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on 'feeding our families' | Page 5

The Almanac

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Photo by Pedro Hernandez

Josephine Cotto of Menlo Park squares up against a Bermuda athlete during a U20 women's game on Oct. 14 in Haiti.

M-A sophomore, 15, competes in soccer on world stage

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

Fifteen-year-old Josephine Cotto of Menlo Park felt intimidated. It was mid-September and she had just flown to Puerto Rico to try out for its Women's national under-17 soccer team.

Competitive soccer was nothing new to the Menlo-Atherton High School sophomore, who says she plays forward for the Palo Alto 00G Blue team, which competes in two different leagues and is ranked fourth in California and 17th nationwide. She also competes on a state team through the Olympic Development Program.

Apparently, her nerves didn't hinder the quality of her game too much: after tryouts, she says, she found out that she made both the U17 team and U20 team as a midfielder. The U20 would be competing in a World Cup qualifier the follow-

ing month, and she was invited to join them.

So from Oct. 14 to 23, she traveled with the U20 team to Haiti, where she played in or started in three of the four tournament games. During those four

As a midfielder, she made the U20 team, which would be competing in a World Cup qualifier.

games, the team lost to Bermuda 0-1, beat Haiti 3-0, lost to Jamaica 1-2, and lost to Trinidad and Tobago during penalty kicks.

She says the team's dynamic is "like a big family with players and coaching staff, since they get to know you more as a person than just a soccer player."

She'll return to Puerto Rico, which will host the U17 women's tournament, to compete against

Jamaica on Friday, Nov. 13.

She says that M-A teachers have been accommodating of her busy international soccer schedule. "When I return," she said, "I will usually spend a couple days in at lunch and before or after school catching up on material and getting any remaining questions answered." Plus, she said, her teammates help her with her Spanish homework.

Her father is from Puerto Rico, she said, and though many of her relatives now live in the U.S., in one Puerto Rican town, Aguas Buenas, "there is a family member living in practically every house on the street," she said.

As for what her future holds, she says, "It's always been a goal of mine to play college soccer, and now it's become a goal to qualify for the U17 World Cup. In the future I really hope to continue through the Federation's programs and even make it to the senior team one day." ■

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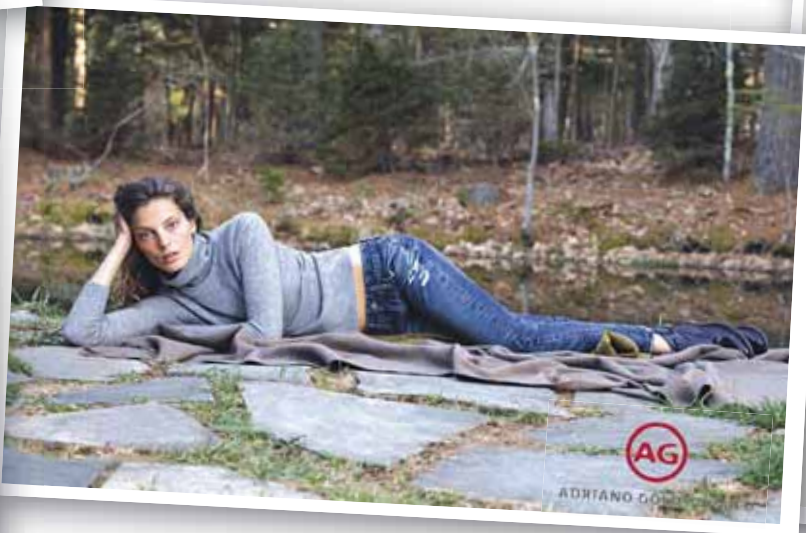
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MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Michael Pollan, Jesse Cool give talk at Menlo School on 'feeding our families'

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

Writer Michael Pollan says his decades-long explorations into food and the American diet were inspired, at least in part, by his son Isaac, for whom the term "picky eater" sounds like a vast understatement.

With more than 500 people listening in, Mr. Pollan and local restaurateur and cookbook author Jesse Ziff Cool conversed on the topic of "On Our Plates: Strategies for Feeding Our Families," on Nov. 4 at a Common Ground Speaker Series event at Menlo School in Atherton.

His son's odd eating habits, Mr. Pollan said, are "part of the reason I got very interested in writing about food." While Isaac was still very young, "food became such a fraught thing for him," he said. He "drifted into eating white food and nothing else," Mr. Pollan said. "He didn't really like mixed food."

"When it came to color and taste and smell, he was overwhelmed," he said. "He could not get a lot of food down."

That was changed, he said, with the help of the Bay Area's most iconic chef, Alice Waters. Mr. Pollan said that soon after his family moved to California, Ms. Waters, whom he knew from his work as a journalist, offered to cook for Isaac's 11th birthday.

"I said, 'Alice, that is a waste of your talents,'" Mr. Pollan said.

But Ms. Waters made a menu with the only three things Isaac would eat — steak cooked medium rare and "cut into perfect pink cubes," rosemary roasted potatoes and chocolate mousse.

"She watched him eat really carefully, and she said he's going to be a great eater," Mr. Pollan said. Ms. Waters noticed Isaac had an incredible sense of smell and taste. "She said, 'give him to me for a couple of years when he's in high school,'" he said. So Isaac spent three years working in



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Jesse Ziff Cool and Michael Pollan at Menlo School in Atherton.

Ms. Waters' kitchen, Mr. Pollan said, eating in the staff kitchen.

"Cooking taught him how to eat," he said. "When kids cook food, they own it in quite a different way. I think that the key to getting a picky eater to eat is to get him in the kitchen."

Mr. Pollan said that his son also cooked at home. "We insisted that every night he made some contribution to dinner," he said, even if it was only mincing garlic or slicing onions. "If he didn't want to do that, he had to do the dishes," he said.

"Cooking is really, really important," he said.

Ms. Cool agreed. She taught her sons how to make things such as chicken stock, noodles and pie from scratch. They were, she said, "creating stories about food in the kitchen."

"It's a great time to be with your kids, too, especially with teenagers," Mr. Pollan said. "You have better conversations

'When kids cook food, they own it in quite a different way. I think the key to getting a picky eater to eat is to get him in the kitchen.'

MICHAEL POLLAN

when you're doing things," he said. "Things open up in a very different way."

Kids should not be allowed to leave home without knowing "very basic and essential life

skills. How to roast a chicken," and cook the basics, he said.

Children, Ms. Cool said, should know "how to feed someone else or to feed themselves real food."

Mr. Pollan acknowledged that parents and kids are busy. "It's not easy cooking every night," he said. Instead, he said, parents should make a goal of cooking "one more night than you are now" and sharing the work with the kids.

"Some families I know have a night where the kids do the cooking ... it's their show," he said. "I think that's great."

Ms. Cool also recommended children spend time growing food, as Mr. Pollan said he did from the age of 8. "Connecting to a garden, like you did," is important, she said. "Growing some things so they know food is real."

Mr. Pollan is famous for his common-sense approach to eating. "Eat food, not too much, mostly plants. We could stop right here," he says.

But the food industry complicates food for reasons including convenience, novelty and packaging. The industry also takes food research and uses it to make a case for complicated, processed food, he said. "You start with very simple raw ingredients and dress it up," he said.

"We like to complicate food." And then, he said, there's food marketing. "You're not the only source of information about food that your kid has," he said. "There is an industry that's allowed to market to them. There are very large companies that stand between you and your kids."

See POLLAN, page 6

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Woodside blood donor to celebrate milestone

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Dick Tagg of Woodside sometimes has cookies for dinner. "They're just first-class cookies," he said. "I don't know anybody who makes better cookies."

The cookies are his reward after giving blood at the Stanford Blood Center in a voluntary procedure he will have braved 700 times as of 3:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 2. The blood center, which also has locations in Palo Alto and Mountain View, planned to honor Mr. Tagg at a donor breakfast on Nov. 6.

Seven hundred donations is the official number. The real number is 760 over 40 years, Mr. Tagg said, but the 60 took place elsewhere on the Peninsula while the Stanford center was offline.

"Somebody has to do it," he said when asked why he donates his blood. "Anybody who can do it should do what they can."

The need is very real, he said, particularly for children with leukemia, a blood disease. "It especially touched us because our kids didn't have leukemia and other kids did," he said. Mr. Tagg is married to Barbara Tagg.

Asked if it hurts when the needle is inserted, he acknowledged that sometimes it does, as is true with most injections. The pain, if any, is temporary, he added. "They have to do it well, and they care," he said, referring to the phlebotomists — people trained to draw blood. "It's a minimum of hurt," he said.

Mr. Tagg, 87, gives blood platelets, which are instrumental in blood clotting to

stop bleeding. The procedure involves a machine that takes drawn blood, a little bit at a time, sends it to a centrifuge to extract platelets, then sends it back into the donor's arm through the same needle. "It's a slick system," Mr. Tagg said.

This procedure has come a long way since the days when the returned blood went in via a separate needle in the donor's other arm, he said. Both arms were strapped down and he had to lie there for four hours. He needed to make requests to have itches scratched, he said. One lesson he remembered from those days: Itchy spots will stop itching after a while.

Today, the procedure is 60 to 90 minutes involving just one arm. You can bring your laptop or a book or watch movies on portable DVD players available at the center. Mr. Tagg said he will sometimes pick up a movie at the nearby Menlo Park Library beforehand. There's no wooziness afterward with platelet extraction, he added.

The Food and Drug Administration recommends limiting donations of platelets to 24 times a year, he said. Donations of whole blood, such as is used in procedures such as liver transplants and to restore blood in case of accidents, should not be done more than six times a year, he said.

The Menlo Park branch of the blood center is at 445 Burgess Drive. "If you can donate, you really ought to look into it," Mr. Tagg said. "All (donors) have to do is get there. We don't need to know anything. We get to be the heroes and they do all the work."

Along with cookies, there are pretzels and juices: orange, cranberry and a combination drink made from passion fruit, orange and guava that is especially good, he said. ▀



Photo by
Barbara Wood
Dick Tagg

POLLAN

continued from page 5

What to do? Talk to them about what they're seeing — "make them understand that they're being manipulated," he said. "Kids love learning about manipulation and (becoming) sophisticated consumers of advertising."

The Common Ground

speaker series is in its 14th year. The all-volunteer organization has 29 member schools representing 10,000 families. Events are free to parents, faculty and staff from member schools as well as faculty from non-member schools. This school year, the organization will have 11 events on 11 school campuses. ▀

Menlo Park OKs Alma Street development

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

What should the city of Menlo Park require the developers of a proposed three-story office building on Alma Street to provide in public benefits in exchange for exceeding building size limits?

The Menlo Park Planning Commission discussed that question at length when it met Monday, Nov. 2, and ultimately determined developer Lane Partners to be in compliance with the city's regulations to demolish existing buildings at 1010-1026 Alma St. and build a 25,156-square-foot, three-story office building with two levels of underground parking.

That location is the current home of Menlo Park businesses Iberia restaurant, Los Salonez and Cindy Nails Spa II.

The commission had first reviewed the public benefit plans for the proposed development in May. Changes incorporating the commission's previous feedback, according to Lane Partners representative Marcus Gilmour and BAR Architects representatives Chris Haeggglund and Ben Schaefer, included an expanded public plaza with an outdoor coffee pavilion and a restroom, plus preservation of a heritage oak tree in the public plaza.

Lane Partners offered to increase its one-time payment to the city to \$185,816 from \$180,212. It will also pay an in-lieu fee of \$307,618 to go into the city's below-market-rate housing fund.

Gillian Robinson, co-owner of Zombie Runner in Palo Alto, a coffee shop and running shoe store, expressed excitement at the possibility of opening a second store at the site. She said Mr. Gilmour had reached out to explore potential interest from local coffee vendors.

Mr. Gilmour emphasized that no agreements have been made. Several other coffee vendors were also brought up as potential operators for the site.

The pavilion would be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays and from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on weekends, the developer said.

Lane Partners also proposed building two electric vehicle charging stations and a bike parking area along Alma Street.

In public comments, Clem Molony praised the plan to construct the building according to LEED Gold environmental standards. Krista Skehan, a longtime Menlo Park resident, and Carol Schumaker, a business owner



A rendering of a three-story office building planned for 1010 to 1026 Alma St. in Menlo Park.

Image courtesy of Lane Partners/BAR Architects/Menlo Park

in downtown Menlo Park, also praised the plan.

Speaker Verle Aebi encouraged the city to earmark public benefits funds to address congestion and safety at the intersection of Alma Street and Ravenswood Avenue. Bill Sanders said he wanted to see residential space incorporated into the plan.

Several planning commissioners called the project "handsome" while others expressed frustration at several provisions in the Menlo Park El Camino Real/downtown specific plan. The discussion revolved around two key problems they saw with current policies in the plan.

Commissioner Drew Combs

asked why the Lane Partners' one-time payment to the city would go into the city's general fund. Could it be earmarked instead for public improvements in the downtown area, such as installing stoplights or an overpass at the Alma Street and Ravenswood Avenue intersection, he asked.

Commissioner John Kadvanj went a step further and questioned the added value of the pavilion at all, saying he'd rather see the city be able to "cash out" the sum of the proposed public benefits and put them all toward the most necessary downtown public improvements, which could be determined by a city "wish list," designating priorities

for various projects.

Commissioner Katie Ferrick asked why the new development needs two stories of underground parking when the site is near the Menlo Park train station.

Provisions in the specific plan set a minimum number of parking spaces for new buildings. Ms. Ferrick said the Planning Commission should ask the City Council to consider making those provisions more flexible.

However, Menlo Park Senior Planner Thomas Rogers said such changes, even if approved by the council by the end of the year, would take at least six months to bring about, making it improbable to be of much help to the Lane Partners development.

In the end, Commissioner Catherine Strehl made a motion to approve the public benefits proposal by Lane Partners and BAR Architects, with provisions that if the City Council changes the specific plan, then the developer could either reduce underground parking by a full level or earmark the one-time payment to the city for downtown public improvements. It was seconded by Ms. Ferrick and approved unanimously.

The project is now in a 15-day appeals period. If no appeals are received, the developer will be able to break ground as soon as it acquires the requisite permits, said Jean Lin, Menlo Park associate planner. ■



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Atherton wants more info on costs of going green

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

Atherton's City Council has asked for a lot more information about just how much measures proposed by the town's Environmental Programs Committee will reduce greenhouse gases as well as the costs of the measures, both to the town to regulate and the homeowner to implement.

The committee had recommended a plan to reduce Atherton's greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent by 2020 and by 50 percent by 2030. The recommendations go far beyond a 2007 state law that requires each municipality to show how it will reduce emissions by at least 15 percent from 2005 levels by 2020.

The committee's plan called for measures such as requiring new residential and commercial buildings, including the civic center now under design, to be "zero net energy," generating as much energy as they use. It also called for electric vehicle charging spaces, recapturing rain water, and composting yard waste and other organics.

Council members had only about an hour left in their Nov. 4 study session when they began to discuss the climate action plan, so did not spend much time on the plan's details. After the meeting, City

Manager George Rodericks said the issue is scheduled to return to the council at a Jan. 6 study session.

Mr. Rodericks said the town staff will bring back more information about each proposed measure in the climate action plan. They will look at the costs of each measure as well as the amounts greenhouse gases can be cut if measures are required as part of the building code and if they are only offered with incentives.

Council members appeared to support going beyond the required 15 percent reduction, but leery of mandating the measures.

"This is an idea whose time has come," said council member Elizabeth Lewis, a liaison to the environmental committee. "We have got to address this issue." The town uses more resources than surrounding communities and has larger greenhouse gas emissions it needs to make up for, she said.

"We need to set our sights higher than what the minimum is," she said.

Council member Cary Wiest offered a note of caution. "Mandating (the changes) could affect our potential building. People may not want to build here when we have mandates that are greater than any place in the county," he said. ▀

School official ordered to pay \$2.7 million to Woodside district

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

A state appellate court on Nov. 5 upheld a lower ruling that former Portola Valley School District superintendent and Woodside Elementary School District finance officer Tim Hanretty must pay the Woodside district nearly \$2.7 million in restitution.

Mr. Hanretty pleaded no contest in July 2012 to six felony charges of embezzlement and misappropriating public funds in both school districts. He was sentenced to two years in prison the following October.

In Woodside he was accused of forging documents to borrow \$2.6 million for the district, although the school board had approved borrowing only \$632,000. District officials say the loan was spent on school projects.

In Portola Valley investigators found Mr. Hanretty had turned in \$100,926 in invoices for work on his own home that were paid out of the district's solar panel fund.

Mr. Hanretty was ordered to pay the Woodside district about \$2.67 million to reimburse the cost of the loan, plus interest and the costs of uncovering the crime.

Mr. Hanretty was also ordered to repay the Portola Valley district close to \$182,000 —

the amount embezzled from the district and the costs of the investigation. According to district officials, Mr. Hanretty still owes the Portola Valley district \$58,946.87, last making a restitution payment on March 11.

After he was released from prison in October 2013, where he had served close to one year of his two-year sentence, Mr. Hanretty appealed the Wood-



Tim Hanretty booking photo, June 15, 2012.

picnic tables and playground equipment, there was no evidence before the court that these improvements could be separated from the property and disposed of in any way that would provide remuneration for the District," the ruling said.

The ruling says the unwanted improvements "were a detriment" to the district because it had to keep them and had to pay for them "by repaying the higher, unauthorized loan amount" and the interest on it. "Rather than a windfall to the District, the improvements paid for with the unauthorized loan proceeds were a millstone," the ruling says.

Woodside Superintendent Beth Polito said the district "looks forward to the collection of the criminal restitution that it is entitled to." She said the district's legal counsel is working with the California State Franchise Board to set up a payment program.

A source of the repayment may be Mr. Hanretty's state retirement. He retired in February 2012, about five months before he pleaded "no contest." In December 2013 a spokesperson for the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) said Mr. Hanretty was receiving a monthly pension of \$3,456, or more than \$41,000 a year. He received the pension even while in prison. ▀

A state appellate court upheld a lower court ruling.

side restitution order, claiming that the school district had benefited from the loan proceeds so he should not have to pay it back.

The ruling from the state's First District Court of Appeal did not agree with that argument. The ruling says the district did not benefit from the improvements made with the loan proceed because they could not be resold. "Despite defendant's suggestion that the District could have sold some



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Winners, from left: Carrie DuBois, Georgia Jack and Allen Weiner.

Will election bring shift in school board 'culture'?

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

A cultural shift may be ahead for the five-member governing board of the Sequoia Union High School District. While two incumbents were re-elected — Carrie DuBois and Allen Weiner — Ms. DuBois came in first while Mr. Weiner, a force on the board and its president for two consecutive years,



Go to
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for election updates.

DuBois, Jack, Weiner elected to school board.

placed second or third (final results were reported after the Almanac's press time). Also elected was newcomer Georgia Jack.

The vote count at press time showed Ms. DuBois with 14,828 votes, Ms. Jack with 12,588 and Mr. Weiner with 12,374. Incumbent Laura Martinez, appointed to the board in March, was running fourth with 11,016 votes. Challenger Noria Zasslow had 3,316 votes.



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Vote anywhere

It was a historic trial of a so-called "all-mail" election in San Mateo County on Nov. 3, but voters could also vote at any of 32 universal polling places in the county, including this one at the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center in the Menlo Park Civic Center.

The Elections Office scheduled an update to the count on Monday, Nov. 9, after the Almanac's press time.

A new culture?

Asked about the election results, Ms. DuBois said she felt "overwhelmed with positive

support," that her first-place finish will change the board's dynamics, and that Ms. Jack's election "will help change the (board) culture for the better."

Ms. Jack said she expected to find resonance in working with Ms. DuBois. "We both like and appreciate community focus,"

she told the Almanac. "(Board member) Alan Sarver does too ... so now we have three people to just help change the tenor (of the board) a little bit."

Asked to comment on Ms. DuBois remarks, Mr. Weiner

See **SEQUOIA BOARD**, page 12



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SEQUOIA BOARD

continued from page 9

said: "I think our board works together pretty well and I think we respect different perspectives. ... I'm very proud of what we did. I think the governance culture (of the board) is one that focuses on effectiveness."

He said he's looking forward to working with the newly constituted board. Every member has one vote and each board member is equal, he added. The new composition "could conceivably create different discussions and create a different set of priorities," he said.

During the campaign, Ms. DuBois noted her preference for a governing model developed by the state school board association. Under this "Masters in Governance" model, a two-year, 10-course program that Ms. DuBois said she completed, "all voices are equal" and decisions are based on community input, rigorous discussion, clear directions to staff and measurable indicators of success.

Sequoia board members from the past "sort of created their own way of governing that's not the best," Ms. DuBois said, referring to the board preced-

ing the elections of herself, Mr. Weiner, Mr. Sarver and Chris Thomsen.

"You really want to listen to different perspectives, (to) take extra time with different perspectives," she said. "If you follow the (board association) model, it creates a healthier governing board. ... It's not going to happen overnight, but if we keep working toward this, we're going to have a new model."

Retreats are a case in point, she said. The current board had one, but for just two hours when it should have been all day, she said. "You really need a lot of time, she said.

Ms. DuBois was also passed over as board president with Mr. Weiner's second consecutive election. When asked about this, Ms. DuBois said that while she feels no urgency to be board president, she favors a policy to rotate the position.

Ms. Martinez was down, numerically speaking, but not out over her loss after almost nine months on the board. "I'm going to remain committed to working with students and our community," she said. "I'm really lucky to have served and worked with my colleagues and I wish everyone well." ▣

Edwards, Johnson elected to Woodside school board

By Barbara Wood

Almanac Staff Writer

Incumbents Silvia Edwards and Kevin Johnson were elected Nov. 3 to the Woodside Elementary School District's governing board.

The vote count at press time was Ms. Edwards, 419; Mr. Johnson, 360; and challenger Joel Hornstein, 198.

All three candidates are parents with children in the one-school district.

Silvia Edwards

Ms. Edwards, 43, was appointed to the board in May after board member Rudy Driscoll announced he would resign at the end of the school year. Mr. Driscoll died soon after he left office in June.

She was one of seven candidates for the appointment



Silvia Edwards and Kevin Johnson

Joel and work with him, because he has a lot to offer."

Ms. Edwards said the school board is currently working to finish major construction on campus and is thinking about "security measures in our school to make our school safer for kids." The board is considering fencing and security cameras and lighting, but plans to reach out to neighbors and the town before moving forward, she said.

Kevin Johnson

Mr. Johnson, 49, is completing his first four-year term on the school board. He graduated from Cornell University School of Electrical Engineering and Hofstra University School of Law and is an attorney with Quinn Emanuel in Redwood Shores.

Mr. Johnson says his legal experience has been "more important than I thought it would be" on the school board because "every board meeting we've had ... there have been a number of legal issues we've faced."

See WOODSIDE, page 14



Go to
AlmanacNews.com
for election updates.

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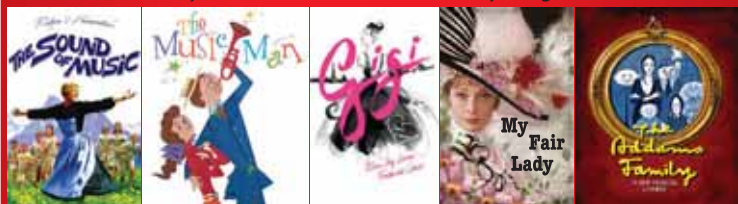
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WOODSIDE*continued from page 12*

Mr. Johnson said he thinks that as a Spanish speaker he has “represented the underserved and more silent” families in the district. He serves on the district’s English learners’ advisory committee. He also speaks French.

Mr. Johnson said he is “very happy to have been re-elected to the school board. We have an amazing community and an excellent school where our children come first.”

Joel Hornstein

Mr. Hornstein, 45, had said during the campaign that he would bring to the board a special expertise in finance, “a skill set lacking on the current board.” Mr. Hornstein graduated from Harvard College and Yale Law School and worked at Gold-

man Sachs and for Citigroup in private equity. He is now an entrepreneur and investor.

Mr. Hornstein has also been on the school’s site council and the school’s technology committee.

During a candidate debate, he challenged Mr. Johnson on his board meeting attendance and also said Mr. Johnson sent “his elder two children to private school for sixth grade,” which turned out to be incorrect. Mr. Hornstein later acknowledged he was mistaken with regard to the latter remarks and apologized. He said he was “suspending” his campaign, but would serve if elected.

“As the only non-incumbent in this race, my candidacy was always a long shot,” Mr. Hornstein said on election night. “I am grateful to all those who supported me in my run. I look forward to continuing my work to make our great school even better.” ■

Three elected to college board

Incumbents Dave Mandelkern and Karen Schwarz and challenger Maurice D. Goodman were elected Nov. 3 to the board of the San Mateo County Community College District. Seven candidates ran for four-year terms on the five-member board.

At Almanac press time, the vote count was Mr. Mandelkern, 43,566 votes; Ms. Schwarz, 40,859; and Mr. Goodman, 30,178.

Go to tinyurl.com/college116 for more information on this election.

Woodside: Write-in count due this week

The counting of write-in votes for Chris Shaw in his contest with Nancy Reyerling for the District 3 seat on the Woodside Town Council was not expected to start until early this week (after the Almanac’s press time).



The count, which is done manually, could be completed in a matter of hours, and will be posted on the Elections Office website shortly thereafter, said Jim Irizarry, San Mateo County’s assistant chief elections officer.

Until then, the Elections Office is reporting only the votes cast for Ms. Reyerling (whose name was on the ballot). At the Almanac’s press

time, that was 423 votes for Ms. Reyerling, with 1,032 ballots cast and counted.

Go to AlmanacNews.com for updates.

Candidates names were on the ballot in three other council districts, but all ran unopposed. At press time, the count was: 648 for Daniel Yost in District 1; 661 for Tom Livermore in District 5; and 637 for Peter Mason in District 7.

Voters raise fire district’s appropriations limit

Voters easily passed Measure Y on the Nov. 3 ballot, boosting the annual appropriations limit for the Menlo Park Fire Protection District to \$50 million from the current \$40 million.

The new limit will run for four years starting July 1, 2016.

Seventy-seven percent of voters favored the limit. The vote count at press time was 4,198 for and 1,219 against. A simple majority vote was required for passage.

The district encompasses

Atherton, East Palo Alto and unincorporated areas, in addition to Menlo Park.

Raising the limit will not increase taxes. The district currently spends \$36 million a year, fire board chair Virginia Chang Kiraly said. Budget projections show district spending will reach or surpass \$40 million in about two years, she said.

The district is responding to challenges of providing emergency services on increasingly

traffic-clogged streets and in response to new development projects, Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman said.

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County plans to help residents buy green power

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

San Mateo County's 20 cities are being asked to decide whether to become part of a county program that would give PG&E customers the option to buy electricity from sources that provide more renewable energy.

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved an ordinance on Tuesday, Nov. 3, to create Peninsula

Clean Energy, a joint powers authority aimed at reducing greenhouse gases.

In addition, the board plans to vote on the Joint Powers Authority agreement at its next meeting on Nov. 17, said David Pine, San Mateo County supervisor.

Cities within the county that decide to join the agreement by a Feb. 29 deadline will help decide which renewable energy options to offer PG&E customers. The program is expected to launch

The switch, Supervisor Dave Pine said, is described as 'the biggest change you'll never notice.'

in October 2016, said Mr. Pine.

A baseline energy mix from renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, and small hydroelectric

power, would be delivered to households across the existing Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) grid. People could choose to ramp up their renewable energy usage or could opt out of the program and stick with their existing PG&E service.

Because Peninsula Clean Energy would use the existing PG&E grid to distribute the renewable energy, users will experience little to no inconvenience, but could substantially decrease their carbon footprints, according to county Supervisor Dave Pine. The switch, he said, is described as "the biggest change you will never notice."

These programs, called Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) or Community Choice Energy (CCE), are already in operation in many places around the country. In California, there are programs in Sonoma and Marin counties and in the city of Lancaster in Los Angeles County.

Mr. Pine said his motivations to create Peninsula Clean Energy are based on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The program, he said, "is the single biggest thing a city or county can

do to reduce its carbon footprint." However, the more he learned about the program, the more he came to appreciate other potential benefits of having a locally organized energy supply.

Today, he said, people's choice for renewable energy is limited, since PG&E is the dominant energy provider in the area. With Peninsula Clean Energy, he said, each city will be represented by a local board representative and all meetings will be held in public. The joint powers authority would not operate for profit and could set its own rates.

"Because we'll have local control," he said, "we'll be able to do a lot of exciting things in addition to offering more renewable energy."

Some potential initiatives, he suggested, could include programs to make it financially attractive to install rooftop solar panels, partnerships to add more electric vehicle charging stations, and alliances with local generators to install wind and solar power.

The program has already completed the first phase, which

See **GREEN POWER**, page 17

Frank George Fabbro

January 2, 1928 – October 13, 2015

Beloved husband, father, grandfather, business and community leader, Frank will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

A great story teller with an undercurrent of humor, he appreciated simple things—spending time with loved ones, being a sports fan, the energy of the restaurant business, cooking for his family, and holding court at the dinner table where he was always happy to share a few "tall tales" from the past.

Born in Redwood City, Frank attended Mt. Carmel Elementary School and Bellarmine College Preparatory, where he proudly played football. He was also a veteran of the U.S. Army, having served in Japan during the Korean War.

Through the years, Frank found enjoyment from his community involvements including being a 40-year member of the CYO Golf Tournament Committee that serves as the annual fund-raising event for the CYO Summer Camp, a long-time member of the Italian-American Social Club of Menlo Park, and a member of the Knights of Columbus, among others.

In addition, as an avid golfer, he founded the much-beloved annual Fabbro's Golf Tournament and Dinner that started as a smallish event that grew in popularity and size over a period of 25 years during the 1970's-1990's. Who could forget the priceless keepsake each participant received by having your picture taken with the infamous life-sized cardboard cutout of your amiable host, Frank Fabbro.

But it was as the owner of Fabbro's Restaurant that most would probably remember him best. Born in 1928 during prohibition to Italian immigrant parents, Frank was literally born into the business. As legend has it, his father George was a bootlegger who ran a speakeasy and his mother Mary was a wonderful cook who often fed the clients that stopped by. Frank was born in the upstairs family home of the building that eventually became Fabbro's Restaurant in 1933. Starting out washing dishes, learning to tend bar from his father, and learning to cook from his mother, he

acquired the skills that would serve him well in the years to come.

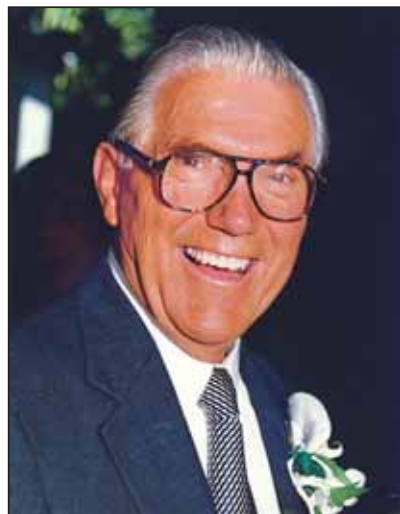
Upon his return from the Korean War, Frank set aside previous dreams of going to law school and decided to take over the restaurant from his ailing father. Shortly thereafter, while attending Bob and Nadine Franceschini's engagement party, he met Mary Milani from Kentfield, California. After a courtship that involved countless trips back and forth over the Golden Gate Bridge, they were married in 1956. Frank and Mary raised their family of six children and eventually built Fabbro's into an iconic and successful Italian-American restaurant serving businessmen and families from up and down the Peninsula.

Frank seemed a natural behind the bar serving drinks and telling stories or playing dice with the patrons while Mary greeted the countless regulars who had become part of the Fabbro's family over the years. Sadly, after nearly 40 years together, Frank lost his wife and business partner, Mary, when she passed away in 1994.

Following Mary's passing, Frank met Janice MacLeod at Fabbro's and in 1997 they married, working together at the restaurant and building many lasting friendships. Frank cherished his time with Janice and when Frank retired in 2002 they spent many good years together traveling and socializing with friends.

Frank is survived by his wife, Janice (MacLeod) Fabbro; his sister Sarah (Fabbro) Balocco; his brother-in-law, Msgr. Joseph Milani; his children Cate Fabbro, Barbara Fabbro (Dennis Curtin), John Fabbro, Frank Fabbro, Mary (Ed) Seckendorff, and Michael Fabbro; and his grandchildren, Elena Curtin, and Courtney, Erin, Audra, Anthony, and Jeremiah Fabbro.

A memorial Mass in celebration of his life is to be held on Saturday, November 14, at 10:00 am at St. Pius Church, 1100 Woodside Road, Redwood City. Reception to immediately follow at Homer Crouse Hall. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Mission Hospice of San Mateo (www.missionhospice.org) or (650) 554-1000.



Willard "Will" L. Kauffman

October 6, 1935 – October 28, 2015

Willard "Will" L. Kauffman, 80, passed away on October 28, 2015, in Redwood City, CA, from complications of Parkinson's disease.

Born on October 6, 1935, in Coopersburg, PA, Will spent his formative years in Allentown, PA, where he graduated from Allentown High School. He went on to earn both his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Engineering Physics from Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA.

Will began his career at Bell Labs and in the mid-60s was drawn to the pioneering research and development happening in California. He joined Fairchild Semiconductor in 1966 where, as head of the Transistors and Diodes section of the Device Development Department, he worked on the application of planar processing techniques to fabricate high voltage power transistors and silicon controlled rectifiers (SCR). Will went on to spend 16 years at Intel Corporation in a variety of positions, including VP of Component Production and VP of Component Quality, followed by a three year tenure as EVP-COO of Vitelic Corporation. Will later served as SVP-COO of Komag, Inc., where he retired in August of 1998.

Passionate about his career, Will was equally so about the joys of his life: spending quality time with his family and friends, travelling, good food and wine, the 49ers, and perfecting his golf game.

Will is lovingly remembered by Diane, his wife of 36 years, his daughters, Deborah (Jonathan Bellman) and Lorraine (Patrick Hall), his stepchildren, Cesca Cecilio and Michael Cecilio (Jae), his four grandchildren, and one great-grandson. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Kathleen.

Integrity, generosity, wisdom, patience, warmth, kindness, and an ever-present sense of humour, are a few of the many traits exhibited by this memorable man. He will be greatly missed.

In lieu of flowers, please send charitable donations to Lehigh University or Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST).



PAID OBITUARY

PAID OBITUARY

Good news for taxpayers in MP school district

The Menlo Park City School District has some good news for local taxpayers — after being given the highest possible long-term debt rating in October, the district has refinanced some of its bonds, saving taxpayers \$12.47 million.

Ahmad Sheikholeslami, the district's chief business and operations officer, said the district received a triple A rating from Moody's Investors Service, based on "the strength of our finances and the assessed values of our properties."

The school already had a triple A rating from Standard and Poor's, and the district says it is now the only district in the state to have maximum ratings from both organizations.

The district refunded bonds sold in 2005, 2008 and 2010 in a process similar to refinancing a home loan.

"The Board takes its fiduciary responsibility to our highly supportive community very seriously," said Superintendent Maurice Ghysels in a statement. "With this action the board reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining sound public finances for our district and our community."

Board member Terry Thygesen said that because the community has supported the district "time and again," the district owes it to them "to lower the burden whenever possible."

The refunding pays off existing debt by borrowing money at a lower interest rate. The new bonds were sold at an overall interest rate of 4.06 percent which was nearly 2.0 percent less than the 5.97 percent interest rate on the combined 2005, 2008 and 2010 bonds, the district said.

— Barbara Wood

GREEN POWER

continued from page 16

included a feasibility study looking at offering customers the option to buy renewable energy at rates of 35 percent, 50 percent or 100 percent of their electricity consumption.

According to Mr. Pine, the study demonstrated that there is ample renewable energy available for the county even if all 20 cities decide to sign up for the program.

Phase One of the project included discussions with an advisory committee, launched in May 2015, and involved a number of city representatives, lawyers, and stakeholders, such as environmental and labor advocates.

Phase Two, for which the Board of Supervisors approved \$800,000 in spending, is to cover city/community outreach, designing the program, and securing working capital and credit capacity.

"We've seen tremendous enthusiasm for the program," Mr. Pine said.

To those who might ask, "What's so bad with what we've got now?" Mr. Pine responded that while a substantial portion of PG&E's energy is technically carbon-free (at least 55 percent in 2014), that number can be misleading. Nuclear and hydroelectric power count toward that percentage as carbon-free resources, but they are not considered renewable. In 2013, only about 24 percent of PG&E's energy came from energy sources defined as renewable by California law.

"We can do better with Peninsula Clean Energy," said Mr. Pine. "We can do better without using nuclear."

According to Heather Abrams, Menlo Park environmental programs manager, the Menlo Park City Council is expected to hold a study session on the topic on Tuesday, Nov. 10, leaving time for a first and second reading of an ordinance should the city decide to join Peninsula Clean Energy by the Feb. 29 deadline.

Visit peninsulacleanenergy.com for more information. ■

Jose Diaz, longtime Menlo Park resident

A funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 14, at St. Denis Church, 2250 Avy Ave. in Menlo Park, for Jose Diaz, who died Oct. 28 at the age of 89.

Born in Almendral de la Canada, Spain, he came to Menlo Park in 1957 after marrying his childhood sweetheart, Pauline Diaz, who came to California with her family in 1948.

He worked for 35 years as

OBITUARY
Obituaries are based on information provided by the family.

estate gardener for the Heller family in Atherton.

Upon retiring in 1992, he made several trips to Spain. In 2006, he and Pauline celebrated their 50th anniversary in the same church where they were married, with The Rev. Msgr.

John Rodriguez of St. Denis Church as officiant.

Mr. Diaz was a loyal member of St. Denis Church and a 49ers fan. He loved his garden and would often be seen taking his daily walk along Altschul Avenue at the Alameda, say family members.

He is survived by his children, Irene Oncley of Long Beach and Peter Diaz of Redwood City. His wife, Pauline, died in 2011.

■ POLICE CALLS

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

ATHERTON

Residential burglaries:

■ Someone entered a detached garage on Walnut Avenue and stole a car battery from a Nissan Leaf, an electric car. No estimate on losses. Oct. 14.

■ Someone burglarized a house on McCormick Lane and stole a Mercedes GLK 350 automobile. Oct. 23 - 25.

Thefts:

■ A pair of Ray Ban sunglasses, a cellphone charger cord, and some small change were stolen from a vehicle parked on Maple Avenue. Estimated loss: \$256. Oct. 15.

■ A student at Menlo-Atherton High School at 555 Middlefield Road left her cellphone on her desk during a fire/earthquake drill and came back to find it missing. Estimated loss: \$600. Oct. 15.

■ Someone stole a cellphone from the passenger seat of a vehicle parked on Lane Place. Estimated loss: \$600. Oct. 15.

■ A green Dawes single-speed bike was stolen from a bike rack at Menlo-Atherton High School at 555 Middlefield Road. Estimated loss: \$300. Oct. 23.

Patrick Corcoran

November 13, 1925 – October 27, 2015

Patrick Grover Corcoran (November 13, 1925–October 27, 2015) passed away peacefully in his sleep on October 27, 2015, with his daughter by his side.

Beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, his family was always his main focus in anything he accomplished.

Pat loved his hometown of San Francisco, where he was a business owner and resident until 1967 when he relocated his business to Redwood City and his home to Menlo Park.

He joined the Army in 1943 at the age of 17 as the youngest soldier in his battalion. He proudly served his country in World War II with the 280th combat engineers, where he fought in the Battle of the Bulge, The Rhineland Campaign and The Central Europe Campaign.

He was one of three men who was awarded the Bronze Star for bravery for crossing the Ruhr River (the mouth of the Rhine River) in Germany while under fire.

He met Bernice Theresa Clarke of Menlo Park in Santa Cruz and they were married on November 28, 1954. They had four children, whom they raised in South San Francisco and Menlo Park, respectfully. Pat bought the Clarke's family home in Menlo Park in 1967, where he remained until his passing.

He was a well-liked pillar of his community, a member of the Redwood City Chamber of Commerce and owner of P.G. Corcoran Company, which was the only West Coast distributor of supermarket equipment. He was involved with many supermarket inventions. He held a U.S. patent on the first grocery store wine rack and was instrumental in bringing grocery hand baskets to the United States.

After retiring from the supermarket business in 1992, he began PGC Enterprises, dealing in commercial real estate holdings and which is still ongoing today under family management.

He loved to visit his vacation home located in the Gold Country (Columbia, California) and spent every summer vacationing in Twain Harte, California, at the family cabins. He particularly loved swimming at Twain Harte Lake.

He was active and forging on, running these businesses, traveling, attending with love to family and friends until his passing. His independent, adventurous and lively spirit touched everyone and left an indelible mark on those closest to him.

He is preceded in death by his daughter, Marcie Corcoran. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Bernice Corcoran of Menlo Park; his daughter, Carole Corcoran-Williams (Pat Williams) of La Honda; his son, Patrick (Sascha Corcoran) of San Jose; his daughter, Diane Serrano of Soulsbyville; his best friend, Steve Ellerman (Alice Ellerman) of Sacramento, 10 loving grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Family and friends were invited to attend visitation on Tuesday, November 3, 2015, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Funeral Service on Wednesday, November 4, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. — all at Redwood Chapel, 87 Woodside Road, Redwood City, CA 94061. Graveside service followed at Cypress Lawn Memorial Park,

Ben Sanguinetti

Resident of Portola Valley

Passed away Oct. 10 at home with his wife. After completing his army service Ben worked for Lenkurt as a product designer. After Lenkurt, Ben was employed by Vidar Corp. in Mountain View. Ben was responsible for the company's many instrumentations, measurement telecom and switching products. When Vidar was sold, Ben co-founded Integrated Circuit Systems. In his leisure time, he was totally involved with AYSO soccer and Little League. He was instrumental along with Karl Bijak for bringing AYSO to Portola Valley and establishing region 25. He was the Northern California Director and spent every weekend either coaching, refereeing or helping work on the fields. He was instrumental along with Bob Brown and Sam Halsted in building Rossotti field.

Ben was also involved with Little League where he served on the board, coached and helped umpire. He is survived by his wife Pat, son Robert, daughter Betty and sister Gloria Morris.

A celebration of Ben's life will be held Friday, Nov. 20, 2015 at 3:00pm at the Portola Valley Town Center, 765 Portola Road in Portola Valley.



PAID OBITUARY

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3525 Alameda De Las Pulgas,
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Newsroom: (650) 223-6525
Newsroom Fax: (650) 223-7525

Advertising: (650) 854-2626
Advertising Fax: (650) 223-7570

Email news and photos with captions to:
Editor@AlmanacNews.com

Email letters to:
letters@AlmanacNews.com

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WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

All letters must include a home address and contact phone number. Published letters will also appear on the web site, www.TheAlmanacOnline.com, and occasionally on the Town Square forum.

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Post your views on the Town Square forum at AlmanacNews.com

Email your views to:
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Mail or deliver to:
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3525 Alameda de las Pulgas
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Call the Viewpoint desk at
223-6528.

Kudos for police department program

By Clem Molony

I heard through the Chamber of Commerce that our Menlo Park Police Department recently won a statewide award for a very successful program in the Belle Haven neighborhood.

Menlo Park Police Chief Bob Jonsen explained to me that the award was from the California League of Cities. Our police team was nominated for a Putnam Award in the area of “city solutions.” This local program for Belle Haven community engagement was one of the two winners for public safety this year.

This effort by our police department grew out of the city’s general plan visioning process. The focus of the program was to reintegrate community policing within Belle Haven neighborhoods in order to address significant crime and

violence concerns which were voiced by residents.

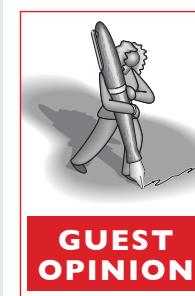
In the past three years residents have gotten more involved, both through a local community advisory group and through neighborhood forums, to help the city learn about and respond to specific problems in each part of town. The biggest issues of concern were gang-related violence, traffic safety (especially near schools), and the types of crime that occur in all neighborhoods.

Since the program began, there has been a 42 percent reduction in crime in Belle Haven and a 15 percent reduction in traffic collisions in the neighborhood (2014 data). Yet city leaders and Chief Jonsen say they strongly believe that the main benefit for Menlo Park is the re-engagement of local citizens with our city’s problem-solving programs.

Also, as part of the general plan visioning process, Facebook actively participated along with local residents. Facebook volunteered funding so that the city could hire an additional police officer to participate in these community engagement efforts. It also helped fund the new police services center in Belle Haven.

As a result of this combined effort, there is now a cohesive program for involving the Belle Haven community in the city’s public safety strategy.

Other benefits that have come from this effort include working with at-risk teens (officer visits in the classroom, discussions during lunch hour, and opportunities for youth just to talk with law enforcement officers); efforts to



Clem Molony is a Willows neighborhood homeowner and a longtime participant in community planning efforts.

reduce truancy; education about conflict resolution skills; and even a Citizens Academy where families learn how public safety can best succeed.

I am glad that our police department was recognized for this program. And that the data shows that the department’s efforts are working. It is good for all of Menlo Park when more families become active participants in making our city a safer place to live, work, and play.

LETTERS

Our readers write

Halloween tableau a delight to witness

Editor:

Halloween produced, for me, what I call a “precious sighting.”

Our door bell rang and five eager faces greeted me. That was satisfying, but more so was the large group of adults shepherding the children through the neighborhood.

The parents’ presence and support—their care and interest for the young ones—was a delight to witness.

Had I closed the door quickly I would have missed the full happening—what I call a precious sighting.

Bill Russ

Cotton Street, Menlo Park

What’s on your mind?

From City Hall politics and the schools to transportation and other pressing issues, the Almanac aims to keep readers informed about their community. But we also want to hear from you.

Tell us what’s on your mind by sending your letters to letters@AlmanacNews.com. Or snail-mail them to: The Almanac, 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306.

You can also submit a longer piece of 450 to 600 words for consideration to publish as a guest opinion column.



Burton Crandall

Looking back

Air pollution had a different look about it back in 1912, when this photo of the Zinsser family, out in their surrey for a ride along Alpine Road, was taken. The Zinszers were traveling in Portola Valley, near where the current Corte Madera School was built decades later, according to the Portola Valley history book, “Life on the San Andreas Fault” by Nancy Lund and Pamela Gullard, in which this photo is published. “Transportation has changed, but the pristine hills remain untouched,” the historians write.

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