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Holiday Gift Guide 2014

The Almanac

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

NOVEMBER 19, 2014 | VOL. 50 NO. 11

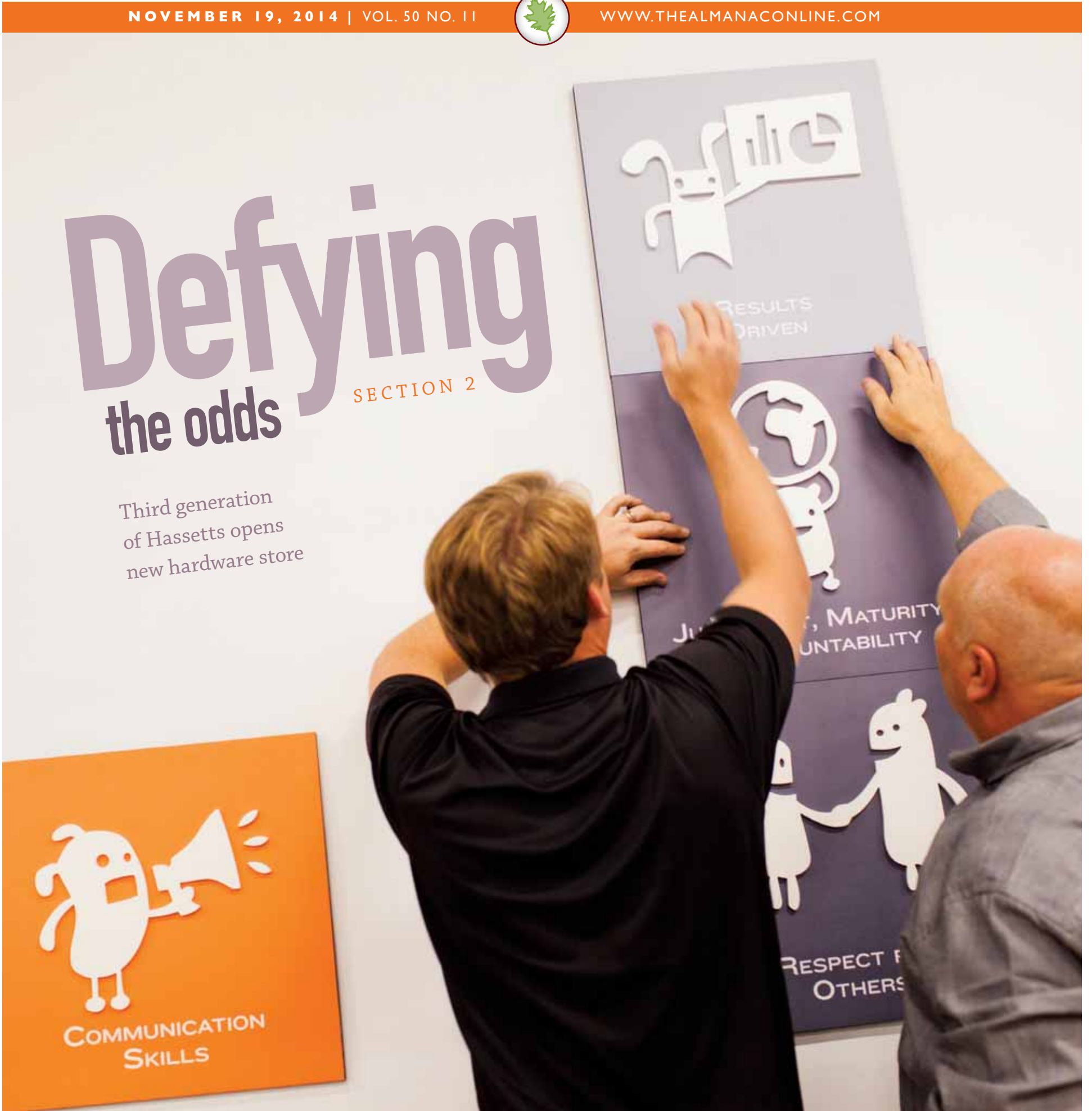


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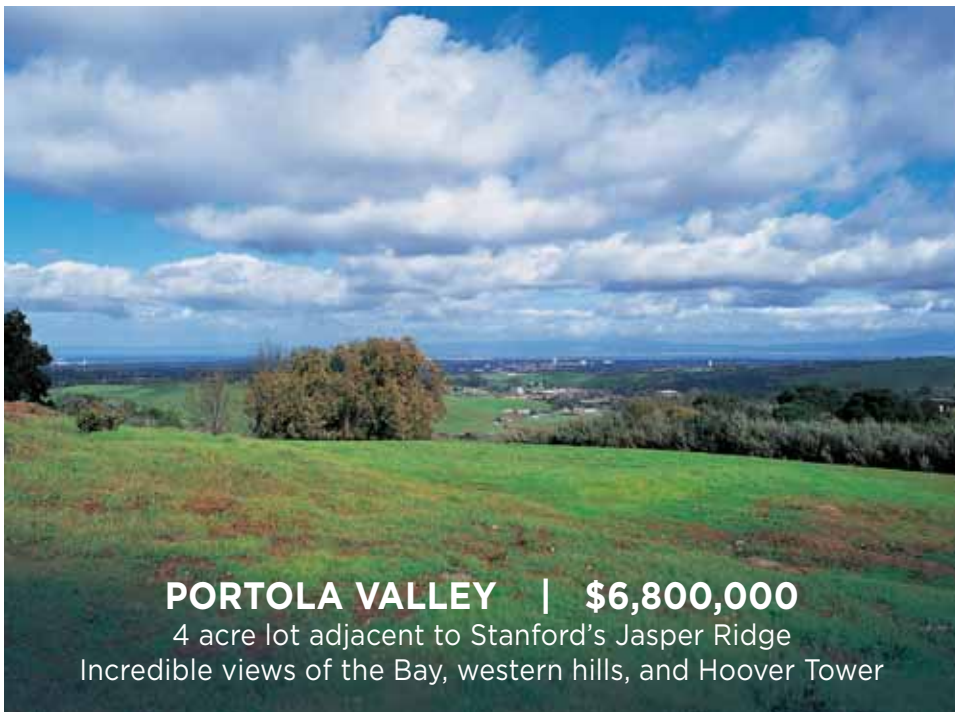
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ATHERTON | \$14,980,000

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Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Time Inc., the owner of Sunset Magazine, is considering the sale of the property at 80 Willow Road that has been home to the magazine since 1951.

What's the future for Sunset campus in Menlo Park?

By **Dave Boyce**
Almanac Staff Writer

What will be, will be. It has a certain logic for Jim Cogan, the Menlo Park official responsible for economic development in the city.

Mr. Cogan will be taking a laissez faire attitude if Time Inc. decides to sell its properties at 80 and 85 Willow Road, home to Sunset Magazine since 1951.

Asked if he would advocate to keep Sunset in Menlo Park, Mr. Cogan was brief. "The short answer is 'No,'" he said. "I'm a big proponent of allowing the market to do what the market needs to do."

From Mayor Ray Mueller, the news elicited a mixture of sadness and resolve. "If they leave, I just think it's a tremendous loss for the city," Mr. Mueller said. "Obviously we'll make ourselves available to see if there's anything we can do to keep them staying, but it's very concerning."

Sunset's employees were informed of the situation on Nov. 7, Jill Davison of Time Inc., Sunset's parent company, told the Almanac.

The company is in the process of engaging a local real estate agent, Ms. Davison said.

Time Inc. has no plans to sell either Sunset Magazine or Sunset Publishing Corp., she said.

The seven-acre property — a five-acre parcel and a two-acre parcel across the street from each other at Willow and Middlefield roads — is zoned C-1 for administrative and professional offices.

Tax bump

With a sale would come property reassessment at current market rates and an increase in property taxes.

"Not to be too cold, but when the property turns over, it will be a big property tax bump for the city," Mr. Cogan said.

As for buyers, among "the usual suspects" would be developer Roxy Rapp, who owns property nearby, the Sobrato Organization and Google, "which seems to be buying everything," Mr. Cogan said.

"I'd love to see maybe a cool restaurant," he said. "The city manager is always telling me we need a movie theater in town. ... I would not be interested in having housing there."

Whatever happens, the developer will face a demanding process for any project that involves demolishing buildings, according to two commercial real estate agents.

But both predicted that the current buildings will go.

"It's one story and there are all those gardens around it," said a commercial broker familiar with the area and who requested anonymity. "It's a gorgeous piece of property. ... It will really be interesting to find out what the city wants there and what they will allow."

"These places would be phenomenal if they could be developed," the commercial broker said, but added that any project that increases population density would need neighbors' approval.

Menlo Park residents "don't want change," the broker said. "If Silicon Valley moved to Wichita, Kansas, it would please Menlo Park tremendously. ... The City Council and the people in the neighborhood will have a heavy hand as to what goes in there."

"Change is going to happen

See **SUNSET**, page 6

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a guide to the spiritual community



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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Probe of fatal police shooting continues

■ Menlo Park police release names of officers involved in shooting.

By **Sandy Brundage**
Almanac Staff Writer

The San Mateo County District Attorney's Office is now in charge of investigating the fatal shooting by police of a burglary suspect in Menlo Park on Nov. 11.

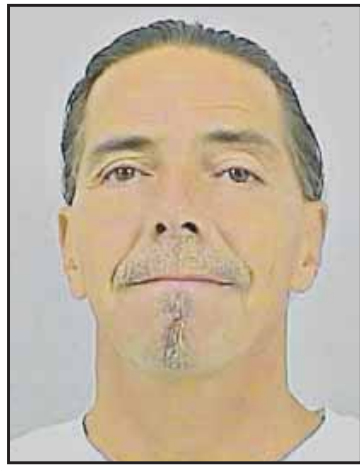
The D.A.'s involvement is standard protocol. The three Menlo Park officers involved in the shooting are veterans with more than a decade of experience, according to the police department.

Sgt. Jaime Romero and officers Scott Mackdanz and Nicholas Douglas are on paid leave, as is standard protocol following a shooting, Police Chief Bob Jonsen told the Almanac on Nov. 13. Sgt. Romero has been an officer for 18 years, Officer Mackdanz for 16, and Officer Douglas for 11.

The officers had responded to a report of a burglary in progress at a business near Willow Place off Willow Road. An employee had spotted a man who resembled a suspect on a flier sent out to commercial tenants warning about a series of thefts at Peninsula businesses, according to a witness who asked not to be identified.

The man, 52-year-old Jerry Lee Matheny of Riverside County, fled when police arrived around 12:50 p.m. During the ensuing chase, officers first fired a Taser, and the suspect then allegedly pulled a gun, according to the police department.

Attorney Alison Berry Wilkinson, who represents Sgt. Romero, said that he had joined the others



California Department of Corrections
Jerry Lee Matheny was shot and killed by Menlo Park police.

in the foot pursuit along Willow Road and initially reached for his baton. Sgt. Romero told the attorney that the fleeing suspect reached for his waistband, then pulled a gun and pointed it at him; when Sgt. Romero heard a shot, he pulled his weapon to return fire, according to the attorney.

Menlo Park police reportedly found a gun and a stolen wallet at the scene. The initial press release on Nov. 11 stated that investigators had not yet determined whether Mr. Matheny had fired his gun.

He was pronounced dead at the scene by medics. One officer was taken to the hospital with a knee injury sustained during the foot pursuit.

The body remained in the road, covered by a yellow tarp, for some time, and Willow



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Police respond to the scene on Willow Road where a man was shot by Menlo Park police officers on Nov. 11.

Road was closed between Middlefield and Creek Drive. Other police departments, including Atherton's and Palo Alto's, were called in to help with traffic control.

The District Attorney's Office has video footage from the cameras worn by the officers. No further information will be released from the police department and further inquiries should go to the district attorney, Chief Jonsen said.

Mr. Matheny was wanted by the state for violating parole, according to law enforcement sources. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation issued a warrant for him on July 22 related to possession of a controlled substance. He remained at large until Nov. 11.

He was also suspected of other burglaries along the Peninsula. District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe said that his office on Oct. 21 filed a felony case out of San Mateo for two counts of commercial burglary and one count of identity theft against Mr. Matheny, which had been pending on the issuance of an arrest warrant by a judge.

Officers' history

As Mr. Matheny's past is now subject to scrutiny, so is that of the officers. None of the three officers has been involved in other shootings in Menlo Park. Both Officer Mackdanz and Officer Douglas have lost civil trials related to excessive force complaints.

Asked how the officers' his-

tories should be viewed in the context of the Nov. 11 shooting, Chief Jonsen said that their actions must be viewed as separate and independent of the past.

"Over a career, the probability that law enforcement officers are going to be involved in incidents leading to lawsuits is high," the chief said. "Each incident must be viewed in its own context, and the reasonableness of the force used must be determined based on the circumstances confronting the officers during this incident and not prior incidents."

The city paid for two claims against Officer Mackdanz in 2005. A jury ordered Menlo Park to pay \$27,000 to a man

See **SHOOTING**, page 14

Board denies petition to start Mandarin immersion charter school

By **Barbara Wood**
Almanac Staff Writer

A petition to start a Mandarin immersion charter school in the Menlo Park City School District was unanimously denied by the school board on Wednesday night, Nov. 12.

The board adopted as its findings, or grounds, for denying the petition, the entire report prepared by a team of district administrators and consultants that pointed out deficiencies in the petition.

Carol Cunningham, a spokes-

person for the Menlo Mandarin Immersion Charter School, said the school's backers have not decided if they will appeal the denial of the petition. "We need to regroup and figure out our strategy — the next step, if there is any," Ms. Cunningham said after the meeting. The charter has 180 days from Nov. 12 to make an appeal, under state law.

A petition to start the Mandarin immersion charter school was presented to the district on Sept. 12. The district had only 60 days to consider the petition, a document 218 pages long

with an additional 118 pages of appendices.

The charter school backers proposed to open their school in the fall of 2015 with two classes each of kindergarten and first grade and a total of 100 students. The backers also asked the district for 10,000 square feet of classrooms and other facilities, saying the school would serve at least 80 students from the district.

While a large number of district parents and teachers have opposed the school, the grounds on which the board could turn

down the petition are limited by state law.

This meeting, like a previous public hearing on the petition, filled the Multi-Use Building at Encinal School. Caryn Wasserstein, a district parent, testified that "this is not a community that supports this charter."

"Please, we implore you, do not approve this petition," she said.

Board member Jeff Child said a number of issues were "particularly troubling to me about this application." He said the school's program was too

ambitious, trying to incorporate many new educational methods into a school teaching much of its curriculum in Mandarin.

"I think they're trying to do too much at the risk of doing nothing well," he said, adding that the proposed program included "every buzz word" current in education.

Board member Terry Thygesen said the fact that the charter school could not show it would have a demographic mix of students that "roughly

See **CHARTER**, page 14

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Sautéed Green Beans, with mushrooms, shallots and butter: \$13.50 Qt and \$7.00 pt

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Menlo College students arrested on drug charges

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Officers from the San Mateo County Narcotics Task Force, with the assistance of Atherton police, arrested two men in connection with the discovery of 20 bags of cocaine, 77 Xanax pills and jars of marijuana in a dorm room at Menlo College on Nov. 10.

Dominic Ezekiel Jackson and Joel Matthew Palabrica, both 21 years old, were arraigned on Nov. 12 and pleaded not guilty to charges of possession of a controlled substance for sale, possession of marijuana for sale, and conspiracy to commit a crime, according to Lt. Joe Wade of the Atherton Police Department.

The men were released on their own recognizance. Their next court date is Jan. 14 for a preliminary hearing.

Around noon on Monday, Nov. 10, a campus security officer called authorities after detecting the odor of burning marijuana outside the dorm room that Mr. Jackson and Mr. Palabrica share, prosecutors said.

School policy allows an officer to enter a dorm room under such circumstances, according to prosecutors. The officer entered and saw Mr. Palabrica smoking marijuana and found marijuana and drugs inside "a false book and a false can" on Mr. Jackson's desk, prosecutors said.

In addition to the drugs, officers said they found \$925 in cash. After interviews and an investigation, officers concluded that Mr. Jackson sells marijuana and cocaine and that Mr. Palabrica was in possession of marijuana for sale, prosecutors said. ▀

SUNSET

continued from page 3

whether you like it or not," the broker said. "Managed change should be a positive."

Almost certainly, a prospective buyer would propose changing the commercial zoning to allow residential construction, because that "drives the highest price," said Sam Wright, a senior vice president for Cassidy Turley Commercial. Mr. Wright has sold several commercial properties in Menlo Park, including the Roger Reynolds nursery, he said.

"Menlo Park real estate is at — or near — an all-time high and doesn't appear likely to change in the near term," he said. A Menlo Park address carries real prestige, but the city is "difficult" in terms of getting permission to build, he said. "A difficult entitlement environment does depress the value of a piece of property," he added.

The campus

In 1951, Sunset moved from San Francisco to its landmark campus in Menlo Park. In 1952, locals Bill and Mel Lane took over company operations from their father, Laurence W. Lane, who had bought the magazine for \$65,000 in 1928, when it was a fledgling travel magazine.

After looking at several locations in the Bay Area — "Hillsborough wouldn't have us," said Mel — the Lane family settled on Menlo Park.

Sunset was one of the first tenants in the city's innovative

garden office zone, established under Mayor Charles Burgess, according to a 1998 Almanac article by Marion Softky. "There were no electric signs, no commercial retail and no manufacturing. It was perfect," said Mel Lane.

Residential architect Cliff May designed his first commercial building to resemble an early Spanish ranch home. Set on five acres adjacent to San Francisco Creek, the adobe building with the patios and test kitchens was surrounded by spacious gardens designed by Thomas Church. "It became a laboratory for western living and model for what the magazine promoted," said Bill Lane in the 1998 article.

The elegant new headquarters also became a popular tourist destination as Gray Line made it a stop on its tours, and residents brought friends and out-of-town visitors to peer into the kitchens and stroll through the gardens. There was a time when 75,000 people a year took the Sunset tour, Ms. Softky wrote.

The Lane brothers sold the company to Time Warner in 1990 for \$225 million. Mel Lane died in 2007 and Bill Lane in 2010.

In recent years, the Sunset headquarters at 80 Willow Road has hosted an annual "Sunset Celebration Weekend" event for two weekend days in the spring, when thousands of people visited the campus for cooking demonstrations, wine seminars, and programs on gardening, home designs and green living. ▀

Drafts of consultant's work released

By **Sandy Brundage**
Almanac Staff Writer

Drafts of documents written by consultant Malcolm Smith on behalf of Menlo Park included links to a pro-initiative website as well as to the city's website on Measure M, the specific plan initiative.

On Nov. 12 Menlo Park City Manager Alex McIntyre sent the Almanac what he described as all of the documents that consultant Malcolm Smith "originally submitted (to the city) that were discarded."

The drafts include ghostwritten letters to the editor, comments for online forums, talking points and an "op-ed" opinion piece on the topic of the Menlo Park downtown/El Camino Real specific plan in the context of a proposed ballot initiative to revise the plan.

The drafts ask readers to look at the city's website on the issue and refer to the website of Save Menlo, the grassroots coalition that brought the initiative to the ballot.

One proposed letter to the editor reads in part: "As the community considers the initiative proposed to revise Measure M, I hope everyone takes the time to become fully aware of all the facts before taking a position. The initiative supporters' website, savemenlo.org, outlines that group's concerns and the revisions that are proposed. The City has a neutral informational website about the initiative, menlopark.org/proposedinitiative, summarizing how the Specific Plan currently approaches these issues. There, you can also learn about how the plan was created, the reasoning behind its elements, and the public process that was involved."

Go to tinyurl.com/draft113 to see the drafts by Mr. Smith.

Mayor's op-ed?

The "op-ed" opinion piece was proposed to be attributed to the mayor.

"I never asked for an op-ed to be ghostwritten for me. I never saw the material until (the) release, and I never submitted an op-ed on the subject of Measure M for publication," Mayor Ray Mueller told the Almanac.

He initially called for the city to discuss whether to hire an independent investigator to review the consultant's work for Menlo Park, during the next council meeting, but changed his mind. "I decided to delay taking any investigatory action because I have been informed that the district attorney is reviewing the matter, and there is no need for duplicative efforts."

■ MENLO PARK

"It is my expectation that all materials related to the city's dealings with Malcolm Smith will be released to the public, and I have made that clear to the city manager," Mr. Mueller said.

Invoices showed that the city paid the consultant \$5,125 for tasks that included writing website content related to Measure M, the specific plan initiative, as well as the drafts, which were discarded as crossing the line between education and partisan advocacy, Mr. McIntyre said. The only material the city ended up using, according to Mr. McIntyre, was the website content.

He said an attorney hired to represent the city on specific plan issues had reviewed the

Mayor changes his mind about hiring an independent investigator to review the consultant's work in connection with proposed ballot initiative.

website for impartiality prior to publication, and that the council was not informed of Mr. Smith's work because it was a "low-level" contract.

Initiative advocates have challenged whether the city's website, as well as information presented in its Menlo Focus newsletter, is truly impartial. Once a measure has qualified for the ballot, state law requires that public funds be spent only to provide balanced information that does not advocate a partisan position.

The state attorney general "declined to get involved" after former councilman and Measure M supporter Heyward Robinson filed a complaint over the newsletter, Mr. Robinson said.

Sixty-one percent of voters rejected Measure M in the Nov. 4 election.

Measure M camps

For once, representatives of the opposing campaign groups on Measure M found themselves in agreement in questioning the utility of a third-party investigator.

Mr. Robinson, whose public records request turned up the consultant's initial proposal, said that the council should be able to handle the matter without spending taxpayer money on an investigator. If Mr. McIntyre cannot provide a satisfactory accounting of the consultant's

work, "(the council) should fire him immediately."

Mr. Robinson has asked the county district attorney, grand jury and the state's Fair Political Practices Commission to investigate. Mr. Robinson said he didn't buy the consultant as the scapegoat, describing email exchanges between Mr. Smith and city staff as showing that staff was "fully on board" with the work.

"We already know enough to make a judgment on Mr. McIntyre," Mr. Robinson said. "He's been untruthful; his staff were involved in drafting (at least) blog postings and letters to the editor; he has admitted to destroying public records. The council should suspend him immediately while the district attorney investigates. Mr. McIntyre should not be allowed access to his computer or the city's network."

The California Public Records Act does not consider drafts to be public record. Mr. Smith's contract required that the consultant retain "required records" for three years; it is not clear what records fell under the purview of that clause.

Patti Fry, the former planning commissioner who co-sponsored Measure M, challenged the impartiality of a city-hired investigator. "It defies common sense for the city to hire anyone to examine itself," she said.

Former planning commissioner Henry Riggs, who supported the "No on M" coalition, agreed that a third-party investigator was not the optimum choice.

"I want answers — this could be a real black eye if the city used PR letters to editors. I support having two investigations and I already am paying for them," Mr. Riggs said, referring to the district attorney and the FPCC. "This is right. Both will have more leverage than a consultant. The idea of spending \$20,000 to \$30,000 on a third party to evaluate \$6,500 worth of PR consultant seems a poor use of taxpayer funds."

John Boyle, former councilman and "No on M" advocate, said the key question is whether the city campaigned to influence the election. "It's not about whether or not a consultant, or employee for that matter, internally discussed or proposed possible actions. Is there any evidence that the city actually campaigned externally?" he asked.

"If there is, then sure, an investigation is warranted. If not, then unless we're going to start doing investigations every time someone in town makes an accusation, then we should be cautious about spending more taxpayer money and valuable time and effort on everyone's part." ■

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Buying A New Home vs. An Existing One

Dear Monica: My wife and I have made a few offers on newly constructed homes in good locations and have been outbid each time. Maybe we should expand our search to include other properties besides new construction. What is your advice about new versus existing homes? Gerald C.

Dear Gerald: Buyers usually pay a premium for newly constructed homes in good locations. A new home is pristine and fresh, and buyers really like that. But just like buying anything new, e.g., a car, appliance, etc., the value of the home goes down when it is no longer new. It is supplanted by newer homes that come after. If your buying power is just short of what new

homes are selling for, you should definitely change your strategy.

It sounds like you have narrowed your search to only the prime neighborhoods. Expand your search to include other neighborhoods with the same amenities such as the same school district. Values are rising in these neighborhoods as well, especially as many buyers are priced out of the top areas. Or if you want to live in the prime areas only, then look at existing homes that give you much of what you want but are older. You can save significant amounts by doing this. Learn from your recent experiences of being outbid and plan a better strategy. It is the only way to succeed in this market.

For answers to any questions you may have on real estate, you may e-mail me at mcorman@apr.com or call 462-1111, Alain Pinel Realtors. I also offer a free market analysis of your property. www.MonicaCorman.com



ANDREW DANIEL

HE GRADUATED FROM SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY WITH A B.A. IN ENGLISH (CREATIVE WRITING), A MINOR IN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE AND A M.A. IN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE.

As a humanities teacher, Andrew is inspired by "the fun, creative energy of Priory students." He loves communicating new ideas to students, watching growth in their writing, and helping them design and create amazing projects.

When Andrew isn't teaching, he serves on the Middle School Vision Team, facilitates a Summer Writing Program and has published in many literary journals and photography exhibits.

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Deputy, two correctional officers arrested

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

A deputy sheriff and two correctional officers were arrested Nov. 13 on charges that they smuggled cellular phones and drugs into the county jail in Redwood City for use by an inmate and criminal street gang member, according to District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe.

The deputy is Juan Pablo Lopez, 51, of Newark. Mr. Lopez has served as a deputy for 26 years in the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office and was a write-in candidate for sheriff in the June election.

County jail corrections officer George Ismael, 40, of San Francisco, was arrested in Redwood City. Corrections officer Michael Del Carlo, 43, was arrested in San Jose, where he also lives. Mr. Lopez also worked in the jail, driving prisoners to and from court and medical appointments.

(On Monday morning, Mr. Wagstaffe said four other people are being charged in connection with this case, but the details were not available at press time. "We're looking at every individual who might have been connected with it in the jail," Mr. Wagstaffe said.)

All three men are accused of smuggling cellphones into the county jail, obstructing justice and gang involvement. The charges against Mr. Ismael include bringing into the jail a controlled substance — oxycontin, Mr. Wagstaffe said — and providing it to prisoners.

The three are accused of allowing an inmate, described by Mr. Wagstaffe as a "validated criminal street gang member," and fellow street gang members to use the prohibited phones and drugs inside the jail, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

Only one corrections offi-

cers had a hands-on role; the other officer and Mr. Lopez are accused of "having knowledge of it happening and allowing it to occur," Mr. Wagstaffe said. None of the men has prior offenses.

The three were arrested on \$100,000 warrants. Mr. Lopez bailed out of Alameda County jail and is scheduled for arraignment in San Mateo County Superior Court on Dec. 16, according to David Washington, his attorney.

The charges stem from an investigation that began in December 2013, after the District Attorney's Office learned from the Sheriff's Office of a cellphone smuggled into the jail, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

Mr. Lopez is on administrative leave, but not as a result of this criminal investigation, Mr. Wagstaffe said. Deputy Rebecca Rosenblatt of the Sheriff's Office would not comment in detail on personnel matters. She did confirm that Mr. Lopez has been on leave since July, adding that it "was a separate incident from this one he is alleged to have committed currently."

At the time of his arrest, Mr. Lopez was outside his house in Newark. Officers from an Alameda County task force arrived with sirens wailing and lights flashing, Mr. Washington said. The officers, with guns drawn, ordered Mr. Lopez to put his hands in the air and get down on his knees, and he was then handcuffed, Mr. Washington said.

Plainclothes officers from San Mateo County were also on the scene, but arrived later.

Mr. Lopez was taken to a holding area in the Alameda County jail, where he remained, alone, for one and a half hours, Mr. Washington said.

Asked to comment on the drama surrounding Mr. Lopez's arrest, Mr. Wagstaffe called it "a major take-down," but some-



Photos: San Mateo County Sheriff's Office

Arrested were, from left, Deputy Juan Pablo Lopez and corrections officers Michael Del Carlo and George Ismael.

The deputy, Juan P. Lopez, ran as a write-in candidate for sheriff against his boss in the June election.

thing for which his office had no responsibility. "We put out a warrant and it goes through the system and how it comes out, I don't have those details," he said.

Arresting officers have discretion as to whether to make an arrest or ask the target of a warrant to come in voluntarily. This was a case of public corruption, Mr. Wagstaffe said. "One could justify it in either direction."

Mr. Ismael has 15 years of service with the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office and Mr. Del Carlo, 19 years.

Mr. Ismael was arrested in San Mateo County, but given that he is a San Mateo County jail employee, he was immediately transferred to Alameda County jail, Mr. Wagstaffe said. The same would have happened to Mr. Lopez or Mr. Del Carlo had they been arrested in San Mateo County, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

Write-in candidate

The 11-month investigation of Mr. Lopez and the corrections officers was underway during the June 2014 election in which Mr. Lopez, running as a write-in candidate, challenged Mr. Munks' re-election to a third term as sheriff.

Mr. Lopez said that he hadn't meant to be a write-in candidate, but that he was too late in delivering his nomination papers to the Elections Office.

On his campaign website, Mr. Lopez said that he "will restore integrity to the leadership of the Office of Sheriff," that Mr. Munks "is not the person to lead the law enforcement program," and that he (Mr. Lopez) will be a leader that voters can "respect and trust."

In April 2007, Mr. Munks and Undersheriff Carlos Bolanos were detained and questioned by police after they were found on the premises of a brothel located in an unmarked house in a residential neighborhood of Las Vegas.

Mr. Munks said at the time that he'd been looking for a massage parlor and believed he was going into a legitimate business.

Mr. Lopez said his use of the words "integrity" and "trust"

and "respect" were not a reference to that incident, but another issue over transparency about a Sheriff's Office construction project.

When asked to comment on Mr. Lopez's candidacy, Mr. Munks always declined. He won re-election with 98.6 percent of the vote. Mr. Lopez received 998 votes.

Asked to what extent the Sheriff's Office was involved in the investigation of Mr. Lopez, Mr. Wagstaffe said essentially that the Sheriff's Office got in and got out. "They very quickly turned it over to us," he said.

Investigators were in limited communication with Sheriff's Office staff, but Sheriff Munks was out of the loop, Mr. Wagstaffe said. "I know that because he told me that," Mr. Wagstaffe said when asked about the extent of Mr. Munks' engagement.

Eleven months for such an investigation is a long time, Mr. Wagstaffe admitted. This one engaged two of his office's 15 investigators, and involved several search warrants and a lengthy process of obtaining records from phone companies. Combined with his office having had a busy year, the time just added up, he said. ■

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Third-grade Woodside girls raise money for Ebola fight

A group of third-grade girls from Woodside Elementary School is raising money for Medecins Sans Frontieres / Doctors Without Borders every weekend during November in front of Roberts Market on Woodside Road in Woodside.

Parent Terry Sculley says the girls have already raised more than \$3,000 and have met people who volunteer with or regularly donate to the organization. The girls want

their donations to go to IV kits for Africa and to pay for more relief workers to travel to West Africa, she said.

As a thank-you to donors, the girls are giving away squares of Divine Fair Trade chocolate.

Ms. Sculley said one of the donors the girls met recently was Dr. James McCarrick, a Redwood City doctor who will go to Africa for Doctors Without Borders in 2015. Dr. McCarrick told the girls, she

said, that the recipients of care from the organization are so grateful for their unbiased help that even in war-torn regions the volunteers are safe.

The girls have been meeting as a group since they were in first grade, Ms. Sculley says, and hope to continue through their eighth-grade year at Woodside Elementary.

They meet once a month to work on projects and focus on a specific topic each month. November was dedicated

to learning about medical careers and volunteerism. In December they will carol at the Sequoias, and in January they will kayak in Elkhorn Slough.

Donations to the Woodside School Third Grade Girls Group for the project may be made with checks payable to MSF/Doctors Without Borders. Mail them to: C/O Woodside Girls Group/Terry Sculley, 2995 Woodside Road, Suite 400 Woodside, CA 94062.

Atherton aims to improve biking and walking safety

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

A master plan that would help make Atherton safer for walking and biking will be considered for adoption by the City Council when it meets on Wednesday, Nov. 19.

The public meeting starts at 7 p.m. in the council chambers at 94 Ashfield Road, after a closed session at 6:30 p.m. to discuss possible litigation.

The bike and pedestrian plan is one of four master plans the town has recently developed or is working on. The others are for a new civic center, for Holbrook-Palmer Park and for drainage. The bike and pedestrian plan shows how bicycles could get through Atherton more safely and link to bikeways in nearby communities, and how Atherton streets could be made more walkable.

The council also plans to decide on Nov. 19 which projects in the plan should be prioritized. The tentative list includes:

(1) Middlefield Road, from Jennings Lane to Ringwood Avenue. Dedicated on-road bike lanes along its entire length plus a separate off-road, two-way path from Watkins to Marsh.

(2) Atherton Avenue, from Alameda de las Pulgas to El Camino Real. Initially, a bike route sharing the road with vehicles with consideration of eventually widening the road to allow dedicated on-road bike lanes in the future.

(3) Selby Lane from El Camino Real to Selby Lane School. Dedicated on-road bike lanes.

(4) Elena Avenue/Faxon Road/Barry Lane/Atherton/Selby Lane and a parallel route splitting off at Isabella Avenue/Elena Avenue/Atherton Avenue/Austin Avenue. A bike route sharing the road with vehicles

(5) Watkins Avenue from El Camino Real to Middlefield Road. A bike route sharing the road with vehicles.

The council has budgeted \$500,000 in the current fiscal year for projects related to the bicycle pedestrian plan and \$100,000 a year for the next four years. Community Services Director Mike Kashiwagi

suggested that once the plan is approved and priorities agreed on, an engineering study should evaluate the high priority projects and their costs.

Also on the council's Nov. 19 agenda:

■ Changes in the regulations both for signs and for special events in Atherton.

■ A request from the Menlo-Atherton Little League to change the name of Holbrook-Palmer Park baseball field from Homer Field to Homer Field at Willie Mays Ballpark.

■ A request from the town's Transportation Committee for the town to develop a neighborhood traffic management program so residents could request "traffic calming" measures, such as speed bumps, on their streets.

The changes in the sign ordinance have been recommended by the city attorney, in part, because the town's current regulations conflict with state and federal laws, especially those regulating freedom of speech.

Special events

The changes in the special event regulations would require permits for any event that requires the town to provide traffic control, public safety services or "extraordinary parking control measures." Events in the public right-of-way, such as walk-a-thons or organized bicycle rides, and events on private property that lasts more than one day will also require permits.

The town began looking at its special events ordinance in 2013 after a visit from President Obama cost the town more than \$8,000 for additional police protection and other services. Invoices sent to the White House, the Secret Service, the Democratic National Committee and the residents who hosted two fundraisers were not paid, and town officials vowed to make sure that regulations were cleared up and residents informed so the same thing would not happen again.

One of the provisions of the proposed ordinance would require repayment for any special town services connected with special events. ■



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Home demolished to make room for students

By Barbara Wood

Almanac Staff Writer

Usually, when new housing is built in a school district it means more students for local schools. The Las Lomitas Elementary School District is turning that concept on its head by removing a home in the district to make room for more students.

On Nov. 12, the district started demolishing a house at 273 Alameda de las Pulgas, next to the Las Lomitas Elementary School campus, to help the district accommodate the 40 percent growth in the number of students it has experienced since 1999.

The district recently purchased the one-acre property, which borders the Las Lomitas property on two sides, for \$3 million, according to Eric Holm, director of bond projects for the district.

"The owners had long had an appreciation for the school in the community and liked the idea of the property supporting the kids and the com-

munity for future generations," Mr. Holm said.

The district looked into deconstructing and salvaging the home, but found it was significantly more expensive than standard demolition because of state prevailing wage and public contract requirements, Mr. Holm said.

However, he said, the demolition contractor is recycling at least 60 percent of the house's materials. The foundations will be ground down and reused in new roadways; the metal will be melted down; and the wood will be ground up to use as mulch, he said.

Exactly what the additional property will be used for is still under review, he said. Last year the Las Lomitas district completed a master plan looking at how to accommodate its expanding student population. Comments from parents, community members, site staff, administration and maintenance staff as well as from design and construction professionals were incorporated into the plan.



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

This house at 272 Alameda de las Pulgas in Atherton, next to the Las Lomitas Elementary School, was demolished so the property can be used by the school district.

In November 2013, voters approved a \$60 million bond measure for repairs, upgrades and new construction projects

in the district.

The district is working with the town of Atherton and the California Department of Edu-

cation to change the new property's zoning from residential to school facility, Mr. Holm said. ▀

Menlo Park rolls out the green carpet for state of the city event

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park rolled out the artificial turf to create a temporary paseo downtown at 1080 Chestnut St. for the annual "state of the city" event on Nov. 13.

Hosted by Mayor Ray Mueller, the program included dance and musical performances by local youth on a stage set up for the occasion, and recognition of people for community service, including Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District. He returned to work in January, nine months after a paralyzing fall.

Mayor Mueller gave a talk and

presented a slide show on the city's accomplishments over the past year and announced new initiatives. One, "Menlo Spark," is an ambitious plan to make the city have net zero carbon emissions within 10 years. Another is a collaboration between three elementary school districts serving Menlo Park, the city and the YMCA's Project Cornerstone "to focus on making Menlo Park the very best place to raise a child."

The city may also gain even more international flavor. According to the mayor, cultural exchange agreements with Kochi, India, and Xinbei, China, will be signed next year. Menlo Park is also exploring an agreement with Bizen, Japan, he said. ▀



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Some members of the audience sat on buckets at a temporary paseo set up in downtown Menlo Park on Nov. 13 for the city of Menlo Park's annual "State of the City" event.

Portola Valley schools chief heads to White House technology conference

Lisa Gonzales, superintendent of the Portola Valley School District, had a very important meeting on her calendar for Nov. 19: a White House technology conference.

A press release from the U.S.

Department of Education on Nov. 17 said Ms. Gonzales was one of 100 superintendents in the country chosen to participate in the first National Connected Superintendents Summit at the White House.

The school district heads were chosen for their leadership in transitioning their districts to digital learning, the press release said. The conference will focus on the uses of technology in classrooms.

"I am humbled to represent Portola Valley and the Silicon Valley in Washington, D.C.," Ms. Gonzales said. "The honor reflects well on the entire district and its staff."

Working with superinten-

dents from around the country and having a chance to let federal leaders know the needs of districts such as Portola Valley "will be invaluable," she said.

The White House summit will be followed by regional summits focusing on technology in local school districts.

Legendary football player Gordy Soltau dies at 89

Gordon (Gordy) Leroy Soltau, a legendary member of the San Francisco 49ers, a three-time Pro Bowl player, three-time All-Pro, and member of the 49ers Hall of Fame, died Oct. 26 with his family by his side. He was 89.

He was a resident of the Palo Alto and Menlo Park communities for the past 60 years, the family said.

Born in Duluth, Minnesota, he was a multi-talented athlete who excelled in football, basketball, baseball, hockey, track and skiing.

He was an original Navy Frogman and served in the Office of Strategist Services (OSS) during World War II, and was later made an honorary member of the Green Berets.

Following the war, he attended the University of Minnesota, where he earned four letters in football, three in basketball and one in hockey.

He was selected an All-Big-Ten end and also place-kicked. He played in the Hula Bowl, the East-West Shrine Game and was a member of a college all-star team that defeated the reigning NFL-champion Philadelphia Eagles in 1950.

Mr. Soltau was originally drafted by the Green Bay Packers as the 30th pick in the 1950 NFL Draft. He was quickly traded to the Cleveland Browns, where head coach Paul Brown offered him the choice of being a backup or going to the San Francisco 49ers, a team looking for an end and kicker. He chose the latter.

He spent nine years with the 49ers, and led the NFL in scoring in 1952 and 1953, receiving All-Pro honors in 1951, 1952 and 1953.

He led the team in scoring eight of his nine seasons and finished his career with a franchise-best 644 points. He caught 249 passes for 3,487 yards and 25 touchdowns, made 70 of 139 field goals, and missed only two games.

In a 1951 game against the rival Los Angeles Rams, he scored 26 points, the team's single-game record for 39 years until it was broken by Jerry Rice. Mr. Soltau was the first player to play in 100 games for the 49ers.

He was the first player representative for the 49ers and helped the NFL establish a pension plan in 1962. During the off-season, he worked in the printing business and spent more than 40 years in the industry, rising to executive vice-president.

After his retirement from

football in 1959, Mr. Soltau spent 10 seasons as a color commentator with Bob Fouts at CBS television and five seasons with Lon Simmons at KSFO radio broadcasting 49er games.

He also did radio commentary for the 1960 Olympic Games in Squaw Valley. He persuaded Bing Crosby to join him in the broadcast booth for the final hockey game, although Mr. Crosby was supposed to be

Obituaries are based on information provided by the family.

in Stockton, California, filming the movie, "High Time."

Mr. Soltau was a long-time member of The Guardsman; The Family Club; The Olympic Club; Palo Alto Hills Golf and Country Club; and Menlo Country Club.

A tireless supporter of youth

sports, he was honored for his contributions to the Boy Scouts of America, and was president of the Northern California Chapter of the NFL Alumni Association for 29 years, chairing a golf tournament at the Olympic Club that raised money for the "Caring for Kids Program."

He is enshrined in the Duluth Hall of Fame; the University of Minnesota Hall of Fame; the

Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame (1999); and San Francisco 49ers Hall of Fame (2012).

Mr. Soltau is survived by his wife, Nancy; sons Mark and John; daughter Jill; daughter-in-laws Sarah and Valerie; and granddaughters Susie and Shelby. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that contributions be made to the San Francisco 49ers Foundation or the Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame.



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—Santwona Behera, Stanford Patient

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POLICE CALLS

This information is based on reports from the Menlo Park and Atherton police departments. Under the law, people charged with offenses are considered innocent unless convicted. Police received the reports on the dates shown.

ATHERTON

Fraud:

■ Using the personal identification information of a resident of Karen Way, someone used automatic bill payments to steal funds from the resident's bank accounts. Estimated loss: \$48,719. Nov. 11.

■ A resident of Heather Drive received a bill for for hospital care in Boise, Idaho, for someone using her son's name. Estimated loss: \$1,705. Oct. 21.

Residential burglaries:

■ A burglary of a construction site on Rebecca Lane resulted in the theft of a chop saw, a table saw, a nail gun, a grinder, a framing gun, a mitre box, a nailer, and a combo kit of several battery power tools. Estimated loss: \$7,250. Nov. 1.

■ Someone entered a home on Atherton Avenue, kicked in a bedroom door and stole two 42-inch flat-screen TVs. Estimated loss: \$1,400. Nov. 9.

■ Someone broke into a backyard shed on Deodora Drive and stole kitchen appliance and miscellaneous items. No estimate of loss. Oct. 12.

Thefts:

■ Tree climbing equipment, including rope, a saddle and a lowering device, were stolen from the back of a truck parked on Greenoaks Drive while the equipment owner was off working on a property. Estimated loss: \$3,500. Nov. 10.

■ Someone stole a yellow Apple iPhone from a table or backpack at Menlo-Atherton High School at 555 Middlefield Road and turned it off, rendering it untrackable, police said. Estimated loss: \$300. Nov. 10.

■ A white Apple iPhone was lost somewhere between Menlo-Atherton High

School at 555 Middlefield Road and the Menlo Park train station on Merrill Street. Nov. 12.

■ The owner of a gold and white Apple iPhone at Menlo-Atherton High School reported the phone stolen from a desk. Estimated loss: \$149. Nov. 6.

MENLO PARK

Fraud: An elderly resident of Santa Cruz Avenue made payments to a man representing himself as a contractor and engaged to remodel the resident's home. The resident signed a series of contracts and made the payments, under pressure by the "contractor," over a period of about a week. Estimated loss: \$75,000. Nov. 10.

Residential burglary: Someone broke into a storage locker in the 600 block of Sharon Park Drive and stole six pieces of luggage. No estimate of loss. Nov. 12.

Thefts:

■ A resident of Fremont Street reported seven potted plants stolen from two pots located on a fenced-in patio with a gate that was unlocked. Estimated loss: \$800. Nov. 7.

■ Someone entered an unlocked vehicle parked on Middle Avenue and stole a new pair of jeans, two new shirts, a jacket and a bag of used clothes intended for donation. Estimated loss: \$150. Nov. 11.

■ Police were called to CVS pharmacy at 700 El Camino Real about a man taking merchandise into a restroom with him and apparently leaving the restroom without it. Officers found and arrested the man after determining that he was under the influence of a controlled substance and in possession of facial products he hadn't paid for. He was cited and released. Nov. 10.

Stolen vehicle: Police arrested a man in the Stanford Shopping Center on vehicle theft charges after finding him driving a minivan that had been parked, unlocked, on Harvard Avenue in Menlo Park. The man allegedly stole the owner's keys from a laundry room at the Stanford Inn motel. Nov. 7.

Menlo Park report on data from license-plate readers

The first report on how Menlo Park's new mobile automated license plate readers are working was set to be delivered to the council on Tuesday, Nov. 18.

The report states that from July 1 through Oct. 1, the systems captured 263,430 license plates. Of those, 141 plates were tagged as being on an active wanted list. "The vast majority of the hits were subsequently deemed to be a 'false read' after further review," it said.

One stolen vehicle was recovered, resulting in the arrest of the driver, according to the report.

Menlo Park police officers also made three queries of the database for training purposes,

BRIEFS

the report said.

The council implemented a privacy policy in May that requires quarterly reports on the number of plates captured, how many were on the wanted list, and the number of inquiries made by officers and why. The policy also requires that data be deleted after six months unless needed for an ongoing investigation.

Free Birds

Just ahead of Thanksgiving, the movie "Free Birds" will be shown at the Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center at 555

Middlefield Road in Atherton on Thursday, Nov. 20.

Admission is free, but you do need to get a ticket in advance at tinyurl.com/kvyhj4u. The movie starts at 6:30 p.m.

Chamber mixer

The November networking mixer organized by the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce will be hosted by Peninsula Volunteers on Wednesday, Nov. 19, at Rosener House (500 Arbor Road). The event starts at 5:30 p.m.



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Winifred "Wini" Gould Jecker Steiner

August 31, 1913 – October 21, 2014

Portola Valley

"Wini" Steiner died peacefully in her sleep after visits from her family and friends.

Wini was born in England and emigrated with her family in 1920, eventually settling in Long Beach. Wini graduated from UC Berkeley in 1935 with a degree in English. There, she lived at International House where she met Duroc Albert Jecker, whom she married in 1935. Duroc died in 1940. Not wanting to teach English to support their young daughter, Wini earned a BS degree in home economics at Oregon State.

In 1944 Wini was hired as the first home economist for the U.C. Cooperative Extension service for the counties of Santa Clara, San Mateo, and San Benito, where she organized 24 community groups of mainly farm wives to conduct workshops on food preservation and streamlined garment making.

As Santa Clara County changed from rural to urban, she stayed there, where her focus shifted to consumer information in all areas of home making, home furnishings, money management, clothing and fabrics and food buying. She conducted short courses and lecture demonstrations and pioneered a daily radio show on several radio stations, a weekly column for the San Jose Mercury, and a show on KPIX-TV.

In the 1960's Wini served as a cooperative resource to school nurses, teachers, social workers, and dietitians. Later she initiated a nutrition program for low income families, developing cultural and ethnic materials and recipes.

In 1957, Wini married Russell R. "Russ" Steiner, a local accountant. Shortly after their retirement in 1972, they moved to Paradise, CA. They traveled everywhere. Both loved Yosemite, taking their grandchildren on high country

trips. Wini founded the Paradise branch of AAUW, and led AAUW initiatives there and in Chico to benefit re-entry women and research child care for working mothers. Russ died in 1988. Wini then returned to the Bay Area, settling in the Sequoias Portola Valley in 1993.



Wini took leadership positions in St. Nicholas Episcopal Church in Paradise and St. Bede's in Menlo Park and was faithful at Christ Church Episcopal, Portola Valley. "Wini the Walker" couldn't be missed anywhere, and she celebrated her 80th birthday walking across her beloved England.

Wini volunteered in many ways to care for students, international visitors, and the elderly in nursing homes. She founded the Jessie

Rau Anderson Scholarship at UC Santa Cruz in 1965 in honor of her counselor at Long Beach Polytechnic, who lent her \$100 so she could start at UC Berkeley in 1933. Wini would take the "Anderson Girls" out to lunch for decades after that and maintain a correspondence with many of them. Wini was known for her elegant style, in manner, clothes, and furnishings, her wide-ranging travels, love of the outdoors, high energy, and storytelling.

Wini leaves her daughter, Mary Beth (Bruce) Train of Palo Alto, two grandchildren, six step-grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. A memorial service will be in November.

Memorial contributions may be made through the UC Santa Cruz Foundation. Please direct your contributions to Jessie Rau Anderson Scholarship in memory of Wini Steiner. Visit giving.ucsc.edu or send a gift to the UC Santa Cruz Foundation, Dept. 44787, PO Box 44000, San Francisco, CA 94144-4787. You may also give to the Friends of your local library or a charity of your choice.

PAID OBITUARY



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Delores Marilyn Carlson

September 23, 1930 – November 15, 2014

Delores "Dee" Carlson, 84 of Woodside passed away peacefully on November 15th in her home attended by her loving husband and two daughters. She was born and lived in Jamestown New York for 25 years. Dee received her Registered Professional Nurse Certification from the University of the State of New York and practiced as a neonatal nurse.

Dee was a dedicated wife and mother. She was married to her husband Jerome for 61 years. They moved to Woodside in 1971. With love she will be in the hearts of her family. She is survived by Jerry, four children, Debbie, Susie, Steve and Mark, nine grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

Dee was actively involved in Filoli, first as the Office Manager and continued as a volunteer. She was active in the Woodside Elementary School, Woodside Village Church, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts.

A Memorial Service will be held at 1:00 pm on Saturday, November 22nd in the Woodside Village Church.

Those who wish to remember Dee may donate in her memory to either the Woodside Village Church or the Friends of Filoli.



PAID OBITUARY

'Raise the Barn' event explores 'many faces of sustainability'

A social gathering and panel discussion, called "Raise the Barn: Explore the Many Faces of Sustainability," will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19, in the Old Barn at Runnymede Farm in Woodside.

The event, which features wines, "light bites" and desserts, is hosted by Artisan Connect, Global Heritage Fund, Global

Fund for Women and Peninsula Open Space Trust.

A 6 p.m. stroll and mingle with sustainable exhibitors will be followed by a 7 p.m. panel discussion with a speaker from each of the host groups.

A question-and-answer session will be moderated by Buzz Thompson of the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment. The event is free.

SHOOTING

continued from page 5

who sued after being injured during an encounter with the police officer, and the city settled another claim for \$13,250 in a separate case. A third claim resulted in a payment of \$1,000 to a Menlo Park couple in 2004.

City Attorney Bill McClure said at the time that the officer had been cleared of wrongdoing.

The city won another lawsuit, filed in 2011 against five officers, including Officer Mackdanz. A jury found that the plaintiffs had not proven the allegations of excessive force.

As for Officer Douglas, a jury found that he used excessive force while breaking up a

party in 2007. He and four other officers had responded to the scene. According to court documents, he had choked a woman with his baton, using her as a "shield or "buffer" against possible assaults. The jury awarded the woman \$10,000; another plaintiff settled out of court for \$1,500.

The jury found in favor of the city in the 22 other claims made in the lawsuit. Five of the party-goers had faced criminal charges for resisting or obstructing police officers; four were acquitted and one accepted a lesser charge of disturbing the peace.

The last officer-involved shooting in Menlo Park was 2006, police said. ■

John Bacon, 84, of Atherton; long career in lumber, nursery business

OBITUARY

Funeral services are set for Friday morning, Nov. 21, for John William Bacon, who died at his Atherton home of cardiac arrest on Nov. 13. He was 84, and lived in Atherton since 1963.

A native of San Mateo, Mr. Bacon attended Peninsula schools and Santa Clara University, as well as the Army and Navy Academy, a college prep boarding school in Carlsbad, California, according to his family. He and "the love of his life," Lynn Jackson Bacon, were married in 1950, and had eight children.

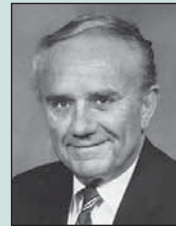
Mr. Bacon's career in the lumber business began at San Bruno Lumber Co. in the early 1950s. In 1964, he and his father-in-law, William W. Jackson, bought San Mateo Lumber, and in 1971, Mr. Bacon acquired South City Lumber and Supply in South San Francisco. He continued to build "one of the largest groups of lumber and building material companies in Northern California," buying two more companies in Oakland, his family said.

Mr. Bacon and his brother, Donald Bacon, were also involved in the nursery business, opening the Green Giant Nursery in Millbrae in the 1950s. Peninsula residents were no doubt charmed by the name, but

pressure from "a certain grocery vegetable company" forced them to change the name to Green Garden Nursery, the family said. The brothers became involved in organizing the Western Garden and Trade show, which in 1967 became known as the San Francisco Outdoor Garden Exposition.

An avid horse rider and bicyclist, Mr. Bacon kept horses in Woodside for many years and "knew every inch" of The Loop bike route, having ridden it weekends from the early 1960s into the 1990s, his family said. He was a member of the social equestrian group Rancheros Visitadores, and his skills as a horseman served him well during a 100-mile endurance ride, the Western States Trail Ride, from Tahoe City to Auburn in under 24 hours.

His family remembers him as an "insatiable reader," a man who loved to prepare food for family and friends, and a generous



John Bacon

spirit who gave "to charities and causes too numerous to mention." He also took up painting late in life, "and surprised may, including himself, with his artistic talent," his family said.

Mr. Bacon is survived by his wife of 64 years, Lynn, of Atherton; and seven children: Leslie Bacon of Berkeley, John Bacon Jr. of Orinda, Grant Bacon of Burlingame, Thomas Bacon of Menlo Park, William Bacon of Belmont, Susan McComas of Palo Alto, and Peter Bacon of Lake Oswego, Oregon.

He was preceded in death by a son, Scott Michael Bacon, and his brother, Donald. Survivors also include sixteen grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

A rosary will be said at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20, at Sneider, Sullivan and O'Connell Funeral Home, 977 S. El Camino Real in San Mateo.

Funeral services begin at 11 a.m. Nov. 21 at St. Raymond Church, 1100 Santa Cruz Ave. in Menlo Park, and burial will be at Holy Cross Cemetery in Menlo Park.

The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, memorial donations be made to Doctors Without Borders or to Smile Train.



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CHARTER

continued from page 5

mirrors the demographics of the district" was the aspect of the program "that is the most troubling to me."

Ms. Thygesen said her no vote was made "very regretfully, because as most of you know, I am a huge supporter of world language."

Ms. Cunningham said the charter group "found that there were some inaccuracies, some misinterpretations, in the district's report, which pointed out flaws in the petition and said it was not "likely to succeed." Her group had limited time to review the report, she said. It was released on Sunday, Nov. 9, at 4 p.m.

Although the charter school was not approved by the district, it could still end up operating there. The denial can be

appealed to the county school board, and if the county board turns it down, to the state board of education.

While the charter has 180 days to make an appeal, waiting that long could jeopardize a grant that was given to the school on Oct. 23. The \$375,000 grant comes from the federal Public Charter Schools Grant Program, via the Charter Schools Division of the California Department of Education, and the charter must be approved by May 7, 2015, for the school to receive the grant.

The county and state boards are not required to judge the charter petition solely on the record of the local school board's previous consideration, according to the section of the state education code governing charter schools. However, the petition may not be changed, except to reflect the county or the state as the chartering agency. ■

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Merry matchmaking

Local wine experts offer suggestions on holiday food-and-wines pairings

by My Nguyen
photos by Michelle Le

Planning what wines to serve at a Thanksgiving dinner or figuring out which to bring to a Christmas party can be, frankly, overwhelming. Holiday foods tend to be full-flavored — whether it's turkey, buttery mashed potatoes or sausage-filled stuffing — so here are a few options from local wine experts to complement all of your holiday meals:

Light meat

Chicken and pork tend to be mild and lean, so they should be paired with a mild, lighter-bodied wine. Look for flavors that can build a bridge between the wine and dish. Baked, smoked or honeyed hams beg for wines with a hint of sweet.

"With a honey-baked ham, we recommend a fruit-forward pinot noir as it cuts the fat and complements the sweetness of the honey," said Emily Mathews, co-owner of Vino Locale in Palo Alto.

"A honey-baked ham is usually glazed with maple or pierced with cloves, to offer up both sweet and salty flavors on your palate. You wouldn't want your wine to compete with those flavors, but instead, complement them. A dry wine won't clash with the sweetness on your plate and will avoid overpowering the entree," added co-owner Debra Szecsei, who recommends a dry rosé or an extra-dry champagne.

For an herbed pork roast, Mathews recommends a creamy chardonnay with hints of fruit and oak, which "won't overwhelm the herbal flavors in the roast," she said.

Mathews also suggests a light red, such as a sangiovese or pinot noir, which is quite flexible and goes well with the multitude of flavors presented at a holiday table, she said.

Turkey

A traditional Thanksgiving turkey, with all the trimmings, can stand up to a range of wine, either red or white. Turkey is also adapt-

able in the way it is prepared. Don't forget: Side dishes also dictate what wine will pair best.

For white wine lovers, try a riesling, which is "one of the great white grapes," said Laurie Lindrup, director of business development at Beltramo's Wines and Spirits in Menlo Park.

"Riesling is often highly fragrant, very delicious and totally food-friendly," Lindrup said. "(It) is probably the best food-pairing grape, with its high acid and fresh fruit spectrum it can stand up to most foods and will enhance the experience."

Szecsei recommends a gewurztraminer or sauvignon blanc to balance the acidity and stand up to the richness of the holiday meal.

"Gewurztraminer tends to be aromatic with spicy notes that pair well with turkey and gravy, bringing out the best in both," Szecsei said. "Sauvignon blanc wines are dry and crisp with citrus flavors and mineral undertones, making it a great wine to pair with turkey and mashed potatoes."

For those who prefer red wine, choose a wine with good acidity and soft tannins — a textural element that makes wine taste dry — to allow the wine to support the flavors of the food, Szecsei said, adding that a pinot noir or syrah would make good choices.

"Pinot noir wines will show bright cherry notes and subtle earthy undertone with few tannins — pairing well with traditional flavors of turkey and stuffing," she said.

Syrah is a more full-bodied wine and has a hint of spice, Szecsei said, which increases the complexity, allowing it to handle the multiple layers of flavors of rich holiday dishes, including stuffing and both white and dark turkey meat.

Lindrup recommends a beau-



jolais, a light-bodied French red wine with a fruity aroma.

"Gamay grapes grow especially well in the Beaujolais district of France, where they are used to produce beaujolais wines. Although the Gamay grape itself has lots of tannins, the resulting Gamay wines are characterized by fairly low tannins," Lindrup said. "Wines made from Gamay grapes have fresh, fruity flavors like strawberry and raspberry and aromas of pears. The high acid and fruitiness of the grape make it an excellent pairing for all the flavors on a Thanksgiving table."

Turkey isn't eaten alone, so Mike Garcia, owner of The Wine Room in Palo Alto, said to take into account the side dishes that accompany the bird, including stuffing.

"If you put sausage in your stuffing, a pinot noir will go better with that," he said. A full-bodied chardonnay or a pinot noir with earthy flavors work well with stuffing that incorporates mushrooms, he added.

Beef

There are many wines that enhance the flavors of beef, and as a general rule, red wine goes well with plainly cooked beef. But during the holidays, dishes may be served with different sauces and seasonings, and that "kind of helps the wine selection," Garcia said.

A pinot noir would go well with roast beef tenderloin served with a currant sauce, because the pinot

See **WINE PAIRINGS**, page 17



If it's holiday...it's here!



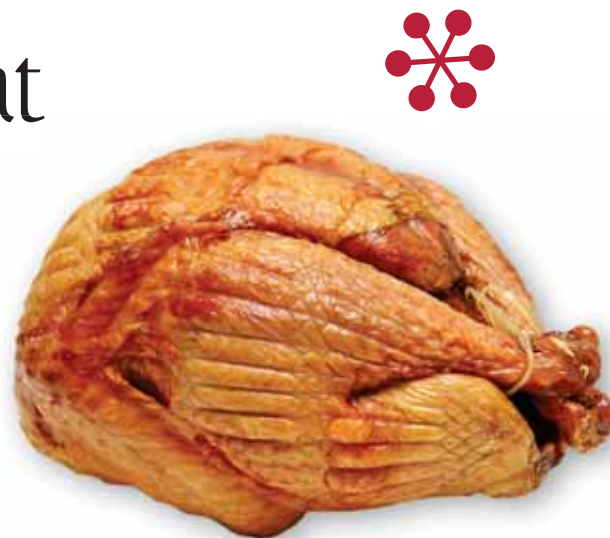
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The gift that keeps on giving



Chefs dish on how to transform your holiday leftovers

by Elena Kadvany

When Nov. 1 hits, so does the holiday-meal planning. Are you brining, roasting or smoking? Pumpkin or pecan? Will you stick to your family's traditional side dishes, or try something new?

Amidst all the food planning, something crucial can fall to the wayside: What to do with all those holiday leftovers.

Many may default, in a post-Thanksgiving food coma, to reheating plates of exactly what was eaten the day before or making turkey sandwiches. There's nothing wrong with either, but the potential for leftovers is endless. Leftover turkey can become soup, pot pie, sauce, hash patties, chili or salads.

Read on for the family traditions and suggestions from a group of local chefs on how to

transform your holiday leftovers.

Jarad Gallagher,
Chez TJ, Mountain View

Chez TJ Executive Chef Jarad Gallagher does his own version of Thanksgiving ribollita, a hearty Tuscan soup made from bread, cannellini beans and vegetables. Take your leftover turkey and separate the dark from white meat. Take all of the skin, drippings from the pan and even extra bones to make a stock, then add leftover potatoes and bread. The result is a soup that can be enjoyed the day or even weeks after if you freeze portions of it.

He also offered some advice: "When I design the meals themselves for Thanksgiving, I'm always deciding with the plan to do something specific with leftovers," he said. "I plan from the beginning."

Kelsey Casavan,
LB Steak, Menlo Park

Kelsey Casavan, who has risen up the ranks in the Left Bank restaurant group, from hostess to the cold line and now head chef at LB Steak in Menlo Park, has brunch on the mind when it comes to leftovers, although she said her family is among the many who eats turkey sandwiches for "probably longer than is recommended."

She makes turkey hash patties by combining pulled turkey, mashed potatoes, chopped herbs such as sage or parsley, a beaten egg, salt and pepper and a small amount of whole grain mustard. Make small patties and fry them. Then top with poached eggs and leftover gravy.

In her words: "Soooooo good."

Bradley Ogden,
Bradley's Fine Diner, Menlo Park

Renowned Bay Area chef Bradley Ogden, who just this month opened a Bradley's Fine Diner outpost in Menlo Park, can't wait for leftovers.

His Thanksgiving standby is an open-face turkey sandwich, drenched in leftover gravy and cranberry sauce.

"That's a classic combination," he said.

But if you're feeling more creatively inclined, turn your leftovers into holiday brunch by using turkey, stuffing and gravy to make a turkey hash.

Other turkey ideas from Ogden? Turkey chili, turkey tacos, cream of turkey soup and turkey pot pie. Leftover pumpkin and bread can become pumpkin bread pudding.

Dmitry Elperin,
The Village Pub, Woodside

If you need a recipe for that turkey pot pie idea, here's one from a Michelin-starred chef.

Dmitry Elperin of the Village Pub in Woodside said he starts by making a simple crust using



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LEFTOVERS

continued from page 16

three ingredients: all-purpose flour, butter and ice water.

“When cooked, the crust is golden brown, light and flaky,” he said. “For the filling, I cook together tender bite-size pieces of turkey meat, glazed root vegetables, gravy, roasted potatoes, butter, chicken stock, parsley and sage.”

Another idea: mashed potato, turkey and stuffing pancakes. Mix together bite-size pieces of turkey meat, mashed potatoes and stuffing.

Using your hands, form the mixture into disk-like shapes, about 1 inch thick and 4 inches in diameter.

In a clean large bowl, dredge the potato disks in flour and set aside to chill in the refrigerator for 30 minutes.

In a large cast-iron pan over medium heat, add grapeseed oil to liberally coat the bottom of the pan. Add more as needed. Pan-fry each potato pancake for about five minutes per side, or until golden brown.

Top with leftover cranberry or gravy — or both — and enjoy.

Anya Fernald,
Belcampo Meat Co., Palo Alto

Not a soup or sandwich person? Try Palo Alto native and Belcampo CEO Anya Fernald’s curried turkey salad.

“This is a great recipe to make after a lot of cooking — it takes five minutes start to finish and (there’s) no heat involved,” she said.

Whisk together 1/3 cup of mayonnaise, 2/3 cup of whole milk yogurt (Fernald uses Straus Family Creamery yogurt, which she said blends particularly well), one tablespoon of white wine vinegar, one tablespoon of curry powder and one teaspoon of salt.

To lighten it up, you can decrease the amount of mayo and proportionally increase the whole milk yogurt, Fernald said.

Finish it off by adding three cups of chopped leftover turkey (Fernald does half-inch cubes of both dark and white meat) and three stalks of celery (split lengthwise and chopped very finely).

“This salad gets better after a day in the fridge, so it’s a great option for sandwiches the weekend after Thanksgiving,” Fernald said. “Letting the meat sit in this dressing for a day is a great way to keep your leftover bird really moist and avoid the super-dry day two sandwich.” ▣

WINE PAIRINGS

continued from page 15

noir, which exhibits flavors of ripe red fruit like cherry, raspberry and currant, will pick up the fruity flavors of the sauce, he said.

For roast beef, Garcia recommends “going off the beaten path” and serving a cabernet franc.

“Cabernet franc tends to be a little more spicy, which will pick up the pepperiness of a roast beef dish,” he said. “If you are someone who likes a bigger style red wine and are doing a more meatier course, I’d do a cab franc.”

Vegetarian dishes

Fat and acidity play a crucial role in pairing an assortment of non-meat dishes with wine, Garcia said.

“If you’re going to eat sides of mashed potatoes and dishes that are fattier without the proteins, a crisp, clean French-style chardonnay or unoaked chardonnay go better with those dishes,” he said.

The gravy that comes with mashed potatoes, and creams in traditional dishes like a green bean casserole “mimic French cuisine with its heavy sauces, that’s why the French tend to like crisper wines with higher acid, so that the acid cuts



Beltramo’s Operations Manager Matt Silsby takes a call while Wine Consultant James Michaud restocks pinot noir bottles on Nov. 12, 2014.

through the fat and makes it more refreshing,” he said.

Don’t forget the dessert ... wine

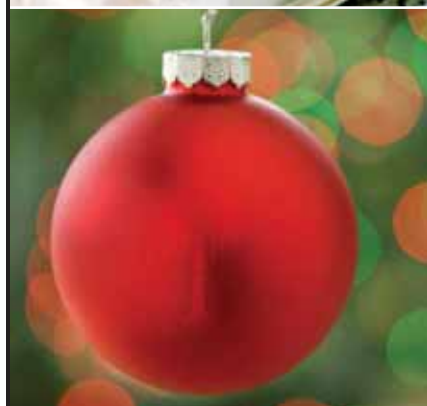
Finish the holiday dinner with something sweet by offering a dessert wine. When considering what wine can accompany a traditional pumpkin pie or apple tart, Szecei recommends a port wine, which is a fortified wine often served as a dessert wine.

“That’s an obvious choice,” Szecei said. “An alternative is a late-harvest riesling for rich flavors of honey. Fortified wines and late-harvest wines will bring

sweetness and viscosity to support the spice of the pumpkin pie or apple tart you’re serving.”

Lindrup recommends a late-harvest gewurztraminer, which has a spiciness to it that will pair beautifully with the melange of spices of a pumpkin pie, she said.

For darker and richer last courses like pecan pies or baked plum desserts, Garcia recommends a tawny port, which is mellow, nutty and slightly woody, and will pick up the nuttiness of the pecan pie, or a vintage port, which is a little more grapey and will complement desserts with darker fruit profiles. ▣



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3525 Alameda De Las Pulgas,
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Holiday Fund: Helping neighbors in need

While the Midpeninsula economy appears to be going great guns for many residents who read this newspaper, local folks on the unfortunate end of the well-documented and ever-increasing income gap are not reaping the benefits of the economy's turnaround. In fact, faced with soaring housing costs and the growth of low-wage jobs, a troubling number of families and individuals are being squeezed out of their homes, and many find themselves struggling to put food on the table for themselves and their kids. The importance of nonprofit groups that offer a safety net for the less fortunate even during this time of economic renewal hasn't diminished.

For 21 years, readers have risen to the challenge of helping their less fortunate neighbors by donating generously to the Almanac's Holiday Fund. Last year, donors saw their gifts matched by local foundations to raise a total of \$152,000 for 10 nonprofits that support the homeless, the hungry, the ailing who lack health insurance, the unemployed eager for job training, and many others, young and old, in need of help.

Matching funds will be available again this year thanks to the Rotary Club of Menlo Park Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. The donations are handled by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, which doesn't charge for administration of the program, ensuring that your gifts go straight to the nonprofits. The funds are distributed equally among the 10 groups.

Please consider making a contribution to the Holiday Fund this year by using the coupon elsewhere in this newspaper, or online at siliconvalleycf.org/almanac-holiday-fund.

The Almanac's Holiday Fund this year will support the following nonprofit groups:

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula

With locations in Menlo Park and the North Fair Oaks neighborhood in Redwood City, this organization provides academic and after-school support and activities for 1,750 at-risk K-12 kids. Participants attend programs at least twice a week during the school year and receive tutoring, mentoring, and academic support.

Ecumenical Hunger Program

This program provides emergency food, clothing and household essentials support, and sometimes financial assistance, to families, regardless of religious background. At Thanksgiving and Christmas time, the program provides baskets to more than 2,000 households.

Project Read-Menlo Park

Project Read offers free literacy services to adults in the Menlo Park area. It trains volunteers to work one-on-one with students wishing to 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.

Ravenswood Family Health Center

The center provides primary medical and preventive health care at clinics in Belle Haven and East Palo Alto. It also operates a mobile clinic at school sites. Most of the 17,000 registered patients are low-income and uninsured, and live in the Belle Haven, East Palo Alto, and North Fair Oaks areas.

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room

St. Anthony's serves hundreds of hot meals six days a week to people in need. It also offers emergency food and clothing assistance. St. Anthony's is the largest dining room for the needy between San Francisco and San Jose.

Second Harvest Food Bank

Second Harvest is the largest collector and distributor of food on the Peninsula, distributing about 52 million pounds of food last year. Thanks to donations from individuals and businesses, it distributes food to more than 250,000 people each month through more than 770 agencies and sites in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

InnVision Shelter Network

This nonprofit serves thousands of homeless families and individuals every year as they work toward self-sufficiency and seek permanent housing. It provides temporary housing and a range of support services, with 18 sites in Silicon Valley and on the Peninsula.

StarVista

StarVista serves more than 32,000 people in San Mateo County with counseling, prevention, early intervention, education and residential programs. It also provides crisis intervention and suicide prevention services, including a 24-hour suicide crisis hotline.

St. Francis Center

The center provides services for families in need, with the goal of helping them live in dignity and become self-supporting members of the community. It serves about 2,400 people monthly with services including low-income housing, food and clothing, shower and laundry, education, and counseling.

JobTrain

JobTrain provides training and job-placement services for those at risk, including the long-term unemployed, the homeless, marginalized youth, returning parolees, and those recovering from drug and alcohol abuse. ☐

EDITORIAL
The opinion of The Almanac



Menlo Park Historical Association

Looking back

The Lane family posed at the Sunset headquarters on Willow Road in this undated photo. Brothers Mel, left, and Bill flank their parents, Ruth Bell and Laurence Lane, who purchased the magazine in 1928. Sunset moved its headquarters from San Francisco to Menlo Park in the early 1950s, and the campus was rebuilt and dedicated in 1964, according to "Menlo Park: Beyond the Gate," a history book by Michael Svanevik and Shirley Burgett. Sunset was sold to Time Warner in 1990. The media company has just revealed that it is considering selling the property.

City needs to lead with a strong water management program

By Kristin Duriseti

Recent cooler weather and hints of winter rain should not detract attention from the fact that Menlo Park, like all of California, is in the third year of a severe, ongoing drought, and predicted changes in climate portend a reduction of over 50 percent in the snowpack that feeds the Hetch Hetchy system from which Menlo Park draws the vast majority of its potable water.

A community can make do without lots of things, but it can't be a vibrant place to live and work without water. This is why a responsible, long-term water management plan at the local and regional level should be at the top of our city's priority list, as recommended by the Environmental Quality Commission over two years ago. We need a proactive, forward-looking plan that will give our community greater resilience and water security for the future.

Unfortunately, Menlo Park has not been at the forefront of confronting these obvious challenges. In contrast to our community's relative success in reducing our stream of solid waste (we

now divert nearly three-quarters of our residential waste from landfill), we are woefully behind in reducing our water usage, despite over a decade of evidence pointing to the urgent need for water conservation. An orderly phase-in of a thoughtful and thorough water management policy will result in more efficient and cost-effective measures than the reactive, "back of our heels" approach that we are currently following.

Menlo Park is facing pressure from the water district to reduce its reliance on the supply of water from the Hetch Hetchy reservoir, and we should be implementing aggressive conservation and recycling alternatives. Menlo Park's current water-reduction programs (rebates for high-efficiency washers, low-flow toilets and showers, "Lawn-be-gone" and alternative landscaping consultations, etc.) are popular, but we are overdue for more solutions.

Even in the near term, city staff can be providing information and incentives at the planning department counter for residential and commercial development and renovation projects, such as installing separate plumbing ("purple pipes")

for water from showers, bathroom sinks, and washing machines that can be used in secondary capacities as "graywater" (to use for landscaping or toilets, for example). On-site rain water capture and storage for landscaping should be encouraged, as this also saves the city costs on storm water runoff capture. We should also consider the advisability of separate meters and rates for using potable water on landscaping, which would mitigate the need for expensive monitoring and fines that the city is now forced to implement in response to state-mandated water usage reductions.

There is growing consensus that effective water management requires integration with land use planning and regional cooperation to coincide with the natural scale for water management. The General Plan update is a perfect opportunity to incorporate water management goals explicitly into the planning process by including a "Water Element" that would strengthen the connection between land use and water demand and ensure that plans for growth take into account projected water supply. Menlo Park needs to take a leadership position by laying the groundwork for regional coordination to replace single sewer pipes with dual pipes ("purple pipes") that accom-

modate recycling water for non-potable uses and preparing for this significant, long-term capital investment.

Only as a last resort should we consider accessing our underground aquifer, which should be treated as a reserve account, like the principal on your retirement savings or an endowment. Before withdrawing large amounts of water, whether for city services, emergency use, or the country club, we must first gain a clear idea of the balance in our water "savings account," establish priorities for our city's future use of potable water, and consider how we might effectively recharge the aquifer. To do otherwise is not wise, and it is certainly not good governance.

There is much we can do at the city level to address both the short- and long-term water crisis. Certainly, we can all do our part to conserve water, but as individuals we cannot be effective on our own. We need a coordinated, city-wide response. We need strong leadership to take immediate and continuing action to put Menlo Park on the path towards more sustainable usage of our precious water resources.

Kristin Duriseti has been a member of the Menlo Park Environmental Quality Commission since 2008.



GUEST
OPINION

'National conversation on race' must begin among the young

By Henry Organ

I attended a fundraiser for Sen. Barbara Boxer at the home of Rep. Anna Eshoo in Atherton c. 2005. Sen. Boxer made an unsolicited statement at the reception about a senator from Illinois, with an unusual name, Barack Obama, whom she eloquently praised. I have ceased to be disappointed in her assessment. His nomination, election and re-election is evidence of how good this nation can be.

Of course, I am disappointed with the results of the last mid-term elections. Nevertheless, in the president's press conference after the election, he continued to reflect the poise, confidence, diplomacy, thoughtfulness, vision, and non-partisanship that have been characteristic of his public life.

Viewing the president's election and re-election from a historical perspective, the racial atmospherics over the last six years show that this is a nation divided. The hostile political climate in some

sectors shows that the Civil War is not over, and was never over in most southern states, and in the minds of many throughout the nation. The dilution of the Voting Rights Act by these states is further testimony of this mindset.

The continuation of this war exists, disturbingly, in a critical arena: public schools. As one involved in educational institutions, particularly public and non-sectarian schools K-12, I realized early in life that they are an invaluable asset for a strong nation. One of those disturbing signs that the Civil War was not over occurred following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision

in *Brown v. the Board of Education of Topeka* (1954), declaring racial segregation in public schools to be unconstitutional. The decision was followed by abandonment of public schools in many parts of the nation by middle-class and affluent white families. Many families moved to suburbs and other school districts; and, new white suburbs and school districts were created.

Then came charter schools, and vouchers. Public school funds followed them in these exoduses. What remained were skeletons of public schools, financially desolate, left to be attended primarily by students and families who were of color and low-income, and those students otherwise unwanted. (Witness Detroit, Michigan and Ferguson, Missouri.)

Some refer to this nation as a "melting pot," when, in fact, it has become a cacophony of cultural and ethnic pots boiling separately. Many have spoken of the need for a "national conversation on race." I would welcome that. Any constructive conversation on race, however, is unlikely to be productive among those over 21 years of age. An effective, constructive and progressive conversation on race must begin among culturally and ethnically diverse public and private student bodies across the nation, literally, *in the first grade!* Unfortunately, the aftermath of the *Brown* decision has lessened the chances of this ever occurring.

Discussions are already underway on President Obama's legacy. From my

perspective, his legacy was framed in the annals of history by being nominated by his party, elected and re-elected as the first African American president of the United States of America. These achievements were not given to him. True to Sen. Boxer's forecast, he had the credentials and the background to be successful. He has affirmed her accolades in his conduct and achievements in office.

Of greater interest to me is the legacy of how some segments of this nation have shamefully attacked him and his wife personally. In spite of this, President Obama remains audaciously hopeful of what the nation must be for all of its citizens, though currently disunited.

Henry Organ of Menlo Park served on the board of directors of the Sequoia Union High School District (1968-69, post-Brown decision). He was also a member of the board of directors of the Nairobi Day School in East Palo Alto (1970-78). He graduated from racially segregated elementary and secondary schools in Texas before the Brown decision.



GUEST
OPINION

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