

HILLS ALIVE with 'The Sound of Music' in Woodside. See Page 41

The Almanac

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

MAY 23, 2007

www.AlmanacNews.com

| VOL. 42 NO. 38



SECTION 2: Environmental Volunteers members immerse kids in nature, from Bay to forest

'Girl Power'

Former gymnastics star Lisa Izzi launches media effort to support girls in sports

Page 16



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Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT



The Almanac/Veronica Weber

Yes, we have no bananas

Shouting "Lemons and cherries for sale!", 10-year-olds Yasmine El-Hage, left, and Katherine Yancey jump up and down to attract customers to their mini fruit stand off Alameda de las Pulgas in West Menlo Park.

Atherton

■ After cracking down on basement construction several years ago, the City Council appears ready to loosen up the town's regulations. **Page 5**

Menlo Park

■ Mayor calls community meeting as shootings in Willows stir neighbors' concerns. **Page 9**

Environment

■ Move over, Al Gore: Menlo Park teen spreads the word about global warming. **Page 5**

Housing

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CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

The Almanac offices are at **3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025.**

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

Schools

■ School board OKs Oak Knoll plan. **Page 14**
■ Cost of M-A High theater rises 36 percent. **Page 5**
■ Woodside School's eighth-grade class is performing the classic musical "The Sound of Music." **Page 41**

People

■ Longtime Almanac staffer M.J. Hayden dies. **Page 7.**
■ Farewell to gold fever, hello to family winery for local jeweler Marilyn Tudal Fidge. **Page 36**

Community

■ For 35 years, members of Environmental Volunteers have immersed local kids in nature. **Cover Section 2**

On the cover

Menlo Park resident Lisa Izzi has launched Athletic Girl Productions to encourage girls to live physically active lives. Top right photo: Ms. Izzi interviews girls for a cable TV program. Below, left: Ann Parden, center, and Regina Mullen, right, practice volleyball. Photos by Veronica Weber. See story, **Page 16**.

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RETIREMENT CELEBRATION SALE

See inside for more details on page 13!

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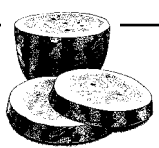
\* **New Potato Salad**

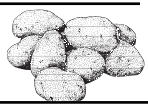
\* **Pasta Italiano**  **\$5<sup>49</sup> / lb.**

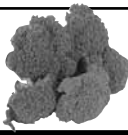
\* **Pesto Linguine** **\$6<sup>49</sup> / lb.** 

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**HELEN - GROCERY**

**Notable Wines**

If you are serious about wine, you may want to consider keeping a wine journal. All that is needed is a simple spiral-bound notebook in which you can record the name of the wine, its source of origin, its vintage, and the vineyard in which it was produced. Also include any other information from the label that will prove to be useful in describing or relocating the wine on the wine shop shelf. Following this description, write down your reaction to the wine and a description of its flavor and aroma, along with a description of the meal which it accompanied (if any). The more specific your description, the better you will be able to recall the wine in the future.

At ROBERTS MARKET, we carry a great selection of fantastic red wines, including Cabernet Sauvignon. This red wine is really a "wine lover's" wine. We can help you find the perfect red wine regardless of your needs. We pride ourselves on our customer service. If you find yourself pressed for time visit our "heat and eat it" department for wonderful gourmet prepared foods.

**HINT:** Supplement your wine journal with the labels of wines that you have drunk by soaking the empty bottles in warm water and carefully peeling off the labels.



**WINE**

*2004 Cabernet Sauvignon*

*The 2004 vintage has produced consistently excellent, classic Cabernets. Here are a few new arrivals that bear scrutiny.*

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|-----------------------------------------------|---------|
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# Local News

MENLO PARK | ATHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

## Jesse Cool not opening Allied Arts restaurant

By Rory Brown

Almanac Staff Writer

It's not altogether clear why, but local restaurateur Jesse Cool is no longer opening a new restaurant at the Allied Arts Guild in Menlo Park.

Ms. Cool, owner of jZ Cool and Flea Street Cafe in Menlo Park and Cool Cafe in Palo Alto, previously told the Almanac she planned to open a restaurant at the guild's historic complex at 75 Arbor Road. She also planned to move the bulk of her catering operations to the Guild.

Ms. Cool said the restaurant plans fell through due to "a misunderstanding in the use permit" issued to the non-profit Woodside-Atherton Auxiliary that owns and operates the Guild.

The use permit restricts the intensity and hours of events and operations at the Guild, which is located in a residential part of town.

"We're extremely saddened, the Woodside-Atherton Auxiliary is extremely saddened, and now we're just trying to pick up the pieces," Ms. Cool said. Both Ms. Cool and Vicki Kojola, a spokesperson for the Guild, declined to elaborate on the use permit issues.

### Dinner at jZ Cool

Although she won't be setting up shop at Allied Arts, Ms. Cool said plans are still in motion to expand the hours of jZ Cool, her popular downtown Menlo Park eatery.

The Santa Cruz Avenue restaurant will start serving small plates and wine during dinner hours by late June, she said. jZ Cool will continue to serve lunch and cater events. ■

## Cost of M-A theater up 36 percent

■ Demand for materials, higher energy costs and wage increases are cited.

By David Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Observers may wonder why the walls of the multipurpose J Building at Menlo-Atherton High School are still vertical.

By June, two years will have passed since a jury picked architects Hodgetts + Fung Design

Associates, based in Culver City, to design an \$18.5 million 500-seat performing arts center where the J Building now sits.

A few numbers have since changed. The estimated cost for the theater is now \$28 million or \$29 million, and there will be seats for 483 rather than 500, said Ed LaVigne, assistant superintendent for administrative services for the Sequoia Union High School District.

The cost increases, Mr. LaVigne said, reflect strong worldwide

demand for materials; higher energy costs; 7 percent annual wage escalations in the construction industry; and soft costs — architectural and construction-management fees.

Delays in starting can add costs, too. The theater is expected to take two years to build, but no ground has been broken because state inspectors have yet to approve construction plans submitted on November 2, 2006, Mr. LaVigne said.

The Division of State Architect's

review "has put five and a half months into a process that was complete pre-Christmas by professional engineers and professional architects who are very good at their jobs," he added.

The DSA "is like the Internal Revenue Service and they work on their own schedule," said Matthew Zito, an M-A vice principal who will take over as principal in July. Their focus, he said, is structural integrity, fire safety and

See M-A THEATER, page 8

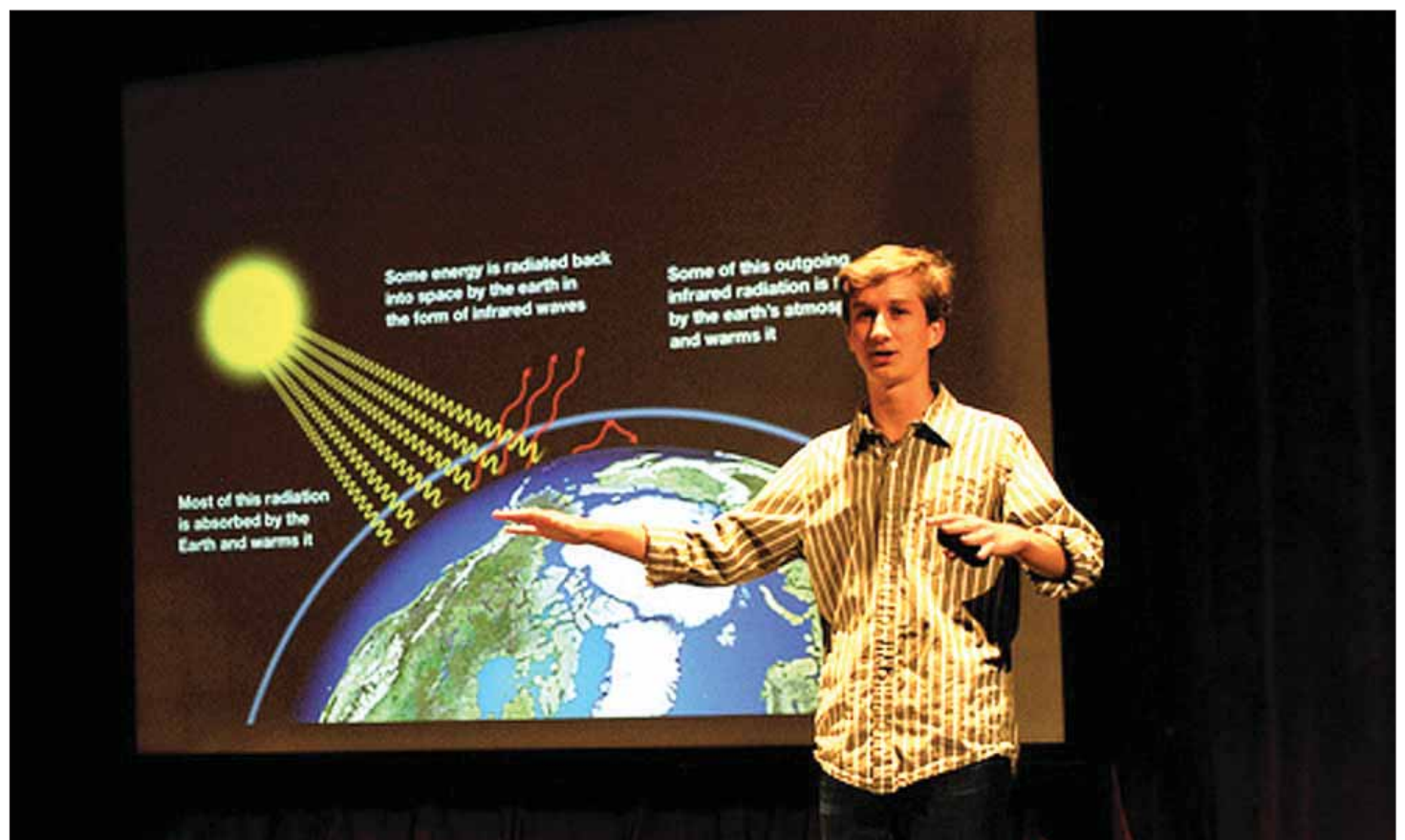


Photo by Tod Francis

Taylor Francis, a 15-year-old Menlo Park resident, gave presentations on global warming recently to students at the Woodside Priory School in Portola Valley and Sacred Heart Prep in Atherton, where this photo was taken.

## Move over, Al Gore

Menlo Park teenager spreads the word about global warming

By David Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

If scientists are curious about the existence of a public-speaking gene, the genome of 15-year-old Taylor Francis of Menlo Park might be a good place to start an investigation.

Taylor, one of 250 graduates of a three-day seminar in Tennessee in December led by Al

Gore, gave a presentation at the Woodside Priory School in Portola Valley on May 15 that included slides familiar to anyone who has seen the Al Gore documentary film, "An Inconvenient Truth." This was his 13th talk in the Bay Area.

Before a packed chapel of Priory students in grades 6 through 12, the high school freshman, without notes, gave an energetic and polished 35-minute multimedia pre-

sentation filled with inconvenient truths, and was rewarded with at least a half minute of sustained applause.

A particularly inconvenient truth may be that the United States has a major role in warming the planet by producing 30 percent of all greenhouse gases, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

See GLOBAL, page 8



The Portola Valley Schools Foundation wishes to thank these Realtors for their generous support of the Portola Valley Schools through their contributions to our PVSF activities throughout the course of the 2006-2007 School Year.

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## PEOPLE

# Longtime Almanac staffer M.J. Hayden dies at 74

M.J. Hayden, a key staffer at the Almanac for 22 years in positions from distribution to ad services coordinator, died at her home in La Honda May 17. She was 74.

A graveside service will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, May 25, at Cypress Lawn Memorial Park at 1370 El Camino Real in Colma. She will be buried next to her husband, Rex Hayden, who died in 1968.

"She was the most conscientious person I ever met," said her supervisor, Neal Fine, the Almanac's advertising manager. "She put others' needs ahead of hers."

Working at the front desk at the Almanac, "M.J." – the name most people knew her by – was a key liaison between advertising, production and clients. "Everyone loved her," said Mr. Fine.

"M.J." is short for Mary June. Her daughter, Laura Duffy, thinks she got the M.J. nickname at the Almanac. "I don't recall her being called that before she worked at the Almanac," said Ms. Duffy. "Someone called her that and she liked it."

Born in Vallejo, Ms. Hayden graduated from Balboa High School in San Francisco, one of a number of cities she lived in growing up because her father was in the Navy. She recalled as a child being disappointed that she and her mother could not join her father at Pearl Harbor because it had just been bombed, said Ms. Duffy. Instead, they had to stay behind in San Diego.

Prior to joining the Almanac staff in 1985, she worked for C.R. "Babe" Zanca, the San Francisco



**M.J. Hayden** was a familiar face at the Almanac front desk. She worked for the newspaper in several capacities for 22 years.

auto service and repair legend, doing all his paperwork, said Ms. Duffy. While there, she became active in working for the Special Olympics.

Ms. Hayden was involved in many community activities, including the Red Cross and the Neighborhood Emergency Services Team associated with the volunteer La Honda Fire Brigade.

She also was a photographer and a reporter for the Beachcomber, a newspaper that was distributed in La Honda, Pescadero and Half Moon Bay, says Ms. Duffy.

For several years, she entered the thoroughbred racehorse photography contest at the San Mateo County Fair, winning "best of show" in 1987 and a gold award in 1990. Ms. Hayden displayed some of these pictures at her home, including winner's circle shots of Woodside racing legend Russell Baze.

M.J.'s pictures also appeared in the Almanac, including on covers.

Her jobs at the Almanac were

numerous, and she was often seen working late into the night. "There was so much work on her shoulders, but she would never complain," said Mr. Fine.

"She could anticipate a problem before it was about to burst," he added. "She's one of those people who's not replaceable."

Her desk at the Almanac was a popular stop for fellow staffers, who'd drop by for a chat and some calorie-loading from her always-filled candy tin.

"We all are deeply saddened by the loss of our colleague and friend," said Editor and Publisher Tom Gibboney.

In addition to her daughter, Ms. Hayden is survived by her grandson Devin Duffy and cousins.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers donations be made to the Red Cross; the La Honda Fire Brigade, P.O. Box 97, La Honda, CA 94020; or Mission Hospice, 1900 O'Farrell St., Suite 200, San Mateo, CA 94403.

## Dan Barclay celebration is June 2

The Almanac incorrectly reported in the print edition last week the date of the celebration of the life of former Menlo-Atherton High School student and Quiz Kid wiz Daniel Barclay. The correct date is Saturday, June 2.

The celebration will begin at 2 p.m. in the J Building on the M-A campus at 555 Middlefield Road in Atherton.

Mr. Barclay, 22, a college senior set to graduate in June from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was found

dead April 19 in an apparent boating accident. After a 12-day search, a birdwatcher discovered his body washed up on a Cape Cod beach with a bailing bucket and the remains of an inflatable raft by his side.

Classmates, friends, pals, teachers and anyone wanting to pay their respects and share memories of Mr. Barclay are invited to the event, said his mother Sue Kayton. "Casual clothes are fine," she added.

For more information, go to [www.suekayton.com](http://www.suekayton.com).

## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Gloria Darke



### To Renovate or Not?

Gloria, I have decided to sell my home so I can afford to move to a very nice, near-by assisted-living residence. My two-bedroom home, built in 1930, has become a bit run-down. However, it is in a very good neighborhood where most homes have been remodeled or completely rebuilt. My real estate agent suggests I spend about 40,000 to renovate the kitchen and bathrooms before listing my house on the market for sale. My son says I should just have the house painted inside and outside. He and his pals have offered to do the painting in a weekend or two. I can afford the \$40,000 renovation cost, but then I read your article about selling "as is" and wonder if that's the way to go.

— Delores

DEAR Delores, Your son has given you good advice. There is no sense spending \$40,000 to renovate an older house just before sale. Your buyers will either like your charming older house the way it is and be thankful for a reasonable price in a desirable neighborhood, or they will want to remodel to their taste after purchase.

Save your \$40,000 and the inconvenience of

renovation, which might not even return the \$40,000 in the form of a higher sales price.

Let your son and his pals paint your house inside and outside. We have found, in our market place that in addition to painting the best bang for the buck is staging. Also, check the landscaping to be sure it is attractive. Perhaps plant some spring flowers to make the front yard especially inviting.

When you sell your home "as is," that means the seller must disclose all known defects (such as a leaking roof) but the seller won't pay for any repairs. However, if an obvious defect can be repaired at minimal expense, such as a dripping faucet, get it fixed.

In addition to the real estate agent you already consulted, after the house is painted and ready to sell, I suggest you interview at least two more agents.

The reason is you need to compare their evaluations, especially their CMAs (comparative market analysis). These forms will show you recent sales prices of comparable nearby homes, asking prices of neighborhood homes currently listed for sale (your competition), and even the asking prices of recently expired similar home listings. Then you can correctly set your asking price.

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



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**Construction bids** for the new performing arts center at Menlo-Atherton High School are coming in June. With architectural and construction-management fees included, the new estimate may show a 36 percent increase over the original.

The Almanac/David Boyce



## M-A theater may cost millions more than Woodside's

### M-A THEATER

continued from page 5

access for people with disabilities.

Approval is likely by May 28, Mr. LaVigne said. Subcontractor bids are due June 6 and the Board of Trustees may vote on the bids at its June 13 meeting.

### Cutting costs

Value engineering, or finding ways to do a job for less without changing the specifications, is under way on the theater project.

Some theater walls will be made from

concrete block rather than poured concrete for a savings of \$100,000, Mr. LaVigne said.

Original plans called for a dramatic roof with a thin layer of copper on top, which would have aged and turned verdigris green. The roof will still be dramatic, but with a standing-seam metal roof and a savings of \$600,00 to \$700,000.

Cost overruns are not uncommon. Costs for the 500-seat theater at Woodside High School, which opened in early 2005, rose to \$17 million from \$12 million, a 29 percent increase.

M-A's costs won't all be borne by the district's municipal bond fund. The city of Menlo Park has a memorandum of understanding "potentially committing the city to pay up to \$2.6 million" toward a shared use of the theater, Menlo Park Finance Director Carol Augustine has said.

### What, no J Building?

After the J Building comes down, theatrical events could be shifted to either of the two gyms for the next two school years. One gym seats 500 and the

other 2,000, Mr. Zito said.

"The J Building is such a second-rate space. I'm not even sure it is a second-rate space," he added. "While it will be inconvenient, I don't think anyone is going to miss the J Building."

The drama class puts on two or three productions a year, he said. The school plans to "ramp up" the number of productions as appropriate to the size and quality of the new theater, with financial help from the school foundation, Mr. Zito said. ■

## Menlo Park teen wows Priory with global warming talk

### GLOBAL

continued from page 5

Taylor homed in on this fact in his presentation: "We caused it; it is our responsibility to solve it," he told the Priory students. "The (poor nations) didn't cause the problem. The richer nations use the most energy."

"Global warming is a social justice issue," he continued, adding that disproportionate impacts — insect-borne diseases, drought, flooding, food shortages — are expected to have their greatest impact in the developing world.

"We're going to see major suffering," he said. "Long term, generally when species do stupid things, there are consequences."

The solution, he said, begins with the individual. "Everything we do every day contributes to this problem. Everything you do every day can contribute to

solving this problem."

Taylor's remarks seem to have resonated with Julian French, a sixth-grader at the Priory and a resident of Mountain View. "It's the first problem in the world that's going to take everyone on the planet to rise up and do their best," he told the Almanac. "It's going to hit and it's going to hit hard."

A two- or three-degree rise in global temperatures may be the extent of it if we act now, Taylor said. If we don't change our habits, scientists predict the planet will reach a point of no return in 15 years leading to catastrophic increases of six to eight degrees, he said.

If we act now, he said, "we'll solve the problem, we'll avert the worst-case scenario, and it will open up a lot of opportunities for business."

### What to do?

Step one, Taylor said, is replac-

ing incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent ones. He cited a familiar statistic: If everyone in the country replaces one bulb, it will result in energy savings equivalent to taking a million cars off the road.

"I'm definitely changing my light bulbs," Leslie Barkman, a Priory sophomore from Redwood City, told the Almanac. "I didn't really know that (global warming) was that big of a problem."

Alternative fuels such as ethanol are another big step, Taylor said. In the Midwest, corn converted to ethanol can, in a 10 percent solution, extend gasoline with little or no impact on vehicle performance. While ethanol emits carbon dioxide, its CO<sub>2</sub> was absorbed from the atmosphere recently rather than millions of years ago as is the case with fossil fuels.

U.S. drivers burned 140 bil-

lion gallons of gasoline in 2004, according to the U. S. Department of Energy Office of Science. Meanwhile in 2005, total ethanol production was 4 billion gallons, made from 1.4 billion bushels of corn grain — 13 percent of the U.S. crop — the Energy Office said.

Ethanol production, using 2004 figures, would have to jump to 14 billion gallons — a 250 percent increase involving a much greater percentage of U.S. corn — to convert all gasoline to a 10 percent ethanol solution.

In part because of its impact on food stocks, "corn-based ethanol is a really, really, really bad idea," Taylor told the students. Cellulosic ethanol is better, he said. It's made from grasses that grow in harsher soils and its production requires about half the energy needed for corn, according to a 2003 study

by the National Commission on Energy Policy.

One student asked if new fuels would force everyone to buy new cars. "We really need to shift the whole basis of our transportation system, so that in many ways, our fuels won't be compatible" with existing cars, Taylor replied.

Teens can also have an impact with the \$245 billion they spend each year, he added. He recommends recycling, buying locally produced products, and favoring products that use less packaging. ■

### ■ INFORMATION

■ For more information or to contact Taylor Francis, a freshman at Crystal Springs Uplands School in Hillsborough, go to [www.taylorfrancis.org](http://www.taylorfrancis.org).

# Mayor calls meeting as shootings in Willows stir neighbors' concerns

By Rory Brown  
Almanac Staff Writer

Penelope Huang was enjoying an evening at her Menlo Park home in the Willows on Saturday, May 12 — that is, until she heard her 17-year-old son running through the house, yelling for her to call 911.

Ms. Huang lives at the corner of Arnold Way and Chester Street, and her son — who was sitting in front of his bedroom window — had a front row seat as a drive-by shooter pumped bullets into another car driving by the house.

“Any one of those shots could have gone through [my son’s] bedroom window,” Ms. Huang said.

“Nobody should be subjected to that.”

The woman driving the car that was struck by bullets wasn’t hurt, and three men suspected

of the shooting were arrested, but the incident is still resonating in the Willows community.

Arrested and charged with attempted murder are Jorge Solis, 29, and Juan Ceja, 22, of East Palo Alto, and Antonio Carillo, 31, of Avenal.

Talk of the shooting has been a hot topic on neighborhood message boards and in e-mails to the City Council. Neighbors cite the May 12 shooting, and a March drive-by shooting of a 17-year-old East Palo Alto boy on Laurel Avenue in the Willows, as reasons to take action.

Mayor Kelly Fergusson, also

## MEETING

Mayor Kelly Fergusson, also a Willows resident, has called a Wednesday, May 23, meeting of residents, police and city officials to see what can be done to address crime in the neighborhood. That meeting is scheduled to start at 6 p.m. at the Burgess Recreation Center at 700 Alma St.

a Willows resident, has called a May 23 meeting of residents, police and city officials to see what can be done to address crime in the neighborhood. The meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m.

at the Burgess Recreation Center, at 700 Alma St.

“I hope to engage the community in a solution,” Mayor Fergusson said. “You can’t just say the magic word and make these

problems go away — we need to work together.”

## Several shootings

The Willows incident is one of several recent Menlo Park shootings.

On May 8, two empty parked cars were shot at in west Menlo Park — one on Hermosa Way and the other on Crane Street, according to police.

Sgt. Ron Prickett said investigators don’t think the Willows and west Menlo shootings are related.

The Willows drive-by shooting in March, when a 17-year-

old East Palo Alto boy was critically injured, was gang-related, police say.

In an e-mail to the Almanac, Police Chief Bruce Goitia said police are working with surrounding law enforcement agencies, and he hopes neighbors’ concerns will be addressed at the May 23 neighborhood meeting.

“We hope to establish a dialogue in the aftermath of the recent violence ... and listen to the concerns of the community,” he wrote.

## Easy getaway?

Ms. Huang said the Willows neighborhood is more prone to burglaries and shootings because of the number of streets drivers can use to flee the area.

“It’s a fact that crime follows traffic,” she said. “There are 13 roads that can be exits from the Willows, and that’s a lot of ways to escape.”

“Obviously, our city doesn’t have the budget to put police officers at every road leading out of our neighborhood, but we have to come up with something.” ■



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## Police increase patrols around schools

An 11-year-old Menlo Park girl said she was approached by two men in a white van on the morning of May 14 at the intersection of University Drive and Santa Cruz Avenue in Menlo Park, said Sgt. William Dixon of the Menlo Park Police Department.

The girl said the driver stepped out of the van and spoke to her.

Sgt. Dixon said police are actively investigating the incident

and will increase patrols around neighborhood schools. They are asking that parents remind children to be aware of their surroundings and contact police whenever they observe something “out of the ordinary.”

Police ask anyone with information about this incident to call the investigating officer at 330-6300 or the anonymous tip hotline 330-6395.

## June 1 deadline for tax exemption

Anyone who is 65 or older as of July 1, 2007, and who owns and lives on property in the Las Lomas School District, can apply for a one-year exemption from the \$311 annual parcel tax that voters approved in March 2007.

The application deadline is June 1. Application forms are available from the school district administration office at 1011 Altschul Ave. in Menlo Park. Call 854-6311, ext. 14, for more information.

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# Affordable housing: Some successes, but still a challenge

By Marion Softky

Almanac Staff Writer

“Affordable housing” may sound like an oxymoron in San Mateo County, one of the most expensive housing markets in the country.

In fact, a number of government and private agencies, together with developers, are producing homes for non-millionaires who work in the county and would like to live here; or seniors who no longer need a large house; or their children who grew up here and can no longer afford to stay.

“We’re talking about affordable housing for everyone,” Rose Jacobs Gibson, president of the Board of Supervisors, said May 14 at an open house at a low-income apartment complex in North Fair Oaks.

Freshly refurbished with wisteria hanging from wood trellises, the St. Clare Apartments house 24 very-low income families. It is owned and operated by the nonprofit St. Francis Center, which serves needy families in the neighborhood.

The open house in North Fair Oaks was one of a dozen groundbreaking, open houses, and forums during the county’s Affordable Housing Week, which highlighted accomplishments as well as the need.

Affordable Housing Week kicked off with a luncheon May 14 featuring HEART, the county’s newest agency promoting affordable housing.

The Housing Endowment and Regional Trust was formed in 2003 to engage the county, cities and private sector in a partnership to raise funds to meet critical housing needs.

So far 17 of the county’s 20 cities have joined HEART, as well as many of the county’s prominent businesses and builders. City members include Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley, Woodside, East Palo Alto and Redwood City.

## HEART

In its first three years, HEART has raised more than \$5 million for affordable housing — \$3 million in seed money from the county, and \$2 million from state housing bonds.

HEART invested the funds in three new developments that will create 398 new homes in three projects in San Bruno, Daly City, and Colma near the BART station.

A key to this success is HEART’s ability to leverage other money. “HEART funds leveraged \$83.2 million of funds from other sources, a ratio of nearly 20 to 1,” said

Executive Director Chris Mohr.

Lynn Jacobs, director of the state Department of Housing and Community Development, noted that housing growth is not keeping up with population growth throughout California. Since the 1980s California has grown by 500,000 people a year — “mostly by reproducing.” To house these people would take 220,000 housing units per year. “We’re building 130,000 to 150,000 per year,” she said.

Ms. Jacobs tackled the anti-growth forces head-on. “Housing is not growth. People are growth,” she said. “Housing is infrastructure. We should not talk about housing as growth; we need to look at housing as an economic benefit.”

Ms. Jacobs also described programs for distributing state bond funds that promote development near transit, infill of developed areas, and completing projects within five years.

With its leveraging of funds, HEART is off to a good start, Ms. Jacobs said. “This area is a good model,” she added.

Housing for working families is good for the economy of the county, said Carol Galante, president of BRIDGE Housing, which is building 130 rental units near the Colma BART station. “These folks are already here,” she said. “Affordable rental housing gives people an opportunity to stabilize their lives. When they move out, 25 percent are buying homes.”

HEART is launching new programs. It is starting a campaign to raise \$3 million in private funds to build another 600 homes. It is also developing a new down payment assistance program to help employees buy a first home or relocate from other areas.

Back in North Fair Oaks, Supervisor Jacobs Gibson worried about the teachers and doctors and nurses and dentists, and particularly the cops and firefighters, who can’t afford to live in the county. “If we don’t provide affordable housing, they won’t be able to get here in an emergency,” she said. ■

## ■ INFORMATION

For more information, contact:  
 ■ HEART at 872-4444 or [www.heartofsmc.org](http://www.heartofsmc.org)  
 ■ Housing Leadership Council at 872-4444 or [www.hlcsmc.org](http://www.hlcsmc.org)  
 ■ St. Francis Center at 365-7829 or [www.stfrancisrwc.org](http://www.stfrancisrwc.org)  
 ■ Sustainable San Mateo County at 638-2323 or [www.sustainable-sanmateo.org](http://www.sustainable-sanmateo.org)

## You say acorn and I say ...

Acorn! However they pronounce it, these two oaks — an evergreen coast live oak and deciduous valley oak — cannot call the whole thing off. They share a spot, and a remnant of chain link fence, near a former playground in the Portola Valley Town Center. With new buildings going in, the Town Council recently gave its support to the idea of digging this pair up and replanting them somewhere that’s safe.

The Almanac/David Boyce



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# Atherton may loosen basement restrictions

By Andrea Gemmet  
Almanac Staff Writer

After cracking down on basement construction several years ago, the Atherton City Council appears ready to loosen up the town's regulations.

The new rules would allow homeowners to build basements that extend beyond the footprint of a house and to put basements under accessory structures such as guest cottages.

Currently, basements are only allowed underneath the main house, and cannot extend beyond its perimeter. Basements are not allowed underneath accessory structures.

"Basements are good things," said Atherton resident Dave Welch. "A basement drives (building) mass underground. That's a good thing for the community."

He was one of the 11 people who spoke in favor of the looser regulations at the May 16 Atherton City Council meeting. No one spoke against.

The council appeared ready to pass the changes to the basement ordinance, but opted to wait one more month, over concerns about

new information that may come to light in the town-wide drainage study that's due to be completed in the next couple of weeks.

"We have an obligation to look carefully at new facts that are about to come forward," said Councilwoman Kathy McKeithen.

The council is expected to act on the basement regulations at the June 20 meeting.

At least one Atherton household has a lot riding on the new regulations getting passed — Steve and Maryann Ackley, who are in a dispute with town officials over their accessory structure with a basement.

Plans for the guest house were allegedly approved before rules prohibiting basements were in place, but construction occurred long after the permit should have expired, when such basements were prohibited, according to Atherton's building official. The permit appears to have been improperly extended multiple times by the building department.

"I don't know what happened, other than my timing was very poor," said Mr. Ackley, who is appealing the town's nuisance abatement against his guest house.



The Almanac/Veronica Weber

## Head over heels

Model Michael Hernandez gets some praise from a guest attending the grand opening party Thursday of Head Over Heels shoe salon at 887 Santa Cruz Ave. in downtown Menlo Park.

"I acted in good faith, with my permit in hand, and now I am where I am in the appeal process."

### Drainage problems

Some residents have complained that their neighbors' basement construction has created runoff

problems, caused either by excavation that breaches the underground water table or because the basement replaced soil that would otherwise be able to absorb rainwater.

Mayor Alan Carlson said the drainage study should answer whether there are any conditions

in town that preclude basement construction, and if mitigation measures could be used to allow basement construction where it would otherwise be prohibited.

### New rules

The proposed regulations, if approved, would allow basements to extend beyond a home's perimeter, as long as 70 percent of it is underneath the building. A basement could be up to 120 percent as large as the first floor footprint, with a conditional use permit from the Planning Commission. Use permits would also be required for basements under guest houses and accessory structures.

The new regulations would not limit the depth of basements, and would not count the square footage of basement garages, two proposals that had been under consideration when the basement ordinance was being discussed by the town's General Plan Committee and Planning Commission.

Atherton tightened up basement rules in 2001, when a property owner in The Gates neighborhood submitted plans for a basement that ran the entire length and breadth of the lot, to within five feet of the property lines — something Atherton's regulations allowed, although no one had ever proposed such a project before.

His neighbors complained that the project would effectively kill their large trees on the border between the properties, and the City Council changed its basement rules to block the project.

The council later modified basement rules again, to clarify that basements would only be allowed directly below the main house, and not beneath accessory structures. ■

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# School board OKs Oak Knoll plan

By **Rory Brown**  
Almanac Staff Writer

The Menlo Park City School District Board of Trustees voted 5-0 May 16 to green-light plans to renovate Oak Knoll School.

All trustees supported building a new multi-purpose room, additional classrooms, and a new parking lot at the northern end of the K-5 school. The plan also includes an extended drop-off lane at the front of the campus off Oak Knoll Lane, and a large playing field at the southern portion of the campus.

District officials said the renovations are estimated to cost about \$12 million, and construction will start in June 2008. The costs will be covered by the \$91 million bond measure approved by voters last June.

Board President Terry Thygesen said the plan "best meets the

developmental and educational needs of the children," and noted the longer drop-off lane will create a "less chaotic environment."

A more detailed design of the multi-purpose building, which is slated to have a gym, stage, science lab, art lab and music rooms, will come back to the board later this year for approval.

The proposed two-story building is a major point of contention with Oak Avenue residents, who claim it would cast shadows on their properties. They also say that cars turning into the adjacent parking lot would cause a traffic jam and create safety hazards.

Trustees directed district officials to work with neighbors to rework the design of the multi-purpose building, and consider breaking up the facility into several structures before submitting the plans for state approval this fall. ■

*District officials say the renovations are expected to cost about \$12 million.*



The Almanac/David Boyce

## Good morning, Woodside

Another recent dawn on Canada Road near Crystal Springs reservoir, where the rosy shades of a lightening sky set off the filigree of leaves and branches that is a deciduous tree's natural endowment.



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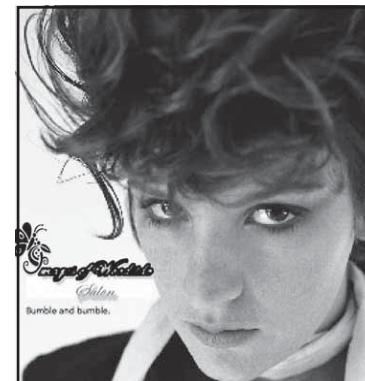
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# 'Girl Power' more than words for

## Former gymnastics star launches media effort to support girls in sports



**Liza Izzi meets** seventh- and eighth-grade girls at Stanford to hear their views on sports, physical activity and social pressures.

**L**isa Izzi is the picture of poise, strength, determination and self-confidence. And it's little wonder: The Menlo Park mother of three is a former All-American athlete who had to develop and demonstrate those traits during the many years she spent polishing her skills as a top-rated gymnast.

Gymnastics training, she explains, "was my education of learning how to win, how to perform under pressure, ... how to set goals and achieve them."

Last year, Ms. Izzi set a new goal for herself, and she's been running full-throttle in recent months to achieve it. Frustrated and disgusted with the

mass media's representation of girls in American culture, and the media's lack of athletic role models for girls, she has launched a nonprofit, Athletic Girl Productions.

The organization focuses on filling a deep void in the world of athletics — giving girls powerful images of others of their gender who thrive on athletic courts, playing fields and other sports locales, ignoring the steady media messages that insist their natural "place" is in the shopping mall or nail salon.

With a brand new Web site — [GirlsAreChampions.org](http://GirlsAreChampions.org) — going online early this week and a program airing on a local cable television station last week, Athletic Girl Productions emphasizes the "go" in the popular slogan: "You go, girl!"

Ms. Izzi, a former Stanford gymnastics coach with a newly minted master's

---

*'What are we teaching our girls today through the media? Girls come to see themselves merely as sex tools and ornaments for men. All your self-worth is based on the outside.'*

LISA IZZI

of fine arts degree in writing from Stanford, says the idea for AGP was hatched as she researched her MFA thesis — an analysis of the use of female athletes as protagonists in young adult literature. That led to a broader look at female athletes in the media in general.

What she found hit her "like a brick in the head," she says. Almost 92 percent of all television sports programming was geared toward boys and men, her research revealed.

She also discovered "a lack of authentic representation of girls, let alone of female athletes," she says. Meanwhile, she adds, girls are getting bombarded with messages telling them that celebrities, shopping, dieting and beauty are what matter.

Those findings, she says, "really lit my fire."

"What are we teaching our girls today through the media? Girls come to see themselves merely as sex tools and ornaments for men," she says. "All your self-worth is based on the outside."

Determined to add a different perspective to the mix, Ms. Izzi started brainstorming with people she knew

# local champion



**Regina Mullen** plays volleyball at Stanford before participating in the Athletic Girl Productions brainstorming session led by Lisa Izzi.

from her Stanford coaching days, and with people in the community she thought might be interested in the issue. She also researched other nonprofit groups that focus on girls' fitness and sports, including the Women's Sports Foundation, founded in 1974 by tennis star Billie Jean King. That foundation supports women and girls in sports through education, advocacy programs and grant-giving.

Within a year after she was hit with "a brick in the head," Ms. Izzi founded the nonprofit Athletic Girl Productions, whose mission is modeled on the Women's Sports Foundation, but with an emphasis on using the media to send girls the message that they have a legitimate — and greatly beneficial — place in the world of athletics.

As it launches its new Web site, AGP has a board of directors, an advisory board, and funds to start preliminary work on its cable TV program, "Girls are Champions," which will be developed in full by this fall.

## What's in it for them?

So why is it so important for girls to be involved with athletics?

Ms. Izzi is quick — and passionate — in her response: "Physical activity and involvement in sports on any level teaches you life skills, and gives you life-long benefits (including) self-awareness and self-esteem. (Such involvement) creates strength in you that you can't get anywhere else. It's completely empowering."

In the "life skills" category, Ms. Izzi includes the ability to set goals and overcome obstacles, resourcefulness, being able to stand up for oneself, and striving to live a healthy lifestyle.

These skills are critical for developing "an authentic self," she insists. "Girls have to learn to say, 'I can do anything. I'm not afraid to try. I'm not afraid to take risks.' Risk-taking — that's huge."

According to the Women's Sports Foundation, which compiles results of studies by groups and journals including "Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine," the Ms. Foundation for Women and the President's Council on

Physical Fitness and Sports, girls benefit greatly from involvement in sports and fitness programs in various ways.

They include: a higher rate of academic success and high school graduation; less risk for body dissatisfaction and disordered eating; a higher-than-average level of self-esteem and a lower level of depression; and a lower prevalence of sexual risk-taking behaviors.

## Speaking from experience

Pursuing athletics came naturally for Ms. Izzi. Growing up in Anaheim with four brothers and two sisters, the young Lisa was a neighborhood force to be reckoned with playing football, baseball, kickball and tag, and racing around on her bike and skates, she recalls.

It was in 1972, watching the Summer Olympics gymnastics competition on television, that the 8-year-old girl's dream to be

a great athlete was born. "These gymnasts did flips and twirls and flew through the air like they had super powers," she wrote in an e-mail.

"And when I saw the smiley new girl on the Russian team, Olga Korbut, who became the sweetheart of the entire Olympic Games, I just wanted to be like her."

Not long afterward, her mother signed her up for a city-sponsored gymnastics program. It was only

eight weeks long, but that's all it took for her teacher to realize she could achieve great things. At the teacher's recommendation, the youngster enrolled in a private club and after a few months made the team, Ms. Izzi recalls.

She says that, as she improved, she was inspired by watching the older girls in the gym, whose skill levels were far greater. It made her work all the harder. By the time she was 12, she was a state champion — at 15, a national

champion.

"None of it was easy," she notes. "I sprained my ankles a bunch of time, had to ice, tape, and learn how to manage my injuries at a young age."

She earned a full scholarship to the University of Utah, where her gymnastics skills further developed and helped lead the team to

four consecutive NCAA National Team Championship titles, she says.

"It's never been done before or since then," she notes. "We got to meet President Ronald Reagan in Washington, D.C., and all of Salt Lake City supported us and cheered us on."

She also earned six All-American awards, was a National Champion and team captain, and won the

See 'GIRL POWER', page 18



**From left:** Kelsey Yee, Taryn Thiele-Sardina and Selin Kutlu talk during a break from filming a Girls are Champions program at Peninsula TV.

## 'GIRL POWER'

continued from page 17

university's Most Valuable Player award for two years.

"Growing up as an athlete — a gymnast — has molded me into who I am today," she reflects. "I take risks, I work hard, I'm not afraid of a challenge, and when I have my mind set on something, no one can stop me."

"What I learned most of all was to believe in myself. Straight-out. Bam!" And that, she says, is what she wants to help other girls achieve.

Her advice to girls: "Don't look at a celebrity, don't look at the popular girl, don't think about what's wrong with you. Just look at yourself and stand tall — you're terrific just the way you are."

### In the works

Ms. Izzi says she and other AGP leaders are working to refine the cable TV program that will be a cornerstone of the group's effort. Earlier this month, an AGP crew and a handful of girls videotaped the first program at Peninsula TV in San Carlos to get their feet wet and produce an abbreviated version of the programming they hope to air by fall.

While the first effort consisted of two group interviews with girls to learn about their experiences and opinions, the weekly program that will be launched in the fall will include footage of sports events, interviews with female athletes, and narratives concerning sports and fitness-related issues, Ms. Izzi says.

The group also is establishing both an internship program

*'Growing up as an athlete — a gymnast — has molded me into who I am today. I take risks, I work hard, I'm not afraid of a challenge, and when I have my mind set on something, no one can stop me.'*

LISA IZZI

and a mentor program. Ms. Izzi is recruiting female students at Stanford to mentor girls, helping them to write short stories and other pieces pertaining to sports and healthy living that would be used for the television program.

The program, Ms. Izzi says, is being designed to be both entertaining and inspirational to girls.

That's the goal for the Web site as well, she says. There are links devoted to inspirational material, such as profiles of successful athletes; and education, such as tips for young athletes and news articles. The site also will feature opinion, stories and poetry, as well as workouts and advice from a coach.

AGP leaders are brainstorming with girls to hear their opinions and concerns about sports, physical activity and other issues that matter to them — an effort designed, in part, to help them make the television and Web site content relevant to girls.

Ms. Izzi says that the internship program will involve 12- to 18-year-olds who will help create



Lisa Izzi prepares for filming an interview with young athletes, from left, Kelsey Yee, Taryn Thiele-Sardina and Selin Kutlu at Peninsula TV.

content for the two mediums. "They will be our partners," she says. "They will feel the power of their voices here."

The interns will initially be recruited on the Peninsula, she says, "but our goal is to go beyond. Our idea is to have a group of diverse personalities and backgrounds."

She says she acknowledges that girls living on the Peninsula and other Bay Area locales have more opportunities to become involved in sports, although they are still bombarded with negative media images. But she hopes AGP will

gradually reach beyond the Bay, to areas of the country where girls don't have similar opportunities.

### Fundraising effort

In addition to launching the media components of the enterprise, AGP is embarking on a fundraising drive to support its activities and to create a scholarship fund for girls to attend sports camps it plans to sponsor.

The group is hosting four house parties this summer, the first one next month. It's also seeking community, business and corporate partnerships, Ms. Izzi says.

"The success of our program will only happen with support of the community," she says. AGP "represents the larger community in what we want for our daughters. We're saying 'join us' to the rest of the community." ■

### ■ INFORMATION

To learn more about Athletic Girl Productions, or to contribute to the nonprofit group, log on at [GirlsAreChampions.org](http://GirlsAreChampions.org), or e-mail [infogac@GirlsAreChampions.org](mailto:infogac@GirlsAreChampions.org).



These photos recall Lisa Izzi's careers as an All-American gymnast and a Stanford gymnastics coach.



## Girls and sports: What the research shows

■ Girls and women who play sports have higher levels of confidence and self-esteem and lower levels of depression.

■ Girls and women who play sports have a more positive body image and experience higher states of psychological well-being than girls and women who don't play sports.

■ High school girls who play sports are less likely to be involved in sexual risk-taking behavior and unwanted pregnancy, more likely to get better grades in school, and more likely to graduate than girls who do not play sports.

■ Teenage female athletes are less likely to use marijuana, cocaine or other illicit drugs; less likely to be suicidal; and less likely to smoke than non-athletes.

■ Exercise and sports participation can enhance the physical and mental health of girls by offering them positive feelings about body image and tangible experiences of competency and success.

Information from Women's Sports Foundation, [womenssportsfoundation.org](http://womenssportsfoundation.org), based on research by various groups.

# Community

NEWS OF LOCAL PEOPLE AND EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY



File photo by Marjan Sadoughi

## Bon appetit

Antonio Aguia returns to Left Bank restaurant in Menlo Park after serving water to customers.

## Closing down Santa Cruz for block party

By Rory Brown  
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park Mayor Kelly Fergusson's proposal to close off Santa Cruz Avenue for one night to hold a block party is picking up steam, and the City Council is scheduled to decide whether to move forward with the event at its May 22 meeting.

The meeting starts at 7 p.m. in the council chambers at the Civic Center, between Laurel and Alma streets.

Ms. Fergusson has proposed the city close Santa Cruz Avenue to traffic to allow people to eat, mingle and relax amidst downtown restaurants and shops for at least one night in August. She said the event would be "a wonderful chance to build community."

An outdoor movie screening, sidewalk dining, and a live mariachi band have been floated by council members as ideas to compliment the event.

The event would cost the city about \$5,800 in permits and police fees, according to city staff.

Council members are also expected to decide whether council members and city staff

will plan the entire event, or if other entities, such as the Chamber of Commerce or downtown restaurants and businesses will take charge.

In order for the event to hap-

pen in August, applications for the required permits must be submitted by the end of May, said Ruben Nino, the acting public works director, in a staff report. ■

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**Jeff Rideout, M.D.**

Chief Medical Officer, Cisco  
Systems

**Cathy Hoffman, Ph.D.**

Associate Director of the Kaiser  
Commission on Medicaid and the  
Uninsured

## County extends contract with Humane Society

San Mateo County and its cities will continue to contract with the Peninsula Humane Society (PHS) to provide animal control services at least through June of 2011.

The Board of Supervisors voted unanimously April 24 to extend the contract and to continue leasing six acres in Coyote Point Park to PHS.

The humane society has been taking care of lost and stray animals in the county for close to 50 years. The extension gives the county and its 20 cities more time to negotiate a new long-term contract for animal control services.

Under the new agreement, the county will pay \$4.75 million in 2008-09 fiscal year, \$4.99 million in 2009-10, and \$5.24 million in 2010-11. The cities and county share the cost based on the use of services.

In other action, the supervisors:

- Established a pilot program to recognize and certify "Green Businesses" that conserve water and energy, reduce waste, and prevent pollution. The new program is part of a regional effort sponsored by the Association of Bay Area Governments that helps businesses such as auto repair shops, restaurants, hotels, wineries, and landscapers, become clean and green.

- Heard a presentation by the Office of Emergency Services Emergency Response Plans about the need for local schools to update or adopt a School Site Emergency Response Plan. For assistance and information, go to [smcsheriff.com](http://smcsheriff.com).

- Received a Clean Air Award from the San Mateo County Tobacco Education Coalition for their role in reducing tobacco use.



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This picture of her family's old Woodside home was taken around 1918 to 1920, and before the fire, says the author, Marie Wagner Krenz.

## Our old house in Woodside

By Marie Wagner Krenz

Special to the Almanac

Our old house in Woodside lives only in my childhood memory. Built in the late eighteenth hundreds by the Boettger family, it was a modest wood frame house without electricity or indoor plumbing on an acre of land. The Boettgers at one time owned and manned the toll house at the base of King's Mountain.

Grandfather saw the possibilities of the property. He looked beyond the dilapidated barns, the cow, and the chickens and saw only the beautiful forests that reminded him of his European homeland.

Despite Grandmother's reluctance, he paid Hi Boettger fifteen hundred dollars in Liberty Bonds and took possession of the property on November 11, 1918. It was one of the most far-reaching decisions of our family and surely the one that has brought us the most joy. Since that long ago autumn day, the family with few exceptions, has spent every Sunday and every summer there.

Grandfather's first priority was to renovate the house to appease Grandmother. He banished the coal oil lamps to the attic in favor of a small electrical generating system, and added two bathrooms, a fireplace, and wide porches lapping the front and sides of the structure. There was also a screened area for summer dining.

### WOODSIDE MEMORIES



**About the author:** Marie Wagner Krenz is a freelance writer from Orinda who spends weekends in Woodside at the old family home. She has written a number of columns for the Almanac. For another "Woodside Memories" article, turn to Page 38.

Hi Boettger was engaged as contractor for the house projects. Hi was a remarkable person who could do anything — carpentry, masonry, gardening, plumbing; he was also a master brewer of root beer.

As a young man he worked in one of the lumber mills up and over Kings Mountain. His usual stint was an 18-hour shift one day and a 12-hour shift the next.

On weekends he hiked down to his family home at the base of the mountain and then hiked back up before Monday morning.

Hi was also commissioned

to tear down the barns and sheds. My grandparents filled in the old well in the front garden with unwanted items from the barns. I am told Hi was particularly incensed when Grandmother threw in the grind-stone.

Mother's photograph albums show pictures of her and her friends posing on the lawn as they celebrated her twenty-first birthday. There are also pictures of young women dressed in 1920s flapper-style attire. Later there were pictures of my parents standing on the porch with me, a new baby, in Mother's arms.

I was a little older when my first memories of the house began. I remember walking in the front door to the living room to see wicker furniture with bright cushions and a small glass covered table where my uncles played rummy with Hi Boettger when he came for dinner.

We children liked to play Pokeno and Parcheesi on that table and listen to the radio on summer afternoons. I liked "Little Orphan Annie" ("Arf," said Sandy), but the boys preferred "Jack Armstrong, the All American Boy," even though they sent into the Orphan Annie program for special de-coder rings.

Window benches flanked the fireplace and held baseball bats, catchers' mitts, croquet mallets, and assorted balls.

There were four bedrooms upstairs and two on the main

See **KRENZ**, next page



### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF MENLO PARK PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING OF JUNE 4, 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:

**Architectural Control/Jeffrey and Kathy Hamilton/121 Forest Lane:** Request for approval of architectural control to remodel the front elevation of a townhouse in the R-3 (Apartment) zoning district.

**Use Permit/Elaine Chan & Scott Paterson/5 Greenwood Place:** Request for a use permit for a second story addition to an existing single-story residence that would exceed 50 percent of the existing floor area on a substandard lot in regard to lot area and width in the R-1-U (Single-Family Urban) 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, June 4, 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 17, 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](http://www.menlopark.org)  
Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on May 23, 2007.

# Otter Run benefits Oak Knoll School

Local families and friends are invited to participate in the 13th annual Oak Knoll School Otter Run on Sunday, June 3, with an 8 a.m. warm-up and 8:30 a.m. start at 1895 Oak Knoll Lane in Menlo Park.

Participants will run or walk a 1.5 mile single loop (non-scoring) or 5K double loop on flat residential streets. No bikes, skates, or dogs permitted.

The event is a fundraiser for the Oak Knoll PTO.

All participants will be given

Otter Run T-shirts and there will be medals for winners by age categories.

People can register online at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com) through May 27 or by picking up forms at the school. The registration fee is \$20 per adult and \$10 for 18 and under. After May 25, the fee goes to \$25 and \$15.

There are three co-chairs of the Otter Run Committee: Dana Hayse, Katie Ferguson, and Sydney Wachhorst, all parent-volunteers. The whole event is put on by a team of parent and

teacher volunteers.

For more information, call the race hotline at 322-6263.

The Oak Knoll Track Club meets Wednesdays and Fridays, from 3 to 3:45 p.m. at Oak Knoll School for the six weeks before the Otter Run. About 80 first-through-fifth-graders participate, says spokesperson Dana Hayse.

They stretch, run strides across the lawn, run laps in the residential streets or around the upper school yard, play games, and have relays, she says.

## KRENZ

*continued from previous page*

floor. The smaller one downstairs was kept for occasional guests but also had a storage area for the table leaves. We children loved to play in there where we jumped on the beds and arranged the table boards against the beds to serve as slides. We called it the Toonerville Trolley.

The large kitchen held a round oak table, a free-standing sink with one small drain-board, a great iron wood and coal stove, and a small electric range that didn't work well.

A wooden icebox stood on the screened porch to keep things cold, but every day or two someone had to empty the drip pan to keep it from overflowing onto the floor. Tony The Iceman came periodically to replenish the ice.

Despite the lack of today's amenities the old kitchen produced good food for the family

and huge Sunday dinners for friends who drove the long miles from San Francisco.

Off the kitchen was the first-floor bathroom, one of Grandfather's add-ons. I remember the claw-footed tub with a strange shower arrangement that rose at one end and sprinkled water from four shower heads. I liked Mother to use an abalone shell to shampoo and rinse my hair.

Outside the kitchen door was a tank house whose third level held the house water supply. We children were not allowed to climb the ladder, which, of course, we did sometimes when none of the adults was around.

Before Sunday dinners Grandfather would invite guests to the lower level of the tank house for a little glass of dark brown liquid. Although it was Prohibition, an occasional small keg was delivered and hidden away. We children didn't think it tasted like much when we sneaked a sip.

On a winter night in 1933, a

neighbor called my Grandmother in San Francisco to say that our Woodside home was on fire. We drove down the next day to an eerie sight. As we entered the gate, the front corner of the house looked much as it always had, but behind that facade lay the ruins of what had once been the site of countless happy moments.

Hi cleared away the rubble, an architect appeared, and by summer we had a new home. We children thought it was a modern marvel and loved the sleeping porch we would occupy. One friend inspected the new dwelling and said, "Now that was a good fire."

Our new house is now an old house with most of the furnishings dating from the thirties. When people come for the first time they often comment on how antique everything is. My thoughts always go to the original home that stood there. That was truly an old house. ■



This is a picture of **Kings Mountain Road** in Woodside around 1900, says the author, Marie Wagner Krenz.

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**Atherton  
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Atherton artist Jeannine Redon is showing her cast acrylic monotypes from May 30 to July 1 at the Main Gallery, 1018 Main St. in Redwood City. A reception for the artist will be held at the gallery from 4 to 7 p.m. Sunday, June 3.

Ms. Redon uses acrylic paint applied to a polyethylene plate to create monotypes without the conventional hardware of printmaking.

"I'm still absorbing the process, so my work is still experimental," she says.

The Main Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekends. For more information, call 701-1018 or go to [www.themaingallery.org](http://www.themaingallery.org).



This 10-by-13-inch cast acrylic print by Jeannine Redon of Atherton is called "A City II."

**Woodside High auction raises \$300,000**

More than \$300,000 was raised by the Woodside High School Foundation at this year's annual fundraising auction, surpassing by more than \$120,000 the amount raised at any previous auction.

A sell-out crowd of 310 attended the April 21 event at the Menlo Circus Club, dancing to the music of *Pride & Joy*.

Kathleen Carr of Portola Valley chaired the event and Leslie Ballinger of Woodside was co-chair.

Woodside High Principal Linda Common called the event "a wonderful evening."

"I was so impressed with the generosity of the parents and the community members who supported our school," Ms. Common said. "I know that the support that the Woodside High School Foundation brings to our school has had a tremendous affect on the achievement level of our students."

The Woodside High School Foundation raises money and distributes it to Woodside High School teachers, staff and student groups through a grant process three times a year.

The foundation is run by volunteers, including an executive board of parents, alumni, community and staff members.

Among the 2006 projects supported by the foundation are: a new fitness center for the high

school; computer hardware, software and a site technology manager to keep them running; textbooks; teacher training in reading; science lab equipment; a resource database for the library; and three block grants for Ms. Common to spend where she sees the greatest needs.

In the most recent round of funding, the foundation gave just over \$62,000 in grants in areas including the science department, math department, special day class, and the senior exhibition project. Items paid for by the grants range from computers to microscopes to instruction books.

Ms. Ballinger, who will chair next year's auction, announced that it will be at the Circus Club on April 26 with *Pride & Joy* and auctioneer Frank Bizarro both returning.

The foundation will sponsor its second annual "Tour for Woodside," a fully supported bicycle ride on September 23, 2007, to raise money for the foundation's endowment. The endowment allows the foundation to fund ongoing and reoccurring expenses at the high school.

For more information about the Woodside High School Foundation, go to [www.whsfoundation.org](http://www.whsfoundation.org) or call 367-9750, ext. 8687.

— Barbara Wood

## Sacred Heart photographers study immigrant community

Seven high school photographers, students in the advanced photography program at Sacred Heart Preparatory in Atherton, have been studying the issue of immigration through the lenses of their cameras, says their instructor Lars Howlett.

The students have been documenting the lives and communities of migrants, both locally and on a trip to Tijuana, he said.

Their work is being shown in an exhibit at the SPUR Projects gallery, at 888 Portola Road in Portola Valley, through June 8.

For more information, go to [www.shschools.org](http://www.shschools.org).



Above:

In this photograph by Sacred Heart Prep student **Anna Paustenbach**, iron pylons divide the beach as the U.S./Mexican border steps out into the Pacific on the shores of Tijuana. Signs posted on the fence by the U.S. border patrol show that little effort has been made to communicate this warning into Spanish. Three out of five words are misspelled in the translation.

Left:

**Community members** in San Rafael rally for immigrant rights after recent deportations. Photo by Molly Dickinson.

Bottom left:

**Fences and walls** erected by the U.S. cut through the landscape between California and Tijuana. Photo by Greg Randall.

Below:

**A woman** crosses the border between the U.S. and Mexico in this photo by Shannon Hamilton.



## Trustees agree to 5.3% raise for MP teachers

Teachers in the Menlo Park City Elementary School district have a new three-year contract that includes a 5.31 percent wage increase and a 0.45 percent increase in the district's contribution to health plan premiums for fiscal year 2006-07, Superintendent Ken Ranella told the Almanac.

Total cost of the package, including benefits, over three years is \$1.5 million, he said.

The agreement, which the five-

member school board approved unanimously on May 7, includes an increase to teachers' stipends for pursuing advanced degrees and in-lieu compensation for employees who opt out of the district's benefits plan.

With an 84 percent majority of district teachers voting, the Menlo Park Education Association had earlier unanimously approved the agreement, Mr. Ranella said.

Asked if the bargaining was

heated or involved a lot of back and forth, Mr. Ranella said, "We were not contentious at all, from my perspective."

He said the contact was a bargain the district could afford.

With mandated annual increases figured in, the agreement will raise the district's compensation costs by \$708,000 for the 2006-07 school year and \$752,000 for each year after that until there is a new or amended contract.

## M-A Vikings hold signups for Pop Warner football

Signups for the 2007 football season are under way for the Menlo-Atherton Vikings Pop Warner program.

Practice begins July 30 at Menlo-Atherton High School for the Vikings' eighth Peninsula Conference season. There are six weight and age categories for youngsters, age 5 through 15.

Last season, three Vikings teams reached the conference playoffs.

The coaching staff provides "solid basic instruction and steady encouragement for players of all skill levels," says spokesman Jim Gallagher.

Vikings coaches have played for such professional teams as the New England Patriots, Miami Dolphins and San Francisco 49ers. Among college teams represented on the coaching staff are

Stanford, California, Nebraska, Brown and UCLA.

"Vikings are a prominent talent source for high school teams all over the area," said Club President Bob Williams. "Former Vikings are playing at Menlo-Atherton, Menlo School, Sacred Heart, Woodside, St. Francis and Serra."

Even for those who don't go on to play in high school, Pop Warner football provides skills that can last a lifetime, he said. "These include teamwork and perseverance, along with mental and physical agility and discipline. And, it's a whole lot of fun."

For registration information, including early-bird discounts (through June 1), send an e-mail to [info@mapopwarner.com](mailto:info@mapopwarner.com) or call 562-1950.

## Camp Galileo opens Atherton site

Camp Galileo, the for-profit company that runs kids' camps that combine education with traditional camping activities, is opening a new site this summer — at Selby Lane School in Atherton.

The camps are for kids entering kindergarten through grade 5.

The company develops art and science educational programs

with the Tech Museum of Innovation, the de Young Museum and Klutz, says spokesperson Katherine Chouteau.

Sessions run June 18 through Aug. 3 and fees are \$369 for full-day and \$299 for part-day kindergarteners. Scholarships are available. For more information, call 1-800-854-3684 or go to [www.campgalileo.com](http://www.campgalileo.com).


## School news online

You can post news about graduates, scholarships and academic honors in the Schools category of Town Square at [AlmanacNews.com](http://AlmanacNews.com).

Recently posted online: DePaul University student Sarah C Scutchfield of Woodside, who is pursuing a communica-

tion major, has been named to the Dean's List for the 2007 spring term. To receive this commendation, full-time students must earn a cumulative grade point average of 3.50 or above on a 4-point scale. DePaul University, with 23,000 students, is the largest Catholic university in the country. For more information, go to [www.depaul.edu](http://www.depaul.edu).

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**St. Raymond second-graders** with the San Jose Shark's mascot, "Sharkie," are, front row, from left, Sabrina Nunn, Andrea Pedrazas, Annabelle Paris, Joey Tripaldi and Linnea Storum; (back row), Lorenzo Sison and Audrey Sellman.

## St. Raymond School jogs for computers, technology

*This story was posted in Town Square (AlmanacNews.com) by Gayelyn DiBono, a parent-volunteer and Menlo Park resident:*

Menlo Park's St. Raymond School held its 10th annual Jogathon at its campus on Santa Cruz Avenue on April 27. Over 250 students from grades K-8 participated in the fundraiser and together jogged over 500 miles.

The event raised over \$30,000 for the school's computer and technology programs. New equipment will include more laptop computers, new printers and educational software.

Each mile was sponsored by family and friends as well as many small community businesses, such as Dr. Scott Kaloust, D.D.S., Angelo Mio restaurant, Quizno's Subs, the Menlo Park Police Department and the Redwood City Parks and Recreation Department.

The students competed for prizes for the most money raised and class participation. They also competed for awards for those who ran the most laps and in the best time. The San Jose

Shark's mascot "Sharkie" paid a special surprise visit, which added extra motivation and lots of laughs for the students.

"This is an important fundraiser and a spirit-builder," said the school's principal, Sister Ann Bernard. "It reinforces the already strong parent community at St. Raymond School, a characteristic of our school."

St. Raymond School has served the local area for 53 years and has maintained a reputation for strong studies and excellence in sports. This year three of the school's boys basketball teams were league champions. For more information about St. Raymond School, go to [www.straymond.org](http://www.straymond.org).

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### \* INFANT & CHILD CPR

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- Sunday, June 24

### \* CHILDBIRTH CLASS IN THE CITY

Come learn about childbirth preparation in a retreat-like setting at the Hotel Monaco in San Francisco. This course includes breakfast and lunch for two at the hotel, as well as participation in breastfeeding and cesarean birth classes.

- Saturday, July 14

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



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## Los Altos Hounds holds annual stable tour

The Los Altos Hounds will hold its 15th annual "Stable Tour and Used Tack Sale" on Sunday, June 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Visitors explore Peninsula barns, browse through equine art and gifts, and can view fox hounds, jumping, dressage, carriage driving, and field hunters, the sponsors say.

For an additional fee, visitors are served lunch on the grounds of a private estate.

Tour tickets and information will be available on June 10 at the Woodside Town Hall, 2955 Woodside Road at the corner of Whiskey Hill Road. They cost \$25 per person; children under 5 are free. Luncheon tickets are \$25 and advance registration is suggested.

Send a check, made payable to LAH, 150 Golden Oak, Portola Valley, CA 94028. Include your name, the number of tour tickets and the number of luncheon tickets desired. For more information, call 851-2551.

### Local authors at Book Group Expo

Authors Lalita Tademey and Lauren John of Menlo Park, and Susanne Pari of Atherton, will participate in this year's Book Group Expo at the San Jose McEnery Convention Center on June 8, 9 and 10.

### AROUND TOWN

The expo debuted last year as a revival of the 19th century literary salon and brings authors, readers, and independent book-sellers together with "wine, art, chocolate, jewelry, [and] tea," says spokesperson Kristen Green. A portion of the proceeds go to local and regional literacy programs.

A full access pass is \$65; a single day pass is \$42; and the Friday night event is \$15. Discounts given for groups of eight or more. For more information, go to [www.bookgroupexpo.com](http://www.bookgroupexpo.com).

### Rotary Club seeks aquifer expertise

The Rotary Club of Woodside and Portola Valley is seeking the technical assistance of anyone familiar with small-scale desalinization projects and the construction of temporary "check dams" to contain rainwater runoff in shallow lakes.

Rotary Club members may be evaluating the appropriateness of these technologies to recharge underground aquifers in Baja California Sur, Mexico. Over-pumping for irrigation, in an area where annual rainfall averages 10

inches, has allowed contamination of the aquifers by salt water, said Kenneth Broome, the club's international service director.

The club is planning a group trip to La Paz this summer to study the feasibility of an aquifer restoration project. If you have the skills being sought and would like to get involved, contact Mr. Broome at [broome-assocs@juno.com](mailto:broome-assocs@juno.com).

### Portola Valley, Bali connection

*This report is from Barbara Schmidt, president-elect of the Rotary Club of Woodside/Portola Valley.*

Sue and Don Bennett of Portola Valley have a love affair with Bali. It began with their first visit in the 1970s and has grown over time, resulting in a ceremony in Ubud, Bali, to renew their 40th anniversary wedding vows.

The Bennetts joined the Rotary Club of Ubud in 2006 and have now become honorary members of the Rotary Club of Woodside/Portola Valley in 2007. They are very committed to a school project in Ubud and even dedicated money for this project from their anniversary celebration.

The Bennetts are building a second home in Ubud.



File photo by Marjan Sadough

A medley of trees decorate the Betsy Crowder trail in Windy Hill Open Space Preserve.



### Len Tillem Esq.

Len Tillem & Associates  
Host of KGO's "Legaltalk"



### Michael Gilfix, Esq.

Gilfix & La Poll Associates, LLP  
Stanford Law School  
34 yrs Experience

## KGO's Len Tillem & Michael Gilfix

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## Timeline for rethinking El Camino

Menlo Park City Council members John Boyle and Richard Cline have hashed out a rough timeline for the city to re-imagine El Camino Real.

The council is scheduled to decide whether to move forward with the first steps of the plan at its Tuesday, May 22, meeting. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. in the council chambers at the Civic Center, between Laurel and Alma streets.

Under the timeline, councilmen Boyle and Cline are proposing the city embark on a six-month "discussion phase," in which the city would invite a series of speakers to talk about how factors such as public transportation, housing, businesses and traffic could be incorporated in a re-imagined El Camino Real corridor.

### ■ MENLO WATCH

Beyond this phase, Mr. Boyle and Mr. Cline are proposing a series of public debates regarding El Camino Real, formation of a draft plan, environmental review, and a final plan by July 2009.

### Green task force

The Green Ribbon Citizens' Committee is scheduled to meet Wednesday, May 23, at 4 p.m. in the basement of the Menlo Park Library at 800 Alma St. The committee, made up of some 50 Menlo Park residents and business owners, is focused on cutting the city's greenhouse gas emissions to curb global warming.

### ■ POLICE CALLS

#### ATHERTON

**Fraud report:** Imposter stole \$27,050 from equity line of credit, 400 block of Walsh Road, May 7.

#### Theft reports:

■ Purse stolen from library staff member, 1000 block of El Camino Real, May 7.  
■ UPS package containing \$350 cell phone stolen from front door, 100 block of Cowell Lane, May 15.

**Burglary report:** Jewelry stolen from residence through open door, 100 block of Alta Vista Drive, May 13.

#### MENLO PARK

**Battery report:** Employee reportedly assaulted co-worker, 500 block of Willow Road, May 15.

#### Auto burglary reports:

■ Car battery stolen, 300 block of Burgess Drive, May 9.  
■ Car stereo, cash, cell phone stolen from unlocked vehicle, 100 block of East Creek Drive, May 10.

#### Commercial burglary reports:

■ Laptop computer stolen, 1000 block of Marsh Road, May 6.  
■ Several offices entered over weekend, 800 block of El Camino Real, May 14.

#### Residential burglary reports:

■ Front door found open, 1100 block of Ringwood Avenue, May 4.  
■ Residence ransacked, 1100 block of Berkeley Avenue, May 9.

■ Residence entered through back window, 1100 block of Bieber Avenue, May 9.

■ Three suspects fled after attempting forced entry and finding boy home alone, 1400 block of Chilco Avenue, May 14.

■ Room ransacked, 300 block Sheridan Road, May 16.

■ Digital camera stolen through broken window, 200 block Bay Road, May 16.

#### Fraud reports:

■ Someone attempted to use ATM card lost on 4/21, 1200 block of Sevier Avenue, May 4.

■ Juan Juntas, 25, of San Francisco arrested on charges of identity theft and unlawful use of a driver's license, Bayfront Expressway and University Avenue, May 5.

■ Check cashed on victim's closed account, 800 block of Willow Road, May 7.

■ Fraudulent use of credit card, 700 block of Laurel Street, May 9.

■ Items purchased in resident's name delivered to home, Lorelei Lane, May 10.

■ Emilio Gonzalez-Alcala, 30, of San Jose arrested on charges that include forgery and handling stolen property, 1900 block of Menalto Avenue, May 14.

■ Identity theft, 100 block of Haight Street, May 15.

■ Woman driving dark blue Chevy Suburban reportedly tried to cash a forged check, 800 block of Willow Road, May 16.

#### Theft reports

■ Backpack containing camera stolen, 500 block of Laurel Street, May 7.

■ Cellular phone stolen, 1100 block of Hollyburne Avenue, May 14.

■ Wheels and tires stolen from vehicle, 1100 block of Madera Avenue, May 15.

#### PORTOLA VALLEY

**Theft report:** Digital camera, computer projector, and equipment stand estimated at \$1,330 stolen from unlocked classroom, Ormondale Elementary School at 200 Shawnee Pass, May 9.

#### WOODSIDE

**Child abuse report:** 600 block of West Glen Way, May 5.

#### WEST MENLO PARK

**Theft report:** Chase Bank returned \$135,970 stolen from equity account and distributed to several different accounts, 2000 block of Santa Cruz Avenue, May 3.

## Hunt for man suspected of killing wife

Monterey County sheriff's deputies are looking for a man suspected of driving his wife to a remote location near Prunedale and shooting her to death following a domestic dispute in their Menlo Park home.

Investigators fear Daniel Hernandez Lombera, 41, he may have fled the country with his two children, an 8-year-old boy and 9-year-old girl.

He is suspected of shooting his wife, Zenaida Rosales Hurtado,

31, who was found dead near a Prunedale archery range on Crazy Horse Canyon Road on April 27, said Monterey County Sheriff's Commander Malcolm Gray.

Her body was identified with dental records provided by Ms. Hurtado's family in Indiana, where she lived prior to coming to Menlo Park, Mr. Gray said.

Mr. Lombera may have driven Ms. Hurtado 78 miles from Menlo Park to Prunedale, where she was killed with a .9mm

semi-automatic pistol and left, authorities said.

He is described as a Hispanic male, 5 feet 8 inches tall and weighing 150 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes. He has a prior record in San Mateo County for several assaults and drug charges and may be in Mexico.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Monterey Sheriff's Office at (831) 755-3772, or the anonymous line, (888) 833-4847.



### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS TOWN OF ATHERTON STATE OF CALIFORNIA

#### VALPARAISO AVENUE OVERLAY PROJECT PROJECT NO. #06-001

Notice is hereby given that SEALED BIDS will be received at the office of the City Clerk, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, California 94027, until 3:00 p.m. June 14, 2007, at which time they will be publicly opened and read, for performing the following work:

- Milling
- Installation of fabric (Menlo Park limits only)
- Open-graded AC Overlay.
- Installing street striping, pavement markings and markers.
- Performing other miscellaneous work as required in the plans or specifications.

Bids must be for the entire work, and shall be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked: "Bid of (Contractor) for VALPARAISO AVENUE OVERLAY PROJECT, Project No. #06-001", along with date and time of bid opening.

Plans and specifications may be obtained at the Town of Atherton Public Works Department, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton CA 94027, for a non-refundable fee of \$30.00. Additional important information is contained in Town of Atherton Standard Specifications, which are available for an additional \$20.00. If shipping is requested, there will be an additional charge of \$20.00.

Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of cash, a cashier's or certified check or bid bond for not less than ten percent (10%) of the amount of the bid, as a guarantee that the bidder, if awarded the Contract, will fulfill the terms of the bid. The Town of Atherton reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and/or to waive any irregularities therein.

Bidders are hereby notified that, pursuant to California Civil Code Sections 3247 and 3248 and Standard Specifications Section 3.02, the successful bidder will be required to provide payment and performance bonds in the amounts stated in Section 3.02 of the Standard Specifications.

Bidders are hereby notified that provisions of California Labor Code regarding prevailing wages are applicable to the work to be performed under this contract. Pursuant to Section 1773 et seq. the general prevailing wage rates have been determined by the Director of the California Department of Industrial Relations and appear in the California Prevailing Wage Rates. Copies are on file at the office of the City Engineer and are available to interested parties upon request. The successful bidder shall post a copy of the wage rates at the job site.

The Contractor may elect to receive 100 percent of payments due under the contract, without retention of any portion of the payment by the Town of Atherton, by depositing securities of equivalent value to the retention amount in accordance with the provisions of Section 22300 of the California Public Contracts Code.

The successful bidder must be licensed under the provisions of Chapter 9, Division 3, of the California Business and Professions Code to do the type of work contemplated in the project at the time the contract is awarded and shall be skilled and regularly engaged in the general class or type of work called for under the Contract. Failure of the bidder to obtain proper and adequate licensing for an award of the contract shall constitute a failure to execute the contract and result in the forfeiture of the bidder's bid security.

Each bidder shall submit with this bid a statement setting forth his/her/its experience and qualifications. The statement shall be made on the forms provided by the Town and must accompany each bid. The three lowest bidders will be required to submit subcontractor's experience and qualifications statements within 48 hours of the bid opening, on forms provided by the Town.

By submitting a bid in response to this advertisement for bids, the bidder shall be conclusively deemed to have read, understood and agreed with all of the information and materials contained in the bid documents, including but not limited to the construction contract, the standard specifications, the special provisions, the required nature and amount of insurance and the documentation evidencing said insurance.

Any questions regarding the project should be directed to the City Engineer, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, CA 94027, telephone (650) 752-0532, preferably no later than five days before bid opening. Requests for Information may be faxed to (650) 688-6539. Plan holder's lists may be obtained by calling (650) 752-0570.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Duncan L. Jones, P.E., City Engineer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on May 16, 23, 2007.

### ■ OBITUARIES

#### Freda Ardis Breen

Registered Nurse

Freda Ardis Breen, who lived in Menlo Park from 1953 to 1979, died on April 9 in Rosville. She was 78.

Born in Soda Springs, Idaho, Ms. Breen obtained a nursing degree from Idaho State University. When she lived in Menlo Park, she worked as a registered nurse at Stanford Hospital, Kaiser Hospital in Redwood City, and Stanford Student Health Center.

She and her husband were active in the Holy Family Retreat Association for over 40 years and

she was well known for her award-winning baking skills and many friendships, family members said.

She is survived by her husband of 44 years, William Henry Breen III; daughters Rose Marie Innes of Pacifica, Mary Scruggs and Theresa Breen of Roseville; son William Breen of Hope, Idaho; sisters Sr. Mary Ellen Taylor, Maureen Ostyn, and Marie Camille Ebberts of Idaho; brothers Fr. Thomas Taylor of Roseville, Patrick Taylor and Fr. William Taylor of Idaho; and five grandchildren.

A memorial Mass was held on April 13 at St. Clare's in Rosville. Donations in her name may be made to St. Clare's or the American Lung Association.

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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.

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POST your views on the Town Square forum at www.AlmanacNews.com

**EMAIL** your views to letters@AlmanacNews.com. Indicate if it is a letter to be published.

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

**CALL** the Viewpoint desk at 854-2626, ext. 222.

# Opening door for faculty housing

Everyone knows that most public employees — police officers, fire fighters and teachers — cannot afford to buy or even rent decent housing in this area, and not much has been done about in the years since housing prices have gone through the roof.

The latest statistics say it takes an income of almost \$200,000 a year to buy a median-priced, single-family home in San Mateo County, or \$124,000 to buy a similar condo. It means that only 16 percent of households in the county can afford a home, compared with 26 percent statewide and 56 percent nationally.

That terrible trend has hit local community colleges hard, where starting faculty bring in only \$50,000 a year. These are the young men and women we are entrusting our most vulnerable students to, the kids who are not able to attend elite four-year colleges, but who are working and scratching to get a good college education.

Luckily, the San Mateo County Community College District is doing something to alleviate this problem.

Now that the district has built a 44-unit housing complex at its San Mateo campus, district chancellor Ron Galatolo wants to duplicate the effort at Canada College, which is mostly in Woodside, except for a small area that lies in Redwood City.

The boundary between the two cities runs right down the middle of a little-used parking lot, the spot Mr. Galatolo would

## EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

like to be the site of the district's second housing project. To make it happen, he has requested, and received unanimous conceptual support from the Woodside Town Council recently, to move the town's boundary so the entire site is under Redwood City jurisdiction.

There will be other regulatory hurdles, but right now it is difficult to find fault with the plan, which will offer as many as 60 high-quality apartments at low rents — one-bedroom units from \$775 a month to three bedrooms for \$1,400. The rates are far below market, one of the reasons that the 44-unit College of San Mateo complex is fully occupied and has a waiting list of 78 employees.

And there are plenty of answers for those who might

believe this is a costly program that is taking resources away from higher education. Here is what makes it possible, with no cost to taxpayers:

- No land costs
- Tax-exempt financing
- No property taxes, due to exemption for higher education
- No profit motive

The Woodside council was right to push this project along, and agree not to fight the annexation of its piece of a three-acre parking lot to Redwood City. This solution is hardly the answer for housing all public service employees, but it is one that could, and should, be a model for other agencies to consider.



College Vista housing complex at College of San Mateo.

## LETTERS

Our readers write

### Menlo doing its share on dense housing

Editor:

While I support sensible planning in support of better communities, I read with concern your cover story on high-density developments.

It should be noted that Menlo Park has a higher percentage of its housing in multi-family homes (high density compared with single family homes) than any of our neighboring communities. We do our share and have begun the process of transit-oriented housing as is evident in the residential development across the street from our train station.

Let us not forget that high-density housing can be beneficial if sensibly planned but can also bring environmental



Menlo Park Historical Association

### Our Regional Heritage

Passengers wait to board the Southern Pacific train at the Menlo Park train depot in this undated photo. The depot, built in 1867, remains in the same location today and serves as the offices for the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce.

See LETTERS, next page

Continued from previous page

concerns such as increased traffic, not to mention the impact on school districts, open space availability and city services.

Can our schools accommodate increased enrollment? Is there sufficient open space and parks for our population? Can our tax base support police and other emergency services that might be required with a sizable increase in population? To simply argue more dense housing in and of itself is a solution is not sufficiently thoughtful to ensure positive impacts on the environment.

**Greg Druehl**  
Hermosa Way, Menlo Park

### Another view of artificial turf

Editor:

I do not live in Woodside and I have not been on the elementary school playing fields for years. However, I must respond to last week's guest opinion by Patrick Noonan on the "soon to be" artificial turf playing fields at the school.

I agree with Mr. Noonan that there are no birds walking around on it, there are no flowers so the bees stay away, no weeds, no white clover blossoms, no worms and probably no ladybugs. There are also no gophers or moles to create ankle breaking holes, no grass clumps to trip over or turn your ankle on and no areas of just dirt to tear the skin off your legs or knees. There will also be fewer trips to the emergency room at Stanford and Sequoia hospitals.

Maybe I missed something but the artificial turf just installed at my school doesn't have silica sand, just recycled ground-up tires holding up the plastic blades of grass. And why would any little creature eat the ground-up rubber? Or why would a toddler pick up the loose rubber any more than he or she would pick up a handful of dirt? And speaking of toddlers, artificial turf has been approved by the state as a qualifying surface to put under play structures from infants to older children.

I would love to have my grandchildren play on natural turf, but in this day and age it is just not practical any more. I played soccer on natural turf and, strange as it may seem, I have no cherished memories. I do remember tearing apart my ankle three times by stepping in holes, however.

I am not sure where Mr. Noonan gets his information on the smell in the first six feet above the turf. I have been refereeing on this stuff since it was installed at Burlingame High

# Scary push for high-speed rail

By Martin Engel

The California high-speed train is under discussion in Sacramento right now. Many want it; many don't. We don't!

There is one issue of critical importance to all of us in Menlo Park and Atherton. A May 10 article in the San Jose Mercury News by David Dutton, "High-speed rail deserves support from Californians," makes this scary point for us, ironically, in an attempt to garner public support for this mega-boondoggle. I quote only a part of the key paragraph here:

"Here's where the Bay Area really stands to gain if high-speed rail is built. One of the first segments would probably be constructed parallel to Caltrain. In the process, high-speed rail would help pay for improvements Caltrain has long sought: a new set of tracks for express trains, grade separations (constructing underpasses and overpasses that would eliminate the conflict between cars and trains); and building the Transbay Terminal in downtown San Francisco, a western equivalent of New York City's Grand Central Station. ... Those are just a few reasons why the Silicon Valley Leader-

ship Group, of which I am a member, has long championed high-speed rail."

Exactly. So, even if we were to believe that the high-speed rail is a risky, \$40 billion-plus gamble, never mind. At least it will cover capital and operational costs for Caltrain. Isn't that compelling.

Meanwhile, Caltrain is a go-it-alone rail service, a single thread running up and down the Peninsula. This thread ought to be woven into an urban mass-transit fabric, connecting everybody with everyplace in the Bay Area. However, all Caltrain really cares about is upgrading its own bells and whistles. They build their empire and we, the commuters, get less service. In short, they just don't get it.

What the high-speed rail funds will deliver for Caltrain (and for themselves) is electrification, at least two additional tracks dedicated to high-speed rail, a widened rail corridor with all crossings grade-separated, track grades adjusted up or down, trees cleared out on both sides of the corridor, and a lot of eminent domain takings along the corridor.

Such construction would tear up downtown Menlo Park for years. It will introduce temporary tracks (shoofly) next to the rail corridor through Menlo Park and

Atherton (and everywhere else) during the construction. It is really hard to appreciate just how destructive all this will be.

And, if you believe that the high-speed rail route might not go up the Peninsula to San Francisco by using the Altamont Pass route, forget about it.

Where will high-speed rail stop? Maybe Palo Alto, maybe Redwood City, but not both. And, nowhere else between San Jose and San Francisco. That makes the rest of us just one of the "fly-through" cities.

Caltrain is praying for the high-speed train to do two things: 1. bail them out of their perennial deficit with high-speed rail lease fees, and 2. build them the shiny, new dream railroad that they wish for but can't afford.

The irony of this is that Caltrain is itself already in the high-speed train business, or why would they call it the "baby-bullet?" Do we really need a redundant high-speed train on the Caltrain corridor? Are they planning to compete on ticket price and hold weekly races?

This is not rocket science. All this rail business is not about us, or for us. It is for the pockets of the high-speed rail industry, their lobbyists and financial beneficiaries, and also for Caltrain and its "suits."

*Martin Engel lives on Stone Pine Lane in Menlo Park.*



School and have never smelled anything, and I am under six feet tall.

I am afraid Mr. Noonan is out of step with most everyone else (except the Menlo Park City Council). There is a testimonial article for artificial turf in the May/June 07 issue of Benefit magazine. Not only do the people using it love it but municipalities like it because in the long term (15-year life span) it is much cheaper for the taxpayer and you do not have to water it.

Look at some of the local places where artificial turf has been installed: Burlingame, San Mateo, Carlmont, Sequoia, Menlo-Atherton, Woodside and Palo Alto high schools, Pinewood and the two fields at Mayfield in Palo Alto.

Natural grass has its place, but I am afraid that the trend, as it should be, is towards artificial turf.

**Steve Wallace**  
Sterling Avenue, Menlo Park

### Using precious water to keep a lawn healthy

Editor:

I live in Woodside Highlands. My neighbor is a renter who waters his lawn until it runs out the storm drains. I pointed this out to him, and he just replies, "but I want a green lawn."

There is no way of getting through

to this man. In contrast, my landscaping requires no watering at all. It is all oaks and ivy. What kind of pressure can one put on someone who is a renter with no vested interest who has no concept that the pinnacle of "home" is a big green lawn? I'm all ears.

**Annelise Connell**  
Santa Maria, Woodside Highlands, Portola Valley

### Punitive measure to force pet sterilization

Editor:

What would you say if the state made a law that would allow them to fine you \$500 if your cat or dog is not sterilized by the age of four months?

That is exactly what AB1634 will do if allowed to become law. The bill is proposed by Assemblyman Lloyd Levine, D-Van Nuys, the same politician who wants to outlaw Thomas Edison's incandescent light bulbs.

The bill will be especially punitive for the poor and elder-

ly, who often have multiple pets. It will also cause the extinction of many breeds, according to Dr. Wendell Belfield, a San Jose veterinarian and pioneer in surgery and nutrition. Dr. Belfield states that early sterilization causes the loss of hormones needed for healthy growth.

The first breed that will become extinct will be the American mutt. There are no provisions to allow this type of dog or the domestic cat to ever breed even though many police, bomb detection and handicap service groups rely on mixed-breed dogs.

The American Kennel Club and the Cat Fanciers Association have come out against this bill, stating that pet owners and their veterinarians should decide when and whether their pet undergoes surgical procedures.

Assemblywoman Fiona Ma, D-San Francisco, is opposed to the bill, stating that her city, long regarded as a leader in pet programs, does not have a prob-

lem and that those counties that do should address it at the local level. Enforcement of the measure would fall to local animal control agencies and there would be no state funding, leaving local taxpayers to bear the costs.

The bottom line of this bill is not about healthy pets. It is about taking away our civil rights and who controls your property rights. As a dog trainer (and rescuer) I think the decision to spay/neuter your own personal pet belongs in your hands — not some government agency (who know nothing about your breed or genetics).

Haven't we already lost too many civil rights because of the current administration in Washington? I've not had a litter and my pets stay intact until I'm ready to make a decision with my vet to spay and neuter. It is my right and responsibility — not some dog catcher who can't tell the difference between a boxer and a pit bull.

**Donnasue Jacobi**  
Haight Street, Menlo Park



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