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MediaNews Group NEWSPAPER

ATHERTON EAST PALO ALTO LOS ALTOS LOS ALTOS HILLS MENLO PARK MOUNTAIN VIEW PALO ALTO PORTOLA VALLEY REDWOOD CITY SAN CARLOS STANFORD WOODSIDE

LOS ALTOS

Butcher shop makes its comeback

Dittmer's Gourmet Meats & Wurst-Haus is set to reopen next week

BY JASON GREEN
Daily News Staff Writer

It's been said that absence makes the heart grow fonder. But in the case of Dittmer's Gourmet Meats & Wurst-Haus, a year-and-a-half hiatus has left stomachs rumbling impatiently for the return of the family-owned business.

Those appetites are about to be sated. Dittmer's is set to reopen next week, possibly as soon as Wednesday, at the Village Court Shopping Center in Los Altos, said Petra Silva,

general manager and daughter of founder Dittmer Bubert.

Dittmer's shut down in January 2011 after a two-alarm fire destroyed the original location at 400 San Antonio Road in Mountain View. The cause was traced to a malfunctioning smoker.

"It was always a question of 'what do we do next?'" Silva told The Daily News in an interview at the new location at 4540 El Camino Real. "There was never any thought of closing."

DITTMER, page A5



Butcher Mark Bubert keeps an eye on sausages cooking in a kettle at Dittmer's Gourmet Meats and Wurst-Haus in Los Altos on Thursday. Founded in 1978, the family-owned business plans to reopen next week.
 Kirstina Sangsahachart / Daily News

San Mateo County: 'Soda tax' notion bubbles to surface



Armando Jaimes, 9, walks past a row of soft drinks at Chavez Supermarket in North Fair Oaks on Thursday. San Mateo County officials are looking at a soda tax as a possible approach to reducing consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages.

Kirstina Sangsahachart / Daily News

County sips on idea of taxing sugary drinks

In bid to fight obesity, officials look into the possibility of surcharge in unincorporated areas

BY BONNIE ESLINGER
Daily News Staff Writer

With reduction of sugary beverages as the goal, San Mateo County officials are floating the idea of pushing for a "soda tax" in unincorporated areas similar to one voters in Richmond are being asked to approve this November.

In May, the county's health department posted a poll on its website asking "Do you think a tax on soda would help reduce obesity?" It was linked to a 1,138-word explanation under the title, "A soda tax could help stop us from pouring on the pounds."

And in October, Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson is scheduled to host city and community leaders for a discussion about ways to encourage residents to consider the bad health effects of sugar-laced drinks. Richmond city leaders have been invited to the event and their soda tax is expected to be part of the discussion, said Charisse

Lebron-Cannon, Jacobs Gibson's chief legislative aide.

She underscored that a soda tax was an idea, not a proposal.

"There hasn't even been extensive dialogue on it, that was just one of the ideas that's come up," Lebron-Cannon said. "At no point has the supervisor said, 'This is something I want to put the county's resources toward.'" Jacobs Gibson was unavailable for comment Thursday.

According to the information posted on the health department's website, more than half a million dollars is spent in the county each year on obesity-related medical costs.

"The money generated by a soda tax could help fund health care initiatives, such as childhood nutrition and obesity prevention programs," according to the website post. "This would help keep people from getting sick in the first place."

San Mateo County went public with its interest in a possible soda tax about

the same time the Richmond City Council voted to put a one-cent-per-ounce surcharge on soda and other sugary drinks on the Nov. 6 ballot. The May 15 vote thrust the city into a national debate on what role government should play, if any, in preventing the public from making unhealthy decisions.

Meanwhile, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg has proposed banning restaurants and other food establishments from selling sugary drinks in containers larger than 16 ounces.

Results from San Mateo County's informal online poll suggest that a soda tax could be a tough sell. Of 403 respondents, 51 percent said a soda tax "would not help" reduce obesity, 42 percent said it "would help make a difference" and 7 percent were uncertain.

ST Mayer, the county's director of health policy and planning, said the evidence is clear that sugar-sweetened beverages — including sodas, some

SUGARY, page A5

Facebook stock plunge sounds alarm on Calif. budget

Analysts: Coffers may lose 'hundreds of millions of dollars,' due to projections that carried \$1.9B in expected revenue from social network site's employees

BY MIKE ROSENBERG, JEREMY C. OWENS AND JOSH RICHMAN
Bay Area News Group

Facebook stock plunged to an all-time low of nearly half its IPO price Thursday, but it's not just investors feeling the pinch: The state of California stands to lose "hundreds of millions of dollars" in the fallout, state analysts say.

Gov. Jerry Brown and state lawmakers in June approved a \$91 billion budget that included \$1.9 billion in expected tax revenue from Facebook employees striking it rich — a rare projection that helped stave off cuts to schools and programs for the sick, poor and disabled.

But Facebook's stock price dipped below \$20 a share for the first time Thursday before closing at \$20.04, the latest in a shocking fall from the company's initial stock price of \$38 in May. At the same time, the Legislative Analyst's Office reported this week that a big chunk of the extra state revenue resulting from the IPO won't materialize unless the stock of the Menlo Park-based company turns around soon.

"If Facebook is on a roller coaster ride, we're on the roller coaster with them," said state Sen. Joe Simitian, D-Menlo Park.

The expected "Facebook Effect" on the state budget is unique, since no other company has had such a massive, tightly scheduled public offering that allowed finance officials to pencil in so much tax revenue ahead of time. While officials expected the Facebook revenue to make up less than 2 percent of California's general fund budget, the money is enough to pay the salaries of 28,000 public school teachers.

About \$212 million in state revenue is already in the bag because of taxes Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg paid when he purchased more than \$2 billion in stock during the IPO. But the bulk of the windfall will come in November, when most company employees can begin selling billions of dollars worth of long-held stock options, at a maximum state tax rate of 10.3 percent — higher if Gov. Brown's soak-the-rich tax initiative passes in November.

Though stock analysts agree that Facebook shares are now undervalued, they say a

FACEBOOK, page A5

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INSIDE: For all the latest deals, check out the Fry's advertisement section, beginning on **PAGE AA1**.

INSIDE TODAY

6 express interest in E. Palo Alto race
 With the terms of the mayor and two council members set to expire at year's end, just one incumbent has pulled papers, leaving five possible outside contenders
LOCAL, PAGE A2

Gas-line rupture a scary reminder
 A ruptured PG&E gas line in the same San Bruno neighborhood ravaged by a deadly 2010 pipe blast raises fears on Thursday, but causes no fire or injuries
LOCAL, PAGE A3

Gov. hits pay dirt with nurses: \$1M
 Jerry Brown collects the California Nurses Association's endorsement and a big pledge of support for his tax-hike measure
STATE, PAGE A6

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