LAST MENLO PARK auto dealership will close June 30. See Page 8

Ears AND Animals

Dr. Burt Brent builds new ears for children with deformities, and sculpts animals for public places and private collections.

Page 12
PAULO ALTO
Outstanding new construction from R & M Properties. Authentic detailing throughout. 6 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms. Expansive back yard with patio & BBQ center. Completion target for November '07.
$5,200,000

MENLO PARK
Exquisite new construction in Sharon Heights. Elegant, French-style home with quality touches and finishes throughout. Beautiful gardens. Lot size is approximately 20,925 square feet.
$4,995,000

LOS ALTOS HILLS
Intelligently arranged over comfortable split levels, this 4-bedroom, 4-bath floorplan showcases fantastic living spaces including a soaring central atrium. Sparkling pool and beautiful gardens.
$3,200,000
The Almanac/Veronica Weber

No horses were harmed
If a horse trailer overturns, Woodside will be ready for it. At left, Debra Fox, an instructor with the Large Animal Rescue Company, surveys the scene with Capt. Jim Frey of Woodside Fire Protection District and Bob Hall of the San Mateo County Mounted Patrol after a life-sized plastic horse was successfully “rescued.” The training event, held June 20-21 at the Patrol grounds in Woodside, was sponsored by CERPP, the citizens’ emergency preparation organization for Woodside fire district residents.

Atherton
■ Town drops case against homeowners on issue of exceeding house-size limit. Page 5
■ Town yields on fire safety issues. Page 7
■ Council OKs higher building fees, lower reserves in new budget. Page 18

Menlo Park
■ Last auto dealership to close in Menlo Park. Page 8
■ Council names new city manager. Page 5

Also Inside
Calendar .................................................. 33
Editorial .................................................. 22
Letters .................................................... 22
Obituaries .................................................. 20, 21
Police Calls .............................................. 19

On the cover
Dr. Burt Brent of Portola Valley created this abstract inner ear, reflecting his career creating new ears for 1,800 children with ear defects. “It’s my Henry Moore,” he says, Almanac photo by Veronica Weber. See Page 12 for story and more pictures.

Community
■ What’s the future for libraries? Cafes, teen zones, “community living rooms,” county library director says. Cover, Section 2
■ July Fourth offers many ways to celebrate locally. Page 27

Sports
■ Little League: Brix faces Homefield in July Fourth showdown. Page 27
■ Roller hockey: M-A High’s team wins title. Page 8

You give me your financial goals.
I’ll give you powerful tools to help achieve them.

Charles E. (Ted) Pollock, CLU®, ChFC®
Financial Representative
CA. Insurance Lic. 0493286
New England Financial
650 Tower Lane, Suite 1000
Foster City, CA 94404
650-286-5800
Fax: 650-286-5818
tpollock@sf.nef.com

Looking for a representative who offers his financial solutions? Then look to me for:
• Life Insurance
• Annuities
• Estate Conservation Strategies
• Retirement Strategies
• Disability Income Insurance
• Mutual Funds
• Long-Term Care Insurance

I focus on helping people create, conserve, and distribute assets. To learn more, call me today.

New England Financial
A MetLife Company

The Almanac offices are at 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025.
For Classified ads, call 854-0858
For all other calls, phone 854-2626
News: Ext. 213
Display advertising: Ext. 233
Fax: 854-0677

To request free delivery, or stop delivery, of The Almanac in zip code 94025, 94027, 94028 and the Woodside portion of 94062, call 854-2626.

THE ALMANAC (ISSN 1097-3095 and USPS 419370) is published every Wednesday by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-4459. Periodicals Postage Paid at Menlo Park, CA and at additional mailing offices. Address changes and subscription changes to: Almanac@AlmanacNews.com

Registered in the United States and other countries as trademark and service mark of Embarcadero Publishing Co. Copyright ©2006 by Embarcadero Publishing Co., All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.
**The Almanac**

**A TOWN MARKET PLACE**

3015 WOODSIDE ROAD
WOODSIDE, CA 94062

650-881-1511
Open 6:30AM - 8PM

**Sale Dates:** June 27, 28, 29, 30

www.robertsmarket.com

---

**PRODUCE**

**Pesto Time!**

**BASIL**

99¢ a bunch

**Sweet**

**WHITE CORN**

3 for 99¢

**Tasty**

**CANTALOUPE**

39¢ lb.

**Large**

**NECTARINES**

$1.99 lb.

---

**The King of the Reds**

A grape long known for its excellence, Cabernet Sauvignon is the most popular red wine grape in the world. It is the most widely planted red grape planted in California and in France, where it is the primary grape of most of the finest vineyards in the Medoc and Graves districts. This well-earned popularity is largely owed to the fact that Cabernet Sauvignon possesses unrivaled flavor, structure, and complexity, displaying the aroma of black currants and lively flavor that usually finishes with a degree of astringency. It also ages remarkably well. It is the acidity and tannins in these wines that form the basis of their structure and longevity. These are wines that were born to be aged and savored.

At ROBERTS MARKET, we have a great produce section where you can find delicious vegetable such as asparagus. When you come to us you not only get fine produce but you receive the knowledge and expertise that our employees have. This can make a huge difference. We offer a wide variety of foods from all over the world. We are your source for specialty foods, including Indian, Asian, European, and other specialties.

**HINT:** In Bordeaux, Cabernet Sauvignon is often blended with grapes such as Merlot.

---

**GROCERY**

**COKE – DIET COKE – SPRITE**

12 oz. 6 Pack cans – Plus Calif. Redeem Value

$2.29

**C&H PURE CANE SUGAR**

5 lb. Bag

$2.49

**STOUFFER’S VEGETABLE LASAGNE**

10 oz. – Also Lasagna with Meat Sauce

$1.99

**YOPLAIT LIGHT FAT FREE YOGURTS**

6 oz.

53¢

**ANNIE’S NATURALS VINAIGRETTES**

8 oz. – Also Dressings

$2.39

**CHINET WHITE DINNER PLATES**

15 count – Also Platters – Bowls

$2.49

---

**MEAT/SEAFOOD**

Special This Week at Roberts

**LAMB SHOULDER CHOPS**

$4.98 lb.

**TROUT FILLET**

$9.98 lb.

**TERIYAKI SALMON**

$19.98 lb.

**VEAL LOIN CHOPS**

$11.98 lb.

---

**WINE**

Summer’s here and the time is right... or so the song goes. Rosé wine tastes great year round, but is particularly tasty now, served chilled with just about any cuisine – very refreshing! Now is a great time to visit us, to peruse our expanding inventory as the season unfolds. New selections are arriving daily, following are a few of the most recent.

- 2006 Cune Rioja ...............................................................$9.49
- 2006 St. Roch Les Vignes Cotes du Provence ..............$10.99
- 2006 Ch. Mirambeau, Bordeaux ................................... $11.99
- 2006 Mas Champart, St. Chinian .................................$13.49
- 2006 Ch. de Trinquevedel, Tavel .................................. $15.99
- 2006 Clos du Cailloux, Cotes du Rhone .......................$17.99
- 2006 Don. du Bagnol, Cassis ........................................$21.99
- 2006 Ch. Pradeaux, Bandol ..........................................$25.99

The above wines assort for a 10% case discount.
Menlo Park names new city manager

Glen Rojas, Chino city manager for 10 years, to start Aug. 2 at $204,000 a year.

By Rory Brown

Glen Rojas, the city manager of Chino for 10 years, a town of 76,000 residents just south of Pomona, will be Menlo Park’s new city manager, Mayor Kelly Ferguson announced Monday.

Mr. Rojas, 56, has been the city manager of Chino for 10 years — a level of experience that impressed City Council members, who picked him from a pool of 21 candidates.

Mr. Rojas will start Aug. 2, at a salary of $204,000 a year — a 25 percent increase over the $163,233 a year former manager David Roesch was making before leaving Feb. 20 to become assistant manager of San Mateo County.

The council’s decision on June 18 gives the Barry Lane house a pass, but spells out that similar cases will be handled the same way.

A mansard roof wraps around the second story of this house on Barry Lane. Atherton officials decided whether the top floor counts as bonus attic space or as a second floor that pushed the house 5,666 square feet over the maximum size allowed.

Atherton drops case against homeowners

By Andrea Gemmet

Back in September 2004, Atherton officials approved plans for a large, two-story house on Barry Lane — a house 5,666 square feet bigger than the maximum allowed for the lot.

When a loophole in building regulations, the home's entire second-story floor wasn't counted against the total. It was considered bonus attic space due to its wraparound, mansard-style roof.

Though they didn't take the developer to court, they did ask the owners to get rid of the excess footage. The developer sold the house and then, when the house was nearly finished, Atherton officials changed their minds.

In March, the town sent out an abatement notice, telling the owners to get rid of the excess square footage.

Last week, facing a potential lawsuit, Atherton officials changed their minds again.

On June 18, the Atherton City Council voted in closed session to drop the town's abatement case against the builder, Creative Habitat and owners Linda and Robert Thomas, said City Attorney Marc Hynes.

“We're thrilled... now,” said E. David Marks, the attorney representing the Thomases. “It's taken everybody a lot of time and a lot of expense.”

Barry Lane was one of several pending abatement cases in which the town is trying to compel owners to change — and possibly deconstruct — structures that were belatedly determined to violate town rules, even though they were built in compliance with permits granted by the Atherton Building Department.

The council’s decision on June

Green elephant stampede in Atherton

A conservative conservationist is not an oxymoron, says Atherton Councilman Charles Marsala. He’s hosting a cocktail party for pro-environmental Republicans at his house on June 29 at 7 p.m. The guest of honor is Martha Marks, president of Republicans for Environmental Protection, who maintains, “Nothing is more conservative than conservation.” To attend the free event, RSVP to green@srvp.com.

In Ladera, strange days indeed

On three consecutive days, the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office received three calls about unusual incidents, all in the 3000 block of Alpine Road in Ladera.

On June 12, Sheriff's deputies said that a man was seen on a Bainchichi’s Market surveillance camera leaving with a basket of items he had not purchased.

Two days later, the same man was sighted three more times in the store; he finally left after realizing that he was being watched by store employees. Deputies are searching for the alleged burglar.

Deputies received another call on June 13 when a man driving west on Alpine Road reported that a passenger in an adjacent red Jeep Wrangler with black roll bars leaned forward and yelled at him. The man told deputies that he wanted the incident documented in case it happens again.

Finally, on June 14 somebody burglarized the Ladera Oaks Swimming and Tennis Club after entering through an unlocked door. Deputies report that $25 in quarters was stolen from a ping-pong ball vending machine. A locked glass ice cream freezer was also forced open. Several ice cream bars were apparently taken out and thrown into a nearby garbage can. A loading cart was also pushed into the deep end of the club’s Olympic-size swimming pool.

Short Takes is edited by Andrea Gemmet
Miles Coulson is definitely a force to be reckoned with. When he was just four months old he needed a heart. And the clock was ticking. So a team of doctors at Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital came up with a bold plan – use a Berlin Heart, an artificial pump, until a transplant could be found. That the device had only been used a few times in the U.S. didn’t daunt them. They developed a protocol just for Miles. It was more than successful, it was groundbreaking for other pediatric heart patients. It’s this kind of innovative thinking, combined with sensitive, nurturing care, that makes Packard Children’s a world-class hospital and Miles a world-class bundle of energy. Visit www.lpch.org for more information.
Atherton yields on fire safety issues

Council OK’s tougher sprinkler rules, building plan review by fire district

By Andrea Gemmet
Almanac Staff Writer

I t looks as if Atherton and Menlo Park Fire Protection District officials are finally seeing eye to eye.

The Atherton City Council unanimously approved a package of new regulations concerning fire safety, including stricter requirements for fire suppression sprinklers, at its June 20 meeting.

When a critical San Mateo County Grand Jury interim report, released in February, alleged that the town might have failed to properly check construction projects for fire safety, Atherton officials went on the offensive.

While they still contend that the interim report got it wrong, they do agree that the town needs to work more closely with the fire district. That cooperative spirit was clearly in evidence at the meeting.

In 2003, Atherton enacted a fire suppression sprinkler ordinance, requiring new structures bigger than 2,500 square feet, and new basements larger than 250 square feet, to have fire sprinklers.

To the fire district’s displeasure, the council made remodeling projects exempt from the sprinkler requirements. That’s now going to change.

Starting next month, remodeling projects that alter 50 percent or more of a structure that’s bigger than 2,500 square feet must install sprinklers. New basements smaller than 250 square feet will require sprinklers; new basements larger than 250 square feet will require sprinklers, new basements larger than that will trigger a requirement for the whole house to have sprinklers installed.

Atherton also softened its stance on a grand jury recommendation that fire district inspectors should review all of the town’s active building permits to address fire safety issues. As a compromise, the council authorized fire inspectors to conduct an advisory review of open permits for significant projects, such as new homes that pre-dated the sprinkler ordinance and major remodeling projects. (Open permits are for projects currently under construction.)

The fire district already has reviewed all of the new homes under construction that got permits after the sprinkler ordinance took effect, said Building Official Mike Wasmann.

While Atherton’s building department reviews plans for fire safety within the structure, the fire district will review the plans for access and water flow. Firefighters are concerned that access to some properties may be too narrow for fire engines, and that some fire hydrants may not have adequate water pressure for firefighting, when the size of the house is taken into account.

“Access is a huge issue for us, because if we can’t get there, we can’t put it out,” said Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman.

California Water Service Co. officials have said that the water system in Atherton was designed for smaller houses than what are currently being built. In some areas, the amount of water flow from hydrants is insufficient for firefighting, according to current standards.

Going forward, the council decided to formally delegate responsibility to the fire district for reviewing building plans for access and water flow. Under the new procedure, Atherton won’t issue building permits until it receives an approval letter from the fire district.

Caltrain drops Atherton shuttle

By Andrea Gemmet
Almanac Staff Writer

I t looks as if Atherton Councilman Jim Janz had taken a new job in San Francisco a couple of years ago, he could have hopped on a train at the town’s historic station. But because he got the job a month ago, it’s been pretty hard for Mr. Janz to commute by train.

Atherton has been without weekday train service since a “one-year service suspension” began in August 2005.

As a concession to outraged Athertonians, the San Mateo County Transit Authority funded a morning and evening shuttle service to ferry passengers from Atherton to the Redwood City train station. Now the shuttle service is coming to an end, as of July 1.

Atherton’s shuttle service is ending because so few people are using it, said Caltrain spokesman Jonah Weinberg.

The shuttle service averaged 11 riders a day last month, said Atherton resident Jack Ringham, a member of the town’s Rail Committee.

Typical ridership was between two and four people a day, and the highest ever was 17 people, Mr. Weinberg said.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, a similar shuttle from Burlingame’s Broadway station is proving so popular, it’s actually going to be augmented with money shifted from Atherton’s shuttle funding, he said.

The Atherton shuttle service cost approximately $275,000 a year, he said.

Mr. Janz, a tireless advocate for restoring and improving train service to Atherton, said he’ll continue to use the shuttle service until it ends. He said he looks forward to catching the train at Atherton’s station, someday, when service is restored.

“I’m going to keep trying to use the train as much as I can this month,” Mr. Janz said. “Next month, when the shuttle is not there, I guess I’ll try (driving to) Redwood City.”

There’s no point in driving to the Menlo Park train station instead, he said.

“Even though Redwood City’s City train station. Now the shuttle service is coming to an end, as of July 1.

Atherton has been without weekday train service since a “one-year service suspension” began in August 2005.

As a concession to outraged Athertonians, the San Mateo County Transit Authority funded a morning and evening shuttle service to ferry passengers from Atherton to the Redwood City train station. Now the shuttle service is coming to an end, as of July 1.

Atherton’s shuttle service is ending because so few people are using it, said Caltrain spokesman Jonah Weinberg.

The shuttle service averaged 11 riders a day last month, said Atherton resident Jack Ringham, a member of the town’s Rail Committee.

Typical ridership was between two and four people a day, and the highest ever was 17 people, Mr. Weinberg said.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, a similar shuttle from Burlingame’s Broadway station is proving so popular, it’s actually going to be augmented with money shifted from Atherton’s shuttle funding, he said.

The Atherton shuttle service cost approximately $275,000 a year, he said.

Mr. Janz, a tireless advocate for restoring and improving train service to Atherton, said he’ll continue to use the shuttle service until it ends. He said he looks forward to catching the train at Atherton’s station, someday, when service is restored.

“I’m going to keep trying to use the train as much as I can this month,” Mr. Janz said. “Next month, when the shuttle is not there, I guess I’ll try (driving to) Redwood City.”

There’s no point in driving to the Menlo Park train station instead, he said.

“Even though Redwood City’s
Last auto dealership to close in Menlo Park

Stanford Lincoln Mercury to shut doors June 30.

By Rory Brown

Menlo Park’s last auto dealership — Stanford Lincoln Mercury at 444 El Camino Real — will close on June 30, owner Robert Kopf has announced.

It is the city’s fourth auto dealership to close in the last two-and-a-half years, leaving another potential eyesore along El Camino Real. Other El Camino Real dealerships that have closed include University Ford, Cadillac Buick Pontiac GMC, and Anderson Chevrolet.

Mr. Kopf, who has owned the dealership since it set up shop in 1976, said there has been a “gradual deterioration” of auto sales over the past several years, making it impossible to stay afloat.

“We wanted to stay here — but when you sell fewer cars, there’s less service business, and it doesn’t make sense to stay put,” Mr. Kopf said. He noted that he is in negotiations with Stanford, which owns the site, to break his lease.

Mr. Kopf said he is not aware of any immediate plans by Stanford or the city to develop the site, and said he is moving his service operations to the Ford dealership in Redwood City.

Starting from page 5...
Council cuts utility users tax, plans for higher revenues

Utility tax rate will be 1 percent starting Oct. 1

By Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

A
fter several years of planning for deficits, the Menlo Park City Council is banking on the city’s financial situation to improve.

The council on June 19 opted to cut the city’s utility tax rate to 1 percent and put aside funds to hire at least four new employees, including two traffic-enforcement police officers.

Council members also decided it’s OK to increase spending 7.4 percent for the fiscal year that starts July 1 even though revenues are only projected by city staff to climb 3.7 percent.

Council members’ reasoning behind the aggressive budgeting: No matter how gloomy the forecast, the city has managed to cover its costs for the past 10 years, and with property tax revenues on the rise and sales tax revenues recovering, this fiscal year should be no different.

The council voted 4-1, with Andy Cohen dissenting, to lower the utility tax, decreasing the rates that since April 1 have been set at the maximum level: 3.5 percent on utilities (water, gas, and electric bills) and 2.5 percent on communications (landline telephone, cell phone, cable TV and Internet bills). The 1 percent rates will go into effect Oct. 1.

At the 1 percent rate, the tax is projected to add $1.24 million to the city’s coffers for the 2007-08 fiscal year, bringing projected revenues to about $34.9 million.

Although the city is budgeted to spend about $35.9 million, council members said the city’s economic outlook is better than in recent years, and the tax isn’t needed at the highest rates.

“I think it’s our responsibility to not rely on the pocketbooks of the voters,” said Councilman Richard Cline. “We have a very healthy position right now for a city — it’s not dire.”

Councilmen Cline and John Boyle pressed the council to set the rates at zero, but after Mayor Kelly Fergusson and Councilman Heyward Robinson said they weren’t willing to eliminate the tax, the council settled on 1 percent.

Councilman Cohen said the council should leave the tax rate at the maximum level until it’s certain the city is financially sound, and suggested the other council members were more focused on pleasing residents than ensuring fiscal stability.

Mr. Cline labeled Mr. Cohen’s comment “a garbage statement.”

Conservative projections

Revenues have lagged in recent years, and with projected long-term deficits on the horizon, the city sold the utility tax last November to voters as a way to avoid cuts to vital city services.

But Councilman Boyle has questioned the necessity of the tax, and pointed out that the city’s financial projections have been overly conservative. He noted that over the past 10 years, the city has ended each fiscal year with about $4 million more than was projected at the beginning of the year.

The extra money has helped boost the city’s reserves to about $35 million.

But Mayor Kelly Fergusson said a large reserve fund is a good thing for the city to have in case of a disaster, and noted the reserves are likely to dwindle this year — the city is expected to put $9.2 million from the reserves toward funding employee health care costs, and another $1.3 million toward funding the construction of the new Menlo-Atherton High School Performing Arts Center.

Funding projects

Despite lowering the tax, council members supported adding employees to the city’s workforce, and tacking on a few additional expenses to the city’s budget.

In addition to the two traffic-enforcement officers, the council approved funding for a transportation planner and a finance management analyst. Council members also earmarked funds to hire full-time employees or consultants to help in the areas of community outreach (getting more public involvement in council decisions), information technology support, and business development.

The council also approved allocating $100,000 for “green initiatives” recommended by the Green Ribbon Citizens Committee — a task force formed to address global warming at the local level.

Among the initiatives are $80,000 to plant 100 new trees within city limits, and improving existing bicycle lanes and racks throughout the city.

CALTRAIN continued from page 7

service is lousy, Menlo Park’s is even lousier,” he said. “Every morning train that stops in Menlo Park also stops in Redwood City, and Redwood City is one (fare) zone closer to San Francisco, so it’s cheaper.”

Mr. Janz said he’s not surprised that the shuttle service proved unpopular. While shuttles departed Atherton every half-hour starting at 6 a.m., their arrival was poorly coordinated with Redwood City’s train schedule, he said. To catch a train to his San Francisco law firm, he has to wait about half an hour in Redwood City, he said.

Even worse, it takes half the time to drive to work than it does to use transit, Mr. Janz said.

“We all want to do the right thing for the environment and global warming, but the way mass transit is set up, it prevents that,” he said.

© 2007 The Almanac
RETIREMENT CELEBRATION
FINAL 10 DAYS! SALE ENDS SATURDAY, JULY 7TH

Save up to 70% OFF on all Fine Jewelry Storewide

NO REASONABLE OFFER REFUSED!

642 Santa Cruz Avenue • Menlo Park, CA • 650.323.4653
Monday - Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Halberstam driver faces misdemeanor charges

The driver of the car in which famed author and journalist David Halberstam was riding when he was killed April 23 in Menlo Park is being charged with misdemeanor vehicular manslaughter for running a red light before being broadsided by another vehicle, the San Mateo County district attorney announced June 21.

Kevin Jones, 26, a UC Berkeley graduate student, was driving Mr. Halberstam, 73, from the East Bay to Mountain View when his car was involved in a three-vehicle collision at the intersection of Bayfront Expressway (Highway 84) and Willow Road.

The car, which was traveling west on the Bayfront Expressway and turning left at Willow, was broadsided, and Mr. Halberstam, riding in the front passenger seat, died at the scene.

"After a review of the investigation conducted by the Menlo Park Police Department, it has been determined that the facts and circumstances surrounding the fatal automobile collision warrant the filing of the charge of vehicular manslaughter without gross negligence against Kevin Jones," District Attorney James P. Fox said in a news release.

Stephen Wagstaffe, chief deputy district attorney, said Mr. Jones turned against a red light. The decision to charge him with manslaughter "without gross negligence" was made because there were "no drugs, no alcohol, no speeding" involved, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

Mr. Jones’ arraignment is set for July 11.

---

Halberstam driver faces misdemeanor charges

In other words, Goodbye, AT&T.

At this sale price, Comcast Digital Voice® makes it easy to say "so long" to AT&T. In any language.

Digital Voice $19.99 a month for six months

Offer ends December 31st.
Call 1-800-COMCAST today.

We offer a competitive compensation & benefits package including medical, dental, paid vacations, sick time, and a 401(k) plan.

GUTENBERG. APPLE. ADOBE.

We need a full-time Graphic Designer who understands the connection.

Someone who possesses strong editorial and advertising design skills.

You should have the ability and demonstrated experience to work with the latest publishing software – Indesign, Photoshop and Illustrator.

Experience in print work and/or newspapers is preferable.

For immediate consideration send your resume to Raul Perez, Design Director rperez@almanacnews.com

We need a full-time Graphic Designer who understands the connection
Anyone who has taken children — or been a child — at the San Francisco Zoo lately has likely delighted in watching kids scrambling up and skidding off of the snoozing bronze hippo between the hippopotamus and lion enclosures. Or climbing the brigade of 5-foot-high bronze geese guarding the entrance to the Children’s Zoo.

Few of these people know the story behind “Heavy Weight” and “Barnyard Watchdogs,” or the artist who created them. Sculpting large and small animals in bronze, stainless steel and other media is actually a sideline for Dr. Burt Brent of Portola Valley.

Dr. Brent, a plastic surgeon with an office in Woodside, has built his career and an international reputation on creating living ears for children born without ears or with deformed ears. He has pioneered a technique for building new ears out of the kid’s own rib cartilage; the ears actually grow as the child grows.

Over the last 30 years, Dr. Brent has provided real ears — and the dignity that goes with them — to more than 1,800 children from all over the world. In 2005 he received the Clinician of the Year Award for lifetime achievement from the American Association of Plastic Surgeons. Officially, Dr. Brent is an associate professor at the Stanford Medical Center. He does six to eight operations a week as a staff surgeon at El Camino Hospital in Mountain View. The hospital — appropriately — features a large bronze statue of clasped hands by Dr. Brent at the entrance, and another hippo in the maternity wing. “I have a couple of careers, I really do,” says Dr. Brent cheerfully during an interview in the bright studio beside his Portola Valley home. “I hate to waste time to sleep.”

Youthful, wiry and energetic, Dr. Brent pursues his careers and interests with passion. Not just art and medicine, but also music and nature. As an intern, he learned to play the banjo, and built one. With banjo great Earl Scruggs he wrote and illustrated “Earl Scruggs and the Five-Stringed Banjo.” It was published in 1968, with a new edition in 2003. “I’ve never met a banjo player who didn’t learn from our work,” Dr. Brent says. “How I ever found time to write it I’ll never know.”

The Brents’ woodsy home, surrounded by a thicket of rhododendrons, shows Belinda Brent’s passion for the showy flowers. It is a stop on the national rhododendron tour, says Dr. Brent proudly. Ms. Brent is also a clinical psychologist and a competitive
Dr. Brent shows former patient Michael Noah, far left, and his father, Craig Noah, what his ear looked like six years ago, before he created two new ears for Michael, who is now 12.

Michael Noah’s life transformed by ears from Dr. Burt Brent

Michael Noah was born 12 years ago with no ears, no ear canals, and no eardrums. “It looked like two little wads of gum stuck to his head,” says his father, Craig Noah of Mountain View.

His parents were devastated — for at least a day. “By the day after, we knew about Dr. Brent,” Mr. Noah says.

By the time he was 6, Michael could understand why he needed new ears and cooperated in the operation and recovery. It took six operations over a year-and-a-half to make him whole.

Dr. Brent built two ears for Michael in two separate operations. Now Michael has two small scars near the bottom of his ribs where Dr. Brent extracted cartilage to sculpt two living ears. Dr. Robert Jahrsdorfer gave him root canals and eardrums.

Now, Michael looks like a normal 12-year-old; his ears have grown with him. He’ll be starting eighth grade in the fall, he plays baseball and football, likes science, and is a Boy Scout first class.

Michael is not completely comfortable talking about the changes in his life. It was “kind of annoying” not having ears, he admits. Now, he says: “They help me fit in the classroom… When I got my ears, it helped my hearing.”

Last week, a photo shoot in Dr. Brent’s Woodside office turned into a reunion; the chemistry sizzles between Dr. Brent and the Noahs. “The families become my best buddies,” says Dr. Brent, giving Michael a hug.

The office itself is a magical setting for stressed kids and their parents. Upholstered seats and floor are covered with a zoo of stuffed animals, mostly gifts from patients. Brilliant fish glide around a free-standing aquarium. And every nook contains a sculptured animal: for starters, there’s a large crane with a topknot, running deer, a polar bear, a lynx, and an antelope. All the sculptures are Dr. Brent’s work, except for the dashing deer.

Dr. Brent recalls his first visit with Michael. “He was bouncing around like popcorn, so I said, ‘Sit still you dufus, I’d like to examine you.’

One of the animals, a plump kangaroo, has a little red heart bunting from its neck engraved with a “dufus” message to Dr. Brent from the Noahs.

“He’s from heaven,” says Lynn Noah. “He’s children’s gift.”

— Marion Sosfky

June 27, 2007 ■ The Almanac ■ 13
Inspirations

First Baptist Church
Of Menlo Park

“A Small Church with a big HEART”
Worship celebration 11:00 Sunday
Sunday School and Bible Study 9:30
Sound Biblical Teaching, Drama, Music, Retreats
Children’s Ministry, Home of New Beginnings Preschool
(650) 323 8544
1100 Middle Ave @ Arbor (near Safeway)
www.firstbaptist.com

INSPIRATIONS
A resource for special events and ongoing religious services. To inquire about or make space reservations for inspirations or for our Local Resource Guides, please contact Blanca Yoc at 650-326-8210 x221 or email byoc@paweekly.com

INFO PALO ALTO • INFO MENLO
INFO MOUNTAIN VIEW

COMING JULY 21TH & 22TH
Advertising Space Reservation
DEADLINE: NOON, JULY 2ND

This year’s special issue of the official information guide will reach 60,000 households. From Menlo Park to Los Altos Hills.

CALL DONNA,
SANDRA OR NEAL!
650.854.2626

The Almanac

Thousands of children have scrambled on these geese guarding the Children’s Zoo at the San Francisco Zoo. The plaque by the “Barnyard Watchdogs” reads: “Created and Donated by Dr. Burt Brent, surgeon and friend of children, sculptor and friend of animals.”

Photo by Dr. Burt Brent

EAR & ANIMALS
continued from page 13

“It’s called practice.”
Over those years, Dr. Brent has gained a huge number of fans. Just a few weeks ago a girl from Hawaii he had operated on when she was 6, turned up in his office. She had just graduated from medical school. “That was nice,” he says.

Dr. Brent doesn’t just do ears for children; about 10 percent of his work is rebuilding ears damaged in injuries or accidents. Some of his tales are really gory. He operated on a prosecuting attorney who was attacked in court by the defendant, who jumped out of the dock and bit off his ear — and spit it out.

Even worse was the Texas cop who was attacked while stopping a suspect. This time the suspect not only bit off his ear, he swallowed it. “That was really disgusting,” says the surgeon.

Dr. Brent has been widely recognized. He has been featured on the Discovery Channel, the Learning Channel, and NOVA. He has also published more than 60 professional papers and a two-volume, leather-bound book, “The Artistry of Reconstructive Surgery.”

Now Dr. Brent is beginning to see the second generation of patients. People whose ears he fixed a generation ago bring in their children, with the same affliction. There is a 5 percent chance that someone with microtia will have a child with it, Dr. Brent notes.

In a gesture towards nature, Dr. Brent gives each child he works on a gift membership to Nature Conservancy. “I want to get them off on the right foot to stewardship of the planet,” he says.

The inner ear

An abstract-seeming sculpture of three loops and a spiral holds center stage in Dr. Brent’s airy studio. It represents an inner ear. “It’s my Henry Moore,” he says, referring to the famous modern British sculptor.

A stroll around Dr. Brent’s studio shows the range of his work since he became a serious sculptor in traditional materials, such as bronze, stainless steel and marble, on top of his regular career as a surgical sculptor.

Most are animals of various sizes and various materials. They tend to have whimsical names. The pelican trying to swallow two fish at once is called “The Glutton.” The nest of three tiny birds reaching up with open mouths is called “Feed Me.” There are also smaller versions of the “Barnyard Watchdogs” in the San Francisco Zoo, and the 7-foot-tall stainless steel polar bear in the San Diego Zoo.

There’s also a model for a future sculpture of his wife, Belinda Brent, figure-skating. Dr. Brent started seriously producing animal sculptures about 20 years ago after he finished his major book on artistry in reconstructive surgery in 1987. “I was always interested in wildlife and art,” he says. “I decided the day the book came out I would start spending a day a week on non-bloodying sculptures.”

Now his medical office is closed every Thursday so he can work in his studio.

Dr. Brent’s animal sculptures in public places have probably earned him broader recognition than his surgery. He was elected to the exclusive Society of Animal Artists, and has received its Award of Excellence four times. His works are shown in galleries in Santa Fe and Lafayette. He donates his profits to the Nature Conservancy to help preserve nature and wildlife.

What is he working on now?
“I’m thinking of making a Glutton 7 feet tall,” Dr. Brent replies cheerfully. “I’m working on a little brown bear that kids can climb on.

“It’s never-ending. There’s always something cooking.”

Dr. Brent gives each child a Nature Conservancy gift membership: ‘I want to get them off on the right foot to stewardship of the planet.’

Dr. Brent's airy studio. It represents an inner ear.

“It’s my Henry Moore,” he says, referring to the famous modern British sculptor.
It has been called “the greatest entry-level job in California”—and for good reason. Our officers earn a great salary, and a retirement package you just can’t find in private industry. We even pay you to attend our academy. There has never been a better time to join. We’re the largest law enforcement agency in California, and we’re growing. So apply today, and discover why thousands of men and women are proud to wear our uniform.

peaceOfficers must be a U.S. Citizen (or applied); possess a HS Diploma/GED; be in good physical condition; and have no felony convictions. Must be at least 21 yrs old to apply; no age limit. Veterans receive hiring preference points.
Vote Online! Win Prizes!
Deadline Extended until midnight Friday, July 13
Support your Favorite Businesses!

Readers' Choice 2007
The Almanac's annual 'Best Of' reader poll

ALL ENTRIES ELIGIBLE FOR DOZENS OF PRIZES
■ DINNERS
■ GIFT CERTIFICATES
■ THEATER EVENTS

Easy 'pull-down' menu voting!!!

Vote at www.AlmanacNews.com

BALLOT CATEGORIES
★ DINING OUT ★
Best Bagel Place
Best Breakfast Restaurant
Best Chinese Restaurant
Best Coffee/Espresso/Tea
Best Dessert
Best French Restaurant
Best Hamburgers
Best Ice Cream Place
Best Indian Restaurant
Best Intimate Dining
Best Italian Restaurant
Best Japanese Restaurant
Best Juice Bar
Best Mexican Restaurant
Best Mom & Dad Restaurant
Best Pizza Restaurant
Best Place to Dine with Kids
Best Vegetarian Restaurant
Best Sandwich Shop
Best Seafood Restaurant
Best Sunday Brunch
Best Take-Out Food
Best Thai Restaurant

★ STEPPING OUT ★
Best Bar
Best Live Music

★ FOR THE NEST ★
Best Auto Repair Shop
Best Bank
Best Frame Store
Best Furniture Store
Best Hardware Store
Best Nursery
Best Oriental Carpet
Best Painters
Best Plumber
Best Paint Store

★ PERSONAL BEST ★
Best Barber
Best Bicycle Shop
Best Cleaners
Best Day Spa
Best Fitness
Best Hair Salon
Best Manicure
Best Pharmacy

★ FOR THE HEART ★
Best Boutique
Best Florist
Best Hotel
Best Jewelry Store
Best Place for a Date
Best Place to Meet People
Best Stationery Store
Best Travel Agency
Best Ladies Shoes

★ BRINGING IT HOME ★
Best Bakery
Best Bookstore
Best Grocery
Best Meat Store
Best Pet Store
Best Produce
Best Toy Shop
Best Wine/Liquor Store
Best Children's Birthday Party

Support your Favorite Businesses!
www.AlmanacNews.com

Readers' Choice 2007
The Almanac's annual 'Best Of' reader poll

ALL ENTRIES ELIGIBLE FOR DOZENS OF PRIZES
■ DINNERS
■ GIFT CERTIFICATES
■ THEATER EVENTS

Easy ‘pull-down’ menu voting!!!

Vote at www.AlmanacNews.com

BALLOT CATEGORIES
★ DINING OUT ★
Best Bagel Place
Best Breakfast Restaurant
Best Chinese Restaurant
Best Coffee/Espresso/Tea
Best Dessert
Best French Restaurant
Best Hamburgers
Best Ice Cream Place
Best Indian Restaurant
Best Intimate Dining
Best Italian Restaurant
Best Japanese Restaurant
Best Juice Bar
Best Mexican Restaurant
Best Mom & Dad Restaurant
Best Pizza Restaurant
Best Place to Dine with Kids
Best Vegetarian Restaurant
Best Sandwich Shop
Best Seafood Restaurant
Best Sunday Brunch
Best Take-Out Food
Best Thai Restaurant

★ STEPPING OUT ★
Best Bar
Best Live Music

★ FOR THE NEST ★
Best Auto Repair Shop
Best Bank
Best Frame Store
Best Furniture Store
Best Hardware Store
Best Nursery
Best Oriental Carpet
Best Painters
Best Plumber
Best Paint Store

★ PERSONAL BEST ★
Best Barber
Best Bicycle Shop
Best Cleaners
Best Day Spa
Best Fitness
Best Hair Salon
Best Manicure
Best Pharmacy

★ FOR THE HEART ★
Best Boutique
Best Florist
Best Hotel
Best Jewelry Store
Best Place for a Date
Best Place to Meet People
Best Stationery Store
Best Travel Agency
Best Ladies Shoes

★ BRINGING IT HOME ★
Best Bakery
Best Bookstore
Best Grocery
Best Meat Store
Best Pet Store
Best Produce
Best Toy Shop
Best Wine/Liquor Store
Best Children's Birthday Party
A vote online for your favorite choice is the ticket!

**DINING OUT**
- Best Bagel Place
- Best Breakfast Restaurant
- Best Chinese Restaurant
- Best Coffee/Espresso/Tea
- Best Dessert
- Best French Restaurant
- Best Hamburgers
- Best Ice Cream Place
- Best Indian Restaurant
- Best Intimate Dining
- Best Italian Restaurant
- Best Japanese Restaurant
- Best Juice Bar
- Best Mexican Restaurant
- Best Mom & Dad Restaurant
- Best Pizza Restaurant
- Best Place to Dine with Kids
- Best Vegetarian Restaurant
- Best Sandwich Shop
- Best Seafood Restaurant
- Best Sunday Brunch
- Best Take-Out Food
- Best Thai Restaurant

**FOR THE HEART**
- Best Boutique
- Best Florist
- Best Hotel
- Best Jewelry Store
- Best Place for a Date
- Best Place to Meet People
- Best Stationery Store
- Best Travel Agency
- Best Ladies Shoes

**BRINGING IT HOME**
- Best Bakery
- Best Bookstore
- Best Grocery
- Best Meat Store
- Best Pet Store
- Best Produce
- Best Toy Shop
- Best Wine/Liquor Store
- Best Children’s Birthday Party

**STEPPING OUT**
- Best Bar
- Best Live Music

**FOR THE NEST**
- Best Auto Repair Shop
- Best Bank
- Best Frame Store
- Best Furniture Store
- Best Hardware Store
- Best Nursery
- Best Oriental Carpet
- Best Painters
- Best Plumbers
- Best Paint Store

**PERSONAL BEST**
- Best Barber
- Best Bicycle Shop
- Best Cleaners
- Best Day Spa
- Best Fitness
- Best Hair Salon
- Best Manicure
- Best Pharmacy

**MORE THAN MERE WORDS CAN EXPRESS!**
- Erin MacGeraghty • www.emacfinejewelry.com
  328 Sharon Park Drive, Menlo Park • 650-854-4740

---

**THE PROLIFIC OVEN**
- 1001 El Camino Real, Menlo Park • 650-324-3486
- Order online at: www.prolific-oven.com

---

**CALLA**
- Voted Best Boutique for 9 Years

---

Thank You to the Almanac Readers for voting us . . .

**Best Desserts**

---

**Lulu's**
- on the Alameda
- Comida Fresca!
- Salsa Caliente!

---

**THE VILLAGE PUB**
- Voted Best "Intimate Dining Spot"

---

**M&R AUTOMOTIVE**
- Founder-Owner Operated for 38 years
- 1281 El Camino Real, Menlo Park
- 650-325-3900 • www.mandrauto.com

---

**Applewood Pizza**
- 1001 El Camino Real, Menlo Park • 650.324.3486
- Order online at: www.applewoodpizza.com

---

Be sure to vote . . .
- it’s easy, it’s quick
- and it’s fun!

---

**www.AlmanacNews.com**
By Andrea Gemmet
Almanac Staff Writer

A

therton is going to be spending more than it brings in, according to budget projections for the next five years.

The City Council approved a $9.9 million operating budget and a $3.3 million budget for capital improvement projects, such as road repairs, for the fiscal year beginning July 1. The vote was 5-0 at a special June 18 meeting.

Atherton’s financial forecasts project a drop in the town’s general fund reserves from a current balance of about $8.2 million to $5.6 million by 2011.

“We’re not in the banking business,” said Finance Director John Johns, adding that the town’s reserves are well above the minimum amount required. “Anything above (the minimum reserves) should be given back to the residents by spending it down. That’s the philosophy of this budget.”

Built into the budget projections are higher fees charged to builders. Building permit fees, in most cases, will be going up, though a few will be decreasing. “The building department is one of the few town departments that pay for themselves through the fees they charge. The last fee adjustment was in 2003.

“This is to have a better building department, to better serve the people doing the building in town, not to put money in our coffers,” said Councilwoman Kathy McKeithen.

The higher fees are needed to help finance a new, $175,000 permit-tracking software system, and to hire a new permit technician, among other things.

“If you didn’t adopt the fees, next year the (building department’s) net loss would be $400,000, which we feel is unsustainable,” said Mr. Johns.

The council voted 3-2 to raise building fees, with Charles Marsala and Jim Janz opposed. The councilmen sought to eliminate the town’s fee for solar power installation projects, but were unable to sway their colleagues.

The current fiscal year ending June 30 was more expensive than anticipated. A major budget-buster has been litigation — Atherton budgeted $38,000 for the 2006-07 fiscal year, but ended up spending $280,000 for litigation services.

A public hearing on Portola Valley’s $16.2 million budget for the next 12 months is set for Wednesday, June 27, at the meeting of the Town Council, which begins at 8 p.m. in the Historic Schoolhouse.

The agenda includes a presentation by Stanford University on its offer to upgrade a trail along Alpine Road, and possible council approval of a $2 million gift from Germany-based Hasso Plattner Foundation toward a new community hall. The agreement has 11 stipulations, including a ban on commercial use of the hall.
High-speed chase involves gunfire, hit-and-run

By David Boyce

A high-speed chase — that at one point involved a masked man with a gun standing in a car’s open sunroof and shooting at a van — concluded in Menlo Park the night of June 18 when the van clipped a pickup truck and tipped it onto the sidewalk near the corner of Willow Road and O’Brien Drive, authorities reported.

A Menlo Park man in the pickup truck escaped injury, police said.

Witnesses reported a green car chasing the van on Alberni Street in East Palo Alto, where the gunfire reportedly occurred, said Lt. Tom Alipio of the East Palo Alto Police Department.

The chase broke into the east-bound lane of Willow Road from Alberni, which is one block west of O’Brien Drive, where the pickup truck was tipped over, Lt. Alipio said.

Menlo Park police found the van parked in the 1300 block of Madera Avenue and arrested Billy Ray Pratt, 27, of Menlo Park, who had been driving the van and was found walking nearby, said Nicole Acker, spokeswoman for the Menlo Park Police Department.

Mr. Pratt was charged with hit-and-run and booked into San Mateo County Jail. There were no injuries, police said. Police found no bullet holes in the van, Ms. Acker said.

Menlo Park police would not release the name of the driver of the pickup. East Palo Alto police are investigating the shooting.

### POLICE CALLS

**MENLO PARK**

- **Theft reports:**
  - Gold BMX bicycle stolen, 500 block of Barron Street, June 15.
  - Construction materials stolen overnight from in front of building, Stuhlmueller Property Co., at 4055 Bohannon Drive, June 20.
  - Painting stolen from office, 200 block of Middletown Road, June 20.

- **Residential burglary report:** Window screens removed but no entry made, 200 block of Hedge Road, June 17.

- **Auto burglary reports:**
  - Window smashed and purse stolen, Bayfront Park, June 16.

- **Commercial burglary reports:**
  - Transient Ilyas Asim Abdulaziz, 30, arrested on charges of stealing alcohol, Draeger’s market at 1010 University Drive, June 15.
  - Alberto Gonzalez, 23, of East Palo Alto, arrested on charges of burglary and possession of stolen property, 900 Block of O’Brian Drive, June 20.

- **Fraud reports:**
  - Best Buy charge account opened in resident’s name, Lorelie Lane, June 21.
  - Credit card fraud, 1500 block of San Antonio Street, June 21.
  - Fraud reported at the police station, June 21.

- **Possible embezzlement of a vehicle,** 1500 block of College Avenue, June 12.

### NEWS

**July 4**

- **Independence from Oil Day Celebration**
  - 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
  - City of Menlo Park’s Independence Day Celebration

- **Office. Under law, people charged**
  - are considered innocent until convicted.

**July 18**

- **Youth in Nature at Arastradero Preserve**
  - Join local high school students and representatives from Acterra at the Arastradero Preserve Gateway Center for an interactive, hands-on event highlighting their stewardship project, hands-on planting station and new nature center.
  - Please RSVP to kristy@proactive-teams.com for this event, as space is limited.

- **Full Moon Feast: Food and the Hunger for Connection**
  - Thursday, July 26
  - 8:00 p.m.
  - The book Full Moon Feast invites us to a table brimming with locally grown foods, radical wisdom, and communal nourishment. In Full Moon Feast, accomplished chef and passionate food activist Jessica Précioso champions locally grown, humanely raised, nutrient-rich foods and traditional cooking methods.

**July 29**

- **Children’s GO-GREEN Story Time**
  - Sunday, July 29
  - 11:30 a.m.
  - It doesn’t have to be Earth Day for you to celebrate Mother Nature. The picture books selected for this story time reflect unique visions, teaching respect for living things and our role in taking care of our planet. Books include: Uno’s Garden by Greens Area; Our Tree Named Steve by Alan Zweibel, The Flower by John Light, and, To Everything by Bob Barner.

For August events go to www.keplers.com

---

**ROGER LEIGH JOHNSTONE
June 15, 1935 - June 13, 2007**

Our beloved husband, father, brother, grandfather and friend passed away on June 13, 2007 at the age of 71.

Born in Los Angeles, CA, he attended Burlingame High School and the University of New Mexico where he received his Bachelor’s degree in teaching and a Master’s degree in Counseling. He was a resident of Menlo Park for over 40 years, and has been a long standing member of St. Bede’s Episcopal Church.

He taught at Borel Middle School in San Mateo for 36 years. He also served in the Army in the early 60’s. He was devoted to his family and enjoyed traveling, gardening and fixing just about anything!

He is survived by his beloved wife of 43 years, Ginny; his daughter Deborah Tislaw; his son Cameron Johnstone; grandchildren Evan and Noelle Tislaw and Trevor, Dylan and Jake Johnstone; brother Parker Johnstone; sister Penelope Johnstone, and brother Randolph Johnstone.

A memorial service was held Tuesday, June 26th at St. Bede’s Episcopal Church. Interment to be at Bellevue Memorial Park Cemetery in Ontario, CA.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to either one of the following charitable foundations: Peninsula Open Space Trust, 222 High St., Palo Alto, CA 94301 or Students Rising Above, P.O. Box 29174, San Francisco, CA 94129.
When we set out to change the community, we started by changing ourselves.

The counties of San Mateo and Santa Clara have always stood for imagination and innovation. So when it came to dreaming up ways to better serve the region, we imagined a new way forward for ourselves.

The new Silicon Valley Community Foundation opened its doors in January, following the merger of Peninsula Community Foundation and Community Foundation Silicon Valley. The new foundation combines more than $1.7 billion in assets with a priceless portfolio of expertise and experience—in turn creating a catalyst for change greater than the sum of its parts. Imagine that.

JUDITH WRIGHT MOREING
Multi-talented Musician

A memorial service will be held for musician Judy Wright Moreing at 1 p.m. Thursday July 12, at Peninsula Bible Church, 3505 Middlefield Road. An Atherton resident for more than 50 years, she died June 5 at the age of 86.

Her wide-ranging musical talents blossomed when she was a young girl in her hometown of Elwood, Indiana. In addition to excelling as a pianist, violinist and singer, she showed strong talents as a songwriter, her family said. Before she reached the age of 20, one of her songs was performed by the Paul Whiteman Orchestra.

After graduating from Indiana’s DePauw University in 1942, Judy Wright turned her musical talents into a professional singing career. She sang with the George Olson Band and then with the Henry King Orchestra, where she met her first husband, musician Bobby Borger.

The couple toured across America along with the Henry King Orchestra, performing in various musical hotspots. Eventually, the married couple split from the orchestra and formed a musical quartet called “The Three Punches and Judy.”

She lost her husband to cancer soon after they married but was able to continue pursuing her musical passions alone. She was featured on KNBC Radio in Los Angeles in 1945 with her own show, “Judy’s The Name.” Her personality and performances on the show earned her the moniker of “The Sweetheart of San Francisco,” her family said.

In 1946 she married James Arthur Moreing, who was her husband for 45 years. The couple moved to Atherton, where Ms. Moreing retired from her musical career in order to raise her five children.

As she reached her 50th year, Ms. Moreing returned to her musical roots. She began composing faith-based songs and compiled them onto her first record. Although Ms. Moreing suffered from a serious stroke at the age of 51, she was able to make a significant recovery, ultimately resuming many of her previous activities.

Her family recalls her radiating spirit and contagious laughter. Ms. Moreing is survived by her sons, James Moreing of Redwood City and William Moreing of Moss Beach; daughters Annie Lapoint of Atherton and Mia Russell of Redwood City; and seven grandchildren.

The family prefers memorials to be made to either ULBC Casabuilders at www.casabuilders.org or the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children’s Health at www.lpch.org.

PETER STEPHEN BEDROSSIAN
Attorney and Woodside Shackriver

Peter Stephen Bedrossian, a member of the Woodside Shackriders for 30 years, died June 12 at Sequoia Hospital in Redwood City. He was 80.

Mr. Bedrossian, a Redwood City resident and a director of the Cow Palace, was an attorney for Stauffer Chemical for 25 years, was president of Nitron Electronics for five years, and was in private practice for 20 years, his family said.

Mr. Bedrossian is survived by his daughters, Stephanie Hoteit of Redwood City and Jennifer Shaver of Tiburon; sons Peter Bedrossian Jr. of New York; and 12 grandchildren.

The family prefers donations to the Peter S. Bedrossian Scholarship Fund at St. John’s University School of Law.

Three juveniles ransack Willows home

Menlo Park police are looking for three young men who entered a home in the 300 block of Walnut Avenue in Willows area at about 6 p.m. on June 19, ransacked the place and escaped with a computer, police said. They entered the house through an unlocked kitchen door, police said.

A gardener told the homeowners, who returned home about 10 minutes after the incident, that he had seen the suspects, described as black male juveniles, with the homeowners’ bicycle and laptop computer. A suspect discarded the bike upon being observed.

Police said the suspects, one wearing a red shirt and the other, a white shirt, were last seen running eastbound on Laurel Avenue.

Police ask anyone with information about this incident to call the investigating officer at 330-6300 or the anonymous tip hotline at 330-6395.
Estelle Rita Hoffman, leading Atherton volunteer

Longtime Atherton resident Estelle Rita Hoffman, a past president of the Peninsula Volunteers and Atherton Dames, died at her home June 21 after suffering from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. She was 85. She and her husband Arthur lived in the same Atherton home for 53 years.

Born in Wellington, New Zealand, she led an “illustrious life,” family members said. After serving in the Royal New Zealand Air Force during World War II, she went on to become a legal secretary, medical secretary, real estate agent and an owner of a small business.

Among her other community accomplishments, she was a president of the Temple Beth Jacob Sisterhood and a member of the Holbrook-Palmer Park Foundation board.

OBITUARY

Family members also remember her as an avid bridge player and world traveler.

Ms. Hoffman is survived by her husband, Arthur; four children, Dennis of South Dakota, Paul of Berkeley, Gregory of Eugene, Oregon, and Camille of Pacifica, with three grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the Hills of Eternity Cemetery Chapel in Colma with entombment in Portals of Eternity Mausoleum. Arrangements were by Sinai Memorial Chapel in Redwood City.

The family prefers memorials to Peninsula Volunteers Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Former Woodside resident critically injured in tree fall

Jack Paulin, a tree-trimmer and former resident of Woodside, was critically injured in Lake County on June 11 when he fell at least 30 feet from a tree he was trimming, said his brother Ted Paulin, a resident of Menlo Park.

Jack Paulin, 50, who lived in Woodside about 30 years and moved to Lakeport in Lake County a few years ago, suffered further injuries when a ladder and the limb he was trimming fell on top of him, said a family friend, Tyler Salles.

His injuries included a fractured pelvis, broken ribs and “severe damage” to his liver and one kidney, said his brother Ted.

Mr. Paulin, who is married and has four children, was airlifted by helicopter to a critical care unit in the Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital.

Jack Paulin, Mr. Salles said, was known as a kind and generous person.

When the town of Woodside was moving what is now Independence Hall from Woodside Elementary School to its new address on Whiskey Hill Road, the building got stuck in trees, and Mr. Paulin volunteered to trim them, Mr. Salles said.

A benefit fund has been created for his family, Mr. Salles said. To contribute to the Benefit Fund for Jack Paulin Family, contact any Wells Fargo bank.

Supes hold budget hearings this week

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors is holding marathon hearings this week on a proposed budget of $1.65 billion for fiscal year 2007-08.

The hearings started Monday with a presentation by County Manager John Maltbie. The board expects to adopt a preliminary budget Wednesday afternoon.

The public may speak at the hearings in the Board Chambers, 400 County Center (corner of Bradford and Hamilton streets) in Redwood City.

The proposed budget, released May 25, has been revised; it was increased by $2.9 million and the number of recommended new positions has risen from 60 to 85, for a total of close to 5,800 employees. The recommended budget reflects a strong local economy. However, Mr. Maltbie has warned that expenditures are growing faster than revenues, and long-term adjustments will be needed.

Final budget hearings are scheduled for Sept. 25. The recommended budget can be viewed at the county Web site, www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/budget — or at the county manager’s office, 400 County Center, in Redwood City.

Kepler’s Celebrates Harry Potter:

Midnight Magic and Wizardry!

Friday, July 20, 9:00 p.m.

Stroll through the Quidditch World Cup and take your chances at Bludger batting!

Join Haggrid (Walter the Giant) for mischief in the Youth Department. If you are of a darker nature, loiter in the Death Eater Enclave. If you have not yet acquired your Gringott’s Bank Promissory note for Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, call or go to Kepler’s Books and Magic in haste. If you are spellbound at home, then just visit www.keplers.com to purchase your note. At the stroke of Midnight, promissory notes can be exchanged for the 7th and LAST Harry Potter book.

Connoisseur’s Market – Kids’ Zone

Saturday and Sunday, July 21 – 22, from 10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Downtown Menlo Park

In addition to the newly released Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, we will be selling beautifully crafted wands, suitable for students as well as more accomplished witches and wizards; brooms for both professional and amateur Quidditch players, Quidditch goggles, and other finely made products for Harry Potter fans.

Join Middle/High School Book Group

will be discussing Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows on Wednesday, July 25th, at 6:30 p.m.

Don’t miss these other exciting author events!

July 1 Story Time with Karen Beaumont
Karen Beaumont’s stories are perfect for summer and days full of energy, as surprisingly modern feel to characters we know and love.

July 8 Story Time with Erin Deely
Tired of the same old Mother Goose stories? Unique 50’s-inspired illustrations lend a surprisingly modern feel to characters we know and love.

July 15 Magic Story Time
Tales to fascinate and delight abound in a story time designed to bring charm to the younger set.

July 30 Magic Story Time
Tales to fascinate and delight abound in a story time designed to bring charm to the younger set.

Kepler’s Story Time every Sunday at 11:30 a.m.

July 1 Killing Our Culture
The Cult of the Amateur: How the Spirit of Entitlement Corrupts Our Kids’ Culture
Andrew Ferguson
Thursday, July 5, 7:00 p.m.

July 8 A Thousand Splendid Suns
Khaled Hosseini
Thursday, July 12, 7:00 p.m.

July 15 Full Moon Feast
Food and the Hunger for Connection
Andrew Kear
Thursday, July 26, 8:00 p.m.

July 22 Magic Story Time
Tales to fascinate and delight abound in a story time designed to bring charm to the younger set.

June 29 GO-GREEN Event: Environmental Story Time
The picture books selected for this story time reflect unique visions, teaching respect for living things and our role in taking care of our planet.

1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park
www.keplers.com

Follow me to Kepler’s. It’s our bookstore.
Focus, make decisions, end marathon meetings

Menlo Park City Council members need to make the following promise to their constituents: There won’t be any more council meetings similar to what residents were put through last week.

On June 19 the council held a seven-and-a-half-hour marathon meeting, dealing with complex issues such as revamping El Camino Real, adopting the city’s budget, setting the utility tax rate and getting an early glimpse at David Bohannon’s proposed hotel and office complex, which could drastically change east Menlo Park — all in one sitting.

That’s too many issues, too many discussions and too many hours for one council meeting.

Council members struggled to articulate their opinions on the city’s finances, and didn’t set the tax rate until after 11 p.m. — a full three hours after public comment on the issue.

Discussion of Mr. Bohannon’s project, which includes plans for a 235-room hotel and multiple 125-foot-tall office buildings near Marsh Road and U.S. 101, was pushed to 11:30 p.m. Although Mr. Bohannon and his team agreed to come back to the council on July 10 to allow more public input on the project, a proposal with such large land-use implications shouldn’t have been placed on a crowded agenda in the first place.

The previous council majority of Lee Duboc, Nicholas Jellins and Mickie Winkler was heavily criticized by members of the public — and these editorial pages — for rushing the public process. The three council members infuriated residents because of how they handled some major decisions, including the privatization of the city’s aquatics center, and efforts to develop Bayfront Park and change the city’s home building guidelines.

The council should adhere to long-standing (though often-ignored) policy: At 10:30 p.m., council members should review the agenda; they should decide what the council can realistically address by 11:30 and determine what discussions should be postponed or rescheduled.

Of course, Menlo Park isn’t alone when it comes to trying the public’s patience with marathon meetings. This month, the Atherton City Council’s meeting was scheduled to run from 7 p.m. to midnight, but didn’t finish until 1:30 a.m.

The big difference between the two cities: Atherton meets once a month, and Menlo Park meets once a week.
EDITORIAL

One-sided reporting on PV trail issue?

Editor: Having attended the Portola Valley Town Council meeting on June 13, I was taken aback to read the one-sided reporting of the event in the June 20 paper. While there is definitely a place in the paper for opinions, it is on the editorial pages, not in news.

Let’s start with the inflammatory headline “Council denies dog-walkers access to rural trails.” An equally accurate headline would have been “Council preserves town’s only nature preserve.” If the Almanac wishes to maintain a “news” paper rather than a collection of opinion pieces, shouldn’t the headline have been free of bias in either direction — along the lines of “Council preserves the status quo” or “Nature preserve to remain off limits to dog walkers,” options stating the facts but free of words destined to evoke emotion?

One crux of this debate is the question of whether Portola Valley should continue to offer an option for hikers who don’t care for dogs, or whether that existing choice should be revoked. Reasonable residents will end up with opposing opinions, but none of us should be able to so easily discern which side your reporter favors.

Lise Buyer
Sandstone Street, Portola Valley

Letter on global warming way off base

Editor: It is astonishing and disappoiting that there are idle people available to write deceptively one-sided articles to the editor such as the one penned by Ms. Braun in your May 2 edition.

A very real and disturbing threat from human-induced climate change does exist, which I can attest to as a real live scientist with a PhD and 20 years of experience. Regarding her 17,000 “scientists” who dispute this, I don’t know one of them. And isn’t it odd that it’s exactly 17,000? What does the 17,001st “scientist” think? I know what George Bush thinks — well, at least what he said in 2001. “Climate change, with its potential to impact every corner of the world, is an issue that must be addressed by the world.” Hmmm ... another of those pesky liberals!

And what about Dow Chemical, General Motors, Johnson & Johnson, Alcoa, BP America, Caterpillar and Duke Energy, who have joined with the Environmental Defense Fund and 22 Fortune 500 companies to encourage lower industrial CO2 emissions? Are these some of those “corporation haters?”

I guess none of the 17,000 scientists is a member of the American Institute of Physics, American Geophysical Union, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Society of Civil Engineers, American Meteorological Society, or the National Academy of Sciences, all of whom have issued statements that climate change is (a) real, and (b) likely the result of human actions.

I would also add that I have never gotten research funding in climate change. I am, in fact, a water resources manager, charged with keeping Ms. Braun’s zinnia plants from wilting, a soon-to-be-more difficult job not helped by her foolishness. And, by the way, I hope she’s not giving anyone medical care. Aspirin is not a sedative.

Dr. Mark T. Murphy
Woodside High School, Class of 1971
Albuquerque, NM

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2007!
Gan Ami Early Childhood Education Program in collaboration with ALSCC

Gan Ami is a nurturing, play-based program with a deep, joyous commitment to Reform Judaism.

Program includes:
- Parent-and-me program for toddlers
- Drop-off program for 2 and 3 year olds

For more information or to download an application form, go to http://www.betham.org/youth/ganami.html

Gan Ami is partly funded by the Jewish Community Endowment Fund of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties.

10 reasons why Burgess Park pools are the center of Menlo Park’s active community

1. Open swim
2. Lap swim
3. Masters swim
4. Masters water polo
5. Triathlon teams
6. Swim School
7. Summer aquatics camps
8. Adult fitness
9. Snack bar and pro shop
10. Family picnics and parties

The Children’s Shoppe

SALE STARTS JUNE 25th

325 Sharon Park Drive, Menlo Park
(650) 854-8854
www.thechildrensshoppe.com

Mon.–Sat. 10am–5:30pm

Gan Ami Early Childhood Education Program

40% Off Spring/Summer Merchandise

SALE STARTS JUNE 25th

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2007!

Gan Ami Early Childhood Education Program

40% Off Spring/Summer Merchandise

SALE STARTS JUNE 25th

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2007!

Gan Ami Early Childhood Education Program

40% Off Spring/Summer Merchandise

SALE STARTS JUNE 25th

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2007!

Gan Ami Early Childhood Education Program

40% Off Spring/Summer Merchandise

SALE STARTS JUNE 25th

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2007!

Gan Ami Early Childhood Education Program

40% Off Spring/Summer Merchandise

SALE STARTS JUNE 25th

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2007!

Gan Ami Early Childhood Education Program

40% Off Spring/Summer Merchandise

SALE STARTS JUNE 25th

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2007!

Gan Ami Early Childhood Education Program

40% Off Spring/Summer Merchandise

SALE STARTS JUNE 25th

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2007!

Gan Ami Early Childhood Education Program

40% Off Spring/Summer Merchandise

SALE STARTS JUNE 25th

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2007!

Gan Ami Early Childhood Education Program

40% Off Spring/Summer Merchandise

SALE STARTS JUNE 25th

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2007!

Gan Ami Early Childhood Education Program

40% Off Spring/Summer Merchandise

SALE STARTS JUNE 25th

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2007!

Gan Ami Early Childhood Education Program

40% Off Spring/Summer Merchandise

SALE STARTS JUNE 25th

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2007!

Gan Ami Early Childhood Education Program

40% Off Spring/Summer Merchandise

SALE STARTS JUNE 25th

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2007!

Gan Ami Early Childhood Education Program

40% Off Spring/Summer Merchandise

SALE STARTS JUNE 25th

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2007!

Gan Ami Early Childhood Education Program

40% Off Spring/Summer Merchandise

SALE STARTS JUNE 25th

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2007!

Gan Ami Early Childhood Education Program

40% Off Spring/Summer Merchandise

SALE STARTS JUNE 25th

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2007!

Gan Ami Early Childhood Education Program

40% Off Spring/Summer Merchandise

SALE STARTS JUNE 25th

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2007!

Gan Ami Early Childhood Education Program

40% Off Spring/Summer Merchandise

SALE STARTS JUNE 25th

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2007!

Gan Ami Early Childhood Education Program

40% Off Spring/Summer Merchandise

SALE STARTS JUNE 25th

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2007!

Gan Ami Early Childhood Education Program

40% Off Spring/Summer Merchandise

SALE STARTS JUNE 25th

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2007!

Gan Ami Early Childhood Education Program

40% Off Spring/Summer Merchandise

SALE STARTS JUNE 25th

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2007!

Gan Ami Early Childhood Education Program

40% Off Spring/Summer Merchandise

SALE STARTS JUNE 25th

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2007!

Gan Ami Early Childhood Education Program

40% Off Spring/Summer Merchandise

SALE STARTS JUNE 25th

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2007!

Gan Ami Early Childhood Education Program

40% Off Spring/Summer Merchandise

SALE STARTS JUNE 25th

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2007!

Gan Ami Early Childhood Education Program

40% Off Spring/Summer Merchandise

SALE STARTS JUNE 25th

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2007!

Gan Ami Early Childhood Education Program

40% Off Spring/Summer Merchandise

SALE STARTS JUNE 25th

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2007!

Gan Ami Early Childhood Education Program

40% Off Spring/Summer Merchandise

SALE STARTS JUNE 25th

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2007!

Gan Ami Early Childhood Education Program

40% Off Spring/Summer Merchandise

SALE STARTS JUNE 25th

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2007!

Gan Ami Early Childhood Education Program

40% Off Spring/Summer Merchandise

SALE STARTS JUNE 25th

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2007!

Gan Ami Early Childhood Education Program

40% Off Spring/Summer Merchandise

SALE STARTS JUNE 25th

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2007!

Gan Ami Early Childhood Education Program

40% Off Spring/Summer Merchandise

SALE STARTS JUNE 25th

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2007!

Gan Ami Early Childhood Education Program

40% Off Spring/Summer Merchandise

SALE STARTS JUNE 25th

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2007!

Gan Ami Early Childhood Education Program
The Almanac

June 27, 2007

Scott Dancer
650.529.2454
scottdancer.com

2969 Woodside Road, Woodside, CA 94062
Information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed.

Friars Lane, Woodside
FOR SALE $2,850,000

Bear Gulch Road, Woodside
FOR SALE $2,699,000

Laning Drive
Woodside
SOLD
$2,699,000

Olive Hill Lane
Woodside
SOLD
$4,950,000

Friars Lane, Woodside
FOR SALE $2,850,000

Laning Drive
Woodside
SOLD
$2,699,000

Buck Meadow, Portola Valley
FOR SALE $4,699,000

Friars Lane, Woodside
FOR SALE $2,850,000

Laning Drive
Woodside
SOLD
$2,699,000

Buck Meadow, Portola Valley
FOR SALE $4,699,000

Friars Lane, Woodside
FOR SALE $2,850,000

Laning Drive
Woodside
SOLD
$2,699,000

Buck Meadow, Portola Valley
FOR SALE $4,699,000

Premier Properties represented by Scott Dancer

2969 Woodside Road, Woodside, CA 94062
Information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed.