



Transportation experts
call for halt in state funding
for high-speed rail. *Page 5*

The Almanac

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

JANUARY 11, 2012 | VOL. 47 NO. 20



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Almanac photo by Michelle Le

One of John Danielson's key tasks as interim town manager was to find a permanent manager.

John Danielson still in charge in Atherton despite expired contract

By Renee Batti
Almanac News Editor

Although his one-year contract expired Jan. 2, Interim City Manager John Danielson is still in the driver's seat at Atherton Town Hall, receiving his \$15,000 monthly pay and continuing to chisel away at a to-do list that includes finding his replacement.

Mayor Bill Widmer said the town's attorney advised the council that Mr. Danielson's contract can be continued with no official council action while the town awaits word from the state's public employee retirement agency as to whether the agency will exempt Mr. Danielson from a crucial rule. That rule prohibits Mr. Danielson, the retired city manager of Elk Grove, from working for a single employer for more than one year if he is to receive his pension.

The council sent a letter to the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) in December asking for the exemption, and the agency has 60 days to respond to the request. The letter requested that CalPERS allow Mr. Dan-

ielson to work up to 960 more hours over the course of the next 12 months, if necessary, and still receive his pension.

The exemption is needed, the letter states, to allow Mr. Danielson to finish "a reformation of the Town's operations in a way that will hopefully lead us from the brink of financial catastrophe. ... It would be a substantial blow to this work in progress if he were forced to leave at the present time."

Mayor Widmer said that, once the council has heard from CalPERS, "we may write a new contract for a specified period of time while we're deciding what to do as far as a search (for a permanent town manager), or we may have a month-to-month (contract)."

One of Mr. Danielson's key tasks as interim town manager was to find a permanent manager. After being named to the interim position, he told the Almanac that his "target time" to complete that task was "somewhere within six months." But before that happens, he said, "I'm hoping we can take care of some of the more difficult

things so that when the city manager is hired, we have some things in place."

He was alluding to another critical job the council directed him to accomplish during his tenure: fix the structural budgetary deficit that threatened to leave the town nearly \$900,000 in the red that year.

"We have to address the (town's) fiscal shortfall—there's not the luxury of waiting," he said at the time. "We'll be looking for efficiencies," considering options that include contracting out some services, Mr. Danielson said.

Much of Mr. Danielson's year on the job involved restructuring how the town operates, with the layoff of 13 of the town's 16 general employees and the outsourcing of the building and public works departments.

Mr. Danielson did not return the Almanac's phone calls seeking comment, and it is unknown whether he will return his salary from the town, or not receive his pension for the period he was paid, if CalPERS rejects the town's appeal for an exemption to the pension restriction. ■

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THE ALMANAC (ISSN 1097-3095 and USPS 459370) is published every Wednesday by Embarcadero Media, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. 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. Subscriptions for \$60 per year or \$100 per 2 years are welcome. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Copyright ©2012 by Embarcadero Media, All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Public college board members met in private

■ All board members served on a committee that met in private to plan a political campaign for the district's \$564 million bond measure.

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Elected officials have the privilege and the burden of making decisions that impact public life, and it can get complicated.

For example, all five members of the San Mateo County Community College District board served on a committee that met privately to run a political campaign for a bond measure. These board members put the measure on the ballot for the Nov. 8 election and then involved themselves as citizens in the politics

of it. Was that legal?

With some exceptions, California's open meeting law, the Ralph M. Brown Act, forbids a quorum of elected officials from conversing about official business in private. Also, the public must be notified of the meeting ahead of time. But what if the conversation is tangential, for example a political matter that springs from official decisions?

Brown Act compliance in such situations is unresolved since it has never come before a judge, lawyers told the Almanac in recent interviews. And it is legal

for school board members to engage in political campaigns for bond measures and parcel taxes as long as public funds are not involved, former county counsel Tom Casey said on behalf of the college district.

Recently this district asked voters to approve Measure H, a \$564 million bond measure to build facilities on and provide equipment for the three college campuses. The measure

just missed getting the required 55 percent voter approval; since 2001, voters had approved \$675 million for Canada College in

Woodside, Skyline College in San Bruno, and the College of San Mateo in San Mateo.

Running the campaign in support of Measure H was a nine-member committee consisting of presidents of two of the colleges, the district chancellor, the

communications director, and the five members of the board.

One notable feature of the campaign: at least six glossy direct-mail pieces that urged voters to approve

the bond measure without mentioning how much money the district was asking for. That was a conscious decision, one mem-

ber of the committee, Canada College interim President James Keller, told the Almanac.

That \$564 million that did not appear in the mailings reflects their purpose as "campaign persuasion material," said Richard Holober, the 2011 board president.

A conflict?

Asked to comment on board member participation in the committee, Jim Ewert, an attorney for the California Newspaper Publishers Association, said a key question is whether members "discussed, heard, debated or took action" on how to spend bond money. If they did, the

See COLLEGE, page 6

Another big blow to high-speed rail

By Gennady Sheyner
Embarcadero Media

California's quest to build a high-speed rail system between San Francisco and Los Angeles suffered a heavy blow Jan. 3 when a peer-review committee recommended that state legislators not fund the project until major changes are made to the business plan for the increasingly controversial line.

In a scathing report, the California High-Speed Rail Peer Review Group found that the business plan for the California High-Speed Rail Authority unveiled in early November offers inadequate information about funding, fails to answer the critical question of which operating segment will be built first and features a phased-construction plan that would violate state law.

The group of transportation experts, chaired by Will Kempton, recommends that the state Legislature not authorize expenditure of bond money for the project until its concerns are met.

The report deals the latest of several recent setbacks to the project, for which state voters approved a \$9.95 billion bond in 2008. Since then, the project's price tag more than doubled

and several agencies, including the Legislative Analyst's Office and Office of the State Auditor, released critical reports about the project.

High-speed rail has become particularly controversial on the Peninsula, where several grassroots groups have sprung up in the last two years to oppose it. Menlo Park, Atherton and Palo Alto had filed a lawsuit challenging the rail authority's

environmental analysis and the Palo Alto City Council in December adopted as the city's official position a call for the project's termination.

In its letter to the Legislature, the peer review group highlighted some of the same flaws that local officials and watchdogs have long complained about, most notably a deeply flawed funding plan. The project currently has about \$6 billion in committed funding and the rail authority plans to make up much of the balance from federal grants and private investments — investments that would be solicited after the first major segment of the line is constructed. The peer-review group found this plan to be vague and insufficient.

Peer-review group calls for halt in state funding.

See HIGH-SPEED RAIL, page 8



Almanac photo by Michelle Le

The historic British Bankers Club building on El Camino Real at Santa Cruz Avenue in Menlo Park.

State suspends BBC bar's liquor license

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff

The landmark British Bankers Club restaurant and bar in Menlo Park has had its liquor license put on hold by the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

The party's stopped for now at the historic brick building at 1090 El Camino Real that used to house Menlo Park's administrative and police departments.

According to the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, the restaurant's license stands suspended as of Thursday, Jan. 5.

Owners Lance White and Richard Eldridge were not immediately available for comment. A voicemail greeting on the restaurant's phone line said it's "closed for remodeling until the 12th," but city staff confirmed that no permits were on file for any project under way.

According to the Daily Post,

the suspension came as a result of numerous police calls made to the bar during the past two years.

The bar made headlines in 2010 when a busboy and a cook were arrested for sexually assaulting two women at the club.

Police said the men followed two women who went to an upstairs room in the club to sleep after becoming intoxicated. Both pleaded guilty to related charges. ■

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UCSF researcher killed by train

By Tyler Hanley
and Sandy Brundage

The San Mateo County Coroner's Office has identified the woman killed by a train at Encinal Avenue in Menlo Park on Jan. 2 as Jasmine Ahluwalia, 31, of Palo Alto.

Ms. Ahluwalia was killed when a southbound train struck her around 7:37 p.m. She was a post-doctoral researcher at University of California, San Francisco, a UCSF spokesperson confirmed Jan. 6.

She relocated from India to San Francisco and joined the Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center at UCSF in August 2011, university spokesperson Elizabeth Fernandez said. Ms. Ahluwalia worked in the laboratory at

UCSF's Mission Bay campus and specialized in stem-cell research.

"Although the facts are not yet certain, preliminary information suggests the person may have intentionally placed herself in the path of the oncoming train," Caltrain spokeswoman Christine Dunn said in a statement.

Transit police continue to investigate.

The train, #804, was carrying 238 passengers and stopped at Oak Grove Avenue to transfer riders. No one else was hurt. Both tracks were reopened by 10:25 p.m., according to Ms. Dunn.

Sixteen people died on Caltrain tracks in 2011, the agency said. Ms. Ahluwalia was the first fatality of 2012. ■

COLLEGE

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meeting would be subject to the Brown Act "by virtue of their participation as a (legislative) body," Mr. Ewert said.

Scattered through the direct-mail pieces were extractions, including word-for-word extractions, from the official ballot language, which the board approved. For example:

- "Upgrade classroom technology and computer labs to meet earthquake, fire and safety codes"

- "Upgrade classroom technology and computer labs"

- "Removing hazardous materials, including asbestos"

When asked for records of the committee meetings, Mr. Keller replied via email: "The committee is not a 'public' group and, other than the finance reporting requirements, maintains and publishes no records of its campaign activity. As a private nongovernmental group, it is not subject to the Brown Act, nor the public records act."

Asked to justify this conclusion, Mr. Holober twice cited a paragraph in a 1994 civil grand jury decision involving a Millbrae school district. When pressed for a copy of this report, Mr. Holober brought in Mr. Casey, who provided a report from 1997 that also noted that the jury had asked an opinion from the county counsel at the time, Mr. Casey.

In a recent telephone interview, Mr. Casey said the Measure H committee, called Citizens for Support of Community Colleges in San Mateo County, did not use government funds nor did it discuss official business. "I think

it's pretty straightforward," he said.

"I can understand people saying 'Well, how can that be?'" he added. "When you're acting on a political matter, you're not acting as a legislative body. These are fine distinctions."

Does it bother him that not just a quorum but the entire board joined this committee? "No," he said, "Not at all."

Perception problems

It does bother Brad Senden, a San Ramon-based pollster and campaign consultant who has worked for the Las Lomas and Menlo Park elementary school districts and the Sequoia Union High School District.

Campaign committees that include board members are problematic, Mr. Senden said in a telephone interview. "We go out of our way to make sure (board members) are never on an executive committee," he said. If members insist on getting involved, Mr. Senden said he recommends picking a focus, such as phone banking, and never attending meetings that include another member.

Mr. Senden said he also asks for the views of a district's lawyer. "Usually, I want them to bring whatever their lawyer says back to me," he said. "I want what the lawyer said. In some cases, I want the lawyer to call me."

"The temptation to talk about district stuff is too great. Don't do it," Mr. Senden said. "Perception problems are worse than legal problems because there's nowhere to go to adjudicate it and (have someone) say it's OK." ■

Commendation ceremony set for WWII veteran Carl Clark

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

World War II veteran Carl Clark of Menlo Park will, at long last, be presented an award for his heroic actions 66 years ago aboard a ship bombed by kamikaze planes. Secretary of the U.S. Navy Ray Mabus will join Congresswoman Anna Eshoo to make the presentation at a ceremony on Tuesday, Jan. 17, at Moffett Field.

Mr. Clark will receive the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with the Combat Distinguishing Device at the ceremony, set for 1 p.m. that day. An invitation from Rep. Eshoo's office is needed to attend.

The belated honor for Mr. Clark, 95, is the result of a two-year effort by Congresswoman Eshoo, D-Menlo Park. After Ms. Eshoo learned of Mr. Clark's heroism aboard the USS Aaron Ward — actions that saved the lives



Almanac photo by Michelle Le
Carl Clark, a resident of Menlo Park, is being recognized for heroic actions to save his shipmates during a World War II kamikaze attack.

of fellow crewmen and in all likelihood prevented the ship from burning and sinking — she sought out and secured the testimony of one of the few surviving officers of the ship.

In November 2010, she sent a letter to Secretary Mabus,

writing: "The Aaron Ward became one of only two ships in naval history to endure so many kamikaze hits and survive — and Carl Clark is the reason why. (His) efforts that night are why so many survived and one of the main reasons the ship did not capsize."

After the May 1945 attack and Mr. Clark's response, the ship's captain told Mr. Clark he would make every effort to have him awarded for his heroism, but those efforts were unsuccessful. Mr. Clark, supported by the historical record of racism in the military, attributes the denial of a commendation to the fact that he is black.

Those interested in attending the event who have not already received an invitation may request one by calling Rep. Eshoo's office at 323-2984 as soon as possible. Attendees are asked to arrive at Moffett no later than 12:30 p.m. ■

Longtime Woodside firefighter dies at 65

A celebration of Warren Richards' 32-year firefighting career in the Woodside Fire Protection District was held Saturday, Jan. 7, at the main fire station at 3111 Woodside Road in Woodside.

Mr. Richards, who retired in 1999, died Sunday, Jan. 1, at home in Redwood City. He was 65.

"He was like a bona fide hero," Mr. Richards' son Tim, also a firefighter for the Woodside district, said in a telephone interview when asked for his impressions of his dad as a firefighter. "All my friends really looked up to him."

Woodside district Fire Chief Dan Ghorso described Mr. Richards as "happy go lucky" and someone who rarely missed a day of work.

When he was off duty, Mr. Richards kept with him a police-band scanner so he could go

to fires and help out with logistics, his son said. If his sons were in the car at the time, they would sometimes accompany him to observe, Tim said.

"He was a great storyteller," Tim said. "He could tell a story to the point where you kind of wanted to hear more because it was so funny (or) so bizarre."

Some firefighters go into management. Mr. Richards did that, but as the District 9 vice president for the firefighter's union. As a negotiator, he was "very straightforward," his son said. "He was pretty well liked by both sides."

Mr. Richards had many off-duty interests, his son said,



Warren Richards

including collecting coins, clocks and model trains, and the daunting Japanese art form of bonsai, the husbandry of miniature but full grown trees in table-top pots.

"He would bonsai anything that would allow him to," Tim said. His dad's collection included a maple, cedars, redwoods and Japanese varieties.

In addition to his son Tim of Palo Cedro, California, Mr. Richards is survived by his wife Wendy of Redwood City; son Matthew of Redwood City; and mother Betty Brieger of Grants Pass, Oregon.

The family is asking that, in lieu of flowers, donations be directed to the San Francisco-based Yosemite Conservancy.

Go to yosemiteconservancy.org or call 800-469-7275 for more information on the conservancy.

rings were last seen in 2007, the daughter told deputies.

Meanwhile, three Persian rugs and a couch, with a total value estimated at \$18,000, were stolen from an unoccupied building on Skyline Boulevard, according to a Dec. 27 report from the Sheriff's Office.

Losses set at \$140,000 in two burglaries

Two burglaries reported over the holidays — one in Woodside and one in Portola Valley — led to losses estimated at \$140,000, according to the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.

The daughter of a recently deceased resident of The Sequoias retirement community said in a Dec. 29 report that two rings with an estimated value of \$122,000 are missing from her mother's effects. The



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New report: Halt state funding for high-speed rail

HIGH-SPEED RAIL

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“The fact that the Funding Plan fails to identify any long term funding commitments is a fundamental flaw in the program,” the report states. “Without committed funds, a mega-project of this nature could be forced to halt construction for many years before additional funding could be obtained. The benefits of any independent utility proposed by the current Business Plan would be very limited versus the cost and the impact on state finances.”

The group also faulted the rail authority’s business plan for failing to choose the “initial operating segment” for the rail line. Though the authority has decided to build the first leg of the line in the Central Valley, this segment would not be electrified and would serve largely as a corridor for testing the new line.

The first “true” high-speed rail segment would be built later and would stretch either north toward San Jose or south toward the San Fernando Valley.

Though the peer-review group acknowledged that a phased approach is the only feasible way to build the system, it also found that this plan violates a requirement of Proposition 1A, which mandates that the rail authority identify funding for the first usable segment of the line before construction begins. The Central Valley segment, the peer report notes, “is not a very high-speed railway (VHSR), as it lacks electrification, a CHSR train control system, and a VHSR compatible communication system. Therefore, it does not appear to meet the requirements of the enabling State legislation.”

The peer review group also wrote in its letter that the authority should have determined in its business plan whether the first “operating segment” would go north or south from the Central Valley.

Its letter states that “it is hard to seriously consider a multi-billion dollar Funding Plan that offers no position on which IOS (initial operating segment) should be initiated first.”

“This indecision may also have consequences in obtaining environmental clearances. We believe that the Funding Plan as proposed should not be approved until the first IOS is selected.”

The report reserves “final judgment” on the funding plan because the rail authority’s business plan is still in draft form and subject to revisions. But it also makes clear that major changes would have to be made before the project warrants state funding.

The letter notes that while legislators could potentially come up with a funding source for the project, without such a source “the project as it is currently planned is not financially ‘feasible.’”

“Therefore, pending review of the final Business Plan and absent a clearer picture of where future funding is going to come from, the Peer Review Group cannot at this time recommend that the Legislature approve the appropriation of bond proceeds for this project,” the peer group’s letter concludes.

The new report presents a potentially devastating blow to the rail authority, which is banking on getting \$2.7 billion in Proposition 1A funds for construction of the Central Valley segment. The agency has also received \$3.5 billion in federal grants.

The state funds are particularly critical given the lack of private investment and increasing local opposition. The authority had acknowledged that private investment would not start coming in until later phases. Future federal funding is also deeply uncertain at a time when many Republicans in the House of Representatives are vehemently opposing the project.

The rail authority responded



California High-Speed Rail Authority

The group of transportation experts, chaired by Will Kempton, recommends that the state Legislature not authorize expenditure of bond money for the project until its concerns are met.

to the report by disputing many of its findings and by claiming that it “suffers from a lack of appreciation of how high-speed rail systems have been constructed throughout the world.”

The authority also said in a statement that the peer-review group’s report “makes

‘... what is most unfortunate about this Report is not its analytical deficiency, but that it would create a cloud over the program that threatens not only federal support but also the confidence of the private sector necessary for them to invest their dollars.’

THOMAS UMBERG, CHAIR OF THE AUTHORITY’S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

unrealistic and unsubstantiated assumptions about private sector involvement in such systems and ignores or misconstrues the legal requirements that govern the construction of the high speed rail program in California.”

Roelof van Ark, CEO of the rail authority, said in a statement that the recommendation of the committee “simply do not reflect a real world view of what it takes to bring such projects to fruition.”

“It is unfortunate that the Peer Review Committee has delivered a report to the Legislature that is deeply flawed in its understanding of the Authority’s program and the experience around the world in successfully developing high speed rail,” Mr. van Ark said.

Rail authority officials also argued that the peer-review group’s report could jeopardize federal funding for the project. Thomas Umberg, chair of the authority’s board of directors, said the board takes seriously “legitimate critiques” of the rail program, including recommendations that the authority hire more staff.

“However, what is most unfortunate about this Report is not its analytical deficiency, but that it would create a cloud over the program that threatens not only federal support but also the confidence of the private sector necessary for them to invest their dollars,” Mr. Umberg said in a statement.

The authority’s Chief Counsel Thomas Fellenz called the committee’s findings about the project’s inconsistency with

Proposition 1A “unfounded assumptions.” The group’s legal conclusions, he said in a statement, are not only “beyond the expertise of the authors, but attorneys at the state and federal government level and the legislative author of the bond measure, profoundly disagree.”

The authority also submitted an eight-page letter to state Legislators responding to the peer-review group’s criticisms. The authority disputed in its letter the peer-review group’s finding that the “initial construction segment” in the Central Valley would violate Proposition 1A and argued that the group’s demand for a long-term funding plan fails to consider how major transportation projects are normally built.

“By this measure, none of the unconstrained regional transportation plans of any transportation authority should be pursued,” the letter from Mr. Umberg states. “No project, in our experience, has fully identified funding sources for the entire project at this stage and it is both unfortunate and inappropriate for the Committee to apply this test only to high speed rail.”

Visit tinyurl.com/HSR-444 for story with links to the report and to the letter by the California High-Speed Rail Authority.

Babe Ruth baseball program sets tryout

By Jim Gasiewski of Woodside, commissioner of the Palo Alto Babe Ruth Prep League.

■ BABE RUTH

help them take their skills to the next level.

Tryouts for the upcoming Babe Ruth 2012 season are scheduled for Jan. 21 and 29, depending on weather.

Visit pababeruth.org by Jan. 28 to register to participate in tryouts.

Players are drafted onto teams shortly after tryouts. To be considered for a team, a player must make at least one scheduled tryout.

To be eligible for Babe Ruth, players must be 13, but not older than 15, by May 1. Players must be a resident of Atherton, East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Portola Valley, Redwood City, Woodside, or cer-

tain areas of Los Altos Hills.

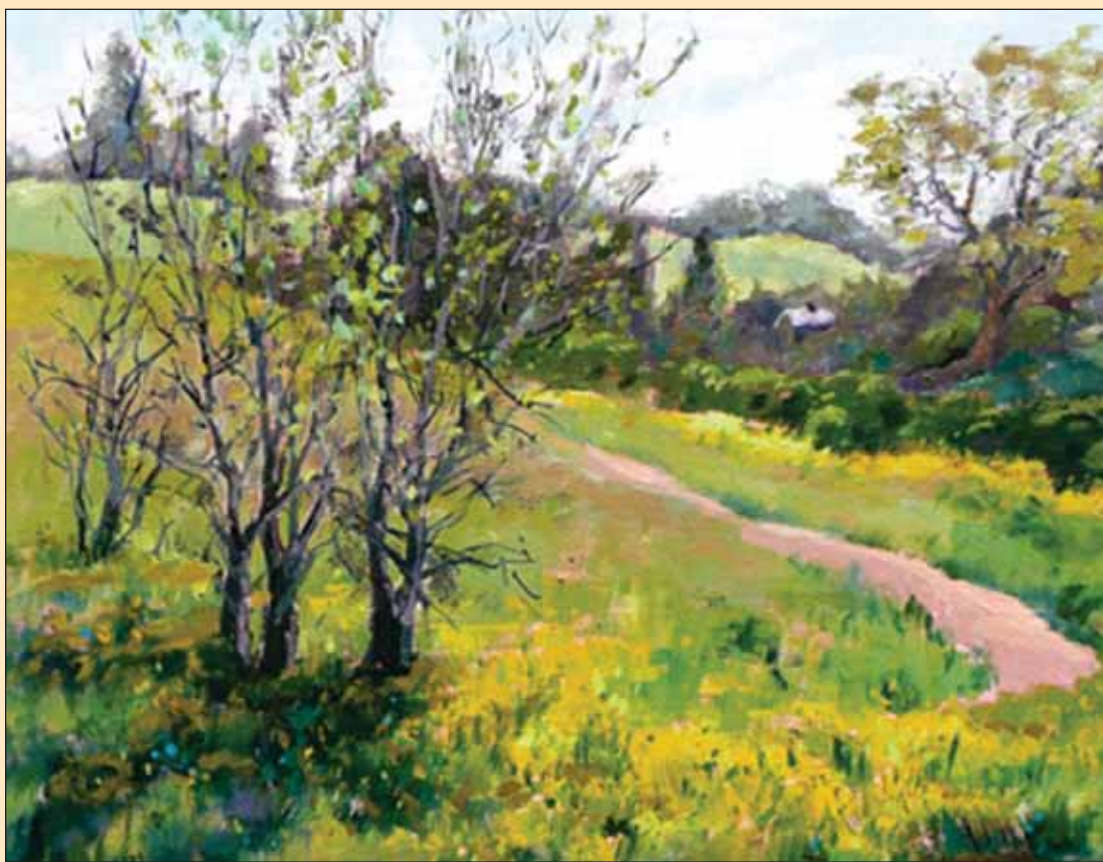
Thirteen-year-olds play in a “Prep” league made up of at least four teams. Fourteen- and 15-year-olds play together in an “Upper” league with seven or eight teams. Based on performance, some Prep league players will get the chance to extend their season and join the roster of an Upper league team.

Both Prep and Upper leagues play a short, busy season culminating in a championship

tournament. Since many Upper league players also play for high school teams, their season begins after high school ball ends. The Prep league season starts earlier, and winds up as the Upper league begins play.

After the regular season, All Star teams are formed for each age group (13, 14, and 15), with the possibility of play in district, state, regional and national tournaments.

Go to pababeruth.org for more information.



Local color

This oil, "Arastadero Mustard," by Diana Jaye of Menlo Park is featured in the "Local Color" show at Viewpoints Gallery, 315 State St. in Los Altos, as part of a joint exhibit with Gallery 9, 143 Main St., also in Los Altos. Other local artists in the show are Andy Brown of Portola Valley and Susan Hall of Atherton at Viewpoints Gallery; and Cherise Thompson and Joyce Savre of Menlo Park at Gallery 9. Both galleries plan receptions for the artists at 4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19.

A murder of (scare)crows

■ Girl Scouts' scarecrows are knocked down, attacked.

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

There are knowns and unknowns in The Case of the Dismembered Scarecrows, a grisly tale of seven straw-filled compatriots standing in a Portola Valley field, placed there two and a half months ago by local Girl Scout troops to guard their wildflower project.

Girls from seven Portola Valley elementary school troops were trying to protect an investment of \$1,200 on a specially assembled mix of native wildflower seeds, including poppies, bluebells, white yarrow and sky lupine, said Kelly Villareal, a troop leader for the seventh grade.

Six of the seven scarecrows were found lying dismembered in the Spring Down open space adjacent to the Town Center on Wednesday, Jan. 4, Ms. Villareal said. Each was a cross-like structure 7 to 8 feet tall, filled with straw and wearing donated clothes, including Girl Scout uniforms found online, Ms. Villareal said. For the heads, the girls used pumpkins or sheets filled with straw, she said.

The scouts coordinated with

Town Hall, the town's garden club, and the Palo Alto-based environmental organization Acterra, Ms. Villareal said. To help defray the cost of the seeds, she said, the town matched the scouts' contribution of \$600, which they earned fundraising and selling cookies at \$4 a box,

'It was sort of disturbing. It was repeated stabbing.'

TROOP LEADER KELLY VILLAREAL

at a profit of 50 cents per box. "It wasn't trivial," she said. "It's a fair amount of work."

The plan had been to celebrate the Girl Scouts' 100th anniversary in March with a pancake breakfast near what they hoped would be a flowering field, though the lack of rain has been a concern.

"We've been in this town a long time and we don't want to just do things for ourselves," said Tricia Law, another troop leader interviewed about the incident.

The vandalism did not have the hallmarks of a typical prank, like knocking over a mailbox with a baseball bat, Ms. Villareal said. "It was sort

of disturbing," she said. "It was repeated stabbing."

There is some disbelief, she said, adding that one person on the town's online forum for residents suggested that a mountain lion might have attacked the straw-filled guardians.

The remains of the six scarecrows are in a driveway awaiting reassembly, Ms. Law said.

One scarecrow remains on duty, perhaps the only witness to the violence, but it isn't talking. A police report is on file with the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, Ms. Villareal said. A Sheriff's Office spokesperson could not be reached for comment.

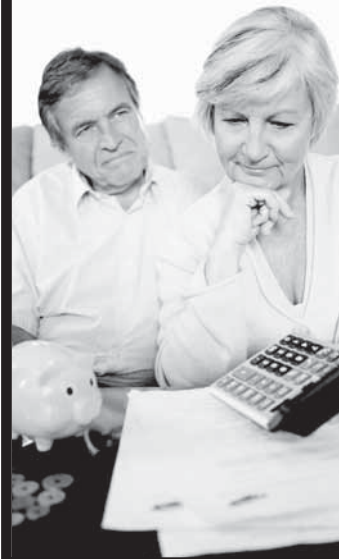
As to whether the scarecrows were living up to their name, some pieces of recovered clothing had been soiled — with bird droppings, Ms. Law said. ■

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The Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees

...is seeking applicants to serve on the District's Construction Bond Oversight Committee



This committee will meet four times per year to monitor expenditures for the building projects of the recently approved Measure J school construction bond. Periodically, the committee will report bond expenditures to the community.

APPLICATIONS

Applications may be downloaded from the Sequoia District web site at www.seq.org or may be requested from the district office by calling Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services Enrique Navas at 650-369-1411, ext. 2218.

Send completed applications to
Enrique Navas
 Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services
 Sequoia Union High School District
 480 James Avenue
 Redwood City, CA 94062

TIMELINE

- Application filing period – **Jan 11, to Feb 3, 2012, 4:30 p.m.**
- Committee membership announced by the Board of Trustees on Feb 29, 2012

For further information, contact Enrique Navas at 650-369-1411, ext. 2218.

Menlo council meets on redevelopment agency, Facebook, rail issues

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

BRIEFS

LB Steak to seat 130

LB Steak, the new steakhouse at 898 Santa Cruz Ave. in downtown Menlo Park that's slated to open in upcoming months, will seat 130 people, according to spokesman Tom Walton.

Housed at the former location of Marche restaurant at the corner of University Drive, the restaurant will be approximately 4,000 square feet, Mr. Walton said.

The restaurant will be Left Bank's second in Menlo Park, and is based on a similar establishment on San Jose's Santana Row. Roland Passot, proprietor and chief culinary officer of Left Bank Brasserie, is leading the project.

The exact date for the grand opening of will be determined by how long it takes to navigate Menlo Park's permitting process, Mr. Walton said.

Caltrain board elects new officers

San Mateo County Board of Supervisor Adrienne Tissier, who represents the San Mateo County Transit District on the Caltrain Board of Directors, was elected chairperson on Jan. 5.

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisor Ken Yeager, representing the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, was elected vice chair.

Malia Cohen, from the San Francisco County Board of Supervisors, attended her first board meeting as the replacement for Sean Elsbernd, also of the San Francisco County Board of Supervisor.

The Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board has three representatives each from San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. The board meets the first Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. at 1250 San Carlos Ave. in San Carlos. ■

It's an agenda packed with acronyms for Tuesday night's meeting of the Menlo Park City Council.

The council first meets in closed session at 5 p.m. to review labor negotiations with Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and various bits of litigation, including two lawsuits filed against high speed rail (HSR).

Then it's on to the regular meeting, where the council will try to figure out how to respond to the Feb. 1 shutdown of the city's redevelopment agency (RDA) and whether the public comment period on the draft environmental impact report for Facebook's planned campus expansion should be extended as requested by the city of East Palo Alto and the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter.

The regular meeting starts at 7 p.m. following the closed session in council chambers at the Civic Center at 701 Laurel Street.

Go to tinyurl.com/6sbb88s to view the agenda and associated staff reports.

East Palo Alto takes no action on Facebook

Although city officials and council met in closed session on Thursday, Jan. 5, to discuss whether to sue over the environmental impact report for Facebook's planned campus expansion, the meeting adjourned with no action taken.

"The item may return for further consideration in the future: the project review process is a long one and there may well be points along the way that merit further consideration in closed session," said City Attorney Kathleen Kane.

City officials have expressed concern that the report fails to adequately address traffic and housing impacts to East Palo Alto.

Zoning workshop for Weekend Acres

A public workshop on zoning regulations in Stanford Weekend Acres is set for 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11, at the Ladera Oaks Swim and Tennis Club at 3249 Alpine Road in Ladera.

The San Mateo County Plan-

ning Commission is holding the workshop.

For more information, contact Matt Seubert, a long-range planner with the county.

Email mseubert@smcgov.org or call 363-1829.



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Photo by Dan Ozminkowski

Rajab Basoga leaps during a "Spirit of Uganda" performance on the group's North American tour.

Ugandan dancers at M-A

Traveling halfway around the world, the young dancers and musicians of the Spirit of Uganda return to the Menlo-Atherton High School Performing Arts Center to perform on Sunday, Jan. 29.

Tickets for the nearly two-hour presentation at \$30 each are now on sale. The troupe's powerful performance at the center in January 2010 was a sellout. No tickets will be available at the door.

The evening is a fundraiser for Empower African Children, a Texas-based nonprofit that has helped develop educational and other programs to support thousands of Uganda children and their families for more than 15 years, according to the organization's website.

The 22 young dancers and musicians, ages 11 to 18, will

share the culture of their East African nation through drumming, choreography and call and response vocals.

They have toured the United States every other year since 1994, performing at the Kennedy Center, the White House, Stanford University, the David Letterman show, and many other venues.

The young performers will also visit Encinal Elementary School in Menlo Park on Monday, Jan. 30, when the school will have a "Cultural Arts Day" to learn about East Africa. The troupe will start the day with an educational and inspiring show, according to Elizabeth Ouren of Menlo Park, a volunteer organizer of the event.

Visit tinyurl.com/Uganda-144 for tickets and more information.



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Broadway musicals featured in benefit concert at Menlo

Portola Valley 'adopts' families

Selections from "Fiddler on the Roof," "Oliver," Man of La Mancha," "Camelot," and other 1960s musicals will be presented at the 10th benefit for Lighthouse for the Blind, to be held at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 14 and 15.

Steve Gill, retired Menlo School teacher, his daughter, Anne, and several "friends of Annie's" will sing at the benefit, which takes place in Stent Hall at Menlo School, 50 Valparaiso Ave. in Atherton. Suggested donation is \$15.

Shortly after graduating from high school in 1997, Anne Gill was in a near-fatal car accident that left her blind and brain injured. In 1999, Mr. Gill organized the first concert to support San Francisco's Lighthouse for the Blind and its summer camp at Enchanted Hills Camp in Napa Valley for visually impaired adults who have other disabilities.

Over the years, the concerts have raised more than \$65,000 to help dozens of adults with multiple impairments attend Enchanted Hills Camp.

Mr. Gill is a veteran singer with local theater groups. Other benefit performers, all Menlo School students, alumnae or teachers, are: Mark Newton, Rachel Bar-Gadda,

AROUND TOWN

Alex Powar, Jenn Mitchell, Julie Powar, and Danielle Brown. Karl Franzen and Mollie Thompson will be special guests. Also involved in the presentation are John Jordan, Alex Perez, vocal coach Sharon Davis, and musical director Linda Jordan.

For tickets or information, call Steve or Nancy Gill at 948-4648.

Open house for Filoli volunteers

The many ways to volunteer at Filoli will be discussed at the semi-annual volunteer recruitment open house at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 21, in the Visitor and Education Center at the Woodside estate, 86 Canada Road in Woodside.

More than 1,200 volunteers help sustain Filoli, a historic site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Reservations are required for the open house.

Email volunteer@filoli.org or call 364-8300, ext. 300, by 4 p.m. Jan. 13, to make reservations. Leave name and phone number.

Marty and Donna Mackowski, who spearhead an annual drive in their Sausal neighborhood of Portola Valley for the Salvation Army's "Adopt-a-Family for Christmas" program, report that increased participation from Portola Valley Forum readers helped make this year's drive a success.

Portola Valley Forum is an online newsletter that goes out to all Portola Valley residents.

This year the program received \$5,590 from 38 cash donors and \$5,600 from 13 family adopters for a total of \$11,190.

Each year the Salvation Army provides a list of families that have very little for their children during the holiday season. Family members are identified by first name only, and their ages, sizes and wish list are included. Volunteers shop for gifts, which are delivered to the Salvation Army a week before Christmas.

This year, in addition to the usual holiday gifts, the Portola Valley neighbors were able to supply much-needed household items, such as microwaves, beds and cribs. Many families burst into tears when they received their gifts, according to Ms. Mackowski.



The Sausal/Applewood neighborhood groups in Portola Valley get together at a gift-wrapping party for the "Adopt a Family for the Holidays" program, a joint effort of Portola Valley residents and the Salvation Army. Marty Mackowski (holding bike) and wife Donna, on his right, started the Portola Valley program seven years ago. The party was held at the home of Jill Helms and Tom Sable of Portola Valley.

Remaining funds were donated to Shelter Network, the Ecumenical Hunger Program and other charities. Jill Halms and Tom Sabel once again held a gift-wrapping party.

Joining the Mackowskis in thanking the community are Susan Adams and Gloria Morris.

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PLANNING COMMISSION
January 18, 2012
7:30 PM

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- Jason and Magalli Yoho SDES2011-0010
215 Lindenbrook Road Planner: Deborah Dory

Review and recommendation of approval/denial of a proposal to remodel an existing single-family residence and construct a 2,312 square foot addition, resulting in a 5,334 square foot main residence; to remodel and construct a 303 square foot addition to existing accessory living quarters, removing the kitchen and resulting in a 973 square foot guest house; to construct new portions of a looped driveway; and a new swimming pool. The property is zoned SCP-5, and is visible from the Interstate 280 scenic corridor.

- Mounted Patrol CUSE2012-0001
521 Kings Mountain Road Planner: Deborah Dory

Review and recommendation of approval/denial of a proposed amendment to the Conditions of Approval/Operating Conditions of CUP080-012, which is a Conditional Use Permit for a property with an existing professional stable. The proposed Conditions of Approval/Operating Conditions of CUSE#2012-001 would supersede CUP080-012.

All application materials are available for public review at the Woodside Planning and Building Counter, Woodside Town Hall, weekdays from 8:00 – 10:00 AM and 1:00 – 3:00 PM, or by appointment. For more information, contact the Woodside Planning and Building Department at (650) 851-6790.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF MENLO PARK
CITY COUNCIL
Appeal of Planning Commission Action

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Menlo Park, California is scheduled to review an appeal of the Planning Commission's determination of the following item:

Planning Commission Decision/Shannon Thoke/116 O'Connor Street: Request for a Planning Commission determination regarding the use of a portion of an existing accessory structure as a secondary dwelling unit on a property located in the R-1-U (Single-Family Urban Residential) zoning district.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that said City Council will hold a public hearing on these items in the Council Chambers of the City of Menlo Park, located at 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, on **Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.** or as near as possible thereafter, at which time and place interested persons may appear and be heard thereon. If you challenge these items in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Menlo Park at, or prior to, the public hearing.

The project file may be viewed by the public on weekdays between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, with alternate Fridays closed, at the Department of Community Development, 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park. Please call Deanna Chow, Senior Planner, at 650-330-6733 or email her at dmchow@menlopark.org if you have any questions or comments.

Si usted necesita más información sobre este proyecto, por favor llame al 650-330-6702, y pregunte por un asistente que hable español.

DATED: January 5, 2012 Margaret Roberts
City Clerk

PUBLISHED: January 11, 2012

Visit our Web site for public hearing, agenda, and staff report information: <http://www.ci.menlo-park.ca.us>

Joseph W. Woods

(1926-2012)

Joe Woods, a Menlo Park resident since 1969, passed away on January 1st at the age of 85 after a long bout with Alzheimer's Disease. Born in Cohasset, MA, he graduated from Bowdoin College in Brunswick, ME in 1947 following his service in the U. S. Navy Construction Battalions (Seabees) on Okinawa and in China during the closing days of World War II.

After college, he joined the advertising agency of N. W. Ayers, and later Foote, Cone & Belding before becoming the Publisher of Constructioneer, a regional publication serving the Mid-Atlantic heavy construction industry. In 1969 he bought California Builder & Engineer magazine serving the construction industry in CA, NV & HI. Active with many industry associations, Joe was known for his warm smile, friendly and bustling outgoing personality and an ever-present camera. Joe was very

active in the Menlo Park Presbyterian Church since 1970 and he volunteered extensively in the Service League, Kiwanis, Boy Scouts, and the community at large.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Barbara Woods of Los Altos, and four children; Wendrea Woods How of Healdsburg, David Woods of Los Altos, Suzanne Woods Fisher of Alamo, and Thomas Woods of Menlo Park, along with 12 grandchildren and one great grandson.

In lieu of flowers, the family would like to encourage donations to Pathways Hospice Foundation, 505 N. Mary Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94805, 408-730-1200 or (www.pathwayshealth.org); or the Alzheimers' Association (www.alz.org).



PAID OBITUARY

William Mackall Jason

January 6, 1926 - December 30, 2011

William Mackall Jason died peacefully at home in Atherton, surrounded by family members after a short illness. Although born in Portland Oregon in 1926, his parents and grandparents were all from Northern California and he lived in the Bay Area for 84 of his 85 years.

"Mack" as he was known to all, lived a full and happy life, as a self-employed business executive, family man, polo player and active in business organizations. He was kind, smart and more than that, a gentleman, who never raised his voice or said an unkind word to or about anyone.

He was predeceased by the love of his life, vivacious Madelyn Gilmore Jason whom he was married to for 61 years. They leave three daughters and a son, Lyn and Herschel Cobb, Marianne and Buz Walters, Elizabeth and Jim Adams and Bill and Karen Jason, all of the SF Bay Area. And, Mack was very proud of his 8 grandchildren, Jason, Ian and Andrew Kibbey, Preston, Frank and Katherine Walters and Madelyn and Ty Cobb and one great grandchild, Turner R. Kibbey. He also leaves behind the Knoop family, assorted godchildren and cousins as well as Luke Qauquau and family.

Mack owned and operated his paper and educational products company, Bemiss-Jason Corporation, which was sold in the late 1990's. He loved his work and remained active in other businesses and went to the office daily until a year ago.

Mack and Madelyn liked to combine travel and business, and much of the travel was through the World Presidents Organization where he was a past WPO President in 1992 and member for many years. Many of Mack and Madelyn's closest friends came from YPO and later WPO.

Mack's passion was playing polo for over 50 years. He was an ambassador to the Federation of International Polo, Board member of the United States Polo Association, and past Governor of the Pacific Coast Circuit. Mack was instrumental in bringing polo back to the Menlo Circus Club and was a founding member of the Eldorado Polo Club in the Palm Springs area.

He graduated from Stanford University in 1948, as a member of Delta Tau Delta Fraternity. He continued his love of Stanford Cardinal football, watching as many games as he could fit in. He enjoyed his 49er season tickets, ever since they played in Kezar Stadium in the 40's.

His participation in WWII as a naval officer was a source of great pride for him and later in life, told stories of being on a minesweeper in the Pacific and in China. In 1946, he captained a YMS back home to San Francisco.

Mack was a member of the Menlo Circus Club, the Bohemian Club, and the Menlo Country Club for over 60 year. His family founded Thunderbird Dude Ranch in 1947 and remained in the Palm Springs area and playing golf at Eldorado Country Club.

Memorial service was held at the Church of the Nativity, Oak Grove Avenue, Menlo Park, on Friday, January 6th.

Contributions can be made to the Religious of the Sacred Heart, Oakwood, 140 Valparaiso Avenue, Atherton, CA 94027, PTF or to the charity of your choice.



PAID OBITUARY

Holiday Fund Donations

As of Dec. 31, 2011, 159 donors have given \$134,255 to The Almanac Holiday Fund

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Heather Nelson.....	100	Diana M. Laraway.....	**
David Reneau.....	150	Thelma L. Smith.....	**
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Alice T. Brock.....	150		
Mary K. Mustain.....	300		
Linda Craig and Evan Hughes.....	**		
Sue Crane.....	200		
Don Lowry.....	**		
Sue Bishop.....	100		
Amy Roleder.....	100		
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Del Secco Family Partnership....	5,000		
Bill and Nancy Ellsworth.....	**		
Andrew C. Hall.....	200		
Donald Coluzzi.....	**		
Pamela Koch.....	100		
Gale K. Fullerton.....	200		
Jamis MacNiven.....	100		
Catherine A. Habiger.....	**		
Adele A. Carney.....	1,000		
Jaggers, Kurt.....	**		
Barbara Berry.....	50		
Lucy Reid-Krensky.....	200		
Richard and Leslie Tincher... 10,000			
Carmen Quackenbush.....	**		
Comstock, George.....	1,000		
Betty M. Jordan.....	100		
Hal and Carol Louchheim.....	400		
Victoria Rundorff.....	**		
Robin Quist Gates.....	250		
Nancy J. Fiene.....	**		
Stephanie P. Nisbet.....	**		
Thomas and Maggie Mah			
Johnson.....	250		
Jane M. Land.....	**		
Hamid Farzi.....	100		
Laura M. Reed.....	250		
Mary & Doug Heller.....	**		
Tim and Perryn Rowland.....	100		

In memory of

Frank N. Blum and Joe F. Quilter	100
Richard and Louise Barbour.....	100
Bill Hewlett and Dave Packard... 250	
Bill Land.....	**
Ted Heidinger.....	100
Michelle Fast.....	500
Jaye Carr.....	100
Jerry and Mae Griffin.....	50
Jerry and Mae Griffin.....	100
Lucy Nystrom.....	100
Barbara Smith Combs.....	**
Catherine Sleight.....	500
Charles Holmes.....	**
Peter and Marguerite Hurlbut.....	**
Kevin J. Gilmartin.....	**
Annie Strem.....	**
Blair Awbrey.....	**
Esther Johnson.....	50
Inge and Paul Katz.....	**
John Sisson, Annmarie Sisson	
and Richard Sisson.....	**

In honor of

Our grandparents, from Amy,	
Scott & Sam Farnsworth.....	**
Nancy Stevens.....	**
Grandma and Grandpa Hohl,	
San Carlos.....	50
Jay and Lisa Belquist.....	**
Mike and Sheila Brand.....	**
Howie & Kerry Dallmar.....	**
Chuck & Sylvia Seufferlein.....	**
Jack & Lisa Troedson.....	**
Mark & Patti Davis.....	**
Erik & Leslie Doyle.....	**
Randy & Elise Gabrielson.....	**
Bob & Mary Garner.....	**
Brad & Twinkie Lyman.....	**
Phil & Kelly Mahoney.....	**
Jeff & Janna Rodgers.....	**
Randy & Cindy Scott.....	**
The Liggett Family.....	**
Kay and Irv Beltrame.....	**

Businesses & Organizations.....	
Ericsson, Inc.....	300
Carstens Realty.....	10,000
The Milk Pail Market.....	100

** Designates amount withheld at donor request

Menlo Park district gears up for kindergarten enrollment

Orientation meetings and tours for parents with children eligible to attend kindergarten in the fall begin on Jan. 20 in the Menlo Park City School District.

■ SCHOOLS

Parents wishing to enroll their children in transitional kindergarten can pick up a registration packet at the district office, 181 Encinal Ave. in Atherton.

Parents should bring a driver's license or other government-issued photo identification to verify residence within the district.

Because a new state law is gradually adjusting the eligibility date when children may enter kindergarten, some children who in the past would have been able to enroll in kindergarten for the next school year won't be eligible. But the district will offer a "transitional kindergarten" class for those children.

To enroll in kindergarten for the 2012-13 school year, a child must be 5 years old by Nov. 1. Children who turn 5 from Nov. 2 through Dec. 2 are eligible for transitional kindergarten, and can enroll in kindergarten the following year.

Information sessions and tours for parents of new Encinal kindergartners are set for Jan. 20 and 27, from 8:45 to 10 a.m. A kindergarten orientation is scheduled for March 1 from 7 to 8 p.m. To register for one of the sessions, parents should contact Pam Garcia at 326-5164, ext. 1000.

Oak Knoll School's parent orientation meeting is set for Jan. 26 at 7 p.m.

Laurel School will host parent meetings on March 29 at 6:30 p.m., and April 12 at 2:30 p.m.

Beginning Feb. 1, parents may begin the enrollment process for their kindergarten-age children by going to the school in their home attendance area for a registration packet. Those who are uncertain about their attendance area should contact the district office at 321-7140, ext. 5603.

Parents wishing to enroll a child in the district's Spanish immersion program's kindergarten must attend one of two information meetings set for

Continued on next page



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Adrian L Ward

August 9, 1915 – January 1, 2012

Adrian was born in Portland Or. and moved with his family to Menlo Park in 1925. He graduated from St. Joseph Grammar School in 1929, from Bellermine Prep in 1933 and from Univ. of Santa Clara in 1937 with a business degree. Adrian worked at President Hotel, Palo Alto, during school years and sales at Schwabacher/Fry, San Francisco until 1941 when he joined the Quartermaster Corps of the Air Force at Moffett Field. In 1945 he was released from the Army as Sergeant in an Altitude Training unit at Hickam Field, Hawaii. In 1945 he joined the sales force of Pacific Telephone Co. until 1954 when he went into the sporting goods business. He was active in all fields, rental, wholesale, factory and importing in various parts of Northern California, Oregon and Nevada in the sales and purchasing departments. During this time he was able to spend considerable time in the field in order to verify the quality of the equipment and the productivity of the many hunting and fishing locations. In 1977 with the words "freedom and independence" appearing in the tea leaves, he took early retirement in order to perfect the art of hunting and fishing and to support the humane drive to reduce the overpopulation of fish and game where necessary. Favorite sports to play or watch-fishing, hunting, boxing, tennis, golf, baseball, football.

"He left no footprints on the sands of time but sure tracked up a lot of trout streams". Unknown

Adrian is preceded in death by his parents Adrian F. and Adele Ward and his sister, Jean Bone.

Mass will be celebrated January 11, 2012 at 11:00 am at the Church of the Nativity 210 Oak Grove Av. Menlo Park.

PAID OBITUARY

TOWN OF WOODSIDE

INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING COMMISSION

Districts 1, 5 and 7

The Planning Commission participates in the administration of the planning laws and policies of the Town. It is responsible for recommending to the Town Council ordinances and resolutions necessary to implement the General Plan and adopted development policy. The Commission also conducts necessary public hearings to administer the planning laws and policies of the Town and acts upon applications for zoning amendments, conditional use permits, variances, subdivisions and other related functions as may be assigned by the Council.

The Planning Commission meets on the first and third Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.; Commissioners are appointed for a four-year term; one member is appointed from each Council district. A listing of district addresses is provided on the Town's web site at www.woodsidetown.org, Town Hall, Planning, Planning Commission, Districts.

Interested residents may request information and applications Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM-12 noon and 1-5:00 PM at Town Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, at the Town's web site, www.woodsidetown.org, Residents, Volunteer Opportunities, or telephone the Town Clerk at (650) 851-6790. Deadline for applications is *Friday, January 13, 2012, 5:00 PM.*

Martin Edward Stein

1969-2011

Martin Edward Stein died on December 23, 2011 from injuries suffered in a bicycling accident.

Martin was a wonderful person who devoted much of his time to making good things happen for others. He was kind and generous, and much loved by his many friends and those whose lives he touched. Most of all he was a dearly beloved son and brother, a very best friend, an ever-constant go-to man, and a fountain of knowledge and sound advice. He was a mensch.

Martin grew up in Palo Alto and Portola Valley, California. He attended Menlo-Atherton High School before his studies at the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University; Yale University Graduate School; the University of Cambridge as a Fox International Fellow; and the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University. His studies concentrated on national security, and international and constitutional law.

His interests were many. He spoke five languages. He had been field coordinator for Stanford Volunteers in Asia (People's Republic of China), and worked for the International Office of Migration, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace,

the International Crisis Group, and The Center for American Progress, among other organizations. In recent years he

was involved in nonprofit organization management, and helped plan conflict resolution and transition projects in developing nations for USAID and nongovernmental organizations.

Martin returned to Portola Valley following the collapse of the economy. He worked at REI, was a conservation volunteer, and collaborated in the Wild4Life AIDS prevention project for sub-Saharan Africa. He loved nature and her conservancy, trail-running, cycling, and stargazing.

His ashes will be scattered on his favorite hilltop.

Martin was the son of Martin and Jane Stein of Portola Valley, California, brother of Juliet Stein and uncle of Hannah Stein-Halilovic, both of Portola Valley and Khartoum, Sudan.

He has run the race; he has finished the course. He has gained the crown. Let not your hearts be troubled.



PAID OBITUARY



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OBITUARIES

Pauline Diaz

Pauline Diaz, a resident of Menlo Park since 1948, died Dec. 23 after an eight-week battle with brain cancer. She was 84.

Born in Spain in 1927, Ms. Diaz came to California in 1948 to be reunited with her parents and three oldest brothers. Upon arriving, she worked as a nanny and a seamstress. In 1956 she returned to Spain to marry her childhood sweetheart, Jose Diaz.

The couple raised their two children on Valparaiso Avenue in Menlo Park. In 2006, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in the same church in Spain where they were married. The celebrant was Msgr. John Rodriguez of their Menlo Park parish, St. Denis Church. Ms. Diaz was a member of the Italian Catholic Federation and a longtime member of St.



Pauline Diaz

Denis.

She is survived by her husband of 55 years, Jose; children Irene Oncley of Long Beach and Peter Diaz of Redwood City; brothers Mariano Dias and Ben Dias, both of Gilroy; and two grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her brothers, Tony and Pete Dias.

Services have been held. Donations may be made to Pathways Hospice Foundation, 585 N. Mary Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94085, 408-730-1200, www.pathwayshealth.org.

than 50 years in the company she and her husband founded. The couple's four sons are still all actively involved in the business.

An active member of the Assistance League of San Mateo County, Ms. Denny enjoyed reading, travel, and gardening, family members said.

She is survived by her four sons, Jock, Scott, Todd and Kyle; and eight grandchildren.

Gary Lynn Strawther

Gary Lynn Strawther, a Menlo-Atherton High School graduate who remained active in Menlo Park community athletics, died Dec. 17, a week after his 64th birthday.

A Redwood City resident, Mr. Strawther worked in the construction field.

Mr. Strawther played for some of the early Menlo Park Little League and Pop Warner teams, according to his family. At M-A, he ran track and played basketball. For years, he was a fixture at the Burgess Park gym's pickup basketball games and local recreation league basketball and softball games, his family said.

He is survived by three brothers, Charles, Bob, and Larry.

Go to tinyurl.com/Strawther-157 for more information or to leave a remembrance on the Almanac's Lasting Memories website.

Jean M. Denny

Jean M. Denny of Menlo Park, who with her late husband Frank, founded the Frank Denny Plumbing Company in Redwood



Jean M. Denny

City in 1957, died Dec. 30 due to complications from lung cancer. She was 86.

Ms. Denny was born in Dodge City, Kansas. She lived in different cities in the Southwest during her childhood. She moved to Ashland, Oregon, in her junior high school years, then to Southern California, where she attended Belmont High School and the University of Southern California.

In 1947 she met her future husband, Frank, whom she married on April 17, 1948. Mr. Denny died in 1976.

Ms. Denny worked for more

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Lucile Packard Children's Hospital offers classes and seminars designed to foster good health and enhance the lives of parents and children.

MOTHER-BABY MORNINGS

Packard Children's Hospital offers a group forum for new mothers with infants 0 – 6 months of age. Often the first outing moms attempt after giving birth, our group provides support and camaraderie for new parents while promoting confidence and well-being.

- Tuesday mornings, 10:00 – 11:30 am

CHILD CPR & FIRST AID

Designed for parents and care-givers of children one year of age to adolescence, this class will cover cardio-pulmonary resuscitation techniques, choking and first aid for common childhood injuries.

- Saturday, February 11: 11:30 am – 2:30 pm

GRANDPARENTS SEMINAR

Designed for new and expectant grandparents, this class examines changes in labor and delivery practices, the latest recommendations for infant care and the unique role of grandparents in the life of their child.

- Thursday, February 9: 6:00 – 8:30 pm

PREPARING FOR MULTIPLES SEMINAR

Are you expecting twins, triplets or more? With the potential for early delivery, expectant parents of multiples are encouraged to learn everything there is to know about carrying and delivering multiple infants.

- Sunday, February 19: 12:00 – 4:30 pm

Call (650) 724-4601 or visit calendar.lpch.org to register or obtain more information on the times, locations and fees for these and other courses.



VISIT LPCH.ORG TO SIGN UP FOR CLASSES

Truck fire snarls Willow Road traffic

A truck fire on Willow Road in Menlo Park slowed the morning commute for nearly an hour Wednesday morning, Jan. 4.

Firefighters responded to a report of a burning truck on Willow Road off of state Highway 84 at about 8:30 a.m., Menlo Park fire Capt. Steve Balestrieri said.

Arriving units found the cab and cargo area of a towel delivery truck engulfed in flames, he said.

The truck driver told firefighters that he had noticed

smoke filling the passenger side of the vehicle as he was heading west on the Dumbarton Bridge, and that when he pulled over on Willow Road, the truck burst into flames.

The fire was controlled quickly and no one was injured.

Lanes of Willow Road were blocked while firefighters extinguished the blaze, and traffic on Highway 84 was also affected. The road was cleared as of 9:30 a.m. ■

Bay City News Service

KINDERGARTEN

continued from page 15

Feb. 15 from 8:45 to 9:45 a.m., and Feb. 27 from 7 to 8 p.m. Those meetings will be held in the district office board room, 181 Encinal Ave. in Atherton.

The immersion program is available to all children in the district, but classes are held at Encinal and Laurel schools only. Parents may pick up applications in their school office, and

registration must be received by the district no later than Feb. 29.

For more information about the immersion program, contact Tami Girsky at 321-7140, ext. 5601.

For more information about any of the kindergarten programs or the registration process, go to mpcsd.org, or call 321-7140, ext. 5603.

CALENDAR

Go to AlmanacNews.com/calendar to see more calendar listings

On Stage

'The Pitmen Painters' TheatreWorks presents "The Pitmen Painters," a Lee Hall comedy-drama play about six 1930s miners who become stars of the art world. Jan. 21-Feb. 12, with afternoon and evening performances Tue.-Sun. \$19-\$69. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. www.theatreworks.org

Comedian Will Durst and friends will perform a night of political comedy. Jan. 13 dinner show 8:30-10 p.m. \$20 at the door, \$15 online, plus a dinner or two-drink/appetizer minimum. Angelica's Bistro, 863 Main St., Redwood City. www.angelicasbistro.com

Talks/Authors

Dave Barry and Alan Zweibel The two humorists discuss and sign their new book, "Lunatics." Jan. 18, 7 p.m. Audience members must buy the event book or a \$10 gift card to admit two. Kepler's, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321.

Eric Weiner discusses and signs his new book, "Man Seeks God: My Flirtations with the Divine." Jan. 19, 7 p.m. Audience members must buy the event book or a \$10 gift card to admit two. Kepler's, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park.

Classes/Workshops

'Communicating Across Generations' This event will include discussion of such end-of-life issues as health-care choices, funeral options and disposition of assets and possessions. Jan. 14, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. \$10. Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-321-2109. www.fcapeninsula.org

First Aid with Adult CPR/AED This American Red Cross course combines lec-

ture and interactive video demonstrations. Jan. 13, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. \$90. American Red Cross Silicon Valley, 400 Mitchell Lane, Palo Alto. www.siliconvalley-redcross.org

Concerts

'The Spirit of Uganda' These young performers share the culture of their East Africa homeland through drums, choreography and vocals while bringing a message of resilience and hope. Jan. 29, 6-8 p.m. \$30. Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. Call 650-269-6068. spiritofugandamenlopark2012.eventbrite.com/

'A Musical Sojourn: 200 Years of Music by African American Composers' An afternoon of spirituals, songs and instrumental music, performed by local musicians and singers. Jan. 29, 3-5 p.m. Donations: \$15/adults and \$5 seniors & students. Eastside College Preparatory School Performing Arts Center, 1041 Myrtle St., East Palo Alto. Call 650-688-0850.

Liberty Gospel Quartet Liberty, a traditional Southern Gospel quartet, will perform a concert. Jan. 15, 7-9 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, 950 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-323-8694.

Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra Harpsichordist Richard Egarr performs with the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, with the program including works by Handel, Locke, Purcell, Arne and Lawes. Jan. 26, 8-10 p.m. \$25-\$85. The Center for Performing Arts, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. Call 415-252-1288. www.philharmonia.org

Et Alia

Menlo Atherton Little League Registration Menlo Atherton Little League registration is open. Children may be registered for T-ball, A, AA, AAA and majors. The deadline is Jan. 13, 2012. Go to www.m-all.org.

Birds of Bedwell Bayfront Park Experienced birders will teach visitors about wintering birds of Bedwell Bayfront Park. Meet along the entrance road. Heavy rain cancels. Jan. 14, 10 a.m.-noon. Free. Bed-

well Bayfront Park, Marsh Road at Bayfront Expressway, Menlo Park. Call 650-325-7841. www.friendsofbayfrontpark.org

'directly indirect' An exhibition called "directly indirect" features abstract and representational paintings and prints, and mixed-media installations, by eight artists. Exhibit runs Jan. 9-27, open weekdays 3-6 p.m. Reception: Jan. 14, 5-7 p.m. Free. Kriewall-Haehl Gallery, Woodside Priory School, 302 Portola Road, Portola Valley. kriewallhaehlgallery.blogspot.com

Film

Film: 'Autumn Gem' This documentary is on Qiu Jin (1875-1907), a radical women's rights activist and leader of a revolutionary army. The first female martyr for China's 1911 Revolution, Qiu Jin is celebrated as a national heroine today. Screening and discussion with filmmakers. Jan. 21, 2-3:30 p.m. Free. Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside. Call 650-851-0147. autumn-gem.com

Rose-Pruning Demonstration A rose-pruning demonstration will be given by the Peninsula Rose Society, focusing on learning the correct techniques and tools for pruning a variety of rose species. Jan. 14, 1-3 p.m. Free. Roger Reynolds Nursery, 133 Encinal Ave., Menlo Park. www.rogerreynoldsnursery.com

Project Read Literacy Tutor Training Tutor training for new tutors at Project Read-Menlo Park. Jan. 24, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. Call 650-330-2525. www.projectreadmenlopark.org

Teen activities Lauren Myracle will speak and sign copies of her coming-of-age mystery "Shine." Jan. 23, 7 p.m. Free. Kepler's, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com/event/youth-event-lauren-myracle

Colbie Caillat The Children's Health Council (CHC) presents a benefit concert with singer/guitarist Colbie Caillat. CHC helps children with autism, ADHD, depression, anxiety, learning disabilities, developmental delays and other challenges. Feb. 4, 8:15 p.m. \$150-\$750. Fox Theatre, 2223 Broadway, Redwood City. www.chcbenefit.org

POLICE CALLS

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

WOODSIDE

Residential burglary report: Losses estimated at \$18,900 in theft of four pieces of jewelry, perhaps during a recent office party for about 75 people at the residence, Eleanor Drive, Jan. 6.

ATHERTON

Residential burglary reports: Loss estimated at \$400 in theft of 12-inch diameter 100-pound antique bell from post in backyard, Selby Lane, Jan. 2.

MENLO PARK

Theft report: Losses estimated at \$17,300 in theft from front porch of packages containing two \$7,000 suits, two dress shirts, two pairs of dress shoes, lamp, camera and Apple iPod device, Cotton St., Jan. 4.

Residential burglary report: Losses estimated at \$7,325 in entry through unlocked back door and theft of four laptop computers, CD player, jewelry box and miscellaneous jewelry, video game console, and wallet containing \$100 in cash, Sharon Road, Dec. 30.

Fraud reports:

Loss estimated at \$3,000 to \$4,000 in unauthorized withdrawal from bank account, Santa Cruz Ave., Dec. 31.

Loss of \$1,100 in cashing of altered check that was originally for \$100, Callie Lane, Dec. 31.

Animal bite reports:

Victim refused medical aid after being bitten by "unknown furry brown and white leashed dog" in Sharon Hills Park, Valparaiso Ave., Dec. 31.

Man used broomstick to fend off attack on resident's dogs by several pit bull terriers that had entered backyard through hole in fence, Hollyburne Ave., Jan. 4.

Assault with deadly weapon report: Karla Pirir, 32, of East Palo Alto arrested and booked into jail on suspicion of brandishing unloaded and unlicensed gun, driving while intoxicated and domestic violence, Pierce Road, Jan. 1.

Shots fired report: Bullet, negligently fired into air, fell through residence skylight without injury to anyone, Chester St., Jan. 1.

Stolen vehicle report: Green 2006 Honda Odyssey, Seminary Drive, Jan. 5.

Hit-and-run with injury report: Ricardo Rodriguez, 24, of Redwood City arrested and booked on suspicion of leaving accident scene and driving without license in collision with bicyclist, El Camino Real and Ravenswood Ave., Jan. 5.

PORTOLA VALLEY

Theft report: Loss estimated at \$200 in theft of skateboard, Woodside Priory School at 302 Portola Road, Dec. 24.



Today's news, sports & hot picks



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Editor & Publisher

Tom Gibboney

Editorial

Managing Editor Richard Hine

News Editor Renee Batti

Lifestyles Editor Jane Knoerle

Staff Writers

Dave Boyce, Sandy Brundage

Senior Correspondents

Marion Softky, Marjorie Mader

Contributors Barbara Wood,

Kate Daly, Katie Blankenberg

Special Sections Editors

Carol Blitzler, Sue Dremann

Photographer Michelle Le

Design & Production

Design Director Raul Perez

Designers Linda Atilano, Lili Cao,

Shannon Corey, Diane Haas, Paul

Llewellyn, Scott Peterson

Advertising

Vice President Sales and

Marketing

Tom Zahiralis

Display Advertising Sales

Adam Carter

Real Estate Manager Neal Fine

Real Estate and Advertising

Coordinator Diane Martin

Published every Wednesday at
3525 Alameda De Las Pulgas,
Menlo Park, Ca 94025

Newsroom: (650) 223-6525

Newsroom Fax: (650) 223-7525

Advertising: (650) 854-2626

Advertising Fax: (650) 854-3650

Email news and photos with
captions to:

Editor@AlmanacNews.com

Email letters to:

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 December 21, 1969.

Subscriptions are \$60 for one year and \$100 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 web site, www.TheAlmanacOnline.com, and occasionally on the Town Square forum.

TOWN SQUARE FORUM

Post your views on the Town Square forum at www.TheAlmanacOnline.com

EMAIL your views to:

letters@almanacnews.com and note this it is a letter to the editor in the subject line.

MAIL or deliver to:

Editor at the Almanac,
3525 Alameda de las Pulgas,
Menlo Park, CA 94025.

CALL the Viewpoint desk at 223-6507.

How to cope without redevelopment funds?

When the state Supreme Court sanctioned legislation backed by Gov. Jerry Brown to wipe out more than 400 redevelopment agencies, Menlo Park's Las Pulgas agency, which has poured \$75 million into east Menlo Park, found out that it will be wiped out, too, as of Feb. 1.

Las Pulgas, which includes most of the city east of U.S. 101 and a swath along Willow Road, was formed in 1981 to fight blight, and was funded by taking increases in property taxes — which last year amounted to more than \$10 million — to fund itself and pay for capital projects. It is money from this “incremental” tax revenue that

has enabled the city to build the Belle Haven senior and community centers, a soccer field and swimming pool, and other improvements such as roads and sidewalks throughout the community.

In touting victory after the court's ruling, Gov. Brown said the state will be able to reclaim \$5 billion a year from the soon-to-be-defunct agencies, and funnel \$1 billion back to schools, which gave up millions of dollars in taxes they would have received that instead went to the district. In an Almanac op-ed piece last March, Menlo Park resident Jennifer Bestor charted how local schools were short-changed by the districts over the years. She claimed that over half of Menlo Park's redevelopment “had been paid for by our schools. We never said, ‘Let's shortchange the schools to address urban blight!’ But that's what we've done for 30 years.”

A follow-up opinion piece by then-City Manager Glen Rojas disputed some of Ms. Bestor's claims, saying she did not acknowledge how the improvements paid for by redevelopment funds added to the area's increased property values.

Regardless of who gained or lost on the Las Pulgas redevelop-

ment district, the high court's Dec. 29 ruling ends the property tax shift that has been in place since 1981. But the legacy of the district will live on for years through the bonds issued for capital improvement projects. Of the \$10.2 million a year generated by district taxes, \$5.2 million will go to pay off bonds, and about \$3 million will be spread out to various schools and special districts as their part of the normal property tax distribution. The court ruling means that the city will lose another \$1.5 million that will be allocated in the same fashion to the schools and special districts.

In a Jan. 3 memo prepared for Acting City Manager Starla Jerome-Robinson, Finance Director Carol Augustine minced few words in describing the impact of the court's decision. The unexpected ruling unwinds what Menlo Park and many other cities thought would be a stop-gap measure to allow the agencies to hang on by paying the state hefty fees to remain open. The court ruled that strategy was unconstitutional, leaving the city's plans for affordable housing, narcotics code enforcement and transfers to help defray overhead expenses up in the air.

“Obviously, the Supreme Court's decision will have a catastrophic impact on the city's capital and operating budgets for years to come,” Ms. Augustine said, adding that the “city's new Public Improvements Fund (with a July 1, 2011, balance of \$7.8 million) designed to fund capital and other large projects within the redevelopment area, will be dissolved, creating a huge funding shortfall in the city's five-year CIP (capital improvement plan).”

The council must work quickly to make sure the city is able to move forward and continue to meet its obligations to the Belle Haven community, as well as other residents of Menlo Park. So far, there is no indication from city leaders about how they will cope with the huge revenue loss, or whether staff layoffs would be considered. But as Ms. Augustine said in her memo, “the implications for the city's budget are severe.”

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS

Our readers write

Marion Softky a fine person, and reporter

Editor:

We are all richer for Marion Softky's contributions to our community. Marion played a major role in establishing and maintaining the high quality of journalism that we in our favored local area have come to expect from the Almanac. The constructive — and, for the most part, positive — political life of our locales would not have been possible without this essential ingredient.

Having gotten to know Marion over four decades, I know that in addition to being a fine reporter, she was also a fine person, who had finely honed values and who cared deeply about the fate of our community and world. Yet, she had vital ability not to let her personal views color her reporting.

See **LETTERS**, next page



Menlo Park Historical Association

Our Regional Heritage

Clark Kepler took over management of the family bookstore in 1988. Here he is shown in the garage level of the new Menlo Center, which was under construction that year, prior to the new store's opening in 1989 at Ravenswood and El Camino Real.

LETTERS

LETTERS

continued from previous page

We are fortunate that we have her colleagues at the Almanac, who will continue to uphold the high journalistic standards which Marion Softky helped set.

Jon Silver
Portola Road, Portola Valley

Clarification on funding for Atherton library

Editor:

The editorial statement that said the author “suspected” that former Atherton Mayor Didi Fisher and council members Elizabeth Lewis and Jerry Carlson were surprised by the council’s approval of the park site for the library, “which would take up to \$8 million away from a town center project that would include the library,” needs clarification. The \$8 million may only be used for the library at the site finally decided upon. None of the money may be used for the town center.

Earl T. Nielsen
Burns Avenue, Atherton

Library could threaten trees in the park

Editor:

The possibility of locating a library/community center in Atherton’s Holbrook-Palmer Park poses a threat to this invaluable open space in numerous ways but particularly to the magnificent array of trees within it.

Adjacent to the suggested “footprint” of the proposed new library are, for instance, a chaste tree, a magnificent towering redwood tree and a huge bunya-bunya tree (False Monkey Puzzle Tree). The latter is said to be of a genus going back to Jurassic times in Australia, has a history as part of aboriginal ceremonial gatherings and was at one time protected by government decree (Governor Gipps in 1842). Park visitors have been amazed to find such a tree on the grounds.

Current traffic and parking patterns, traumatic effects of a possible demolition, earth-moving and building process, and the inevitable increasing library usage (with attendant traffic) would most certainly put these and many other trees in jeopardy.

Atherton takes pride in its designation as “Tree City” and symbolic logo of a tree, which indicates to this reader that our town has an obligation to protect these special trees for posterity.

William Awbrey
Rittenhouse Avenue, Atherton

Time to assess hidden costs of rail project

Editor:

The Dec. 28 Viewpoint article “Caltrain can survive without high-speed rail” is very welcome.

I see many problems with the high-speed rail project and have found it depressing that Caltrain has latched on to it. I suppose it is because Caltrain hopes to fund major changes which will not be of great benefit to Caltrain riders.

I wonder if the high-speed rail enthusiasts factored in the cost of taking down thousands of old growth trees, probably including the old Palo Alto redwood grove along the tracks. (I remember what it cost to take out a single Monterey pine on our property a few years ago!) And the cost of the certain demolition of many long-established businesses, office buildings, maybe the Stanford Park Hotel, apartment houses, railway stations along the Peninsula, reimbursement to the owners and communities affected, not to mention private homes which will be lost!

Did they ever decide if they would build the new tracks on the east or west side of the Caltrain tracks? And how to manage the redirection of traffic now using the major arteries affected — Alma Street and the Central Expressway?

The stopgap plan to use Caltrain tracks first, and then later build the required high-speed rail track is absurd. They would have to build “grade crossings” at every street crossing the tracks, and to build them only for one set of tracks, and then later redo each crossing to accommodate the second set is a no-brainer. So the destruction of existing businesses, structures, and so on at each crossing would be the same even if the high-speed rail could use the old Caltrain tracks, which seems unlikely to me.

So I thank Mr. Janz and Mr. Brady very much for their article.

Kathleen Djordjevich
Waverley Street, Menlo Park

High-speed rail plan should stay on track

Editor:

Being a 30-year resident of the Peninsula, but having been working outside the area, I was very surprised to pick up the Almanac and read the Dec. 28 Guest Opinion piece by James Janz and Michael Brady. As representatives of the Community Coalition on High-Speed Rail, they criticize high-speed rail as a risk but at the same time include high-speed rail in the two alternatives for electrification of the existing Caltrain corridor (take money from the California High-Speed Rail

Authority or go it alone).

The article does not stay focused on this issue, but becomes a diatribe against both high-speed rail and the status quo at Caltrain, with a mixture of “wise up” and NIMBY laced in. To someone not already engrossed in this controversy, it seems reasonable to think of these issues as independent.

Given that high-speed rail has a long-distance purpose, it seems like the Interstate 280 corridor should be considered as an alternative. This routing would allow a stop at the intersection of Highway 92 and 280 as well as a much more scenic ride from San Jose, and void the concerns of the most vocal NIMBY crowd (mid-Peninsula) while potentially crossing over the Peninsula to the Caltrain corridor closer to San Francisco where it is used the most. The cost of high-speed rail may seem prohibitive in today’s economy, but this important project is a path toward economic development for the state that should stay on track.

Ed Mocarski
Erica Way, Portola Valley

New year is a good time to look at your diet

Editor:

2011 has not been a good year for the meat industry.

There were more reports of devastating health impacts. In May, the World Cancer Research Fund advised limiting meat consumption to reduce the risk of bowel cancer. The August issue of The Lancet projects that, on the current meat-based diet, half of the U.S. population will be obese by 2030.

Last August, salmonella contamination forced Cargill, the world’s largest meat processor, to recall 36 million pounds of ground turkey. The University of Florida places the national financial burden of pathogens in meat products at \$4 billion.

Then there were cruelty exposes. A March undercover investigation of the E6 Cattle Company in Texas showed workers bashing cows’ heads with pickaxes and hammers. In November, ABC News publicized atrocious egg production conditions at Iowa’s Sparboe Farms. Bills attempting to criminalize such investigations were defeated in Iowa, Minnesota, Florida, and New York.

Accordingly, the U.S. Department of Agriculture projects that Americans will consume 12.2 percent less meat in 2012 than in 2007.

Every one of us can welcome this trend by resolving to cut our meat consumption in 2012. Entering “live vegan” in our favorite search engine brings recipes and tons of other useful information.

Malcolm Davidson
Encinal Avenue, Menlo Park



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF MENLO PARK PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING OF JANUARY 23, 2012

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the City of Menlo Park, California, is scheduled to review the following items:

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

Use Permit/David Crouch/1530 Bay Laurel Drive: Request for a use permit to construct a new two-story single-family residence on a substandard lot, with regard to lot width in the R-1-S (Single-Family Suburban) zoning district. As part of the application, the applicant is proposing to remove three heritage trees, including one heritage street tree.

Use Permit/Suzan Szollar/222 Elm Street: Request for a use permit for interior modifications, a first floor addition, and construction of a new second story, which would exceed 50% of the existing floor area of on a lot that is substandard with regard to lot width, located in the R-1-U (Single-Family Urban) zoning district. The proposed remodeling and expansion are considered to be equivalent to a new structure. In addition, the applicant is proposing to remove a heritage size juniper tree in good condition, located at the front of the existing structure.

Use Permit/Julie Epshteyn for AT&T/800 El Camino Real: Request for a use permit revision to modify an existing wireless facility on the rooftop of an existing four-story commercial office building, located in the P-D(1) (Planned Development) zoning district. The proposal would add three panel antennas and associated new equipment. The proposed antennas would be incorporated into the existing parapet and the equipment would be located on the roof.

Use Permit and Architectural Control/City of Menlo Park Municipal Water District/920 Sharon Park Drive: Request for a use permit and architectural control for the removal of the existing Sharon Heights water pump station and construction of a new pump station, consisting of three pumps and an emergency diesel generator. The equipment would be enclosed within an 840-square-foot building located at the rear of the site, which is located in the R-1-S (Single-Family Suburban) zoning district. A temporary pump station would be located on the adjacent left parcel (as viewed from Sharon Park Drive) until construction is completed. As part of the proposed project, one 32-inch, heritage size Monterey pine tree in fair condition and one multi-trunk coast live oak in good condition would be removed.

Use Permit/ForSight Labs, LLC/175-177 Jefferson Drive: Request for a use permit for the indoor storage and use of hazardous materials for the research and development of vision-related medical technologies in the M-2 (General Industrial) zoning district. ForSight currently operates at the subject site, in the suite addressed 191 Jefferson Drive and is expanding operations to include the suites addressed 175-177 Jefferson Drive.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that said Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on public hearing items in the Council Chambers of the City of Menlo Park, located at 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, on **Monday, January 23, 2012, 7:00 p.m.** or as near as possible thereafter, at which time and place interested persons may appear and be heard thereon. If you challenge this item in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Menlo Park at, or prior to, the public hearing.

The project file may be viewed by the public on weekdays between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, with alternate Fridays closed, at the Department of Community Development, 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park. Please call the Planning Division if there are any questions and/or for complete agenda information (650) 330-6702.

Si usted necesita más información sobre este proyecto, por favor llame al 650-330-6702, y pregunte por un asistente que hable español.

DATED: January 5, 2012 Deanna Chow, Senior Planner
PUBLISHED: January 11, 2012 Menlo Park Planning Commission

Visit our Web site for Planning Commission public hearing, agenda, and staff report information: www.menlopark.org

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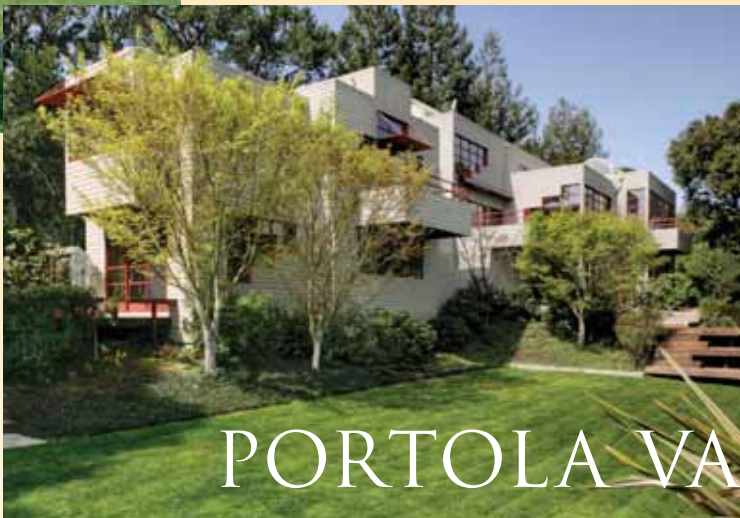
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