



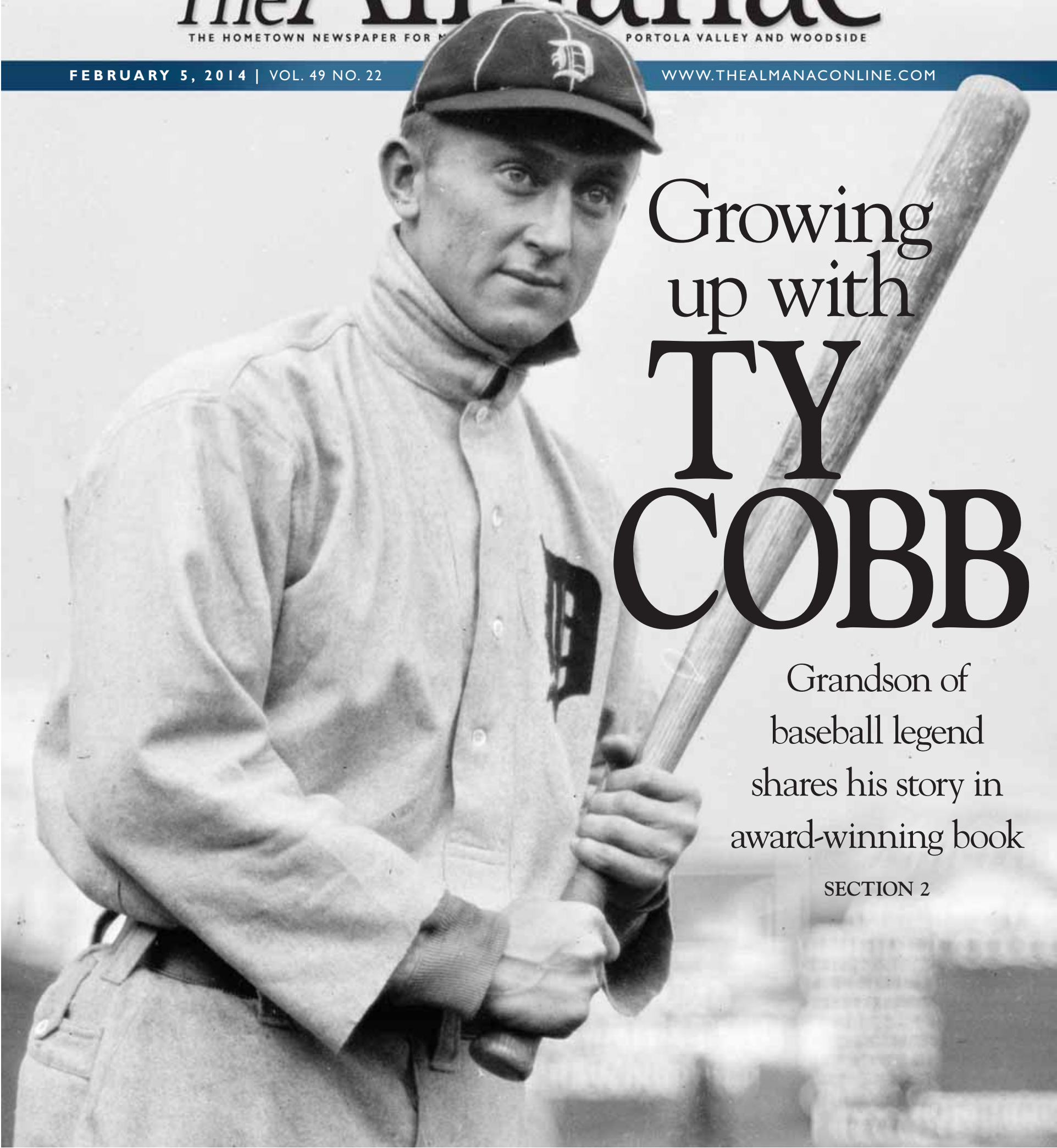
Menlo College grad writes book
about surviving in the NFL | Page 3

The Almanac

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FEBRUARY 5, 2014 | VOL. 49 NO. 22

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From the bottom of the pile

By Marion Hohlfeld

He stands 6 feet 3 inches tall and weighs 225 pounds.

He needed it all to succeed in the National Football League, playing as a wide receiver and tight end.

"Down, set, hut!" That's his sign to start moving, running the route his quarterback gave him in the huddle. Sprinting down the field as fast as he can, he turns and sees the egg spiraling toward him. Without a thought his arms go up and he catches the ball. The defender smashes into him and both fall to the ground. His shoulder has popped out another time.

This was the beginning of Nate Jackson's rollercoaster ride through the National Football League playing for the Denver Broncos. Jackson, a San Jose native who graduated from — and played for — Menlo College in Atherton, recently wrote about his experiences in the book, "Slow Getting Up: A story of NFL Survival from the Bottom of the Pile."

NFL players "telling all" after they get out of the league seems to be a rising trend.

"I hoped to offer some perspective for people who maybe don't understand the athlete's (view) or think it is (like) Peyton Manning's life," Jackson said, referring to the renowned quarterback for the Denver Broncos. "Because the NFL is not Peyton Manning's life. For 99 percent of the guys, it is a different experience."

Jackson's book offers an honest and uncensored memoir of everyday life for the 99 percent. He gives both breathtaking and painful insight into what it's like to play in the NFL while telling his story of playing six seasons for the Broncos.

Though he ended up playing professionally, the 34-year old took a more unusual path to his sports career.

"I wasn't thinking NFL in high school at all," Jackson said. "Then I went to Cal Poly (San Luis Obispo), I walked onto their football team and



Nate Jackson will discuss his book, "Slow Getting Up: A story of NFL Survival from the Bottom of the Pile," at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11, at Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real in Menlo Park.

got cut. When I transferred to Menlo College, the dream was revived."

For Jackson, the small Division III school was the door opener to the NFL. Craig Walsh, son of former 49ers head coach Bill Walsh, served as Menlo's athletic director at the time.

During Jackson's time at Menlo, he set many records as a wide

Menlo College grad writes book about his experience in the NFL.

receiver and was named first-team All-American during every season he played. Following his senior year in 2001, he also won the NCAA D-III Offensive Player of the Year award.

After playing college ball from 1999 until 2001 and graduating with a degree in communications, Jackson signed as a free agent with the San Francisco 49ers in 2002. He spent his first year with the Bay Area team injured before moving to the Denver Broncos the year after.

The first few chapters of the book illustrate his experience of

remaining undrafted to getting that sought-after phone call from the 49ers to then being waived, but picked up by the Broncos. This took him to Denver and included a stint in the NFL Europe, an American football league based in Europe that is no longer in operation, where he played for Rhein Fire, a team based in Dusseldorf, Germany.

For his six years as a Bronco, Jackson alternated between the practice squad and active roster, playing special teams and receiver until, after gaining 30 pounds, he was converted to tight end.

"The first ten days of training camp are the roughest," he writes in the book. "Each day feels like a week. Each step feels like my last. The pain is constant and comes from everywhere, pushing up from the bottom of my feet and down from the top of my rattled skull. But soon there is a preseason game that breaks up the monotony of the ritual lashings."

His responsibilities were to block large defensive players, but also to catch the ball as an outlet receiver if the quarterback

See **NATE**, page 6



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Menlo Park Historical Property Values - 2013 yr end



ALPINE ROAD AREA

Year	# Sold	Median \$	Min \$	Max \$	Avg \$ / SF
2013	3	2,150,000	1,425,000	2,695,000	865
2012	5	1,585,000	980,000	2,405,000	646
2011	5	980,000	670,000	1,380,000	732
2010	2	808,000	675,000	941,000	576
2009	4	1,367,000	1,259,000	3,350,000	540
2008	3	1,249,000	1,175,000	1,330,000	638
2007	10	1,322,500	875,000	3,575,000	820

SHARON HEIGHTS/STANFORD HILLS

Year	# Sold	Median \$	Min \$	Max \$	Avg \$ / SF
2013	22	2,446,500	1,310,000	4,050,000	863
2012	22	1,881,500	1,105,000	4,300,000	767
2011	24	1,740,000	880,000	4,100,000	661
2010	16	1,702,500	1,185,000	3,710,000	727
2009	13	1,787,000	1,130,000	2,821,000	662
2008	14	1,803,500	1,425,000	4,900,000	709
2007	19	2,045,000	1,030,000	4,675,000	774

COUNTY/ALAMEDA AREA

Year	# Sold	Median \$	Min \$	Max \$	Avg \$ / SF
2013	55	1,825,000	1,061,000	4,075,000	945
2012	62	1,633,000	735,000	4,800,000	810
2011	48	1,408,000	715,000	2,925,000	745
2010	40	1,362,500	719,000	2,349,000	786
2009	49	1,400,000	760,000	2,480,000	754
2008	38	2,139,813	1,050,000	3,242,000	807
2007	61	1,590,000	955,000	3,500,000	842

CENTRAL MENLO

Year	# Sold	Median \$	Min \$	Max \$	Avg \$ / SF
2013	43	2,695,000	1,550,000	4,500,000	1,010
2012	52	1,987,500	1,080,000	7,625,000	930
2011	53	1,850,000	800,000	4,482,000	817
2010	63	2,040,000	975,000	5,300,000	794
2009	45	1,945,000	868,000	4,250,000	791
2008	41	2,326,000	1,145,000	4,310,000	905
2007	52	1,976,000	900,000	5,375,000	892

ALLIED ARTS/DOWNTOWN

Year	# Sold	Median \$	Min \$	Max \$	Avg \$ / SF
2013	29	1,695,000	1,300,000	3,547,500	1,002
2012	37	1,335,000	631,000	3,995,000	950
2011	30	1,477,000	725,000	4,000,000	806
2010	36	1,315,000	790,000	3,070,000	766
2009	23	1,355,000	825,000	3,200,000	779
2008	25	1,400,000	940,000	2,995,000	948
2007	35	1,455,000	860,000	2,874,000	974

MIDDLEFIELD TO EL CAMINO

Year	# Sold	Median \$	Min \$	Max \$	Avg \$ / SF
2013	18	1,527,500	827,000	2,160,000	831
2012	18	1,356,500	810,000	2,330,000	706
2011	28	1,140,000	547,000	2,200,000	622
2010	20	1,277,500	895,000	1,700,000	704
2009	20	1,182,000	313,000	1,900,000	687
2008	21	1,375,000	272,000	2,050,000	790
2007	19	1,410,000	800,000	1,850,000	801

FELTON GABLES

Year	# Sold	Median \$	Min \$	Max \$	Avg \$ / SF
2013	8	2,137,500	1,385,000	3,200,000	857
2012	3	1,800,000	1,400,000	1,900,000	977
2011	4	2,300,000	1,825,000	3,125,000	882
2010	3	1,685,000	1,525,000	1,738,000	790
2009	3	1,850,000	1,625,000	2,650,000	926
2008	4	2,037,500	1,720,000	2,865,000	1,051
2007	2	2,197,500	1,920,000	2,475,000	1,025

MENLO OAKS

Year	# Sold	Median \$	Min \$	Max \$	Avg \$ / SF
2013	14	1,702,500	1,012,000	2,650,000	978
2012	28	1,952,500	939,000	3,900,000	870
2011	22	2,168,000	800,000	4,700,000	757
2010	22	1,842,500	711,000	3,725,000	766
2009	13	2,200,000	855,000	3,054,000	733
2008	27	2,620,625	685,000	4,995,000	868
2007	17	2,225,000	1,260,000	4,990,000	810

WILLOWS/O'CONNOR

Year	# Sold	Median \$	Min \$	Max \$	Avg \$ / SF
2013	32	1,361,000	820,000	2,350,000	948
2012	50	1,017,500	562,600	2,300,000	786
2011	41	1,065,000	420,000	1,775,000	682
2010	38	1,012,500	525,000	2,100,000	704
2009	37	930,000	445,000	1,733,000	664
2008	38	1,212,250	541,000	1,850,000	770
2007	57	1,119,000	541,000	2,066,000	779

FLOOD PARK

Year	# Sold	Median \$	Min \$	Max \$	Avg \$ / SF
2013	31	1,177,000	850,000	1,740,000	773
2012	32	1,016,500	325,000	1,630,000	646
2011	27	835,000	600,000	1,525,000	612
2010	29	790,000	290,000	1,322,500	607
2009	21	825,000	500,000	1,165,000	538
2008	27	945,000	277,000	1,900,000	606
2007	29	975,000	600,000	1,300,000	688

COUNTY AREA/FAIR OAKS AVE

Year	# Sold	Median \$	Min \$	Max \$	Avg \$ / SF
2013	51	890,000	305,000	2,498,000	721
2012	43	677,000	330,000	2,225,000	567
2011	37	650,000	286,000	2,289,000	454
2010	26	605,000	380,000	1,735,000	488
2009	32	589,000	220,000	940,000	477
2008	32	752,500	390,000	2,800,000	599
2007	35	856,000	519,900	2,135,000	663

EAST OF 101

Year	# Sold	Median \$	Min \$	Max \$	Avg \$ / SF
2013	34	503,500	295,000	850,000	465
2012	40	386,000	200,000	600,000	276
2011	53	330,000	213,000	500,000	291
2010	63	320,000	174,000	530,000	289
2009	50	300,000	210,000	439,000	291
2008	31	380,000	255,000	494,900	341
2007	63	629,900	331,000	925,000	391

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MLS data based on single family home values

Local News

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Trees downed illegally, but no fine this time

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Another case of illegal downing of significant trees in Portola Valley, this time on private land and out of sight of the public and neighbors, came before the town's Architectural & Site Control Commission (ASCC) in January.

The case involved 19 trees, mostly bay laurels, on the grounds of the Villa Lauriston estate at 5050 Alpine Road, according to an ASCC staff report.

The trees were located in

secluded Jones Gulch, but on a fairly steep slope that drains into an area potentially populated by two designated at-risk animals: the dusky-footed wood rat and the California red-legged frog. The risk to these species brings into the case the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

In a similar case about a year ago involving 18 trees on a highly visible stretch of public land, the Town Council clamped down on the owner of 18 Redberry Ridge with a site-development ban, a hefty fine,

■ PORTOLA VALLEY

and a replanting program.

This time, the town is going with an erosion-control and replanting program. It was significant that the property owner reported the violation and that the site is hidden and on private land, said Deputy Town Planner Karen Kristiansson.

Representatives of the property owner told Portola Valley staff about it on Oct. 30, the report says. Along with the bay laurels, a species that can harbor microbes that transmit sudden oak death (SOD), the

downed trees included two buckeyes, three redwoods, and one big-leaf maple, all on about an acre of land.

A landscaping company hired by the property owner was maintaining the site, Ms. Kristiansson told the Almanac. The owner of Villa Lauriston does not live there, she said. The town has been communicating with Monte Leon LLC on Bryant Street in Palo Alto.

An arborist concluded that most of the trees were in poor health, the staff report says. Emergency erosion control began in mid-November.

The town's municipal code

categorizes trees by species; many become significant when their diameters reach 11.5 inches. Cutting a significant tree without first obtaining a permit can result in a code violation being attached to the property, which then prohibits all site development work there until the violation is rectified to the satisfaction of town officials.

The property owner is taking responsibility for not obtaining a permit and has been "very cooperative and is moving ahead as quickly as he can to correct the situation," Ms. Kristiansson said.

See **TREES DOWNED**, page 8

Residents raise issues with Pope-Chaucer Bridge plan

By Elena Kadvanj

Palo Alto Weekly

Despite organizational difficulties and a gym with poor acoustics, Menlo Park and Palo Alto residents clearly voiced their opinion at a community meeting about the potential fate of flood-prone Pope-Chaucer Street Bridge: They're not happy with the options that have been presented to them, and they want more information.

Staff from the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority and Santa Clara Valley Water District fielded questions on Jan. 29 from an impassioned crowd that filled the East Palo Alto Academy gym in Menlo Park, just blocks from the bridge in question. The meeting was pegged as an opportunity to gather early community input on four possible options for rebuilding the Pope-Chaucer Street Bridge but took place before an environmental impact report has been completed, leaving many questions still unanswered.

"How can we make a decision

if we don't understand what the facts are?" one woman asked staff, to loud applause from others in the packed gym.

The four options presented for the Pope-Chaucer Street Bridge — which of all the bridges crossing the San Francisquito Creek between Palo Alto and Menlo Park allows the least amount of water to flow under — are to leave the existing bridge as is, to take it out but not replace it, to build a raised bridge that allows more water to flow underneath, or construct an at-grade bridge with minimal changes to roadway elevations.

The Jan. 29 meeting focused on the designs and impacts of the latter two options, which also include differing plans for longer-term flood protection projects.

The raised-bridge alternative, referred to as the baseline project, would raise the roadway at the bridge and portions of Palo Alto Avenue and Woodland Avenue. The design calls for 4-foot-tall retaining walls at

See **RESIDENTS RAISE**, page 8

'Sports cap' bank robbery suspect arrested

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

An anonymous tip led investigators to a 26-year-old woman suspected of robbing two Menlo Park banks during the fall.

Jasmin Sahib, a Hayward resident, was arrested around 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29, according to police.

Cmdr. Dave Bertini said investigators had her in mind as a suspect since early January, after someone who saw

surveillance photos released by the FBI thought the suspect looked familiar and contacted law enforcement.

Ms. Sahib is allegedly linked to the Oct. 29 robbery of Bank of the West on Santa Cruz Avenue and the Nov. 8 robbery of U.S.

Bank on El Camino Real.

Dubbed the "sports cap bandit," a woman walked into the banks, handed tellers a note saying she had a gun and demanded money. She left with less than \$5,000 total for both robberies. No one was injured.

Witnesses described the sus-

See **BANK ROBBERY**, page 8



Photo: San Mateo County Sheriff's Office

Jasmin Sahib, suspect in robbery of two Menlo Park banks.



City of Menlo Park

Canine pensioner

Some public safety employees look forward to pension paychecks. But Gert received a retirement rawhide bone as thank you from the Menlo Park City Council on Jan. 27. The police canine's seven years with the Menlo Park Police Department saw him assist with 17 arrests, provide protection to top government officials, including President Obama, and win several medals in competition against other canine-handler teams. Gert made time for community service above the call of duty, providing comfort for veterans with brain injuries. Rather than going to a retirement home, Gert will be living with his handler, Officer Steve Knopp.

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	Chicken Thighs	\$2.98 ^{lb.}	
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	Golden Grain Elbows 16 oz. Also Sea Shells	\$1.29
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	Quaker Oatmeal Squares 14 oz.	\$3.79

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'12 Olema Pinot Noir, Sonoma County	Reg. \$19.99 Sale \$16.99
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<i>(Woodside location only)</i>	

{ www.robertsmarket.com }

Parents organize discussion on Mandarin immersion

Parents who are pushing for a Mandarin immersion program in the Menlo Park City School District have organized a film screening and panel discussion on the topic, scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 9, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Menlo Park Library.

The film, "Speaking in Tongues," by Marcia Jarmel will be shown, and Ms. Jarmel will be one of three panelists.

Other panelists will be Stanford professor Thomas Sudhof, a 2013 Nobel laureate in medicine/physiology; and U.C. Berkeley professor L. Ling-Chi Wang.

Carol Cunningham, one of the event organizers, said a primary goal of the program is to address "common questions and misconceptions" supporters of Mandarin immersion have encountered since launching their effort.

In a letter to parents, she noted that specific concerns and questions the Sunday program will address include cognitive and other benefits of bilingualism, the benefits of an immersion program vs.

an enrichment-model program, the growth of Mandarin immersion offerings in public schools, and the anticipated cost of such a program in the Menlo Park City School District.

Ms. Cunningham and other district parents addressed the school board last May, urging board members to support Mandarin immersion instruction in the district. They spoke of the importance of learning a language at a young age, and noted that Mandarin — the national language of China, Taiwan and Singapore — is spoken by 1.1 billion people worldwide.

Mandarin language instruction is offered at Woodside High School and La Entrada Middle School, and Menlo-Atherton High School is expected to begin its own program in the fall, Ms. Cunningham said.

The Feb. 9 program is free. The library is at 800 Alma St., in the Menlo Park Civic Center. Seats are limited, and those interested in participating are asked to email miimps1@gmail.com.

NATE

continued from page 3

outlet receiver if the quarterback got into trouble and needed to release the football quickly. Jackson still had to be a fast runner, as well as to be able to deliver a big hit on an ambushing defender.

Though Jackson watched and learned from some of the best in the league — Rod Smith and Stephen Alexander, who played wide receiver and tight end, respectively, for example — and eventually won a starting spot for the Broncos, his said his body did not want to keep up.

His book is also a memorandum of injuries and pain, a constant in the National Football League.

"I started to live with the pain," Jackson said. "It was a normal part of my life. The physical pain was something I gained control over. It was empowering just being able to control the pain."

When Jackson finally quit playing professionally after yet another hamstring injury four years ago, he said he started

"diving into writing as a way of life and a way to dig into my emotions and my heart. While I was in the NFL, I took a creative writing class in Denver. The next off-season, I took a poetry class. Those opened up my eyes to some different ideas and techniques."

Jackson said he always liked to write in school and wrote a journal for the Broncos' website for about three years.

Some of his writing about the NFL has also been published in online Slate magazine, the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal.

He said his focus in the future might steer away from "NFL-style" books, however.

"I think I would like to write some fiction. I don't want to do just football writing. I would like to write about life and the adventures of life, love and people. I want to explore the frontiers of writing and keep working hard at it."

Jackson will read from and discuss his book at Kepler's Books on Tuesday, Feb. 11, at 7:30 p.m. For more information, go to keplers.com. ■

■ BIRTHS

Atherton

■ Kristin and Chad Lencioni, a son, Dec. 31, Sequoia Hospital.

Emerald Hills

■ Christine and Nicholas Schneider, a daughter, Jan. 14, Sequoia Hospital.

Menlo Park

■ Tejaswini Ravindra and Niket Sirsi, a son, Jan. 21, Sequoia Hospital.

Police misconduct: Exploring options to binding arbitration

By **Sandy Brundage**
Almanac Staff Writer

What options besides binding arbitration exist for handling appeals filed by police officers facing discipline? The Menlo Park City Council held a study session to explore alternatives.

Binding arbitration earned public scrutiny after the Almanac broke the story last year of veteran police officer Jeffrey Vasquez, who was reinstated by an arbitrator despite being caught naked with a prostitute in a motel room and reportedly admitting it wasn't the first time he had hired a hooker for sex. The arbitrator also awarded him \$188,000 in back pay.

Labor attorneys Jeff Sloan and Michael Rains, representing the management and union perspectives on binding arbitration respectively, carried on a back-and-forth during their Jan. 27 presentation to the council.

Mr. Sloan said a "very strong" public safety lobby led to California's "Public Safety Officers Bill of Rights," which sets out protections for police officers that are broader than those for any other public employee, with the possible exception of firefighters.

Mr. Rains, a former police officer with three decades of experience as a labor attorney, noted that the purpose of the bill of rights is to prevent abusive or arbitrary discipline.

Describing police as "the most visible representative of this city," he told the council that officers want a fair, thorough and objective process, which in turn brings benefits for the city.

"As long as the disciplinary process and the appellate mechanisms are there, you can buy a lot of goodwill from your police officers and their associations," Mr. Rains said.

Two alternatives to binding arbitration: A civilian personnel review board, or implementing non-binding arbitration, which would allow either side to appeal a decision through the court system.

Mr. Rains said those choices can bog down the process, leading to lengthy and expensive hearings.

Voicing disagreement, Mr. Sloan said arbitration isn't fast either, in some cases taking more than a year to render a decision. "I had one case where the union lawyer took 23 days to put on his case in front of an

arbitrator, and I dare say a judge would not have allowed that."

He said a big aspect of his concerns relates to the issue of who the arbitrators are. "How qualified are these people? To what extent are they researchable, and can I see what they've written, check their references? And typically the answer to that is no." Arbitrators have to be able to satisfy both sides of an appeal to stay in business, he noted.

Mr. Rains countered with saying that word gets around within the legal community about an arbitrator's reputation, in addition to copies of sample decisions.

"We aren't just out there picking and hiring blindly," he said.

Little data

Other labor attorneys shared Mr. Sloan's concerns during the Almanac's investigation last year. At least 16 jurisdictions in California rely on binding arbitration in police disciplinary cases.

Lack of data turns evaluating the effectiveness of the system into a monumental challenge.

The lack of a centralized database of arbitration decisions, or even statistics on how many cases are upheld, turns evaluating the effectiveness of the system — or individual arbitrators — into a monumental challenge.

The Almanac obtained 17 redacted decisions in police misconduct cases involving San Jose, Stockton, Richmond, Alameda, Sierra Madre, Oroville, Merced County and Oakland. Out of 17 cases, arbitrators reinstated the officers nine times, and reduced a suspension once — a reversal rate of about 59 percent.

They upheld terminations in the remaining seven cases. Academic studies of similar binding arbitration cases in Chicago and Houston show approximately the same reversal rate.

The state doesn't require arbitrators to publish their decisions, and due to confidentiality laws, both parties must give permission should an arbitrator choose to release a case ruling. Labor attorneys said sample decisions provided by

arbitrators are typically selected according to politics — a city manager, for example, is likely to get a copy of a ruling that supported management.

One question went unaddressed during the Jan. 27 study session — where is the public transparency? Under California law, the identities of police officers appealing through binding arbitration are confidential.

A public agency may disclose the number of such cases and the outcomes, as the city of San Jose does quarterly, but Menlo Park refuses to release even that redacted information. And no state agency has oversight of the arbitration process, meaning no one knows how well the process works.

Councilman Peter Ohtaki said during the study session that the outcome in the Vasquez case outraged the council as well as the community. "What we're trying to do is look at alternatives to avoid the outcome, but still respect and preserve a fair and thorough and objective due process."

In August, the Menlo Park council voted 4-1 to approve a contract with the Police Sergeants Association that made minor changes to the binding arbitration process, namely, adding a clause that allows the city and union to select an arbitrator from a pool of retired San Mateo County judges if they can't agree on an arbitrator from a list provided by an outside agency such as the state mediation service. But the arbitrator's decision would still be final.

Voting against the contract, Councilwoman Kirsten Keith called the binding arbitration process "broken" and said the changes didn't go far enough.

At the Jan. 27 study session she said she agreed that fairness is necessary. "But it doesn't mean binding arbitration furthers that goal."

The council asked for opinions about using retired judges to arbitrate. On that topic, Mr. Sloan and Mr. Rains sounded united. Both expressed that retired judges may not have the experience or background to deal with the nuances of labor law. ■

The **Almanac**
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LET'S DISCUSS:

Read the latest local news headlines and talk about the issues at Town Square at AlmanacNews.com



REAL ESTATE TRENDS

by *Samia Cullen*

What to expect in 2014

Our local real estate market is poised for continued growth as the economic recovery enters its fourth year, and there are positive elements in play that provide some reasons for optimism and dispel worries about a bubble market.

1) Interest rates may see some increases but will remain relatively low, which keeps mortgage payments low and affordable. In many instances, it is cheaper to buy a new home than it is to rent.

2) Unemployment is inching down.
3) Buyers are making larger down payments than in the past when purchasing new properties. This will help prevent a bubble market, as buyers with more money invested are much less likely to walk away from their properties in the event of a downturn.

Ongoing headwinds include limited inventory conditions and stringent

mortgage standards, both of which are expected to continue. Inventory has been at record low levels and demand from buyers will continue to be strong. The supply and demand rule will affect home prices and home prices will reach new records.

As interest rates rise to their traditional levels, generally between 5% and 7%, you can expect prices to stabilize.

Silicon Valley will continue to outperform the rest of the state. Our local housing market will continue to be strong in 2014, reflecting the continuing economic recovery and the pace of IPOs and buyouts. The increase in hiring should continue through the year. Home price appreciation will slow slightly this coming year, but rising prices, combined with rising mortgage rates, will affect affordability.

If you have a house to sell, it is an opportune time to sell.

I offer complimentary staging when I list your home. Contact me at [Alain Pinel Realtors](http://AlainPinelRealtors.com) (650) 384-5392 or send me an email at scullen@apr.com. Follow my blog at samiacullen.com

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MENLO PARK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT CITIZENS' BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

OPEN POSITIONS

The Menlo Park City School District is seeking potential candidates to fill positions on the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee. In November 2013, voters within the Menlo Park City School District boundaries approved the Measure W Bond to modernize and provide new school facilities. The Bond was passed per Proposition 39, which requires the creation of a Bond Oversight Committee. This volunteer committee is responsible for performing oversight activities such as review of bond expenditures and preparation of annual reports as set forth by Proposition 39. The Committee meets at minimum on a quarterly basis. The Committee is comprised of seven people from different segments of the Community. The District is currently seeking to fill the 7 vacant positions. One position is for a representative of the business community within the District; one position is for a representative active in a senior citizen's organization; one position is for a representative active in a bona fide taxpayers' organization; one position is for a representative who is a parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the District; and one position is for a representative who is a parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the School District and is active in a Parent-Teacher Organization or School Site Council. Two positions are at large and must meet the resident and age requirements. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and a resident of the School District. For any further questions, please call Ahmad Sheikholeslami at 650-321-7140. Deadline to apply is February 25, 2014. If you are interested in this position, please submit a Letter of Interest as well as background information about yourself and the organization in which you are active to: ahmad@mpcsd.org or to:

Menlo Park City School District
Attn: Ahmad Sheikholeslami
181 Encinal Ave.
Atherton, CA 94027

Residents raise issues with Pope-Chaucer Bridge plan

continued from page 5

the four corner properties surrounding the bridge. The bridge railing would be a standard height of 3 feet. There would be no floodwalls immediately built — an element of contention with residents — and this design would protect the area from a large, once-in-50-years flood.

The raised bridge would allow more water to flow freely and is more convenient for maintenance, said Kevin Sibley, associate civil engineer for the Santa Clara Valley Water District. This construction would be mainly funded by the water district, with most of the money coming from Measure B, a bond voters passed in 2012.

The raised bridge design also lays the groundwork for a potential future 100-year flood protection project, which when built would mean the bridge would be able to withstand a massive flood that happens on average every 100 years. The designs includes three possible placements for underground bypass culverts, which allow water to flow under roads. One alignment would run from Middlefield Road out to the San Francisco Bay, another from the creek under Hamilton Avenue, and a third along the creek under Woodland Avenue.

For the 100-year project, the raised bridge design would also add 3- to 6-foot-tall floodwalls, extending up to 600 feet upstream and 100 feet downstream. (The height varies due to road alignment.)

Menlo Park resident Brielle Johnck took the microphone at the meeting to ask water district staff about the first community meeting, held Jan. 15, at which she said Menlo Park City Councilwoman Kirsten Keith said, "Floodwalls are a nonstarter."

"We all just sat there and said, 'Well, this is the best piece of news we've gotten,'" Ms. Johnck said, expressing opposition to the construction of floodwalls. "So my question tonight is, is Kirsten on solid ground there? Can we honestly say there will be no floodwalls on either of these alternatives? Because I keep hearing the word 'floodwalls' over and over again."

"Floodwalls are one alter-

native," said Kevin Murray, project manager at the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority. "At this point in time, your input and Kirsten Keith's input obviously carries a lot of weight, so a future decision will be made."

The second design, for an at-grade bridge, requires no retaining walls at the four corner properties, no floodwalls and minimal changes to road elevations. It would also involve building a standard 3-foot-tall bridge railing.

The at-grade bridge "maintains the aesthetic of the current bridge without impacting the four corner properties," Mr. Sibley said.

It also can accommodate a potential 100-year-flood-protection project but with potentially higher floodwalls — up to 7 feet — that extend much further upstream — 1,800 feet — and 100 feet downstream.

"There's some serious negative with that floodwall issue, and I can appreciate that," Mr. Sibley conceded but said that the floodwall would not actually be 7 feet tall the whole way but rather taper off as it moves farther away from the bridge.

Mr. Sibley said maintenance is much more difficult with the at-grade bridge versus a raised one.

Residents have also taken issue with the potential removal of trees along the bridge, starting a website called "Save the Oaks." The raised-bridge alternative would remove 25 to 35 riparian trees, or trees that grow between land and a creek or river, and up to 31 landscape trees (due to removal of landscape strips at the four corner properties). The at-grade option would remove the same amount of creek-side trees, but no landscape trees.

Many audience members also continually asked staff why no environmental impact report (EIR) has been completed yet. Staff said they're currently working on it, and one is due out this summer.

"I guess I'm just asking for a lot more information than you're giving to us. If the EIR isn't until summer, then maybe we should postpone these discussions until then," one audience member said, to a round of applause. ■

"Nuggets" in the other.

Cmdr. Bertini said he didn't know if she was linked to other crimes in the Bay Area. Ms. Sahib was not on probation or parole at the time of her arrest. ■



Photo by James Tensuan

What a kick

Students at La Entrada Middle School in Menlo Park kick a shuttlecock during a Lunar New Year celebration at the school on Friday, Jan. 31. Other activities included calligraphy, table tennis and mahjong.

Atherton drainage concerns focus of meeting

Atherton residents concerned about drainage problems in their neighborhoods or around town can voice those concerns at a community meeting that begins at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6, in the Atherton Town Council Chambers.

The meeting also will give residents a chance to find out what's already under scrutiny as the town's consultant, NV5, puts together a drainage study and master plan. The consultant will make a presentation and take comments from the public.

According to an announcement about the meeting, the town considers drainage problems to include conditions in which properties are impacted by actual flooding, standing water that doesn't drain within 48 hours following rain, water that threatens roadway safety, and stormwater over-topping a drainage embankment.

Residents who can't attend the meeting but want to provide

■ BRIEFS

information about drainage problems can email associate engineer David Huynh at dhuynh@ci-atherton.ca.us by 5 p.m. Feb. 7 with the following information: name, address, drainage issue, and location of the drainage problem (with the nearest street address or intersection, if possible).

The Council Chambers are at 94 Ashfield Road, in the Town Center.

Parent education

The film, "In 500 Words or Less," will be shown at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6, in the Performing Arts Center at Menlo-Atherton High School. The film takes the viewer inside the lives of four very different students as they spend their last year with their families trying to figure out who they are and who they want to be.

Parents, students and com-

munity members are invited to attend the free screening. Contact Charlene Margot at cmargot@csconsulting.net or call 868-0590.

Grand jury

Applications to serve on the 2014-2015 civil grand jury will be accepted until March 28. The grand jury performs an independent citizen watchdog function over county and city governments.

Any resident of San Mateo County for more than one year, who is a citizen of the United States, 18 years of age, of sound judgment and good character, with sufficient knowledge of the English language, is qualified to serve.

The grand jury Superior Court judge will interview applicants, with final selection determined by random draw.

Email grandjury@sanmateo-court.org or call 261-5066 for more information.

TREES DOWNED

continued from page 5

tiansson said. Site development is restricted pending success of a replanting program, she said.

From little acorns

Along with erosion control, the remedies include adding about 300 plants with temporary irrigation. The owner is required to monitor progress for three to five years and must check in with the ASCC periodically. Asked how much all this would cost, Ms. Kristiansson replied: "I'm certain we're into six figures."

The new trees will include

oaks and a few redwoods. The oaks would be starting from scratch as acorns rather than even very young trees. Acorns, as they grow, will accommodate themselves to the steep slope, something that would be much more difficult for trees "of any size," Ms. Kristiansson said.

The five-member ASCC approved the remedies on a unanimous vote on Jan. 9.

In the Redberry Ridge case in January 2013, some of the trees were located on public land visible from across the valley. After negotiations with property owner David L. Douglass, the Town Council assessed him a \$75,000 fine and ordered

a \$150,000 remediation plan that included about a dozen new oaks.

The mansion at Villa Lauriston was the work of medicinal-herbs entrepreneur Herbert Law, who built it early in the 20th century. It went up for auction in April 2013 with starting bids at \$8.88 million, auctioneer Guy Masters told the Almanac at the time. It sold in 2013 for \$13 million, according to Mr. Master's website.

The Lauriston estate comprised hundreds of acres, that size perhaps signified by the location of its gatehouse — the black stone tower at 451 Portola Road. ■

BANK ROBBERY

continued from page 5

pect as wearing a red baseball cap marked "C" in one case, and a blue and gold hat marked

Off the Grid sets date for launch of food-truck gathering in Menlo Park

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

■ MENLO PARK

Ten food trucks will roll into the Caltrain station on Feb. 19, when Off the Grid expects to kick off its new weekly event in Menlo Park.

Despite protests by about 20 downtown business owners and patrons prior to the Planning Commission's approval of a permit for the event, no one filed to appeal the decision by the Jan. 29 deadline, according to city staff.

Off the Grid, based in San Francisco, started organizing food truck events nearly four years ago. It now hosts gather-

Ten food trucks are expected at Feb. 19 debut event at Caltrain station.

ings in 25 Bay Area locations, including the Belmont and Burlingame Caltrain stations.

The Menlo Park event will use the corner of the train station parking lot near the intersection of Merrill Street and Ravenswood Avenue and close to the West Bay Model Railroad building. Signs will ban-

parking within that section of the lot from 3:30 to 10 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Food will be served for three to four hours, starting at 5 p.m., with live music, chairs and lighting provided along with a portable toilet. Off the Grid must clean up the area by 10 p.m. after each event and dispose of all garbage offsite.

Ben Hamlin, director of business development for Off the Grid, said the company hasn't finalized which vendors will attend the Menlo Park opening. Food trucks seen at other Off the Grid gatherings include Curry Up Now, Kung Fu Tacos and Sam's Chowder Mobile. ▀

Menlo Hub restaurant closes doors

By Elena Kadwany
Special to the Almanac

Menlo Hub at 1029 El Camino Real in Menlo Park has closed, with the owner in major debt to the landlord.

Owner Mehmet Erkus said he was behind in rent for about six months "due to slow business."

Landlord Jean Chen said Mr. Erkus' debt stretched back to 2012, but she wanted to give a "young guy" a chance. However, she said an eventual grand total of \$150,000 in debt prompted her to file an unlawful detainer complaint

in November of last year.

The Menlo Hub website, now down, posted a message in early 2014 that the restaurant would be closed for construction for the month of January. Mr. Erkus said he did this in the hopes that he and Ms. Chen would find a solution.

He said he had possible partners he wanted to bring in to help save the sinking ship, but Ms. Chen turned him down. He vacated the property on Jan. 13.

"She said she didn't want to work with me anymore," Mr. Erkus said. "Legally I am at default. She had the right to take

over the restaurant."

What formerly opened as Oak City Bar & Grill six years ago morphed into Menlo Hub under Mr. Erkus in 2012, with a new name, look and feel.

"I wanted to create a neighborhood place, a bar everyone could come to freely (with) a friendly atmosphere," Mr. Erkus said. "It didn't work out. I guess there's a difference with a single person trying to be everything, especially at a place this big. Menlo Hub requires a professional team and so many managers. I tried to do it by myself and unfortunately, (it was) not realistic." ▀

How will 'granny units' fit in housing plan?

The Planning Commission is in the throes of figuring out how to incorporate secondary units, also known as "granny units," into Menlo Park's housing landscape now that changes to the city's ordinances make their construction legal.

Part of the difficulty stems from dealing with existing units built without permits in a way that won't render them out of compliance, but also won't cost the owners thousands of dollars to bring the homes up to code, while simultaneously ensuring that anyone living in the units has a safe, sanitary home.

Sound complicated? It is.

Initial considerations include whether to reduce the required

■ MENLO BRIEFS

minimum lot size for a secondary unit to 5,750 square feet; allowing accessory buildings, such as garages, of up to 640 square feet to be converted to granny units; and whether limiting the number and type of plumbing fixtures within an accessory building is a good way to differentiate those buildings from secondary units.

Still in search of solutions, the commission held a study session on Jan. 27 and will continue its discussion on Feb. 10.

Bike registration

It's a given that bikes attract

thieves, and no lock is perfect. Now, the Menlo Park police are trying to make recovering your bicycle post-theft a little easier by launching a registration program.

The free service allows owners to enter their bikes' identifying information, including the serial number, and also submit photos to a police database. In the event of theft, the department will add the bike's data to a list of stolen property statewide so that if it's located anywhere in California, you may get the bike back.

Go to menloparkpolice.org and click on "online resources," then "bicycle registration" to sign up.

— Sandy Brundage

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TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY

The Town of Portola Valley Seeks Dedicated Volunteers for the following Town Committees:

Cultural Arts Committee
Meets second Thursday of each month; appointed for a one-year term.
Increase cultural awareness among residents of Portola Valley by sponsoring and supporting local cultural activities in the areas of art, music, science and nature, history, horticulture, drama, literature, photography and dance.

Open Space Acquisition Advisory Committee
Meets as announced; appointed for a one-year term.
This Committee supports preservation of the Town's rural environment by advising the Town Council on open space acquisitions and uses.

Parks and Recreation Committee
Meets first Monday of each month, 7:30 p.m.; appointed for a one-year term.
This Committee meets to develop, promote and maintain quality recreational and community enrichment programs, recreational facilities and park areas in the Town of Portola Valley

Applications are available on-line at www.portolavalley.net on the homepage under the Town Committees tab. Hard copies are available at Town Hall.

Town Clerk Sharon Hanlon
Town of Portola Valley
765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028
E-mail: shanson@portolavalley.net
Phone: (650) 851-1700 ext. 210

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Menlo Park proceeds with new logo, graphic redesign

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Since work is already underway and other cities paid more than Menlo Park did for similar projects, Vice Mayor Catherine Carlton said during the Jan. 28 City Council meeting that she had changed her mind about asking her colleagues to reconsider whether to reconsider spending an additional \$24,000 for design work on a new logo and style guide for the city.

Earlier this month, the council appeared ready to stop the project to modernize the city's graphic design standards. But after being told the contract could not be canceled, council members settled on a minor upgrade to the existing logo — a new font and fresh topography — and agreed to purchase a style guide.

Ms. Carlton had asked for the reconsideration because new information had come to light, "which I believe is the definition of when we bring things back," she said.

But while originally uncomfortable with the cost when the council voted to proceed with the project two weeks ago, she said, her recent research turned up two local cities that paid \$65,000 and \$56,000 for logos and style guides, suggesting that Menlo Park "got a great deal" on its \$49,000 contract.

The councilwoman later told

the Almanac that the cities were San Carlos and Palo Alto.

Fellow council member Peter Ohtaki opted to leave the reconsideration on the agenda, however, and moved to approve it. Mayor Ray Mueller seconded, saying he was doing so only to support a fellow council member; but the motion failed to garner a majority vote when Kirsten Keith and Ms. Carlton dissented. Councilman Rich Cline was absent.

Mr. Ohtaki explained that he still had questions regarding what exactly Menlo Park will get — will the work include presentation templates, for example? — and whether the contract has a provision for termination, contrary to what the council had been told on Jan. 14.

"I would like to see a statement of work," he said.

Ms. Carlton noted that after the council approved the redesign two weeks ago, the contractor — 2 Sisters Design, based in Redwood Shores — had begun the second phase of the project and "now we'd have to pay to stop," since the city would be billed for completed work to date.

The discussion shed some light on who decided to redesign the city's logo, a move that caught council members by surprise when they were asked to evaluate alterna-

Continued on next page



FEB. 2014

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For a complete list of classes and class fees, lectures and health education resources, visit pamf.org/healtheducation.

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UPCOMING LECTURES AND EVENTS

Palo Alto

FACTS AND FICTION ABOUT SUPPLEMENTS

MAR. 11

Mountain View

BYE BYE DIAPERS

MAR. 12

Fremont

HEALTHY EATING: SOUTH ASIAN DIET

MAR. 12

San Carlos

DISASTER MEDICAL RELIEF

MAR. 24



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Elizabeth Hill appointed judge

Elizabeth H. Hill, 38, of Redwood City has been appointed to a judgeship in San Mateo Superior Court by Governor Jerry Brown.

She fills a vacancy created by the retirement of J. James Ellis. Compensation for the position is \$181,292 a year.

Judge Hill holds a juris doctor degree from Stanford Law School and master's and

bachelor's degrees from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

She served as a commissioner in San Mateo County Superior Court from 2010 to 2013.



Elizabeth Hill

Continued from previous page

tive emblems, developed for \$25,000 during the first phase of the project; their comments at the time indicated they didn't know their support of a "rebranding" effort would include changing the logo. Contracts under \$50,000 are not subject to council approval under the city's policy.

Ms. Carlton said Jan. 28 that the idea appeared to have originated within the Community Services Department. How the project evolved "was not egregious enough" to war-

rant reconsideration.

During an interview with the Almanac, she said the idea had initially started as a rebranding of recreation services, which eventually expanded to encompass the entire city.

She agreed with the need to develop a professional, consistent style for city documents and graphics, but "just wanted to make sure in my own mind that I was comfortable with that much money" and would have preferred more community outreach by staff for a project as large as changing Menlo Park's brand. ■

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Former sheriff's deputy who stole trumpet takes plea deal

A now-former San Mateo County sheriff's deputy arrested in December 2012 for snatching and later discarding an expensive trumpet from a Millbrae hotel while he was off duty has accepted a plea bargain that includes 60 days in jail, according to the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office.

Brandon Hatt, 35, pleaded no contest on Jan. 21 to felony grand theft, which puts him on probation for three years and has him serving 60 days in jail in a court-approved service of sentence in San Diego County.

Mr. Hatt is no longer employed as a deputy in San Mateo County. "He doesn't work for us any more. He hasn't worked for us for a long time," Deputy Rebecca Rosenblatt said. "Because it's a personnel matter, I'm not able to go into the question as to how or why he doesn't work for us."

Prosecutors said Mr. Hatt was shooting pool at the Aloft Hotel

in Millbrae on Dec. 20 when he left the hotel but re-entered a minute later and grabbed a jacket and a \$2,000 trumpet belonging to a member of a band playing there.

The trumpet was recovered after Mr. Hatt allegedly threw it from a car window, according to prosecutors. The jacket was never recovered.

In addition to the jail time and probation, Mr. Hatt must abstain from using alcohol and drugs, submit to chemical testing, and pay restitution to his victim in the amount of \$533.29, according to the District Attorney's Office.

He must report to jail on March 15.

Almanac staff and Bay City News Service



San Mateo County Sheriff's Office
Brandon Hatt

COMMUNITY TALK

Atrial Fibrillation

Atrial fibrillation is the most common heart rhythm problem, affecting over 2 million Americans. Without detection and treatment, atrial fibrillation can affect quality of life and cause stroke and heart failure.

Stanford specialists will discuss the signs and symptoms of atrial fibrillation and the options for evaluation and treatment, which may improve quality of life and decrease complications.

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9:30AM – 11:00AM

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MODERATED BY:

Paul J. Wang, MD, FACC, FHRS, FAHA

Professor of Medicine

Director, Stanford Cardiac Arrhythmia Service



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Coldwell Banker collects toys, coats

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage collected 950 coats and 6,200 toys this past holiday season to benefit families in need in Northern California.

This was the 27th consecutive year that Coldwell Banker has conducted the

drive in partnership with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and several nonprofit organizations. Forty-five Coldwell Banker offices took part in the Toys for Tots campaign and 32 offices participated in the One Warm Coat drive.

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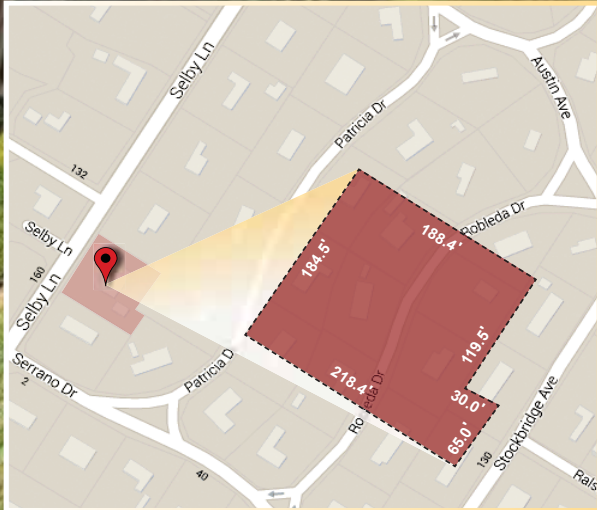
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In Loving Memory of *Colleen K Stone*

January 1, 1924 – January 13, 2014

Colleen K Stone, also known as 'Collie' to her family and friends, died peacefully at home in Los Altos California on Monday January 13, 2014. She was ninety years and twelve days old.

Collie was the first of two children born to her parents, Doc and Lydia Karcher. She lived to age two in Chicago; to age seven in Montclair, New Jersey where Paul, her brother, was born; and to age sixteen in Dallas. She studied violin in grammar school and played in her school orchestra. She was a tall girl and played girls' basketball in middle school. At thirteen she attended camp at Lake Hubert, Minnesota for several summers. With her mother and brother, Collie travelled to Europe during her 14th summer in 1938 and never forgot the distressed German-speaking refugees crowding the ship on her transatlantic return crossing.

At age sixteen Collie graduated from the all-girls' Hockaday Preparatory School. Choosing college, she remembered the fun of ice-skating and snowball games and the cool Minnesota summers and was enticed by pictures of handsome snow-skiers and ice-skaters and chose the co-ed University of Wisconsin.

At University of Wisconsin Collie pledged with the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. When WWII broke out, thinking all the young men would be drafted and that University of Wisconsin would become a women's college anyway, Collie decided to transfer to the all-women's college Wellesley in Massachusetts to live out her mother's dream to attend there — a bright woman also but unable to afford it in her day. Collie majored in economics at her father's encouragement, though she would have preferred psychology. At Wellesley, Collie met her husband, Dave Stone, of Sacramento California — a U C Berkeley graduate and a Naval ROTC master's student at Harvard Business School.

At just twenty, Collie finished Wellesley and then began working as a County Agent in Texas. Dave Stone — now her fiance' — was serving in the Pacific as a Naval ordnance officer aboard an aircraft carrier. In October 1944 Dave's ship was struck and sunk by the first of the Japanese suicide planes during the battle of Leyte Gulf. Many of Dave's closest shipmates did not return, but Dave survived. Collie and Dave were married during Dave's survivor's leave in December 1944. They began married life at the Naval Airfield in the Mohave Dessert. At war's end while Dave took a law degree at Stanford

on the GI Bill, they lived in Los Altos where Collie was happy and began their family with the first of their five children.

Next, for two years they lived in Dallas and then ten years in Lubbock, Texas. In 1959, with four children now, Collie insisted the family move back to her favorite place, the Bay Area in California. They chose Palo Alto because of its excellent public school system. Soon after settling in Palo Alto, Collie had their fifth child and first boy, to the delight of everyone.

Collie always found an Episcopal Church at each of her moves, having a lifelong practice of prayer. For years she volunteered through the Junior League. When her youngest was a teenager, Collie went back to school at Santa Clara University where she got her Masters in Marriage, Family, and Child Counseling. Once the grandchildren started arriving, Grandma Collie divided her time between studying psychology, helping with one or another of her ten grandchildren, and traveling with her semi-retired husband.

In August of 1994 Dave, her husband of almost 50 years, died of cancer. A year later she sold their Palo Alto residence — home for 36 years — and moved to their beach house near Santa Cruz. In Santa Cruz Collie learned a new bridge convention and for over ten years enjoyed the game and the friendships with her bridge partners — even entering a few regional bridge competitions. During this time her brother Paul passed away.

In the last ten years Collie made her home in Los Altos again, near two of her children, Carol and Dave. Living in a senior residence she formed new friendships and found inner contentment. She became a great-grandmother in 2010. In 2012 her youngest daughter, Carol, preceded her in death due to cancer. Collie herself had been a long time survivor of cancer.

Collie is survived by her children Wendy, Barbara, Patti, and Dave; by her ten grandchildren; and by her three great-grandchildren. Those who knew Collie well will remember she was an avid reader; she was a free spirit who loved sailing, the seashore, and ocean swimming; and she was a determined soul — to live with dignity, intelligence and feeling. Summarizing her life Collie once said, "I've had a lot of adventures and many great trips. I can't complain." She will be missed by all who knew her.



PAID OBITUARY

Arson suspected in metal recycling fire

An arsonist may have set a two-alarm fire at a Redwood City metal recycling center on Dec. 17, investigators say. Burning metal and plastic sent a foul-smelling plume of smoke into the skies of communities in southern San Mateo County.

Investigators from the Redwood City police and fire departments are reviewing footage from video surveillance cameras, including those inside Sims Metal Management at 699 Seaport Blvd., according to a police department statement. Arson is the current consensus.

In a statement, a spokesperson said Sims is committed to "responsible metal recycling"

and has spent "millions of dollars" to reduce the risk of fire, including installing more fire hydrants and improving fire-access gates and fire lanes. The company has been shredding the metal stockpiles daily "thereby eliminating that fire risk," the statement says.

Emergency personnel responded to the scene after an employee reported hearing a loud explosion and seeing a fire in a pile of metal designated for recycling.

Investigators ask anyone with information regarding this matter to contact Det. Dave Cirina at 780-7607, or call the anonymous Crime Stoppers tip line 800-222-8477. A cash reward may become available.

Eugene Marshall Spurlock

September 8, 1932 – January 27, 201

Eugene Marshall Spurlock passed away early January 27 surrounded by his family. He was 81. Gene was a third-generation Californian and had made his home in Menlo Park since 1960. Gene married his college sweetheart Lucile Crawford Buice in Washington, D.C. in 1955. He was a Senior Research Physicist in the field of underwater acoustics at Stanford Research Institute (SRI International) in Menlo Park for 32 years.



In his career, Gene traveled the continent from Portsmouth, New Hampshire to Point Loma California and to Pearl Harbor, Guam, the Philippines and Japan developing ultrasonic underwater detection techniques for the U.S. Navy, and to Istanbul for the Turkish Navy and to Cairo for the National Science Foundation, working for a month in King Tut's tomb with representatives of Ain Shams University adapting ultrasonic energy to archeological techniques in limestone in search of lost tombs. This work resulted in location of some previously undiscovered chambers and he received a patent for the innovation.

Gene's interests revolved around his family, serving as an active Boy Scout leader and introducing a generation of kids to the joys of camping and backpacking. Gene remained an active backpacker all his life. Gene maintained a lifelong interest in photography, working his way through college as a wedding photographer and continuing his hobby with the darkroom that he built at home. He and Lucile enjoyed their home in Maui and travelling, in particular to England in pursuit of the perfect bitter, which he hoped he would never find. Gene was the consummate handyman, and enjoyed working around the house, his sons' and friends' homes, his rental properties and generally anyone who would have him.

Gene was a devoted and selfless grandfather to his five grandchildren, who all lived within three miles. Although his death was sudden, he spent time with all of his grandchildren in the week prior to his passing.

Gene is survived by his wife of 58 years, Lucile Buice Spurlock, his sons Steve (Katy) and Mark (Gulnar) and grandkids Lucy, Sophia, Anne, Marie and Marshall.

A memorial will be held at Holy Trinity Church in Menlo Park on Saturday February 8 at 3:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests supporting Pacific Skyline Council, Boy Scouts of America, 1150 Chess Drive, Foster City, CA 94404.

PAID OBITUARY

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New shake roofs OK for now in Woodside, Portola Valley

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

New wood-shake roofs will continue to be an option for homeowners in Portola Valley and Woodside, at least for awhile.

Fire Marshal Denise Enea of the Woodside Fire Protection District proposed a ban on new shake roofs, given the severe drought and a shake roof's potential to spread a fire, but after hearing arguments on Jan. 30 for and against a ban, the Portola Valley and Woodside council members, meeting jointly, agreed to wait for more data, including data on weathering effects beyond 10 years.

Council members said they would consider incentives to encourage residents to replace aging ignitable roofs, of which there are too many to count within the district, Ms. Enea noted. Grants are one possible funding source for such incentives, she said.

The small audience of about 15 people included two who spoke in defense of treated shake roofs, two local roofers, and three representatives of the insurance industry.

Shake roofs, Ms. Enea said, can be a source of firebrands — burning embers that can become airborne and spread a fire beyond its current boundaries. “Wood shakes traditionally have posed significant problems in fire spread and ember propagation,” Ms. Enea told the Almanac. Insurance companies “very often” won't insure houses with shake roofs even if they're treated for fire resistance.

If chemically treated shakes, over time, lose even some of their resistance, it puts the home and the neighborhood at risk, she added.

“We try (to) reduce risks by mitigating potential ignitions and methods of spread, often using information from previous fires,” she said. “For example we know and have experienced the extreme flammability of eucalyptus and its significant ember propagation, and many property owners are electing to remove them. We have also experienced wood-shake roof fires and understand the vulnerability and spread characteristics.”

Go to tinyurl.com/fire32 for a September 2013 New York Times article on wildfire, which Ms. Enea recommends people read.

About treated shakes

Bill Hendricks, a consultant from Clarksburg, California, and spokesman for Chemco treated wood shakes, told the council members of tests that show Chemco shakes charring rather than burning, and that the charring will stop without an external flame to encourage it.

“We're no different than a lot of the other materials out there,” he said. “There are no reports of embers landing on a treated roof and having it catch on fire. (Flame on a shake) creates a char barrier that starves oxygen.”

Chemco has come up with a process that “actually works,” said Don Oaks, a former fire marshal in Santa Barbara County and a fire-protection consultant now based in Solvang in Central California. “It works. You have a safe roof,” Mr. Oaks said. The fear among insurance companies, fire districts and the public is result of “a bumper sticker approach, but not a lot of research.”

See **SHAKE ROOFS**, page 17

Position: General Manager

Name: Jeff S.

Last book read: Start with Why

Last movie: Saving Mr. Banks

Last ride: To work

Favorite Ride: Los Gatos Loop

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Meetings set on high school bond measure

In a follow up to a recent report to the board of the Sequoia Union High School District on a proposal to add classroom and administrative space to the high schools in light of a coming enrollment surge, Superintendent James Lianides and members of the board have scheduled a series of February meetings with members of the public, including parents.

The board is considering putting a \$225 million bond measure before the voters in June or November 2014. The enrollment surge is expected to add at least 22 percent more students by the 2020-21 school year, with Menlo-Atherton High School

BRIEFS

taking the brunt of the increase with 2,600 students, up from the current 2,000.

All meetings begin at 7 p.m. and all will be based on the same set of data, Mr. Lianides said in a Jan. 29 letter to the public. The meeting at Woodside High is set for Monday, Feb. 10, and at M-A the following night, Feb. 11, with both meetings in the respective performing arts centers.

Go to tinyurl.com/SEQ32 for more.

Menlo Park district

The application deadline for

the vacant seat on the Menlo Park City School District board is 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7. The school board is scheduled to interview applicants and appoint a new member at a special meeting set for 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 10.

The special meeting will be in the district office TERC building, 181 Encinal Ave. in Atherton.

Applications for the seat, held until last month by Laura Rich, must be submitted to the district office at 181 Encinal Ave. in Atherton in hard copy and with an original signature. It should include a candidate statement with a statement of

purpose and description of qualifications, and any other relevant information, according to the district. Eligible applicants must be 18 or older and live in the district.

As of midday Monday, Feb. 3, the district had received no applications for the seat. Superintendent Maurice Ghysels told the Almanac that, in his experience, applicants wait until close to the deadline before submitting their papers.

The appointee will be sworn into office at the board's regular meeting on March 11.

For more information, call the district office at 321-7140.



'Wildflowers at Stanford'

Fields of Stanford poppies, images from the book "Violin," and recent "white" paintings comprise Menlo Park artist Joyce Savre Hutt's Gallery 9 exhibit at 143 Main St. in Los Altos. Entitled "Letters Home Across the Fields," the show runs through March 1. A reception will be held on Friday, Feb. 7, from 5 to 8 p.m.

Oversight committee meets on tax measure spending

A majority of San Mateo County voters in November 2012 approved a half-cent hike in the sales tax to provide annual funding of about \$60 million for public health and safety and care for the county's poor and elderly.

The tax has been in effect since April 2013 and a citizens committee overseeing the spending meets for the first time at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4, at the College of San Mateo at 1700 West Hills-

dale Blvd. in San Mateo.

The meeting is open to the public and takes place in Room 468, the College Heights Conference Room, in Building 10.

Go to tinyurl.com/SMC32 for a list of the intended uses for the funding.

Go to www.smcgov.org/budget and click on "More" under "Measure A Oversight Committee" for further information, including the agenda and a campus map.

SHAKE ROOFS

continued from page 16

Insurers differ

Tully Lehman, the Northern California spokesman for the Insurance Information Network of California, told the councils that there are as many different takes on shake roofs as there are among the 135 insurance companies in California. It's best to ask one's neighbors, he said.

Homes in the hills above Woodside are particularly hard to insure, especially those with shake roofs, said Gregg Georgakas of Woodside Insurance Services in Woodside. A non-standard insurer may take it on, but at two to three times the expense, he said.

San Mateo County has 270,000 homes, Mr. Lehman said, and 39,000 of them are in areas of high to severe risks of wildfire. Roofs are the first line of defense, and a self-extinguishing fire-resistant roof "is your chance to actually become a firefighter to help save your house," he said.

More data needed

Ms. Enea said she has questions that, so far, have gone

unanswered: What are the chemicals used in the treatment? How much do they leach into the environment and drainage systems? How effective will the fire retardant be over a roof's life?

"I don't know of many home building products that are as good in 10, 20 or 30 years as they were the day they were installed," she told the Almanac.

At the meeting, Mr. Hendricks said he had no data on effectiveness beyond 10 years and that the fire-retardant formulas are a trade secret. As for leaching, he dismissed it. "Every roof is going to get runoff," he said. "You're not going to get tap water."

Portola Valley and Woodside have come a long way in defending against wildfire, Ms. Enea told the Almanac. In her early days as fire marshal, she said the towns weren't interested in mitigating the fuel load or creating adequate defensible spaces around their structures. "We've come 180 degrees," she said.

The drought is very serious and the speakers before the council don't live here, she added. "I think we've got to be very careful." ■

CALENDAR

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

Talks & Authors

'Relocation: A Constitutional Mistake of Historic Proportions' San Mateo County History Museum hosts Foster City Councilman Steve Okamoto, who will discuss the forced removal of Japanese from the Pacific Coast during World War II. Feb. 15, 1-4 p.m. \$5 for adults; \$3 for students and seniors. San Mateo County History Museum, 2200 Broadway St., Redwood City. www.historysmc.org

Alex 'Sandy' Pentland discusses his new book, "Social Physics: How Good Ideas Spread: The Lessons from a New Science." Pentland is a professor at MIT. Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. **Author Barry Eisler** discusses his new book, "Graveyard of Memories: A John Rain Novel." Feb. 14, 7 p.m. Free. Four Seasons Silicon Valley, 2050 University Ave., East Palo Alto. Call 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com/event/barry-eisler-1

Cafe Scientifique Silicon Valley at SRI Giacomo Bernardi, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at University of California Santa Cruz, gives talk on "Genomic Consequences of Climate Change: A Fish's Perspective." Feb. 11, 6-7:30 p.m. Free. SRI International - International Building, 333 Ravenswood Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-859-2198. www.sri.com/newsroom/events/cafe-scientifique-giacomo-bernardi

Jennifer Senior, author of "All Joy and No Fun: The Paradox of Modern Parenthood," explores the ways children reshape their parents' lives. Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park.

Community Events

Lifetree Cafe hosts hour-long conversation on Wednesday, Feb. 5, exploring and considering the trends that will affect how we live in the future. 7-8 p.m. Free. Bethany

Lutheran Church, 1095 Cloud Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-854-5897. www.facebook.com/LifetreeCafeMP

San Mateo County History Museum participates in Redwood City's Asian Lunar New Year celebration. Children's crafts include making traditional New Year's red envelopes and paper lanterns. Feb. 8, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. San Mateo County History Museum, 2200 Broadway St., Redwood City. www.historysmc.org

Kids and Families

Library Art Grueneberger of the Puppet Art Theater Company will present a show for dads, kids and family members. 11 a.m.-noon. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. www.smcl.org

Lunar New Year Celebration Lion Dancers, Red Panda Acrobats, martial arts, kids arts & crafts, food, inflatable playland & more. Feb. 8, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Courthouse Square, 2200 Broadway St., Redwood City. www.redwoodcity.org/events/lunarnewyear.html

Red Panda Acrobats In honor of Chinese New Year, Wayne Huey will perform Chinese acrobatics with traditional Chinese music on Wednesday, Feb. 5, 4-5 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. www.smcl.org

Tony Abbott, author of the "Secrets of Droom" series, is back with a new middle-grade series, "The Copernicus Legacy." Feb. 7, at 7 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com/event/youth-event-tony-abbott

Film

'Watershed: Exploring a New Water Ethic for the New West' "Watershed" explores future of Colorado River in era of rising population and climate change. Screening followed by Q&A session with producer, James Redford. Sponsored by the Bill Lane Center for the American West at Stanford. Feb. 10, 7-9 p.m. Free. Stanford University, Clark Center Auditorium, 318 Campus Drive, Stanford. www.west.stanford.edu/events/watershed-exploring-new-water-ethic-new-west

On Stage

West Bay Opera performs Donizetti's musical comedy, "Lelisir d'amore" ("The Elixir of Love"), about a country bumpkin getting the girl he loves with the help of an Italian-style snake oil salesman. Feb. 14, 16, 22 and 23. Sunday performances are at 2 p.m. 8-11 p.m. \$40-75. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-424-9999. www.wbopera.org

Menlo School performs "Our Town" Tickets available by emailing tickets@menlo-school.org or at Menlo School bookstore. 7:30 p.m. Feb. 6-8, 2 p.m. Feb. 9. Adults \$8, students \$5. Menlo School, 50 Valparaiso Ave., Atherton. Call 650-594-1823.

Sports

Spartan Race comes to Menlo Park Spartan Race and the Boot Camp coaches of Menlo Swim and Sport lead rigorous free community workout on Sunday, Feb. 16, at Burgess Park. Special kids race, too. 9-11 a.m. Free. Burgess Park, 501 Laurel St., Menlo Park. Call (650) 330-2232. www.menloswim.com



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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.

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Call the Viewpoint desk at 223-6507.

Solid year for Almanac's Holiday Fund

During a year when the economy was lukewarm at best, Almanac readers dug deep and contributed more than \$150,000 to the Holiday Fund, which supports 10 of the area's nonprofit agencies.

A total of 187 donors, including some foundations, gave \$152,000 to the Fund this year, down slightly from last year but still a respectable total. It means that each of the 10 nonprofit agencies will receive a check for \$15,259, a welcome gift to start the new year. The Rotary Club of Menlo Park Foundation, and the Hewlett and the Packard foundations, continued to be major supporters of the Holiday Fund.

Started in 1993 with the idea of helping to support the numerous nonprofit agencies in the community, the Holiday Fund has raised more than \$3 million over the last 21 years to fund programs that help local residents who are down on their luck.

The Holiday Fund receives critical support from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, which processes all donations and writes the checks that will be presented to the beneficiaries in a few weeks. No fees or other charges are taken out by the Almanac or the foundation, so that every dollar contributed goes directly to the recipient agencies that work for our community.

Here are the nonprofits that each will receive a check for \$15,259.

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula

Provides after-school and academic support and activities for 1,750 at-risk K-12 youth at nine locations in Menlo Park, East Palo Alto and the North Fair Oaks neighborhood of Redwood City. Members attend at least twice a week during the academic year and receive tutoring, mentoring and academic support.

Ecumenical Hunger Program

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

Project Read-Menlo Park

Provides free literacy services to adults in the Menlo Park area. Trained volunteers work one-on-one to help adults improve their basic reading, writing and English language skills so they can achieve their goals and function more effectively at home, at work and in the community. Volunteers also help students acquire basic keyboard and computer skills.

Ravenswood Family Health Center

Provides primary medical and preventive health care for all ages at

its clinics in Belle Haven and East Palo Alto. It also operates a mobile clinic at school sites. Of the more than 17,000 registered patients, most are low-income, uninsured and live in the ethnically diverse East Palo Alto, Belle Haven and North Fair Oaks areas.

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room

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

Second Harvest Food Bank

The largest collector and distributor of food on the Peninsula, Second Harvest Food Bank distributed 52 million pounds of food last year. It gathers donations from individuals and businesses and distributes food to more than 250,000 people each month through more than 770 agencies and distribution sites in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

Inn Vision Shelter Network

Provides shelter/housing and supportive services across 18 sites in Silicon Valley and the San Francisco Peninsula. Serves thousands of homeless families and individuals annually on their path back to permanent housing and self-sufficiency.

Star Vista

Serves more than 32,000 people throughout San Mateo County, including children, young people and families with counseling, prevention, early intervention, education and residential programs. Star Vista also provides crisis intervention and suicide prevention services, including a 24-hour suicide crisis hotline, an alcohol and drug helpline, and a parent support hotline.

Fair Oaks Community Center

Provides housing and food assistance, emergency shelter referral, legal services, a childcare program, older adult nutrition and low-cost exercise programs for youth and adults.

Teen Talk Sexuality Education

Teen Talk helps young people feel confident and supported to make informed decisions about their own sexual health through in-school programs, parent education and training for youth program providers.

EDITORIAL
The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS
Our readers write

Does Little League need such big bleachers?

Editor:

Having coached Little League at Encinal School with non-permanent metal bleachers designed for 150 spectators that worked quite well, I am shocked that possible action will take place to install covered concrete bleachers at Holbrook-Palmer Park in Atherton.

Think back to a few years ago when the leaders of Little League were grateful for being granted the right to put up a portable backstop. After a few years, Little League didn't have to take the backstop down at the end of the season. Some Little League supporters with

resources don't appreciate what an ideal setting they have.

Will they please answer the following questions?:

■ Why do bleachers have to be covered?

■ Except for opening day, when did the current groups playing at Holbrook-Palmer Park ever have 200 spectators? If two teams of 20 each had both parents at the game, that would be 80 or so spectators.

■ How long is the Little League season at the present time, on what days of the week, and at what times? Will the activities of the Little League clash with other uses of the park like preschool, weddings, other activities, resulting in parking problems?

The council members should rethink their decisions on the Little League requests.

*Earl T. Nielsen
Burns Avenue, Atherton*

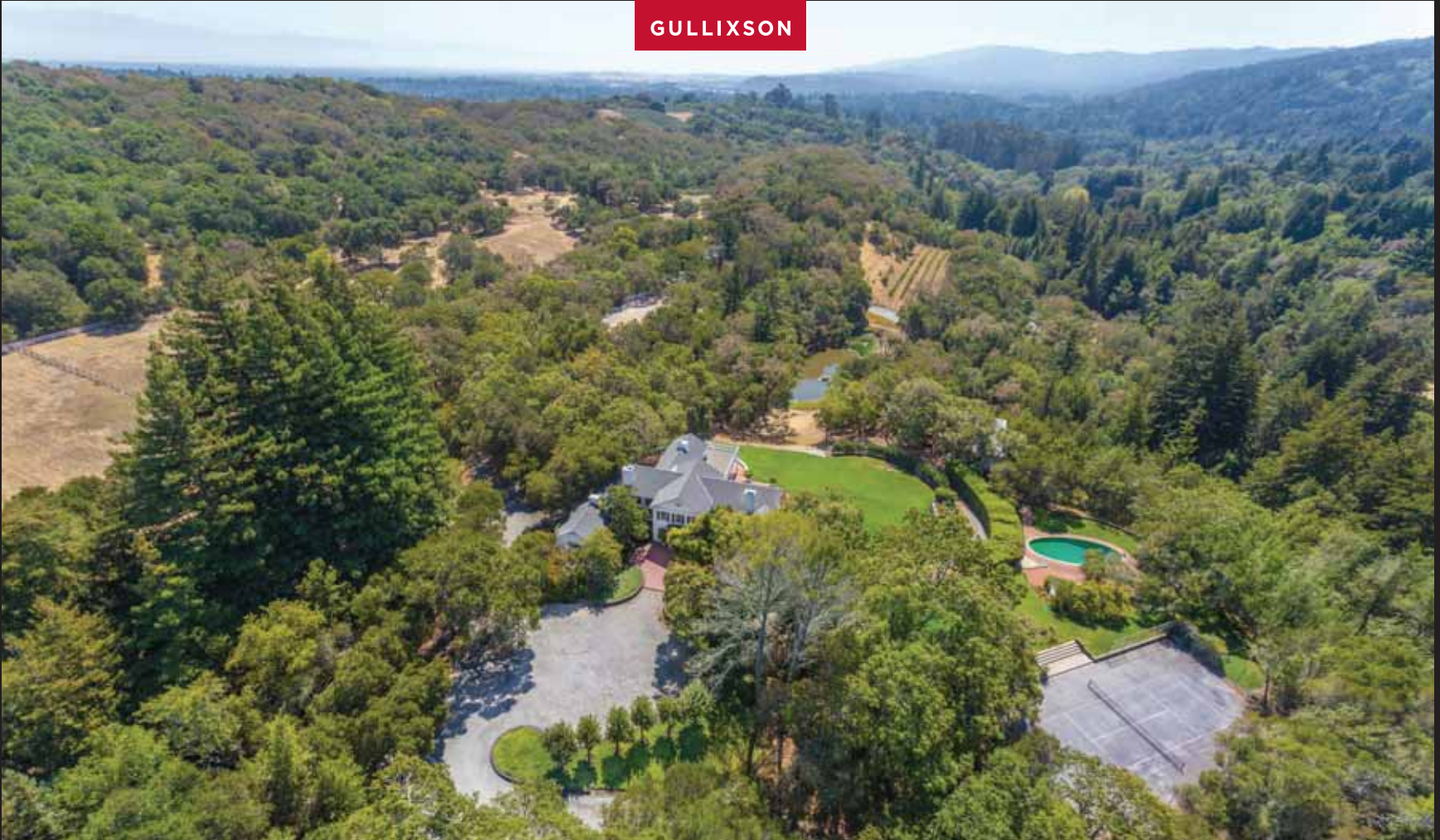


Menlo Park Historical Association

Our Regional Heritage

An early model Hiller helicopter managed to rescue a young Terrence Hallinan from a remote location in Yosemite National Park in 1949. Stanlely Hiller Jr. moved his helicopter company to 1350 Willow Road in 1948 to a site that was later annexed to Menlo Park.

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