

After shooting, Menlo Park police propose changes to body camera policy | Page 7

The Almanac

THE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER FOR MENLO PARK, A VALLEY AND WOODSIDE

JANUARY 28, 2015 | VOL. 50 NO. 21

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discovers his latent talent
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SECTION 2



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School celebrates centennial

Menlo School in Atherton is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year with a number of activities, including a speakers series and the posting of historical information and photos on its website.

The speaker series began Jan. 15 with a talk to a school-wide assembly by Pulitzer Prize winning historian David Kennedy, a professor of history at Stanford and the author of "Birth Control in America: The Career of Margaret Sanger."

His topic was: "How the West Was Won — and What it Has to Lose." He concluded with a challenge to the students: "Your forebearers have written the story up until now and it doesn't look like it will have a happy ending unless the next generation really takes this one on and puts their shoulder to the wheel."

The assembly included a centennial show with 30 students taking the audience on a journey through Menlo School's past and the significant world events that have occurred during the school's history. Students told the story through narration, dance and visuals in a production written and directed by Jeffrey Adair of Menlo Park's J Floral Art.

The speaker series will continue through 2015. Future speakers



Photo by Pete Zivkov

Menlo School students took the audience on a journey through Menlo School's past during a performance at a school assembly.

will include NFL Hall of Famer Steve Young, YouTube CEO Susan Wojcicki, astrophysicist and distinguished professor Alex Filippenko, and former North Face president Hap Klopp.

Through the year, Menlo School will offer glimpses of its past on its website (menloschool.org) with historical photos and a timeline of its history. A new historical photo will be featured

each day.

"Not many schools on the West Coast have reached the centennial milestone," said Menlo's Head of School Than Healy. "We see it as an opportunity to take stock of ourselves as an institution, to reconcile and record the impact that we've had in our community and in our world, and help us to all reflect upon the value of our school."



Photos courtesy of Menlo School archives

The 1928 basketball team at Menlo School.

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AThERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Longtime school board member steps down

■ Olivia Martinez resigns from Sequoia Union High School District board to move to Texas.

By **Barbara Wood**
Almanac Staff Writer

Olivia Martinez, who has served on the board of the Sequoia Union High School District since 1999, has announced she is leaving the board March 1 to move to Dallas, Texas.

Ms. Martinez, who has lived in California all her life, says she loves the state, but “I’m looking forward to a change.” She says living in a place so different from the Bay Area will be an adventure. “I’m really excited about it,” she said, with a wide grin. “I think it will be a really great growing experience.”

Ms. Martinez will be moving with her daughter’s family, which includes four grandchildren, who have been sharing her Menlo Park property with her. Her son-in-law has been transferred to Dallas for work.

Ms. Martinez said she has loved being a part of her grandchildren’s everyday lives. She says her children had a similar situation growing up, because her mother lived in the cottage on her property. “I could not have asked for a better situation,” she says. “It was everything I could have wanted.”

Even though she’s moving to Texas, Ms. Martinez says she is not selling the home she’s owned since 1971 in the Menlo Oaks neighborhood. “This will still be my home,” she said.

Ms. Martinez said the high school district has seen growth and improvement since she first became a school board mem-

ber. “It’s changed — it is such a completely different district from when I went on the board in 1999,” she said. “We have a district now that parents seek out for their kids.”

One of the major reasons, she says, is the quality of district employees. “The biggest asset our district has is its teaching staff,” as well as the rest of its staff, she said.

“I’m really proud of the fact that we’ve hired, while I’ve been on the board, three excellent superintendents,” she said.

The current superintendent, Jim Lianides, showed his leadership skills in the recent redrawing of the high school’s attendance boundaries, she said. “I think people really felt they were heard,” she said. “We listened. We asked for their input and we acted on it.”

The boundary changes and the passage of a \$265 million bond measure for construction means the district is “going to be ready” for the influx of students that is expected to start arriving next fall, she said.

“As far as I can see into the future, we’re going to be able to serve our community admirably,” Ms. Martinez said. “There’s going to be very little in the way of challenges that we’re not going to be able to meet.”

As far as projects left undone on the board, Ms. Martinez said she would like to see all the high schools put more resources into their athletic programs.

“I really hope that we shore up our athletic offerings. Athletics to me is the great equalizer for



Photos by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Olivia Martinez stops to look at a floral bush during a walk back from school with her grandchildren, Alex, 8, left, and Matthew, 6.

‘I think people really felt they were heard. We listened. We asked for their input and we acted on it.’

OLIVIA MARTINEZ ON REDRAWING HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDANCE BOUNDARIES



our students,” she said.

Sports teach kids discipline, show them the consequences of behavior and of actions and give them a sense of purpose, she said. “These are valuable lessons for life that we don’t always get through to kids.”

It’s not surprising that Ms. Martinez is a big supporter of athletics. Her husband Tom,

who died nearly three years ago, was a well-known coach as well as an educator, spending 32 years coaching at the College of San Mateo. The two met while they were both students at San Francisco State in 1965, and married in 1966.

Ms. Martinez said that she hopes her replacement on the board “is somebody competent

and caring and ... who can serve fairly.”

“I would like to see somebody who is intelligent. I think it would really be wonderful if we could have somebody who represents the Fair Oaks community,” she said, perhaps a Latino or Latina or from the Pacific Islander community.

Ms. Martinez, 70, went to Garfield and Hoover schools in Redwood City and attended Sequoia High School. “I’ve seen tremendous changes in our society and our culture over the years,” she said.

She attended four universities: San Francisco State, the

See **MARTINEZ**, page 8

Atherton close to choosing architect for new civic center

By **Barbara Wood**
Almanac Staff Writer

Atherton will soon choose between two finalists bidding to design the town’s new civic center, and is scheduled to sign an agreement with the architects, as well as with the group that is raising funds to pay for much of the project, in February.

On Jan. 27, the Atherton City Council met with its Civic Center Advisory Committee to interview representatives of the two design finalists, WRNS Stu-

dio and Swatt | Miers Architects.

On Feb. 2, the Civic Center Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet at 4:30 p.m. in the town’s council chambers at 94 Ashfield Road to discuss its final recommendation to the council.

In the meantime, according to a report from City Manager George Rodericks, the town will meet with Atherton Now, the organization that has taken on the task of raising most of the money to pay for the new civic center.

The group will need to raise at least \$20 million to pay for the

■ ONLINE

Go to AlmanacNews.com for updates.

project envisioned in a master plan approved by the town in March 2014. Total cost of the project outlined in the master plan is estimated at close to \$31.8 million.

The plan includes a 25,500-square-foot, two-story administration and police building; a 9,000-square-foot

library; 37,000 square feet for parking; and a large open-space town green.

If the town wants extras, such as two options that have been mentioned — an underground parking garage or a complex that produces its own energy — even more money must be raised.

The town has \$9.8 million to pay for the library and \$2.2 million that has been set aside for the building department quarters, but town officials say the rest of the project will be paid for with donated money,

in accordance with the terms of a 2012 ballot measure that approved the building of the new town offices.

If Atherton Now does not have money in hand to pay for the design phase of the project, Mr. Rodericks said in his report, “staff will recommend a phased approach for design services and negotiate accordingly.”

He estimates the project design will cost between \$2.3 million and \$3.2 million, with donations needed to cover at

See **ARCHITECT**, page 8

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iPhone heist at Facebook

Approximately 30 iPhones ended up in a silver Lexus rather than remaining in storage at Facebook headquarters on Friday, Jan. 23, according to Menlo Park police.

The incident led to the arrest of Phuong Nguyen, a 44-year-old San Jose resident, who has been charged with second-degree burglary and theft.

Mr. Nguyen was at the

Hacker Way site as a contract technician when Facebook's security staff spotted the alleged iPhone theft on surveillance footage and called police around 10 a.m., according to the police report. He had been buzzed in to a storage room, police said, and officers later found the alleged stolen property in his car.

Menlo Park man pleads no contest to burglaries

A 19-year-old Menlo Park man pleaded no contest Jan. 22 to two counts of felony house burglary.

Manuel Alejandro Hernandez was arrested Oct. 24, 2014, when police found him hiding in a nearby shed after the homeowner interrupted the burglary of a house on Hollyburne Avenue, according to police.

Officers retrieved identification documents that traced back to a home burglarized Oct. 23, when a neighbor reportedly saw Mr. Hernandez stacking stolen televisions in the driveway of a home on Chilco Street, police said. According to the police

report, a search of the suspect's home turned up items of stolen property, drugs that included codeine and hydrocodone, and a .45-caliber gun.

In exchange for pleading no contest, the San Mateo County Superior Court judge may impose a maximum sentence of three years and four months.

Represented by attorney Ross Green through the public defenders program, Mr. Hernandez is scheduled to be sentenced on March 3. He remains in custody on \$100,000 bail.

— Sandy Brundage

Two arrested in connection with North Fair Oaks burglary

Two Redwood City residents were arrested Jan. 20 in connection with a series of crimes in North Fair Oaks, according to the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.

Roberto Diaz, 31, and Margarita Barragan, 29, were arrested on suspicion of burglary, possession of a stolen vehicle, resisting arrest and possession of stolen property, the Sheriff's Office said.

Deputies responded at 8:06 a.m. Tuesday to the 600 block of 14th Avenue after receiving a call from a resident about a suspicious vehicle parked in his neighbor's yard and people in the neighbor's backyard.

Deputies said they determined the vehicle was reported stolen in San Mateo and located the suspects in the backyard



Roberto Diaz



Margarita Barragan

of the residence. The suspects tried to flee on foot, but the woman was apprehended after a short chase, deputies said.

Mr. Diaz was found hiding in a shed in a nearby backyard. Deputies said he refused to exit the shed, so a Redwood City police K-9 was sent in after him. He was taken into custody after a brief struggle, sheriff's officials said.

— Bay City News Service

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Menlo Park police propose changes to body camera policy

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

After the fatal shooting of a burglary suspect by three Menlo Park officers in November went unrecorded by their body-worn cameras, the police department has presented the council with suggested changes to its camera policy.

If the changes are implemented, officers would be expected to turn on the cameras while responding to the scene of a crime in progress or a high-priority call, unless they are unable to do so, as well as at the start of any citizen contact.

They would also need to document the existence of a recording of the encounter, and if the camera had not been activated, state why not in the report.

The camera would stay on continuously until the officer is no longer directly involved in an incident or contact.

Officers would have the discretion to not record conversations with confidential informants.

One area the revisions don't revisit is how long the videos should be kept. A Department of Justice survey found an average 60- to 90-day retention time across 254 departments. Menlo Park's policy requires that even non-evidentiary videos be kept for two and a half years. Atherton stores recordings for two years.

Councilman wants to form a subcommittee to review the policy and seek input from police chief's citizens advisory group.

Menlo Park's police department based its retention time on the statute of limitations for filing a lawsuit over civil rights violations — two years in federal court; one year in state court.

Cmdr. Dave Bertini said that the police department, along with the city attorney, strongly recommends that the entire policy, including the retention period, be left unchanged aside from the proposed revisions.

The staff report on the proposed revisions references a 2013 American Civil Liberties Union analysis of best prac-



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

The Menlo Park Police Department bought 40 body cameras for officers in late 2013.

tices for body-worn cameras. The ACLU, however, recommended that "retention periods should be measured in weeks not years, and video should be deleted after that period unless a recording has been flagged."

Videos would be "flagged" for any incident that results in a detention or an arrest, involves use of force, or leads to a complaint. Those recorded, or police department supervisors, could ask that the footage be flagged, based on the ACLU's recommendations.

Not far enough?

Councilman Ray Mueller, who asked the council to review how the police department uses the cameras, said he appreciates the attempt to fix the policy's deficiencies.

"However, I am concerned the proposed changes in the policy still don't go far enough, as the proposed policy requires the officer to make a decision as to what circumstances require turning their camera on," he said.

Instead, he suggested a policy that has the camera always recording except during meal breaks, meetings with confidential informants, and time spent on paperwork. "I believe this subtle change will eliminate the possibility that relevant events may not be recorded."

He found the statute of limitations rationale for the two-and-a-half-year retention period less than compelling under all circumstances.

"I believe the statute of limitations is a reasonable guideline for serious events, or events

under investigation," he said. "However, to non-serious events, I believe a balancing test, taking into account the public's right to privacy, creates a strong argument to lessen the period of retention."

In addition, he said, the policy should address privacy issues, such as under what specific circumstances the digital data may be shared with outside parties.

Mr. Mueller said he wants the council to form a policy subcommittee, and to have the police chief's citizens advisory group weigh in. Steve Taffee, a member of the advisory group as well as the ACLU and Electronic Frontier Foundation, has agreed to write a summary of the group's discussion.

Upgrades

The Menlo Park Police Department bought 40 VIEVU cameras, at about \$1,000 each, in late 2013. The department's protocol, which was developed with input from its citizens advisory group, states that all on-duty contact with citizens shall be recorded.

The community expected that the officers' cameras would have recorded the shooting on Nov. 11. But only two of the three officers were wearing the devices. Of those two, only one turned the camera on, and that occurred right after the shooting, according to the District Attorney's Office and Police Chief Bob Jonsen.

The third officer involved did not have a camera because it had been turned in for repairs.

The police department has made equipment changes since the shooting. A grant of \$20,000 from the state will pay for new versions of the VIEVU camera. The upgraded cameras can record up to five hours, instead of three, on a single battery charge; hold 16 GB of memory instead of 4 GB; and have the option to record in high definition.

The department also ordered 10 extra cameras to keep on hand as backup units. ■

MEETING

The Menlo Park City Council plans to consider the body-camera policy at its meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 27. The regular meeting starts at 7 p.m. in the council chambers at the Civic Center, 701 Laurel St. Check Almanacnews.com for updates.

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Should I Take a Pre-emptive Offer?

Dear Monica: My home has just come on the market and on the first day we were asked if we would take a pre-emptive offer or if we going to wait to expose the property to agents and buyers for a period of time and then entertain any offers. What would you recommend? Anne B.

Dear Anne: This can be a tough decision for sellers but the fact that someone wants to give you an offer on the first day shows that you have a good property to sell. A "pre-emptive" offer is a bit like "Early Decision" in the college application process, if you are familiar with this. In Early Decision, a college applicant applies early to his or her college of choice, and if accepted, confirms acceptance and does not apply to any other colleges. The applicant enjoys the certainty of acceptance but has eliminated the possibility that he or she might have been accepted by other choice colleges. If a buyer makes a strong offer to

you (usually above your asking price, and very strong in other ways), and you accept it, you are done; you have sold your house! But you will never know if you might have done better had you exposed the property to the market before entertaining an offer. You might have done better and you might not have.

You should discuss the pros and cons of this with your agent. Your agent can tell what is happening currently with other properties in your area and what is likely to happen with your property. There is so little inventory on the market at the present time that exposure can be a good thing for sellers, especially if your house is in a popular price range. Allowing buyers time to review the property disclosures and make a good decision is also good for sellers. It makes for a better transaction if buyers don't feel rushed to make a quick decision.

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

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Atherton residents report rash of suspicious incidents

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

Several suspicious incidents have been reported recently in Atherton, police say, and they urge residents to take precautions to avoid burglaries.

Two residents reported seeing what seemed to be the same man on their properties on Saturday, Jan. 17, police said. They described him as slender and Hispanic, about 25 to 31 years of age, 5 feet 8 inches to 5 feet 11 inches tall, and weighing 140 to 155 pounds.

The first incident was on Sutherland Drive, where police said the man walked around and looked in windows.

Soon after, a man reportedly entered and walked around a property on Mesa Court, police said. Homeowners said they thought the man was hiding in the pool house, but he was not found.

On Jan. 15, a homeowner on

Atherton police offer precautions to residents to reduce risk of burglaries.

Maple Avenue reported that someone may have entered through an unlocked rear door between Dec. 27 and Jan. 3. Two windows that the homeowner remembers locking were found unlocked. Nothing appeared to be disturbed or missing, police said.

On Jan. 12, a resident of Laburnum Drive said her purse was stolen from her vehicle near Alpine Road and Interstate 280. Police said that when the woman returned home her spare key, which had been in her purse, was in the front door deadbolt lock. However, police found no signs of entry into the home and nothing was missing, they said.

Police offer the following safety tips:

- Lock all doors and windows, including those in garages, pool houses and other auxiliary structures. Lock vehicles, even in driveways or behind gates. Leave nothing visible in a vehicle, except the seats and floor mats.

- Leave some exterior lights on all night and consider motion-activated lights. Leave some inside lights on or put on timers when away from home. Leave your alarm on at all times.

- Plant “unfriendly” plants and shrubbery — those with prickly leaves or thorns — around a home to make it harder to enter. Dogs may also discourage burglars.

- Exterior camera systems can allow residents to remotely check on their homes, can prevent burglaries if visible, and can help police identify thieves.

- Exchange information with neighbors and let them know if you will be gone. Inform the Atherton police if you are going on vacation and ask for property checks. ■



Design by CJW Architecture

CJW Architecture of Portola Valley designed the planned new fire station on Oak Grove Avenue at Hoover Street in downtown Menlo Park for the Menlo Park Fire Protection District. Carter J. Warr is the principal architect and Bill Gutgsell, the senior associate architect. The firm also created the renderings of the fire station that appeared on the cover and Page 23 of the Jan. 21 Almanac. The fire district encompasses Menlo Park, Atherton, East Palo Alto and nearby unincorporated areas.

Atherton close to choosing architect

continued from page 5

least 66 percent of that cost, or \$1.5 million to \$2.1 million. The remaining 34 percent of the design cost can come from the library and building funds, Mr. Rodericks reports, because they account for 34 percent of the cost of the project.

Swatt | Miers Architects is headquartered in Emeryville. The firm’s proposal says that George Miers, one of the firm’s principals, would manage the project for the firm. Mr. Miers has experience designing libraries, police facilities and administration facilities. The firm’s proposal says it would also use Lynn Simon of Thornton/Tomasetti Engineering as a “sustainability consultant.”

Swatt | Miers has designed the Walnut Creek Civic Center; the Pinole City Hall; police facilities in Lodi, Antioch and Livermore;

and libraries in Livermore and San Carlos.

In its proposal the firm suggests a number of changes to the existing master plan, many of them, it says, made necessary by the existence of a 3-foot-diameter water main that runs through the civic center site.

The firm suggests putting police and administrative offices in separate buildings, putting some buildings close to the train tracks to shield the civic center’s outdoor spaces from noise, and making the entry to the civic center from Fair Oaks Avenue more inviting.

WRNS Studio, an architecture and planning firm, is headquartered in San Francisco. The firm would have partner Pauline Souza lead its design team. Ms. Souza has experience designing schools, corporate campuses and community centers, many

of them with energy-efficiency certification.

The firm was responsible for the Sacred Heart Schools master plan and its library (which produces all its own energy) and the current Woodside Elementary School construction project, a water resource center in Watsonville, and a tribal community center in Brooks, California.

The firm also suggests some changes in the master plan, including adding an underground parking structure, reducing the size and bulk of the administration building so it fits in better with the scale of the neighborhood, reworking the entry off Fair Oaks and improving pedestrian access.

The town’s website, ci.atherton.ca.us, has more information on the civic center under “Current Projects.” ■

Olivia Martinez steps down from high school board

continued from page 5

University of California-Berkeley, California State-Hayward and the University of San Francisco, ending up with a Ph.D.

She spent her career in public education, working as a teacher, school social worker, school psychologist, and in several administrative positions, ending her career as a vice president and professor at Canada College.

Ms. Martinez’s family was far from being immigrants, with her grandmother and father both born in California. Nonetheless, Ms. Martinez says, her family had to move more than once when she was growing up, after neighbors found out they were Hispanic.

She grew up, one of five children, hearing family members speak Spanish, but not speaking it herself. She spent most of her professional career working with limited English speakers, Ms. Martinez says, and has always emphasized the importance of students learning English.

In addition to serving on the high school board, Ms. Martinez was on the boards of the Peninsula Community Foundation, YMCA of the Mid-Pen-

insula, Hispanos Unidos, Hispanic Community Foundation, Haas Center for Public Service at Stanford, Foundation for a College Education in East Palo Alto and the Latino Leadership Council. She was president of Redwood City International, which supports collaboration with sister cities in Mexico and China.

She says that desire to serve the community may have been passed down from her father who was a social worker, one of the first who worked on the street of Los Angeles with gang members. He later worked for San Mateo County. “He was always in community service,” she says.

When she attended Sequoia High School, it had a diverse student body. “Everybody got along,” she says, and she made lifelong friends. “Nobody divided us by putting labels on us. Everybody’s family was working class.”

Her own children attended Laurel and Encinal schools in the Menlo Park City School District, and Menlo-Atherton High School, before going on to attend three University of California schools: UCLA, Berkeley and Santa Barbara. ■

Music@Menlo releases recordings from local concerts

Music@Menlo Live has released a collection of nine CDs, “Around Dvorak,” featuring live recordings from the chamber music festival’s 12th season.

The collection celebrates the work of Czech master Antonin Dvorak and includes works by Haydn, Beethoven, Brahms

and Bartok.

The recordings will be released in downloadable digital format, as well as on disc. Digital downloading and streaming will be available through a number of online digital retailers and streaming services, including Amazon.com.

Music@Menlo, now in its

13th year, is a summer festival under the artistic direction of founders David Finckel and Wu Han. It is known for its world-class chamber music performances and extensive audience engagement with artists.

Go to musicatmenlo.org for more information.



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The Crown Jewel of Palo Alto

Combining historic charm with modern luxury, this North Palo Alto estate sits on a rare parcel of nearly one-half acre (per City of Palo Alto). This stunning 7-bedroom, 3.5-bath Victorian, with over 3,300 sq. ft. of living space (per plans), offers a wraparound porch, heritage oaks, rolling lawns, and a broad terrace with koi pond. Ceilings of over 10 feet and large picture windows flood the home with natural light. The remodeled chef's kitchen boasts a Wolf range, Sub-Zero refrigerator, and quartz countertops. Five bedrooms are on the upper level, plus one bedroom on the main level and a separate one-bedroom apartment on the lower level. Additional amenities include a 628 sq. ft. finished attic (per plans) (not included in living space footage), a large basement with space for a wine cellar, spacious driveway, and three-car garage. Blocks away, the restaurants and boutiques of California Avenue beckon. Approved plans for finishing the walk-out lower level are available. Award winning Palo Alto schools include Escondido Elementary, Jordan Middle School, and Palo Alto High (buyer to verify enrollment).

For video tour & more photos, please visit:
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Atherton weighs lawsuit over Caltrain electrification

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

A letter may not be enough to let Caltrain know how upset Atherton is over the proposed electrification of the Peninsula train service.

On Jan. 21, Atherton's City Council approved a letter to Caltrain, but also asked for a closed-session meeting with the town's attorney to discuss a possible lawsuit over the environmental impact report recently approved by the Caltrain board. The closed session is set for 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27.

The letter says the town considers the approval of the environmental documents as putting "high speed rail one step closer to reality in Atherton." The town has argued that the environmental report for the electrification project should have included a report on the environmental effects of high-speed rail as well.

Caltrain spokeswoman Jayme Ackemann said the California High-Speed Rail Authority will

have to prepare its own environmental reports "before it can ever operate rail service on this corridor."

Other issues with the electrification project included in the letter are:

- Wires and trees. The town has complained that the project will take down more trees and other vegetation than is needed. They want Caltrain to promise to position the poles for electric wires down the center of the track so fewer trees are cut.

- Crossing gates at Watkins. The letter asks Caltrain to help pay for safer gates at Watkins Avenue that would help make sure cars can't get on the tracks with the gates down. If the town had the "quad gates" they could ask Caltrain not to blow the train's whistle at the crossing.

- Atherton train station. Caltrain has promised to reopen the Atherton train station for weekday service with electrification. But council members said they are afraid Caltrain will offer as little as one daily

Atherton considers approval of Caltrain electrification as putting high-speed rail 'one step closer to reality in Atherton.'

stop each way in Atherton and they want more. The letter says "the minimal service level is not sufficient."

- Alternatives to electrification. The letter says the environmental report did not look closely enough at alternatives to the electric locomotives, such as high-tech diesel.

The council asked town staff members to contact their counterparts in Palo Alto to see if that city might want to join in a lawsuit.

Town officials will ask Caltrain to extend the 30-day limit on appeals to the environmental report, which ends Feb. 6, in order to give the town more time to negotiate with Caltrain

to avoid a lawsuit. They were told that Palo Alto had already asked for such an extension and was turned down.

But City Attorney William Conners said it was worth a try. "My attitude is, if you don't try, you don't know," he said. The town should ask Caltrain to "give us some time to talk to them and discuss" the issues, he said.

Caltrain spokeswoman Ms. Ackemann said Caltrain believes it has offered plenty of time for discussion of the environmental report.

She said that while the environmental report was being prepared, Caltrain gave the public two weeks longer than required to respond to the initial document.

When the final report was released "we made it available for public review for 30 days, three times longer than the required 10-day minimum review period," she said. "We took these additional steps to ensure that Peninsula cities and members of the public had ample time to review the

documents and respond to the findings."

At the Jan. 21 Atherton council meeting, several speakers urged the council to consider a lawsuit.

"If you don't file a suit, they're going to laugh all the way to the next step," Rail Committee member Jim Janz said. "They'll be thrilled that no one called their bluff and there will be no negotiation.

"You might be able to put up with a few negative environmental impacts that electrification might cause if they were really going to provide good service," he added.

Ms. Ackemann said electrification offers many benefits, including "a cleaner, quieter system and more frequent service for more riders at more stations, including restored service in Atherton," she said.

"Caltrain is bursting at the seams due to its unprecedented ridership growth, and electrification offers the only path for a true expansion in the amount of service Caltrain can offer," she said. ▀

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Menlo Park may join lawsuit over Caltrain electrification

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

As with two neighboring cities, Menlo Park is considering whether to challenge the environmental impact report for Caltrain's plan to convert its diesel-powered commuter trains to ones that run on electricity along the Peninsula corridor.

Mayor Catherine Carlton said she would schedule a closed session to talk about whether to join a lawsuit. "I like the idea of improving our rail system, but it must be done with respect to our environment."

Attorney Michael Brady, who has worked on lawsuits challenging the high-speed rail, urged the city to decide before the Feb. 6

deadline passes to file a lawsuit against the electrification EIR. In an email sent to the City Council on Jan. 22, he described the EIR as "the entry path" for high-speed rail on the Peninsula.

"If you fail to file suit, all your objections and rights disappear. If you file, you have leverage for negotiation and for protecting the RESIDENTS of MP who will be gravely affected if the problems are not cured," he wrote.

He said he would get Stuart Flashman, the attorney representing the city on high-speed rail issues, to cap his fee at \$15,000 to \$20,000, split among the jurisdictions joining the electrification EIR lawsuit.

Atherton and Palo Alto have also scheduled closed sessions

on the same topic.

After the draft EIR was released, the city wanted Caltrain to consider addressing the following points in the final report:

- Non-electric alternatives, such as diesel.

- Acknowledge the positive impacts of electrification on air quality and greenhouse gas emissions.

- Consider alternate providers for power supply.

- Whether electrification and high-speed rail should be analyzed as a single project.

- Enhance pedestrian and bicycle access to the station.

- Include grade separations to reduce traffic impacts and improve safety. ■

Mia competes in three episodes of 'MasterChef Junior'

Menlo Park's Mia Wurster, the 11-year-old Oak Knoll School fifth-grader, competed in three episodes of the Fox TV show, "MasterChef Junior," before she was eliminated after last week's show.

One of 19 contestants for the

2015 season of the show, Mia missed several weeks of school last year during the filming at the "MasterChef" kitchens in Los Angeles. She worked with a tutor during that time.

"It was really fun because I made

all these friends and we became like a family so quickly," Mia said before the show was aired. "I didn't want to leave the experience."

Mia has posted several cooking videos on her Facebook page. Search for Mia Junior Chef on Facebook.

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Jury awards \$4M to family of Menlo School grad

■ Amelie Le Moullac was killed by a truck while she rode her bicycle in San Francisco.

By Hannah Albarazi
Bay City News Service

The family of a 24-year-old woman who was fatally struck by a truck while riding her bicycle in San Francisco's South of Market neighborhood in 2013 was awarded \$4 million by a San Francisco Superior Court jury on Jan. 15.

The jury found the driver of the big-rig truck, Gilberto Alcantar, negligent for striking and killing Amelie Le Moullac, who graduated from Menlo School in Atherton in 2007 and the University of Southern California in 2011. She lived in San Francisco and worked at the San Francisco office of the marketing firm Voce Communications.

Micha Liberty, the attorney for the Le Moullac family, said legislation should be adopted to require that commercial drivers be trained to drive on streets shared with bicyclists. "No amount of money is going to compensate for the loss of life of this remarkable young woman," Ms. Liberty said.

Ms. Le Moullac was killed during her morning commute

on Aug. 14, 2013, when a truck made a right turn and struck her at the corner of Sixth and Folsom streets.

On Jan. 15, the trial on a wrongful death suit filed by the Le Moullac family against Milpitas-based Daylight Foods Inc., the produce company employing the driver, concluded with a jury verdict in favor of Denis Le Moullac, the father of Amelie Le Moullac.

Judge Newton J. Lam presided over the trial.

Ms. Liberty said \$3 million was awarded to Amelie Le Moullac's mother and \$1 million was awarded to her father.

Following the collision, the driver was not initially cited. However, a San Francisco Bicycle Coalition member found surveillance video of the crash and turned it over to investigators leading the driver later to be found at fault and cited.

The Bicycle Coalition released a statement following Le Moullac's death: "These tragic crashes are not accidents. With thoughtful engineering of our streets, data-driven enforcement of the most dangerous



Amelie Le Moullac graduated from Menlo School in Atherton in 2007.

'No amount of money is going to compensate for the loss of life of this remarkable young woman.'

MICHA LIBERTY, ATTORNEY
FOR THE LE MOULLAC FAMILY

behaviors, meaningful education and thorough investigation and prosecution, we can reduce and eventually eliminate all traffic fatalities."

The coalition said it was

"deeply troubling" that charges were not filed by the District Attorney's Office.

The bicycle advocacy group called on city leaders to fund the San Francisco district attorney's proposed Vehicular Manslaughter Unit, which would have consisted of a prosecutor, an investigator and a paralegal. The DA's office proposed the unit in last year's budget, but it was not included in San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee's budget, according to San Francisco district attorney's spokesman Max Szabo.

Ms. Liberty said the Le Moullac family was "saddened by the fact that there were no criminal charges brought against Mr. Alcantar" by the District Attorney's Office.

She said the lawsuit filed by the family was a final attempt at justice. According to Ms. Liberty, the defense attorney denied his client's responsibility for the collision.

Ms. Liberty suggested that a commercial license and training be required for anyone operating large trucks. She said the driver was not required to have a commercial license because he was driving a truck that weighed less than 26,000 pounds, and according to the California Department of

Motor Vehicle's regulations, anyone with a regular Class C driver's license can drive a 3,000-pound Toyota Prius.

However, if the truck weighs above 26,000 pounds, a commercial license is required. The California DMV website states, "it takes special skills and a professional attitude to safely operate large trucks and buses" and that commercial drivers are tested on how to safely drive at night, how to handle "offtracking," which is a long commercial vehicle's tendency to swing wide on turns, and how to deal with a commercial vehicle's large blind spots.

Following Ms. Le Moullac's death, the San Francisco Police Department was criticized for how it handled the investigation and for apparently derisive remarks that a police sergeant made aimed toward bicyclists at a memorial event a week after Ms. Le Moullac died.

San Francisco police Chief Greg Suhr apologized numerous times on behalf of the sergeant in the weeks after the fatal crash and said the incident would be reviewed by the city's Office of Citizen Complaints, which handles reports of police misconduct.

Menlo Park fire district, city to meet over development issues

By Erin Glanville
Special to the Almanac

For now, the Menlo Park Fire Protection District board of directors has stepped back from a proposal to oppose new development in Menlo Park's M2 industrial zone unless the city guarantees funds to provide additional fire services.

Under the fire code, the district has the power to not approve or to prevent the operation of any project or building that it finds out of compliance, according to Chief Harold Schapelhouman. But rather than taking a vote to oppose development, district officials instead decided to meet with city representatives on Jan. 27 to talk about the issue.

On Jan. 20, the board tabled the proposal from Director Peter Carpenter, who cited what he considers a pattern of the city's ignoring the district's concerns about a number of issues, including how new development affects its ability to provide emergency services.

According to Mr. Carpenter,

'I hope that with open discussion ... there is recognition that there are no borders and that we all have to work together.'

VIRGINIA CHANG KIRALY, FIRE BOARD PRESIDENT

the proposed "upzoning" in the M-2 district cannot be supported by the current fire station for the area and would take limited resources away from the Belle Haven neighborhood. "To grant development rights without understanding the impact is irresponsible," he said.

In the hours before the board met, however, the district received a letter from City Manager Alex McIntyre expressing support for adding a fire impact fee to new projects and proposing "further conversation" between the district and the city.

Those expected to participate in the Jan. 27 meeting are fire board president Virginia Chang Kiraly, board member Rex Ianson (who serves as liaison to the city), Chief Schapelhouman, Mayor Catherine Carlton,

Councilman Peter Ohtaki and Mr. McIntyre.

They have a lot of ground to cover: Another issue between the district and the city is a resolution passed by the fire board in May 2014 requesting that the city revise its zoning ordinance to include the fire district as one of the government agencies, such as school districts, that can expand facilities, for example, without getting a use permit approved by the city.

According to Mr. Carpenter, the district has yet to receive a response from the city on this formal request. He said Menlo Park is the only California jurisdiction to define its public facilities zone so narrowly as to omit the fire district, and the net effect is to not recognize the district as a governmental agency.

He also expressed concern that the city staff, in failing to bring the resolution to the City Council, is, essentially, making public policy. "I believe that when an elected body votes to present a policy to another group of elected representatives, it is irresponsible of staff not to present that (to the council). That is setting policy."

City Attorney Bill McClure said the city didn't ignore the fire board's request. "We received the resolution at a time when the application to redevelop fire station 6 was well underway," he said. "When we received it, we went back to the district and asked them if they really wanted to process the request as part of the application for station 6 because it would have impacted the timeline for station 6. The district made the decision to decouple those two items to ensure the redevelopment was not impacted."

Mr. McClure also pointed out that cities define their public facility zones differently, and drawing an apples-to-apples comparison between Menlo

Park's codes and another city's is therefore hard to do.

Ms. Chang Kiraly, the fire board president, emphasized that open discussions with all the jurisdictions within the fire district are necessary.

"I hope that with this open discussion with all the jurisdictions in the fire district — Menlo Park, Atherton, East Palo Alto and some unincorporated areas of San Mateo County — there is recognition by everyone that there are no borders and that we all have to work together," she said. "If you look at development opportunities from Willow Road to Marsh Road, all jurisdictions will be affected in some way. I believe that businesses look at this macro view.

"The fire district must also look at this macro view, especially because this is our service area. I am confident that we can continue with an open and positive dialogue to address these issues because I know public safety and emergency response are important to residents and businesses." ■

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POLICE CALLS

This information is based on reports from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office and the Menlo Park Police Department. Under the law, people charged with offenses are considered innocent unless convicted. Police received the reports on the dates shown.

WOODSIDE

Auto burglary: A man wearing brown cowboy boots decorated with red, white and blue bandanas is alleged to have stolen an Apple iPhone from a van with a partially open window that was parked near Roberts Hardware & Tack at the corner of Woodside and Canada roads. The suspect reportedly left the scene in a blue Volvo sedan and was described as white, 18 to 22 years old, 6 feet tall and weighing about 150 pounds. Two other

white men were in the car. Estimated loss: \$300. Jan. 12.

Hit-and run accident: Someone drove a vehicle into a fire hydrant located in the 600 block of Woodside Drive and sheared it off at its base. The resulting column of water soaked an area near a home. The driver did not notify the water service provider, which is a violation of the state's vehicle code, deputies said. Jan. 9.

Forgery and mail theft: A resident of Woodside Way told deputies that he was missing a monthly check, and that he'd learned that the check had been cashed early in December, but not by him. Estimated loss: \$1,100. Jan. 8.

MENLO PARK

Residential burglaries:

■ A resident of Robin Way told police that he saw three men enter a neighboring backyard and emerge with "property," after

which they got into a white Honda Accord and drove away. Police later stopped a car matching that description on Willow Road, positively identified the suspects from the earlier incident and arrested them on charges of burglary and conspiracy to commit a crime. Arrested and booked into San Mateo County jail were Licett Castaneda, 38, of Redwood City; Florentino PalomoZavala, 38, of Redwood City; Samer Hernandez Ochoa, 40, of Mountain View; and Christopher Alcazar, 19, of Redwood City. Jan. 21.

■ Someone entered a home on Market Place through an unlocked door and stole a purse. Estimated loss: \$360. Jan. 24.

Commercial burglaries:

■ Would-be thieves damaged the front door to Jan's Deli on Alma Street and broke in, but apparently took nothing. Jan. 21.

■ Someone broke the frame to the locked front door of Cafe Zoe on Menalto Avenue,

and stole \$14 in cash and a \$10 cash tray from the register. Jan. 24.

Auto burglaries:

■ A skateboard, a pair of work boots, a kite and a sub-woofer speaker were stolen from a locked vehicle parked in the 2100 block of Santa Cruz Avenue. Estimated loss: \$2,000. Jan. 21.

■ Someone smashed a window on a truck parked near Carlton Avenue and Newbridge Street and stole tools, including paint brushes, wrenches, a tamper and a drill. Estimated loss: \$1,005. Jan. 23.

Thefts:

■ A locked gate at a construction site on Commonwealth Avenue was found with the lock cut and tools stolen from two storage sheds that had been broken into. Estimated loss: \$15,000. Jan. 23.

■ Police said they arrested Son Dang, 35, on charges of grand theft for allegedly stealing four ink cartridges from a stor-

age room at Facebook headquarters on Hacker Way. The cartridges were recovered. Jan. 22.

■ Someone stole a bicycle locked to a bike rack at the public library on Alma Street. Estimated loss: \$560. Jan. 20.

■ At an apartment complex in the 1600 block of El Camino Real, someone stole a bicycle from the garage area. Estimated loss: \$400. Jan. 21.

■ An Apple iPad was stolen from an unlocked vehicle parked on Regal Court. Estimated loss: \$300.

■ Two pairs of shoes and two scales were stolen from the carport area of a residence on Sharon Park Drive. Estimated loss: \$170. Jan. 18.

Fraud: The executor of an estate on Holyburne Avenue told police that, in 2009, someone without authorization withdrew money from the bank account of a deceased relative. Jan. 19.

TOWN OF WOODSIDE
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WOODSIDE, CA 94062

INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR COMMITTEES

ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE

Meets second Thursday of each month, 5:00 p.m.; appointed for two-year term.

The Committee strengthens multigenerational community involvement by initiating, sponsoring and celebrating local art, creativity and cultural activities including, but not limited to, the areas of art, photography, design, music, horticulture, culinary arts, literature, drama and dance. The Committee will create opportunities to educate, inform and engage the community about cultural affairs and will organize and supervise events to showcase local creative talent

CIRCULATION COMMITTEE

Meets third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.; appointed for two-year term.

The Committee supports the General Plan goal to balance circulation system user needs and works to foster a community for all users of the public roadway system. The Circulation Committee works with the Town Engineer, Sheriff's Department and local and regional organizations to develop programs to encourage dialog on circulation system needs, promote "share the road" programs for all users, and develop educational programs to promote traffic safety. The Committee advises Town staff and the Town Council about ways to make the roadway system safer for all users, to encourage effective traffic enforcement, and to promote safe, convenient access to schools, Town businesses, public and private institutions, and neighborhoods.

The Committee shall review applications for special event permits for the Town's roadways. The Committee shall confer with the Trails Committee on programs and recommendations of mutual interest.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Meets second Wednesday of each month, 5:30 p.m.; appointed for two-year term.

The Committee supports the General Plan Policies to institute or participate in education related to natural hazards and to support emergency preparedness education; works with Town staff to develop and maintain appropriate plans and procedures for responding to disasters, including wildfires, earthquakes, flood and other emergencies; supports the work of the Citizens' Emergency Response and Preparedness Program (CERPP) to develop a network of volunteers to respond to emergencies at the neighborhood level; works with staff to recruit, organize, train and maintain a team of volunteers who can assist staffing an Emergency Operations Center when Town staff is partially or wholly unavailable; works with staff to develop emergency communication facilities and capabilities and to provide residents of the Town with information and training in emergency topics.

LIVESTOCK AND EQUESTRIAN HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Meets fourth Wednesday of each month, 5:30 p.m.; appointed for two-year term.

The Committee reviews applications for professional stable permits and forwards recommendations to the Planning Commission. It also reviews applications for exceptions to the private stable regulations and forwards recommendations to the Planning Director. It conducts inspections of stables in accordance with the requirements of the Municipal Code. The Committee develops and supports education and information programs which aid the community in sustaining, protecting enhancing and enjoying equestrian activities and facilities. The Committee is also a resource for Town Council, staff and residents on equestrian matters.

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Meets fourth Thursday of each month, 5:30 p.m.; appointed for two-year term.

The Committee advises and assists the Town Council, Planning Commission and staff in implementing the policies and goals of the Open Space and Conservation elements of the General Plan, specifically with respect to acquisition and maintenance of conservation easements and open space preservation.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Meets on call of Chair; appointed for two-year term.

The Committee advises the Town Council and staff on issues of community public safety, including police and fire services provided within the Town.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Meets first Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m.; appointed for three-year term.

The Committee guides the activities of the community recreation programs.

SUSTAINABILITY AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Meets fourth Monday of each month, 6:00 p.m.; appointed for two-year term.

The Committee advises and assists the Town Council, Planning Commission, and staff on conservation, open space, noise, public services and facilities as pertaining to the elements of the Town's General Plan.

TRAILS COMMITTEE

Meets second Thursday of each month, 3:00 p.m.; appointed for two-year term.

The Committee reviews land divisions, subdivisions and conditional use permits for locations for equestrian, pedestrian and bicycle trails and makes recommendations to the staff and to the Planning Commission.

WOODSIDE HISTORY COMMITTEE

Meets second Thursday of each month, 10:00 a.m.; appointed for two-year term.

The Committee advises the Town Council and staff regarding actions, policies and plans relating to historic preservation.

Committees are volunteer positions and serve in an advisory capacity to the Town Council. Interested residents may request information and applications Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-12 noon and 1-5:00 p.m., from the Town Clerk's Office at Town Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, or telephone (650) 851-6790, or through the Town's web site at www.woodsidetown.org. Deadline for applications is Tuesday, February 3, 2015.

Health insurance
signup deadline

Sunday, Feb. 15, is the deadline to sign up for health insurance through Covered California, the state's health plan marketplace under the Affordable Care Act.

Residents who do not enroll by Feb. 15 may have to wait until January 2016 to get coverage and financial assistance. There are 30,000 people in San Mateo County who are eligible for health insurance

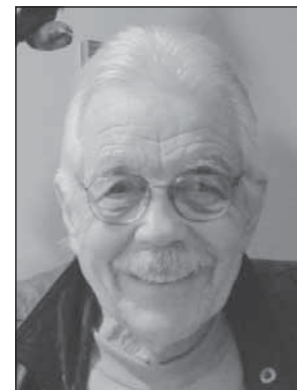
but have not yet enrolled, county officials say.

"Many people are not aware that they qualify for financial assistance," says Srijia Srinivasan, the county's health system director of strategic operations. "We are available to help on the phone and in-person."

Visit CoveredCA.com to enroll or call (650) 616-2002 for enrollment assistance.

John Roderick Hogan

John Roderick Hogan passed away Dec. 22nd, 2014 at his home in Palo Alto. He was 83 years old. John was born in Sioux City, Iowa and moved to San Francisco as a child. He attended St. Ignatius Preparatory then served in the US Army. After his tour in Europe, John studied at UC Berkeley, graduating with a degree in Political Science. He later returned to school and earned a BA in Mathematics from San Jose State. John will be remembered as a gifted musician, avid outdoorsman and enthusiastic joke teller. He is survived by his sister, Sally Hogan Gray, his children, Michael Hogan and Suzanne Hogan Buerchner, and their families. He leaves behind longtime friends Wayne, Hildegardo, Carlos, Cesar and Karen all of whom were like family to him. A celebration of John's life will be held at a future date; those interested may contact suzbuerch@gmail.com.



PAID OBITUARY



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The Refuge cooks up East Coast street food

By Elena Kadvany

■ REVIEW

The Refuge is a welcome addition to downtown Menlo Park, where you can almost hear a pin drop on Friday nights.

Even early on a Friday evening, the Crane Street restaurant is packed, loud and lively with patrons young and old enjoying the two odd-couple specialties Refuge has to offer: beer and pastrami.

“We started getting this Belgian beer (and) pastrami type thing, which doesn’t make any sense,” owner Matt Levin said, reflecting on the evolution of the first Refuge, which opened in San Carlos in 2008. Early menu items like charcuterie, foie gras and about 20 wines by the glass that reflected Mr. Levin’s French culinary background were voted out by customers who preferred the five or so Belgian beers and pastrami sandwiches, he said.

The first Refuge was a marriage of two things: One, Mr. Levin’s shock upon moving to the Bay Area in the early 2000s at the dearth of good pastrami; and two, a longtime dream of opening a casual gastropub reminiscent of Le Refuge, a charming bistro he often passed by when working in Paris. Mr. Levin met his current executive chef, Michael Greuel, in the kitchen at Viognier Restaurant in San Mateo.

Refuge expanded to Menlo Park in 2013, bringing 24 taps (six more than San Carlos) and what Mr. Levin describes as “East Coast street food” — homemade pastrami sandwiches, cheesesteaks and burgers — to the sleepy downtown.

The Belgian beer selection might be Refuge’s best claim to fame. An extensive menu

boasts sour beers, blonde ales, stouts, ciders and Trappist beers (brewed in a Trappist monastery) as well as some American IPAs (India Pale Ales) and local brews. Draught beers range in price from \$6 to \$10; there are also some available by the bottle.

Enjoy the brew of your choice at the bar, which stretches nearly the length of the space and provides plenty of seating. On Mondays, a selection of beers are priced at \$3 each.

If you’re beer averse, there are also six or so wines available by the glass and bottle (or just go somewhere else where beer isn’t the main event).

If you’re eating, stick with the pastrami. Pastrami is made from the “heart of the navel,” the traditional cut used to make the cured meat.

“(It’s a) perfectly marbled type of cut,” Mr. Levin said. “It’s really hard to come by. It’s pretty costly. It’s not a cheap cut of meat like it started out back in the day.” (This and the laborious process of making pastrami comes out to a somewhat pricey sandwich — \$17.95 for the basic Reuben at Refuge — but Mr. Levin points out that at pastrami-god Katz’s Delicatessen in New York City, Reubens go for a cool \$20.)

The first step to creating pastrami is a wet brine. The meat is later dried off, rinsed, rubbed in spices like black pepper and coriander (some add paprika), slightly smoked and then steamed, he explained.

“We steam it well past the point until it’s completely melt-in-your-mouth,” he said.

It’s then carved by hand into thick pieces and piled between



Photo by Veronica Weber

Customers dine at The Refuge restaurant in downtown Menlo Park.

two pieces of toasted rye bread with sauerkraut, Russian dressing and Swiss cheese. Two other variations at Refuge include coleslaw or mustard; add-ons include chopped liver and avocado.

I didn’t get that “melt-in-your-mouth” experience on a recent visit, but the sandwich was enjoyable nonetheless. It comes with a generous side-serving of pickled red onions and pickles, which might render your order of the house-pickled vegetables (\$7) null. If you’re sharing, opt for the veggie plate, which comes with not only pickles but also pickled jicama, mushrooms, bell peppers, pearl onions and other bounty. They’re a welcome, refreshing respite between bites of heavy pastrami.

The cheesesteak de arbol with

avocado, de arbol sauce, sour cream, red onion, lettuce, tomato, cilantro and cheddar (\$14) sounded intriguing but was unremarkable. We opted for chicken instead of beef, which might have been a mistake, but I tasted mostly bread (an Amoruso roll from Philadelphia) and sour cream. The de arbol sauce, a smoky red salsa, was nowhere to be found. (Also, warning: The cheesesteak is enormous.)

Garlic fries on the side of the cheesesteak were also unimpressive, somewhat soggy and not worth the \$2 upgrade. Perhaps the “goofy fries” (a \$6 upgrade or \$10 on its own) with pastrami and cheese sauce on top are the way to go.

There are also several solid burgers. Again, the one that features pastrami (sliced on top

of a beef patty, \$17.50) might be the winner.

For those attempting to be healthy at this beer-and-meat haven, there are options: a pastrami chopped salad, poached pear salad, soups, seared tilapia sandwich, veggie-and-cheese sandwiches, a chicken risotto.

Another boon for late-night-starved Menlo-ites: Refuge is open until 10 p.m. (gasp!) on Fridays and Saturdays and until 9 p.m. every other night.

The Refuge, 1143 Crane St., Menlo Park | (650) 319-8197 | refugesc.com

■ Hours: Monday-Thursday, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and 5-9 p.m.; Friday, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and 5-10 p.m.; Saturday, noon-10 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-9 p.m.

■ Reservations: for lunch parties of 8 to 15 only. | Credit cards: yes | Parking: lot, street | Alcohol: beer and wine | Children: yes | Takeout: yes | Outdoor dining: yes, limited | Noise level: high | Bathroom cleanliness: good.

Prosecutor drops drug charges against Menlo College student

Drug charges against a student at Atherton’s Menlo College who was arrested in November have been dropped, while another student faces an arraignment on drug charges Feb. 6.

Due to lack of evidence, charges against Joel Matthew Palabrica, 22, from Everett, Washington, were dismissed at a preliminary hearing on Jan. 14 before Judge Marc Forcum in the San Mateo County Superior Court, according to San Mateo County District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe.

Dominic Ezekiel Jackson, 21, from Bellevue, Washington, will

be arraigned on charges of possession of a controlled substance for sale, possession of marijuana for sale, and conspiracy to commit a crime, according to District Attorney Wagstaffe.

The two men were arrested Nov. 10 by officers from the San Mateo County Narcotics Task Force with the assistance of Atherton police. Police said 20 bags of cocaine, 77 Xanax pills, jars of marijuana, and \$925 in cash were found in a Menlo College dorm room the men were in.

Mr. Jackson is out of custody without bail, the district attorney said.

Jury trial set for repeat offender

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

A man with 15 prior felony convictions and identified as a suspect in the 2014 intrusion into an Atherton home and the burglary of a Menlo Park home is set to have a jury trial in San Mateo County Superior Court starting on Feb. 2.

James Grady, 61, of East Palo Alto is charged under California’s three-strikes law, according to District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe. If convicted he could face a life sentence.

After an Atherton resident heard a man enter his home in

the early morning hours of Jan. 20, 2014, the suspect led police on a chase through Atherton and into Menlo Park. During the chase, Mr. Grady dropped his jacket, with cellphone and identification in the pockets, prosecutors said.

The man eluded police by wiggling through a dog door into a home on Harmon Drive in Menlo Park, Mr. Wagstaffe said. The residents were not home, and the man is accused of hiding out, drinking tequila and beer, and stealing \$62,000 in jewelry and other property before leaving.

In addition to dropping his

jacket, Mr. Wagstaffe said, the man left fingerprints and DNA on the alcohol bottles in the Menlo Park home. After Mr. Grady was arrested weeks later in Oakland, the Atherton resident also identified him, Mr. Wagstaffe said. ■

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3	WEST MENLO PARK Multiple offers; 115% of list price \$1,950,000
4	OLD PALO ALTO Sold in 1 day over list price \$6,000,000
5	CENTRAL ATHERTON Found off-market listing for our buyers \$8,000,000
6	CENTRAL WOODSIDE Represented the seller \$4,300,000
7	CENTRAL MENLO PARK Found off-market listing for our buyers \$2,200,000
8	WOODSIDE HEIGHTS Connected out of country seller with buyer \$5,700,000
9	REDWOOD CITY Multiple offers, 114% of list price \$1,600,000
10	MENLO OAKS Represented the seller \$3,600,000
11	SHARON HEIGHTS Sold off-market Price withheld



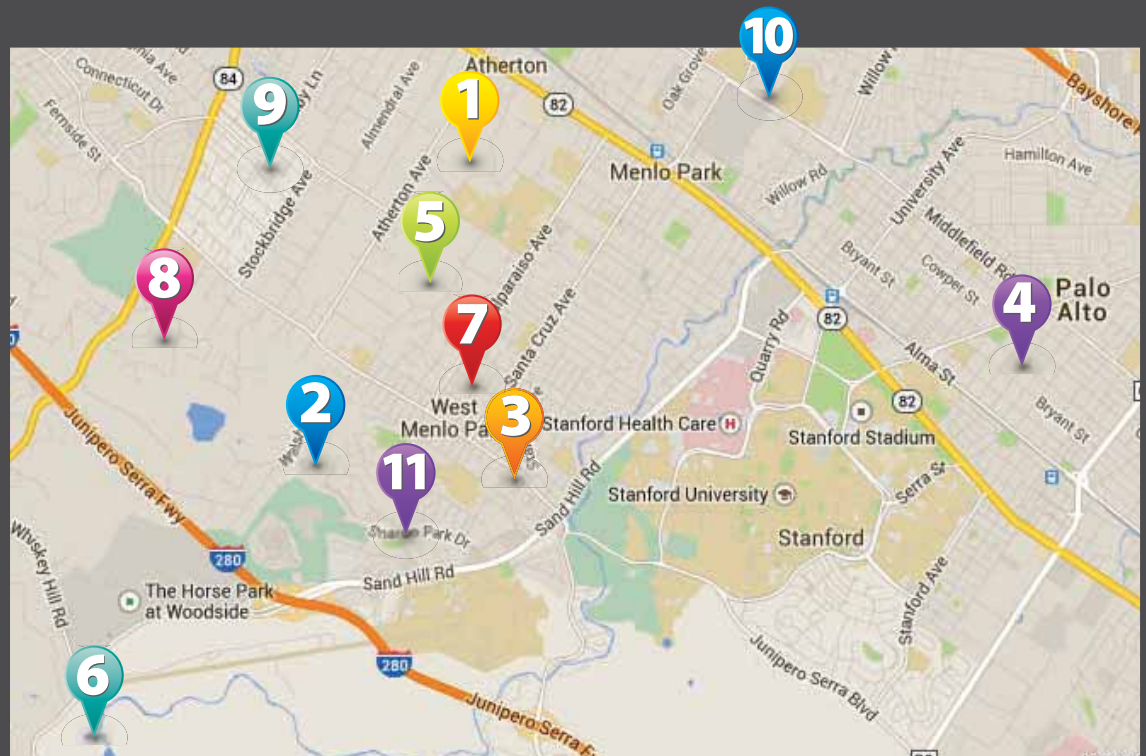
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