

SCHOOLS: Community gets opportunity this week to see design options for major construction at Hillview Middle School campus. Page 5

The Almanac

THE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER FOR MENLO PARK, ATHERTON, PORTOLA VALLEY AND WOODSIDE

JANUARY 31, 2007

www.AlmanacNews.com | VOL. 42 NO. 22

MAKING FRIENDS THROUGH HER LENS

Lenore Horowitz's camera opens up a world of new experiences.

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REDEFINING QUALITY SINCE 1990

Reading between the emotional line makes the difference between finding a house and a home.



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Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT



The Almanac/Marjan Sadoughi

Fired up

Kelsey Corkery (far right) and fellow students at Woodside Priory in Portola Valley practice techniques for creating works of art in glass that are sculptural, functional and decorative. The glass workshop is conducted by the chair of the fine arts department at the school, Reed Easley. Among other students in the photo are Brian Yam, senior; Alyssa Thunen, sophomore; and Victor Aguirre, senior.

Menlo Park

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On the cover

Lenore Horowitz of Atherton photographed these twin sisters during her workshop in Venice, Italy. Photo by Almanac staff photographer Marjan Sadoughi. For the cover story and more pictures, see **Page 14**.

CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

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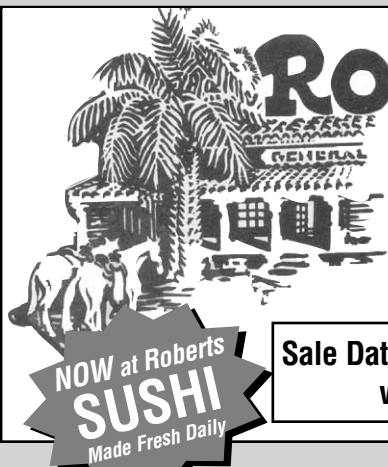
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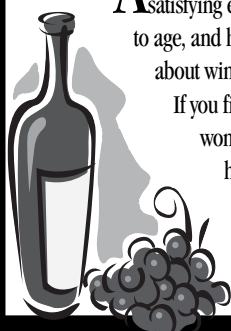
Aging Wine

If you are thinking about aging wine, do your homework. The vast majority of wine produced in the world, up to 95%, does not really change over time. Therefore, to find wines that are really worth keeping, ask for advice or do some reading. Some likely candidates for aging are "premier cru" or "grand cru" Burgundies, as well as high-quality Bordeaux and California Cabernets. High-end Tuscan wines may also qualify, as do Barolos. Once you have age-worthy wines on hand, protect them from heat, humidity, light, and vibration. Ideally, wine should be stored in a dark cellar at 55 degrees Fahrenheit. The longer you intend to store wines, the more important it is to commit it to ideal storage conditions.

Aging wine is an attractive thing to do; contributing to the quality of your wine is a satisfying experience. At ROBERTS MARKET, we can discuss which wines are best to age, and how to go about the aging process. We don't just enjoy knowing a lot about wine, we truly take pleasure in sharing this knowledge with our customers.

If you find yourself pressed for time visit our "heat and eat it" department for wonderful gourmet prepared foods. You can find prepared foods such as home-made hot soups, sandwiches, salads, and gourmet food stuffs.

Hint: When you purchase a case of age-worthy wine, you can open a bottle annually to taste how it is progressing, which may not always be in a predictable curve.



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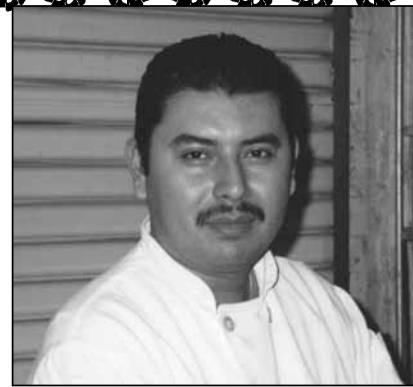
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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Community gets look at design options for Hillview campus

■ One option: completely rebuild middle school campus.

By Marjorie Mader
Almanac Staff Writer

Parents, neighbors and community members are invited to a community meeting in Menlo Park on Tuesday, Jan. 30, when options will be discussed for major new construction on the Hillview middle school campus.

The options include tearing down existing facilities on the 9.5-acre site on Santa Cruz and Elder avenues and completely rebuilding the school to accommodate an anticipated 39 percent enrollment growth over the next seven years.

Enrollment at the grade 6-8 school is projected to grow from 659 students now to 913 in seven years.

The meeting, the second of three on the topic, begins at 7 p.m. in the school's multi-purpose room at 1100 Elder Ave.

The school board of the Menlo Park City School District plans to decide what course to take at its meeting on Tuesday, March 6.

Notices of Jan. 30 meeting were mailed to about 150 neighbors of Hillview, and e-mails were sent to the parent-staff community.

At the meeting, the district's design team will present schematic architectural options for the campus that range from adding classrooms to the existing campus to rebuilding the school, the only middle school in the four-campus district. Details of the options were not available before the meeting.

Erwin Lee, the district's architect, will present the details of the schematic design options his team developed after the first community meeting on Dec. 6. They include:

See **HILLVIEW**, page 8

Memorial set for Portola Valley super-volunteer 'Bob' Anderson

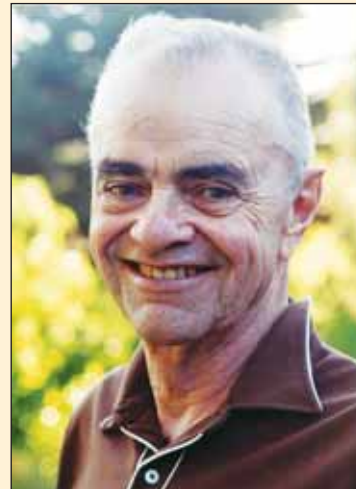
By Marion Softky
Almanac Staff Writer

A sheriff's honor guard and bagpiper will help say farewell to former Portola Valley mayor and councilman Robert H. "Bob" Anderson at a memorial service Wednesday, Jan. 31, at 2 p.m. at Christ Church, 815 Portola Road in Portola Valley.

Town Hall will be closed from 2 to 4 p.m. in his honor.

Mr. Anderson, who helped found the church in 1956 and was a deacon there, died peacefully Jan. 22 at The Sequoias retirement community in Portola Valley. He was 86.

For the last 50 years, Mr. Anderson gave much of his life to founding and building the town of Portola Valley. He helped with the campaign to incorporate the town in 1964, and served on its first Planning Commission. He served on the Town Council for a total of 15 years between 1968



For the last 50 years, Robert Anderson gave much of his life to founding and building the town of Portola Valley.

and 1991, and was mayor four times. Then he was police commissioner from 1991 until late 2006.

Widely known as a super-volunteer, Mr. Anderson also served on public works and

emergency committees.

"He was not just a leader; he was a real hands-on public servant," says longtime friend John Gardner, who chairs the town's Public Works Committee. "When we had a rainstorm, he was out there cutting fallen trees and unplugging culverts."

Bob Anderson grew up and went to school in Berkeley, where he was an Eagle Scout with three palms. During the Depression he shuttled between college and jobs — digging ditches for PG&E and working at the Golden Gate International Exposition — until he qualified for the Navy's V-5 flight-training program, he wrote in a memoir. For most of World War II, he flew anti-submarine patrols, first off the coast of California, later in the Aleutians.

Mr. Anderson's daughter, Sally Anderson of Sebastopol, describes how he flew from the

See **ANDERSON**, page 8

Science explodes at Portola Valley schools

By Marjorie Mader
Almanac Staff Writer

Students at Corte Madera and Ormondale schools created their own "science exploratorium" with an amazing array of science exhibits and innovations at each school's science fair last week.

The exhibits at Corte Madera ranged from creating an "Underwater Volcano" to questioning "How Much do Hybrids Help" and using a series of magnets in "Making The Mag-Lev Train Move."

Students and their parents stood in line to try out popular hands-on projects such as "Pulley Power." They would sit on a swing seat and see if the impressive mechanical device with a pulley system could lift them up.

"My goal is to convince students that science is everywhere you are — not just in a textbook," said Martin Sterns, a parent involved in the fairs at both schools.

"Overall, students learn that life is basically a set of problems to solve and projects to finish (or try to)," he said. "The hardest thing is to convince them is that often the best inventions end up as the result of many failures on the road to success."

During family nights at both schools, students excitedly explained their exhibits and answered questions.

"Habitats" was the theme for the fair at Ormondale, the district's K-3 school. Students delved into areas such as native plants, animals and alternative energy.

All students at Ormondale had the opportunity to enter an exhibit. They could work at home with a friend or parent or come to the science room, where parents, with scientific know-how, volunteered to assist them with their project.

Neither science fair would have been possible without parent volunteers as fair monitors and a source of encouragement for the kids, said Mr. Sterns.



The Almanac/Marjan Sadoughi
Ormondale third-graders watch as classmate Jose Hernandez tests the hypothesis of his "Tornado Bottle" experiment on display at Ormondale's science fair last week. His conclusion: Spinning the upper bottle makes the water rotate fast, and turning the bottles over simulates a tornado as the water flows rapidly into the lower bottle.

Science teachers Birgitta Brown and Trenea Joie at Corte Madera were credited with doing an outstanding job organizing the fair.

Corte Madera students selected to share their exhibits at the San Mateo County Science Fair are:

■ Fifth grade: Aaron Reiss, "Testing Concrete Properties";

Jessie Dalman, "Bacterial Growth: The Best Environment for it, and What Kills it Best"; and Sophie

See **SCIENCE**, page 8

Major questions over city finances, new tax

■ Council may reconsider tax rate depending on updated financial projections.

By **Rory Brown**
Almanac Staff Writer

As Menlo Park residents, including City Councilman John Boyle, continue to question whether the city needs to implement the voter-approved utility tax at the highest rates, a Feb. 1 mid-year budget report is expected to shed light on the city's increasingly

ambiguous fiscal situation.

Depending on what the report spells out for the current fiscal year that ends June 30, and for long-term financial forecasts, the City Council may decide at its Feb. 6 meeting to re-evaluate the tax rates.

Residents have sent a flurry of e-mails to the City Council, upset that news of a budget surplus was released six months

■ MENLO PARK

Check AlmanacNews.com
Feb. 1 for a news update.

after the end of the last fiscal year, and two months after voters passed a tax.

At their Jan. 23 meeting, council members acknowledged that the city's fiscal status is unclear, and hoped the Feb. 1 report would answer some questions.

"Every time we've had a deci-

sion on the table, we've had a different number," said Councilman Richard Cline. "I'm not comfortable right now with the accuracy of the data."

No discussion

Without public discussion, the two-tiered tax was set at the maximum rates at the council's Dec. 19 meeting, meaning residences and businesses will be hit with the highest-possible tax starting April 1. The council did not vote on the tax, but the maximum rates were set as the default amount because, other than Mr. Boyle, no council member suggested otherwise.

Mr. Boyle and other residents have called for reconsidering those rates based on the following events:

■ In early 2005, city staff projected a long-term deficit, and predicted that revenues would fall an average of \$2.9 million a year short of covering costs

through the year 2013.

■ The long-term budget deficit was the main selling point of the voter-approved utility tax, which passed in November.

■ Subsequently, a city-issued report stated that for the period from July 1, 2005, though June 30, 2006 (fiscal year 2005-06), revenues not only covered costs, but built a surplus of \$3.7 million as well.


Finance Director Carol Augustine said the surplus is largely due to key personnel vacancies and unexpected, one-time property tax revenues due to several uncharacteristically large property sales.

The city still has a projected long-term deficit, and the tax is needed to offset infrastructure costs and rising employee costs, she said.

At the maximum rates, businesses and residences will be taxed 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). ■

'Every time we've had a decision on the table, we've had a different number. I'm not comfortable right now with the accuracy of the data.'

COUNCILMAN RICHARD CLINE



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- Thursdays, February 1 - 22
- ✱ **INFANT CARE**

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- Saturday, February 3
- ✱ **CESAREAN BIRTH CLASS**

This two-hour class is taught by a labor and delivery nurse childbirth educator who helps prepare families for cesarean delivery. Information about vaginal birth after cesarean (VBAC) will also be provided to go over questions and expectations.

- Wednesday, February 7
- ✱ **INFANT AND CHILD CPR**

Conducted by a certified instructor, this interactive class is geared for parents, grandparents and other caregivers of newborns to school-aged children. The course includes presentation, video, text, practice on infant models and a certificate of completion.

- Sunday, February 11

Call (650) 723-4600 or visit www.lpch.org to register or obtain more information on the times, locations and fees for these and other courses.



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It may be deja vu in search for new MP city manager

By **Rory Brown**
Almanac Staff Writer

In its search for a new city manager, the Menlo Park City Council may hire the same headhunter who tracked down the current manager — David Boesch — six years ago.

City staff and a subcommittee of council members John Boyle and Andy Cohen have recommended that the city hire Sacramento-based Bob Murray and Associates to lead the search for a new city manager.

Mr. Boesch is leaving the post in mid-February to become the assistant county manager for San Mateo County.

Mr. Murray was with a different firm when he headed the recruitment process in 2001 that eventually led to Menlo Park's hiring of Mr. Boesch. His current firm headed the recruitment effort that led to the hiring of Chris Boyd as the city's police chief; Mr. Boyd

has since left the city.

If the council approves a contract at its Jan. 30 meeting, the firm will begin to search for and narrow down candidates for council members to interview.

That process will include a special council meeting, tentatively scheduled for Feb. 8, to solicit comments from the public regarding what the council should look for in a new city manager, said Glen Kramer, the city's personnel director, in a staff report.

The recruitment and interviewing process is expected to take six months.

If the contract is approved, the city would pay the Sacramento firm no more than \$30,000.

The Jan. 30 council meeting is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. at the Menlo Park Senior Center at 110 Terminal Ave. in the Belle Haven neighborhood. ■

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'Full steam ahead,' says mayor of new Park Theatre plans

By Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

Members of the Menlo Park City Council appear very receptive to plans by Menlo Park resident Andy Duncan to restore the long-vacant Park Theatre and convert it, most likely, into a dance studio.

Mr. Duncan, who presented his plans to the council at its Jan. 23 meeting, said he has entered into a contract with the theater's owner, Howard Crittenden of Atherton, with the intent of purchasing the El Camino Real property.

"Full steam ahead," said Mayor Kelly Fergusson after hearing Mr. Duncan's plan. The other council members gave nods of approval, with council members John Boyle and Richard Cline labeling the plan "exciting."

Mr. Duncan has yet to submit an application to the city's planning department, but he said he wants the project to proceed "as quickly as possible."

Under the plan, the theater would be restored — including the concession stands, the ticket booth and the neon sign — but the



The Almanac/Kainaz Amaria

Vacant since 2002, the Park Theatre on El Camino Real may be converted into a dance studio.

most realistic future use may be as a dance studio, Mr. Duncan said.

He said he spoke with Landmark Theatres, which formerly leased the facility as a movie house, but thinks a movie theater there may not make "economic sense."

He pointed to the fact that the 700-seat theater has only 38 parking spaces as a major hurdle in drawing large movie audiences.

Mr. Duncan's mother is a

partial owner of the Menlo Park Academy of Dance, which would likely move into the theater if it is converted into a dance studio, he said. The dance academy is located a block and a half away and its lease is up in about a year.

Mr. Crittenden closed the theater in 2002 and it has been empty since. He said the theater's tenant, Landmark Theatres, could not afford to pay market-level rent. ■

Small delay in GM auto mall plan

By Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

The sign-off on a deal between the city and General Motors that would lead to the building of an auto mall in east Menlo Park has been delayed, but the project is still very much alive, according to city staff.

The auto mall is planned for a 22-acre Tyco Electronics site at the intersection of Bayfront Expressway and Willow Road.

GM and Tyco are expected

to sign the deal by mid-February — about a month later than originally planned because the two parties need to resolve several disputes over easements that border the Sun Microsystems property, said David Johnson, the city's business development manager.

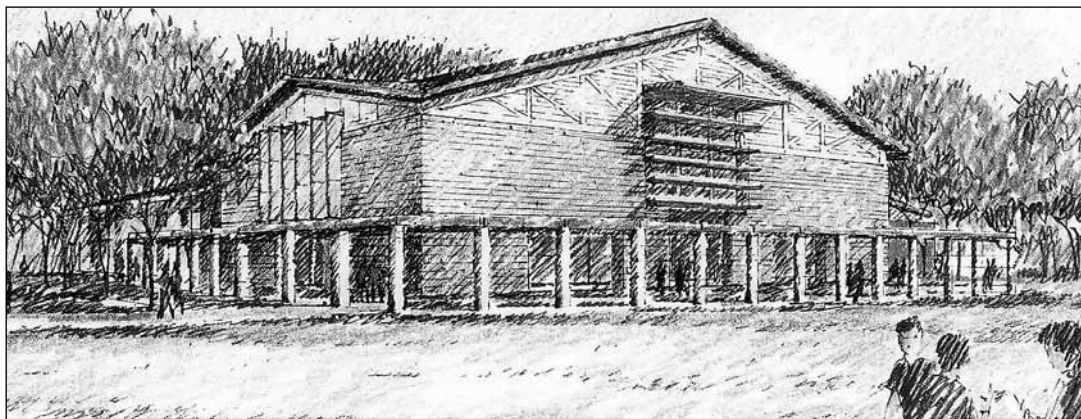
He said he expects the disputes to be resolved by mid-February, and all parties are still committed to the auto mall.

The City Council voted 5-0 on Nov. 28 to approve an agreement with GM that would evenly split

— between GM and the city — the city's sales tax revenue generated from GM auto sales at the proposed mall.

The tax-sharing agreement is an incentive for GM to build the auto mall.

Under the proposal, GM dealerships would occupy 8.5 acres of the site, and the automaker is trying to attract other auto dealerships or retail uses to fill the remaining 13.5 acres. The city would not share sales tax revenue with non-GM dealerships and other retailers. ■



Sketch courtesy of Menlo Park Department of Public Works

Gym is tops with residents

A new Burgess Gym is still a top priority for Menlo Park residents, according to three public workshops that asked participants how the city should spend the next wave of Measure T funds. The council is scheduled to discuss the workshop results and possibly plans for the new gym at its Feb. 22 meeting.

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Gloria Darke



Is This Time Well Invested?

Q. Dear Gloria, I will be retiring soon and moving to a condominium. I will have extra time to do some improvements to my property. Do you think I can get more money for my home by making some improvements and sprucing the place up?

— Oscar P., Menlo Park

A. Dear Oscar, Unless you are a golfer, I can think of no better use of your time. Investing time in your home makes good sense. Right now is an excellent time to sell, if that is in your plans, because there is a high demand for good properties in our area.

Start by having your broker prepare a CMA. Ask the brokers opinion of what you could do that would improve

the appearance and therefore the value of your home. Even a minor kitchen remodel, according to REMODELING magazine has a return of 126%. A bathroom remodel has a return of 124%. These are the two major rooms that buyers look at in terms of improvements so if you have the time and energy it would be a great place to start. Painting, new carpet and staging will give you a finished look that will appeal to a buyer. Complete the job with an attractive look to the outside by planting flowers and cleaning up around the outside.

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Science explodes at Portola Valley schools

SCIENCE

continued from page 5

Hulme, "Surface Tension."

■ Sixth grade: Charlotte Kohlberg, "Freezing Ice Cream to the Max"; Serena Houghton, "Oh My, What to Wear Today?" (textiles and temperatures); and Christopher Sauer and Jonathan Zdasiuk, "Mag-Lev Train Part II; Making the Mag-Lev Train Move" (a continuation of prior years' work).

■ Seventh grade: Brooke Rothschild-Mancinelli, "Effect of Salt on the Boiling Temperature of Water at Different Altitudes"; Catherine Smith, "Run-Off Pollution"; Max Polkinhorne and Chris Waschura, "Wireless Mouse Charger" (a combination invention and scientific experi-

ment comparing the optimal number of magnets and capacitor size to make a battery-free wireless mouse that the user shakes to generate electricity using magnets and coiled wire); and Joshua Godfrey, "Time Delay of the Eye."

■ Eighth grade: Wil Strober, "Acceleration by Magnetic Forces and New Propulsion System" and Geoffrey Lalonda, "Homopolar Motor Rotation Speeds as a Function of Changes in Electrical Power."

While Corte Madera could send only 12 exhibits to the county fair, science teacher Treena Joi said: "We consistently had a high caliber of student work on the campus. We foster the natural scientist and experimenter in all our students." ■



The Almanac/Marjorie Mader

Corte Madera students and families listen to scientist Michael Rowe (with microphone) transport them to the Galapagos, "the land of Charles Darwin."

Memorial for super-volunteer Robert Anderson of PV

ANDERSON

continued from page 5

Alameda Naval Air Station, under the Golden Gate Bridge, and then either north or south looking for Japanese subs. He may not have found many submarines, but on one trip he spotted, and reported, the four-masted sailing ship Pamir becalmed off Point Reyes. The Pamir, carrying grain from New Zealand to San Francisco, was helpless, with no wind and a dead radio.

In 1944, he trained to fly Corsair fighters off aircraft carriers and served in the South Pacific. He landed at Eniwetok on Aug. 15, 1945, the day the war ended.

Mr. Anderson returned to Stanford, where he graduated with a degree in political science in March 1947. In May he married Charlotte Anderson (she had the same last name).

Mr. Anderson pursued his lumber business on the Coastside — and learned the art of the chain saw — until timber declined. Then he sold his sawmill, and engaged in various building projects. He retired partially in 1966, and totally in 1983 — freeing even more time and energy for Portola Valley.

56 years in Portola Valley

Since 1950, the Andersons' life centered on Portola Valley.

By 1949, the young couple moved to Portola Valley, bought the first lot on Stonegate Road for \$4,000, and built the house they lived in for 45 years. In 1951, they moved in. The house features curly redwood paneling from Mr.

Anderson's sawmill in Pescadero.

Always involved in the community, the Andersons were among the families founding Christ Church; Mr. Anderson was ordained deacon in 1960 by then-Bishop James Pike, and remained a stalwart. Former neighbor Wil Patterson remembers, "He had a wonderful baritone speaking voice; he could be heard anywhere in the church."

As their children were growing up, Mr. Anderson continued his love of scouts by serving as co-scoutmaster of Troop 234 in the early 1960s.

As development spread to the foothills, residents of the unincorporated community became restive, and began to plan to take control of their destiny by becoming a city. In 1960 Mr. Anderson was president of the Portola Valley Association, a leader in the drive for incorporation.

When Portola Valley became its own town in 1964, Mr. Anderson was appointed to the first Planning Commission to write regulations and control land use. He was its second chairman.

Over almost 50 years, Mr. Anderson's service in Portola Valley can easily sound like a list of positions that barely hints at the energy and passion he brought to each one. His jobs included: Town Council from 1968 to 1976 and 1985 to 1991, and mayor four times; chairman of Public Works Committee and Emergency Preparedness Committee; Public Safety Commissioner and Police Commissioner; member of San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury; and member of the governing

board of the Woodside Fire Protection District.

After Mr. Anderson had a heart attack in 1995, the Andersons moved to The Sequoias in 1996; he continued to be active as police commissioner until late last year.

Mr. Anderson is especially missed in Town Hall. "I can't think of anything he didn't do," says Town Administrator Angie Howard, who was hired by Mr. Anderson when he was mayor 17 years ago.

The women of the town staff are sad they won't be able to take him out for their traditional Valentine's Day lunch. "He was our valentine," says Planning Coordinator Leslie Lambert.

Mr. Anderson personified Por-

tola Valley's original do-it-yourself volunteer spirit. "He was Johnny-on-the-spot," says Mr. Gardner. "He didn't just talk. He pushed the shovel, cut the bushes, did whatever needed to be done."

"In the Loma Prieta Earthquake, he was at Town Hall in 10 minutes, setting up a command post."

One of Mr. Anderson's favorite duties was as police commissioner. For the last 16 years, and sometimes before, he served as liaison between the town and the county Sheriff's Office, which provides police service to Portola Valley. He used to compile statistics of incidents, citations and speeding violations for the Town Council and county every month, says Sheriff's Lt. Ken Jones, who

heads the town's police service.

"He was a very good friend who did a lot for me," Lt. Jones said. "He was very well liked by everybody. He was always there to help us."

The Andersons had other interests and loved travel, says daughter Sally. He got certified in scuba diving in 1984, and pursued that skill in the South Pacific, Indian Ocean and Caribbean. "Their last trip (scuba diving) was to the Galapagos in 1993."

Mr. Anderson is survived by Charlotte, his wife of almost 60 years; sons Douglas Anderson and his wife Maggie of Auckland, New Zealand; daughter Sally Anderson of Sebastopol; son Bruce Anderson of San Luis Obispo; and one grandchild.

Mr. Anderson suggested donations to a charity of choice. ■

HILLVIEW

continued from page 5

■ Adding classrooms to the existing school. This option apparently is similar to an earlier one developed before the bond measure election last June.

■ Replacing some of the existing facilities and retaining some of the older buildings.

■ Rebuilding the school on the existing field portion of the Hillview site. Under this option, the existing facilities would be demolished after the new buildings are completed, and the land could be used for playing fields, parking and other uses.

■ Replacing the campus on its present site. This option would entail bringing more portables onto the field to house students

temporarily as the rebuilding project moves along.

Each of the options will be analyzed during the meeting, based on how it meets the design criteria adopted by the board on Dec. 6.

To access the design criteria, go to the district Web site, www.mpcsd.org and click on "Facility Development."

Board president Terry Thygesen said the board could choose a few options for further work by the design development team after hearing the presentation, analyzing the options, and listening to comments from the community.

Design criteria

The following are among the design criteria adopted by the

board on Dec. 6:

■ Accommodate enrollment growth with flexibility in case actual enrollment varies from current projections.

■ Demonstrate intended use of the campus for at least 30 years.

■ Maximize use of a small campus, while ensuring open space.

■ Address traffic issues and improve parking.

■ Reasonably mitigate impacts on neighbors and school-operation impacts during construction.

■ Reflect modern environmental standards.

■ Address the developmental needs of middle school students, promoting a strong sense of community and inclusion. ■



Vanessa Carlisle, in this 2006 photo, picks up students from Beechwood elementary and walks them to an after-school program in Belle Haven.

File photo by Kainaz Amaria

Parents rally to save 'heart and soul' of Belle Haven child care program

■ City still set on pulling Vanessa Carlisle from the Belle Haven program.

By Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

■ MENLO PARK

Check AlmanacNews.com for news updates.

Menlo Park city staff says Belle Haven child care worker Vanessa Carlisle will be transferred to the other side of town in the next week, but parents with children in the program, many of whom call Ms. Carlisle “the heart and soul” of the neighborhood’s child care services, say that won’t happen without a really big fight.

If parents don’t get their way, look for petitions, picketing, and “good old civil disobedience,” said Marcia Dore-Perez, an East Palo Alto resident with two children in the Belle Haven child care program.

Ms. Carlisle, a program assistant at the Belle Haven child care center, is being moved — against her will — to the Burgess program on Feb. 5.

“The fight is still pending, but I don’t want to go, and that’s final,” said Ms. Carlisle, who has helped provide child care to the largely low-income community for 23 years. When asked if she would refuse the transfer, Ms. Carlisle said, “I don’t know what I’m going to do.”

Outraged parents have sent e-mails to the City Council asking council members to stop the transfer, arguing that moving Ms. Carlisle will be detrimental to the program.

Ms. Dore-Perez said parents plan on packing the Jan. 30 council meeting, scheduled for 7 p.m. at the Menlo Park Senior Center at 110 Terminal Ave., in the Belle Haven neighborhood, to plead their case.

Why Vanessa?

Barbara Santos George, the city’s

new community services director, said Ms. Carlisle’s transfer is a matter of staff-to-children ratios.

The Belle Haven program has too many staff members, and the Burgess program doesn’t have enough, she said.

She noted that the Burgess program needs a program assistant — the position Ms. Carlisle currently fills in Belle Haven — so Ms. Carlisle was the logical choice.

“Change and growth can be a very good thing, and I think that will be the case with [Ms. Carlisle],” Ms. Santos George said. “The kids in the Belle Haven program will still have the rest of the staff they’re accustomed to seeing every day.”

But parents are baffled why the city is so intent on transferring Ms. Carlisle, especially during the middle of the school year, and at a time when neighboring East Palo Alto is being hit with a wave of violence.

“[Ms. Carlisle] has a lifelong commitment to this community, and she teaches that level of commitment to our children,”

Council reaches out to Belle Haven

In an attempt to involve, and listen to, residents of Menlo Park’s Belle Haven neighborhood, the City Council is moving its Jan. 30 meeting to the Menlo Park Senior Center at 110 Terminal Ave.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m., but council

said Ms. Dore-Perez. “The more opportunities kids have to learn and be inspired, the more likely they won’t join a gang. We have this violent spree hitting the community, and [the city] is pulling an adult out that makes a difference. ... The city doesn’t get it — the east side and the west side are different worlds.”

Members of the Service Employees International Union Local 715, which represents Ms. Carlisle and other city employees, say they are also puzzled by the city’s decision.

“We’re very concerned that transferring Vanessa out of the program that she’s been working at for so long in Belle Haven will leave a very negative impact on the community,” said Jonathan Wright, a worksite organizer with SEIU Local 715.

Council support

Belle Haven parents have at least one council member ready to speak on their behalf.

“I’m committed to supporting the [Belle Haven] community,” said Councilman Andy Cohen. “I’ll go with the people versus the administration.”

Mr. Cohen said it is the council’s policy to avoid cutting Belle Haven services, and moving Ms. Carlisle would be the equivalent of a service cut to the child care program. ■

members will be on hand starting at 6 p.m. for a “social hour” to mingle with residents and answer questions.

Food and refreshments will be provided at 6 p.m., and Spanish translation and child care services will be provided for the duration of the meeting.

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Supporter, critic of old council appointed to commissions

By Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

An era of partisan appointments to Menlo Park city commissions may be over, judging by the City Council's recent choices of residents from both ends of the city's political spectrum to fill key vacancies.

One of those residents is Andy Kirkpatrick, a key supporter of then-council candidates John Boyle, Lee Duboc and Mickie Winkler in last year's council race. Mr. Kirkpatrick, a Pop Warner football coach and a commissioner for the Alpine-West Menlo Little League, was appointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission at the council's Jan. 23 meeting. He was appointed by a 3-2 vote, with council members Boyle, Richard Cline and Andy Cohen in favor. His term ends in September 2008.

The council also appointed one of the more outspoken critics of Ms. Duboc and Ms. Winkler by naming Don Brawner to the Housing Commission.

Mr. Brawner has filed a lawsuit against the city claiming that a recently approved housing project planned for the Linfield Oaks neighborhood — a project

supported by Ms. Duboc and Ms. Winkler — is unjust.

Mr. Brawner was appointed by a 3-2 vote, with councilmen Cline, Cohen and Heyward Robinson in favor. His term ends July 2009.

Then-council members Duboc, Winkler and Nicholas Jellins were accused of stacking commissions with their political supporters, and their critics point to a 2004 overhaul of the Planning Commission, when then-commissioners Patti Fry and Stu Soffer were denied reappointment.

Other appointments

Software engineer Jim Tooley was appointed to the parks commission; his term ends in September 2009.

Retired engineer Charlie Bourne and long-time bicycle commissioner Robert Cronin were appointed to the Transportation Commission. Their terms end July 2009 and September 2007, respectively.

Former transportation commissioner Mary Gilles, a major supporter of former councilwomen Duboc and Winkler, applied to rejoin the commission, but only Mr. Boyle voted for her. ■

Violence, health, housing top county agenda for 2007

By Marion Softky
Almanac Staff Writer

Stemming the kind of violence that killed three East Palo Alto teenagers this month has to be San Mateo County's top priority for 2007, said Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson, newly elected president of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, in her "state of the county" address Jan. 25.

"Our most important role is assuring public safety," said Ms. Jacobs Gibson, who lives in East Palo Alto and has served as a councilwoman and mayor. "I stand here tonight frustrated, mad, disheartened that this type of senseless violence continues in our county."

She promised to work with the sheriff and East Palo Alto authorities to revive the sense of urgency that improved safety in the city 15 years ago, when it became known as the "murder capital of the U.S." because it had the highest per capita murder rate.

Decisions on state and federal budgets can have enormous impacts on the county, she warned. The governor's proposal to farm out all prisoners with sentences of three years or less to county jails could create severe problems for a county whose jails are already overcrowded, she said.

She called for "a more expansive approach" to providing better services to inmates. "At the most basic level, we must work to shift the prison system from one that simply warehouses inmates to one that promotes and generates reduction in recidivism," she said.

Another priority for 2007 is health care. Ms. Jacobs Gibson said she wants a sharper focus on the problems of unequal access to health care; the epidemic of childhood obesity; the abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs; and the language barriers that make it hard to communicate health information to county residents who speak some 30 languages.

With one in four county middle school students overweight, many of them minorities, Ms. Jacobs Gibson said she wants to see healthier menus at county facilities, more school gardens, and a local online clearinghouse to provide information on child obesity.

Another challenge, she said, is providing housing choices that work for the county's diverse population and income levels.

She urged county residents to participate in the county's visioning programs to achieve a more livable county in the future. Among her plans:

-- On Feb. 22, she and Supervisor Adrienne Tissier will host a "Women's Criminal Justice Summit" to discuss reforms related to evidence and gender.

-- The board will conduct five "town hall" meetings in 2007 to extend "Shared Vision 2010" until 2025.

-- A "family day" will help families learn about services and opportunities available in San Mateo County. ■



Len Tillem Esq.

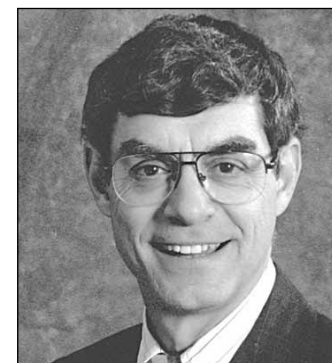
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High school district, Summit may end 'legacy family' standoff

■ Lawsuit likely anyway as deadline for district action passes.

By David Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

A payoff may be coming after all for parents who worked thousands of volunteer hours to reserve places for their children at Summit Preparatory Charter High School, only to see their hopes dashed when the high school district, in approving Summit's charter, denied the parents preferential enrollment for their children.

A compromise between Summit and the Sequoia Union High School District is in the works, said school board president Olivia Martinez. Reinstatement of a program to reserve seats for children of early parent volunteers is "a distinct possibility," she told the Almanac.

But plans for a Feb. 5 meeting to talk it over have been postponed to allow the district's lawyers to prepare for an anticipated lawsuit from Summit.

Summit officials are suing Sequoia to force the board to act on Summit's petition for a five-year charter, said Summit Executive Director Diane Tavenner.

Sequoia's deadline to act is January 31, and the board hadn't scheduled a hearing on the petition to consider the matter before the deadline.

In May, the Sequoia board granted Summit a two-year charter instead of the five-year charter the school sought. The board also overthrew the existing "legacy" privileges for founding families.

Anatomy of a petition

Summit filed its renewal petition October 30, 2006. State law gave Sequoia 60 days, until Dec. 31, to act on the petition, with one extension to Jan. 31 allowed.

Ms. Tavenner said she met with Superintendent Pat Gemma on Jan. 2 and 8 and talked further by e-mail and phone. "Every time I met with him, I tried to make a proposal to avoid this (lawsuit)," she said. "We feel very confident that this is a very black-and-white legal issue, and that the court will compel the board" to act.

Mr. Gemma said that the Sequoia district does not recognize the deadlines because Summit's legal stance is undercut by a "common sense" interpretation of the law: Summit

received a two-year charter in May and was premature in asking for a renewal in October.

Asked why the district's overtures to Summit came on the heels of the deadlines, Mr. Gemma replied that the district is recognizing Summit's "interests and desires."

Summit's charter doesn't expire until May 2008, and the Sequoia district had planned to review Summit's renewal in August

'We have very strong anecdotal evidence that people are very concerned about the (school's) future.'

DIANE TAVENNER, DIRECTOR
SUMMIT PREPARATORY
CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

2007, with a maximum 45-day turn-around, Mr. Gemma said.

But September would be too late, Summit officials said. The state's Department of Education recommends that a charter school have at least 12 months in which to appeal a board decision or find a new sponsor.

Sequoia Trustee Gordon Lewin has said that an appeal "probably won't be needed," and that Summit's concern about rejection is "surprisingly negative thinking. ... They obviously have a program that's strong."

Indeed, in 2005, Summit's compiled standardized test scores were the highest for a public high school in San Mateo County. Its Hispanic students — about 33 percent of the student body — were just six points shy of the statewide target of 800, putting Summit among the top 10 California public high schools with Hispanic students.

But potential new Summit applicants are apparently voting with their feet. Applications are down. The school normally receives 300 to 400 applications each year, but got only 211 for the 2007-08 school year, Ms. Tavenner said. "We have very strong anecdotal evidence that people are very concerned about the (school's) future."

"We feel it's very important for the integrity of the school and the commitment that was made (by parents) and the fact that charter schools were meant to be designed and implemented by grass roots groups," Ms. Tavenner said. "The entire Sum-

mit community would like to have peace of mind about the school's future."

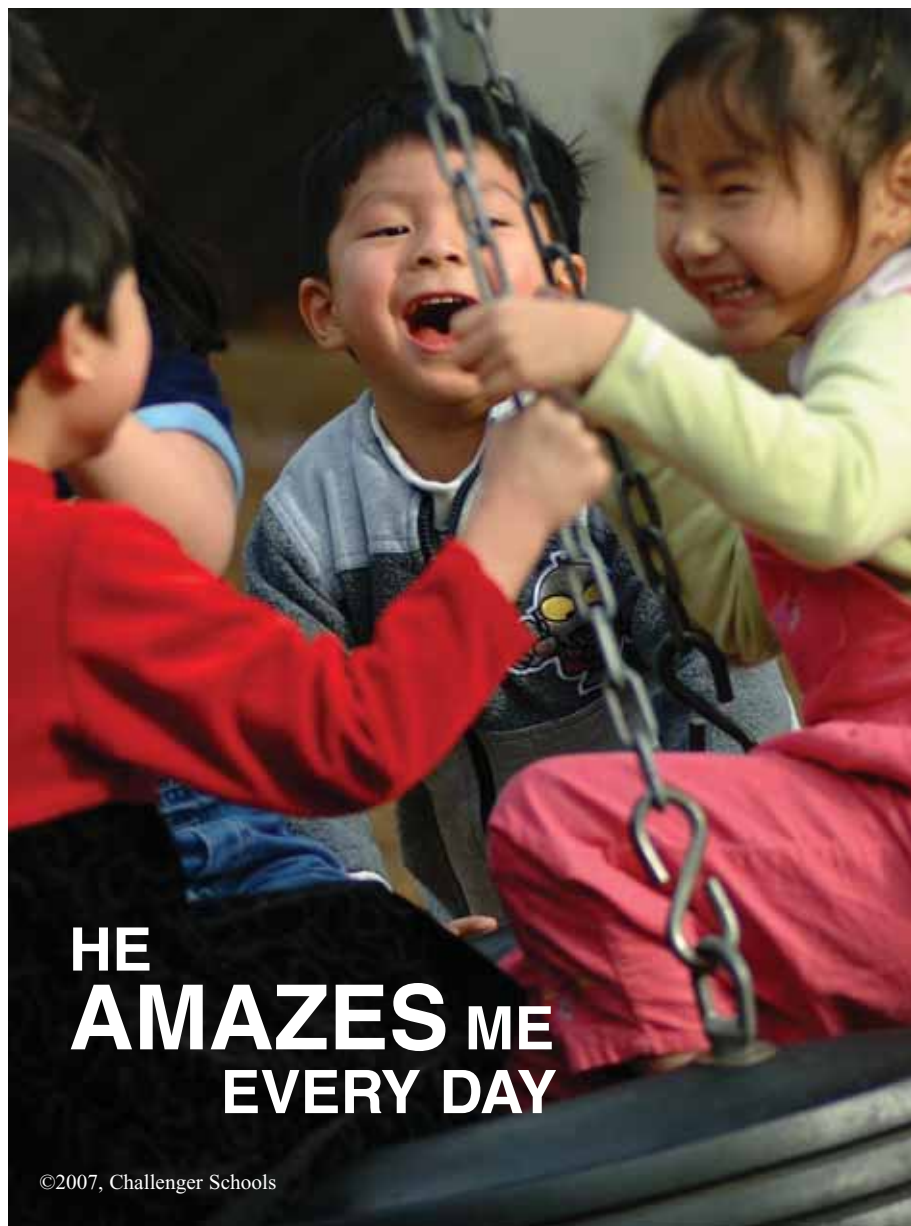
Why compromise now?

Sequoia canceled Summit's legacy privileges because they create the perception of an "elite club," Mr. Gemma said. For the 2007-08 and 2008-09 school years, the district alleged that a majority of the 100 freshman seats could have gone to students from Atherton, Woodside and Portola Valley.

Such numbers are misleading, Ms. Tavenner said. Of the 47 legacy families with eligible freshmen for 2007-08, she said, 18 have applied, including two from Menlo Park, three from Portola Valley, and three from Woodside.

Forty-six percent of all applicants come from Redwood City, including nine from legacy families, she said. Twelve percent come from Hillview Middle School in Menlo Park.

District officials have begun to appreciate Summit's value for students whose academic potential is at neither the high- nor low-performing ends of the spectrum, Mr. Gemma said. Throughout the district, he said, he hears that such students "are not being well served." ■



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Major program on MP history

The last 150 years of Menlo Park history will come to life in a History Symposium Saturday, Feb. 10, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Little House, 800 Middle Avenue.

Half a dozen speakers will track local history since the creation of San Mateo County in 1856, from cops and crime to railroad magnates, Ken Kesey

and Jerry Garcia.

Speakers will include: Mitch Postel, president of the San Mateo County Historical Association on county beginnings; Frank Helfrich giving a picture history; Joan Marx on "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous"; John Edmonds, retired sheriff's deputy and historian, on "Cops, Courts, Jails, and Judges";

and Darwin Patnode on local authors. Leah Lubin will show her film on 1960s icons Ken Kesey and Jerry Garcia.

Cost for the session is \$40 for members of Little House and the Historical Association, \$25 for kids and teens, and \$45 for others. Lunch is included.

For more information or to register, call 326-2025, ext. 230.



Historic gateway from the mid-19th century which two Irish immigrants used to name their property "Menlo Park."

Menlo Park Historical Association

African-American reparations topic of library program

A talk on reparations proposals that would examine the United States' obligations toward African-Americans whose ancestors

were slaves in this country is set for 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 3, at the Menlo Park Library.

Marie Davis, chairperson of the

NAACP California State Taskforce on Reparations, will present "Taking Reparations Seriously," a free program sponsored

by the library and the Friends of the Menlo Park Library in honor of Black History Month.

The program will include a discussion of Rep. John Conyers' bill that would create a commission

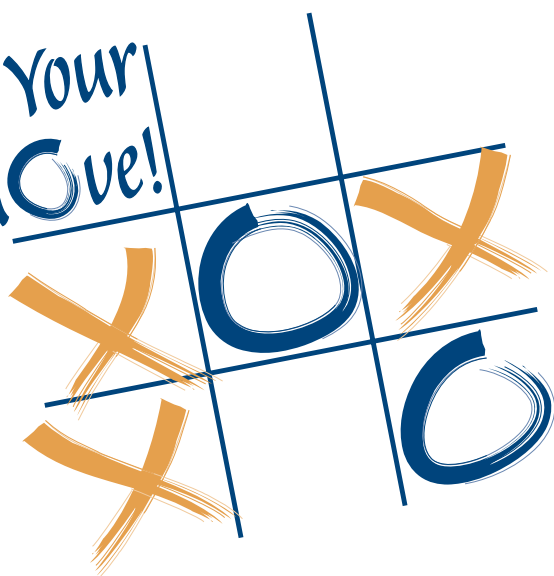
to study reparations proposals.

Rep. Conyers has introduced the bill, H.R. 40, in Congress every year since 1989, and will continue to do so until it is passed into law, he says on his Web site.

"One of the biggest challenges in discussing the issue of reparations in a political context is deciding how to have a national discussion without allowing the issue to polarize our party or our nation," he says in his Web site statement. "The approach that I

See **NAACP**, next page

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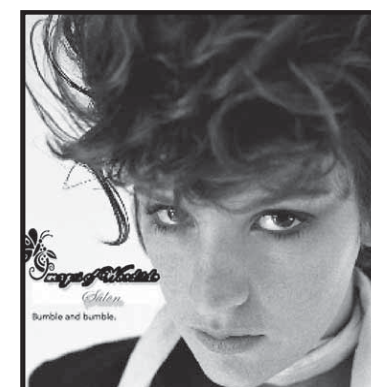
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Menlo School stages 'Greater Tuna' satire

"Greater Tuna," a satire on rural life in America with its eclectic characters, takes the stage at Menlo School, with performances from Thursday, Feb. 1, and through Sunday, Feb. 4.

Playgoers will meet the eccentric inhabitants of Tuna, the third smallest town in Texas, hanging around the town's local radio station, and discover a place where the Lion's Club is too liberal and Country Music will never die, said Beth Orr, Menlo drama teacher.

It's "a hilarious portrait of the men, women, children and animals of Tuna," said Ms. Orr.

Menlo's cast includes seniors Nic Breidinger, Kevin Greene, Katherine Kravitz, Jessi McDade, Mara Schleck, Derek Su and Niki Vanyo; juniors Raneen Bhutani, Natalie Feldman, Regina Jackson, Jenny Jaffe and Allison Lewis; sophomores Hillary Clark and Matt Calvi; and freshmen

Zoe Bjornson, David Harris, Brooke Jaffe and Laura Torello.

"You'll laugh so hard, the scales will fall off your armadillo," said Ms. Orr, who also directs the play. Faculty member Tripp Robbins is technical director; students Lyssa Searcy, Patrick Costello, Marissa Cui, Brandon Risberg, Alyson Goulden, David Silver and Lawrence Thibodeaux make up the technical crew.

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Sunday with a matinee Saturday at 2 p.m. in Florence Moore Auditorium on the campus at 50 Valparaiso Ave. in Atherton. Tickets, at \$7 for students and \$10 for adults, are available at the Menlo Bookstore or at the door.

Meet the eccentric characters of "Greater Tuna," as played by drama students at Menlo School, on stage in Florence Moore Auditorium on the Atherton campus.

Menlo School photo



NAACP

continued from previous page

have advocated for over a decade has been for the federal government to undertake an official study of the impact of slavery on the social, political and economic life of our nation.

"Over 4 million Africans and their descendants were enslaved in the United States and its colonies from 1619 to 1865, and as a result, the United States was able to begin its grand place as the most prosperous country in the free world."

It is clear, he adds, "that African slaves were not compensated for their labor. More unclear, however, is what the effects and remnants of this relationship have had on African-Americans and our nation from the time of emancipation through today."

Ms. Davis is an inductee of the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame and the Foster City Community Wall of Fame. She has been a leading supporter of H.R. 40, and has appeared on many television and radio programs to promote a better understanding of the bill.

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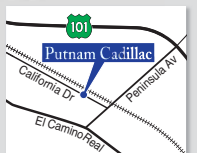


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The Almanac/Marjan Sadoughi



Lenore Horowitz's camera has opened up a world of new experiences

By Jane Knoerle
Almanac Lifestyles Editor

Who am I? At this stage of my life, I'm a poet, photographer, and a traveler," says Lenore Horowitz of Atherton.

Ms. Horowitz has been taking pictures for 25 years, ever since she photographed her children for her book, "Kauai Underground Guide" (Papaloa Press \$14.95), coming out soon in its 18th edition. (What started out as a little self-published book has sold more than 200,000 copies.)

Despite the success of her book, she never wanted to become a travel writer. The guidebook was just 16 photocopied and stapled pages when first published in 1980. It originated from "things to do" lists Ms. Horowitz made up for renters of her family's Kauai condominium. They were so helpful that friends suggested putting them into a book. Hers was the first guidebook to be written about one of Hawaii's outer islands, she says.

Although Ms. Horowitz has been asked to write other guidebooks, she says no. "It just wouldn't be the same."

Photography became her passion, however, after her four children were grown. "I went back to school after the kids were in college," she says. She already held a bachelor of arts degree from Brown University and a

doctorate in English literature from Cornell University.

Over a 10-year period, she had also taught an honors seminar in literature and expository writing as a parent volunteer at Menlo School, which all her children attended.

In 2001, Ms. Horowitz began taking photography classes at Foothill College. This later-in-life passion for photography (she's 61) has led to a world of new experiences. It inspired her to write poetry, and to approach travel in a new way, reaching out to people as she had never done before.

She would never have visited with a contessa in her Venetian palazzo, for example, if she hadn't taken that first step with a photography class.

At Foothill, Ms. Horowitz was fortunate to have "an inspirational and gifted teacher, Kate Jordahl. "She became a mentor.

Going back to school, Ms. Horowitz found herself part of "a whole community of people who share the same passion," no matter what their age.

A fascination with trees

Ms. Horowitz became fascinated with the California oak trees dotting the hillsides when she was driving down Interstate 280 to her Foothill photography class.

She yearned to photograph them, but knew stopping on the freeway was illegal. "Finally, I just had to stop," she says. She pulled over to the shoulder, "and my heart beating hard," slid the sunroof open and snapped the shutter.

The experience prompted her to write the poem, "Stopping by the Tree on 280," which she accompanied with a photograph of the oak tree that first drew her attention. "Stopping by the Tree" was one of her first forays into writing poetry. "It was a pivotal moment for me. I had not really written before. I began listening to

the voice inside me and found myself writing poetry. Sometimes my poems astonish me.

"I became a photographer-poet or poet-photographer about five years ago," she says.

Other poems and photographs of trees followed. Many of the trees were photographed at SLAC, off Sand Hill Road, which she needed a pass to enter.

A stunning photograph, "Tree Against the Sky," came about when she was "chasing a full moon." She looked in the other direction and "there was this beautiful sight," a lone tree silhouetted against a sunset sky.

One of her most beautiful photographs, "Golden Oak," was photographed at SLAC in the late fall, when the leaves on oak trees are dead and brown. "When there's a stormy sky, there's sometimes a magic moment when the sun comes through and turns the leaves to gold."

To grab that moment, she parked her car before a tree she had photographed many times. "I waited and waited. It was cold and drizzly. I was ready to leave. I had taken my camera off the tripod when I looked up and there was the sun. I grabbed my camera and just had time for two exposures, then it was dark again."

Poems and images

Which comes first the poem or the photography? Usually it's the photograph, says Ms. Horowitz, "but sometimes I have the poem first."

Ms. Horowitz's first solo poem and photography exhibit, "Trees That Climb the Sky," was shown at SLAC in 2005. Her fellow students and teacher pitched in to help her hang the show. She also had an exhibit at Atherton Town Hall that year.

Her work was shown at Atherton Arts Committee exhibits in 2005-2006. "Turning Leaves, Poems &

COVER
STORY

Lenore Horowitz, opposite page, photographed these twin sisters during her workshop in Venice. Small photos shown on both pages are of people she photographed as a workshop assignment. The woman with her dog, Coco, is Contessa Zavagli, whom she photographed in her palazzo. Below is a self-portrait of Ms. Horowitz with her camera gear, reflected in a mirror in Venice.



Images” was at the Palo Alto Research Center in 2006.

A permanent collection, “California Oaks, Poems & Images,” hangs in the main entrance hall at Stanford Hospital. Visitors to the hospital tell her the poems and photos have been a comfort to them.

Her poems are also on the Web site: womencandoit.com. “I’ve had comments such as, ‘You really made a difference for me. Thank you,’” she says.

Ms. Horowitz uses a Canon 5D digital camera and prints her own photos. She has a powerful Mac G-5 computer and an Epson 4800 inkjet printer in her studio.

She says everything done in a darkroom can be done with digital technology. “Digital photo software is based on many of the techniques of traditional darkroom printing, such as dodge and burn.

“I like it that I don’t have to be in a (traditional) darkroom. You have much more control in a digital darkroom. I want to change the image as little as possible,” she adds, noting someone once asked her, “How did you place the moon between the branches of that tree?”

Lenore and friends

People were the focus of a week-long workshop in Venice Ms. Horowitz took last October. “Before, I had always photographed trees; nice and safe.”

The “Il Chiostro” workshop was under the auspices of Michael Mele and Linda Minonti of New York City, who lead workshops in Florence, Venice, Tuscany, Lake Garda and Sardinia. They can be contacted at IlChiostro.com.

She stayed in a converted convent with 24 students — 12 photographers and 12 painters. “My room was like a cell, but the location was phenomenal.”

Her assignment was to get out and photograph people, asking first for permission. She doesn’t speak Italian, and most of her subjects didn’t speak English.

“I got more and more courageous. I found showing them the image (she had taken) was a tremendous icebreaker.”

She recalls a photo of two young Pakistani men taken on the boat to the neighboring island of Burano. She had a camera. They had a camera. She took their picture. They took her picture. “We spoke through the lens,” she says. They wrote down their e-mail address and e-mailed the photo captured on their camera. They now stay in touch by e-mail.

After the workshop was completed, she stayed a second week in Venice. “I was having so much fun I couldn’t leave.”

Ms. Horowitz traveled alone to Venice. “My husband, Larry, doesn’t like this kind of travel. Photographers travel differently. They go slowly and carry a lot of equipment. They’re always stopping.”

She spent her second week in a hotel that occupies three floors of a palazzo. The palazzo was owned by a contessa who occupied the two top floors.



Lenore Horowitz shows some of the prints she has photographed for her projects.

The Almanac/Marjan Sadoughi

See **HOROWITZ**, page 16



HOROWITZ,
continued from page 15

With her newfound courage, Ms. Horowitz asked to meet the contessa. It was arranged by the hotel personnel and she was invited upstairs to the contessa's apartment. "I would never have met the contessa and her dog, Coco, if I hadn't taken the workshop."

Ms. Horowitz has more travel plans. In March she is traveling with her son, Jeremy Horowitz, to the Dominican Republic. Jeremy, deputy general counsel for the San Diego Padres, is in charge of the Padre's baseball academy in the Dominican Republic.

In May she will take photographs in Tuscany, taking her mother, Rosemary McCann, with her.

COVER
STORY

Of her photography, Ms. Horowitz says: "I've made wonderful friends through this passion. I've learned how impoverished travel can be without engaging people. I'll never just shoot churches and gardens again." ■



The Almanac/Marjan Sadoughi

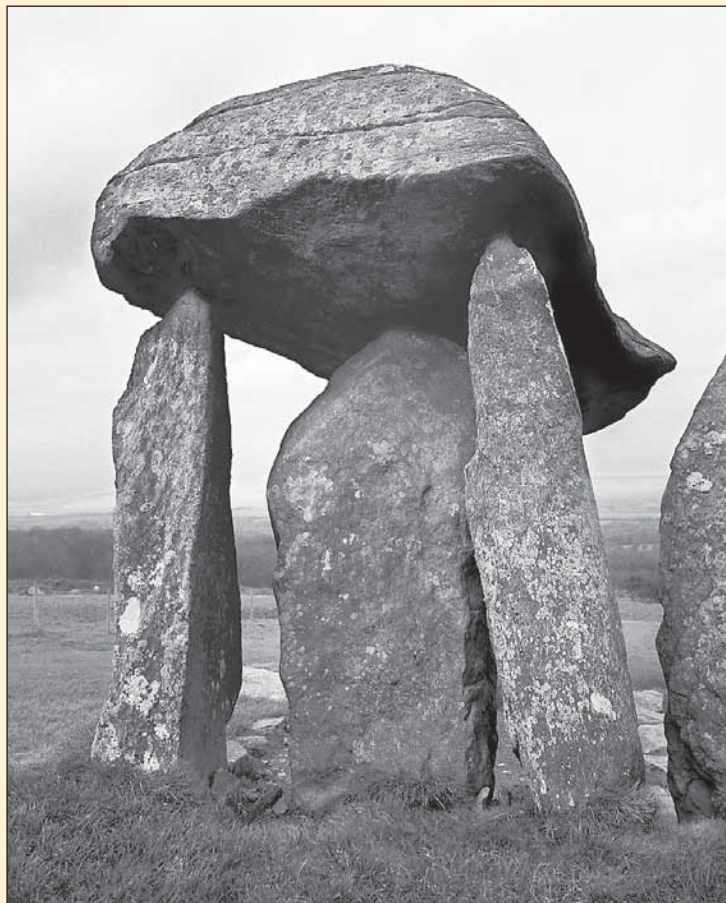


— The silence of trees —

is belied
by the furnace underground
that blows hot sap up through the roots,
blasting its way to leaf,
and the crunching of the earth
as bark swells
and the trunk stretches
to conduct energy upwards,
crackling,
groaning with each pang
as the branch gives birth
to each new stem, each
bud greening

And all the while
the tree stands still
as it always has,
in silent communion with the hills
and constant partnership with the sky,
solemn marriage with the earth
from which all progeny emerge,
soundless cacophony,
boisterous silence
simply there
with only the dew
to mark the passage
of night to day.

**"Red Dress,
Place Vendôme,"**
photographed
in Paris, won
honorable mention
out of 31,000
entries in 2004 in
the 24th annual
national College
Photography
contest. Left,
this photograph
of "Golden Oak"
inspired the poem,
"The Silence
of Trees."



British Megaliths

This photo by Alan McGee of Portola Valley is from his photographic study of British Neolithic monuments on display at the Portola Art Gallery at Allied Arts Guild through Feb. 28. The photographs were taken at Pentre Ifan in Pembrokeshire, Wales, and Avebury Stone Circle in Wiltshire, England. A reception for the artist will be held from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3. For information, call 697-0767. Allied Arts Guild is located at 75 Arbor Road in Menlo Park.

Hillview Robotics wins second place in Northern California competition

This was posted in Town Square on www.AlmanacNews.com by Manfred Kopsch, a member of the Hillview Middle School community on Jan. 22. It was posted in the Schools & Kids category. Post school, sports and other news there.

TOWN SQUARE

Post news and views at www.AlmanacNews.com

Are 12 year old 7th graders too old to still play with Lego?

Not if you throw in some motors and sensors and ask them to design and program a robot that is capable to master nine missions along an obstacle course.

The "Hillview Robotics" team works enthusiastically with their Legos once a week after school when they meet to discuss their newest ideas for the robot design. They try them right then and there and program the robot to see whether their design can solve the missions.

This season "Hillview Robotics" has won the San Francisco

Regional Tournament in the category "Robot Performance" and thus qualified for the Northern California Championship. The six team members were extremely excited to meet with 63 other teams on Saturday, Jan. 20, to compete and decide who would represent Northern California at the FLL World Festival in Atlanta, where 104 teams from 38 countries will participate in a 2 1/2 day celebration of their robot accomplishments.

The Jan. 20 tournament turned out to be a long but exciting day for "Hillview Robotics." They participated in three matches with their robot, presented their research project about "Using

Nano Technology to help clean Water," presented to the judges their robot design, their programming work, and how they work as a team.

And in the end they formed an alliance with three other teams to solve the missions with the combined power of four robots.

Now that "Hillview Robotics" won second place in Northern California for their robot design, the team members can't wait for the beginning of next season to solve new missions with a robot that is built from Legos. So they will continue to play with Legos even as 13-year-old eighth-graders.

Congratulations to Arthur Hogan, Daniel Kopsch, Evan Peairs, Jake Berkow, Patrick Reed and Philipp Kopsch for designing the second best robot in Northern California!

Portola Valley woman chosen for IRS panel

The Internal Revenue Service wants Portola Valley resident Merijane Lee — to serve as an adviser on its Taxpayer Advocacy Panel, a group of some 95 volunteers nationwide who make detailed suggestions to the IRS based on feedback from taxpayers.

In determining which suggestions are worthwhile, IRS executives consult with panel members, according to an online list of frequently asked questions

at the IRS Web site. The panel's 2005 annual report notes that of 187 recommendations made over three years, 53 were either fully or partly adopted, and 61 were still being considered.

Panel members serve two-year terms, contribute from 300 to 500 hours per year, and can include teachers, tax attorneys, accountants, professors and small business owners. Travel expenses are reimbursed, but

"virtual" meetings using teleconferencing or other online methods are the venue of choice, the FAQ said.

Ms. Lee is retired from a project management position at Hewlett Packard, according to an IRS statement announcing her election to the panel. "I am delighted to serve on TAP and share the benefit of my experience in customer support," she said.

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WEDDING

Pope-Preimesberger

Ellen Greevey Pope and Ryan Matthew Preimesberger were married Oct. 14 at St. Ignatius Loyola Church in New York City. A dinner-dance reception for 300 guests was held at Battery Gardens overlooking New York Harbor and the Statue of Liberty.

The bride, a native of New York City, is the daughter of folk singer Mary O'Dowd of New York City and Tony Pope of Fort Pierce, Florida. She is a graduate of the University of Southern California, where she was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority. She is employed as an entertainment industry representative by Bloomingdale's corporate office in Los Angeles.

The bridegroom is the son of Becky and Chris Preimesberger

of Redwood City. He is a graduate of Menlo-Atherton High School and is an actor in the cast of the daytime drama, "The Young and the Restless." He has appeared in several feature films and is also performing in stage productions in the Los Angeles area. He attended California State University, Northridge, and the College of San Mateo. He was a student at The Groundlings improv school in Los Angeles.

Jennifer Doll was maid of honor. The bridegroom's sisters, Courtney and Megan, were among the bridesmaids. Daniel Kitchen was best man. Allan Upton and Andrew Preimesberger, all Menlo-Atherton graduates, were among the ushers.

After a honeymoon in the Virgin Islands, the couple is living in West Hollywood.



Ryan Preimesberger and Ellen Greevey Pope

Free dental checkups for low-income kids

There still may be appointments available for low-income kids to get a free dental checkup on Give Kids a Smile Day, Friday, Feb. 2.

In San Mateo County, children from 1 to 18 are eligible for the one-day event under the county's Children's Health Initiative.

To sign up for any remaining appointments with local dentists, call 573-3595.

Last year 39,000 dental team volunteers across the country participated in the program to provide care and raise awareness of the importance to dental health for low-income kids. In San Mateo County, 20 dentists and staff gave exams to 92 children.

Families also received assistance in enrolling their children for health insurance under the program

The Children's Health Initiative ensures that all children through age 18 in San Mateo County have access to comprehensive health insurance coverage.

For more information on health insurance for low-income children in San Mateo County, call 573-3595.

Sen. Yee named to committees

If he wanted to, newly elected state Sen. Leland Yee, D-San Francisco, could have a legitimate complaint about being typecast in his committee assignments. Of the five committees assigned him, four are identical to his assignments in the state Assembly.

He was also named the assistant president pro tem, a position that assumes the authority of President Pro Tem Sen. Don Perata when he is absent.

Mr. Yee, whose district includes Woodside and Portola Valley, will serve — again — on committees for appropriations, business and economic development, governmental organization, and health.

New for him this year is Human Services, a committee with a broad mandate that includes child welfare and nutrition, food stamps, adult protective services, and community care licensing, said staff member Adam J. Keigwin.

The Governmental Organization Committee, in addition to its namesake duty, considers bills that concern horseracing, casinos, alcoholic beverages, and the National Guard.

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MP teen named Youth of the Year

Boys & Girls Club member overcomes challenges to become role model and leader

There was more excitement involving youth in East Palo Alto last week — though this time it had nothing to do with the violence or gunfire that has captured the headlines so much in recent weeks. It was a competition put on by the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula for the title of Youth of the Year. When the dust settled, 16-year-old Luis Guzman of Menlo Park was selected for this honor.

This annual competition, hosted by the Peninsula clubs in association with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's national initiative, recognizes outstanding contributions by a young person to the family, school, community, and Boys & Girls Club; academic excellence; and personal challenges and obstacles overcome.

Elizabeth Quintero, a Woodside High School graduate and last year's winner, went on to become the 2006 California Youth of the Year. She attends the University of San Francisco and continues volunteering at the Peninsula clubs, which are based in Menlo Park, East Palo Alto and Redwood City.

"Luis is real and an inspiring young man" said Bob Jaunich, one of the judges of the competition. "It was a tough choice, but what he said in the individual interviews really showed who he is as a person. He does well in school and gives back selflessly to others, especially to his family, friends, and to younger children at the clubs. He comes across as being extremely humble."

Mr. Jaunich was joined in the Jan. 23 selection process by Peninsula philanthropist Susan Ford Dorsey, former East Palo Alto mayor now council member Rueben Abrica, and Greg Gallo of the law firm DLA Piper Rudnick.

Chris Carter, development director of the Peninsula clubs, tells how Luis overcame adversity:

Luis was born in Redwood City. At age 2, he and his family moved back to Mexico; they returned to this area three years later.

His parents struggled to make ends meet and were not comfortable with him learning English. They enrolled him in a Spanish-immersion school, though



Luis Guzman, 16, of Menlo Park

later allowed him to transfer to a regular school so he could learn English.

He joined the Boys & Girls Clubs when he was 10, and began to excel in school. As one of three children, he helps take care of his sisters while his parents work as janitors. He also helps the family with English, serving as a translator when they have doctors' and other appointments.

On the weekends, he gets up at 5 a.m. to help his father, and then goes to his grandmother's home to help with chores and errands. When he was 14, Luis began volunteering at the Boys & Girls Clubs, helping younger kids with their homework. He recently started working at the clubs as a teen staff member.

On payday he gives his whole

check to his father to help support the family.

Throughout the years, he has referred many of his friends to the Boys & Girls Clubs. "They love it there," he says. "And it keeps them and me out of trouble."

In his spare time Luis plays soccer and has become the captain of his team, as well as a volunteer referee. He helps tutor many of his friends who are struggling in school.

All the while he maintains good grades at Menlo-Atherton High School, where he is a member of the Leadership Club and on the Principal's List, which requires that he maintain a 3.0 or higher GPA for two consecutive years.

Luis will now advance to the Boys & Girls Clubs' Northern California competition, and maybe to the national, where the winner will be acknowledged at the White House and receive a \$15,000 college scholarship.

This story is based on information provided by Chris Carter, development director for the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula. For more information about the Peninsula clubs, go to www.bgcp.org or call 322-8065.

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Emergency training in Portola Valley

A wildland fire or an earthquake could wreak havoc in Portola Valley, with its wooded semi-rural character and its

location along the San Andreas fault.

Anyone interested in receiving training for such an emergency will have an opportunity at 5 p.m. Wednesday night, Jan. 31, at the Historic Schoolhouse. Members of the Town Council will be participating in the two-hour session.

The presentation by Stephen Mahaley of the San Mateo County Office of Emergency Services will include discussion of the Incident Com-

mand System and the National Incident Management System. Every participant will receive a certificate.

For more information, call or write to Steven Willis, the assistant town administrator at 851-1700, ext 18, or swillis@portolavalley.net.

Metering lights for U.S. 101

New metering lights to be installed at eight U.S. 101 onramps in San Mateo County beginning this month may cause minor delays getting onto the highway, but will ultimately relieve traffic congestion during peak commute hours, according to a coalition of transportation agencies involved in the decision.

On Jan. 30, metering signals from San Mateo to East Palo Alto will be turned on during commute hours at the southbound Hillsdale Boulevard, Ralston Avenue, Holly Street, Brittan Avenue, Whipple Avenue, Woodside Road, Marsh Road and University Avenue onramps, the City and County Association of Governments of San Mateo County reported.

Metering lights at the northbound onramps will be turned on beginning Feb. 27, according to the CCAG.

The CCAG, a joint powers authority covering San Mateo County's 21 jurisdictions, partnered with Caltrans, the San Mateo County Transportation Authority and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission in studying the project.

The study, which took several years, was finally approved in November, CCAG spokeswoman Sandy Wong said.

CCAG's goal is eventually to have the entirety of U.S. 101 onramps in San Mateo County metered, as well as parts of Interstate 280, Ms. Wong said.

Officials expect delays of "a couple of minutes" getting onto the highway during commute times, alleviated by "end-of-queue" sensors at the onramp entrances, which according to the CCAG will offset potential backups onto local streets by detecting when the line of cars on the onramp is getting too long and alerting the metering system lights to speed up.

According to Ms. Wong, this is the first use of this detection system on metering lights in the Bay Area.

Additional metering lights for the Willow Road onramps in the Menlo Park-East Palo Alto area are expected to be turned on

Post news and views on

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Town of Portola Valley

Preserve our Valued
History of Volunteer Government

The Town of Portola Valley Seeks Dedicated Volunteers for the following Town Committees:

Community Events Committee

Meets as announced; appointed for a one-year term.

This Committee organizes the annual Blues & Barbeque, Open Space Fundraising Event, the Town Picnic and the Volunteer Appreciation Holiday Party.

Conservation Committee

Meets fourth Tuesday of each month, 8:00 p.m.; appointed for a one-year term.

Conserve environmental (water, air, lack of noise) and aesthetic amenities of Portola Valley as outlined by the General Plan, the Open Space Plan and the Conservation Element. Propose program and projects to enhance aesthetic and environmental qualities of Portola Valley.

Open Space Acquisition Advisory Committee

Meets as announced; appointed for a one-year term.

This Committee supports preservation of the Town's rural environment by advising the Town Council on open space acquisitions and uses.

Parks and Recreation Committee

Meets third Monday of each month, 7:30 p.m.; appointed for a one-year term.

This Committee meets to develop, promote and maintain quality recreational and community enrichment programs, recreational facilities and park areas in the Town of Portola Valley.

Teen Committee

Meets as announced; appointed for a one-year term.

This Committee meets to promote awareness of the unique needs of teens, as well as to provide visibility to teen contributions to our society.

Traffic Committee

Meets first Thursday of each month, 8:15 a.m.; appointed for a one-year term.

This Committee meets to assist the Town in advising ways and means for safer conditions regarding motor vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians and road conditions and to encourage proper traffic enforcement.

Interested residents may apply by sending a brief letter of interest to:

Town Administrator Angela Howard
Town of Portola Valley
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See **METERING LIGHTS**, next page

La Entrada eighth-grader takes geography bee

And the National Geographic geography bee award for 2006-07 at La Entrada Middle School goes to ... eighth-grader Sam Rupprecht, who now has a chance at a cash prize or college scholarship if he advances through the state and national bees.

The state competition, in which the top 100 scorers on a statewide written exam compete with each other, takes place March 30 in Sacramento. The national contest is set for May 23 in Washington, D.C., where the winner will receive a \$25,000 scholarship.

Sam began the seventh annual geo-bee at La Entrada with 116 of his schoolmates from grades 4 through 8. After four elimination rounds, the 11 semi-finalists fielded several more rounds of increasingly tougher questions on U.S. and world geography from moderator/teacher Mike Dumbra

until the top five finishers were chosen.

The other winners, all of whom also took home trophies, were Sam Falkenhagen, second place; Timmy Coleman, third place; Jake Smith, fourth place; and Alexandra Ballinger, fifth place.

On the individual grade levels, the bee winners at La Entrada were Erin Goode for the fourth grade, Rachel Bayersdorfer and Max Tyler who tied for the fifth grade, Tyler Finn for the sixth grade, Sam Falkenhagen for the seventh grade, and Sam Rupprecht for the eighth grade. Each of these students won a miniature glass globe.

The fourth, seventh and eighth grades classes also received 15 spirit points each for having at least 15 participants in the bee.

To try the geo bee, go to nationalgeographic.com/geobee.

Las Lomas kindergarten registration

Parents of children who will be 5 years old on or before Dec. 2, 2007, and live in the Las Lomas School District, may begin registering their children for kindergarten Monday, Jan. 29. Kindergarten starts in the fall at Las Lomas School.

The district includes portions of Menlo Park, Atherton and Woodside, as well as unincorporated areas along the Alameda de las Pulgas and Alpine Road, and the community of Ladera.

The school office, located at 299 Alameda de las Pulgas in Atherton, is open from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily. Go to llesd.k12

ca.us to see the school's Web site

For registration, parents must bring an original utility bill as proof of residence, plus either a passport or birth certificate to verify the child's birth date. Also needed are proof of immunization against polio, measles, tetanus, rubella, diphtheria, whooping cough, mumps, chicken pox, plus three doses of hepatitis B. A physical examination is also recommended.

Parents of new kindergartners can arrange for a school tour by calling 854-5900. Tours are scheduled for Feb. 8 and 13, March 1, 14 and 22 and April 4 and 19.

METERING LIGHTS

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sometime this spring, and more metering lights are planned in the future on U.S. 101 north of state Highway 92 and on Inter-

state 280 north of Interstate 380, the agency reported.

Public information on ramp metering can be found by calling the Caltrans hotline at (510) 286-4531.

— Bay City News Service



Beginner Fencing classes starting Jan. 2007 offered by The Town of Atherton Parks and Rec and **SF Fencers' Club** Mondays for Youth and Adults. For more information call **415-640-5671**.

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COMES TO
PHARMACIES
WE GO
BOTH WAYS



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Alpine Menlo Contenders win NorCal soccer cup

Pumas, Grizzlies And Cheetahs are finalists

This report is from Ellen Ablow of the Alpine Menlo Soccer Club.

The Alpine Menlo Contenders won the boys U11 NorCal Cup Silver Division finals in double overtime, beating the Juventus Force 2-1 on Dec. 17 in Manteca. Henry Solomon of Woodside scored the winning goal with five seconds remaining in the second overtime.

The Alpine Menlo Pumas played the Stockton Stars in the Girls U14 NorCal Cup Gold Division finals in Burlingame on Dec. 17. In a tough battle against the Stars, regulation play ended in a 1-1 tie. In "golden goal" overtime, the Stars, ranked 18th in Northern California, managed a break away for the winning goal.

In the semi-finals game Dec. 16, the Pumas and the Burlingame Flame (ranked No. 5 in Northern California) finished double overtime tied 1-1, but the Pumas were able to advance to the finals on penalty kicks. The Pumas are currently ranked 21st in Northern California.

The Alpine Menlo Grizzlies faced the California Rush Nike in the Girls U11 NorCal Cup Silver Division finals Dec. 17 in Manteca. In a hard-fought game, they lost 1-2 to the Nikes, currently ranked 11th in Northern California. New to tournament play, the Grizzlies were very happy with their strong showing.

The Alpine Menlo Cheetahs played the Half Moon Bay Soccer Club Crossfire in the Boys U10 NorCal Cup Silver Division finals Dec. 17 in Sonoma. In a thrilling match, where a Cheetah goal was called back in the last two minutes

of play, the Crossfire squeaked by the Cheetahs 3-2. Keaton Shiveley of Atherton earned the Cheetah outstanding player award for his spectacular play throughout the tournament.

The Alpine Menlo Sting reached the semi-finals of the Girls U13 NorCal Cup Bronze Division held in Fairfield. The Sting, ranked 42nd in Northern California, lost 2-4 to the Union City Devils, ranked 33rd in Northern California. The Union City Devils went on to win the division.

The NorCal Cup is organized by NorCal Premier Soccer, a U.S. Club Soccer sanctioned league providing teams in Northern California Premier Competition. Unlike tournaments that take place over one or two weekends, the NorCal Cup began in mid-September and ended the weekend of December 16. Teams traveled all over Northern California to play preliminary and qualifying rounds that determined bronze, silver, gold and premier flights.

The Alpine Menlo Soccer Club (www.alpinemenlosoccer.com) is a group of about 250 soccer players, their coaches and families, most of whom live in Woodside, Portola Valley and West Menlo Park.

The club is made up of 16 boys and girls teams ranging in age from U9 to U16. Teams play at two different levels — Class 3 (competitive) and Class 1 (select). Players for all teams are selected on a tryout basis. There is also an academy for younger players who wish to hone their soccer skills prior to joining a team. All players are accepted to the academy.



On the Alpine Menlo Sting are, top row, from left: Coach Christina Bell Gilmore, Savannah McKinnon, Ryan Mainz, Lena Gloeckler, Jesse Ebner, Lauren Safai, Jessica Diedrich and Coach Cris Gilmore; and bottom row, from left: Breena Hohe, Alison Spindt, Martha Harding, Stephanie Terpening, Madisen Joseph, Olivia Roig, Ellen Rudolph, Hannah Totte and Eugenia Jernick.

Two Alpine Menlo soccer teams reach finals

Two teams from the Alpine Menlo Soccer Club both reached the finals at the Clovis Challenge Cup II in Clovis, California, last fall. The Alpine Menlo Pumas girls U14 and Sting girls U13 class I soccer teams competed with other class I teams from all over California and Nevada in the October tournament.

The Alpine Menlo Pumas tied or won three games to qualify them for the championship game. In the final game, the Mustang Freedom of Danville beat the Alpine Menlo Pumas 2-0.

The Alpine Menlo Sting qualified for the championship game with South Valley United of Tulare County, which beat the Sting 1-0.

The Alpine Menlo Soccer Club is a group of about 250 soccer players, their coaches and families, most of whom



On the Alpine Menlo Pumas are, top row, from left: Coach Christina Bell Gilmore, Emily Mosbacher, Evie Browne, Emily Colvin, Charlotte Sagan, Justine Dhollande, Hanna Norman, Brianna Furner and Coach Cris Gilmore; and bottom row, from left: Taylor Groseclose, Sophie Koontz, Mackenzie Adamis, Lizzie Browne, Darrah Shields, Melissa Hastings, Rachel Rosenswieg and Charlotte Geaghan-Breiner. Not pictured: Tavanisha Crum.

live in Woodside, Portola Valley and West Menlo Park. For more information about the club, go to alpinemenlosoccer.com.



Alpine Menlo Contenders won the boys U11 NorCal Cup Silver Division finals. Front row, from left, Brian Jagers, Nick Schobel, Henry Solomon, Josh Totte, Gabriel McLarnan, Nick Chang, Rory Davidson and Everett Moisseff; and second Row, from left: Jon Myers (manager), Evan Powers, Steve Brooke, Connor Quilici, Isaac Polkenhorne, Matthew Myers, Arjun Parikh, coach Adam Clarke.

Boys under-12 Mud Dogs go 14-1

The boys U12 (under 12) Mud Dogs, made up of students from Woodside Elementary School, completed a perfect regular fall AYSO 2006 soccer season recently.

The Mud Dogs advanced to the final game of the Area U12 boys soccer tournament, made up of 16 teams from Area 2A. The team lost the championship game, finishing with a record, including the tournament, of 14-1. The team was coached by Jeannine Kurtela and Jay Quinby.

Team members are Alejandro Aguijosa, Christian Kurtela, Peter Quinby, Dominic Tehin, Spencer Hanley, Jerry Fuhrman,



Members of the Mud Dogs, the boys under-12 AYSO team.

Michael Degnan, Brad Degnan, Matt Van Veenendaal, Keegan Darbonne, Miles McCann-Robinson, Billy Ballinger and Trevor Hernstadt.
— Jeannine Kurtela, head coach