



OLD COURTHOUSE SQUARE »
Reunification project takes steps forward. **A3**



WARRIORS CORRAL MAVS »
Durant's triple-double leads the way for Golden State. **C1**



FACT-FINDING MISSION » State treasurer visits CannaCraft to study cannabis industry. **A3**

The Press Democrat

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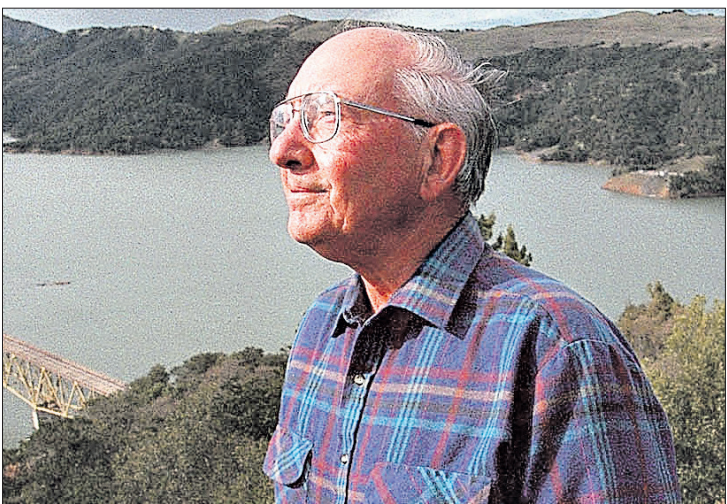
YEAR IN REVIEW » WHO WE LOST

Some of Sonoma County's best gone



CRISTA JEREMIASON / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT, 2011

JACK DeMEO: The longtime Santa Rosa lawyer was a major contributor for educational opportunities and improved care for children. He died in October.



JOHN BURGESS / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT, 2001

ART VOLKERTS: The former Press Democrat editor guided news coverage through a period of growth throughout Sonoma County. He died in October.



BURRIDGE FAMILY

BETTY BURRIDGE: She worked tirelessly to defend bird habitats during a time of rapid development in Sonoma County. She died in March.



JOHN BURGESS / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT, 2009

EVEE LEWIS: The German-born daughter of a woman who fled Soviet occupation in Estonia served seven terms as county clerk. She died in April.



BETH SCHLANKER / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT, 2001

BEN PEARSON: The longtime wine guru at the Bottle Barn helped curate tastes for both the frugal and the extravagant. He died in July.



MARK ARONOFF / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT, 2009

PATRICIA PETERS ELIOT: The Sonoma Mountain Preservation co-founder was a strong advocate for local conservation. She died earlier this month.

Activists, wine connoisseurs, editor, all made major contributions here

By **CHRIS SMITH**
THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

Sonoma County and the North Coast experienced good days and bad in 2016, and on some of the sadder ones reflected on the deaths of people who helped shape the region's character and personality.

Among those who passed away this year were an immigrant who became one of Sonoma County's busiest and most widely respected elected officials.

The combat veteran and police officer who pleased some and piqued others with the great cross of whitewashed

stones that he carved into a grassy hillside. The eminent and beloved attorney who quietly contributed to the lives and prospects of local children.

The country boy who became a newspaper editor and influenced Sonoma County's growth through the boom years of the 1970s and '80s.

The Santa Rosa native who moved to San Francisco and knew she had to act when she realized why her all neighbors were white, just as she was.

Here are memories of some who shared this place, and to whom we said farewell this past year.

Jack DeMEO, gentleman attorney

Everybody knew that Santa Rosa-born Jack DeMEO was one of the region's smartest, hardest working and most genuinely endearing attorneys, and one of its finest breeders of thoroughbred horses.

But it is unknowable how many children and adults hereabout and beyond live happier, more productive lives because of DeMEO's quiet generosity, leadership and encouragement.

The 56-year lawyer and race horse owner — regarded by law school friend, former San Francisco mayor and Assembly speaker Willie Brown as "a superstar in every way" — for decades promoted greater educational opportunities and improved care for children.

Among the many beneficiaries of DeMEO's donations of creative and financial resources were the Valley of the Moon Children's Home, Cardinal Newman and Elsie Allen high schools, the Sonoma

TURN TO LOST » PAGE A8

Putin opts to pull punches

Russian president waits for Trump after Obama expels diplomats

By **ANDREW ROTH**
WASHINGTON POST

MOSCOW — On a day when everyone expected him to go low, Russian President Vladimir Putin took the high road, bowing out of a growing diplomatic showdown with the administration of President Barack Obama in a gambit to woo his successor, Donald Trump.

In a rare, and calculated, break from the diplomatic tradition of reciprocal punishment, Putin opted to do nothing after the United States said it would expel 35 Russian diplomats and close a pair of Russian-owned properties in retaliation for Moscow's meddling in the 2016 presidential elections.

Putin said that he would wait to see how U.S.-Russian relations develop under the new Trump administration before planning "any further steps" on the issue.

Until Putin's surprise decision Friday, all signs pointed toward the familiar, hard-nosed Kremlin response of years past. In 2013, when Russia was slapped with U.S. sanctions over the death of lawyer Sergei Magnitsky, Putin shot back by signing a ban on all foreign adoptions of Russian children, just days after Christmas, sparking

TURN TO PUTIN » PAGE A9

YEAR IN REVIEW »
ELECTION 2016

Sonoma County's reactions to Trump

Weeks later, different perspectives speak out

By **J.D. MORRIS**
THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

It was a historic upset few on the left-leaning North Coast saw coming — Donald Trump's stunning victory in the presidential election, the triumph of a brash and polarizing political outsider whose unconventional campaign appealed to a tide of overlooked voters fed up with establishment forces.

The outcome once again marked California and its most liberal enclaves as a place politically apart from the rest of the nation. Sonoma County voted more than 3 to 1 for Democrat Hillary Clinton, who stacked up a 4 million vote edge on Trump in the state, fueling her more than 2-million vote advantage in the final popular vote tally.

But the nation handed a solid Electoral College majority to Trump and unilateral control of Congress to the Republican Party, thrilling Trump supporters while setting off a wave of

TURN TO REVIEW » PAGE A2

COMING SUNDAY Sonoma County is poised for a "green rush" thanks to Proposition 64. Read all the year-end stories online at pressdemocrat.com/2016stories

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Classified D5
Comics B10

Crossword B9
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Home D1

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Lotto A2
Movies D2

Obituaries B3
Scoreboard C7
TV B11

DUNGENESS CRAB SHORTAGE: Fishermen's strike over wholesale prices could cramp some dinner plans for New Year's Eve / **A3**



SANTA ROSA
High **58**, Low **32**
THE WEATHER, **C8**



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