51 Laburnam Road when they move to their new home, also in Atherton but two and a half miles away on Park Lane.

The cast-iron urns, about 5 feet tall on their pedestals, date from at least 1937 and were part of the estate of Silver King James C. Flood, who lived in the area more or less defined by the walls of the Lindenwood neighborhood, now

home to some 76 parcels, said Deputy Town Planner Lisa Costa Sanders in a staff report.

The staff report recommended allowing the Lambs to take the urns and the Planning Commission had approved a permit to move them, as is permitted under the new law as long as the artifacts are well maintained, entered in the town's artifact inventory, and stay within town boundaries.

But a group of Lindenwood neighbors appealed the commission's decision to the council, which can reverse a ruling if it "makes a finding" to justify a different opinion, said City Attorney Marc Hynes.

Mr. Hynes, who is preparing the findings, told the Almanac he expects to include "half a dozen" that justify the council's decision, including their historical value and relevance to the Flood estate.

Who owns the urns? "They won't belong to the town," Mr. Hynes told the council. "All we're saying is that they can't be moved."

Randy Lamb told the Almanac

that he and his wife own them, having spent \$5,000 each to repair them, with one "rotted out on the inside" and the other found on the ground in three pieces. They're not in the front yard because they're small enough to be emptied and stolen, he said.

Marion Oster, head of the Atherton Heritage Foundation, said the urns had also been restored by a previous owner, a Ms. Thompson, after a gardener hit one and knocked it over.

Mayor Alan Carlson offered to compensate the Lambs for the urns, but his colleagues on the council did not second his motion.

Councilman Charles Marsala said in an e-mail that he took the Lambs' side because of the town's use of "eminent domain statutes to take possessions."

Asked to comment on the proceedings, Mr. Lamb replied: "We are appalled at the way the town's overly qualified (archeology consultant) was treated." Asked about possible legal action, he said they are evaluating their options.

Councilman Janz, who is also an attorney, said the council's

See URNS, page 8



Photo courtesy of the town of Atherton

This urn is one of two at the center of a dispute over Atherton's new artifact preservation law and the property rights surrounding movable objects of historic value.

## Changes at Allied Arts: Restaurant, Traditional Shop to close

■ Auxiliary in talks with professional restaurateur to open new eatery at the historic complex.

By Renee Batti  
Almanac News Editor

While area residents are reminiscing about sweet times gone by at the Allied Arts Guild restaurant in light of its pending closure, the Guild's nonprofit owners are "very close" to reaching an agreement with another restaurateur to do business in the same spot — a move they say is a critical step forward into Allied Arts' future.

The Woodside-Atherton Auxiliary, which owns Allied Arts, announced last week that it is not renewing the lease of the Guild's restaurant, operated by volunteers with the nonprofit Palo Alto Auxiliary.

It is also closing the Traditional Shop, staffed by its own

volunteers.

Jean Coblentz, president of the Woodside-Atherton Auxiliary, said both existing businesses will be replaced by enterprises that will generate more business for Allied Arts, which donates all proceeds to the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford.

She said there are no other tenant changes planned for the sprawling, historic complex of recently renovated buildings and gardens, located at 75 Arbor Road in Menlo Park. Those tenants include small, for-profit shops and artists' studios; revenue from their leases benefits the children's hospital.

The Guild also rents space for special events.

By bringing in a professional restaurateur, the Woodside-Atherton Auxiliary plans to expand the food operation at the Guild to include a small-scale breakfast and coffee service as well as catering services for conferences and special events, Ms. Coblentz said. But in keeping with the terms of the auxiliary's use permit for the complex, the new restaurant won't be serving dinner.

One goal of the change, she said, is to attract more nonprofit groups and corporations to the Guild for conferences and retreats.

### Long history of service

The existing restaurant, which has operated at Allied Arts since 1932, serves only lunch — and will continue doing so until it closes its doors on Feb. 28, the organization's

**The Almanac's Jane Knoerle remembers the heyday of the Allied Arts restaurant and her time as a volunteer at the Traditional Shop. Page 23**

leaders say.

In a statement issued last week, members of the Palo Alto Auxiliary said the group had been "prepared to continue providing the lunch and special events service it has offered for 75 years, in spite of reduced restaurant walk-in traffic resulting from a variety of factors affecting the site."

"The group will now consider other hospital support options, including marketing their popular cookbook, food product sales, and hosting special events, such as the American Girl Fashion Show and Tea, at various local venues."

Over the 75 years the auxiliary has operated its restaurant, it has donated more than \$4 million to the children's hospital, "and in excess of 10,000 women have volunteered their time to cook and serve hundreds of thousands of meals," according to the statement.

"PAA's proud legacy is (its) many contributions which have funded benefits for children at the hospital since 1932," the auxiliary said.

Pam Page of the Palo Alto Auxiliary told the Almanac that her mother had worked countless hours as a restaurant volunteer many years ago. After Ms. Page moved back to the area from Chicago several years ago, she followed in her mother's footsteps as a restaurant volunteer. That tradition

See ALLIED, page 8

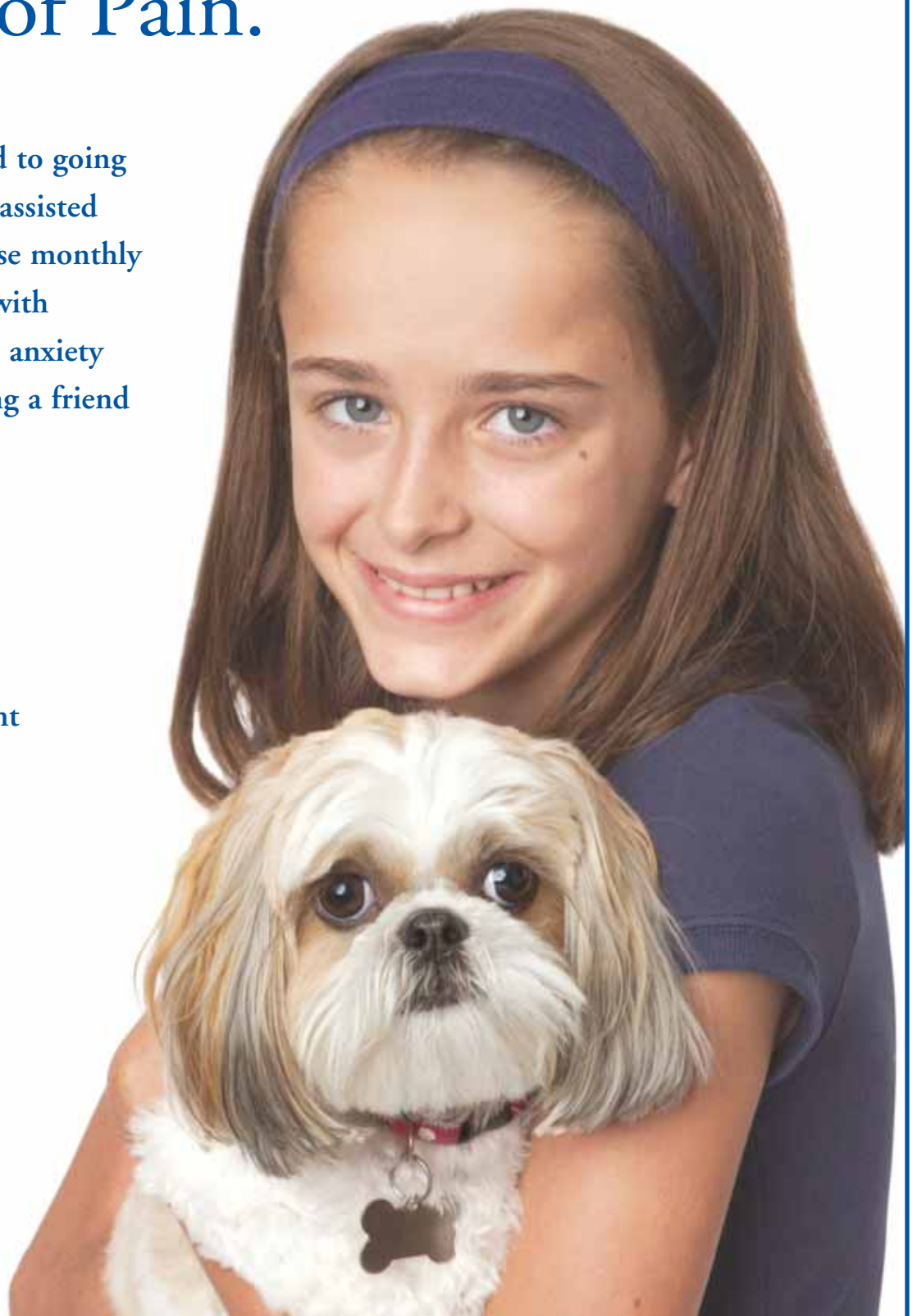


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# Robert E. Wallace: pioneered study of earthquake geology at USGS

By Marion Softky  
Almanac Staff Writer

## OBITUARY

The public face of Dr. Robert E. Wallace was standing with Dan Rather, on top of a van, in front of the collapsed Cypress Freeway in Oakland, explaining to the world on the CBS Evening News what had happened in the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

Dr. Wallace, a longtime resident of Portola Valley, earned that place through 50 years with the U.S. Geological Survey, where he pioneered the study of earthquake geology and hazards along the San Andreas Fault and around the world.

"Bob was one of the pioneers of earthquake science," says geophysicist Bill Ellsworth of the Earthquake Hazards Team at the USGS in Menlo Park.

Dr. Wallace died Jan. 8 of kidney failure in Reno, where he and his wife Trudy moved in 1998. He was 90.

Bob Wallace was born in New York City, raised in New Jersey, and received his bachelor's degree from Northwestern University.

He first studied the San Andreas fault for his doctor's thesis at the California Institute of Technology. He mapped the fault near Palm-dale, camping out, playing his violin for the coyotes, and eating cold canned beef stew, he reported in an oral history, "Earthquakes, Minerals and Me," published in 1999 and available on the USGS Web site: [quake.usgs.gov](http://quake.usgs.gov).

That study showed the fault had slipped 75 miles — a startling conclusion at the time.

After getting his doctorate, Dr. Wallace joined the USGS, and spent most of World War II in Alaska looking for minerals, including uranium. During this period, he met and married Trudy, his wife, companion, and best friend for 60 years. She died in 2005.

After teaching at Washington College for four years after the war, Dr. Wallace rejoined the USGS in 1951, and moved to its new Menlo Park office in 1956. There he helped create the Office of Earthquake Studies and build it into one of the world's top earthquake centers. He was its first chief scientist.

During more than 40 years with the USGS in Menlo Park, Dr. Wallace studied the geology of earthquakes and their hazards in California and around the world. He discovered a stream descending from the Carrizo Plain in Southern California that moved 30 feet sideways across the fault during a big earthquake in 1857, when the Pacific Plate of the earth's crust jerked northwest 30 feet. It is



Robert E. Wallace was 'Mr. Earthquake anywhere, the final word,' says geophysicist Sheldon Breiner.

named Wallace Creek.

As one of the world's leading experts on earthquakes, Dr. Wallace has traveled to Turkey, Japan, the Soviet Union, the Philippines, the Middle East, and China.

"Tracking earthquakes along the Great Wall of China" was the title of a 1985 Almanac article describing how a team of American and Chinese scientists learned about modern earthquakes by studying breaks and landforms caused by ancient earthquakes. "We coined the term paleo-seismology," Dr. Wallace said then. "They are really fossil earthquakes."

### Portola Valley

Dr. Wallace was one of the geologists living in Portola Valley who became concerned when they realized the middle school sat on the San Andreas fault, and children were at risk in an earthquake.

Dr. Wallace was so concerned — his son Alan attended Portola Valley School — he even ran for the school board.

Eventually the school closed, and became Town Center for almost 30 years. Now the buildings are being torn down to make way for a new Town Center — off the fault.

Thoroughly aware of the hazards the fault posed to their communities, Portola Valley and Woodside established a joint Geologic Haz-

ards Committee in the 1960s. Members included noted geologists Bob Wallace, Ben Page and Earl Pampeyan.

After incorporating in 1964, and spurred by its geologists, Portola Valley became a leader in planning to accommodate building to geologic hazards such as earthquakes and landslides. It prepared geologic maps of the fault and town, and passed regulations controlling building in risky areas.

While Dr. Wallace served on several of these committees, he acted more as a "steady guiding hand," who remained in the background, says George Mader, who has been town planner since incorporation. "He's always been there to answer questions and support actions."

Sheldon Breiner, longtime resident and chairman of the town's geologic safety committee, also saw Dr. Wallace as the go-to man for questions of geology. "He was the Mr. Earthquake anywhere, the final word," he says. "He was the one guy you went to for opinions."

Dr. Wallace was also a Renaissance man. Friends remember him as an avid bird watcher, ham radio operator, and amateur astronomer. His watercolor landscape paintings won numerous awards. "He did his own Christmas cards," recalls fellow geologist Chet Wrucke of Portola Valley.

Over 42 years with the USGS in Menlo Park, Dr. Wallace published over 100 papers and a book. He also garnered numerous awards from major geologic, engineering and seismic organizations. He officially "retired" in 1987, but continued working for USGS for 11 more years before moving to Reno, where son Alan Wallace is a geologist with the USGS.

Dr. Wallace is survived by his sister, Harriet Wallace of Savoy, Illinois, and his son, Alan Wallace of Reno.

As a career tribute, the USGS in 2000 dedicated the Robert E. Wallace Earthquake Center in Building 3A on its Menlo Park campus. At its dedication, Dr. Wallace said this would serve as his memorial, instead of a memorial service after his death. ■

## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



### Median Price vs. Average Price

**Q: What is a difference between the median price and the average price when looking at real estate sales statistics?**

**A:** This is the time of year when you will see lots of statistical analyses for the previous year's sales activity. Some charts show the median price for all homes sold and other charts show the average price for the same sales. A significant change in either statistic is often interpreted as a change in the price of an individual property. These statistics do not indicate how much appreciation or depreciation has taken place.

The median price is the point midway between the least expensive and most expensive home sold in an area during a given period of time. Fluctuations measure changes in market activity. If more buyers are buying more expensive homes than there are buyers buying less expensive homes, the median price rises. This can show a certain strength in the economy

because more buyers can buy at the higher end, but this doesn't tell you what has happened to the price of your own home.

The average price is the sum of all home sale prices divided by the number of sales. This number can be skewed if there is an abnormally high or low sale or sales occurred during the period.

To understand the value of your own property you should consult with an experienced realtor to look at sales statistics for properties that were exactly comparable to yours. Sometimes important information is not yet reflected in the statistics and a realtor who is active in the market every day can tell you what the attitude of the market is at the moment. Are buyers holding back and waiting or are they actively engaged? Are sellers holding back or is there more inventory on the market than is likely to sell quickly? Median and average price statistics won't give you this information. Only your realtor can tell you this.

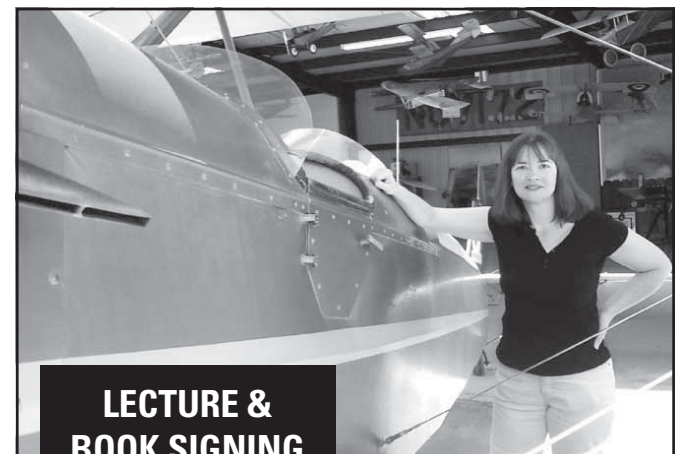
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# Menlo Park cyclist, run over by truck, is up and around

■ Experience may launch bicycle-oriented crusade against drunken driving.

By David Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

You've heard of MADD, Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Menlo Park resident and mother of three MaryAnn Levenson, for the moment using a walker and crutches to get around her house, has every right to have MADD on her mind after being the victim in a horrific accident Dec. 23 on Sand Hill Road that allegedly involved drinking and driving.

But Ms. Levenson is also a bicycle racer. The accident occurred while she was returning home after a training ride, so as she enters her fourth week of an expected eight-week recovery period, she's been thinking of starting BADD — Bicyclists Against Drunk Driving.

"When I get better, I don't know who I need to meet with but I want to do something about drunk driving," she told the Almanac. Her three boys ride their bikes to school "and now it scares the heck out of me."

She has taught bicycle safety at Menlo Park's Oak Knoll School and is planning to return there and relate an object lesson. "I can't wait to get back to school and show them my helmet," she said.

Ms. Levenson, 48, is up and around, though her jaw is still wired and she's not allowed to chew, she said. She can have soft mushy food, an improvement over the broth regimen she's been on. She had lost about 10 pounds but has turned around the weight loss and regained two, she said. "I can't wait to have a salad," she added.

Has she had any ice cream? "A little," she replied. "I'm a dietitian, so I'm a little neurotic when it comes to calories. ... Food is no longer a pleasure. It is medicinal. I'm taking it in to

keep my strength."

On Dec. 23 at about 3:40 p.m., she was riding her racing bicycle home in the bike lane after a training ride when she was struck by a pickup truck driven by Hillsborough resident Walter Sorensen, 76, and dragged for some 35 feet, according to a Menlo Park police report. Police arrested Mr. Sorensen at the scene on charges of felony drunken driving.

Ms. Levenson managed to roll away when the truck jumped a curb but the truck also drove over her abdomen, witnesses told her husband, physician Scott Levenson. Among her extensive injuries were a fractured pelvis, broken vertebrae, a shattered larynx, and extensive damage to one of her feet, part of which had to be reattached, he said.

Someone in a sports utility vehicle blocked Mr. Sorensen from leaving the scene, Mr. Levenson said he was told by witnesses.

Ms. Levenson's next bike ride will be on a stationary one, graduating to a racing bike after she buys a new one, which she plans to shop for in the company of her coach.

Is she in daily physical pain? Ms. Levenson said that, remarkably, only her jaw and tail bone are bothering her. "For what I went through, the pain is not bad," she said. "The pain I have is in just sitting around."

Her recuperation is giving her time to catch up on reading nutrition journals. ■

## ■ INFORMATION

To follow MaryAnn Levenson's progress, go to [caringbridge.org/visit/maryannlevenson](http://caringbridge.org/visit/maryannlevenson) and click on "Read Journal."



*Her three boys ride their bikes to school 'and now it scares the*

*heck out of me,' says MaryAnn Levenson*



The Almanac/Marjan Sadoughi

Early diners have lunch in the Allied Arts restaurant last Friday, courtesy of Palo Alto Auxiliary volunteers.

## Allied Arts restaurant, shop will close

ALLIED

continued from page 5

will end soon, she noted sadly.

### Changing times

Ms. Coblentz noted that a big problem for both auxiliaries is finding volunteers with enough time on their hands to staff the restaurant and the Woodside-Atherton Auxiliary's two retail shops. The auxiliary's Artisan Shop, which sells only items

made by local artists, is doing fine, she said, but "the Traditional Shop is traditional — and no one is traditional anymore."

Also, she said, two-thirds of the Woodside-Atherton Auxiliary's newest members have regular jobs, and therefore have less time to volunteer than auxiliary members had in the past.

In order to fulfill the mission of both auxiliaries — to raise money for the children's hospital — Allied Arts Guild had to change with the times, Ms.

Coblentz said.

"You look back on 75 years, and I can't think of anything that hasn't changed," she said. "The Gap (clothing company) is in trouble because they couldn't keep up with the times.

"We are trying to be productive, and still maintain that really, really beautiful, calm setting that is Allied Arts, that is reminiscent of the past. But people need to understand that there are some things about the past that don't work today." ■

URNS

continued from page 5

decision "probably would survive a challenge."

### Whose standards?

By the time the James C. Flood estate was subdivided into the Lindenwood neighborhood in the early 1940s, significant structures such as the main house were already gone and artifacts such as urns were distributed among the new parcels, said Ms. Costa Sanders, the planner. The remnants of the estate still in their original locations include its outer walls and monumental gates, plus a few fountains and a bench or two.

While residents may see these artifacts as comprising a historic setting for the neighborhood,

Laura Jones, the consulting archeologist hired by the town to evaluate the Lambs' request, said the setting really is Atherton, in part because so little remains of the urns' original context.

While Lindenwood's boundaries closely approximate the estate's original boundaries, so much change has gone on over the years that the location of the urns — in the Lamb's yard — "didn't really meet a reasonable test for me of being in a historical setting," Ms. Jones said, adding: "You don't know you're on a historical estate. You're in somebody's backyard."

Adding to that backyard sense is Atherton's focus on artifacts rather than on a major structure such as a building. It's unusual for a preservation district not to include a major structure, she said.

Fine points like these seemed to count for little to residents in the packed council chambers who wanted the urns to stay put. Several spoke, among them Gerta Ungerman, a resident who said she lived across from the urns for 30 years — when they were in the front yard — and that she "missed them terribly."

The previous homeowner, Ms. Ungerman said, would walk her to her door after a visit, notice the urns and say: "Aren't they beautiful?"

Resident Ron Peyton acknowledged that the urns were separated from their original locations on the estate, but are still physically close to the historic Flood Circle area. "The best preservation course is to keep the artifacts on site," he said. ■



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# Boyle: Let's rethink utility tax

By Rory Brown

Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park Councilman John Boyle, the first of a growing group of residents to publicly question the need to implement the voter-approved utility tax at the maximum rates, is pushing for the council to re-evaluate the tax.

Mr. Boyle said that unexpected revenues and an improving local economy should prompt the council to consider reducing, or potentially stalling the tax, which is scheduled to hit the city's residences and businesses April 1.

The council is scheduled to discuss the issue near the end of its meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 23, at Mr. Boyle's request. The meeting starts at 7 p.m., in the council chambers at the Civic Center, between Laurel and Alma streets.

In a letter to Mayor Kelly Fergusson and the city's top staff, Mr. Boyle said the council should reconsider the need to levy the tax at the maximum rates for several reasons:

■ An unexpected \$3.7 million

## ■ MENLO PARK

Check AlmanacNews.com for news updates.

budget surplus in the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2006.

■ "Better than expected" sales tax revenues.

■ Encouraging signs from the local economy and real estate market.

"It's simply a matter of understanding how much we really need before putting this tax into effect," Mr. Boyle told the Almanac.

He noted that, if possible, the council should wait until the mid-year budget report for the current fiscal year is unveiled Feb. 6. The report will document the city's revenues and expenses from July 1 to Dec. 30.

"If we find out we're expecting a surplus instead of a deficit, [the council] may want to let [the tax] slide ... and revisit it in July," he said.

## Long-term forecast

Mayor Fergusson said she supports ongoing discussions about

the tax, but said the council needs to consider the long-term economic forecast, not just the points made by Mr. Boyle, when setting the tax rate.

"We can't micromanage [the tax]," she said. "We've got to take our best estimates of the long-term trends and go with that — not just a few observations here and there."

She noted that the council can change the tax rates at any time, and she would be open to doing so if the Feb. 6 report shows that the city's long-term economic condition is better than expected.

The council allowed the tax to go forward, with no public discussion, at the maximum rate at its Dec. 19 meeting, with Mr. Boyle urging the council to put the matter on the agenda of a future meeting.

Voters narrowly passed — by 65 votes — a two-tiered tax: up to 3.5 percent on utilities (water, gas and electric bills), and 2.5 percent on communications (landline telephone, cell phone, cable TV and Internet bills). ■

# Does Menlo Park have a deficit or a surplus?

By Rory Brown

Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park residents have been dealt a series of fee increases, program cuts and, most recently, a utility tax, to compensate for what city officials have described as a series of budget deficits — the city's revenues falling short of covering its costs.

But a recent city-issued report states that for the period from July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2006 (fiscal year 2005-06), the city not only covered its costs, but built a surplus of \$3.7 million as well.

Although many residents acknowledge that the surplus is good news, it's not what they expected to hear after supporting what city officials labeled as a much-needed tax.

"My husband and I ... were misled into voting for a [utility tax] that we understood was our

only hope ... to keep from losing true lifeline services to our city," said resident Kathleen Kruse Erpenbeck in a recent e-mail to the City Council. The e-mail was also signed by her husband, Chip Erpenbeck.

The Erpenbecks aren't alone in their criticism; others, including Councilman John Boyle, say the city's financial condition may be better than expected, and the utility tax rate needs to be re-evaluated.

## The surplus

But other council members and city officials say the surplus is likely a one-time bonus.

"Without the [utility] tax, we still have a structural deficit," said Carol Augustine, the city's finance director.

She said a large portion of the savings are due to personnel vacancies in the police and community services departments

that went unfilled for much of the year, and unexpected, one-time property tax and sales tax revenues.

"We don't have a \$3.7 million surplus — we just don't," said Councilman Heyward Robinson. "You have to look at all the funds, and you have to look at them over a number of years. ... We still have some very clear financial problems — it's not like we're seeing all the car dealerships on El Camino [Real] being refilled."

The city's short-term and long-term budget status will become more clear Feb. 6, when the council receives the mid-fiscal year budget report, Ms. Augustine promised.

She said that report will outline the city's budget for the current fiscal year, which started July 1, and will provide updated long-term financial projections for the next 10 years. ■

# Park Theatre may have an angel

By Rory Brown

Almanac Staff Writer

The Park Theatre, a Menlo Park landmark for more than 50 years, may reopen after all.

Menlo Park resident Andy Duncan has come forward with a proposal to restore the historic theater, and reopen it

as an art deco movie house or as a dance studio.

The former movie house, which was closed in 2002, is located on El Camino Real between Oak Grove and Valparaiso avenues.

Mr. Duncan, whose mother is a partial owner of the Menlo Park Academy of Dance, said he will present a "general overview"

of his plans at the beginning of the Jan. 23 City Council meeting. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. in the council chambers at the Civic Center, between Laurel and Alma streets. (Check AlmanacNews.com for news updates.)

Mr. Duncan said his plan is to "restore the theater, and then find out the most appropriate use for the building."

See THEATER, page 20

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# High cost, no state funding may doom MP school busing program

■ Trustees to pursue other options to reduce traffic congestion.

By Marjorie Mader  
Almanac Staff Writer

Any hope that yellow school buses will bring some 2,248 students to four schools in the Menlo Park City School District to ease traffic congestion has dimmed with the district board's determination that it would be highly expensive and not self-supporting.

"There's no way to create a school-operated bus program that doesn't have a financial impact on the district's operating fund," said school board President Terry Thygesen after the board's Jan. 16 meeting.

"It's pretty clear from the transportation consultant's analysis there's no silver bullet" — no state money available — to make a district transportation program break even, she said.

The cost is estimated as \$720,000 a year if the district contracted with a transportation company for the service, and

about \$850,000 if the district developed its own bus service, according to the consultant.

"There's no way that the district could get contributions from parents to foot the bill," said Ms. Thygesen.

The choice for the district is: Does it spend district money on busing or on teachers and resources in the classrooms?

But although a student transportation service appears unlikely, Ms. Thygesen said, "We haven't closed the door."

The busing option is one of several the board is reviewing to try to reduce traffic congestion and parking problems at the schools and in nearby communities. These problems are expected to increase as the district's enrollment grows through 2015.

Trustee Jeff Child suggested that the district find out what the distances are from students' homes to the schools they attend. This information, he

Trustees give go-ahead to design phase for \$5 million district recourse center. **Page 17**

said, would help determine how many students could walk or bike to school or need transportation.

State guidelines indicate that kindergartners through second-graders who live within a half-mile could walk to

*'There's no way that the district could get contributions from parents to foot the bill.'*

SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT  
TERRY THYGESEN

school. The distance increases to three-fourths mile for third- though fifth-graders, and to a mile for middle school students.

Parents Laure Laprais and Marcia Bever, PTO safety chairs at Encinal and Laurel schools,

## School starts Aug. 23

School will start Thursday, Aug. 23, for students in the Menlo Park City School District, said Superintendent Ken Ranella. Teachers and staff bargaining groups and the district have agreed on this start date, he said. The parties have not yet reached agreement on contracts and other areas of the school calendar.

respectively, biked to the board meeting. They suggested encouraging students to walk or bike to school, carpooling, and developing more safe routes to school.

Ms. Laprais, also a member of Menlo Park's Bicycle Commission, urged trustees to look at other options and the big picture. "Every neighborhood has different needs," she said.

Reg Rice, the only member of Menlo Park's Transportation Commission to attend the meeting, said he would like the district to make a presentation to the commission about the report.

Trustee Bruce Ives said the board should look at a "hybrid," or mix, of solutions and specific needs at each school site.

## Next steps

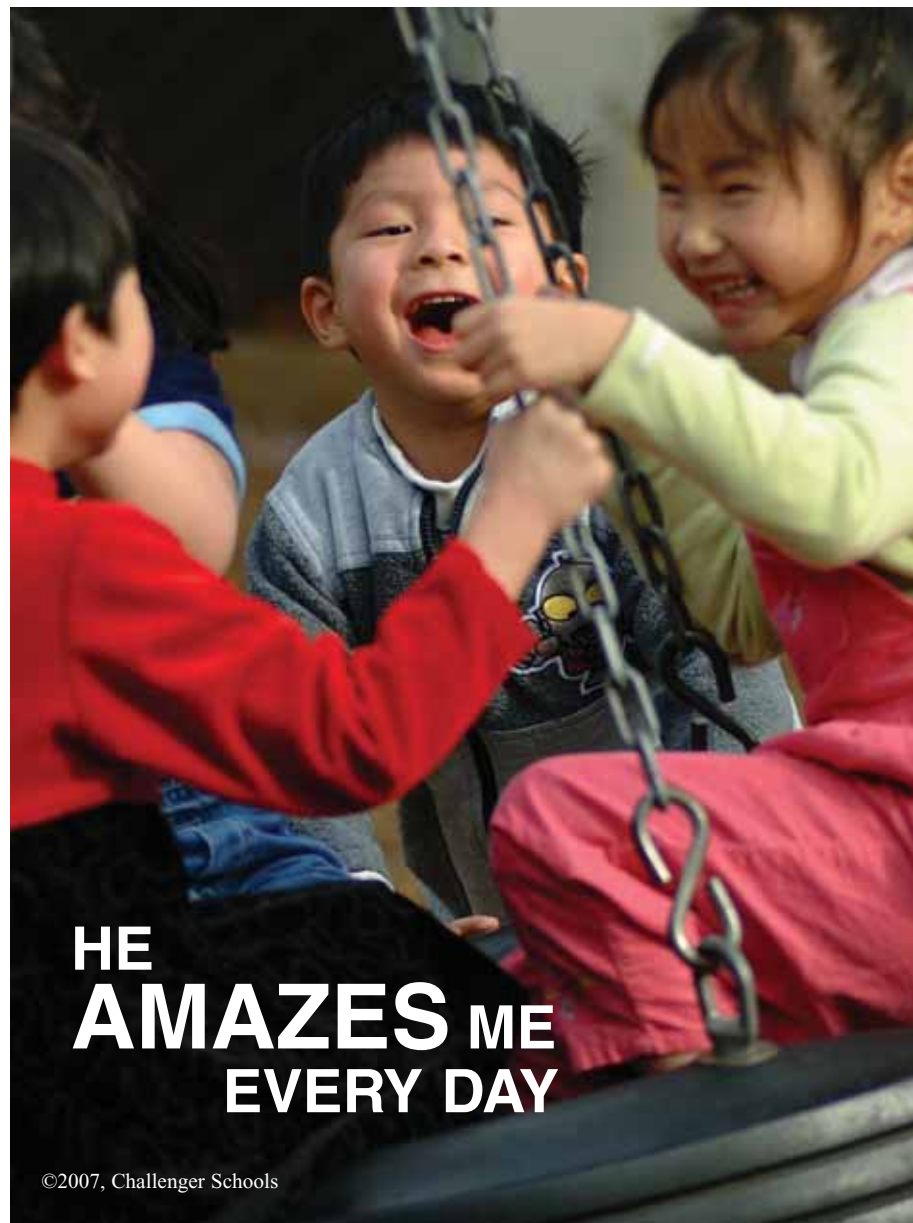
Trustees decided on a plan of action that includes meeting with Menlo Park and Atherton council members, sharing

information, and determining if there's interest in a collaborative effort to reduce the traffic congestion and parking problems near the schools.

Trustees directed Superintendent Ken Ranella to develop a transportation scenario that would be a basis for a parent survey to determine the interest in busing.

The complete transportation report may be viewed online at [www.mpcsd.org](http://www.mpcsd.org). Click on Agenda Online for the Jan. 16 meeting and bring up Feasibility Study of School Transportation Program. ■

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The Woodside Priory Panthers are 13-3, including a perfect 6-0 in league games.

#### ■ THE REMATCH

The Woodside Priory basketball team will host Sacred Heart Prep on Jan. 30. The game is scheduled to start at 6 p.m., in the Woodside Priory gym, at 302 Portola Rd. in Portola Valley.

With the help of 7-foot-1 center Greg Somogyi, Woodside Priory School's basketball team is suddenly a force to be reckoned with

When Woodside Priory School basketball player David Gamburd is asked what position he plays on the team, he's not too sure what to say.

"I don't know — I play center, I guess," said the 6-foot senior, shrugging his shoulders.

On a lot of other high school teams, Gamburd would probably be one of the taller players, and potentially fill the center position, but things are a little different at Woodside Priory.

Ahead of Gamburd on the depth chart is the colossal, 7-foot-1 Greg Somogyi, a junior exchange student from Budapest, Hungary.

With the help of Greg, and his 6-foot-5 brother, George, the K-12 Portola Valley school with just 240 high school students has put itself on the map as a bona fide contender to make a championship run.

The Panthers are 13-3 this season and a perfect 6-0 in league games, including a 45-38 win against Sacred Heart Prep that ended the Atherton school's four-year, 78-league-game winning streak.

And with their hot start, the Panthers, who won just two league games two years ago, have been labeled a top-15 Bay Area team by the San Jose Mercury News.

"It's been quite a process, changing the perception of the school to that of a competitor," said Mark Stogner, the school's nine-year athletic director.

"I was the coach several years ago, and we were the doormat of the league."

"The school has had a few good years, but historically this hasn't been a strong team," said second-year coach Al Klein, who coached Menlo School to a state title in 1983. "But I knew we had a really good team this year. ... I'm hoping we can build something here."

Far right: Players huddle during a recent practice.

Right: At 7-foot-1, center Greg Somogyi stands head and shoulders above everyone on the court — including coach Al Klein.

Below: Coach Al Klein directs players during practice. A long-time coach, Klein led Menlo School to a state title in 1983.



# Stand

By RORY BROWN / Almanac Staff Writer

Photos by MARJAN SADOUGHI /  
Almanac Staff Photographer

**'Five-man basketball'**

Of course, it doesn't hurt when you have a 17-year-old center as tall as NBA-great Kareem Abdul-Jabbar on your side.

"Greg's a very skilled player," Coach Klein said, noting that he's garnered interest from several Pac-10 and West Coast Conference colleges. "The amazing thing about Greg is that he can step outside and hit the 15-footer. He's a very good shooter."

But Klein said Greg is a part of, rather than the focus of, a game plan that puts emphasis on ball movement and teamwork.

"It's unfair to say it's Greg's team, or that it's Reggie's team," he said, also referring to Reggie Willhite, the senior swingman who leads the team in scoring. "I'm a big believer in five-man basketball. Working together makes us a better team."

Coach Klein's words rang true during a recent road victory over Redwood Christian School, based in Castro Valley. Although Willhite lead all players with 28 points, including two game-clinching free throws with three seconds left, and a breakaway dunk; and Greg added 15 points, a slew of rebounds and several monstrous blocks, it was the team's collective fundamental play that won the game.

The Panthers' crisp ball movement and gritty, physical play opened up the lanes for the slashing Willhite and drew double and triple coverage away from the towering Greg,

allowing the Panthers to erase an early 11-point deficit.

"Last year, Coach Klein changed the attitude of the team," said senior forward Alex Schreiner. "Now, we have a physical team, and we have the mindset to match that. We all understand our roles, and we all expect good things out of this team." He added that the team improved to 14-10 last year, during Klein's first season.

Greg and George credit the Panthers' success to support from the school community.

"[In the United States] basketball is this big cultural thing. ... There's this whole different atmosphere," said George. "Everything is new for us, but with students and faculty at games, we have a lot of support."

"Yes, we have a lot of support here," echoed Greg. "There is a lot of pressure on me, but others don't put it on me — I put it on myself."

**The Somogyis**

Greg and George played on a club team in Budapest before coming to Woodside Priory.

Founded as a monastery school in the 1950s by Hungarian monks, the school has consistently enrolled several Hungarian students a year, Stogner said.

"This program has been in place for a while, and it just happens that our latest exchange students in Greg and George play basketball," he said, also noting that two other exchange students — one from Japan, and the other from Korea — are also on the team. "Obviously, we're not going to get a 7-foot-1 Hungarian player every year."

Greg and George said a recent Hungarian graduate told them about the school.

George, a senior, said he plans to return to Hungary for college, but Greg said he is "99 percent" certain he'll attend a U.S. university.

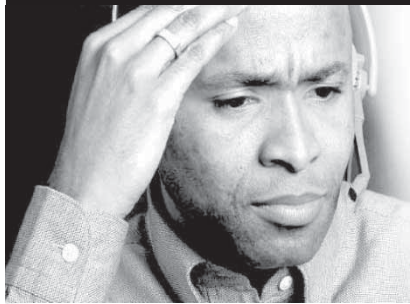
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# ling tall

**A major force** under the basket, Greg Somogyi tries to block a shot during the Panthers' victory over Harker School in San Jose.

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Despite his size, Greg Somogyi gets roughed up by opposing defenders. He was knocked to the ground in this game, against Harker School, and the next game, against Castro Valley-based Redwood Christian School.



Photo courtesy of Woodside Priory School

Reggie Willhite slashes to the basket during the Panthers' recent victory over Harker School. Willhite, a senior and team captain, is Woodside Priory's leading scorer this season.

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## Standing tall

Continued from previous page

The brothers' also have different playing styles.

Despite his size, Greg gets banged around under the basket, and was thrown to the floor during a scramble for a loose ball in the Panthers' win over Redwood Christian. George is much more aggressive, blanketing opposing players with tight defense, and picking up his fair share of fouls.

"Greg and George have been vital to our success, and they're also great guys," Schreiner said. "I guess you expect the 7-foot-1 Hungarian superstar to come in and be arrogant, but [Greg and George] are just great people."

### Sacred Heart

Although Mr. Klein and the players promise they abide by the sports cliché of "taking one game at a time," the Jan. 30 rematch with Sacred Heart is clearly on everyone's mind.

"When we beat Sacred Heart earlier this year, it was like the story of David and Goliath," Schreiner said. "It was the best moment of my basketball career, but now we have the target on our back — they want to beat us on our home court."

Gilbert Perez, Sacred Heart's first-year coach, said he's looking forward to the rematch, and his main focus will be to stop Willhite, rather than Greg.

"We're taking it one game at a time, but when we face them again, we may very well be 7-1 [in league play], and maybe they'll be 8-0, and that would make for a good match up," he said. "When we played them this season, it wasn't the 7-footer that hurt me, it was Reggie Willhite that hurt me. If anything, [Greg] opened up opportunities for [Willhite]."

"Sacred Heart is certainly the team to beat," Stogner said. "They have a rich tradition as far as athletics ... and that's the level we aspire to be at."

The Somogyi brothers have also embraced the rivalry. "Since I was on the soccer team that played Sacred Heart earlier this year, it has become a goal to beat them," said George. "We have to beat Sacred Heart." ■



The Panthers pose for a group shot during practice. Coach Al Klein and several players credit good chemistry as a major factor in the team's successful season.

# Caltrain on a roll: new officers, ambitious plans

By Marion Softky  
Almanac Staff Writer

Caltrain is entering 2007 with hopes of becoming a national model of modern rail rapid transit comparable to much-envied systems in Europe and Japan.

At its first meeting Jan. 4, the board of the three-county joint Powers Board (JPB), which runs the Peninsula commuter rail service, welcomed a new member, chose new officers, heard reports on a good year in 2006 and an ambitious program for the next 20 years called "Project 2025."

San Francisco City Treasurer Jose Cisneros is the new chair of the nine-member board. Redwood City Councilman Jim Hartnett is vice chair; he also chairs the San Mateo County Transportation Authority, which allocates money from the county's Measure A half-cent transportation sales tax.

San Jose City Councilmember Forrest Williams was sworn in

as a new member of the Caltrain JPB. A member of the board of the Valley Transportation Authority and the Capitol Corridor JPB, Mr. Williams replaces Ken Yeager, who was recently elected to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

"Caltrain is on a good roll; our on-time performance was 96 percent," JPB member Art Lloyd of Portola Valley told the Almanac. "We are considered the most improved heavy rail service in the country."

Last November, Caltrain reported an average weekday ridership over 33,000, the highest in the railroad line's 143-year history. Since the three counties bought the right-of-way and started running the trains 14 years ago, service has increased from 54 to 96 trains a day, including 22 popular Baby Bullet express trains, according to Executive Director Michael Scanlon.

"Caltrain is looking to a future in which it will be more innova-

tive, more creative, and a more significant part of our lives," said

## Project 2025

The next two years will be critical for Caltrain.

With much of its rolling stock 20 years old, the JPB must decide in the next two years what mix of new equipment it needs to electrify the railroad and carry it through 2025.

A recent report, Project 2025, presents a 20-year plan to improve the railroad and expand its service.

Project 2025 lays out two options for electrifying the railroad by 2014:

■ **EMUs:** Caltrain could replace all its rolling stock with individually powered "Electric Multiple Units," similar to those on some light rail systems. These would be faster, quieter, more flexible, more fuel-efficient, and more economical to operate — like the rail systems

that are common in Europe and Japan. Their problem is they could not be used on current rail lines that are shared with freight trains under current federal and state regulations; these would have to be changed.

■ **Electric Locomotives:** If the Caltrain team is unable to negotiate changes in federal regula-

tions, it can fall back on replacing its aging diesel locomotives with electric locomotives. These are still faster, quieter, and more efficient than current diesel-powered trains, but less so than EMUs, which can run shorter trains more often.

"We want to run lighter, self-propelled electric cars more frequently," said Mr. Lloyd. "Then we can run two-car trains every 10 minutes."

Caltrain officials are optimistic they can convince the regulators that they can run the lighter cars safely on tracks that are occasionally used by freight trains, by adjusting hours, providing modern train controls, and modifying regulations on the size of buffers.

"This could be a model for the country," Mr. Lloyd said. "But we need to get the regulations relaxed." ■



*'We are considered the most improved heavy rail service in the country.'*

BOARD MEMBER ART LLOYD

## Chimney fire extinguished on Tripp Road in Woodside

Firefighters from the Woodside Fire Protection District responded to a phone call from the homeowner at 3573 Tripp Road at about 4:40 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16, and extinguished what appeared to be a chimney fire.

There were no injuries and apparently no significant damage to the house, said Woodside Battalion Chief Dan Ghiorso, who was not present at the fire but was reading from a report.

The four-hour effort involved some 26 firefighters and six firefighting vehicles, including one from the Menlo Park Fire Protection District and two from the Redwood City Fire Department, he said.

The most difficult part was

getting firefighters safely up on the roof, where they proceeded to open it up to get at the fire, he said.

Woodside firefighters are called to one or two chimney fires a year, he said, adding that creosote in the flue is the chief culprit and that it should be removed periodically by a chimney sweeper.

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## Community leader John Hooper dies

John A. Hooper, a descendant of an early San Francisco pioneer family, died of natural causes Jan. 17 at The Sequoias retirement community in Portola Valley. He was 89.

A distinguished lawyer, he served in Paris from 1957 to 1967 under Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson as a U.S. Defense Department representative, North Atlantic and Mediterranean Areas, and defense adviser with the diplo-

### ■ OBITUARY

matic rank of minister to the U.S. Mission to NATO.

After he and his wife, Trish, moved back from Paris, they settled into the family's Mountain Home Ranch in Woodside, where they lived until moving to The Sequoias in the mid-1990s.

Mr. Hooper was born in San Francisco. He graduated from the Thacher School in Ojai in 1934,

received a bachelor's degree in political science from Stanford University in 1938, and a law degree from Harvard Law School in 1941. He served in the U.S. Army from 1942 to 1946. In 1943 he married Trish Lowrey.

For 10 years, from 1947 to 1957, Mr. Hooper practiced law



John Hooper

in San Francisco with the firm of Pillsbury Madison & Sutro.

From 1968 until his death, Mr. Hooper devoted himself to charitable and community organizations. He served as president of the Auxiliary of the University of California Hospital in San Francisco, president of Planned Parenthood of Northern California, and president of the Board of Delegates for Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California.

He was a member of the Woodside Planning Commission from 1973 until 1980, serving as chairman from 1979 to

1980. He was a 50-year member of the Pacific Union Club and a past president of the Cypress Lawn Cemetery Association.

Mr. Hooper is survived by his wife, Trish, of Portola Valley; his children, John C. Hooper of Point Arena, Margo H. Blair of Chicago, Lawrence Hooper of Twisp, Washington, and Helen McCloskey of Rumsey, California; and five grandchildren.

A private memorial will be held. Donations in his name may be made to Planned Parenthood, The Thacher School, or Peninsula Humane Society. ■

## Bill Moggridge talks on design in digital age

Bill Moggridge of Woodside, author of "Designing Interactions," will speak at Kepler's bookstore in Menlo Park at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 31.

Kepler's says he will tell stories of designers who changed the way people use everyday things in the digital era, based on his interviews with the founders of Google, the creator of The Sims, and the inventors and developers of the mouse and the desktop computer.

Mr. Moggridge is a founder of



Moggridge

### ■ NOTES

the Palo Alto-based design firm IDEO, one of the first to integrate the design of software and hardware into the practice of industrial design.

He is a consulting associate professor in the Joint Program in Design at Stanford University.

### Chase, Schilling to be honored

Laura Chase and Mike Schilling, the recently retired commissioners of Portola Valley's architecture review board will be recognized for their contributions at Wednesday's

Town Council meeting.

The presentation for Ms. Chase and Mr. Schilling will follow the initial public comment period. The Jan. 24 meeting begins at 8 p.m. in the Historic Schoolhouse at 765 Portola Road.

Another presentation will follow by Angela Hey on the new Web site at coolpv.com, the Portola Valley Climate Protection Initiative.

The council is also scheduled to discuss the recent decision by residents Bill and Jean Lane to protect their land with a conservation easement, and the tax benefits available for another 11 months to anyone thinking of following the Lanes example.

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**Len Tillem Esq.**

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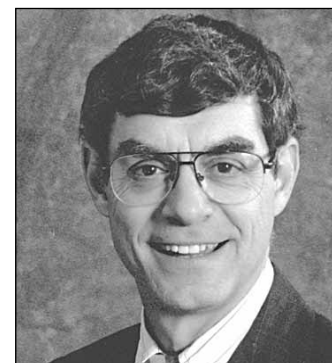
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# MP trustees give go-ahead for design phase of resource center

■ The school board also approved summer projects at Encinal and Laurel schools.

By Marjorie Mader  
Almanac Staff Writer

Trustees of the Menlo Park City School District on Jan. 16 approved moving into the "design development" phase for the district's 12,000-square-foot Teacher Educational Resource Center, which is to be built next to the district office on the Encinal School site in Atherton.

The \$5 million center is designed to provide a centralized location for a number of district services — such as technology, the science program and curriculum specialists — now housed in five portable buildings on school campuses.

There will also be a teacher training and meeting room, storage areas, and space for a future operations and maintenance group.

The resource center is a joint project with the Menlo Park-Atherton Education Foundation and will house the foundation's office.

The district is applying for state funding for the project.

Board approval is critical now because the space occupied by

these programs at the school sites is needed to accommodate new construction at each of the four school sites. The timetable calls for the design work and regulatory approvals to be completed by summer of 2007, and for construction to start in the fall.

Trustees will have opportunities later to review and approve the center's design during the master plan approval process for projects that will be funded by a voter-approved \$91-million bond measure.

## Summer projects

Trustees also approved a series of site development projects at Encinal and Laurel schools that must proceed this summer to

make way for future construction at these two schools, said Ahmad Sheikholeslami, the bond program manager.

Projects at Encinal include relocating six existing portable classrooms and six new ones to house students and staff; beginning conversion of classrooms for future kindergartens; and providing parking space during construction of the resource center.

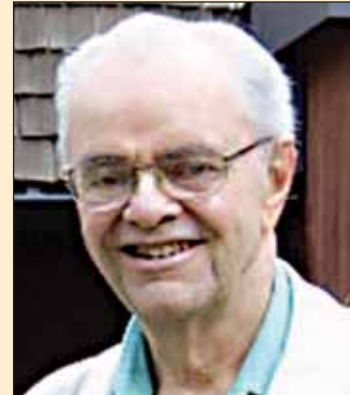
At Laurel School, a modular building will house a new preschool program for district students currently being served outside the district. The district's occupational therapy program will move to this new building from classroom space at Oak Knoll. Also, improvements will be made to the parking lot, fire lane and the student drop-off and pick-up areas. ■

# Former PV councilman Bob Anderson dies

Robert H. "Bob" Anderson, who served on the Portola Valley Town Council for 14 years beginning in 1968, died Monday, Jan. 22.

Mr. Anderson lived in The Sequoias retirement community in Portola Valley, and had been ill for some time, according to Sue Crane, who served on the council with Mr. Anderson.

In addition to his years on the council, Mr. Anderson was on the Planning Commission from 1964 to 1968 — the first commission formed after the town's incorporation. He served for some time on the Woodside Fire Protection District board as well.



Mr. Anderson and his wife, Charlotte, were among the founding families of Christ Church in Portola Valley.

A complete obituary will be published in next week's Almanac.

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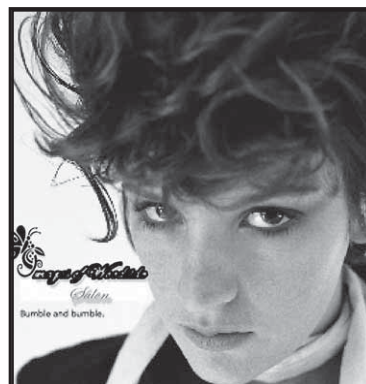
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## Little Store restaurant closes; owner wants to reopen it

By Jane Knoerle

Almanac Lifestyles Editor

■ WOODSIDE

The Little Store in Woodside, which has seen many openings and closings in its 100-plus years, closed Jan. 14.

Although the sign on the door says "Closed for repairs," Dick Eastley, who with his wife Lynn has operated the restaurant for almost five years, said they are no longer associated with the business.

Property owner Marcel Mouney told the Almanac late last week: "I want to open it again. It is a landmark. When customers heard about the closing, they said 'Oh, Marcel, where will we go now?'"

Mr. Mouney said he is interviewing chefs about taking over the business. He also said it's time for the restaurant to undergo a complete "overhaul."

Asked why he and his wife were leaving the restaurant, Mr. Eastley said: "The business was successful. But, like any business, it wasn't just one thing. There were many issues."

The homey Little Store has seen plenty of ups and downs through the years. It has been a general store and, briefly, a gas station. When Mr. Mouney bought it in 1972, "It was just a little grocery, selling beer and sandwiches."

Longtime Woodside residents hope to see their neighborhood hangout reopen. In the Jan. 3 Almanac article about opera nights at the Little Store, neighbor Stuart Whittelsey said, "We consider this our second kitchen."

The Little Store is located at 3340 Woodside Road in Woodside. ■

## Science fairs at Portola Valley schools

Science takes the spotlight at Portola Valley Schools this week when students from kindergarten to eighth-grade display their projects at science fairs with family nights Tuesday, Jan. 23, at

Corte Madera and Wednesday, Jan. 24, at Ormondale.

Family nights are 6 to 7:30 p.m. at both schools where

See **SCIENCE**, page 19

## Winter Swimming!!

The Burgess Park pools are busy all winter with kids teams, lessons, Aqua Fit, laps, Masters swim, polo, triathlon, and even kids triathlon — winter session on now!

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## OBITUARIES

## Arthur Inman

Founder of Peninsula Lithograph

Arthur Nelson Inman, a longtime resident of Menlo Park and Atherton, died Jan. 15 at his home at the Hyatt Classic Residence in Palo Alto. He was 84.

He founded the Peninsula Lithograph Co. in Redwood City in 1948, which then expanded and moved in 1960 to Menlo Park, where he printed books for Sunset Publishing Co.

Mr. Inman was born in Chico and grew up in Oroville, where he was his high school's student body president. In 1939 he hitchhiked to Treasure Island to work at the World's Fair, fell in love with the Bay Area, then returned to attend San Jose State

College. He earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and business.

During World War II, he served in Europe with the Army Air Corps. In 1946 Staff Sgt. Inman returned to marry his college sweetheart, Jeanette Rose Owen.

After working at the Palo Alto Times and the Redwood City Tribune, Mr. Inman founded Peninsula Lithograph. He sold the company to McCalls/Norton Simon in 1968 and retired in 1973. He published Oceans Magazine for six years, then donated it to the Oceanic Society. He then founded Golf Associates, a printing and distribut-



Arthur Inman

ing company of golf manuals.

Mr. Inman was a member of the Suburbans, Sequoia Club, Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club (where he was a charter member), Native Sons of the Golden West, Desert Seniors and the Peninsula Investors.

He served on boards for the Salvation Army, Communications Arts Magazine, and the Sequoia Hospital Foundation, where he was treasurer for the past 10 years. A birthing room at Sequoia Hospital was donated by the Inmans in 1999.

Mr. Inman was a golfer, a master domino champion, made furniture for his homes in Pebble Beach and Truckee, and went salmon fishing in British Columbia, missing only one season in 45 years.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Jeanette; daughters Linda Chilton of Atherton, and Diane Inman of Washington; son Roger Inman of Menlo Park; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

A celebration of his life has been held. Donations in his name may be made to the Sequoia Hospital Foundation.

**John deBenedetti III**  
Real estate developer

John L. "Jay" deBenedetti III died Jan. 7 in Atherton after a battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 68.

Mr. deBenedetti was born in San Francisco and grew up in Santa Cruz. He came from a pioneering family of growers and shippers.

He graduated in 1959 from UC Berkeley, where he was a member of the golf team and Zeta Psi fraternity. He was member of "The Builders of Berkeley" and supported many Cal programs over the years.

He broke with the family's agricultural roots and pursued a career as a commercial real estate developer. The beginning of his career was spent with Coldwell Banker and Sutter Hill Development. In 1976 he

co-founded Cypress Properties, where he engaged in shopping center and suburban office acquisitions and development.

He served on the board of high-tech and medical technology companies, as well as philanthropic organizations, including the Vista Center for the Blind. He was a member of the San Francisco Golf Club, Bohemian Club and Menlo Country Club.

He is survived by his wife, Marti; daughters Ann Levis of St. Louis, Missouri, and Mary Newman of Lafayette; son John deBenedetti of San Francisco; sister Jane McInnis; and eight grandchildren.

Donations may be made to: That Man May See, 10 Koret Way, Box 0352, San Francisco, CA 94143; or to the UC Berkeley Foundation in support of the Memorial Stadium Building Fund, UC Regents/ Gift Administration, 2080 Addison St., Berkeley, CA 94720.

A celebration of his life will be held at the San Francisco Golf Club at a future date.

## SCIENCE

continued from page 18

students will show and talk about their experiments in each school's multi-use room.

An added attraction to students' exhibits at Corte Madera will be a presentation by scientist Michael Rowe, who at 7 p.m. will share his adventures and slides from his recent trip to the Galapagos. He is the

director of business development at Caliper Lifesciences in Mountain View.

"Habitats" is the overall theme for the Ormondale fair. Kindergartners through third-graders have studied and created their models of different living environments.

Corte Madera, the district's grade 4-8 school, is located at 4575 Alpine Road; Ormondale is at 200 Shawnee Pass, Portola Valley.



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**Mark Schmidt**  
Licensed Optician



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visually impaired. Extrapolating this percentage to the general population, researchers estimated that 14 million Americans have vision problems. The good news is that 11 million of them could achieve sharp vision with appropriate correction.

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**P.S. The designation "20/20" vision indicates that a person has normal vision in reading letters on the Snellen chart from 20 feet away.**

*Mark Schmidt is an American Board of Opticianry and National Contact Lens Examiners Certified Optician licensed by the Medical Board of California. He can be easily reached at Menlo Optical, 1166 University Drive, Menlo Park. 650-322-3900.*

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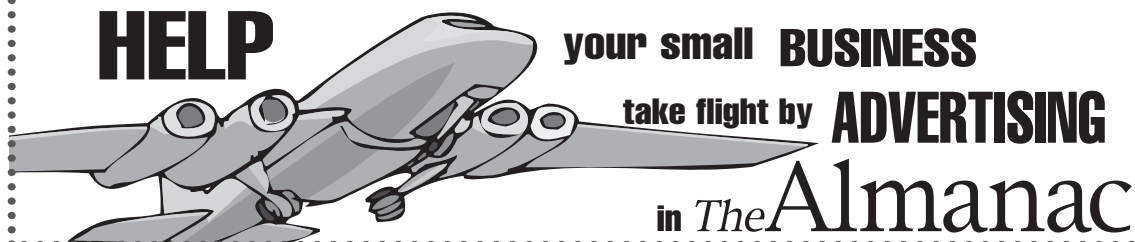
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## ■ POLICE CALLS

*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

**Child abuse report:** Five-year-old with large bruise on face, 300 block of El Camino Real, Jan. 16.

**Arson report:** Three students caught setting garbage can contents on fire with lighter, 100 block of Selby Lane, Jan. 17.

**Mountain lion sighting report:** Valley Road, Jan. 13.

### MENLO PARK

**Stolen vehicle reports:**

**Grand theft reports:** ■ Wallet and money stolen, 900 block of Willow Road, Jan. 12.

■ Bike stolen, 900 block of Crane Street, Jan. 15.

**Robbery report:** Suspect arrested at business, 1400 block of Willow Road, Jan. 14.

**Burglary report:** Fence cut and vehicles broken into and gardening equipment stolen, 1100 block of O'Brien Drive, Jan. 15.

**Auto burglary reports:** ■ Stereo stolen, 1200 block of Mills Street, Jan. 13.

■ Stereo and CDs stolen, 800 block of Coleman Avenue, Jan. 15.

**Vehicle accident report:** Person sustained leg injury, Laurel Street at Ravenswood Avenue, Jan. 12.

### PORTOLA VALLEY

**Auto-burglary report:** Black and white jacket stolen from locked vehicle, Lawler Ranch Road and Sand Hill Road, Jan. 13.

## THEATER

*continued from page 9*

"I've lived in the Menlo Park and Atherton area my whole life, and I went to the Park Theatre as a kid," Mr. Duncan said. "Something needs to be done to restore the theater back to the glory of what it was."

He said he has not submitted an application to the city's planning department, but he has been in talks with Atherton resident Howard Crittenden, who owns the theater, for four months.

Mayor Kelly Fergusson said Mr. Duncan has an option on

the property to "test the waters and see if the idea will fly."

He said Mayor Fergusson has been "very helpful" in making plans to revamp the theater.

"I've been determined to bring the Park Theatre back to life," Mayor Fergusson said. "Right now, the theater is deteriorating badly. We need to restore it — it's such a treasure and a symbol of Menlo Park."

Mr. Crittenden closed the theater in August 2002, and it has stayed empty since. He said the theater's tenant, Landmark Theaters, could not afford to pay market-level rent. ■

## Norovirus hits Sequoias again

It appears that the highly contagious norovirus — which causes vomiting, diarrhea and other severe symptoms of intestinal illness — has returned to The Sequoias retirement community in Portola Valley, which was hit with an outbreak last month.

A June 22 flier provided to the Almanac by one of the community's approximately 300 residents, stated, "We have another outbreak of the virus." It says that of the 27 cases noted, the health-care facility has had 14, including 8 that "have been resolved." It says there have been two cases in the lodge; 11 in the apartments, with five resolved; and "symptoms" in five staff members.

The San Mateo County Health Department has asked that the health-care facility and lodge be closed to visitors, the flier says. The dining room is open, but food is being served on paper plates, the resident said. Residents are also asked to wear disposable rubber gloves while dining, to wash hands frequently and to use hand-sanitizing lotion.

In the three-week outbreak in December that eventually involved 52 cases, the dining room and all public gathering areas were closed and residents were served on paper plates in their apartments. That outbreak did not involve the health-care facility.



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**LETTERS**

*continued from page 23*

ing right turns are looking left to merge. A driver is not anticipating a moving vehicle (yes, a bicycle is a moving vehicle) coming up on the right.

■ Riding on sidewalks is much more dangerous than the street — about two to 10 times higher risk. Sidewalk cyclists are in danger at every road crossing and even every driveway because motorists do not look for fast traffic on the sidewalk. Additionally, drivers have a much narrower field of vision of the sidewalk than of the road. This is particularly true on Santa Cruz Avenue, where many homes have tall hedges.

I encourage everyone interested to check out the following URL with additional bicycle safety information:

<http://crankmail.com/fredoswald/Kids-Bike-Safety.pdf>

**Jackie Macdonald**  
Elder Court, Menlo Park

**Contact Ruskin with chloramine information**

*Editor:*

Thank you for your Dec. 27 coverage of the chloramine issue and the two letters following it.

Our local health department and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission have turned a deaf ear to people's suffering and the public outcry on the use of chloramines in our water system. Chloramine has not been properly studied for health effects such as skin and respiratory problems.

We need to work with Assemblyman Ira Ruskin, D-Redwood City, and other legislators to get chloramine removed from the water.

Mr. Ruskin plans to introduce a bill to do so as well as have testing completed. Anyone having symptoms from chloramine or who is concerned about damage to their plumbing and the environment should contact Mr. Ruskin at 5050 El Camino Real, Suite 117,

Los Altos, CA 94022. The phone number is (650) 691-2121.

To learn more about chloramine's effects on health, the environment and plumbing, see [www.chloramine.org](http://www.chloramine.org).

**Rita Solk**  
Tioga Drive, Menlo Park

**Online tips that are helpful to cyclists**

*Editor:*

As one of the Menlo Park bicycle commissioners, I want to thank the Almanac for the thoughtful Jan. 10 editorial "Can cyclists, motorists coexist?"

Coexistence, and better mutual understanding, is going to be improved with better knowledge and awareness of what it means to each group to "share the road." I'd like to offer some online material for both cyclists and motorists that may help with shared concerns. I hope this information can inform and lead to better understanding. After all, many of us are in both groups.



Here are some online resources:

■ Everyone can benefit from reading the DMV's Driver's Handbook about sharing the road, rights of cyclists and responsibilities of motorists. These are the laws under which we all use the road. <http://ffwww.dmv.ca.gov/pubs/hdbk/pgs55thru57.htm#bike>

■ A cyclist's perspective on sharing the road, directed at both motorists and cyclists, can be found at: <http://www.bikeleague.org/action/sharetheroad.php>

■ Safety and riding information for cyclists is at: <http://www.bikexpert.com/streetsmarts/usa/index.htm>


■ An excellent local resource on cycling safety from Richard Swent can be found at: <http://www.bikeclass.swent.net/>

■ Finally, resources for local roadways and bicycle routes and links to local maps and resources from the MTA are at: <http://bicycling.511.org/>

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Published every Wednesday at  
3525 Alameda de las Pulgas,  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
(650) 854-2626  
FAX (650) 854-0677

e-mail news (no photos please) to:  
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e-mail photos with captions to:  
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letters@AlmanacNews.com

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  
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All views must include a home address and  
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## Last stand for the Jackling house?

Amid all the hoopla about Apple's new iPhone and the runaway success of the iPod, and then the word about the record \$1 billion-plus quarterly profit, it would not be a surprise if Apple CEO Steve Jobs is neglecting his little problem with the Jackling house in Woodside. That's because no matter how successful Mr. Jobs is within the walls of the Cupertino-based iPod and computer company, his longtime effort to tear down the walls of the 16-bedroom Jackling house on his 6.4-acre Mountain Home Road estate in Woodside has gone nowhere,

and the outlook isn't getting any better.

The latest bad news came Jan. 10, when the California Court of Appeals ruled that Woodside acted improperly when the Town Council gave Mr. Jobs a permit to demolish the massive Spanish Colonial revival-style mansion built in 1926 for copper magnate Daniel C. Jackling.

Noted architect George Washington Smith designed the home in the same Spanish Colonial Revival style that he used for many projects in the Santa Barbara area during the same time period. Now, a lot of Mr. Smith's works, including the Jackling house, are designated as historic structures and are governed by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The ruling under CEQA said that the town did not pay enough attention to options other than demolition, so now it appears that Mr. Jobs will have to either remodel or restore the house or try to find someone to dismantle the 17,000-square-foot structure and rebuild it on another site.

### EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

### LETTERS

Our readers write

**Budget surplus,  
new tax don't mix**

*Editor:*  
What is going on here? I don't understand how Menlo Park can have a year of concern over a large budget deficit, pushing worried citizens to vote for a utility tax out of fear our basic services will be cut, and then be told oh, no, sorry, that's wrong, we actually have a budget surplus of \$3.7million!

I know nothing about how to run a city, but I can't imagine how this huge discrepancy could happen. And now we are paying more taxes for a problem that wasn't really there.

I'd like to know how the City Council plans to deal with this issue.

Heather Nelson  
Lorelei Lane, Menlo Park

### Questions after cyclist's accident

*Editor:*

I read the Jan.17 article about MaryAnn Levenson, the cyclist who was hit by a motorist on Sand Hill Road Dec. 23.

Two things in the article stunned me. First, can it be that the police report made no mention of the

collision and the injury done to Ms. Levenson? And second, did Sgt. Prickett really say that the speed limit on Sand Hill Road, east of Interstate 280, is 45 mph?

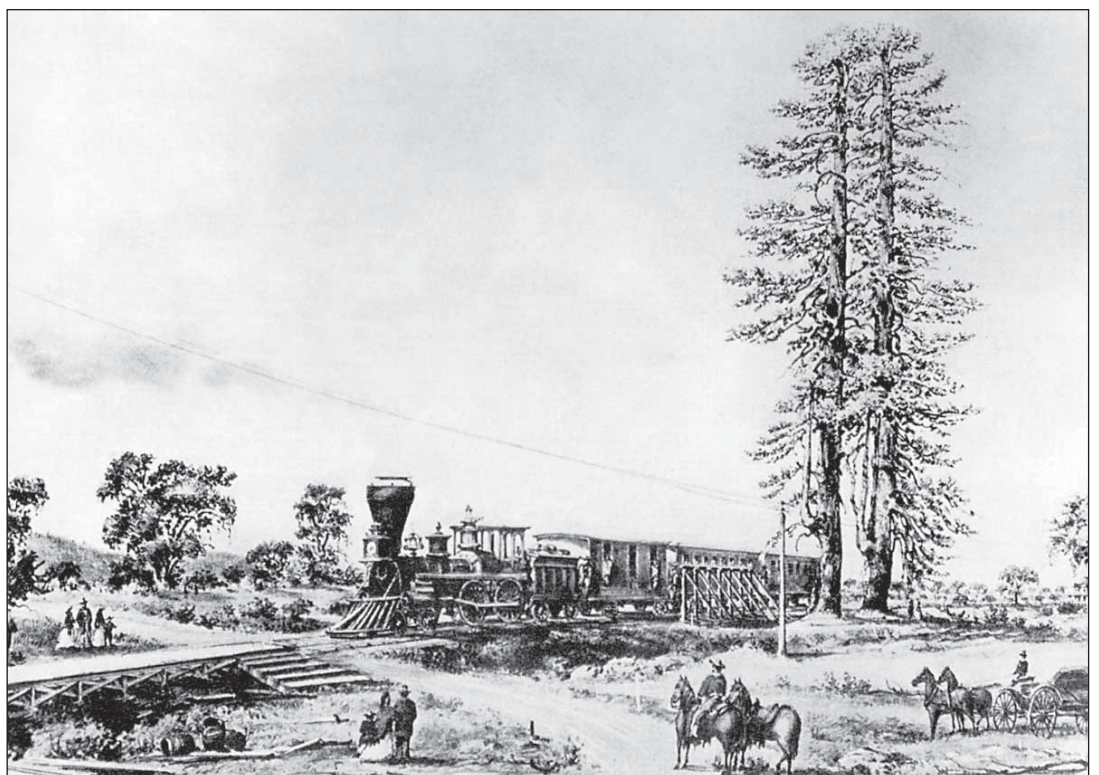
Or he could just let the historic landmark rot by leaving it open to the elements as he has done since he decided that demolition is the only answer. Under that scenario, though, he won't get what he wants, which is a new, smaller home on the property.

Evidently, Mr. Jobs did not count on the success of the preservationist group Uphold Our Heritage, which successfully fought the demolition all the way to the Appeals Court. The group includes Clotilde Luce, whose family owned the Jackling house in the 1960s. She told the Almanac that she would like to see the efforts to relocate the house continue, with the ideal outcome keeping it in Woodside.

So far, the most likely candidate to pull off what is said to be a \$4 million to \$6 million effort is Gordon Smythe, a Palo Alto resident and principal of Propel Properties. Mr. Smythe has said his team could dismantle the house in six months, and reassemble it at an unknown, but nearby, site over a period of years. In 2006, Mr. Jobs said he would be willing to contribute \$500,000 to such a move, Mr. Smythe said last October, with \$150,000 for debris removal and \$350,000 for moving expenses.

If Mr. Jobs truly wants to remove the Jackling house from his property, he should sweeten the offer to Mr. Smythe, or whoever else might be convinced to haul the home away. Given the success of the Apple Corp. and his other interests, surely Mr. Jobs could afford to throw a few million at a problem that has dragged on far too long in Woodside.

We suggest he offer a multi-million dollar challenge grant with a definite time limit to anyone who could remove the home in, say, one year. It is not a stock option (Mr. Jobs knows all about those) but it might just do the trick.



Menlo Park Historical Association

### Our Regional Heritage

Peninsula residents rejoiced at a gala picnic in October 1863 when train service was inaugurated between San Francisco and Menlo Park and Mayfield (Palo Alto). The new train made the trip in 80 minutes; a stagecoach ride took nine hours. The scene above shows a train crossing San Francisquito Creek.

It isn't so. East of 280, the posted speed limit on Sand Hill is either 40 or 35 mph. The speed limit was lowered from 45 to 40 mph after a cyclist was killed on Sand Hill

across from the Stanford Linear Accelerator a couple of years ago. Please do a follow-up article

See **LETTERS**, next page

## Times remembered at Allied Arts

By Jane Knoerle

It's hard to believe the Traditional Shop and the Allied Arts restaurant operated by the Palo Alto Auxiliary to Lucile Packard Children's Hospital are closing. They've been the subject of dozens of articles I've written for the Almanac. They've also been part of my own life.

In the 1970s I was a member of the Woodside-Atherton Auxiliary to Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. As a provisional member, I put in a weekly stint at the Traditional Shop for a year. As active members, we were required to work at the shop twice a month.

Dressed in blue smocks, we volunteers learned how to operate a cash register (no computers then) from the always patient Mrs. Dean. She referred to us as her "girls" and called everyone "honey."

She showed us the skills needed for selling in an upscale shop, known for its fine selection of china, silver and antiques. She demonstrated how to do a meticulous gift wrap, for that was expected in those days. The Traditional Shop was a popular source for wedding gifts, which were delivered locally by our own van.

The shop always had beautiful flower arrangements created by auxiliary members and replaced every Monday. Each season brought special gift and decorative items selected by Mr. Newman and Miss Smith. (All the professionals at the shop were referred to as Miss, Mrs. or Mister.)

Christmas was the most exciting time of the year. The real, ceiling-high Christmas tree went up the first week in November.

### REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

Jane Knoerle  
is Almanac lifestyles editor

Customers flocked to the shop to get the first selection of gifts and ornaments.

A longtime member recalls the days when the shop carried custom Christmas cards, which meant spending a great deal of time with the customer and doing a lot of paper work. "We tried to get out of it if we could," she says. Members also knitted custom Christmas stockings for sale.

If Christmas was busy, sometimes hot summer days dragged on indefinitely. We blue-smocked ladies gathered in groups to chat or sneaked into the back room for a cup of coffee.

We peered out the window at tearoom guests dining in the courtyard and wished we could join them.

### Allied Arts restaurant

For longtime Menlo Park residents, Allied Arts restaurant was always the tearoom. We remember when you had to make reservations for lunch during the holidays by September or you'd never get in.

Lunch and tea were served five days a week by the women of the Palo Alto Auxiliary. The set-price luncheon often included soup, a creamy casserole, and always dessert.

Tea was especially nice: cucumber and



The Almanac/Marjan Sadoughi

A good crowd enjoyed lunch at the Allied Arts restaurant last Friday.

shrimp sandwiches served on crustless white bread, "fingers" of cinnamon or orange toast, cream puffs or petit fours. Ladies had tea. The children were served punch.

The tearoom was popular for bridal and baby showers and, once a month, Palo Alto Auxiliary members modeled in a fashion show. It was a great way to spend Monday, with lunch and a fashion show at Allied Arts.

At Christmas, high school choral groups sang after tea. Then most families visited the giant Christmas tree in the Traditional Shop, where we parents allowed the children to choose an ornament for their own tree.

Since it reopened in 2004, after being

closed for two and a half years for a complete renovation and restoration, the restaurant has struggled. It has revamped its menu. It has replaced chefs. But times have changed.

The day of the tearoom is past. The number of "ladies who lunch" as well as the availability of women volunteers is dwindling. Younger women today are working or prefer spending their free time in other ways.

Allied Arts restaurant is closing Feb. 28 to allow a last Valentine's Tea. I intend to be there for that tea, maybe sit at the little table for two in front of the fireplace or on the enclosed porch overlooking the "blue garden." I'll lift my cup of Earl Grey and drink a toast to times remembered.

### LETTERS

continued from previous page

on this incident, perhaps with an interview with Sgt. Prickett so he can explain what is going on.

Mike Laine  
Menlo Park

### Some advice for kids biking to school

Editor:

I live near Hillview Middle School. My husband and I alternate driving and bicycling with our three children to Oak Knoll each morning.

It's great to see so many children and families riding their bikes to school. However, I am becoming increasingly concerned for the safety of some of our unaccompanied cyclists.

Parents, please remind your independent riders of the following safety measures:

■ Ride with traffic, not against it. Some are taught to ride on the wrong side of the road so they can "see traffic coming." This is illegal and dangerous. The accident rate for wrong-way cyclists is more than three times as high as for cycling properly. Drivers mak-



See LETTERS, page 21

## In old days, Dumbarton Rail was for freight

By Arthur L. Lloyd

The proposal to establish commuter rail service in the Dumbarton corridor between Redwood City and Newark makes good sense for our Bay Area region. It utilizes a corridor already in place that can be upgraded economically and placed into service quickly once all plans are in place.

Built in 1914 by Southern Pacific, this line was to be mainly a freight corridor. It allowed the owning railroad faster transit time for freight between San Francisco and San Joaquin Valley points as well as to the East Bay. Passenger operation was brief, with one train a day between Redwood City and Newark; that service was discontinued in 1917 at the advent of the United States' involvement in World War I.

Only occasional special passenger trains were run over this line, most specifically every other year a train between Berkeley and Palo Alto for the "Big Game." The author, representing the railroad historical societies, also set up several special trains for rail enthusiasts direct from San Francisco to San Joaquin Valley cities.

Now we have a demand for restoration of this line, which is owned by the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans). SamTrans purchased the right-of-way from Southern Pacific

### ■ PANEL OF CONTRIBUTORS



Arthur L. Lloyd is a board member of the San Mateo County Transit District, which operates the Samtrans buses, and the Peninsula Joint Powers Board, which operates Caltrain. He is a member of the Almanac's Panel of Contributors.

when freight service was stopped in the mid-1980s. Track and signal upgrades will be necessary, but not in the cost range to completely build a new line.

Trains will operate from and to Union City — three per day to San Francisco and three per day to San Jose, in each direction. They will operate during normal commute hours so that federally required grade crossing whistle-blowing will not occur during nighttime hours and disturb residents who live near the line.

Freight service is not planned, but Union Pacific has indicated an interest. This, also, could be restricted to daytime hours in the middle of the day.

This is a regional plus for public transportation. Yes, it benefits residents living east of our Peninsula, but it also will allow transfers for residents on our side of the Bay to connect at Union City to Capitol

Corridor trains to and from Sacramento and Altamont Commuter Express trains to and from Stockton and Tracy. Connectivity is a must and the easier it is to use public transportation the more cars come off the road and the less pollutants go into the atmosphere. Eventually, it will be good-bye to "Spare the Air" days.

Comments were made at recent public hearings that rail commuter service is "19th century" technology. Nothing is farther from the truth. The internal combustion engine, invented in the 1890s, has had no major changes until now, when we finally are looking at electric and hydrogen technology, as well as hybrids, a combination if electric and an internal combustion engine.

Meanwhile, railroads began experimental diesel electric service in the late 1920s, and by 1958 the steam engine was replaced completely. Now, railroads are moving to the best of the best — electric propulsion. North America lags the world in electrified railroads and this is long overdue to be remedied. All the present diesel engines on Caltrain do is generate 600 volts of direct current to electric traction motors mounted in the trucks (wheel sets) of the locomotive. Direct electric propulsion eliminates the diesel.

Electrifying Caltrain will bring about more frequent service with faster running times (acceleration and deceleration) and cleaner operation.



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