

WILL THERE BE a full-size turf field
at Encinal School? Page 5

The Almanac

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

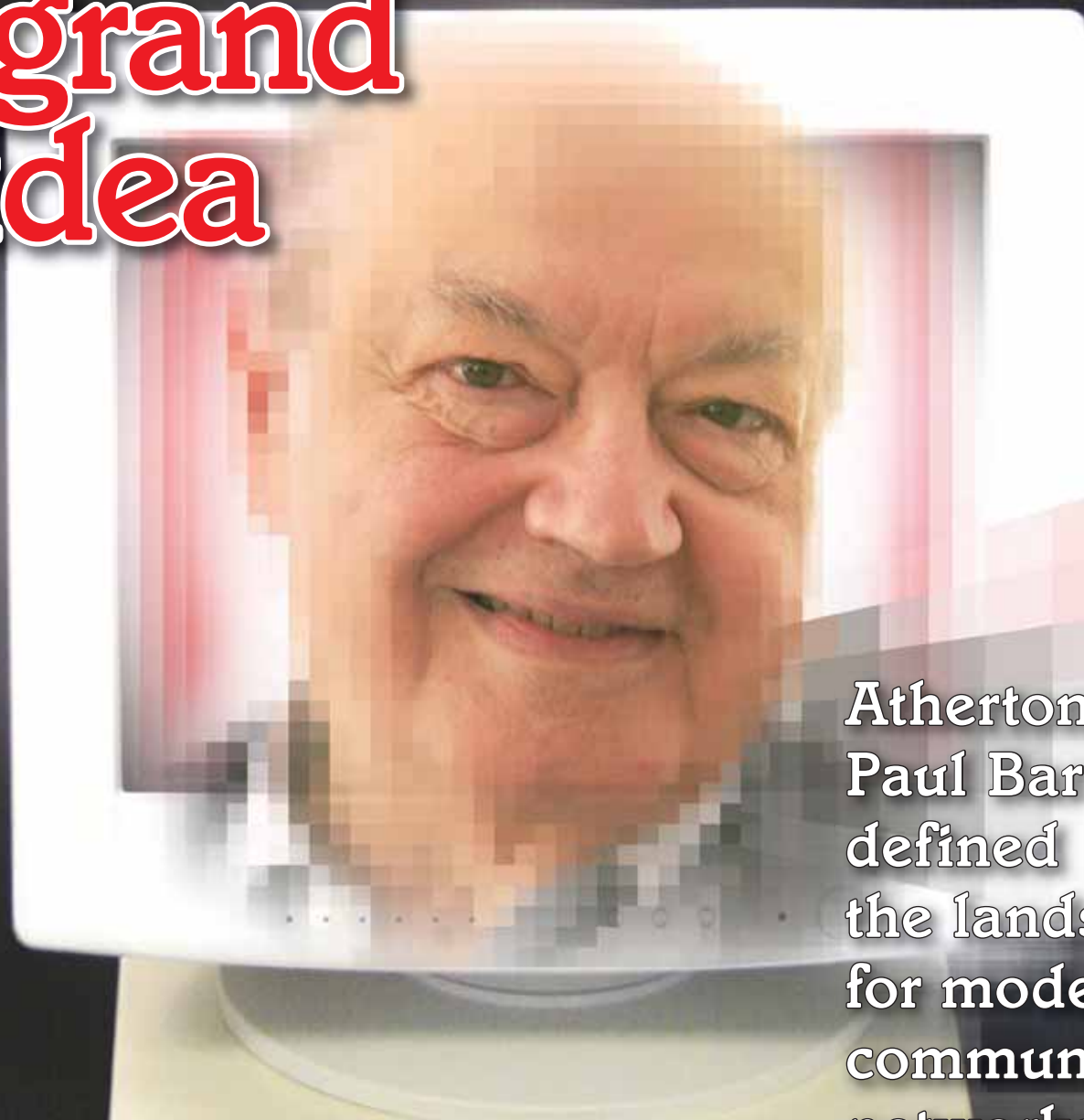
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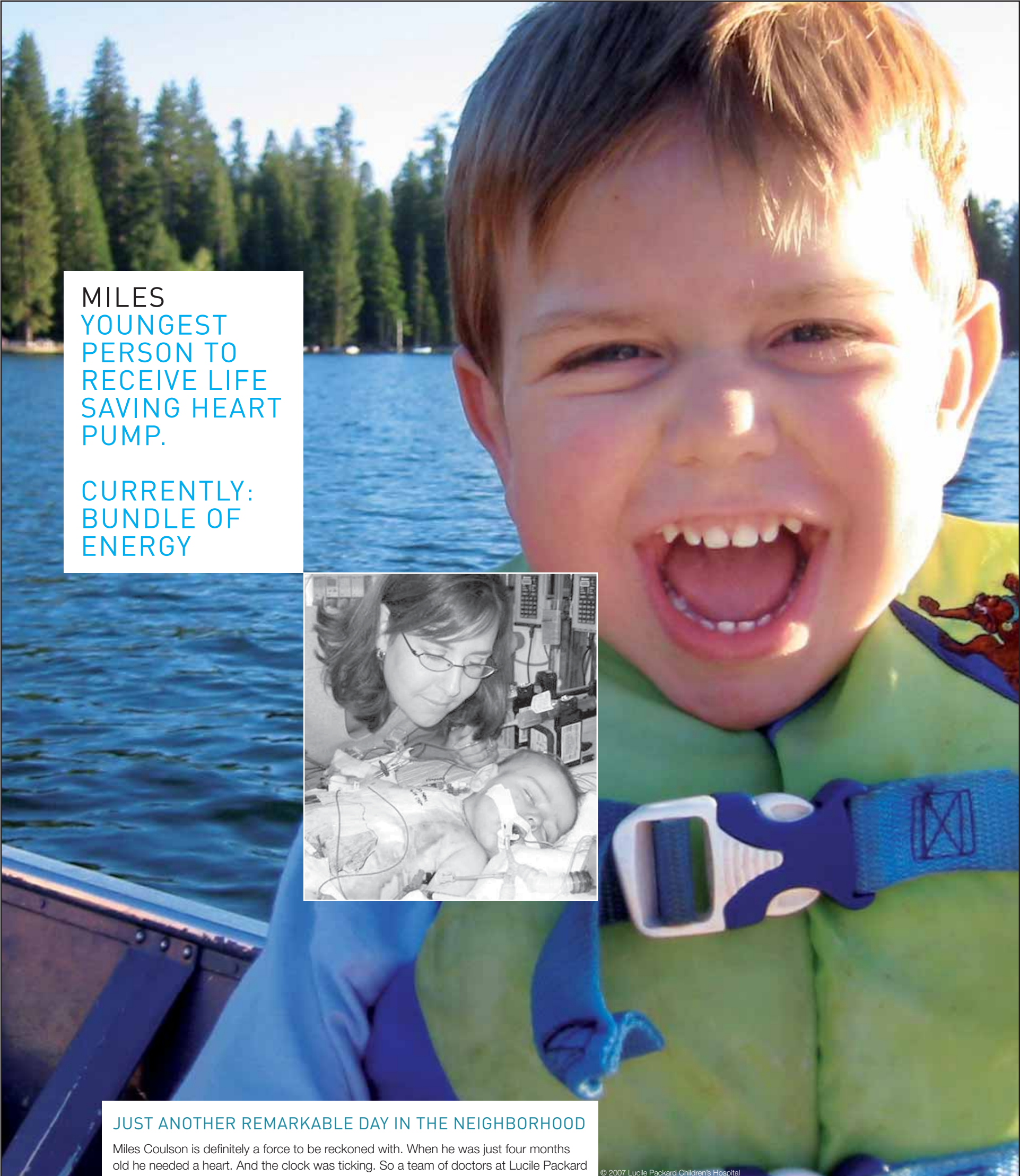
APRIL 4, 2007 www.AlmanacNews.com | VOL. 42 NO. 31

A grand idea



Atherton's
Paul Baran
defined
the landscape
for modern
communication
networks

Page 12



MILES
YOUNGEST
PERSON TO
RECEIVE LIFE
SAVING HEART
PUMP.

CURRENTLY:
BUNDLE OF
ENERGY



JUST ANOTHER REMARKABLE DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

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Lucile Packard
Children's Hospital
AT STANFORD



Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT



The Almanac/Veronica Weber

It ain't got that swing — yet

Little Leaguer Jonathan Simonian of the Morgan Stanley major's division team waits on the deck to give his bat some meaning during a March 29 game against the Draeger's team at Burgess Park. At the ready to get his own swing in after Jonathan is Nick Fratt, standing left.

Menlo Park

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Food & Drink

- Kaygetsu restaurant of Menlo Park offers the American palate an unfamiliar Japanese cuisine experience — and the critics are raving. **Cover, Section 2**

On the cover

Atherton resident Paul Baran proposed fundamental changes to digital networks back in 1965 that are, today, the robust and all-but-invisible sturdy backbone of modern communication networks such as the Internet, cable TV, wi-fi and cell phones. He is being inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in May. See story, **Page 12**.



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THE ALMANAC (ISSN 1097-3095 and USPS 459370) is published every Wednesday by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-4455. Periodicals Postage Paid at Menlo Park, CA and at additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation for San Mateo County, the Almanac is delivered free to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside. Voluntary subscriptions for \$30 per year or \$50 per 2 years are welcome from residents of the above circulation area. Subscription rates for businesses and for residents of other communities is \$50 per year and \$80 for two years. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Almanac, P.O. Box 7008, Menlo Park, CA 94026-7008. Copyright ©2006 by Embarcadero Publishing Co., All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

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STACY




A Little Lemon Adds A Lot!

When you are entertaining, there is nothing like bringing a bit of the outdoors inside to give yourself and your guests a little lift. Who knew that just a simple lemon fruit could show your guests a sunny good time? Adding a slice of lemon to guests' water will add a zest to their drink as well as look beautiful. Serving ice cream, custard, or sorbet in a hollowed out lemon adds a festive touch to your dinner party table. Try placing some lemons at the bottom of a glass vase to help hold cut flowers. Even simply filling a bowl with fresh lemons will add color and a fresh fragrance to a room.

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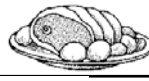
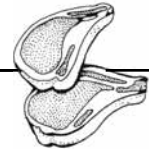


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From house to outhouse

Be it ever so humble, there's no place like the Chilean Woodchoppers House in Portola Valley, once home to workers employed by Maximo Martinez, the valley's original 1850s-era landowner.

Its one-story, three-room framing may be decrepit, but its aura on Portola Road is undimmed. After much indecision, the Town Council is now considering using the house's siding on a replica structure to be built near the Historic Schoolhouse to house a bathroom.

Former mayor Jon Silver compared the situation to New York City's choice to preserve Grand Central Station. "It's (now) a wonderful part of the city and the country," he said to the council on March 28.

"I think Jon is reaching," said Councilman Ed Davis to laughter. "This is not Grand Central Station. If it was Grand Central Station, I would suggest moving heaven and earth."

Your behavior is shocking

Menlo Park police are still investigating conflicting stories of a dispute over money that ended with one man allegedly shocking the other with an electric device and hitting him with a pipe. The quarrel occurred in the 900 block of Florence Lane in Menlo Park on Tuesday, March 20. The two men are acquaintances, says Nicole Acker, department spokeswoman. But perhaps, no longer friends.

Nice day for a wet wedding

How many water treatment facilities have to plan their repairs around the wedding season? The Pulgas Water Temple, that popular spot for nuptials and post-wedding photo ops, is closing for month-long repairs on April 9, in order to reopen in time for the wedding season's peak in May and June.

The water temple, the terminus of the Hetch-Hetchy water system, has served as a backdrop to countless wedding photos. For information on Pulgas Water Temple, located on Canada Road near Woodside, call (415) 554-3211.

New hope springs from latest trail offer

Supervisors' decision on Stanford proposal delayed until April 10.

By Marion Softky
Almanac Staff Writer

There is new hope that a simmering dispute between Stanford and San Mateo County over a recreational trail along busy Alpine Road may be resolved to everybody's benefit.

The county Board of Supervisors was ready March 27 to reject Stanford's offer of \$8.4 million

to build a 12-foot multi-use trail for 2.5 miles along Alpine Road between Menlo Park and Portola Valley, when Supervisor Rich Gordon reported that Stanford had made a new offer for a less drastic improvement of the existing bike lane.

Mr. Gordon described three elements of the new offer:

■ There would be no work along Alpine Road in the three-

quarter-mile area between Menlo Park and Piers Lane, in front of the former summer-home community of Stanford Weekend Acres. In this stretch, Stanford had proposed gouging out the hill across from the bike lane to move Alpine Road and make room to widen the bike lane into a "recreational trail" that hostile residents call a "sidewalk."

■ In the 1.8 miles between Piers Lane and the Portola Valley town boundary, the county could improve the existing bike trail, which runs between

Alpine Road and San Franciscoquito Creek, "in place" and to its own standards.

■ The county would also retain the entire \$8.4 million. Excess funds could go towards maintenance of the Alpine road trail, and for other trail improvements that would benefit the area and region.

Mr. Gordon, who has led the negotiations with Stanford over several years, warned that the county should be extremely cautious in negotiating a new agreement. "I am convinced that in dealing with Stanford the devil is in the details," he said.

The board unanimously postponed its decision until Tuesday, April 10, at 9:15 a.m. to allow time to negotiate a new agreement that would work for San Mateo County, Stanford, and Santa Clara County.

Larry Horton, Stanford's director of community and government relations, had not heard from San Mateo County by mid-day March 30. "We really would like to see a good trail," he said. "All of the money could return to San Mateo County for productive uses."

New game

Opponents of Stanford's "sidewalk" along Alpine Road were cautiously optimistic, but still wary about the new proposal. They remember the seven years since Stanford agreed to build a recreational trail north and west of the campus as a condition in



The Almanac/David Boyce

Under a new trail proposal being discussed between Stanford and the county, this portion of Alpine Road, in front of Stanford Weekend Acres, would escape major development.

Continued on next page

Will there be a turf field at Encinal School?

Debate heats up as residents question environmental impacts of artificial turf.

By Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

The Menlo Park City Council on April 3 is expected to take a stand in the contentious debate on whether to build an artificial turf sports field at Encinal School.

The council will consider a request by Menlo Park City School District officials for a \$600,000 contribution to build a full-sized turf field at Encinal School in Atherton. In return for the contribution, the city would be guaranteed use of the field for at least 15 years, and have the right to lease the field space to local sports groups.

With the money, the school district would have enough

funding to cover the estimated \$1.2 million needed to build a turf field. Without a contribution from the city, the artificial turf would likely be too costly, and the district would simply fix up the existing smaller, grass field said Superintendent

Ken Ranella.

He said Atherton has shown "no interest" in taking on any of the costs, making Menlo Park the school district's top option.

Menlo Park officials have been in search of field space for several years, and the city's field shortage has sparked political debates on where new fields could be built.

If built, the new, larger field at Encinal would be the only full-sized field regularly available for the city's use.

'If we're going to have 600 kids playing on that field five days a week, nine months a year, that's heavy use for a grass field.'

TERRY THYGESEN, SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT
MENLO PARK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The district previously planned to fix up the existing grass field at Encinal — a project estimated to cost about \$350,000. But because the 395-student, grade 3-5 school is expected to grow to a K-5 school with about 700 students, the district is considering building a turf field that could sustain more use, said Ahmad Sheikholeslami, the district's facility program manger.

After heavy use or following rain, grass fields are unusable, but artificial turf can be played on year-round, he said.

A turf field would also accommodate baseball thanks to portable backstops and bases, Mr. Sheikholeslami said. He said

Continued on next page

Turf field at Encinal?

Continued from previous page

it's up to the council and the district's Board of Trustees to decide which is best for Encinal.

The school board is scheduled to discuss the issue on April 4.

Grass vs. turf

Some parents and neighbors say the district isn't considering the full list of impacts associated with an artificial turf field, including environmental effects, safety hazards and impacts on local traffic due to increased use of the field.

"This kind of caught a lot of people by surprise," said Encinal parent Aaron Wainscoat, who said turf fields are significantly warmer and firmer than grass fields, presenting potential safety hazards.

Mr. Wainscoat, his wife, and several others started an online petition, which has more than 250 signatures,

against a turf field at the school. "I think the decision makers need to know how many people are actually opposed to this."

Several e-mails to members of the council and school board list concerns over potential negative environmental impacts associated with turf fields.

School board President Terry Thygesen said there are pros and cons to both grass and turf fields, and the board will weigh all of its options.

"If we're going to have 600 kids playing on that field five days a week, nine months a year, that's heavy use for a grass field," Ms. Thygesen said. "We're just in the process of gathering information but people are jumping to a lot of conclusions."

Unanswered questions

But Mr. Sheikholeslami said if the district is going to build

an artificial turf field at Encinal, planning should start as soon as possible so the field can be finished when the school year and the soccer season start in the fall.

That means the council and the school board will need to act soon, without all of the necessary information on hand.

INFORMATION

The Menlo Park City Council and the Menlo Park City School District Board of Trustees, at separate meetings, will discuss building an artificial turf field at Encinal School. Check AlmanacNews.com for news updates.

The City Council is scheduled to meet Tuesday, April 3, at 7 p.m. in the council chambers at the Civic Center, between Laurel and Alma streets.

The school board is scheduled to meet Wednesday, April 4, at 7 p.m. in the district office, at 195 Encinal Ave., adjacent to Encinal School.

"City staff is unable to do a thorough evaluation of the pros and cons of these options," said Councilman Heyward Robinson. "We're getting a lot of feedback, we're listening ... and we're going to try and make the best decision we can."

Councilman Richard Cline noted the council is being pushed

to make a decision, but said the Parks and Recreation Commission signed off on the project.

"This isn't something that is completely new," Mr. Cline said of the need to add field space. "The school and the city see eye to eye in that we've got to come up with a solution to this field shortage." ▀

First look at city's budget

MENLO WATCH

The Menlo Park City Council on April 3 is scheduled to take its first crack at the 2007-08 fiscal year budget.

The council has already set project priorities for the fiscal year that starts July 1, including repaving city streets, fixing storm drains, and studying the potential of a bike tunnel under the Caltrain tracks.

The April 3 discussion is the first opportunity for council members to stress additional priorities that should be budgeted for, such as re-establishing the city's traffic enforcement or adding staff to the business

development department.

The council meeting is scheduled to start at 7 p.m. in the council chambers at the Civic Center, between Laurel and Alma streets.

This is the first public discussion regarding the budget; the council will hold multiple discussions about the budget, including a public workshop in May, said Kent Steffens, the interim city manager, in a staff report.

The council is expected to sign off on the budget in mid-June, he said.

Stanford trail proposal

Continued from previous page

a general use permit granted by Santa Clara County in 2000 for some 5 million square feet of new building on campus.

What most neighbors thought was going to be a recreational trail crossing Stanford's open lands across the creek in Santa Clara County turned into a proposal to shift the trail into San Mateo County along Alpine Road, which carries some 300,000 cars per day.

Just over a year ago, Stanford proposed to San Mateo County and Portola Valley to build the 12-foot trail from the Menlo Park boundary along Alpine Road as far as Arastradero Road. The proposal came with detailed engineering plans and the promise of money to build and maintain the trail — \$8.4 million to San Mateo County, and \$2.8 million to Portola Valley.

Opposition has been building ever since from neighbors and environmentalists who felt betrayed by Stanford's actions.

"I did feel that \$8.4 million for extending the sidewalk was outrageous," said Lennie Roberts, a Ladera resident who represents the Committee for Green Foothills, after the March 27 meeting. "San Mateo County needs to get a very air-tight agreement so there is no wiggle room."

County officials and residents are beginning to think about recreational uses that could benefit from a fresh infusion of money.

Improving the trail from Piers Lane past the ramps leading to Interstate 280, and past Ladera, still presents some engineering challenges. The existing trail is substandard and almost falls into the creek in several places.

Dave Holland, parks and recreation director for San Mateo

County suggested building that section of trail between 5 and 8 feet wide, to meet federal standards. It may also need to be routed onto bridges over bends in the creek. "We won't be doing 12 feet," he said.

Mr. Holland is also thinking of other trail projects in the general area that could improve recreation opportunities for residents of Stanford and surrounding areas. He suggested that rebuilding the trail along upper Alpine Road that connects Portola Valley with Page Mill Road and Skyline might provide an important trail link. The dirt road washed out during floods of the 1990s.

"That would offer the mountain biking community a way to get to Skyline," Mr. Holland said. "That would serve a lot of folks."

Mr. Gordon concluded, "My only interest is if we can do it on our terms and in a way that benefits the county and region." ▀

COMMUNITY DAY EVENT

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Stanford University Medical Center



Free Skin Cancer Screening

As part of Stanford's Community Day on **Sunday April 15, 2007**, dermatologists from Stanford Hospital & Clinics will be on hand to check for unusual moles or irregular blemishes.

If you have had the following, this screening is for you:

- Excessive exposure to the sun
- Many moles or atypical moles
- A parent or sibling who has had skin cancer

Sunday, April 15, 2007

12:00-3:00 PM

**Wallenberg Hall
Building 160 (Quad)**

For questions or additional information, call

650.725.8400

<http://communityday.stanford.edu/>

Menlo Park cyclist dies in collision with light-rail train

Attended local high schools; activist for hydrogen as fuel

By David Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

A memorial service for Menlo Park resident Douglas Cowger — a cyclist and businessman promoting hydrogen-powered vehicles — is set for 10:30 a.m. to noon Tuesday, April 3, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints at 1105 Valparaiso Ave. in Menlo Park.

Mr. Cowger, 48, was pronounced dead at 12:18 p.m. Wednesday, March 28, shortly after his mountain bike collided with a light-rail train at East Java Drive and Geneva Drive in Sunnyvale. Mr. Cowger had been riding with a co-worker who was not injured, police said.

The two had been traveling eastbound on Java in the same direction as an electricity-powered Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) train, said Lt. Rick Sautter of the Sunnyvale Police Department. Mr. Cowger was struck while attempting a left turn across the tracks at Geneva, police said.

Mr. Cowger, who was wearing a helmet, was thrown clear of the train and landed on Java Drive, police said. The Santa Clara County Coroner's Office

did not disclose the cause of death pending completion of an investigation.

The train's driver is believed to have been following company policy with respect to the speed — between 20 and 32 mph in that stretch of track — and the sounding of the horn, Lt. Sautter said.

The train is equipped with a video camera that films several angles at once, he said. The video record is being examined in the investigation. Lt. Sautter said he did not know whether the camera system records blasts from the train's horn.

The intersection, like many light-rail intersections in the VTA system, has no crossing gate, but that is not unusual, Lt. Sautter said. "I can't think of very many that do" have them, he added.

Mr. Cowger, an industrial engineer, owned at least five expensive bikes and was a "very cautious" cyclist with a lifetime's experience on two wheels, his sister Lesli Miller told the Almanac.

He is listed as having spoken at the August 30, 2005, Menlo Park City Council meeting in favor of maintaining the orange flags for pedestrians who cross Ravenswood Avenue at Alma Street.



Douglas Cowger

A huge heart

Along with his engineering day job and his cycling interests, Mr. Cowger was a member of the California Hydrogen Business Council and president of Douglas Technologies, an enterprise for promoting the use of hydrogen-powered vehicles, Ms. Miller said.

"He was trying to get start-up (hydrogen fueling stations) all through California," most recently in Placer County, she said.

A nine-year resident of Menlo Park, Mr. Cowger had recently finished rebuilding a 1980s-era Porsche, was planning a trip to Chile with his wife, and was known to his nephews and nieces as "Unka Doug," she said.

"Doug had a huge heart and treasured his family and extended family more than life itself," his sister Teri Markle said in an e-mail.

He is a Silicon Valley native who grew up in Palo Alto and Menlo Park, attended Woodside and Menlo-Atherton high schools, and graduated from a Mountain View high school, his sister Lesli said. He has a bachelor's degree in engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Stout, she said.

Mr. Cowger is survived by Ximana, his wife of eight years; his mother, Diane Maves of Menomonie, Wisconsin; his father, Leslie Cowger of Reno; sister Lesli Miller of Oakland; and sister Teri Markle of Ventura, Iowa. ■

Man killed in Portola Valley crash

One Portola Valley man is dead, another is in critical condition, and a third has been arrested for manslaughter and driving under the influence after an April 1 car accident at 1550 Portola Road.

Marco Hernandez-Lopez, 27, was killed in the 12:40 a.m. accident, according to a spokesperson at the San Mateo County coroner's office. He died at the scene, in the passenger seat of a 1997 white Ford pickup truck that flipped on the passenger side and crashed into a tree, said Lt. Ken Jones of the San Mateo

County Sheriff's Office.

Lt. Jones said the truck was "pretty much wrapped around the tree," and the Woodside Fire Protection District had to cut down a portion of the tree and use the Jaws of Life tool to extract Mr. Hernandez-Lopez's body and two survivors from the vehicle.

Lt. Jones said the driver, Ignacio Hernandez-Florez, 27, admitted he had been drinking, and has been charged with manslaughter, driving under the influence of alcohol, and being unlicensed to drive. The driver

sustained a broken wrist and fractured rib.

Lt. Jones said he did not know if the driver and the victim are related.

The other passenger, Eduardo Bello Lucatero, 29, was still in critical condition as of midday Monday at Stanford Hospital with major head and chest trauma, Lt. Jones said.

He noted that the driver and the two passengers lived and worked at Spring Down Equestrian Center, about 1.5 miles from the crash site, where the three men were horse groomers.

Atherton house fire controlled quickly

Firefighters put out a blaze that started on the kitchen stove and extended to the attic of a home on Callado Way in Atherton on Saturday, March 31, within two and a half hours.

The fire broke out just before 4 p.m., according to the Menlo

Park Fire Protection District.

Battalion Chief Tim Campbell said that firefighters "made an excellent stop" on the flames before they spread further through the attic.

The fire caused an estimated \$150,000 in structural damage, while the contents of the home

were salvaged with only minor loss, he said.

Neither the firefighters nor the four occupants who were in the house at the time were injured in the blaze, which was caused by cooking grease that accidentally ignited, Mr. Campbell said.

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Green Building

Q: I am planning to build a house and want to use recycled and sustainable materials. Do you have any suggestions on where to look for sources and suppliers of these?

A: The green building industry has grown dramatically in the past few years and this is only the beginning of what will likely be a huge industry in the future. Green building materials exist for flooring, wall finishes, countertops, energy systems, paints, carpets, cabinets, insulation and cleaning supplies, among others.

There are architects and designers who specialize in designing green buildings and you may want to engage one of them to design your home. Most conventional architects are

now able to include environmentally friendly materials as well. There are many online resources to begin your search. If you are able to attend a home building show, you will see state of the art products and new building materials first hand, to begin to get an idea of how something will actually look in your new home. Find magazines that cover green building and see layouts and advertisements for new products.

As more and more homeowners and contractors demand green materials and supplies, the prices will most likely decline. I think you will find as you do your research, sustainable and environmentally friendly building designs and materials can be aesthetically beautiful as well as practical.

For answers to any questions you may have on real estate, you may e-mail me at mcorman@apr.com or call 462-1111, Alain Pinel Realtors. I also offer a free market analysis of your property.



PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE OF INTENT TO INCREASE THE EXISTING SOLID WASTE / RECYCLING RATES FOR COMMERCIAL AND MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS WITHIN THE CITY OF MENLO PARK

The City Council of the City of Menlo Park hereby gives public notice of its intent to increase the existing solid waste / recycling rates for commercial and multi-family residential customers within the City of Menlo Park for the collection of solid waste and recyclable materials. The increase, if approved, would be retroactively effective as of January 1, 2007. The City Council plans to consider these rate increases at a public hearing on April 10, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., or as near as possible thereafter, in the City of Menlo Park Council Chambers Building at 701 Laurel Street - Civic Center.

What are the new rates:

The intended new rates are 6% higher than current rates. A detailed listing of the proposed rates can be obtained from the Finance Department located on the second floor at City Hall, 701 Laurel Street, on-line at http://www.menlopark.org/departments/dep_finance.html, or by calling 650-330-6641.

Necessity for new rates:

The intended new rates are necessary due to the terms of the City's existing contract with Allied Waste Company (previously BFI) which provide for fees to be set at a level which gives the Contractor a rate of return based on approved costs. The Contractor's costs have increased in the current year primarily due to increased labor costs and increased disposal costs. In addition, City costs of providing billing services and environmental programs that support reductions in solid waste have increased.

If you wish to file a written protest to these fee increases, please send a letter addressed to Solid Waste Rates, c/o City Clerk, City of Menlo Park, 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Your letter must identify the real property you own by street address and the assessor's parcel number. Your letter must be legibly signed by any one of the current property owners. Your name should be set forth as it appears on your tax bill. The City of Menlo Park must receive your letter at City Hall by 5:00 p.m. on April 6, 2007, or it must be presented at the City Council meeting April 10, 2007, prior to the close of the public hearing on the matter.

Any person interested, including all solid waste / recycling collection customers of the City of Menlo Park, may appear at the public hearing and be heard on any matter related to the proposed increase in rates.

Dated: March 21, 2007 /s/ SILVIA M. VONDERLINDEN, City Clerk
Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on March 28 and April 4, 2007.

Group steams ahead in quest for train schedule review

■ County suffers more than others from service cuts, coalition charges.

By Andrea Gemmet
Almanac Staff Writer

Atherton and other city officials who believe that San Mateo County is getting short-changed on train service are pressing ahead for an independent review of the Caltrain schedule.

Saying that San Mateo County stations have suffered a disproportionately large drop in service to its train stations, the Coalition to Expand Transit Service wants an independent scheduling consultant to review the train schedule with an eye to adding local service without disrupting the popular Baby Bullet express train service.

The coalition is also seeking better connectivity between transit services, particularly for people traveling from east to west, as well as pushing for safety upgrades along the rail corridor.

“From talking to least a couple of people who are experts in the transportation field, there are other options that still retain the bullet trains, but have more (local) service for towns along the San Mateo County corridor, and in Santa

Clara County too,” said Atherton Councilman Jerry Carlson, a member of the coalition. “That’s the way it looks to us. That’s why we want an outside consultant, to tell us if it can be done.”

The group wants Caltrain to foot the bill for hiring the consultant, an idea the perpetually cash-strapped agency is not wild about.

Caltrain officials say the current schedule is a success, pointing toward the recent federal award the agency received for increasing ridership by 23 percent from June 2004 to June 2005.

The Coalition to Enhance Transit Service is largely composed of city council members from Atherton, Menlo Park, Burlingame, Belmont, Pacifica and Daly City. Members say San Mateo County stations saw a 20 percent drop in service since 2000, compared with a 13 percent drop in Santa Clara County and a 2 percent increase in San Francisco.

Undaunted by a less-than-enthusiastic response from Caltrain officials at last month’s Joint Powers Board meeting, the coalition is lining up support in



The Almanac/Veronica Weber

A southbound train races past the Atherton station on a Thursday. The town no longer receives weekday service.

the county for the independent train schedule analysis. The group is trying to get all the city councils in San Mateo County to adopt a resolution supporting the idea.

The city councils of Atherton, Belmont and Burlingame have passed resolutions supporting the independent review, and the

Menlo Park City Council is set to consider one at its April 3 meeting, Mr. Carlson said. Menlo Park city staff is recommending approval of the resolution.

Mr. Carlson said the group plans to bring up the subject again at this week’s Joint Powers Board meeting.

Caltrain’s Joint Powers Board meets at 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 5, at the San Mateo County Transit District Administrative Office, 1250 San Carlos Ave. in San Carlos.

For information, call the board secretary at 508-6279 or go to Caltrain.org. ■

Donors boost Town Center fund total by \$1 million

Some 270 “unique households” in Portola Valley have answered the call for a total donation of \$500,000 to the private fundraising campaign for a new library, town hall and community hall.

This achievement triggers a matching grant of \$500,000 more from the Portola Valley-based TOSA Foundation for the \$20 million project. A list of 335 donors is available at the Portola Valley Community Fund’s Web site at pvtowncenter.com.

With \$3 million in public funds included, the fund’s grand total is now \$15 million, said spokeswoman Beth Rabuczewski.

The matching funds will go toward environmental aspects of the project, including solar arrays for the roofs and efforts to educate the public on the efficient use of resources, said Sally Ann Reiss, another fund spokeswoman.

The news came amid the Town Council’s deliberations on whether to proceed with the construction of all three buildings despite being short \$4 million to \$5 million.

In a significant development, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors on March 27 agreed to open a \$4 million line of credit for Portola Valley, should the town need the money for the new complex.

■ PORTOLA VALLEY

After some discussion, the council agreed on March 28 that, given the line of credit, the likelihood of more major donors waiting in the wings, and the right to reduce the project size at no cost in April and perhaps early May, it was best to plan to build the entire project.

“I think you have direction to go full out,” said Mayor Ted Driscoll to Town Administrator Angela Howard.

Start the bidding

The town of Portola Valley is seeking bids for construction work that includes the installation of acoustical ceilings, floor coverings, a solar panel system, dumbwaiters and architectural woodwork in a new complex that includes a library, town hall and community hall.

Bids are due at the town clerk’s office at 765 Portola Road no later than 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 25. The bid packages will be opened publicly at that time, and the Town Council is scheduled to take action May 9.

For more information, call Town Clerk Sharon Hanlon at 851-1700, ext. 10.

Rachel Meyer named new director for troubled Coyote Point Museum

Rachel Meyer of Palo Alto will bring 30 years of experience with environmental museums to her new job as executive director of the troubled Coyote Point Museum in San Mateo beginning Monday, April 9.

Most recently, Ms. Meyer has been executive director of the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo, where she led a turn-around effort that included capital upgrades, new exhibits, and new programs that increased income and donations.

Before that, she worked at the Exploratorium in San Francisco for 19 years, where she directed

facilities, exhibits and programs at various times.

“Rachel has the skill sets and personal traits that are a perfect fit for the museum at this time in our history,” said Linda Lanier, president of the museum’s Board of Trustees, who led a six-month search for a new director that started with 47 candidates.

Ms. Meyer will face major challenges in turning around the environmental museum, which was almost pushed out last summer to make way for a center for global climate change at Coyote Point Park.

She will oversee repairs and

upgrades to the Environmental Hall, and prepare for the opening of a marine touch tank, and a new program of wildlife shows starting this month.

The Coyote Point Museum annually draws 100,000 visitors, including 20,000 school children, to connect with the Peninsula environment. They explore interactive exhibits, displays highlighting local ecology, and outdoor wildlife habitats with a large walk-through aviary and 50 live non-releasable animals native to the Bay Area.

For information, call the Coyote Point Museum at 342-7755; or go to coyoteptmuseum.org.

Town Center fields to close

Parents and athletes in Portola Valley take note: The children’s playground, the baseball field, basketball courts and tennis courts at Town Center will close Tuesday, April 17, so that construction on a new library, Town Hall and community hall can begin.

Sports facilities to replace the old ones are included in project plans. For more information, check the “Town Center Activity” link at www.portolavalley.net.

Corrections

■ An article in the March 28 edition of the Almanac about the proposed Oak Knoll School renovation project misstated the distance between the planned two-story building and Oak Avenue. The distance between the street and the back of the planned building would be between 20 and 30 feet, according to school district officials.

■ An article in the March 28 edition of the Almanac about GoGo Menlo concierge service

misstated the cost of the smallest service offered by the company. That service costs \$270 for 10 hours, not \$270 for 21 hours.

■ An article in the March 28 edition of the Almanac about Stanford’s Alpine Road proposal misstated the square-footage of new buildings Stanford was given permission to build under its 2000 general use permit. The permit allowed 5 million square feet of new construction.

Hearing on 33 percent hike in garbage rates set for Monday

■ Fee hike would affect Ladera and south county areas in West Bay Sanitary District.

By Marion Softky
Almanac Staff Writer

Some 2,000 Ladera and unincorporated south San Mateo County households in the West Bay Sanitary District are likely to see their rates for collecting garbage and recycling go up by a third.

They can comment at a public hearing to be held by the district board on Monday, April 9, at 7 p.m. at district headquarters, 500 Laurel St. in Menlo Park.

While a 33 percent hike in rates for garbage pickup by Allied Waste may seem high, this is the first rate increase since 2004, district General Manager Tim Clayton told the Almanac.

Mr. Clayton mentioned several other reasons for the large rate

increase. Allied Waste, which took over garbage collection from BFI in 2005, has recently unionized, raising labor costs. Also, pickup is more expensive in unincorporated areas with steep terrain and greater distance between parcels, he said.

Rates for picking up a single 32-gallon can a week plus recycling are proposed to rise from \$15.23 to \$20.26. The rate for two cans would be twice that, or \$40.52; and three cans, \$60.78.

Mr. Clayton noted that the proposed rates are similar to rates in Portola Valley, where GreenWaste charges \$20.09 for one can. Rates in Atherton and Hillsborough are higher.

Menlo Park is also being hit by higher rates. The City Council will hold a public hearing on a 6 percent rate increase at its meeting Tuesday, April 10, at 7 p.m. This will be the second 6 percent raise in two years, said Dianne Dryer, environmental programs coordinator. There was

no increase in 2005.

Rates for garbage and recycling pickup vary widely from city to city. They are set by a complicated process overseen by the South Bay-side Waste Management Authority (SBWMA), which is made up of 12 separate cities and agencies, including the West Bay Sanitary District, served by Allied Waste, from East Palo Alto to Burlingame and Hillsborough.

To set rates, SBWMA farms out Allied Waste's rate request to a consultant, who analyzes rates for each member agency, explained Executive Director Kevin McCarthy. SBWMA passes that analysis on to each agency, which then sets the rates. "Every city's situation is different; they're all over the map," he said.

For information, call the West Bay Sanitary District at 321-0284. SBWMA may be reached at rethink-waste.org. Dianne Dryer in Menlo Park is available at 330-6764. ■

Council set to act on new gym plan

■ Remodel of Burgess Gym will likely be next project funded by Measure T.

By Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park residents, city staff and parks and recreation commissioners said the city should build a new Burgess Gym, and now it's the City Council's turn to weigh in on the matter.

On April 3, council members are expected to green-light the design and planning stage for building a new gym.

The council is scheduled to meet at 7 p.m. in the council chambers at the Civic Center, between Lau-

■ MENLO PARK

rel and Alma streets.

Thirty residents who took part in a series of community workshops said the city should go ahead with the new gym, which would replace the current facility at the Civic Center, adjacent to Burgess Park. Members of the Parks and Recreation Commission were unanimous in supporting the new gym, and Community Services Director Barbara Santos George also supports the project.

The gym was a selling point of Measure T, the \$38 million bond measure passed in 2001 aimed at updating and improving the city's parks and recreation facilities.

A new gym was promised, noted Councilman Richard

Cline. "It's definitely something that needs to get done."

Estimated total costs for the new gym have wavered, partially because the building's size is undecided.

Recent estimates pegged construction costs between \$7.2 million and \$8.4 million.

The city could garner \$8 million to \$8.5 million from the next set of Measure T bonds, Ms. Santos George stated a staff report.

If the bonds are issued in 2008, construction of the gym would begin in 2009, she said.

If the council decides to move ahead with the gym plans, city staff and the parks commission are expected to study several construction plans before an official design plan goes back to the council for final approval. ■

After-school child care service on April 4 board meeting agenda

Trustees of the Menlo Park City School District face a long and heavy agenda at their Wednesday, April 4, meeting: Agenda topics include on-campus after-school child care, the schematic design process for Laurel and Encinal schools, and

moving the district master plan project forward.

Consideration of proceeding with development of the athletic field at Encinal School — and a possible joint agreement with the city of Menlo Park to install a synthetic turf — also will be

on the agenda for the 7 p.m. meeting in the district office, 181 Encinal Ave. in Atherton.

The board will also hear a report on expansion of the foreign language program at the elementary level, presented by the Strategic Planning Committee.

Second meeting set on Oak Knoll plans

More information about Oak Knoll School's facility planning and issues raised by neighbors at a March 19 public meeting will be presented and discussed at a second public meeting on Wednesday, April 25.

The meeting, a study session, will begin at 7 p.m. in the Oak Knoll School library, 1895 Oak Knoll Lane in Menlo Park.

Superintendent Ken Ranella of the Menlo Park City School District scheduled the study session in response to trustees' directions after they listened to input

from the community, discussed the proposed conceptual plan and requested additional information.

No action is expected at the study session, Mr. Ranella said.

The issues for further study include the review of several options for the location of the buildings and parking.



Public Notice Town of Portola Valley

The Town of Portola Valley is accepting bids for the Town Center Project Phase 2 - Bid Packages 10, 12, 13, 17 and 18

Bids are due to the Public Works Department at Town Hall on Tuesday, April 25, 2007 by 3:00 p.m. at which time they will be opened and read aloud. Bids shall be submitted in sealed envelopes marked on the outside "Town Center Project Phase 2" followed by the appropriate bid package number. Fax bids or bids received after the designated time will not be accepted. Copies of construction documents are available at the Public Works Department.

Town Hall
765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028
650-851-1700 ext.16



PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE OF INTENT TO DEFINE THE SERVICE AREA AND INCREASE THE EXISTING SOLID WASTE / RECYCLING RATES FOR SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS WITHIN THE CITY OF MENLO PARK

The City Council of the City of Menlo Park hereby gives public notice of its intent to define the service area and increase the existing solid waste / recycling rates for single-family residential customers within the City of Menlo Park for the collection of solid waste and recyclable materials. The increase, if approved, will be effective on July 1, 2007. The City Council plans to consider these rate increases at a public hearing on April 10, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., or as near as possible thereafter, in the City of Menlo Park Council Chambers Building at 701 Laurel Street - Civic Center.

What are the new rates: The intended new rates are 6% higher than current rates, as follows:

SERVICE LEVELS AND RATES

CURBSIDE SERVICE				
Size of Containers (In Gallons)	20	32	45	
Number of containers:	1	64.45	136.86	225.71
Rate for multi can user	1	N/A	169.49	225.71
	2	N/A	338.98	451.42
	3	N/A	508.46	677.12
	4	N/A	677.95	902.83
	5	N/A	847.44	1128.54

BACKYARD SERVICE				
Size of Containers (In Gallons)	20	32	45	
Number of containers:	1	96.95	205.36	321.85
Rate for multi can user	1	N/A	237.98	321.851
	2	N/A	475.97	643.70
	3	N/A	713.95	965.56
	4	N/A	951.94	1287.41
	5	N/A	1189.92	1609.26

Necessity for new rates:

The intended new rates are necessary due to the terms of the City's existing contract with Allied Waste Company (previously BFI) which provide for fees to be set at a level which gives the Contractor a rate of return based on approved costs. The Contractor's costs have increased in the current year primarily due to increased labor costs and increased disposal costs. In addition, City costs of providing billing services and environmental programs that support reductions in solid waste have increased.

If you would like additional information on the proposed rates, please visit the Finance Department located on the second floor at City Hall, 701 Laurel Street or call 650-330-6641.

If you wish to file a written protest, please send a letter addressed to Solid Waste Rates, c/o City Clerk, City of Menlo Park, 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Your letter must identify the real property you own by street address and the assessor's parcel number. Your letter must be legibly signed by any one of the current property owners. Your name should be set forth as it appears on your tax bill. The City of Menlo Park must receive your letter at City Hall by 5:00 p.m. on April 6, 2007, or it must be presented at the City Council meeting April 10, 2007, prior to the close of the public hearing on the matter.

Any person interested, including all solid waste / recycling collection customers of the City of Menlo Park, may appear at the public hearing and be heard on any matter related to the proposed increase in rates.

Dated: March 21, 2007

/s/ SILVIA M. VONDERLINDEN, City Clerk

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on March 28 & April 4, 2007.

Woodside riders worried over fate of horse trail

By **Andrea Gemmet**
Almanac Staff Writer

Woodside equestrians fear they are about to lose another key stretch of horse trail in town, thanks to a new owner's development plans.

At issue is a stretch of equestrian trail that links northern and southern Woodside and provides access to Wunderlich and Huddart county parks. Horse riders are pressing town officials to get a dedicated trail easement in exchange for the lot line adjustment being sought by the property owner, to ensure that the trail will stay open in perpetuity.

So far, they haven't been dissuaded by Town Attorney Jean Savaree's opinion that, legally, the town can't do that.

Equestrians turned out to plead their case before the Woodside Town Council on March 27. Woodside resident Eldona Hamel filed an appeal asking the council to overturn the Planning Commission's previous approval of the lot

line adjustment, an action that would create two legal-size parcels where currently there is one large lot and one that is too small to be built upon.

"I'm really concerned about whittling away, bit by bit, the access to this trail," said Woodside resident Signe Ostby. "Having trail access through this property is critical."

By not requiring a dedicated trail, the town is giving away its rights to a trail that has been used for more than 30 years, equestrians maintained.

Although the right to use the trail was never made official, it has been used openly for so long that Woodside could legalize its use as a "prescriptive" trail, Ms. Hamel said. Why should the town, she argued, trade a prescriptive easement for a permissive trail that could be closed down by the property owner at any time?

"This is not a subdivision, this is not a case where the council has the authority, either under ordinance or under state law, to require dedication of a trail,"

said attorney John Hanna, who represents the property owners.

Officially, the owner of almost 23 acres at 3411 and 3417 Woodside Road is Bear Gulch Creek Partners, LLC. As usual in Woodside, locals know exactly who their new neighbors are: Atherton resident Charles Schwab and family.

"I want to talk to someone with a direct line to Chuck Schwab," said Carleen Whittelsey, who brought along a metal pole and said she could solve his

deer/security fence problems while leaving the majority of the property open for wildlife.

Eight people expressed concerns about the trail at the meeting before the council curtailed the discussion by continuing the matter to its April 24 meeting.

Council members said they've been meeting in closed session with Mr. Hanna and Ms. Savaree on a formalized permissive trail agreement that they hope will ease equestrians concerns. However, since it wasn't on the agenda, they could not discuss it.

Councilman Pete Sinclair said it made sense to continue the lot line adjustment appeal to the April council meeting, when the trail agreement could also be heard.

"A lot of the (public's) con-

cerns are the same as the ones the council members have had — but we can't respond because (the trail agreement) hasn't been agendaized," Mr. Sinclair said. "So we're in a bad spot, the public is in a bad spot, and the applicant is in a bad spot."

Mr. Hanna said he believed the public would be very pleased with the permissive trail agreement, which would provide for temporary, short-term closures if security or construction situations demanded it.

The council meets at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 24, in Independence Hall, 2955 Woodside Road. Meeting information is available one week in advance at WoodsideTown.org, or by calling 851-6790. ■

Newbery award winner at library

Susan Patron, this year's winner of the Newbery Medal for children's literature, will speak at the Menlo Park Library on Friday, April 13, 7 p.m.

The free program is part of the Youth Speaker Series sponsored by the library and Kepler's bookstore in Menlo Park.

Ms. Patron's book, "The Higher Power of Lucky," has "raised the level of discourse about children's literature and censorship," says

Michelle Barrese, youth services manager of Menlo Park Library. She invites the public to come and "step into the life of 10-year-old Lucky, who is about to run away from Hard Pan, California (population 43)."

Ms. Patron has written a number of children's books, including "Maybe Yes, Maybe No, Maybe Maybe." She won the Newbery award for "The Higher Power of Lucky."

The Newbery is awarded annually by the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association, to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children, according to the ALA Web site.

The library is located at 800 Alma St. in Menlo Park. For more information, call 330-2530 or 330-2531.

Enjoy this special feast in the Duck Club Restaurant or on the Courtyard, then the Easter Bunny will lead the children on a fun egg hunt.

10:30 am - 3:00 pm

Adults: \$65 per person,
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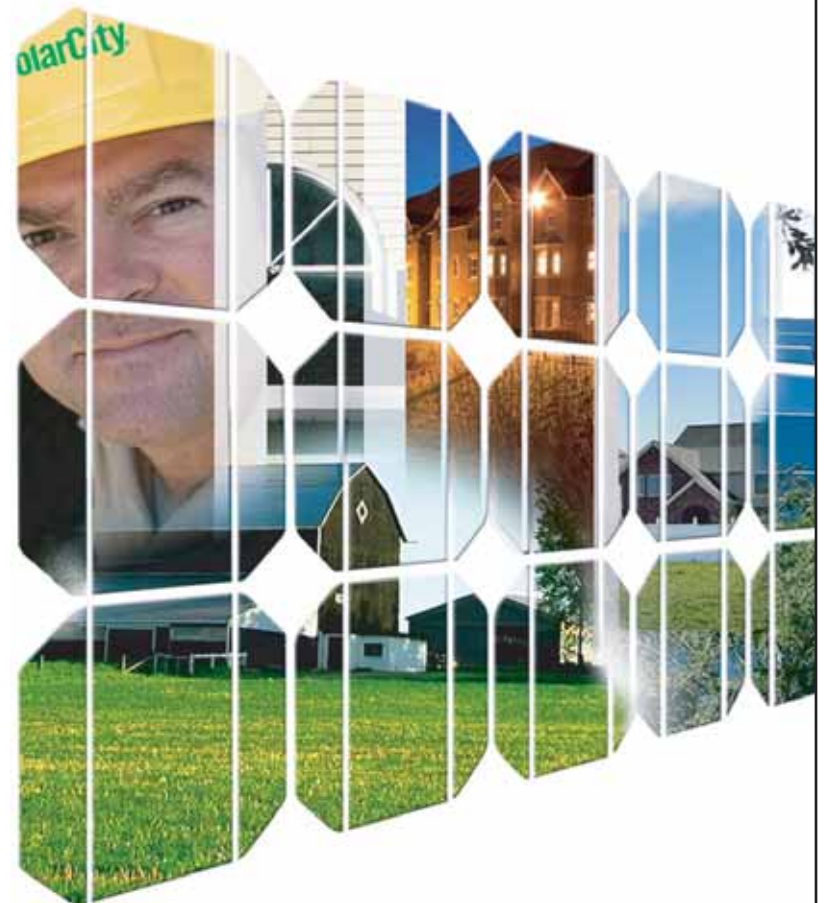
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Cover Story

Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union at its height, the U.S. Department of Defense was earnestly seeking a way to toughen its command and control networks to survive a nuclear attack.

These networks were vulnerable, Mr. Baran says, because a strike on one central office, or node, could isolate whole groups of other offices so that nothing got through—in the same way that a power strip providing electricity to a home computer, printer, fax machine and phone, if unplugged, would shut them all down at once.

“The obvious step was ‘Make (the network) like a fish net so there is no central node,’” he explains. In such a “distributed network,” the information might be blocked on one path but upon arriving at a “knot,” or node, in the net, it would have other paths to choose from.

“What could be simpler or more elegant? What could be harder to imagine,” says Paul Saffo, an admirer of Mr. Baran and a fellow at the Palo Alto-based Institute for the Future, which Mr. Baran co-founded.

The net-like structure and related concepts—the notion of packets that can find their own way home, the idea of formatting data to tolerate noise contamination—gelled for Mr. Baran in the early 1960s when he was with the nonprofit RAND Corporation in Los Angeles, a think tank and reservoir of ideas for the Pentagon.

He had about 20 different concepts in play, he says. “I didn’t invent everything. I just took whatever ideas were around and patched them together.”

A proof of his ideas arrived unexpectedly during the Northeast power blackout of 1965, when a regional radio and teletype network based on his concepts continued operating without interruption, he says.

The surprises kept coming. “There were a whole bunch of Eureka moments,” he says. “I was flabbergasted to find that, not only was it much more robust than anything around, it was very much cheaper” to build.

With multiple pathways for information flow, a distributed network has a natural tolerance for failure, allowing the use of cheaper components that cut costs to 1/50 of earlier networks, he says.

“That means you can now build this network out of (comparable) junk,” Mr. Baran says. “It used to be we had to gold-plate everything. This

one works around failure. That’s why it’s become the way we build networks today.”

And it wasn’t just U.S. defense agencies that built them. Packet switching “was never patented,” he says. “We put it in the public domain. ... It was made public early, intentionally. It was the right thing to do.”

The point, he says, was to spread the technology around in order to harden networks everywhere. In theory, Cold War defense officials would feel secure with robust, survivable networks, and a rumor of missiles being launched would be less likely to cause a panicked response from either side.

A little alchemy

Paul Baran came into the world in 1926 in Grodno, located on what at the time was the eastern border of Poland. His two older siblings, born in the same house, were, respectively, Lithuanian and Byelorussian. Conquests kept changing the nationality of the town in the early 20th century, he says.

His family moved to the United States when he was 2, and he spent most of his childhood in Philadelphia, where his parents owned a grocery store. Fooling around with chemicals was an early interest after his sister bought him a chemistry set.

He made gunpowder and played with mercury, including chasing it around on a table top and packing it in dry ice to watch it freeze. There were other uses: “You can coat pennies with it and pass ‘em for dimes,” he says, chuckling.

The federal Department of Health and Human Services warns against exposure to “high levels” of mercury, particularly as a vapor. Weren’t his high jinks akin to playing with at least a small fire? “Details,” he says with a firm smile, leaving little room to question his joyful take on childhood. “I’m not really done growing up yet,” he adds.

He went on to a career in electrical engineering, with a bachelor’s degree and an honorary doctorate from Drexel University, and a master’s degree from the University of California at Los Angeles. He and Evelyn, his wife of more than 50 years, have one son and three grandchildren.

His affiliations include fellowships in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Marconi Society, and he is a member of the National Academy of

Engineering.

With some 35 patents to his name, most related to packet switching, does the label “inventor” fit? “The idea of being called an inventor is something I never thought of,” he says. “If I filled in an application form, I would never say ‘inventor.’ I’m an engineer.”

He has started seven companies, five of which went public, says collaborator and Portola Valley resident Stephen Millard. Technologies based on his inventions include high-speed Internet access (DSL), wireless networking, and Internet phone service, Mr. Millard says.

“He has a unique ability to see marketing opportunities that don’t (materialize) for five years,” he says. “There’s sheer intellect and then there’s intellect that makes things happen. ... That man’s the father of the communications age.”

Asked if his later inventions measured up to his original packet switching idea, Mr. Baran replies: “No, that a pretty hard one to beat. After that, it’s all down hill.”

Mr. Saffo of the Institute for the Future describes Mr. Baran as “delightful,” adding that he is “refreshingly self-effacing. He is so generous in sharing credit with others, almost to a fault.

“He is old-school Silicon Valley, the ‘Show no chrome’ generation,” Mr. Saffo adds. “He’s kind of the polar opposite of (Oracle Corp. founder) Larry Ellison. I’ll bet you he (Baran) flies coach.

“We need more of that in the Valley. I’m grateful for his many innovations, but I admire him most for his outlook on life, and it’s something that the rest of us should strive to emulate.”

A culture of invention?

Few American kids are making their own gunpowder or trying to fool candy store clerks with fake dimes these days. They have too many other priorities: sports, community service, music lessons, ski week, SAT preparation.

See **GRAND IDEA**, next page



The Almanac/Veronica Weber

Paul Baran will be inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame on May 5 in recognition of his fundamental contributions to the creation of modern digital networks.

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Cover Story

GRAND IDEA

continued from previous page

Are there inventors among them to help the United States maintain its edge? Mr. Baran says he is not worried, but adds: "Unless you get kids into science between the sixth and eighth grades, you lose them forever. There's only a short window that you can get kids interested in science.

"You know if they become nerds or not," he says. "I think (nerd) is a badly maligned name. It's a hell of a lot more fun than people realize, speaking as a nerd, of course."

Nerds tend to find each other, he adds, and Silicon Valley is an ideal meeting ground. "This is an area of lots and lots of stuff going on, a lot of fun people, bright people, and having a lot of fun."

Reading about science, particularly cosmology, is one way he has fun, despite the impenetrability of such concepts as dark matter.

What about string theory as an explanation for the universe? "String theory is way out there. ... It's not real enough for me to believe, but I've tried." ■

■ INFORMATION

Go to www.invent.org to learn more about the National Inventors Hall of Fame. This site has information on the Camp Invention summer program for kids and the Modern Marvels Invent Now Challenge for inventors of all ages, including lesson plans for elementary, middle and high schools.



The Almanac/David Boyce

'We see a danger of allowing (kids) to get distracted from their natural (inventive) tendencies. It's about reminding kids that there is excitement in doing something on your own and not just playing somebody else's video game.'

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ATTORNEY
JIM POOLEY

It's new, it's different, but was it invented here?

A local patent attorney considers the future of U.S. innovation in a media-saturated culture

By David Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Items ordinary in 20th-century America — the lock-and-key, the fire hydrant, the cheap flat-bottomed paper bag, the automatic dishwasher — were not ordinary at all for many 19th-century citizens.

The lock-and-key, invented by Linus Yale, received a U.S. patent in 1861; Birdsill Holly's fire hydrant received its patent in 1869; Margaret Knight obtained a patent for her bag-making machine in 1879; Josephine Garis Cochran's dishwasher was patented in 1886.

Americans all, according to the National Inventors Hall of Fame in Akron, Ohio.

In 1984, Atherton resident and naturalized U.S. citizen Paul Baran received a patent for a modem designed for a dial telephone. On May 5, 2007, he and 16 other inventors will join the notables mentioned above in the Hall of Fame.

(Mr. Baran's most significant invention, digital packet switching, laid the foundation for mod-

ern communication networks, including the Internet, but it was ineligible for his entry into the Hall of Fame because it went directly into the public domain without a patent.)

This list of famous inventors will get longer, but how many will be Americans in an era of packaged entertainment and career paths that focus on school-based learning? Is the United States still a nation of tinkerers who learn to think outside the box?

"I think that that same kind of eccentricity (still) lies at the foundation of American inventors' personal genius," says Portola Valley resident and intellectual property attorney Jim Pooley.

Mr. Pooley, 58, is a trial lawyer with 34 years of experience defending the rights of inventive people and companies in the high-technology industry. He is also the 2007 president of the National Inventors Hall of Fame, founded in 1973 by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the National Council of Intellectual Property Law

Associations.

"If you're in a country that celebrates individualism, you're more likely to buck and reject the assumptions of those around you and test those assumptions," he says. "We're a bunch of independent thinkers, notwithstanding the efforts by some media to make us conform."

But perhaps to be on the safe side, the Inventors Hall of Fame and the Patent Office have engaged the nonprofit Ad Council to get middle-school kids thinking about careers they might forge for themselves as inventors.

"It's a huge, huge deal and represents a recognition by those who focus on public policy that we have a big challenge in the coming generation (to) stay at the forefront of innovation," Mr. Pooley says. "I think that, while kids have a natural interest in inventing, modern culture and society (surrounds) them with so many other choices of what to do with their time and interests.

"We see a danger of allowing them to get distracted from their natural tendencies. It's about reminding kids that there is excitement in doing something on your own and not just playing somebody else's video game," he says. "The Ad Council's effort is to get above this noise." ■



Egg Hunt



Saturday, April 7th
10 A.M. to Noon
Burgess Park

EVENT SCHEDULE

10 a.m.	Bunny arrives Bounce House Opens Crafts Begin Jelly Bean Guess
10:30	Egg Hunt Begins 2 & Under (with parents) - 10:30 3-4 years (parents optional) - 10:40 5-6 years - 10:50 7-8 years - 11:00
11:45	Jelly Bean Guess Winner Announced

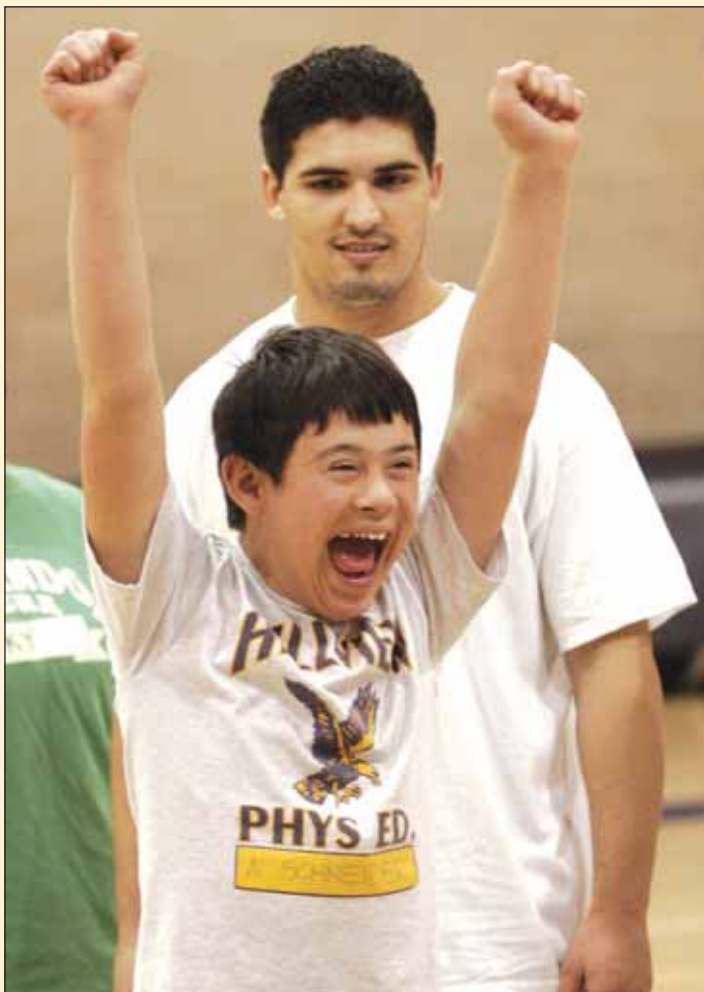


Parents Please Note:

- Parents are not allowed to participate in the Egg Hunt unless noted.
- Children are allowed to collect three eggs and should bring their own basket or bag.
- Children will be given a bag of candy at the end of the hunt.
- In the event of rain, eggs and candy will be given out at the Burgess Recreation Center at 10 a.m.
- Bring your camera for photos with the Bunny.
- Eggs are filled with candy and small toys which may be a choking hazard for small children.

For more information call 650.330.2200





The Almanac/Veronica Weber

Joy on the court

Alex Schneider, a Special Olympics athlete and student at Hillview Middle School, celebrates scoring a basket while Menlo College student Jacob Hallmark looks on during a basketball game during the recent Special Olympics tournament at the college. Menlo College volunteers staffed the event.

When we set out to change the community, we started by changing ourselves.



Spring garden class April 7

Common Ground Educational Center will offer "Starting Your Spring Garden" on Saturday, April 7, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2 to 4 p.m. in Palo Alto.

The class promises to inspire students to create healthy soil and sow, transplant, and harvest vegetables and herbs all year round. Participants will learn what plants thrive in this season and how to grow them.

The instructor, Drew Harwell, is garden manager for Jesse Cool's

Seeds of Change Garden, a project of the local restaurateur. Students will be allowed to tour the garden after class and view the homeowner-sized beds containing at least 20 varieties of plants.

The class fee is \$24. Pre-registration is required. Call 493-6072.

Common Ground Organic Garden Supply and Education Center, 559 College Ave. in Palo Alto, is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10 to 5 p.m.

INTRODUCING THE NEW SILICON VALLEY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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. This January, the new Silicon Valley Community Foundation opens its doors, following the merger of Peninsula Community Foundation and Community Foundation Silicon Valley. The new foundation combines more than \$1.5 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.

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 650.321.7882

Local authors are highlight of volunteers' fundraiser

Bill Broder, Janis Cooke Newman, Perri O'Shaughnessy and Lolly Winston are among the local writers participating in the Peninsula Volunteers' 16th annual Authors Salon on Sunday, April 15.

The event, a fundraiser for the volunteer organization, begins at 10:30 a.m. at the Palo Alto Hills Golf and Country Club, 3000 Alexis Drive in Palo Alto.

The writers will discuss and sign their books during the event, which will be moderated by John Billheimer of Portola Valley, author of the Owen Allison mystery series.

Perri O'Shaughnessy is the pen name for sisters Mary Perri, who lives in Portola Valley, Pamela O'Shaughnessy of Hawaii. They collaborated on the Nina Reilly series and "Sinister Shorts."

Bill Broder of Sausalito is the

author of the novels "Taking Care of Cleo" and "The Sacred Hoop: A Cycle of Everything."

Janis Cooke Newman, author of the historical novel "Mary" and the memoir "The Russian Word for Snow," lives in Northern California.

Lolly Winston wrote the novels "Good Grief" and "Happiness Sold Separately." She lives in Northern California.

Peninsula Volunteers is a fundraising organization that provides seniors in South San Mateo County with services designed to enhance and enrich their lives. Each year it prepares and delivers over 1,000 hot meals a week to the homebound through Meals on Wheels, and reaches 4,500 households through programs at Little House Activity Center, Rosener House adult day services and low-cost housing.

Tickets to the Authors Salon are \$75 each; \$1,500 for preferential seating at a table for 10; or \$2,500 for preferential seating with an author of your choice at a table for 10.

Call Cathy Duhring at 326-0665 for reservations or visit www.penvol.org.

Woodside: Top jockey, vaulter honored at equestrian bash

By Andrea Gemmet

Almanac staff writer

Woodside's equestrians sure know how to enjoy themselves.

Members and supporters of the Woodside-area Horse Owners Association (WHOA) packed Woodside's Independence Hall on Sunday, March 25, to pay tribute to a couple of outstanding local horse people, present a giant check to help restore the historic Folger Estate Stable, and pat themselves on the back.

It was a busy evening at Woodside's town center, what with the Hillary Clinton campaign fundraiser going on across the parking lot at the Village Pub.

"I'm so sorry we had to compete with Hillary Clinton, but we have the better party," said Becky Witter of WHOA.

Woodside resident Russell Baze, who has won more horse races than any other jockey during his productive career, smiled bashfully as he watched a video of the December 1 race at Bay Meadows that secured his place as the "winningest jockey of all time." He accepted WHOA's

"Pride of Woodside" award, an engraved silver platter with (surprise!) a horse motif.

Mr. Baze, 49, who had just won three races at Bay Meadows earlier that morning, said he was touched by the tribute. He also said that news of the imminent closure of the Bay Meadows racetrack would not change his future plans.

"I'm going to continue riding and we are going to continue residing in Woodside," he said. "We love it here and we wouldn't live anywhere else."

He said he's aiming for 10,000 wins, and he estimated his current total at "9,640-ish."

Sixteen-year-old Woodsider Rosalind Ross, a vaulting silver medalist at the 2006 World Equestrian Games in Aachen, Germany, was also honored. A wide-eyed crowd watched a video of the vaulting team's acrobatic performance on horseback.

"I'm not entirely sure I deserve this, next to Russell Baze," she said, accepting the Pride of

Woodside award. "I'm truly flattered."

Ms. Ross thanked the town of Woodside for being so supportive of vaulting. "It's probably one of the most supportive communities in California," she said.


WHOA is the sponsor of the annual Day of the Horse event that includes a progressive trail ride, exhibits and activities. Event organizers Fentress Hall and Donna Poi confessed that the Day of the Horse attracted far more participants than they had dreamed possible.

Proceeds from last year's Day of the Horse, along with contributions from participants, added up to \$17,000 that the organization donated to the Folger Stable project. The assembled crowd gasped when the amount was announced.

"We were thinking that we'd be lucky if 80 people donated, but more than 200 people did, even if some of them asked, 'What's a Folger barn?'" said Ms. Hall.

"We're delighted and grateful," said Jill Daly, a member of the Folger Stable Committee. "The exposure in the community you provided (the project) is probably worth even triple the cash." ■

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Community Health Education Programs

April 2007

Web site • www.pamf.org E-mail • publicaffairs@pamf.org

Events & Lectures

"Mindful Eating: Changing Behaviors That May Lead to Eating Disorders"
Tuesday, April 10, 7 – 8:30 p.m.
Ellyse Robin, R.D., PAMF Nutrition Services

Learn how eating disorders can develop from disordered eating behaviors like dieting or overeating, and how to change those habits into mindful eating for good health.

"Increase Your Activity Level for Your Heart's Sake"
Monday, April 23, 3:30 – 5 p.m.
Robin Wedell, R.N., Cardiac Therapy Foundation of the Mid-Peninsula

Join us for a discussion about the benefits of exercise for patients with diminished cardiac function and how to develop a plan to become more active. No more excuses! The weather is getting better.

Hearst Center for Health Education, Level 3, Jamplis Building, Palo Alto Medical Foundation, 795 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. RSVP to (650) 853-4873.

Classes

"Taking Charge of Your Body," Mondays, April 16 – May 21, 6 – 8 p.m.
This six-week course will focus on healthy living and managing your lifestyle through exercise and healthful eating.

"Good Nutrition and Feeding Practices for Toddlers," Wednesday, April 18, 10 a.m. – noon
This class will address parental concerns regarding nutrition and feeding toddlers. It should be attended by parents or caretakers only.

"What You Need to Know About Warfarin," Wednesday, April 25, 2 – 4 p.m.
Learn what warfarin is, why you are taking it and how you can help yourself.

"Supermarket Wise," Thursday, April 26, 2 – 4 p.m.
Learn techniques for making healthier food choices in a local supermarket with dietitian Karen Ross, M.S., R.D.

"Advance Health Care Directives," Call for available dates and times.
PAMF's specially trained volunteers will provide advice and answer questions about the advance health care directive form. No cost.

Support Groups

Cancer (1st & 3rd Tuesdays) • Diabetes (1st Wednesday) • Multiple Sclerosis (2nd & 4th Mondays) • Sleep Apnea (1st Thursday) • Alcohol and Drug Education (Every Tuesday) • Healing Imagery for Cancer Patients (Apr. 11 & 25)

For information on class fees and to register, call the Education Division at (650) 853-2960.

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Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

PV photographer shares his 'World Views' in exhibition

By Karen MacLaughlin

Special to the Almanac

The work of Portola Valley photographer David Cardinal, who specializes in photographing rare and endangered animals and environments, is being featured in an exhibition at Allegro Gallery in Portola Valley.

The show, "World Views," will run through April 30; an artist's reception is set for this Saturday, April 7, from 3 to 6 p.m.

Mr. Cardinal's work appears frequently in Outdoor Photographer and PC Magazine, and is also used by the California State Parks Foundation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, among others.

Mr. Cardinal stresses the responsibility to preserve wildlife, and leads photo safaris to Africa, Asia, Alaska and other parts of the United States to document it.

Last December, he led a safari to Botswana, where the



Photo by Robert J. Cardinal

David Cardinal on location in Botswana.

for the welfare of wild animals, he studies the biology and local habitat management so as not to "stress or disturb them," he said.

People and culture are also focused in his lens. In January, he traveled to Burma (Myanmar) and Cambodia, where he photographed the ancient temples of Angkor Wat and Schwedagon. "Burma is a land that time has forgotten," he said. "It's as if the villages were frozen in the sixteenth century."

There is no admission charge for the reception at Allegro Framing and Fine Art Gallery, located at 3130 Alpine Road, #370, Portola Valley.

Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call Irina Gorelik at 851-4300 or visit www.allegro-framing.com. ■

For more information on David Cardinal's work, see www.cardinalphoto.com.



Photo by David Cardinal

"U Bein Bridge, Mandalay, Burma," was shot as a monk from a nearby monastery crossed at sunset.

Local jeweler wins two more feathers in cap

Local metalworker and jewelry maker Davide Bigazzi took home the "Best of Category" prize in jewelry last month at the La Quinta Arts Festival near Palm Springs — regarded by many as one of the best art fairs and festivals in the country.

Mr. Bigazzi, a Portola Valley resident who has a studio at Allied Arts Guild in Menlo Park, also won another feather in his cap recently when he was named a finalist in the 2007 NICHE Awards in the silver jewelry category for a piece entitled "City Bracelet." The national NICHE Awards recognize outstanding creative achievements of American craft artists.

A native of Florence, Italy, who specializes in Old World metalworking techniques, Mr. Bigazzi was featured in a March 14 Almanac cover story.

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Peninsula Easter Services



Spring Celebration



Saturday, April 7
5:30 p.m. **Passover Seder**
Sunday, April 8
9:30 & 11 a.m. **Easter Services**

505 East Charleston Road, Palo Alto (650) 494-0541 www.uucpa.org

Valley Presbyterian Church

Worship in the Redwoods

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY April 1: Worship at 9:00 am & 10:30 am
MAUNDY THURSDAY April 5: Dinner, Retelling of Passion Story, healing Vesper Service at 6:00 pm
GOOD FRIDAY April 6: Good Friday, Tenebrae Service at 7:30 pm
EASTER SUNDAY April 7: Easter Vigil at 7:30 pm, Improv of Old & New Testament Stories
April 8: Sunrise Service at 6:30 am (meet in parking lot at 6:15) 9:00 am & 11:00 am (Sunday School at 11:00 only)

945 Portola Rd., Portola Valley, CA 650-851-8282

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

1985 Louis Road, Palo Alto
(650) 856-6662 www.fccpa.org

Maundy Thursday, April 5
Soup Supper & Service of Tenebrae, 6:30pm

Good Friday, April 6th Service of Silence 4:00pm-6:00pm
Holy Communion at 5:00pm

Easter Sunday Celebration Worship at 9:30am & 11:00am
Oxford Street Brass & The Hallelujah Chorus
Easter Egg Hunt following 9:30 Worship

God Is Still Speaking!

ST. LUKE'S CHAPEL IN THE HILLS

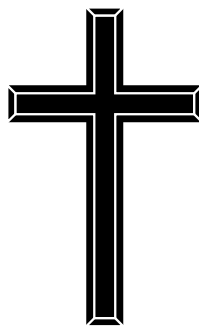
Anglican Episcopal Church • The 1928 Book of Common Prayer

MAUNDY THURSDAY
APRIL 5
7:00 pm

GOOD FRIDAY,
APRIL 6
Noon - 3:00 pm:
Solemn Liturgy of The Passion
7:00 pm: Holy Communion
Service

EASTER SUNDAY,
APRIL 8
10 am: Holy Communion
Family Service
12 pm: Holy Communion

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Trinity Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod
1295 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto
(650) 853-1295

Maundy Thursday

Noon & 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday

Noon (to 3 p.m.) & 7 p.m.

Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday

7:00 p.m.

Easter Services

6 a.m., 8:15 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

Easter breakfast

7:30 a.m.

Trinity_Lutheran_Church.homestead.com

Celebrate life's renewal

Maundy Thursday
Communion and Tenebrae Service with Choir
April 5 - 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday
April 6 - Church open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Easter Sunday
April 8 - 9:30 a.m. service

Ladrea Community Church
3300 Alpine Road
Portola Valley
(650) 854-5481

www.ladrea.org



S T. DENIS
P A R I S H

Sacred Triduum

HOLY THURSDAY, April 5

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:30 pm at St. Denis Church

GOOD FRIDAY, April 6

Stations of the Cross 1:00 pm at both Churches
7:30 pm at St. Denis Church

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion and Communion 2:00 pm at both Churches

HOLY SATURDAY, April 7

Confession 3:00 to 4:00 pm at both Churches
Easter Vigil Liturgy 8:00 pm at St. Denis Church

EASTER SUNDAY, April 8

Mass of the Lord's Resurrection 7:30, 9:30 and 11:30 am at St. Denis
8:30 and 10:00 am at Our Lady of the Wayside Church

St. Denis Church
2250 Ivy Avenue
Menlo Park, CA 94025
Ph. (650) 854-5976



Our Lady of the Wayside Church
930 Portola Road
Portola Valley, CA 94028
Ph. (650) 851-5085



www.stdenisparish.org

Woodside Village Church

3154 Woodside Road
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(650) 851-1587
www.woodsidevillagechurch.org



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

April 1, Palm Sunday Worship - 9:30am

April 5, Maundy Thursday - 7:00pm

April 6, Good Friday Worship - 12 noon - 3pm

Stations of the Cross

Good Friday - 7:30 - 8:30pm Service of Darkness

April 8, Easter Sunday Worship - 9:30am

Celebration Reception immediately following in Guild Hall
The Reverend Michael E. Harvey



Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

Maundy Thursday, April 5
7:30 pm - Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, April 6
Noon - Good Friday Liturgy
1:00 pm - Passion Play with Music
2:00 pm - Stations of the Cross
(Join us for all, or part. Childcare available.)

Holy Saturday, April 7
8:00 pm - Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday, April 8
6:30 am - Sunrise Eucharist
8:00 am - Festive Choral Eucharist, Rite I
9:30 am - Family Eucharist (Easter egg hunt follows.)
10:30 am - Festive Choral Eucharist, Rite II
5:00 pm - Contemporary Eucharist in the Chapel

330 Ravenswood Ave., Menlo Park (650) 326-2083
www.trinitymenlopark.org

Warriors clinch Division 3 basketball championship title

The Redwood NJB "Warriors" — third- and fourth-grade boys from Portola Valley, Atherton and Menlo Park, among other towns — clinched the championship title of the National Junior Basketball Silicon Valley Division 3, defeating a Los Gatos team, 42-30, in Santa Clara on March 4.

The Warriors finished 8-0 in the regular season and 6-0 in the post-season playoffs and finals. It was the only team among 80 Silicon Valley teams (approximately 800 boys) that was undefeated, said head coach Jeff Tripaldi. The league includes teams from as far north as Redwood City to as far south as Hollister.

Prior to their winning Divi-

sion 3, the Warriors beat 11 other teams in the Redwood City league, and captured the North Silicon Valley championship, a competition among 40 teams, in late February.

The 10 boys have showed an impressive combination of skills, energy and passion for the game, says coach Tripaldi.

"In my five years of coaching competitive youth basketball, I have yet to coach a group of boys that has come together as a team like the Warriors have," says Tripaldi. "What separates them from the pack is that they respect each other and their coaches, and play smart, team basketball. Every kid contributes in some way."



Silicon Valley Division 3 champions, back row, from left, Coach Jeff Tripaldi, Matt Odell, Carson DeMiroz, Christian Ruano, Nicholas Seidl and John Hobbs; front row, from left: Charlie Roth, Michael Child, Kory Matsuno, Matt Tripaldi, Daniel Hill and Coach Derek Hobbs.

Peninsula Easter Services



ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Maundy Thursday— April 5

❖ 6:30pm *Agape Meal & Liturgy of the Word followed by Holy Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar*

Good Friday — April 6

❖ Noon to 2:00pm *Stations of the Cross Meditation*
❖ 2:00 to 3:00pm *Stations of the Cross: A Walking Meditation*
❖ 7:30 to 8:30pm *Good Friday Prayer and Meditation*

Easter — April 8

❖ 5:30am *Easter Vigil, Eucharist & Baptism*
❖ 8:00am *Festive Breakfast & Family Easter Activities*
❖ 10:00am *Festive Holy Eucharist*

600 Colorado Ave, P.A. (650) 326-3800
www.saint-marks.com

Christ Episcopal Church

815 Portola Road · Portola Valley
(650) 851-0224

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday, April 5th at 7:30 pm
Good Friday, April 6th Noon

Easter Worship Services

Holy Saturday, April 7th
Baptisms at 2:00 pm
Kinder Easter 3:00 pm followed by Easter Egg Hunt
Easter Sunday, April 8th
Holy Eucharist at 8:00 am
Choral Eucharist at 10:00 am

Holy Week and Easter

at
St. Bede's Episcopal Church
2650 Sand Hill Rd, Menlo Park
www.stbedesmenlopark.org

April 5 ❖ MAUNDY THURSDAY

12 noon Footwashing
12:10 pm Holy Eucharist & Healing Rite
7:15 pm Foot Washing in Narthex

7:30 pm Holy Eucharist

April 6 ❖ GOOD FRIDAY

12 noon Service of music, reflection, and prayer
7:30 pm Meditation on the Passion of Christ

April 7 ❖ HOLY SATURDAY

9 pm Great Vigil of Easter, Holy Baptism & Eucharist

April 8 ❖ EASTER DAY

8 am Eucharist with Hymns
10:15 am Sung Eucharist
11:30 am Easter Egg Hunt in the Courtyard
Nursery available 10-11:30 pm

April 12 ❖ EASTER MONDAY
Parish Office closed

First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

MAUNDY THURSDAY – APRIL 5 – Fellowship Hall

6:30 pm – Community Meal – Soup and Bread
7:00 pm – Tenebrae Service & Communion

GOOD FRIDAY – APRIL 6 – Sanctuary

12:05 pm - Readings from *A Woman Wrapped in Silence*
(Jesus' death from Mary's perspective)

EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 8

Please note that Worship-In-The-Round and the Contemplative Service will not be held this day

11:00 am – Easter Service (Sanctuary)
12:00 pm – Easter Brunch (Fellowship Hall)

1140 Cowper St. at Lincoln Ave.
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Unity Palo Alto

Holy Week Services

Good Friday Service - April 6, 7:30 p.m.
Easter Sunday - April 8, 8:45 & 11 a.m.
Easter Brunch Between Services

Nursery and youth programs available on Sundays.

3391 Middlefield Rd., 650-494-7222
www.UnityPaloAlto.org

Another setback for Morrow murder trial

Amid the delays and appeals, challenges and attempts at accommodation punctuating the murder trial of Joseph Eli Morrow, a new trial date of Sept. 4 was set last week in San Mateo County Superior Court.

Prosecutors had hoped to begin the trial later this month.

Mr. Morrow, 58, is accused of killing his 37-year-old wife, Donna, on Dec. 19, 1991, and burying her body on their 36-acre property above Los Gatos.

At the time of Donna Morrow's disappearance, she and her husband lived with their four children on College Avenue in Menlo Park. Her body was found in September 2003, and Mr. Morrow was indicted by a criminal grand jury two months later.

Mr. Morrow, who remains in custody on no-bail status, has maintained his innocence. Prosecutors allege Mr. Morrow killed his wife for financial gain.

The trial was brought to a halt last April when defense attorneys argued that the trial judge, San Mateo County Superior Court Judge Craig Parsons, could show bias in ruling on a defense motion to have the case against Morrow thrown out.

In an effort to expedite the trial, Judge Parsons agreed to have another judge hear the defense motion, with the proviso that he would not disqualify himself from the jury trial.

After one proposed judge was forced to recuse himself and another was objected to by the

defense, Judge Parsons declared last week that he will both hear the defense motion on April 16 and remain as the trial judge.

Although a state appeals court in January refused to disqualify Judge Parsons from the trial, and the California Supreme Court subsequently rejected a defense request to review the Court of Appeal denial, defense attorneys plan to continue the appeal process.

Attorney Paul Demeester said he also will continue to seek Judge Parsons' disqualification from the trial.

Deputy District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe said last week he was disappointed the trial will not begin this month.

"Any further motion to disqualify Judge Parsons is completely without merit and we will fight it vigorously," Mr. Wagstaffe said.

—Bay City News Service

Suspect arrested in March Laurel Avenue shooting

Police have arrested Manuel E. Moreno, 26, one of three suspects in a March 6 shooting in the 600 block of Laurel Avenue in Menlo Park that put a 17-year-old East Palo Alto boy in the hospital in serious condition with a gunshot wound.

The boy, whose identity the police are protecting, has since been released from the hospital, said Nicole Acker, spokeswoman for the Menlo Park Police Department. Police reported no injuries to the boy's friend, also 17 and from East Palo Alto, who was with him at the time.

Menlo Park police worked with neighboring law enforcement agencies to develop leads that led to the March 20 booking of Mr. Moreno into the San Mateo County jail "on a variety of charges stemming from the shooting," Ms. Acker said.

The incident occurred in the

neighborhood of the K-8 Willow Oaks Elementary School at 620 Willow Road, and East Palo Alto High School, but students from these schools were not involved, Ms. Acker said.

On the day of the incident, police were on the lookout for three Hispanic males in a 1980s or early 1990s blue Toyota Corolla. Police detectives are asking anyone with information to call 330-6300.

POLICE CALLS

This information is from the Atherton and Menlo Park police departments and the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office. Under law, people charged with offenses are considered innocent until convicted.

MENLO PARK

Accident report: Bicyclist treated for abrasions at Stanford Hospital after being struck by car entering parking lot, El Camino Real and Middle Avenue, March 24.

Fraud reports: ■ Christina Creese, 25, of San Lorenzo arrested and charged with identity theft, 100 block of El Camino Real, March 27.

■ Victim gave suspect financial information to help with travel expenses and suspect used it to make unauthorized Internet purchases, reported at police station, March 28.

Auto theft report: 91 Honda Accord stolen, 3000 block of Sand Hill Road, March 29.

WOODSIDE

Residential burglary report: Electric driveway gates disabled, motion sensor lights smashed and side door of unoccupied residence kicked open, 3000 Block of Sand Hill Road, March 21.

PORTOLA VALLEY

Theft report: Purse, DVD player, camera, iPod, passport, credit cards, blank checks, and \$100 stolen from unlocked vehicle in carport, 100 block of Santa Maria Avenue, March 27.

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OBITUARIES

**Walter "Michael"
William Aemisegger**

Salon owner

A Mass and celebration will be held on Monday, April 16, at 2 p.m. in Nativity Church for Walter Michael William Aemisegger of Atherton, who died on February 8 at Kaiser Hospital in Redwood City. He was 68.



**Michael
Aemisegger**

Co-owner of Kenneth Michael Salon in Menlo Park, Mr. Aemisegger was a long-standing, well-known community member whose humor and

kindness were a comfort to all those he met, friends said.

He is survived by his partner of 33 years, Kenneth Michael of Atherton; a brother, Glen Aemisegger of Arizona; and sisters Helen Watkins of Michigan and Karen Chegwiddden of Kentucky.

Donations can be made to Kaiser Hospice, 150 Veterans Blvd., Redwood City, 94063, attention: Evie Dwyer.

**Nancy Ann Derry
Madigan Nejmich**

Former teacher

A funeral Mass will be said Wednesday, April 4, at 11 a.m. for Nancy Ann Derry Madigan Nejmich of Menlo Park, who died on March 30 after a battle with cancer. She was 71.

Ms. Nejmich taught fourth grade for more than 40 years at Clifford Elementary School in Redwood City. She was also a "feisty tennis player who greatly

loved her large, extended family," her family said.

Ms. Nejmich was preceded in death by her husband, Martin Nejmich, in 2006. Two other spouses preceded her in death: Patrick Madigan, in 1989, and Michael Madigan, in 1969.

She is survived by her stepchildren Larry and Mary Jo Nejmich, Steve and Judy Nejmich, and Steven and Ann Dylina; five step-grandchildren; two sisters, Gail Derry Blach and Sister Joan Derry; and a brother, the Rev. Daniel Derry.

A memorial rosary will be said on Tuesday, April 3, at 7 p.m. at Church of the Nativity, 210 Oak Grove Ave. in Menlo Park. The funeral Mass on Wednesday, April 4, also will be held at the church, followed by interment.

The family requests that memorial donations be made to St. Mary Catholic Church, 11 First St., Gilroy, CA 95020; or the St. Vincent Day Home, 1086 Eighth St., Oakland, CA 94607.

LETTERS

continued from page 23

government and politicians today.

Jim Altman
Santa Cruz Avenue, Menlo Park

**Spread the word on
using Caltrain**

Editor:

Menlo Park Mayor Kelly Ferguson is seeking support for a resolution asking Caltrain to hire a consultant to evaluate alternative train schedules. This may be a good idea, but until I hear what Caltrain has to say, I'm withholding judgment.

However, one point in the resolution makes a lot of sense with no downside. It asks for improved means of "connectivity" between transit services. To me this means someone publishing and making available to all potential train riders in Menlo Park a small booklet telling train riders in simple English how to get from the San Francisco station to all popular destinations in the city.

Many seniors and teenagers are daunted by the prospect of not knowing what to do when they arrive at Fourth and Townsend. Copies of this booklet could be available at our station and in San Francisco. Even better, the booklet could be mailed, along with Caltrain and SamTrans bus schedules, to all of our residents so they can plan their trip while at home. A cover letter, promoting the adventure of a car-free trip to the city might encourage ridership more than tweaking train schedules. Without a game plan, people will just resort to driving as usual, or stay at home.

Reg Rice
Tioga Drive, Menlo Park

Correction

The credit for last week's aerial photograph of downtown Menlo Park should have said "Photo courtesy of Mark Flegel." Mr. Flegel provided the photo, but was not the photographer, who is unknown.

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The Almanac, established in September, 1965, is delivered each week to residents of Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside and adjacent unincorporated areas of southern San Mateo County. The Almanac is qualified by decree of the Superior Court of San Mateo County to publish public notices of a governmental and legal nature, as stated in Decree No. 147530, issued November 9, 1969.

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WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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A solution for Alpine Road trail

If the latest offer from Stanford to bankroll work on a disputed section of Alpine Road trail holds up, we urge county supervisors to take the money. But be careful. To quote Supervisor Rich Gordon, "In dealing with Stanford, the devil is in the details."

In a stunning turnaround, last week, as the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors was about to turn down Stanford's offer to build a humungous "recreational" trail along Alpine Road for \$8.4 million, Supervisor Gordon

announced a new offer from Stanford. The university would accept a lesser trail built to the county's standards, and allow the county to keep the entire \$8.4 million for maintenance of the trail and other purposes.

The supervisors unanimously agreed to postpone their decision until April 10 at 9:15 a.m. to allow time for negotiations with Stanford on a trail that might satisfy both opponents in San Mateo County, and Santa Clara County, which has required Stanford to build the trail as partial mitigation for up to 5 million square feet of new building on campus.

Instead of constructing a 12-foot multi-purpose trail along busy Alpine Road from the Menlo Park boundary for 2.5 miles past Ladera to Portola Valley, Stanford is apparently willing to settle for a lesser trail. According to Supervisor Gordon, nothing will happen in the portion of the trail that

fronts Stanford Weekend Acres, where Stanford had planned to move Alpine Road into the hill across the road to make room. In the 1.8-mile section from Piers Lane past the Interstate 280 overpass and Ladera, the existing bike lane could be repaired and resurfaced in place with some careful attention to areas where the creek comes close to Alpine Road.

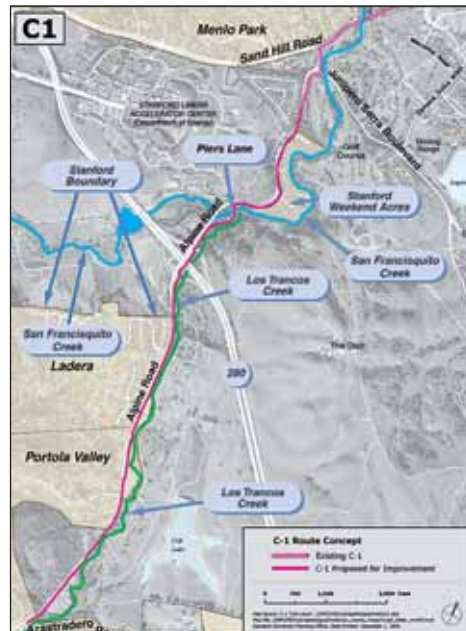
This is a welcome move by Stanford, and we hope that a careful, air-tight agreement can be worked out by April 10. It seems abundantly clear that Stanford will never be willing to place the trail across its own open lands, as most people here expected when Santa Clara County approved its use permit in 2000.

The likelihood of extra money presents opportunities to improve the regional trail system in San Mateo County that also serves Stanford. An appealing suggestion is to reopen upper Alpine Road, closed by slides, to give mountain bicyclists an off-road route from the Valley to Skyline.

One warning: We hope the new agreement will allow for the money to be released sooner than under the present agreement, which allows Stanford to keep it as long as 2011.

We encourage the San Mateo County supervisors to get the best deal they can, and apply any excess funds to improving trails for the area and region. It may not be the outcome some residents had wanted, but at least the present trail will be improved and the horribly intrusive project sought by Stanford will never see the light of day.

EDITORIAL
The opinion of The Almanac



Map shows Stanford's old, controversial plan for an Alpine Road Trail. The portion of the roadway from Piers Lane north would escape major development under a new proposal being discussed.

LETTERS
Our readers write

Encinal is wrong place for adult field

Editor:

On April 3, the Menlo Park City Council is set to approve funding for a proposed U19 ("adult-sized") artificial turf soccer field at Encinal elementary school.

This is the wrong place for this field. An elementary school playfield should be reserved for elementary school-age children's activities. Promoting activities here for adults and much older youth is inappropriate and not in the best interest of the kindergarten through fifth-grade students who will be attending Encinal.

We encourage continuing after-school sports activities for young children at the Encinal school site, but mixing elementary school students with adults on the same playing field is not the answer.

We urge you to state your views at the April 3 City Council meeting or write to the City Council at www.city.council@menlopark.org

Judy Font
Felton Drive, Menlo Park



Atherton Heritage Association

Our Regional Heritage

This house on Laurel Street in Atherton was built by Capt. Charles Goodall in 1885. He called his estate "Petite Foret," and maintained flocks of black swans and herds of deer and Shetland ponies on the property. Later the house, shown in this 1973 photo, was owned by the Hahn family and the name was changed to Fernwood. It remains on Laurel Street today.

Who is in charge of downtown development?

Editor:

What's wrong with this picture?

A city with an extensive review process — including professional planners, a citizens Planning Commission and a City Council — holds numerous, well-

covered public hearings over a green "transit-oriented" project proposal which gets approved,

See **LETTERS**, next page

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

but can't be built? The project is dynamic and lovely to look at but is a big change from the (shabby) existing use, and change always upsets someone, sparking emotional reactions. That's where the public process comes in. Or at least is supposed to.

Last fall, a few die-hard Menlo Park no-growthers engineered a carefully worded NIMBY petition ("shouldn't the public have a say in this project?") and thus the City Council was called to take a stand to defend the city's process.

Instead, the council has referred the project — not to its Planning Commission or even to mediators — but to the petition writers themselves. These self-appointed fixers have been "negotiating" with the Derry family's builder ever since, behind closed doors.

As a citizen, I am outraged at this handing over to an interest group the most promising land parcels in downtown.

There's nothing new about stage nerves in a big moment, but it is disheartening that our City Council won't stand up for transit-oriented dense housing.

Environmental groups all urge an alternative to quarter-acre suburbia, and the train corridor is the right location. We have an unprecedented four major vacant parcels staring at us, right now, right near the train station. Our supposedly green council should not be hoping for a watered down compromise to make the fixers happy. This isn't somebody else's opportunity to squander.

**Henry L. Riggs
Callie Lane, Menlo Park**

(Henry Riggs is a member of the Menlo Park Planning Commission.)

Why biking to Laurel is a bad idea

Editor:

Your editorial regarding safe bike routes to Laurel School may be politically correct, but it is **not** a healthy choice. I have ridden over 100,000 miles in my 25-plus years of cycling. My children walked, rode or were driven to Laurel School; I also live next to the school, so I see the situation frequently.

A few observations regarding cycling to Laurel School:

■ Many 5- to 7-year-old children lack the necessary motor skills; all of them lack the necessary judgment.

■ Many vehicles, especially SUVs and minivans, have reduced sight angles.

■ When school starts, the sun is at a low angle, reducing a driver's ability to see when look-

Why is Caltrain staff trying to cut off discussion on ways to improve service?

By Kelly Fergusson

I am concerned that a crucial public transportation service, Caltrain, is failing to adequately serve riders and their communities.

Caltrain service is essential to many of our residents and businesses. The decrease in service and lack of a transparent public decision-making process have already left many riders stranded, thereby further clogging our roads, and undermining the vitality of our city centers. I raise these issues in the hope of stimulating public dialogue and gaining support for a resolution being considered by a number of local cities.

Caltrain officials say ridership is up, and laud the current train schedule with its emphasis on express service as a big success. But could there be an even better schedule?

Why do Caltrain's ridership increases lag behind increases experienced by transit systems like BART and Metrolink? Some ridership increases may well be due to the express service, but certainly much of the ridership increase is due to higher gas prices and an improved economy.

Several local officials and cities are asking Caltrain to retain an outside consultant to analyze the current schedule and to develop alternatives that would provide a better balance between local and express service. We are asking that all cities have an opportunity to review these alternative schedules and to provide comments to the Caltrain board.

We are also requesting that all safety improvements be made as soon as possible. Finally, we would like Caltrain, SamTrans and

the cities to work together to promote better connectivity between transit services.

When we began circulating a resolution to cities throughout San Mateo County, asking their city councils to endorse these proposals, Caltrain officials reacted strongly and pressured cities to delay their consideration of the resolution. We are puzzled as to why staff of a public agency is trying to cut off discussion about how to make public transit work better. The resolution came about in the first place because local elected officials have been expressing their concerns at public meetings and in meetings with Caltrain officials on an ongoing basis to no avail.

A funding crisis prompted Caltrain to reinvent the train with the abrupt implementation of a schedule emphasizing Baby Bullet trains. Cities in San Mateo County were not consulted and no passengers were surveyed before Caltrain slashed service at many local stations. As Caltrain has cut service to cities in San Mateo County, ridership has dropped where the cuts occur, prompting Caltrain to cut the schedule even further. It has even ceased weekday service to Atherton and Burlingame. Which station is next on the chopping block?

Our county has suffered greater cuts in train service than other counties. Although three counties benefit from the train, only San Mateo County stepped up to rescue the train by advancing approximately \$85 million to purchase the right-of-way in 1991, and our taxpayers contribute \$29 million annually to Caltrain. Yet San Mateo County has lost more than 20 percent of stops since

2000, compared with a 13 percent reduction in Santa Clara County and a 2 percent increase in San Francisco County.

There's more than rider convenience at stake. Many local cities were built around the train system and the vitality of their local economies depends on reliable train service. In recent years, cities have been struggling to meet housing demands, and transit-oriented development is one way to do that.

With train service declining at many of our stations, we have trouble interesting developers in planning transit-oriented projects, and in getting support from residents who are suspicious of further cuts. How can we have transit-oriented development without transit? Cuts to train service translate directly into more traffic clogging our streets.

Caltrain has told us that its limited trains (ones that stop at both local and Baby Bullet stations) are more popular than its express trains (ones that stop only at Baby Bullet stations). It is entirely possible to adjust the current schedule to more equitably serve cities and attract more riders in San Mateo County without significant cost or disruption to Baby Bullet service.

We all pay to subsidize mass transit, and the system should be more equitable. The public will best be served by an open, democratic investigation of all possible options for providing the best train service possible. Please urge your city council members to support our resolution.

Kelly Fergusson is mayor of Menlo Park. The views expressed in this guest opinion are her own. She is a member of Coalition to Expand Transit Service (CETS).



ing eastward.

■ Children are shorter than adults, making them difficult to see.

■ Some drivers are so stressed getting their children to school on time that they exhibit poor judgment.

■ There is considerable cut-through commuter traffic in the surrounding neighborhoods.

The idea that banning parking on Ringwood Avenue will cure a problem caused by a school site operating beyond its design capacity without bus service is simplistic. The hazards stated previously will not disappear by banning parking on Ringwood.

There is no magic bullet and this superficial solution is not the answer. Five- to seven-year-olds lack the skills to ride to Laurel School and the parents who allow them to ride lack judgment.

**Jerry Leugers
Lowery Drive, Atherton**

Time for action on Ringwood parking

Editor:

Thanks for spotlighting Manfred Kopisch's crusade to keep Laurel School kids safe by banning parking on Ringwood from Coleman to Edge Road.

It is time for action along that 300-foot section of Ringwood. I know. I biked with two kids for three years along that treacherous stretch of asphalt.

Please continue to shine the light of glaring publicity on the county officials who have refused to do anything about our children's safety. Your article reports that local officials — the mayor of Menlo Park and the principal of Laurel School — want a safer route. But

county roads operations manager Lisa Ekers refused to even respond to your questions. She kicked the problem upstairs to her boss, David Clark, who pulled the old bureaucratic ploy of stalling your reporter.

Please keep your reporter on the story until the county bureaucrats have come up with a solution. County residents don't seem to count with these officials.

On February 14, I emailed Lisa Ekers and Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson, suggesting a temporary fix of banning parking only during the crowded 30 minutes before school begins and ends. I got only a short, vague response that indicated the problem was being looked into.

Please investigate what's behind the county's stalling tactics. Please send your reporter to ask the owners of homes on Ringwood if they're against signs banning parking for only 30 minutes before and after school. And please send your reporter to the head of that area's homeowners' association and ask if they are lobbying against banning parking along Ringwood. I suspect you've only begun to uncover the whole story here.

**Susan Bryan
Blackburn Avenue, Menlo Park**

Motorists are the problem

Editor:

Let's turn Maria Ploeger's (Letters, March 21) question around: Bicyclists and pedestrians are not

put in danger by other bicyclists and pedestrians.

Why then, would parents knowingly put children in danger by driving anywhere near a school?

**Robert Cronin
Marmona Drive, Menlo Park**

Planners at fault for Atherton mess

Editor:

What is going on in the planning department in Atherton?

In just one issue of the Almanac, three articles discuss different problems created by this department.

The most egregious involves the King family. Since the town basically admits its planning department signed off on the building plans for this new house, what leg does it have to stand on to keep this family out of their new home?

And the suggestion by town attorney Marc Hynes that the family can tear down the home and start over when it was the Atherton planning department that made the mistake is ludicrous.

With decisions like this, no wonder people have little faith in

See **LETTERS**, page 21



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