

WOODSIDE HIGH: Help came quickly
for distraught student. Page 5

The Almanac

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

MAY 9, 2007

www.AlmanacNews.com | VOL. 42 NO. 36

HEALTH & FITNESS:

Local doctor aims to
show people how to
eat — not diet.

Section 2

Woodside High
marching band
lends timeless air
to 85th annual
Woodside May
Day parade

May Day
fanfare

— See page 16

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Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT



The Almanac/Veronica Weber

Cinco de Mayo

Refugio Galvan and Margarita Vargas make an elegant couple as they dance to the music of Los Michoacanos Juan Castillo Mariachi at the Menlo Park Senior Center's Cinco de Mayo celebration on Friday, May 4.

Menlo Park

■ Home fire sprinklers debate returns to Menlo Park. **Page 5**

Portola Valley

■ One-of-a-kind playground planned for Portola Valley. **Page 11**

Woodside

■ Apple moth pest found in Woodside. **Page 9**
 ■ Woodside fire district scrambles to save ambulance. **Page 10**

Schools

■ Help came quickly for distraught student. **Page 5**

Community

■ Breakfast benefits Family & Children Services. **Page 33**

Sports

■ Underdog all-stars win National Junior Basketball title. **Page 20**

Health & Fitness

■ Teaching the world how to eat — not diet. **Cover, Section 2**
 ■ Menlo Park couple to run in global relay to promote safe water worldwide. **Page 31**

Also Inside

Calendar	35
Letters	26
Obituaries	25
Police Calls	25
Viewpoint	26

On the cover

What's a parade without a marching band? Music from Woodside High School's band fills the air at the annual May Day parade on May 5. A photo essay of the parade begins on **Page 16**. Photo by Veronica Weber.

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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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Cooking with Lamb

Chances are if you grew up in the United States, eating lamb is not something you do all that frequently. Europeans eat significantly more lamb than we do. If you'd like to familiarize yourself with cooking lamb, first determine which cut to buy. You can start with a leg of lamb, which is usually cooked via roasting. However you cook it, be sure to serve your leg of lamb medium rare. Rack of lamb can be roasted whole or cut into chops, which are best grilled. Serve your lamb with green or white beans, mushrooms, or small potatoes. Other good lamb accompaniments include squash gratin, eggplant, or pumpkin. Minced lamb is best for shepherd's pie.

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P.S. An American eats approximately 0.8 lbs of lamb per year while the French eat about 11 lbs of it per year.

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STACY

WINE

Zinfandel

What to serve with lamb? There are plenty of appropriate wine matches for lamb like; Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, or Dyrh, but none adapt to the rich flavor and texture of lamb better than California's own Zinfandel. Zinfandel's natural acidity combined with its spicy, peppery character, make Zin and lamb an epicurean match.

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Bassist jazzes up PV library event

Renown jazz bassist Marcus Shelby is coming to the Portola Valley Town Center at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 15, to present a program on abolitionist Harriet Tubman and jazz, based on his newest musical work that recently premiered at Yerba Buena Gardens in San Francisco.

Sponsored by the Portola Valley branch of the San Mateo County Library, the program is an opportunity for adults and teens to learn about jazz as it intersects with U.S. history and the life of one of its most famous citizens, says branch manager Susan Goetz.

Mr. Shelby is the bandleader of his self-named jazz orchestra, septet and trio. Town Center is at 765 Portola Road. The program is free. For information, call 851-0560 or go to www.smcl.org.

And take your guitar with you

Just because you don't support the war doesn't mean you can't support the troops. Woodside's Joan Baez was unceremoniously denied a chance to do just that at Walter Reed Army Hospital when the Army refused her permission to perform. The event's organizer, John Mellencamp, asked her to join the line-up for an April 27 show for wounded soldiers, Ms. Baez said in a letter to the Washington Post. Also snubbed: journalist Dan Rather, who was scheduled to interview Mr. Mellencamp.

The show went on without Ms. Baez; Mr. Mellencamp called her "the sweetest gal in the world."

The missing ingredient

In the recipe for chalupa in the May 2 edition of the Almanac's Food & Drink section, we neglected to say what the cook should do with those 16 ounces of beans listed in the ingredients. Recipe provider Kellie Barrow says you just need to include them — unsoaked and uncooked — in the pot with the pork roast and other ingredients and put the whole savory concoction in the oven for 5 hours at 350 degrees.

Help came quickly for distraught student

■ System worked as it is supposed to, educators say.

By David Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

To some local educators, the remarkable element in last week's incident at Woodside High School — in which a 15-year-old student disclosed to a school counselor his thoughts about possibly using explosives against "bad" and "disruptive" students — was the student's act of acknowledgement.

"It worked out really well at Woodside that the counselors were on it," said Bob Sherman, assistant principal at the K-8 Woodside Elementary School. "I think this speaks volumes to the relationship between the counselor and

the kids. ... That's exactly the way the system is supposed to work. My hat's off."

"I think that's absolutely extraordinary," said Dee Brummett, principal of La Entrada Middle School in Menlo Park, in an Almanac interview.

Police, who reacted immediately to an April 26 call at about 3:15 p.m. from the Woodside High counselor, were no less admiring of the school's handling of the incident.

"It's unknown at this time if the 15-year-old had the ability to make explosives, or in fact carry out his plan, but the support system in place at Woodside High School played a major role in getting this student the help he needs," said Captain Don O'Keefe of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office in a statement.

The student was frustrated and wanted to

take it out on somebody else, said Woodside High Principal Linda Common. The counselor had called him in to talk about grades, but the student wanted to talk about his scary feelings. "I think he basically scared himself," Ms. Common said.

Asked to comment on the student's decision to seek help for himself, Ms. Common said she was not surprised since the student is very close to the counselor and trusts him, she said.

"Everybody here is kind of in the business of being sensitive to kids," she added. "We always want the kids to feel that they can talk with us."

M-A's director of the Adolescent Counseling Service, Liz Schoeben, while not familiar with this incident, said that "a lot of the kids who

See **COUNSEL**, page 8



The Almanac/Veronica Weber

They're baaaaaack

An annual tradition in Menlo Park, goats graze on dry grass and tall weeds at Sharon Hills Park, off Valparaiso Avenue just west of Alameda de las Pulgas. Visitors are welcome to come see the goats, which will remain at Sharon Hills Park for several days before moving to the undeveloped section of Sharon Park at Monte Rosa and Sharon Park drives.

Home fire sprinklers debate returns to Menlo Park

By Rory Brown

Almanac Staff Writer

Rather than choose sides in Menlo Park's long-fought fire sprinkler debate, the City Council on May 1 opted to

■ MENLO PARK

schedule a study session for this summer when both sides can hash it out.

The session is tentatively set for August, said Kent Steffens, the

interim city manager.

The council's decision came after Menlo Park Fire Protection District officials asked council members to adopt an ordinance that would require sprinklers in the following cases of new construction:

■ New single-family homes of more than 1,000 square feet.

■ Home remodels that involve more than 50 percent of the structure.

See **SPRINKLERS**, page 8

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Members of the victorious team that calls itself the "Mars Bars" are, from left, Virginia Phelps, Evan Cranston and Anna Cardinal.

Photo by David Cardinal

Local girls take tech challenge

Portola Valley girls build rover for Mars crater mission challenge

By Lorrie Duval

Special to the Almanac

Two Portola Valley girls, Anna Cardinal and Virginia Phelps, with teammate Evan Cranston (Los Altos) earned the top award at the 20th annual Tech Challenge, Mars Crater Mission, held at the Tech Museum of Innovation in San Jose on April 28.

With advisers David Cardinal (Portola Valley) and Gene Duval (Menlo Park), "Team Mars Bars" was awarded first place, Best Overall Solution, for meeting this year's challenge, which involved 82 middle school teams from around the Bay Area.

The girls put in more than 60 hours each over the course of the project, which included design meetings at one of the girl's homes and multiple trips to The Tech to try their prototypes on the museum's test rig.

The challenge: Design, build, and operate an unmanned device that can survive a 12-foot drop into a Martian crater, and then successfully exit the crater by ascending a 6-foot crater wall. The Tech provided a simulated crater, with a padded drop zone and a

textured crater wall and crater rim.

While the girls put in successful runs with two prototypes during the early testing phase, the girls continued to modify their design up until the morning of the event.

One week prior to the event, they discarded the cardboard "garage" that had protected their rover during the drop. Adviser Gene Duval said: "After each of those successful early runs, we encouraged the team to 'freeze' their design and focus on making sure it was rugged enough to survive the final challenge run on April 28. But they were so intent on making improvements, some large and some small, we couldn't drag them away from it. They essentially took an untested version to Saturday's final event."

At Saturday's contest, Team Mars Bars demonstrated a key feature of their design when their rover initially landed "upside down" after the drop. Born from a serendipitous fluke during the design phase, the ability to land on either side and still operate by righting itself as it began the climb up the "crater wall" was essential.

When the team ran the rover off the side of the ramp during its initial attempt up the 60-degree ramp, the judge offered a "reset" option, a manual manipulation of the machine to get it back on course but which would result in a point deduction. As the clock ran

down toward the three-minute limit, the team responded, "No reset. We can drive it back on course."

Team Mars Bars finished its run successfully in two minutes.

The girls began work on the project in early February as part of their eighth-grade science class under the guidance of veteran science teacher Eryl Barker at Castilleja School in Palo Alto. ▀

About the author: Lorrie Duval is the mother of Anna Cardinal. Dave Cardinal is her husband and Gene Duval is her brother.

YOUR SOURCE FOR LOCAL INFORMATION

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www.AlmanacNews.com

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Gloria Darke



What's wrong with this house?

Q. I saw a house that I really like and it's been on the market for over a month, while other homes in the neighborhood are selling within days. Is there something wrong with this house? The inspection reports look good for a home of this age.

— Robin S., Redwood City

A. Every once in a while, a good property will "fall through the cracks". Maybe the day that it was introduced to the realtors, it was rainy or there was a lot of houses to see that day or if it's Washington's birthday or something else that takes people out of town – all of these factors make a difference. As the saying goes, you have one chance to make a good first impression. If the house wasn't pristine the first time around,

people won't come back to see it and it doesn't get sold right away. It doesn't necessarily mean that there is anything wrong with the house; it does happen. Your realtor should do a CMA for you, just as the listing agent did when the house was priced for the market. Even if it looks like it is priced in the range it should be, it would be surprising at this point if there will be multiple offers so this may be an opportunity for you to get a good buy. However, there are agents who will price a listing too high and just let it sit on the market. If that is the case, you probably want to move on to something else. Sellers who have priced their homes way out of the range will rarely be someone you want to deal with.

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



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'System worked' for troubled student

COUNSEL

continued from page 5

act out in anger, my guess is that they're really sad inside. ... It's possible that he wasn't really planning this, but he got people's attention. Anyone who feels that horrible inside wants help."

Immediate reaction

Upon getting the call from the counselor, sheriff's deputies interviewed the student and had him immediately taken to San Mateo General Hospital for a 72-hour psychiatric evaluation, Lt. Ken Jones of the Sheriff's Office said.

"After Virginia Tech and everything, we can't fool around at all with anything like that," he added, referring to the April 16 massacre in Blacksburg, Virginia, in which a 23-year-old student shot and killed 32 people and injured 20.

Because the Woodside High student had talked about using the Internet to carry out his plans, detectives obtained a warrant and searched three laptop computers confiscated from his home in the North Fair Oaks neighborhood at the northern border of Atherton.

Detectives sought indicators of his claims to be interested in making explosives and getting a campus map, but "there was nothing there," Lt. Jones said.

The student's parents were not unwelcome to the search, Lt. Jones said. "They felt really bad about it and they were very cooperative. They couldn't have been nicer. Hopefully, it will all work out for him."

The student is now at home with his parents. Whether he returns to Woodside High may be determined this week, when the student's family meets with Ms. Common and Pat Gemma, superintendent of the Sequoia Union High School District, Ms.

Common said.

Talking it through

The acquisition of academic skills that children need for post-secondary education is a primary role of K-12 schools. But with a group of educated adults on campus for eight hours a day, if the kids have non-academic and private questions and concerns, the adults can be a resource.

At Menlo-Atherton and Woodside high schools, there are professional counselors on staff. Referrals by friends and by the students themselves make up 35 percent of the clientele at M-A's Academic Coun-

'After Virginia Tech and everything, we can't fool around at all with anything like that.'

LT. KEN JONES OF
THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

seling Service, said Matthew Zito, an associate vice principal at M-A.

"Some of the kids are so glad to talk, to have an outlet (and) get things off their chest at school with people who really understand what's going on at this particular school," he said.

To help freshmen make the transition to a big high school, both M-A and Woodside have upperclassman "buddy" programs and other freshman orientation programs, plus occasions to air grievances in public and learn conflict mediation.

With an average of 2,000 students on each campus, the diversity of ethnicity and of economic circumstance — from the very rich to the very poor — is both an inescapable fact and an opportunity to tackle bullying and stereotyping.

over the past several years, proved a prickly issue at the council's May 1 meeting.

Three people spoke against the proposed ordinance, arguing that installation costs may exceed safety benefits.

Michael Lambert, one of the most outspoken critics of the proposed sprinkler ordinance when it surfaced in 2004, said he has "huge reservations" about requiring them in local homes, and there are other steps the city can take to encourage fire safety at "a reasonable cost to the people of Menlo Park."

Resident Richard Li said fire officials' calls for sprinklers are based on "a lot of unexamined hearsay." ■

"Everyone's normal at M-A," Mr. Zito told the Almanac. Kids into goth or skateboarding, athletics or the arts, cheerleading or speaking French, are all welcome, he said. "There's something for everyone here. We really try not to be judgmental."

The same thing is true at Woodside, Ms. Common said. Asked if kids wearing black, for example, get special attention, she replied: "We have lots of kids who wear full black. You can't assume that these are the kind of kids who are going to harm somebody."

Non-teaching staff are also in on efforts to help students feel welcome and cared for. "The last thing they need is somebody who is crabby to them," Ms. Common said.

A head start

In classes at middle schools like La Entrada and Woodside, neither the ethnic nor the economic diversity is as great as in the high schools, but there is an emphasis on building relationships.

At Woodside, kids go on extended field trips with parents, teachers, counselors and administrators to learn teamwork and trust. A group just returned from five days at Yosemite National Park, Assistant Principal Sherman said.

"I think that helps build the relationships," he added. "You need someone you can trust to talk to."

Having kids in the same place for five years as puberty begins and new emotions emerge helps them build connected relationships between the school, families and the community, La Entrada Principal Brummett said.

"They know that there are lots of people who care about you and how you feel," she said. "(It) helps kids to know that we're all in this together and how we can help each other." ■



The Almanac/Veronica Weber

Planting for tomorrow

Belle Haven School students Faith Prince (front) and Nixi Cruz dig a hole so Menlo Park city staff can plant a tree on Hamilton Avenue in Menlo Park. Students and the city's street tree reforestation program joined efforts on April 26 to plant the tree in celebration of Arbor Day.

Twenty-five apply for MP city manager post

By Rory Brown

Almanac Staff Writer

Some 25 people have applied to become Menlo Park's next city manager, City Attorney Bill McClure announced at the May 1 City Council meeting.

He said "a number of strong

candidates have applied," and he expects more applications to trickle in.

The deadline to apply for the city's top post was April 30, but the city is accepting a few late applications, Mr. McClure said. He said all information regarding the applicants is confidential.

The city has been without a permanent city manager since David Boesch stepped down on Feb. 20 to become assistant county manager of San Mateo County, but if all goes according to plan, the council will choose a new manager by mid-June.

A consultant leading the recruitment process is expected to narrow down the field to no more than eight candidates by May 22. Council members are scheduled to interview those candidates on June 1 and pick no more than three finalists.

The finalists will go before panels of city staff, union representatives and community members on June 14, and then council members would receive input from members of the panels, and choose the new city manager. ■

Board likely to act on Oak Knoll plan

School board members have narrowed down the number of options to renovate Oak Knoll School in Menlo Park, and they're expected to approve a final design at their May 16 meeting.

The time and location of the meeting aren't set, but school board meetings usually start at 7 p.m.

The exact time and location will be posted on the district's Web site, mpcsd.k12.ca.us, when available.

All board members have sup-

ported building a two-story multi-purpose building at the north end of the school, and a large playing field on the southern part of the campus. Other details, such how much field space should be kept at the north end of the school, and where parking should be located, still need to be ironed out.

Once the school board approves a plan, construction is scheduled for June 2008 to December 2010, and the renovations are expected to cost about \$11.7 million.

SPRINKLERS

continued from page 5

■ All new buildings with a basement of more than 250 square feet.

The ordinance would not apply to existing homes, unless they underwent a major remodel.

"Residential fire deaths are not going down," said Fire Marshal Geoff Aus. "It's our job to reduce these with smoke detectors and fire sprinklers."

Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman noted that Atherton and East Palo Alto have adopted similar ordinances, and said requiring sprinklers is "something that needs to be done."

But the sprinkler issue, as it has

Jesse Cool: jZ Cool to change, not close

Popular downtown Menlo Park eatery jZ Cool may be changing, but it's not closing, said owner Jesse Cool.

Ms. Cool, who owns several local restaurants, said customers have expressed concern that the Santa Cruz Avenue restaurant will close after hearing that the

restaurateur was going to convert the space into a wine bar.

Ms. Cool said the restaurant will expand its hours and be open for dinner as a wine bar that will serve some food, but will continue to serve sandwiches, salads and burgers for lunch.

"jZ Cool isn't going any-

where," she said. "We're just remodeling a bit and extending our hours. ... We're doing more, not less."

Ms. Cool is also opening a new restaurant at the Allied Arts Guild by June. That restaurant will serve breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea, she said.

Traffic delays likely for University Drive

Thanks to a leaky water main, crews will be digging up University Drive in Menlo Park, from Santa Cruz Avenue to Middle Avenue, starting May 21, said Darin Duncan, a district manager with the California Water Service Co.

The project is expected to cause traffic delays near the city's downtown area, and near

Draeger's market, for up to two months, he said.

CalWater crews will replace a pipe that runs from Santa Cruz Avenue to Middle Avenue, limiting University Drive to one-way traffic, said Mr. Duncan.

Although no roads will close, Mr. Duncan said drivers should expect delays. "If people can avoid the area that would be

smart," he said.

He said the project should be finished by the time of the Connoisseur's Marketplace street festival in Menlo Park, scheduled for July 21-22. He said the construction and traffic impacts won't be as bad as a recent water main replacement conducted on Valparaiso Avenue.

Apple moth pest found in Woodside

By Marion Softky

Almanac Staff Writer

A light brown apple moth, one of four found in San Mateo County, has turned up near Woodside Road just west of Interstate 280. It was confirmed April 30.

Discovery of the voracious pests around the Bay Area since February has triggered both state and federal quarantines of agricultural operations of eight California counties, including San Mateo, from Monterey to Marin, and the entire state of Hawaii.

Agricultural officials worry that the light brown apple moth (LBAM) could devastate California's agriculture and ecosystems. Native to Australia, the moth is also found in New Zealand, Ireland, and the United Kingdom. The quarter-inch moth dines on 250 species, ranging from oaks and redwoods to fruit trees, ornamental garden plants, grapes and herbs.

"This is a serious pest," said

county Agricultural Commissioner Gail Raabe. The county has set up more than 600 traps, five per square mile in affected areas. The whole staff is working to track the moths and stop their spread.

For every moth found, the federal order sets up a quarantine zone 1.5 miles in radius. No one can remove flowers, fruits, vegetables or nursery stock grown in the quarantine area, except commercial ventures that have been inspected.

The regulations require inspections of many nurseries and agricultural operations before plant material can be moved out of the quarantined area.

"Keep your yard waste on site, or put it in a covered recycling bin," Ms. Raabe said. "Compost is OK, and chipping it on site is fine."

The companies that do curbside recycling are approved to remove yard waste, she said.

The state is preparing more rational boundaries for the area around the moth found in Woodside, Ms.

Raabe said. The quarantine will probably cover the area bounded by the Alameda de las Pulgas, Sand Hill Road, Route 84, Canada Road, and Jefferson Avenue.

Produce sections of grocery stores, daytime farmers markets and fruit stands, such as at Webb Ranch, should not be affected, Ms. Raabe said.

The first moth found in San Mateo County was confirmed in Belmont on April 20, the second in Colma on April 30, and the fourth in Half Moon Bay on May 4, Ms. Raabe said. "That's of great concern because that's our agricultural area."

Ms. Raabe suggests that people operating school or community gardens check with her office. Anyone seeing a suspicious moth or caterpillar should report it to the county office or the state.

For information call Ms. Raabe's office at 363-4700; or visit the California Division of Forestry and Agriculture Web site at cdfa.ca.gov. ■

More than \$9,000 spent on Vegas trip

About \$9,400 of San Mateo County funds were spent on a recent trip by county employees to run in a Las Vegas race — the same trip where Sheriff Greg Munks was briefly detained at a brothel.

Fifty-four county employees, including Mr. Munks, participated in the run. About \$6,000 of the costs went toward the use of 11 county vehicles, according to a report by the county controller's office.

Trial ahead in cyclist injury case

A jury trial is ahead for the man behind the wheel of the pickup truck that struck, dragged and severely injured Mary Ann Levenson, a 48-year-old Menlo Park bicycle racer and mother of three as she was riding east on Sand Hill Road just east of Interstate 280 on the afternoon of Dec. 23, 2006.

The driver, Hillsborough resident Walter Sorensen, 77, pleaded not guilty to charges that include felony drunken driving with infliction of great bodily injury,

said San Mateo County Deputy District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe.

Mr. Sorensen, who is out of custody on \$50,000 bail, was arraigned before Judge John Grandsaert on Friday, May 4, at San Mateo County Superior Court. A trial is scheduled for Sept. 4 at 8:45 a.m., Mr. Wagstaffe said.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF MENLO PARK PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING OF MAY 21, 2007

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the City of Menlo Park, California, is scheduled to review the following items:

The following items require a Notice of Public Meeting or Public Hearing:

Use Permit/Brandon and Carol Brosious/903 Peggy Lane: Request for a use permit to construct a single-story addition to an existing single-story, single-family, nonconforming residence that would exceed 75 percent of the replacement value of the existing structure in a 12-month period in the R-1-U (Single-Family Urban) zoning district.

Architectural Control/Jude Kirik/501 Laurel Street: Request for architectural control for a seasonal air dome to be installed over the warm instructional pool at the Burgess Pool Complex, owned by the City of Menlo Park, at 501 Laurel Street in the P-F Public Facilities zoning district.

Use Permit Review/German American International School of San Francisco/275 Elliott Drive: Review of use permit for the effectiveness of policies and programs related to traffic and parking for the German American School Society of San Francisco, the German American School of Palo Alto, and the Palo Alto French Education Association. The applicant is also requesting a use permit revision to extend the use of four existing portables until 2016 and a use permit for the operation of ballet classes three times a week in the afternoon.

Use Permit/Lisa Williams/425 Claremont Way: Request for a use permit to convert an existing accessory building into a detached secondary dwelling unit and to locate this unit's required off-street parking space within a required yard on a parcel in the R-1-U (Single-Family Urban) zoning district.

878 Santa Cruz Avenue/Architectural Control/Sophie Lo: Request for architectural control for alterations to the north and south building elevations in the C-3 (Central Commercial) zoning district.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that said Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on this item in the Council Chambers of the City of Menlo Park, located at 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, on Monday,

May 21, 2007, 7:00 p.m. or as near as possible thereafter, at which time and place interested persons may appear and be heard thereon. If you challenge this item in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Menlo Park at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Documents related to these items may be inspected by the public on weekdays between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, with alternate Fridays closed, at the Department of Community Development, 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park. Please note that the items listed are only the agenda items that require a public hearing. Please call the Planning Division if there are any questions and/or for complete agenda information (650) 330-6702.

DATED: May 3, 2007
Deanna Chow, Senior Planner
Menlo Park Planning Commission

Visit our Web site for Planning Commission public hearing, agenda, and staff report information: www.menlopark.org

Published in The Country Almanac on May 9, 2007.

Woodside fire district scrambles to save ambulance

By Andrea Gemmet

Almanac Staff Writer

Woodside fire officials are trying every avenue avail-

able to them to keep the district's ambulance staffed and running.

While Woodside's ambulance is extremely busy and brings in an

estimated \$1 million a year in revenue, the Woodside Fire Protection

District sees only a fraction of that money, and officials say it's bleed-

ing the district's budget dry.

Last month, they warned that Woodside may have to abandon its ambulance service on July 1,

rather than continue to spend more than a half-million dollars a year to run it.

So fire officials are trying to get American Medical Response (AMR) to lighten the number of out-of-district calls the ambulance takes, gathering public support and lobbying local officials.

"There's no way AMR will put an ambulance where it can reach the Sequoias in the required amount of time," said Peter Berger, a member of the fire district's board of directors, at the April 30 meeting.

Mr. Berger and fire Chief Armando Muela are hoping that their efforts can pry loose additional money from the Joint Powers Authority that oversees ambulance service in San Mateo County.

He and Mr. Berger will make a presentation at the May 9 Portola Valley Town Council meeting, and Woodside Mayor Sue Boynton invited them to speak at the Woodside Town Council later this month as well, Chief Muela said.

If Woodside does abandon its ambulance, there will still be ambulance service for residents of the district, which includes Portola Valley, Woodside, Ladera and surrounding unincorporated areas. The likely result is longer waiting times for AMR ambulances that are stationed farther away, said Mr. Berger.

After last month's revelation that the ambulance service is in jeopardy, firefighters have been getting stopped by concerned residents in grocery stores and on the street, said Chief Muela.

Woodside is one of the few fire districts still running its own ambulance service. Most of the county is served by AMR. Pacifica runs its own ambulance, but budget problems caused Menlo Park to drop its ambulance in 2003, and Half Moon Bay had to slash its ambulance service.

The for-profit AMR has an exclusive contract to provide ambulance service in San Mateo County, and fire districts such as Woodside subcontract with AMR to run their own ambulances. The Joint Powers Authority is funded by AMR and oversees all emergency medical first-response service as well as ambulances run by fire departments.

The pot of money is finite, and for Woodside to get more funding for its ambulance, the 17 member agencies of the JPA would have to dip into their own pockets.

Woodside receives \$177,000 in annual ambulance reimbursement, but it costs the district about \$750,000 a year to staff the ambulance, said district officials.

Mr. Berger said he believes it will take intervention by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors to save the ambulance, and he encouraged fire district residents to lobby Supervisor Rich Gordon on the district's behalf. ■

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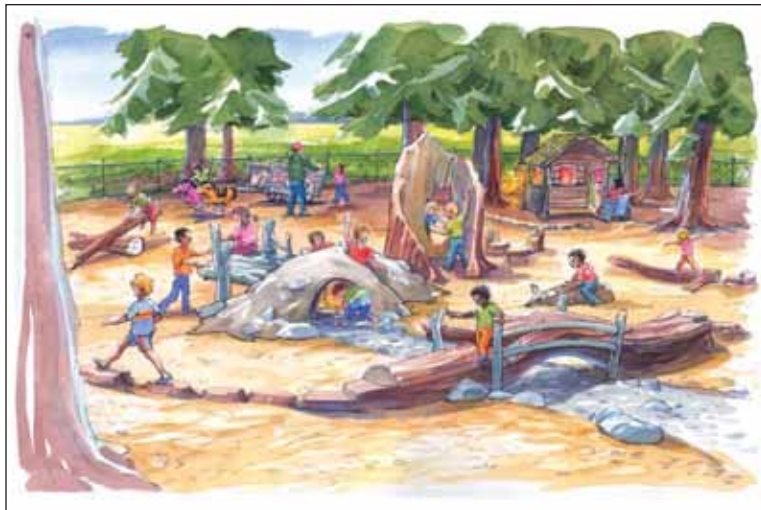
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This rendering shows the unique work-of-art-as-playground planned for the new Town Center complex in Portola Valley.

Rendering courtesy of Scientific Art Studio Corp.

One-of-a-kind playground planned for Portola Valley

■ Richmond studio also designed giant mitt at AT&T Park

By David Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Come September, it may not be obvious but Portola Valley may have acquired something in common with AT&T Park in San Francisco, the 1993 movie "The New Adventures of Superman" and a 1997 album by The Rolling Stones.

Each of those entities has commissioned work by the same Richmond art studio — Scientific Art Studio Corp. — now engaged by the town, following a unanimous April 25 vote by the Town Council, to create a one-of-a-kind play structure for the new Town Center complex.

"We wanted something that was unique and not a plastic McPlayground that you see anywhere on the Peninsula," said resident and Parks & Recreation Committee member Erica Hughes at the council meeting.

Ms. Hughes reported to the council as part of a March 2006 task force, convened by then-mayor Steve Toben, to find an artist whose playground design "embodied a sense of place and reflected both the natural setting and history of the town," said Town Attorney Sandy Sloan in an April 9 memo.

Ms. Hughes had surveyed parents in town to gauge their play-

ground preferences and found support for a simple design that is not "cookie-cutter" and has "special meaning to the town," Ms. Sloan said.

This proposal, for ages 2-6, includes an apple cart with wooden barrels and crates and a "forest play area" that features a crawl-through tunnel, a hollow tree stump, a balancing structure, a pretend camping site and a hill to clamber up, Ms. Sloan said.

The design, which must comply with applicable safety guidelines, does not include rocking horses, swings, benches or water fountains, Ms. Sloan said.

The total cost may not exceed \$95,000, Ms. Sloan said.

Because the result would be a work of art, the town is not obligated to put the project out for competitive bidding, Ms. Sloan said.

The town's intent is to have the playground finished for the Blues & Barbecue festival in September, Mayor Ted Driscoll said.

The online portfolio for Scientific Art Studio Corp. at scientificart-studio.com shows examples of models made for both the Superman movie and the Rolling Stones album, "Bridges to Babylon."

In her memo to the council, Ms. Sloan notes that the studio also crafted the sculpture of the giant baseball glove at AT&T Park. ■

Verdict in Menlo Park kidnap case

A San Mateo County jury on April 20 found Menlo Park jewelry store owner Ricardo Zambrano guilty of masterminding a plot to kidnap and rape a former employee who had resisted his romantic advances.

Jury members could not come to a verdict on charges that Mr. Zambrano, 37, of Fresno planned to have the woman killed.

The jury found Mr. Zambrano

guilty of five charges, including conspiracy to commit forcible rape, kidnapping with the intent to commit rape, kidnapping in commission of a carjacking, and false imprisonment.

The employee had worked for Mr. Zambrano at his jewelry store inside the Mi Rancho market in Menlo Park. She was carjacked by an accomplice, Alfonzo Cuevas Gonzalez, bust managed to escape.

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Sierra snowpack 71 percent below normal

State water officials said the measured water content of snowpack in the Sierra Nevada Mountains was 71 percent below normal, the lowest it has been in 20 years.

On May 1 the California Department of Water Resources completed its final survey for the winter months.

"This is continued bad news for the Bay Area water supply," said Tony Winnicker, spokesman for the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. However, he said the results of the survey were no surprise.

The water district began asking its 2.4 million customers in San Mateo, San Francisco, Alameda and Santa Clara counties in early April to begin conserving water.

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission gets 85 percent of its water from the Sierra Nevada snowmelt, said

Art Jensen, general manager for the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency.

The water is stored in the Hetch Hetchy reservoir on the Toulumne River in Yosemite National Park.

The remaining 15 percent of the water comes from local watersheds, which also dry up during a drought, Mr. Jensen said.

Sue Sims, spokeswoman for the state Department of Water Resources, said that the Hetch Hetchy reservoir is currently full and the water supply is expected to be fine for this year, but since it is unknown if next year will be dry as well, water officials have called for voluntary conservation.

Scientists studying climate

change have predicted that global warming will result in longer and deeper droughts, Ms. Sims said. By the year 2050, scientists have predicted that on average there will be 25 percent less snowpack in the Sierra Nevada, she said.

One of the easiest ways to reduce water consumption is to replace old appliances, such as toilets and washing machines, with water-efficient appliances, Mr. Winnicker said.

Ms. Sims said that people also use a tremendous amount of water on outdoor landscaping. They can reduce water use by watering in the evenings instead of in the heat of the day and by planting types of plants that don't require as much water.

— Bay City News Service

Council endorses global warming pledge

After receiving unanimous support from the Menlo Park City Council, Mayor Kelly Fergusson will sign off on the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

The agreement, signed by mayors from more than 400 cities — including Palo Alto and Portola Valley — commits cities to try to lower municipal greenhouse gas emissions to 7 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2012, in an effort to curb global warming.

■ MENLO WATCH

The council voted 5-0 on May 1 to endorse the agreement, and to authorize city staff to spend \$35,000 to determine what level of greenhouse gas emissions are currently emitted by the city.

"I feel we have to do everything in our power to take steps to address global warming," Mayor Fergusson said. "The human race has got to act. This is a matter of life or death."

Clark Kepler pitches 'Go Green' series

Kepler's owner Clark Kepler is the latest of a growing chorus of voices calling for a greener Menlo Park. Mr. Kepler plans to pitch his store's "Go Green" series at the Wednesday, May 9, meeting of the Green Ribbon Citizen Task Force — a committee of residents focused on curbing global warming.

The meeting is set for 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the basement of the Menlo Park Library, at 800 Alma St.

The "Go Green" events are scheduled for this summer, as Kepler's is partnering with environmental organizations to present information on alternative energy solutions, preserving open space, organic farming, and other techniques to help the environment, according to a press release.

City to repave Sand Hill Road

The traffic may be bad, but driving on Sand Hill Road will soon be a smoother ride.

The Menlo Park City Council voted 5-0 on May 1 to repave the popular road from Santa Cruz Avenue to I-280.

The repaving is scheduled to start in June, and be completed by September, according to city staff. The project is estimated to cost about \$1.58 million.



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Making merrie in May

May pole dancers, marching bands, equestrians and kids celebrate spring at Woodside's May Day parade

Third-graders from Woodside Elementary twirl around the May pole at the school's amphitheater after the parade.



At left, kids watch attentively as the May Day parade passes by. Below, a garlanded horse and white-garbed rider cut a romantic figure.



Clockwise from top left: Even chickens can march in the parade, thanks to the Cañada 4-H club; one of the “dancing girls” from the Los Trancos Woods Community Marching Band; a laughing Berdine Jernigan represents Peninsula Volunteers’ Rosener House; the Redwood City Twirlers show off their baton skills.

G

irls atop horses in white

cotton dresses, kids with wheelbarrows to clean up the messes, cowboys and hippies and flappers in cars ...

... that’s just a few of the May Day parade’s stars.

Woodsiders welcomed spring at the annual May Day parade on clear, breezy Saturday, May 5, just as they have for 85 years: with kids, parents, wagons and ponies dressed up and promenading down Woodside Road, singing, waving and hurling candy.

Marchers were encouraged to pick a decade from Woodside’s past and dress accordingly to celebrate the town’s “Journey Through the Decades.”

The 1950s were well represented by a group of baton-twirling bobby-soxers from the Redwood City Twirlers and a Girl Scout Brownie troop recreating American Bandstand. The 1960s also got plenty of respect with

an assortment of tie-dye clad and garlanded flower children, and a hippie horse painted with peace signs and flowers from the National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy.

The Los Trancos Woods Community Marching Band embraced the kitschy detritus of multiple decades simultaneously in their outlandish costumes, and a pair of teens rocked the early 1980s Flashdance look with their matching side ponytails.

Eighth graders in dirndls, habits and lederhosen serenaded onlookers with “Do Re Mi” from the upcoming operetta production of “The Sound of Music.” Even more retro was a wagon-pulling contingent from the

Woodside Community Theatre, singing “The Wells Fargo Wagon” to tout the fall production of “The Music Man.”

The Woodside High School Marching Band stayed current by playing Green Day’s 2005 anti-war tune “Holiday.”

Woodside’s parade is always horse-heavy, but this year there appeared to be a record number of electric or alternate-fuel vehicles, a decidedly new millennium trend. The Woodside Elementary School board’s electric six-seater preceded the PTA’s Hummer, possibly to offset its carbon footprint. The Woodside/Carlmont Robotics Team added a futuristic twist by marching with its prize-winning robot waving an orange inner tube as it rolled by. ■

Tina Patrick was named “Citizen of the Year” by the Woodside Elementary School PTA. It was a short walk across the stage for Ms. Patrick, who was already there as one of the four May Day parade grand marshals. Ms. Patrick’s countless volunteer hours for the school, beginning in 1995, earned her the PTA’s highest honor.



Veronica Weber

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Come see what Stanford has to offer

Steve Westly urges county businesses to lead green revolution

By Marion Softky

Almanac Staff Writer

As the world gears up to fight global warming, entrepreneur Steve Westly of Atherton wants San Mateo County to be at the head of the oncoming green revolution.

"Let's make San Mateo County the hub of the revolution in the making," the former California controller and candidate for governor told an enthusiastic audience of San Mateo County business leaders April 25 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Foster City. His topic was "Innovation and the Future of the Peninsula Economy."

"People in Silicon Valley are changing the landscape of human history," Mr. Westly exhorted more than 200 people at the annual awards luncheon of the county business organization SAMCEDA. "The Clean Tech Revolution is booming in the county to the south. Shame on us if we get left out."

Mr. Westly has lots of financial and business experience. He served for four years as state controller, where the chief job is keeping an eye on the state budget. The kid who went through local public schools, including Menlo-Atherton High School, and then Stanford, helped build the online auction house eBay, from a promising startup to a household word.

Now out of elective office, Mr. Westly heads the Westly Group, which "wants to help build the companies that will power the Clean Technology revolution," according to its Web site, westlygroup.com.

Mr. Westly gave pollution a world perspective. The U.S. is no longer the world's greatest polluter, he said; China has passed us and India is close behind.

Mr. Westly's message to business: whoever can figure out ways to clean up the environment and wean us from foreign oil "will make a lot of money and be the workforce of the future."

San Mateo County is in a good position to attract clean tech companies that will grow, Mr. Westly said.

The Tesla electric roadster, based in San Carlos, is generating an international buzz. The zero-to-60 mph in less than four seconds sports car hasn't even been delivered, but has already sold 400 at \$90,000 each, said Mr. Westly; he joined the Tesla board in February.

But to attract these businesses, the county and its business leaders need to be more proactive, Mr. Westly said; they need to target subsidies strategically to small companies with big promise. In particular, he suggested, "Find ways to subsidize office space."

Finally, Mr. Westly encouraged business to go clean and green themselves, and to help their employees go solar and buy no-emission vehicles.

Many investments in clean technology are also paying off faster. Mr. Westly noted that installing solar panels in 2000 took 10 years to pay back. "The payback now is four-to-five years."

Mr. Westly urged businesses — and governments — to go clean and green themselves. "Put solar on your roof," he said. "Do it for free. Be part of the revolution." ■

Ambulance on Portola Valley agenda

The Portola Valley Town Council will hear a presentation by Armando Muela, chief of the Woodside Fire Protection District, on the subject of ambulance service for the town.

Chief Muela's talk is scheduled for the 8 p.m. Wednesday, May 9, council meeting at the Historic Schoolhouse at 765 Portola Road.

The fire chief's talk will be preceded by a presentation by the council honoring three residents

— Dr. Walter Bortz, former mayor Kirke Comstock and Jean Lane — all of whom recently received lifetime achievement awards from the Palo Alto-based nonprofit Avenidas, a senior-service organization.

On Monday, May 15, at 8 p.m., representatives for Roberts Market will go before the Architectural & Site Control Commission to discuss improvements to the building at the corner of Alpine and Portola roads.



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Corte Madera students head for state science fair

By Treena Joi

Science teacher, Corte Madera School

Corte Madera School sent 12 student projects to the San Mateo County Science Fair in February. Three projects, by a team from each middle school grade, are being recognized with a trip to the California State Science Fair in Los Angeles on May 21 and 22.

Christopher Sauer and Jonathan Zdasiuk represent the sixth grade, with their two-year engineering research project titled, "Making the Mag-Lev Train Move." In the biology category, seventh-grader Brooke Rothschild-Mancinelli will show off her work titled, "The Effect of Salt on the Boiling Temperature of Water."

An engineering project by eighth-grader Will Strober, "Acceleration by Magnetic Forces and a New Propulsion System," rounds out the Corte Madera science team this year.

Brooke's brother Kyle Rothschild-Mancinelli, a Corte Madera graduate and a ninth-grader at Carlmont High School, will also compete at the state fair. His work, "Breaking the double helix: Effects of solar UV radiation on super-coiled DNA," is an environmental science entry.

"I am really excited about going to the state science fair,"

says participant Jonathan Zdasiuk. "We worked really hard on this project for two years."

It's "sort of neat to levitate the train car," he says, using a magnetic track that he and Christopher Sauer built. "It's neat how it is just floating in the air like that using magnets!" Christopher adds: "For our science project, we added an electromagnetic propulsion system that we wired so you can move the train by pressing a switch and rotating a dial."

Thank go out to all of the parent volunteers and science advocates in the community. Corte Madera Science Fair coordinator Brigetta Brown and fellow science teachers Treena Joi and Jeanne Rusch are working with the Portola Valley School District administration to lengthen the school-wide science fair from two to five school days to better provide students and community members more time to enjoy all the hard work Corte Madera students put into their consistently innovative and dedicated science inquiries. ■

Treena Joi teaches 6-7 grade science at Corte Madera School. She is a member of the Portola Valley Science and Nature Committee and the Portola Valley Climate Task Force.

Drug awareness talk at Corte Madera

Corte Madera School in Portola Valley will hold a "Drug and Alcohol Awareness" program on Wednesday, May 9, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the school's multi-use room.

Speakers are Sgt. Leo Capovilla from the San Mateo County Narcotics Task Force and Deputy Marcus Gathright from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.

They will show confiscated drugs and drug paraphernalia, and explain what parents should look for — sights, sounds, smells and attitudes.

There will be a discussion on the responsibility of schools in drug intervention. For more information, call parent volunteer Amber Ramies at 823-9994.

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- Ongoing Weekly and Monthly Sessions

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- Thursdays, May 17 – June 7

* STAYING CLOSE WHILE STANDING BACK

Julie Metzger, RN, developer of the popular "Heart to Heart" seminars, offers parenting strategies for guiding children through adolescence. This event takes place in the Fairchild Auditorium at Stanford University Medical Center.

- Wednesday, May 23

* CESAREAN BIRTH CLASS

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

- Wednesday, June 6

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



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Underdog all-stars win National Junior Basketball title

■ Girls' team wins four heart-stopping games by total of 7 points.

This story was posted in the Sports category of Town Square by Brad Koenig.

The third and fourth grade girls Redwood City All Star team, whose players hail from Menlo

Park, Atherton, Woodside and Redwood City, recently won the National Junior Basketball (NJB) championship in a tournament held in Orange County the weekend of April 14 and 15.

Resembling the small-town Indiana high school basketball team made famous by the movie "Hoosiers," the young low-seeded underdog Redwood All Stars won its four heart-stopping games by a total of seven points. It defeated the taller, bigger and older teams from Los Angeles, San Diego and Orange County.

In the thrilling final game, Redwood City came back from an eight-point deficit in the fifth and final period of regulation to tie Bakersfield with 20 seconds remaining and send the game into overtime. The

Redwood City All Stars team, coached by Bill Miller and Todd Hemm, completed its storybook comeback by winning the game by a score of 30-28 in the single overtime period.

The ecstatic girls and even more exuberant and proud coaches and parents returned to their Bay Area homes with a sparkling new two-foot high trophy and memories to last a lifetime.

Team members are Olivia Athens, Mackenzie Duffner, Riley Hemm, Lauren Keelan, Jessica Koenig, Elise Merten, Anna Miller, Ally Ostrow, Gaby

Rivas, and Josie Rouser.

The team was one of 10 national teams, including two from Silicon Valley, that were invited to compete for the championship.

The Redwood City team had placed second in the Silicon Valley championship playoffs, won by the Foothill All Stars, which also competed in the Orange County tournament.

Unlike most of its competitors, made up of mostly fourth-grade girls, the Redwood City All Stars team had only six fourth-graders, three third-graders and one second-grader.

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M-A boys golf wins Fog City Classic

This story was posted in the Sports category of Town Square by Linda Sako.

The Menlo-Atherton High School boys varsity golf team placed first in the Fog City Golf Classic on April 18, despite very windy and cold conditions at Sharp Park in Pacifica. The team

competed against 21 other teams with a field of 132 players.

M-A's team score was 397 for 18 holes on the par 72 course, ahead of Los Gatos, Burlingame, Menlo and 18 other teams.

Individual scores were: Nick Sako 75, Ben Jackson 77, Elliot

Hume 79, Jamie Walsh 82, Greg Sako 84, and Jake Hall Toy 87.

Nick Sako placed second in individual play, one stroke behind the leader (Riley Kriebel of Menlo); Jake Hall Toy won the "Closest to the Pin" event, coming within 5 feet; and Greg Sako won the "Longest Drive" event with 340 yards.



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Erin Nicole Ury brings home silver buckle

Former Menlo Park resident Erin Nicole Ury realized a long-awaited goal by competing in the 62nd Annual Grand National Rodeo, Horse and Stock show recently held at the Cow Palace.

Erin and her quarter horse mare, Glen Acres Dawn ("Angel"), placed first in the AQHA Open Western Pleasure class, and brought home the Grand National Champion silver buckle. Erin has owned Angel, now 21, since Angel was 3 years old.

Erin attended Las Lomas, La Entrada and Menlo-Atherton High schools. Her passion for

horses and riding started when she was 8 and took riding lessons at Webb Ranch in Portola Valley.

A former member of Portola Valley Pony Club, she attended Lamar College in Lamar, Colorado, where she became certified as a horse trainer. Her horse training business, Left Coast Performance Horses, operates out of Ember Ridge Equestrian Center in Moss Beach. Erin is also employed at UCSF Medical Center and resides in San Francisco.

This information is from Suzanne Klika Ury of Menlo Park, the mother of Erin.

Time to register for AYSO soccer

New and returning soccer players in AYSO Region 109, serving the Menlo Park and Atherton areas, may now register online at mpsoccer.org. Youths born between Aug. 1, 1988, and Jan. 31, 2003, are eligible.

After registering online, parents must come to one of two walk-in registration days to hand in forms and pay fees: \$85 for "kinderleague" players (born between Aug. 1, 2001, and Jan. 31, 2003); and \$125 for others. Walk-in registration dates are May 12 and May 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Hillview Middle

School library, 1100 Elder Ave.

Parents of new players must bring proof of age, such as a passport or birth certificate, to the registration.

The season begins in September and runs through the fall.

The Web site also takes sign-ups for volunteer jobs. Parents who volunteered as coaches or referees in 2006 and plan to coach or officiate this year can mail in their forms and checks after pre-registering; there is no need to show up at registration.

For more information, go to mpsoccer.org



NOTICE OF ADOPTION

THE CITY COUNCIL OF MENLO PARK adopted Ordinance No. 956 at its regular City Council meeting of May 1, 2007. The Ordinance was introduced on April 24, 2007, and adopted on May 1, 2007, by a 5-0 vote. The ordinance is effective thirty days from its adoption, and is summarized as:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MENLO PARK ADDING SECTION 5.68.080 AND CHAPTER 5.69 [VIDEO SERVICE PROVIDERS] TO THE MENLO PARK MUNICIPAL CODE

- The Ordinance adds Section 5.68.080 and Chapter 5.69 to Title 5 [BUSINESS LICENSES AND REGULATIONS] of the Menlo Park Municipal Code, to conform to Assembly Bill 2987, the Digital Infrastructure and Video Competition Act of 2006 ("DIVCA"), which was signed by the Governor of California on September 29, 2006.

The full text of the ordinance and all exhibits are available at the Office of the City Clerk and/or may be viewed on the City of Menlo Park website at www.menlopark.org

DATED: May 3, 2007

Silvia M. Vonderlinden
City Clerk

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on May 9, 2007.

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Madcap 'Cinderella'

Alex Prather of Los Gatos, Sarah Bernosky of Saratoga, and Rishikesh Santhanam of Menlo Park are part of the Peninsula Youth Theatre's madcap version of "Cinderella," which runs May 12-20 at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St. Other locals in the cast are: Atherton, Ruchika Advani, Victoria Garrick, Aubrey Gavello, Jennifer Kranz, Nicole Mouchawar, and Katherine Whitman; Menlo Park, Virginia Lane, Ariana Meyers, Caroline Parsons, Kendall Peters, and Claire Uschersohn; and Portola Valley, Emma Wiszowatzky.

Portola Valley author speaks at Kepler's

Three winners of the O. Henry Prize for contemporary fiction — including Jan Ellison of Portola Valley — will speak at 7:30 p.m. Monday, May 14, at Kepler's bookstore, 1010 El Camino Real in Menlo Park.

The prizewinners' stories appear in "The O. Henry Prize Stories 2007," a new book published by Anchor Books that the authors will sign following their talks.

The 20 prize-winning stories were chosen from thousands of stories in hundreds of literary magazines, said

Kepler's spokesperson Susan Lider.

Ms. Ellison of Portola Valley won the 2007 prize for a short story, "The Company of Men," first published in the "New England Review." The Los Angeles native has an undergraduate degree in history from Stanford.

The others who will speak are Andrew Foster Altschul of San Francisco, who won for his short story, "A New Kind of Gravity," and Susan Straight of Riverside, who won for her short story, "El Ojo de Agua."



NOTICE OF ADOPTION

THE CITY COUNCIL OF MENLO PARK adopted Ordinance No. 957 at its regular City Council meeting of May 1, 2007. The Ordinance was introduced on April 24, 2007, and adopted on May 1, 2007, by a 5-0 vote. The ordinance is effective thirty days from its adoption, and is summarized as:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MENLO PARK ADDING CHAPTER 13.18 [USE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY] TO THE MENLO PARK MUNICIPAL CODE

- The Ordinance adds Chapter 13.18 to Title 13 [Streets, Sidewalks and Utilities] of the Menlo Park Municipal Code, which codifies the encroachment permit process, manages the limited resources required to maximize their efficiency and minimize the costs to the taxpayers, and controls access to and use of public rights-of-way.

The full text of the ordinance and all exhibits are available at the Office of the City Clerk and/or may be viewed on the City of Menlo Park website at www.menlopark.org

DATED: May 3, 2007 Silvia M. Vonderlinden
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Spring is sacred

This painting, "Sacred Places of Spring," by Linda Patterson is on display through May 31 at the Portola Art Gallery in the Allied Arts Guild, 75 Arbor Road in Menlo Park. A reception is set for Saturday, May 12, from noon to 4 p.m. For more information, call 321-0220.



OBITUARIES

Elizabeth Beach Peabody

Longtime Menlo Park resident

A celebration of life will be held Friday, May 11, for Elizabeth Beach Peabody, a longtime resident of Menlo Park who died April 30 after a heart attack and strokes. She was 93.

The celebration will start at 3 p.m. at Roller, Hapgood and Tinney, 980 Middlefield Road in Palo Alto.

Born in Vergennes, Vermont, she was the wife for 64 years of Prentice B. "Pete" Peabody of Menlo Park, a 20-year employee of Lockheed Martin on the Fleet Ballistic Missile Program.

She served for 10 years as a docent at the Palo Alto Art Center.

She is survived by two daughters, Bayan Culhane of Danville and Barbara Levich of Seattle; four grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

The family prefers donations to the Clark Center for Japanese Art, 15770 10th Ave., Hanford, CA 93230.

Jeannette "Sally" Sundberg

Atherton resident

Jeannette "Sally" Sundberg of

Atherton died May 1 at Stanford Hospital at age 90.

She is survived by her husband, O.B. Sunberg of Atherton; two sons, John Woodbridge of Larkspur and Bill Woodbridge of Los Angeles; and a step-daughter, Dolores Banker of Covina, California.

Stephen Gerard Breen

SF Bay swimmer

Menlo Park investment adviser Stephen Gerard Breen, a former Portola Valley resident who used to spend part of his New Year's Day in San Francisco Bay swimming ashore from Alcatraz Island, died May 2. He was 51.

He died surrounded by members of his family and was beloved as a father, son, brother and best friend, relatives said.

Mr. Breen was a graduate of Kenyon College and Golden Gate University, where he obtained a master degree in business in 1985, relatives said. He lived in Portola Valley between 1991 and 1996.

He was a generous and supportive man and an accomplished athlete who excelled at swimming, loved music and reading, and enjoyed traveling and being out in the natural world, relatives said.

He is survived by daughters

Tenley and Rose; sons Kellen and Ryan; sisters Christine and Dierdre; brothers Regis, Joseph and Sean; and father Joseph.

Marjorie Blackburn Whisnant

Menlo Park resident

Marjorie Blackburn Whisnant, a resident of Menlo Park, died April 14 in Menlo Park at age 99.

Born in Chicago, she grew up in Charlotte, North Carolina, and attended Queens College, where she was a member of Chi Omega sorority.

In 1930, she married William Ward Whisnant, who was president of Whisnant Furniture stores.

She moved to Menlo Park in 1986 and was a member of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. She was also a member of the Society of Mayflower Descendants.

She is survived by her daughter, Nancy W. Collins of Menlo Park, three grandsons and six great-grandchildren.

Services and burial were held at Elmwood Cemetery in Charlotte, North Carolina, on April 29. The family requests that donations be sent to a charity of the donor's choice. Arrangements were by Roller Hapgood & Tinney Funeral Home in Palo Alto.

Project Read-Menlo Park tutor training begins next week

Project Read-Menlo Park is in great need of new volunteer tutors, and is holding a series of training sessions beginning May 15 for volunteers willing to help adults in the program learn to read.

Sessions are scheduled for Tuesday, May 15, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.; and Saturday, May 19, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A follow-up session is set for Tuesday, June 26, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The nonprofit Project Read

matches volunteers with adult learners.

Tutor training is held at the Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St. To register, call Roberta Roth at 330-2525 or e-mail her at rlroth@menlopark.org.

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

Auto burglary report: Personal items stolen from locked vehicle, 700 block of El Camino Real, April 28.

Commercial burglary reports

■ Door pried overnight, 900 block of Willow Road, April 28.

■ Computer equipment stolen through smashed window, 3600 block of Haven Avenue, April 28.

Residential burglary reports:

■ Man stole cell phone from woman after kicking in front door, 1300 block of Willow Road, April 30.

■ Home burglarized while resident was away, 1300 block of Sevier Avenue, May 1.

Fraud report: ATM card stolen and five

unauthorized charges made, 1300 block of Willow Road, May 3.

Spousal abuse report: 300 block of Terminal Avenue, April 28.

Stolen vehicle report: Gray 1995 Land Rover stolen overnight, 2000 block of Menalto Avenue, April 30.

Theft reports:

■ Two boys stole bike from owner and fled, 1300 block of Willow Road, April 30.

■ Ipad stolen from backpack, Hillview School at 1100 Elder Ave., May 1.

■ Laptop computer stolen, 3500 block of Haven Avenue, May 2.

WOODSIDE

Fraud report: Attempted phone scam of resident by someone posing as relative and requesting wire transfer of \$3,000 for bail money, 3000 block of Woodside Road, April 29.

Domestic violence report: 2000 block of Portola Road, April 28.

Theft report: Sony game equipment valued at \$275 stolen, Woodside High School at 199 Churchill Ave., May 1.

BIRTHS

Atherton

■ Lori Field and Jason Sutton, a daughter, April 21, at Sequoia Hospital.

Menlo Park

■ Angela and Anwar Ghuloum, a daughter, April 27, at Sequoia Hospital.

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Circulation, Classified,

& Legal Advertising Bill Rayburn

Published every Wednesday at

3525 Alameda de las Pulgas,

Menlo Park, CA 94025

(650) 854-2626

FAX (650) 854-0677

e-mail news (no photos please) to:

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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.

Voluntary subscriptions are available for delivery to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside at \$30 per year or \$50 for 2 years. Subscriptions by businesses or residents outside the area are \$50 for one year and \$80 for two years.



WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

All views must include a home address and contact phone number. Published letters will also appear on the Almanac Web site, www.AlmanacNews.com, and occasionally on the Almanac's Town Square forum.

TOWN SQUARE FORUM

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MAIL or deliver to: Editor at the Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

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Stick to facts in sprinkler debate

When Menlo Park once again debates a sprinkler ordinance, probably in August, the City Council should make sure it is a factual discussion, focused on a genuine effort to assess the cost-benefit ratio of sprinklers vs. a less costly fire safety campaign.

Prior to the 2004 vote, when the City Council rejected mandatory installation of sprinklers in new homes and large remodels, it was difficult to sort out the claims and counter-claims of the pro-sprinkler fire district representatives and opponents, who said the high cost of sprinklers did not pay off in a substantial increase in home protection.

One thing that swayed the council back then and will continue to be relevant is a roundup of local statistics that will show the number of fires per year, the incidence of fire-related injuries and the annual damage caused by fires in the city. It also would be helpful if city staff could find statistics from similar communities on the Peninsula that require sprinklers in homes. The goal would be to compare fire outcomes in communities with and without a sprinkler ordinance.

Another section of a city staff report should focus on the costs to install sprinklers, with bid estimates from at least three local contractors who do such work. Sprinkler opponents often say installation is extremely costly and in some cases would require new water mains, while fire personnel argue that rates are low. In order to make a fair decision, the council should have some clear comparisons on this score.

Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman appeared before the City Council last week to start the ball rolling. The district's proposal would require sprinklers in new homes over 1,000 square

feet, existing homes if more than 50 percent is remodeled, and all buildings with a basement of more than 250 square feet. The requirements are similar to those presented in 2004, which the council voted down in a 3-2 vote.

The district sees sprinklers as a safety issue, both for homeowners and fire district personnel, while those opposed are concerned about the high cost and potential water damage if the sprinklers go off accidentally.

In the 2004 discussion, the council ultimately based its decision on the high cost of installing a sprinkler system in a remodeled home, saying they thought it possible that some residents would be priced out of a project due to the added cost of sprinklers. Another vocal opponent questioned whether sprinklers were as effective as claimed, and also argued that the district should promote other, less costly ways of preventing fires.

The district's earlier efforts convinced the councils of Atherton and East Palo Alto to adopt ordinances making sprinklers mandatory, and Palo Alto, with a city-operated district, is expected to beef up its sprinkler ordinance in the near future. A spokesman said it is likely to require sprinklers in all new or remodeled homes unless the remodel is less than 500 square feet.

Has the time come for Menlo Park to adopt a mandatory sprinkler ordinance? Given today's increasing home values, it may make sense to protect the investment, although insurance companies do not offer substantial rate reductions for homes equipped with sprinklers.

We expect the same arguments used in 2004 against sprinklers to surface again. Several opponents made comments at last week's council meeting, so when the discussion finally begins it will be a lively one. There are good points to be made on each side.

EDITORIAL
The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS
Our readers write

Global warming is real, it's here

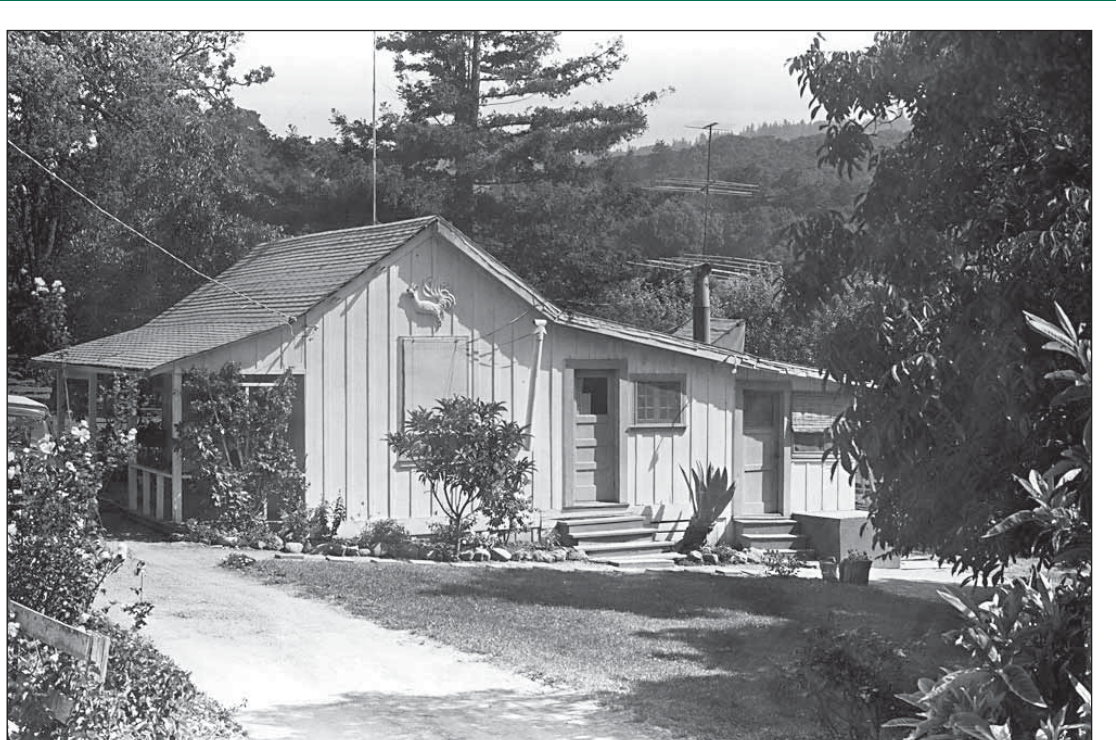
Editor:

Before the industrial revolution and for 650,000 years before then, the CO2 content of our atmosphere was about 280 ppm (parts per million).

Since the rise of our industrial age, the CO2 concentration has risen to 380 ppm. The earth's temperature has risen by about 1.6 degrees. If we continue to do nothing to stop global warming, by the end of this century the CO2 level could triple and the earth's temperature could rise as much as 5 degrees. Half of Florida and much of the eastern part of Menlo Park will disappear under water, at the same time we will experience severe droughts and loss of snowpacks.

Denial doesn't change the facts. Global warming is real — just ask the drowning polar

See **LETTERS**, next page



Portola Valley Archives

Our Regional Heritage

The photo accompanying Nancy Lund's guest opinion last week about the Chilean Woodchoppers' House in Portola Valley was taken by Almanac staff writer David Boyce a few weeks ago, not Woody Woodward, as stated in the caption. Mr. Woodward's photo, above, was taken in 1986, and shows the house in a much better, lived-in condition. Valley residents are currently discussing ways to preserve the small building, which needs to move to another location.

A new idea for Stanford trail

By Stan Gage

Stanford University is currently locked in a tactical skirmish with local environmental groups, its neighbors and San Mateo County over the issue of where or if a trail should be built along the north side of the university's lands.

Perhaps it is time for all of the parties involved to back off from this win-lose approach and think about alternatives to a trail that would benefit a wider swath of the community. Let's face it. Regardless of location, a trail is going to serve only a very small population of users — perhaps just a few thousand out of well over 100,000 who live in the nearby communities.

One solution that would have a much greater benefit would be to look at all of the Stanford land that is to the southwest of Junipero Serra Boulevard and ask how this could be improved?

Much of this land has been used for grazing, probably for the better part of the past two centuries. While pasture land presents a bucolic scene, over time this intensive, semi-industrial use leads to barren, empty hills infested with a near monoculture of seasonal European grasses. I can attest that over the 45-plus years that I have lived in the immediate area the number of trees on the land that is grazed, particularly along Interstate 280,



has significantly diminished.

Perhaps a solution would be to reach an agreement with Stanford to end the grazing and utilize the \$11 million or so that would have been used to build a trail to initiate an intensive program of reforestation. The goal would be to, over time, return the land to some semblance of the state it was in before it was "discovered" by the Spanish.

A solution such as this would someday provide all passers-by with an example of what California used to be. More pragmatically, restoration to what was most probably a combination of grasslands and forest would contribute to significantly reducing the flood potential in the San Francisco Creek watershed and would also serve as a carbon bank to offset more intensive uses of other parts of the university lands.

In fairness to Stanford, the environmental activist community needs to acknowledge that these lands are a part of Stanford's academic reserve. If, at some point in the future, Stanford has a need to utilize these lands it should not be barred from doing so simply because the university acted to restore the land to a more natural state.

There are undoubtedly many other alternatives that may provide much broader social benefit than the "trail." Isn't it time to quit the skirmishing and find mutually beneficial solutions that serve the breadth of the community? ■

Stan Gage lives on Old Spanish Trail in Portola Valley.

Continued from previous page

bears. Unless Ms. Braun has another planet to send her children and grandchildren to, the wise course of action is to do everything in our power to save our planet. And now is a good time to start.

Elizabeth Lasensky
Fremont Street, Menlo Park

Have public servants lost their ethics?

Editor:

Thanks for the excellent editorial last week: "Sheriff should answer questions."

This event occurs when there is significant decline across the nation in the ethical profile of public servants. This pattern does not encourage the nation's best and brightest youth to consider public service as a career. Thus, there is a need here, as well as nationally, for greater adherence to credibility and transparency.

Henry Organ
Euclid Avenue, Menlo Park

Photo staged to educate teens on drinking, driving

Editor:

The Menlo School student pictured in a staged car crash on Page 5 of last week's Almanac was participating in Every 15 Minutes, a national program to educate teens about the tragic consequences of drinking and driving.

Especially in this season of proms and graduation celebrations, schools across the country are implementing this program. On the Peninsula, Valley Christian, Sequoia, Gunn and Menlo high schools are just a few examples, and the CHP gen-

erously helps underwrite the costs involved.

For high school students stranded without a way to get home safely, the Palo Alto Area Red Cross' Safe Ride program provides confidential and free rides home on Friday and Saturday nights during the school year, 10 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., in a service area extending between Redwood City and Moffett Field. Qualified and trained students (advised by qualified and trained adults) from eight area high schools operate this service.

Janet Gardiner
Kipling Street, Palo Alto

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