

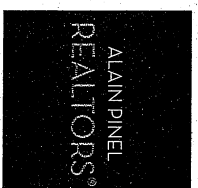
Burglar mixes a cocktail, makes herself at home

A woman who broke into an Atherton home stayed long enough to make herself a cocktail, prepare a meal and wash the dishes, and even put in a load of laundry, police said yesterday. Officers were called to the home on Bellbrook Lane yesterday, after the housekeeper arrived to find a large window broken and a woman sleeping on the couch, said police Chief Steve McCutley.

When the housekeeper left the room to call [See BURGLAR, page 22]

Daily Post

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City pays cop \$45,000 over leak

BY JEN NOWELL
Daily Post Staff Writer

A retired Palo Alto police sergeant who is currently serving as a reserve officer received a \$45,000 settlement from the city over claims the city damaged his reputation by leaking personal information and unfairly suspended him.

Officer says his reputation was damaged when word of his suspension slipped out

Dan Ryan filed his claim against the city on April 26, 2016 following a 30-day suspension for "disobeying," a police lieutenant's directions while documenting violations at a downtown bar,

Ryan wrote, from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, or ABC, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015. The funds were for the police department to enforce laws for the licensees and their employees and reduce the number of incidents and alcohol-related fights in and around [See LEAK, page 22]

THE UPDATE

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LONDON INFERNO: A fire

engulfed a 27-story apartment building in London last night, forcing screaming residents to make ropes from sheets and climb out of windows as 200 firefighters struggled to control the blaze. Desperate residents trapped high in the tower were heard screaming for help, the London Daily Mail reported. Horrifying pictures emerged on social media showing massive flames licking up the sides of the building in West London.

WHITE HOUSE VISIT? The

Warriors haven't decided whether they would visit the White House to be honored by the president, despite media reports to the contrary yesterday. Two reporters tweeted after Golden State's Game 5 defeat of the Cavaliers that the team had "unanimously" decided to boycott a visit to the Trump White House. But the team put out a statement yesterday saying no decision had been made.

WARRIORS PARADE: Oakland

plans to throw a parade for the NBA champion Golden State Warriors tomorrow starting at 10 a.m. The parade will follow the same route as the 2015 NBA title, going north [See THE UPDATE, page 4]

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Hobee's sold to employees

BY JEN NOWELL
Daily Post Staff Writer

Forty-three years after opening the first Hobee's restaurant in Mountain View, the family that started it all has sold the chain famous for its blueberry coffeecake to two employees who have worked in the restaurants for decades.

Paul Taber opened the first Hobee's location in Mountain View in 1974, according to the restaurant's website. The first Hobee's Haven served sandwiches and fast food-type items that were ordered and served out of two windows. There was no dining room.

Taber's children, Connie Taber Durant and Peter Taber, and Peter's husband, Edward Fike, announced yesterday that the family-owned [See HOBEE'S, page 22]



HAVE SOME COFFEECAKE — Outgoing President Edward Fike and incoming CEO Camille Chijate each hold a piece of Hobee's famous blueberry coffeecake.

Edgewood Road worries councilman

BY EMILY MIBACH
Daily Post Staff Writer

A San Carlos councilman is worried that during the next rainy season, the hillside along Edgewood Road will fail and cause a landslide, possibly taking out a car. But a San Mateo County official said yesterday that crews have been working on the hillside to prevent that from happening.

"This is our own little Oroville Dam waiting to go down."

Councilman Matt Grocott

Councilman Matt Grocott is concerned about a one-mile segment of Edgewood Road from Interstate 280 to

Crestview Drive, which is the only way out of San Carlos to the west.

Grocott prevailed upon his colleagues on the City Council to send a letter to the San Mateo County Supervisors about the potential hazard.

"One day, I am afraid, a car is going to be taken out by a falling boulder or landslide failure on a catastrophic level," [See EDGEWOOD, page 22]

BURGLAR

police, the woman fled on foot, he said. It's not known how long the woman stayed at the home.

The woman left behind a set of keys, cigarettes and a pair of shoes, police said.

She was described as possibly a Polynesian woman, about 40 years old with dark brown shoulder length hair and wearing a blue flower top, blue jeans and no shoes as they were left behind, according to police.

It's not uncommon for this type of incident to happen in Atherton as there are many large homes, McCutley said. Although, it is rare, he added.

In another incident, residents returned to their home in the 100 block of Atherton Avenue Sunday, after being away for several days to find a rear window smashed, police said. Four to five necklaces and earrings were allegedly taken.

The estimated cost of these stolen items is not yet known, McCutley said.

The burglar left behind some personal items before leaving, he said.

Police are still determining if the same woman was involved in both incidents, McCutley said.

LEAK

places that serve alcohol, according to Ryan's claim.

Ryan was assigned as the project director for the grant program.

In August 2015, Ryan was on patrol when he observed violations of ABC rules and city laws at a downtown bar. He never identified the bar in his complaint.

Ryan documented the violations with a photograph and police report, the claim states. And he called the bar owner to discuss the violations, and advised her that he would make a referral to the ABC regarding the violations.

"The bar owner apparently threatened to have a local high-profile company, whose employees frequented the bar, make a complaint to the city manager and to City Council, about our grant operations and enforcement efforts," Ryan said.

Ryan said he was then ordered by Lt. April Wagner to "not disseminate the (evidence) photograph to anybody," including the ABC. Sgt. Craig Lee allegedly told him to avoid the bar for the next week "to let things cool down."

After some time passed, Ryan "resumed normal operations," the claims says.

Several weeks after this, then-police Chief Dennis Burns told Ryan to release the evidence to the ABC, according to Ryan.

'Preferential treatment'

Also in August 2015, Ryan sent a message to Burns, "documenting what I saw to be a series of routine violations and problems at that particular bar, and my perception that the bar owner expected preferential treatment from the police department. I argued that some officers might have a conflict of interest in enforcing laws there, based on their relationships with the bar owners," he said.

Ryan said he never received a response from the chief.

Throughout September and October 2015, Ryan said he continued to document violations at the bar, and referred the cases to the ABC. The police chief and assistant police chief met with the bar owners several times about getting into compliance, he said.

"The bar owners asserted that any enforcement actions taken against them were based on some alleged bias on my part," according to Ryan's claim.

He said he learned later that the owners had made

complaints about him to the city manager and two City Council members.

In late October, Ryan met with the assistant police chief and shared ongoing violations at the bar, according to the claim. The assistant police chief said he had witnessed several violations while heading home one evening, Ryan stated.

Later that same day, an employee at the bar saw Ryan taking photos of violations, and the bar owners complained to the police chief, the claim says.

Ryan was removed from being a point of contact for the bar owners, and another officer, Lt. James Reifschneider, filled his spot, according to the claim. Ryan objected to this saying his "enforcement efforts were fair and unbiased."

Ryan apparently asked for a formal investigation to be made into the allegations so he could clear his name.

Concerns over occupancy limits

He then met with Reifschneider to discuss the violations at the bar, and they spoke of the fire department's efforts to reassess the occupancy limits for the bar, which Ryan had previously asked about.

A fire inspector checked out the bar in December and met with Ryan in January, according to the claim. The fire inspector allegedly told Ryan that he felt the bar owner had "blatantly lied" to him during his inspection.

A meeting was then set up with code enforcement, police, fire and the city attorney's office to determine how to address the bar's violations, Ryan claims. And he said he told Reifschneider since he was now the contact person.

According to Ryan, Reifschneider responded that he wished Ryan hadn't met with fire officials.

Several days later, Ryan said he was suspended for 30 days for disobeying Reifschneider's instructions. Ryan asked for documentation of the internal investigation and findings, and was allegedly told there was no paperwork.

He claims he was told his recent actions were the "last straw," and when he asked what the previous "straws" had been, he received no answer.

The leak

At an ABC administrative hearing on March 1, 2016, the attorney for the bar owners asked about Ryan's 30-day suspension, which he claims they only could have known about if the information had been leaked to the owners or their attorney. Ryan told then-Assistant Police Chief Bob Beacom of the leak, and he allegedly told Ryan "he was unsure of how to stop gossip within the department."

When Ryan returned to work, he was told to refrain from code enforcement work, according to his complaint.

He alleged his privacy was violated by the police department; his reputation was damaged by "malicious, false and defamatory statements" by others in the department and city employees; and he was retaliated against by being removed from the ABC grant program.

In the settlement, the city agreed to rescind Ryan's suspension. Both sides settled without admitting fault. The settlement was made Dec. 15.

Ryan's attorney, Alan C. Davis, received \$15,000 of the \$45,000 settlement.

HOBEE'S

Business has been sold to Camille and Daniel Chijate. "Though it's a bittersweet decision, we are heartened to leave the company in familiar, very capable hands," Connie, Peter and Edward said in a statement. The Chijate's have worked for Hobee's for 28

years — Camille currently serves as vice president and area manager, while Daniel fills the kitchen manager post at Hobee's Palo Alto.

"They care deeply for our employees and customers, and have a passion for service. There is no better choice to carry on the Hobee's legacy," said Connie, Peter and Edward.

Six restaurants

Today, in addition to the Mountain View location, there are Hobee's in Palo Alto, Belmont, Sunnyvale and San Jose. The Cupertino site is an independently operated franchise.

The restaurant has earned numerous awards from Best Breakfast, Best Brunch, Best Burger, Best Restaurant for Kids, Best Clam Chowder, Community Hero Award and Business of the Year in six cities and the congressional district.

"Hobee's has always been a family affair," said Connie, Peter and Edward.

A family business

Taber's wife, Mary, processed the company payroll until age 82, then enjoyed over a decade of retirement in Honolulu before her death in 2014. Connie focused on customer service and developed a training program that has been used by thousands of employees. Peter served as Hobee's chief architect for expansion and used his cooking skills to develop many of Hobee's most iconic recipes — the coffeecake included. And Edward, an attorney, assumed the CEO mantle from Peter.

With the change in ownership, Edward said, "We're thrilled to be keeping Hobee's in the family."

EDGEWOOD

Grocott said: "This is our own little Oroville Dam waiting to go down. Even if no one gets hurt, eventually a failure is going to take out the road and cause major mayhem for commuters for months while it is repaired."

County already at work

But county Deputy Public Works Director Joe Lococo said crews have already done some work along Edgewood Road to decrease the possibility of a landslide occurring.

They dug out large trenches at the top of and along the hillside. These trenches catch rocks, mud and water that may flow down the hillside, Lococo said.

Since the trenches were dug, the amount of mud and debris flowing onto the road has decreased dramatically, Lococo said.

Fencing was also installed several years ago to keep anything that may come down the hillside from going into the road, Lococo said.

Grocott seeks a retaining wall

But Grocott is concerned that in the event of an emergency situation, like an earthquake or mudslide, thousands of people could be unable to leave the area. Grocott said he thinks a retaining wall should be built along Edgewood Road in order to make sure no such thing occurs.

But Lococo said with the trenches, a retaining wall is not needed at this point. But Public Works employees are regularly checking on the hillside for any instability and if a loose boulder or large amount of debris is found, it's dealt with, he said.

Last year a large boulder became loose and it was quickly shattered by the department, Lococo said.

"This is a key access way," Lococo said. "It's always been a high priority to make sure (the road) is as accessible as possible."

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