

**BICYCLIST INJURED:** Menlo Park cyclist severely injured on Sand Hill Road — second vehicle vs. bicyclist accident in four days. See Page 25

# The Almanac

THE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER FOR MENLO PARK, ATHERTON,

PORTOLA VALLEY AND WOODSIDE

JUNE 6, 2007 [www.AlmanacNews.com](http://www.AlmanacNews.com)

| VOL. 42 NO. 40

**SECTION 2:**  
**FOOD & DRINK**  
**Restaurant**  
**Review**

Marché restaurant has revamped its menu.



## The long view

Veteran M-A teacher Jim MacKenzie speaks up on the state of high school education as he heads into retirement

Page 16

REDEFINING QUALITY SINCE 1990

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# Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

## FIRST SHOT



The Almanac/Veronica Weber

### A presidential pose?

Democratic presidential candidate John Edwards reflects on a question during a press conference at Stacks restaurant in Menlo Park last week. He came to town to outline his new energy plan. He was one of four presidential candidates bringing their campaigns to the Peninsula last week — Rudy Giuliani, Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama were here, too. See story, **Page 7**.

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Economics and psychology teacher Jim MacKenzie of Menlo-Atherton High School has some strong opinions about what should and should not be the focus in diverse public high school classrooms in an era of increasing state and federal oversight. See **Page 16** for story and photos.

### CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

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# RETIREMENT CELEBRATION SALE

See inside for more details on page 10!

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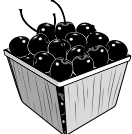





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If you are looking for red wines to enjoy during hot weather, search out the lighter-bodied wines. Leave the burly Bordeaux and rich California Cabernet Sauvignon behind in the wine cellar until cool weather approaches, and reach for the Beaujolais from France; Dolcetto from Italy; sparkling Shiraz from Australia; and Pinot Noir from Burgundy, Oregon, or New Zealand. Bear in mind that high alcohol content and hot weather do not mix well. The more alcohol a wine has, the less refreshing it is. Stick with wines with lower levels of alcohol (13 percent or less), and chill them. Like most whites, certain reds benefit from a slight chill. Place the bottle in the refrigerator for 20 minutes before serving.

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*HINT: Red wines that are less than two years old will naturally be higher in acid, making them good matches with seafood, salads, and grilled foods.*

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|--|---------------|
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**WILL - MEAT DEPARTMENT**

## WINE

### Rosé Madness


*Memorial Day marks the unofficial start of summer. I can think of no other type of wine appropriate to summer than rosé. The newly arrive '06s are worthy of excitements as they are crisp, clean and refreshing. Here are some recent arrivals:*

|   |   |         |
|---|---|---------|
|  | 2006 Sobon Estate Reserve, Amador County                | \$8.99  |
|   | 2006 Dom de Pellehaut Harmonie de Gascogne              | \$8.99  |
|   | 2006 Verget de Sud Rosé de Syrah, Valcluse              | \$9.99  |
|   | 2006 Dom de Fontsaite "Grisde Gris" Corbieres           | \$11.99 |
|   | 2006 Solo Rosa, California Rosé                         | \$13.99 |
|   | 2006 Ojai, California                                   | \$14.99 |
|   | 2006 Clos Saron 52% Syrah, 48% Mourvedre, California    | \$17.99 |
|   | 2006 Ch. de Puligny - Montradnet Bourgogne              | \$16.99 |
|   | 2004 Mas de Gourgonnier, Les Baux de Provence           | \$17.99 |
|   | 2006 Robert Sinsley Vin Gris of Pinor Noir, Los Cameros | \$19.99 |
|   | 2006 Dom. Tempier, Bandol                               | \$28.99 |

*The above wines assort for a 10% case discount.*

## MEAT/SEAFOOD

— *Special This Week at Roberts* —

|                                 |   |                    |
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### Your lungs will thank you

The winter Spare-the-Air season is behind us, so that must mean — you guessed it — it's time to kick off the summer Spare the Air campaign.

This year, local transit agencies are offering free rides on the first four lung-strangely smoggy weekdays. Rides are free all day on Bay Area buses. Rides on BART, Caltrain, ferries and ACE Train are free until 1 p.m.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District issues "Air Alerts" the day before a Spare the Air day occurs; to sign up for the alerts or to see air quality forecasts, go to SpareTheAir.org. For transit info, go to 511.org.

### No joy in this ride

A man noticed his friend's car unoccupied and curiously parked at the intersection of Highways 84 and 35 in Sky-londa on May 21. Knowing his friend was on vacation in Spain, he reported it to the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.

Deputies determined that the vehicle had been broken into, ransacked, hot-wired and driven a short distance before the locking steering wheel had engaged. At some point, the ne'er-do-well(s) who stole it apparently kicked the door and left, deputies said.

### The garage will keep us together

Mazel tov to Sergey Brin, cofounder of Google, and Anne Wojcicki, who recently married in one of those top-secret, fly-your-guests-to-an-undisclosed-location wedding ceremonies so popular with the extremely rich and/or famous.

Apparently, the bride and groom can trace their nuptial bliss back to a Menlo Park garage. Mr. Brin and partner Larry Page launched Google from that house, which they sublet from Susan Wojcicki, who eventually introduced them to her sister, Anne. A few years and a few billion dollars later, the pair exchanged vows on a sand bar in the Bahamas.

There's always a local angle.

Edited by Andrea Gemmet

# Local News

MENLO PARK | AThERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

## Derry project: Agreement at last

■ Two parties agree to 108 condos in less-dense development near downtown Menlo Park; city approvals needed.

By **Rory Brown**

Almanac Staff Writer

It's taken a while, but the developer behind the Derry condo-commercial project and the Menlo Park residents group that led a successful referendum campaign against the development have finally agreed on a new project.

If both parties get their way, the Planning Commission and City Council will approve a new, smaller project in coming months that includes plans for 108 condos in a cluster of three-story buildings; a 3,500-square-foot plaza with a restaurant and retail space; and an extra \$2 million payment to the city.

The design would be similar to the original Derry project approved by the previous council in September. That project called for 135 condos and additional commercial space in three- and four-story buildings up to 50 feet tall.

As with the previous project, the compromise development is proposed for a 3.4-acre site that borders Oak Grove Avenue and Derry Lane, between El Camino Real and the Caltrain tracks.

The developer, the San Mateo-based O'Brien Group, and the residents group Menlo Park Tomorrow, signed off on the compromise project on May 31, said Morris Brown, head of Menlo Park Tomorrow.

Last fall, Mr. Brown's group collected more than 2,500 signatures against the original Derry project on the basis it would increase traffic and overcrowd schools.

Rather than rescind the original project or put it to the voters after the successful referendum campaign, the new council opted to let the parties negotiate plans for

See **DERRY**, page 8

### Old Derry vs. new Derry

The **new Derry project** still has to go before the Menlo Park Planning Commission and City Council for approval. Listed below are key differences between the original project, approved by the council in September, and the compromise project, agreed upon by the developer and opponents of the original development.

|                                     | Original project | New project |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Total condos                        | 134              | 108         |
| BMR units                           | 22               | 16          |
| Density (units per acre)            | 50               | 40          |
| Max. height                         | 50 feet          | 40 feet     |
| Total square feet                   | 193,859          | 171,000     |
| Commercial space (in sq ft)         | 22,525           | 24,925      |
| Extra payment by developer to city: | \$100,000        | \$2 million |



### Quiz Kid remembered

The tragic death by drowning of Daniel Barclay at the age of 22 brought more than 300 people to the J Building at Menlo-Atherton High School to celebrate his life last Saturday. The two-hour event was punctuated by video clips from Daniel's string of victories on the Peninsula Quiz Kids, a college-bowl-like game show where he made a habit of answering the question before the host could complete it. See story on Page 12.

The Almanac/David Boyce

## Atherton's water supply inadequate in many areas

By **Andrea Gemmet**

Almanac Staff Writer

With all the handwringing over carbon footprints, it's easy to overlook another valuable resource that gets sucked up by giant homes — water.

In Atherton, where smaller homes are being replaced by much, much larger ones at a rapid pace, Menlo Park Fire Protection

District officials are worried about a water system they say is seriously

inadequate to fight major fires in most parts of town.

"The water supply is not able to keep up with the sizes of the hous-

**Atherton's newer houses are about three times as big as what the water system was designed for, says Darin Duncan of Cal Water.**

es being built," said Chief Harold Schapelhouman.

The water supply is one of several fire safety concerns brought to light at the recent meeting between the fire district's Board of Directors and

the Atherton City Council on May 21.

Firefighters are worried that inadequate water flow at fire hydrants will hamper their ability to battle blazes in Atherton mansions. The California Water Service Co. is worried about how to pay for upgrading the water system — something Atherton

See **WATER**, page 8

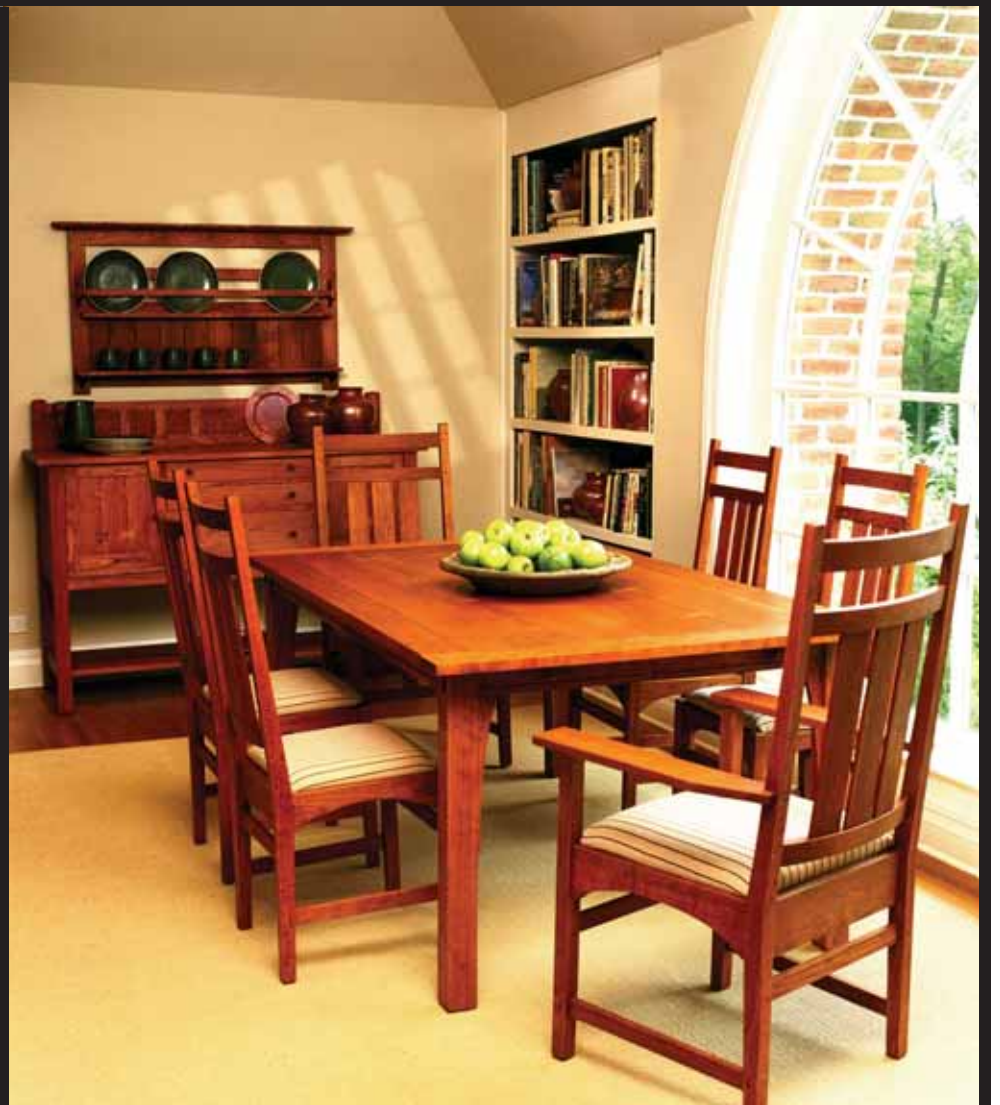
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## John Edwards talks gas at Stacks in Menlo

He was one of four presidential candidates bringing campaigns to area last week

By Andrea Gemmet

Almanac Staff Writer

Democratic presidential hopeful John Edwards chose the Stacks restaurant in downtown Menlo Park on May 31 to unveil his plan to combat the rising price of gas.

Amid a crush of news crews and a scattering of regular folks just trying to finish lunch, Mr. Edwards put a human face on the topic by interviewing San Jose residents Wendy Li and her son Brandon about the impact of high gasoline prices on their family's small business, before outlining his plan.

Ms. Li, who owns a sheet metal manufacturing shop with her husband, said higher fuel costs came out of her small business' narrow profit margin, while 18-year-old Brandon allowed that gas money, for him, came

out of his dad's pocket.

"I think the problems you are facing are the same problems faced by many Americans," Mr. Edwards said.

His short-term solutions include a Justice Department investigation of oil companies for antitrust violations, and tightening up antitrust laws if needed. Mr. Edwards also proposes eliminating taxpayer subsidies for oil companies.

He blamed high prices in part on oil companies' "vertical integration" — essentially, that oil companies control the entire fuel production process, from oil well to gas pump.

"Big oil companies are making extraordinary amounts of money," he said.

Mr. Edwards said that, as president, he would sell greenhouse gas pollution permits to help fund a \$13 billion-a-



The Almanac/Veronica Weber

**Presidential candidate** Sen. John Edwards speaks with Brandon Li during a press conference last Thursday in Menlo Park.

year "New Energy Economy Fund" to raise fuel economy to 40 miles per gallon by 2016, require all new cars sold after 2010 to be able to run on either gasoline or biofuels, and require oil companies to install

ethanol pumps at 25 percent of their gas stations.

Mr. Edwards was not the only presidential candidate in the area last week courting local supporters. Sen. Hillary Clinton and former New York mayor

Rudolph Giuliani pounded the Silicon Valley campaign trail with several high-profile stops, and Sen. Barak Obama reportedly held two Bay Area fundraisers over the weekend, one of them in Woodside. ■

## Rise of 'new media' is focus of June 6 Media Center talk

Online streaming video is transforming the media landscape, and futurist Peter Leyden aims to explain what this means to America, businesses and nonprofits at a discussion on Wednesday, June 6, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Media Center, 900 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto.

Wine and cheese will be served, and a \$10 donation per person is suggested. Reservations are recommended; e-mail [Lupita@CommunityMediaCenter.net](mailto:Lupita@CommunityMediaCenter.net) or call 494-8686.

Mr. Leyden's multimedia presentation explores the threatened demise of old media as well as the positive possibilities of a world in which Google generates more ad revenue than any television network, and 53 percent of adults say they view video online.

The former managing editor of Wired magazine, Mr. Leyden has been watching this story since the early 1990s. He's co-author of two books on the subject and is currently the director of the New Politics Institute, a think tank studying new technologies and new media's impact on politics.

"America's in the midst of the biggest technology and media transformation this country has ever been through — far bigger than the arrival of broadcast television," says Louise Pencavel of the Midpeninsula Community Media Center.

The Media Center is the local cable television station, offering professional TV, Web and video production services and classes to Atherton, Menlo Park, East Palo Alto and Stanford.

## Roadside suicide reported in Woodside

Marc James Taylor, 28, of San Carlos died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound in Woodside on May 27, according to the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.

Deputies responded to a call at about 3:50 a.m. and found the body lying next to a car in a parking lot on the 17000 block of Skyline Boulevard.

The motive for the suicide is still under investigation, the Sheriff's Office said.

# Guitar Pick.



## Derry project agreement

### DERRY

continued from page 5

a new project — a process that took almost seven months.

“We think it’s a big plus for the community, and we hope the community will like it,” Mr. Brown said, noting the negotiations were tough. “It’s a blighted area, and we need something built there right now. We never intended to stop the project — we always wanted something to be built there.”

Mr. Brown said former councilmen Paul Collacchi and Jack Morris, former planning commissioner Patti Fry, and resident Elias Blawie helped him negotiate the new project with the developer.

Jim Pollart of the O’Brien Group said the project won’t go before the Planning Commission “for several months,” but he said both the O’Brien Group and the Derry family are happy with the agreement.

“We are pleased that we were able to work with [Mr. Brown] and concerned citizens to reach a compromise solution to this situation,” Mr. Pollart said in a press release. “We look forward to moving ahead with the revised project, which we believe will be an asset to both downtown Menlo Park and the entire community.”

### High-density debate

When voting 4-1 to approve the original Derry project (with Andy Cohen opposed), the council

allowed the construction of up to 50 units per net acre on the Derry site — far more than the 18.5 units per acre allowed under the existing zoning.

Supporters of the Derry project

said it was just what the city needed — high-density housing along a major transit corridor; but opponents said the city wasn’t fairly compensated for allowing so many homes per acre.

The new project includes plans for 40 homes per net acre, but the

**‘It’s a blighted area, and we need something built there right now. We never intended to stop the project ...’**

MORRIS BROWN

in communications bills would be taxed \$60 a year, compared with \$99 a year under the existing rates.

“I want a balanced budget, but I don’t feel comfortable using the taxpayers’ dollars more than we have to,” said Councilman Heyward Robinson. He and Mayor Kelly Fergusson said they favored lowering the tax rates, and other council members said they were undecided on the matter.

The council will hold its first discussions of the utility tax and the city’s budget at its June 5 meeting, which is scheduled to start at 7 p.m. in the council chambers at the Civic Center, between Laurel and Alma streets.

### ‘Improved revenues’

Thanks to this year’s utility tax revenue and other increased revenues, the city is projected to cover its costs — without dipping into the reserve fund — for the



Archive photo by Marjan Sadoughi

Morris Brown, shown here in late September 2006 gathering signatures, led the referendum campaign against the Derry condominium project as approved by the former City Council weeks earlier.

city would be rewarded with a \$2 million payment from the developer, Mr. Brown said. He noted that other public benefits include a 3,500-square-foot public plaza similar to the area outside Cafe Borrone at Menlo Center on El Camino Real, and the construction of a pathway traversing the

development area to give pedestrians easier access El Camino Real.

Councilman Richard Cline appeared favorable to at least one aspect of the compromise plan. The city wouldn’t have been properly compensated for allowing high-density development

under the originally approved project, he said.

Mayor Kelly Fergusson said she wouldn’t take an official stance on the new project, but said she’s happy the two sides have come to an agreement. “Now the public process begins anew,” she said. ■

## Tax cut in store for Menlo Park?

■ In light of higher revenues, city staff recommends council lower utility tax rates.

### By Rory Brown

Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park City Council members are still undecided what to do with the city’s utility tax, but city staff’s message is loud and clear: Revenues are up, so the council should lower the tax.

Interim City Manager Kent Steffens has recommended that the council lower the tax rates to 2 percent on all utilities (water,

gas and electric bills) and communications (landline telephone, cell phone, cable TV and Internet bills). The two-tiered tax, which targets homes and businesses, is currently set at the maximum rates — 3.5 percent for utilities and 2.5 percent on communications. The tax went into effect April 1.

Under the lower rates, a household with an average of \$200 a month in utility bills and \$100

**‘I want a balanced budget, but I don’t feel comfortable using the taxpayers’ dollars more than we have to.’**

COUNCILMAN HEYWARD ROBINSON.

### ■ INFORMATION

The Menlo Park City Council will hold a public hearing on the 2007-08 budget at its meeting on Tuesday, June 5. The meeting is scheduled to start at 7 p.m. in the council chambers at the Civic Center, between Laurel and Alma streets. Final council approval of the budget is scheduled for June 19.

To view the draft budget, go to [MenloPark.org](http://MenloPark.org), and click on “Budget 2007-2008.”

first time in six years.

The tax is projected to add about \$600,000 to the city’s general fund for the fiscal year that ends June 30, according to city staff. The city is projected to have a surplus of more than \$300,000.

“We’ve had improved revenues in other areas, and we feel that gives the city more flexibility as far as where to set the tax rate,” Mr. Steffens said, noting the city’s property tax and sales tax revenues have increased.

He said the city is also expecting long-term revenue increases from the installation of red-light cameras later this year (about \$300,000 a year in ticket fees to the city), and increased tax dol-

See **TAX CUT**, page 9

## Atherton’s water supply

### WATER

continued from page 5

builders and homeowners probably ought to be worried about, as well.

Cal Water has commissioned a 20-year master plan to identify and prioritize water system upgrade projects, but it’s not yet complete, said Darin Duncan, the district manager.

Atherton’s newer houses are about three times as big as what the water system was designed for, he said. There are a few areas of town that enjoy excellent water flow, including homes along Atherton and Valparaiso avenues, Mr. Duncan said.

However, about 80 percent of the water system in Atherton is inadequate for its big houses. The worst water flows tend to be in areas where the water pipes come to a dead-end, such as cul-de-sacs, he said.

“We know we have our work cut out for us,” Mr. Duncan said.

Until the comprehensive plan — and money to implement it — gets worked out, the inadequate water supply could potentially drive up costs of new-home construction.

At the May 21 meeting, trig-

gered by the critical San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury report on fire safety and Atherton’s building department, Atherton officials agreed to have fire district inspectors review construction plans for adequate water flow, among other things.

The bigger the house, the more water flow is required, and if it’s inadequate, it’s largely up to the homeowner to pay for improvements.

Fire suppression sprinkler systems cut water flow requirements in half, but many hydrants in town can’t meet even the reduced water flow requirements, said Chief Schapelhouman.

Builders who were the first on their block to replace a small home with a larger one probably didn’t have to worry about inadequate water flow.

“The last person to build, when there’s an inadequate water supply, gets hit with the cost (of upgrades),” said Atherton City Manager Jim Robinson.

Atherton City Council members said they want to see Cal Water’s master plan as soon as it’s completed, and would lend support to efforts to wring money out of the state Public Utilities Commission to help pay for the upgrades. ■

## MP police: 'Stranger danger' reports look like false alarms

■ West Menlo residents still seeking leads on car shootings.

By **Rory Brown**  
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park police have cleared one of the city's recently reported "stranger danger" incidents, and think a separate report of men trying to lure a young girl toward a van also was probably a false alarm.

Police have determined that a local man meant no harm when he approached two juvenile girls near the intersection of Middle Avenue and Windsor Drive on May 24, and told the girls he needed help finding his lost dog. The man lives in the nearby area, and was, in fact, just looking for his dog, said Police Cmdr. Lacey Burt.

Police are still investigating a separate incident that took place May 14, when an 11-year-old girl was reportedly approached by two men in a white van, but Cmdr. Burt said the incident may not be a legitimate con-

cern.

The girl was reportedly approached at the intersection of University Drive and Santa Cruz Avenue while walking to Hillview School, but according to the girl, the van was parked on the wrong side of the street and would have backed up traffic — something witnesses couldn't confirm.

### West Menlo shootings

Although the "stranger danger" incidents don't appear as threatening as initially reported, some 50 West Menlo residents attended a May 31 neighborhood meeting to express concerns over recent car shootings in their community.

Shootings have been reported on two dates — May 15 in the 1300 block of Crane Street and the 800 block of Hermosa Way, and May 21 in the 300 block of Santa Rita Avenue, police said. All three cars were empty, and

the shootings appear to be random.

A witness said the May 21 shooter was driving a white, four-door, mid-sized sedan, but officers have no other leads, Cmdr. Burt said. She said it may be the same shooter for all three cars, and some bullet fragments collected at the scenes of the shootings could confirm that.

"We've done a lot, but we're really no further along than we were at the beginning," she said.

In the meantime, police have increased patrols in the area, and West Menlo residents Mary Gilles and Ken Gardener have organized a neighborhood watch e-mail list, modeled after a similar tool used by residents of the Willows community.

To join, send an e-mail to [WestMenloPublicSafety@yahoo.com](mailto:WestMenloPublicSafety@yahoo.com).

Police have asked anyone with more information regarding the car shootings to call the department at 330-6300 or the anonymous tip line at 330-6395. ■

## MP cop accused of racism back on duty

By **Rory Brown**  
Almanac Staff Writer

Three black former Menlo Park police officers are suing the city on the basis of racial discrimination in the police department, but Police Chief Bruce Goitia said the matter has been investigated, and the department has moved on.

At a May 31 West Menlo community meeting regarding local crime, Chief Goitia said "outside

counsel" has already looked into allegations made by former police officers Keith Butler, Joseph Hinkston and Ken Clayton that they were discriminated against by Sgt. Ron Prickett.

He said the investigation lasted six months, and determined "there were not elements of racism evident in the police depart-

ment, nor was there evidence of a hostile work environment."

Sgt. Prickett was put on paid leave during the investigation, and has since returned to his role as patrol sergeant, Chief Goitia said.

Before the May 31 meeting, Chief Goitia told the Almanac he had no comment on the lawsuit, or any related issues.

*An investigation determined 'there were not elements of racism evident in the police department, nor was there evidence of a hostile work environment.'*

In a lawsuit filed with San Mateo County Superior Court in October, the three officers

allege that Sgt. Prickett "created an intimidating, hostile, abusive and offensive working environment" through a number of actions, including placing white-supremacist images in the workplace and calling their attention to them.

A jury trial for the lawsuit is tentatively set for Sept. 10. ■

## Motorcyclist arrested after crash in Portola Valley

A high-speed chase involving the California Highway Patrol and a reportedly stolen motorcycle came to a crashing end near the Village Square shopping center in Portola Valley at about 9:50 p.m. Wednesday, May 30.

The CHP arrested motorcyclist Brandon Hester, 21, of San Jose on felony charges that include residential burglary, evading arrest and hit-and-run, said Officer Eric Parsons of the CHP.

Mr. Hester suffered minor injuries in the crash and was released from Stanford Hospital the morning after the accident; he was then arrested, the CHP said.

The chase had begun at 9:20 p.m. on Interstate 280 just south of its intersection with Highway 92, when the motorcyclist sped away from the CHP, Officer Parsons said.

A motorcycle is faster and more maneuverable than a patrol car, but the officers managed to keep Mr. Hester in sight and saw him pull off and head west on Sand Hill Road, Officer Parsons said.

After he crashed, Mr. Hester ran and hid, the CHP said. With the arrival of deputies from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, the officers established a perimeter and discovered Mr. Hester among the buildings.

### TAX CUT

continued from page 8

lars from the Rosewood Hotel off Sand Hill Road, projected to open in September 2008 (\$600,000 in the 2008-09 fiscal year; \$1.2 million in 2009-10; and up to \$1.6 million in 2010-11 and beyond).

### More employees

Since the 2001-02 fiscal year, the city has cut 30 full-time-equivalent employee positions to cut costs, and now that revenues

are up, city staff is requesting the council approve funding to replenish the city's workforce.

Mr. Steffens and various city department heads are recommending that the council authorize salaries and benefits for five positions: two motorcycle police officers to enforce traffic safety; a transportation planner; a management analyst for the finance department; and an assistant for the business development manager's office. ■

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Archive photo by Barbara Wood

Tori Anthony at a pole vaulting event last year.

## Woodside's Tori Anthony sets national record in pole vaulting

Castilleja grad raises national outdoor mark to 14-1 while winning state meet

By Keith Peters

Tori Anthony of Woodside missed her graduation ceremony at Castilleja School on Saturday. She didn't, however, miss something else she's been shooting for all year.

While her classmates were wearing caps and gowns and receiving their diplomas, Tori was in her track gear in Sacramento accomplishing something never achieved before by a high school female.

Already the holder of the national indoor record in the girls' pole vault, Tori added the national outdoor mark to her growing resume while winning the event at the 89th annual CIF

State Track & Field Championships at Hughes Stadium on the campus of Sacramento City College.

She won her second straight state title with a clearance of

(2002), giving her three national records this season. Her indoor mark is 14-2 1/2.

"I had to miss my graduation ceremonies, so I was going to go home with something," said Tori, who next will compete at the Golden West Invitational in Folsom and then the U.S. Senior and Junior National Championships later this summer in Indianapolis.

The World Junior Record in the women's pole vault is 14-8 by Yelena Isinbayeva of Russia in 2001.

Tori also eclipsed the state meet record of 13-8 held by Shayla Ballentine of Morro Bay in 2001 by clearing 13-9. After raising the national record to 14-1, Tori took three attempts at 14-3, but missed. ■

Keith Peters writes for the Palo Alto Weekly, the Almanac's sister paper.

*'I had to miss my graduation ceremonies, so I was going to go home with something.'*

TRACK STAR TORI ANTHONY

14-1, which broke the previous national outdoor record of 14-0 by Tiffany Maskulinski (Iroquois High, Elma, N.Y.) in 2005.

She also broke the American Junior record (20-under) of 14-0 by Lacy Janson of Florida State

## Brix upsets Cashin & Co. in Little League playoffs

Dave Crowder  
Special to the Almanac

In Menlo-Atherton Little League playoff action, Brix rode the pitching and hitting of brothers Robert and Jack Larson to upset top seed Cashin & Co. 5-4 on June 2.

Cashin staged a furious four-run rally in the sixth inning, but fell just short of completing the comeback after stranding the bases loaded with one out.

In their last meeting, Cashin clobbered Brix 19-3 to claim the regular season championship and top seed in the playoffs.

In the June 2 game, pitcher Robert Larson retired the first nine batters he faced, and struck out eight batters while allowing just two hits through five innings against a very strong Cashin line-up.

Cashin mounted a rally in the bottom of the sixth when the first batter, Jackson Williams, singled to left. After Connor Lindquist walked, Joe Farnham hit a ball into the right center

field gap that Brix's outfielders couldn't come up with. Next up was Bobby Roth, whose hard-hit comebacker handcuffed Larson, who then overthrew first base leading to Cashin's first run of the game. The next batter, Harrison Shane, walked, making the score 5-2.

Larson struck out the next Cashin batter but exceeded the maximum number of pitches permitted by Little League rules, forcing Brix coach Larry McGill to make a pitching change.

Coach McGill opted to put in his son, Colin McGill, in the pressure-packed situation. After giving up a single and a walk to make the score 5-4, McGill earned the save after getting the next two batters to line-out and ground out.

"I was more nervous in that situation than Colin was," said Coach McGill after the game. "I asked Colin if he was nervous just before I put him on the mound, and he said 'just a little.'"

Continued on page 20

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# Friends, family, teachers gather to remember Daniel Barclay

M-A grad, Quiz Kid star 'made being smart hip'

By David Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

Tears flowed here and there Saturday, June 2, amid the hugs, animated conversation, periodic amusement and overarching grief permeating Menlo-Atherton High School's J Building as at least 300 friends and relatives gathered to remember Daniel Barclay — friend, wit, scholar and peerless Quiz Kid.

A 2003 graduate of M-A, Mr. Barclay's body was found April 20 on a Cape Cod beach along with the remnants of a raft and a bailing bucket. He had been missing for 12 days after telling a friend that he was going on an adventure. The cause of death was drowning.

Mr. Barclay, 22, was a polymath; he was to have graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology this month with degrees in economics and political science. He had accepted a job as a currency trader in Boston, relatives said.

At the center of the approximately two-hour celebration of his life were video clips from his four years of anchoring M-A's undefeated team in the Peninsula Quiz Kids contest, a college-bowl-like quiz show for Bay Area high schools.

Show host Brad Friedman chose clips in which he was regularly upstaged by Daniel, whose remarkable talent for sensing the direction of a question as it was being asked shone all the brighter for his unassuming demeanor.

"Daniel was one of those very rare people who was so self-realized," said former M-A principal



The Almanac/Veronica Weber

Sue Kayton, Daniel Barclay's mother, gets a hug from sister-in-law Judy Swartz following the celebration of Mr. Barclay's life.

Eric Hartwig. "He made being smart hip, a hard thing to do."

"He put his personal stamp on M-A and he put his personal stamp on our hearts," Mr. Hartwig added. "In some respects, Daniel was what we all wanted to be: right all the time."

His generosity in sharing what he knew with fellow students was exceptional, said Carol Taggart, his third-grade teacher at Oak Knoll School. She described Daniel as "a modest individual with extraordinary intelligence intermixed with his extraordinary brand of humor that made us all laugh."

For all his skills, Mr. Barclay did have a weakness or two. He slept a lot, his father, Michael Barclay, said — a habit the two of them memorialized with sleep-related cartoons on Daniel's bedroom door.

And he always had trouble tying a necktie, said his mother, Sue Kayton, who discovered a pre-tied tie in his closet at MIT.

Daniel's sister Rachel, also an M-A graduate, said she thought her brother would always be there for her. "Living without him is like waking up one day to discover that the world has lost gravity or the color blue," she said. ■

## Council to weigh in on Dumbarton Rail

The Menlo Park City Council has gotten an earful lately from residents concerned about the Dumbarton Rail project, and now it's the council's turn to weigh in on the matter.

At their June 5 meeting, council members are expected to sign off on a letter of questions and concerns about the proposed train system that would run across the Dumbarton rail bridge to connect Menlo Park and Redwood City to the East Bay.

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

The Dumbarton Rail system could be up and running by 2012, and would allow 12 commuter trains (six in the morning and six at night) to run through several Menlo

### ■ MENLO WATCH

Park neighborhoods, including Suburban Park, Belle Haven, and Lorelei Manor. Menlo Park residents say the project — especially if diesel passenger trains and freight trains are allowed to use the tracks — would create significant noise, vibration, and environmental impacts for surrounding neighborhoods.

The council's letter reflects neighbors' concerns, and will be sent to the Dumbarton Rail Corridor Project Policy Advisory Committee — a group of public officials assisting Caltrain in planning the project.

Among the issues included in the draft letter:

- Banning freight trains from using the rail line.
- Considering electric trains

to transport passengers rather than diesel trains.

■ Budgeting funds to mitigate noise and vibration impacts to Menlo Park residents.

### 'State of the City'

The city of Menlo Park's first "State of the City" address is set for 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 12.

It will be delivered in the council chambers at the Civic Center, and a reception will follow the event.

Mayor Kelly Fergusson will deliver the address, which is intended to give the mayor a chance to outline his or her views and goals regarding Menlo Park, according to Interim City Manager Kent Steffens.

Cities such as Palo Alto and Redwood City hold similar events.

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# County budget: steady this year but problems loom

■ Medical Center continues to drain county funds.

By Marion Softky  
Almanac Staff Writer

Boasted by a strong economy, San Mateo County can continue its budget at \$1.65 billion, add 60 new positions, and expand some programs next fiscal year, according to the 2007-08 budget released last week by County Manager John Maltbie.

But the county must also tackle a structural deficit in the budget that keeps draining its reserves — which remain at 20.8 percent of the budget.

“Overall the local economy is strong,” Mr. Maltbie said in his budget message. At the same time, he warned, “The county is rapidly spending its reserves and, if not addressed, structural budget deficits will grow exponentially.”

Health care is the county's biggest expense; it accounts for \$556 million — about one-third — of the proposed \$1.65 billion budget. The county is required to provide medical care for indigent patients; federal and state funds have not kept pace with needs, Mr. Maltbie said.

Other proposed allocations include:

■ \$268 million (16.3 percent) to criminal justice, including the sheriff's, district attorney, proba-

tion and related departments.

■ 229 million (13.9 percent) to community services, such as parks and recreation, public works, planning for the unincorporated areas, and libraries.

■ \$222 million (13.5 percent) to social services including Children, Youth and Family Services.

The proposed budget would also fund a strategic plan for alcohol and other drug treatment, reduce expensive overtime in the Sheriff's Office, and beef up a program to provide health insurance to all children in the county.

The Board of Supervisors will begin three days of public hearings on the proposed budget on Monday, June 25, at 9 a.m. in the board chambers, 400 County Center (corner of Bradford and Hamilton streets) in Redwood City.

## Medical dilemma

The San Mateo Medical Center will absorb \$229 million of the health budget — a \$12 million increase — for its hospital, 12 clinics, and two long-term care facilities. Funding these will require the county to contribute \$72.2 million from its general fund, including a \$17.9 million loan.

Budget officials estimate the county spends \$25 to \$35 million a year to take care of the medically indigent. This year it plans to perform a comprehensive review of its health-care system for the poor to develop an affordable

way to provide these services.

The budget also proposes to eliminate 30 positions at the Medical Center through consolidation, but add 22 to expand services at clinics and for pediatric care. There should be a net loss of eight jobs.

## Downside

Mr. Maltbie attributes the rising imbalance of revenues and expenses to a number of factors. For example, he said, salaries and benefits have risen 28 percent since fiscal year 2004-05, due to new employees, contract changes, and retirement benefits.

The county's fund balance, or reserves, are shown in the budget as \$343 million. Its structural deficit is \$24.9 million, according to Marshall Wilson, the county's communications manager.

The county has avoided deficits in two of the previous four years because the state has returned to the counties some property taxes that it had held onto, Mr. Maltbie noted.

“If we take prudent action now, the county can avoid the very difficult choices that other counties have had to make,” Mr. Maltbie said. But eliminating the structural deficit by 2013 will require “difficult decisions” by the Board of Supervisors, he warned.

The recommended budget can be viewed at the county web site: [co.sanmateo.ca.us/budget](http://co.sanmateo.ca.us/budget); or at the county manager's office, 400 County Center in Redwood City. ■

## POST and Sempervirens buy Little Basin for parkland

By Marion Softky  
Almanac Staff Writer

Little Basin, 535 forested acres adjacent to Big Basin State Park that have long been the special playground for employees, clients and friends of the Hewlett-Packard Company (HP) will now remain natural, and some day may become a public park.

The Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) and Sempervirens Fund have bought the property in the heart of the Santa Cruz Mountains from HP for \$4 million.

The two nonprofit land trusts hope eventually to transfer Little Basin to California State Parks for inclusion into Big Basin Park. Its 14 rustic cabins, 36 tent sites, picnic area, playgrounds, recreation hall and amphitheatre could make a major addition to California's oldest park.

“Little Basin presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to save a gloriously scenic and historic property that would otherwise be built up with luxury mansions and closed off from the public for good,” said POST President Audrey Rust.

Rising 2,000 feet above sea level, Little Basin is bordered by Big Basin on three sides. The property features scenic woodlands, an old-growth

redwood forest, wildlife, hiking trails, a reservoir, and two creeks — plus the recreational facilities established by HP.

Little Basin reflects the history of the area. Opened in 1885 as a logging operation, it was a cattle ranch in the 1930s, and a military surplus depot during World War II.

HP purchased it in 1963 under the direction of company founders David Packard and William Hewlett. Less than an hour's drive from Silicon Valley, the property served for individual use by HP employees as well as for corporate gatherings. Bill Hewlett himself designed the tables in the picnic area.

“Our foremost goal was to ensure the continued preservation of this beautiful site,” said Steve Brashear, vice president for real estate and workplace services at HP.

A consultant management team will oversee maintenance of the land until POST and Sempervirens negotiate its acquisition and transfer to a public agency — and its ultimate opening to the public.

Brian Steen, executive director of Sempervirens, hailed the partnership that preserved Little Basin. “This sets an exciting precedent for strategic collaboration in local land conservation in the San Francisco Bay Area,” he said. ■

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# The long view



THE ALMANAC/DAVID BOYCE

In his economics and psychology classes at Menlo-Atherton High School, Jim MacKenzie is regarded by students and fellow teachers as being as deeply committed to education as he is to making learning fun for everyone involved.

**W**hen the seniors in Jim MacKenzie's economics class at Menlo-Atherton High School took their final exam last week, they didn't need number 2 pencils, nor were they looking for the right multiple-choice dot to fill in on an answer sheet.

The exam posed 60 questions from which students were to pick 10 and write short essay answers. Among the questions:

■ "How serious is the water problem in California? How should the water be allocated?"

■ "Is the community college system a good investment for the

state of California? Why?"

■ "What should our economic relationship be with Mexico and Canada?"

The exam "calls for students to make a judgment (based) on a foundation of what they've learned in class," Mr. MacKenzie says.

Because economics reaches into daily life, Mr. MacKenzie says he tries to use the class to encourage critical thinking through a discussion of current events. A couple of times a week, he begins class with a tape of the previous night's televised news.

He forces himself to think critically, too. In avoiding computer-

*'We assume everybody is college material.*

*[Vocational skills are] no longer emphasized and I think it's a huge mistake. We're not going to outsource the building of our homes or our auto mechanic (work).*

*They're simply not being trained anymore.'*

JIM MACKENZIE

graded tests, he will spend four or five hours grading final exams for each of his eight economics classes.

He says he concentrates on essays from kids whose grades are at a tipping point, such as between an A and a B. He asks for answers that are concise, focused and "enjoyable to read."

Mr. MacKenzie's investment of time reflects broad education issues that resonate with him. Among them: the emphasis on high grade-point averages at the expense of learning to think and communicate, the apparent demise of vocational education, and the loss of local control of curriculums.

Cover Story by **David Boyce**

# Veteran M-A teacher Jim MacKenzie speaks up on the state of high school education as he heads into retirement

He talked about these topics with the Almanac on two recent early mornings in classroom B2, where he's taught senior economics and psychology. He could afford to be candid. With 25 years as an M-A teacher over a 40-year career, Mr. MacKenzie, 62, is retiring this month.

A Menlo Park native and graduate of M-A in 1963, Mr. MacKenzie's career there includes being named an All-American swimmer and water polo player as a student, and being inducted into the school's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1994.

## Driven by numbers

High school grade-point averages have been going up. Nationwide, they rose to 2.94 in 2000 from 2.68 in 1990, according to U. S. Department of Education figures.

Meanwhile, national studies show reading scores headed the other way. Students reading at or above basic levels dropped to 73 percent in 2005 from 80 percent in 1992. Among proficient readers — students asked to read a detailed piece of writing, make a critical judgment and explain their reasoning — the percentage dropped to 35 percent from 40 percent.

These trends may be a symptom of what Mr. MacKenzie says is an unhealthy and stressful focus on getting into a "good" college and scoring high on standardized tests, particularly in the spring.

For regular classes as well as advanced-placement and advanced-standing classes — essentially college-level courses — teachers have had to respond.

"What you do as a teacher is teach to the test," he says. "The person who determines what's important is the teacher who develops the test, not the teacher (in the classroom)



THE ALMANAC/VERONICA WEBER

**The friendly confines** of Jim MacKenzie's economics and psychology classroom at Menlo-Atherton High School need no fancy wallpaper, thank you very much. Mr. MacKenzie retires at the end of the month after 25 years at M-A and a 40-year teaching career.

and not the school district. I have a problem with that.

"Colleges don't really ask what you've learned. They want to see what your grade-point average is." But a talent for taking tests is not a job skill, he says. Employers look for original thinking, good communication skills and the ability to cooperate.

"We don't emphasize these things at all," he says. "We don't have time to, and I think that's a real oversight on the part of education."

As for AS and AP classes, Mr. MacKenzie says he refuses to teach them, in part because they strip away the enriching dynamics of a

*'Meeting the needs of (M-A's) student body, which I believe is one of the most unusual in the United States, is a real challenge.'*

JIM MACKENZIE

heterogeneous class. "I think you can make (regular) education just as challenging and just as rigorous."

Since AS and AP curriculums are based on AS and AP tests, he adds,

the focus is on teaching to the test. The result? Students focused on absorbing information to pass the tests lose the chance to learn durable and essential skills such as thinking critically, he says.

## Is college for all?

A higher percentage of low-income freshmen at "moderately selective" four-year colleges correlates with a higher percentage who don't graduate, according to a 2006 U.S. Department of Education study, "Placing College Graduation Rates in Context."

At colleges in which up to 20 percent of students receive federal aid, the average graduation rate is 69 percent, a rate that drops to 44 percent when 40 percent or more of students receive federal aid.

At M-A, federal aid is significant, with state figures showing 31 percent of students receiving free or reduced-price lunches. Nevertheless, an expectation to go to college seems to be in the school's DNA.

Of the 181 institutions listed on the school's Career Center Web page as having sent a recruiter to M-A recently, just two — the California Culinary Academy and the California Maritime

Academy — appear to have curriculums that are not purely academic.

Of the supplementary links listed on the Career Center Web site, 52 concern college and financial aid compared with four that discuss non-college options. College is the subject of every tip, every piece of parental advice and every "frequently asked" question.

"We assume everybody is college material," says Mr. MacKenzie. "We dissuade kids" from learning carpentry, plumbing or electrician skills. "This is something that's no

*Continued on next page*

## Painted Portraits

Artwork by  
**Johanna  
Uribes**



www.johannauribes.com  
juribes@sbcglobal.net  
650-368-1192



### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF MENLO PARK PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING OF JUNE 18, 2007

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

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

**Use Permit/Aron Fukuhara/324 Yale Road:** Request for a use permit to construct a new two-story, single-family residence on a substandard lot with regard to lot width in the R-1-U (Single Family Urban) zoning district, and for excavation within a required side setback.

**Conditional Development Permit Revision and Tentative Map Revision/SummerHill Homes/75 Willow Road:** Request for revisions to the conditional development permit and tentative subdivision map for modifications associated with the construction of 32 instead of 33 single-family residences, as outlined in the San Mateo County Superior Court Stipulated Judgment, and minor modifications associated with the architectural style of two residences and the dimensions of four lots.

**Use Permit/Unidym, Inc./1430 O'Brien Drive, Suite G:** Request for a use permit for indoor use and storage of hazardous materials for research and development of carbon nanotubes in the M-2 (General Industrial) zoning district.

**Use Permit/DNA 2.0/1430 O'Brien Drive, Suite E:** Request for a use permit for the indoor use and storage of hazardous materials for the research and development of synthetic genes manufacturing processes and protein engineering in the M-2 (General Industrial) 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 18, 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 31, 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 June 6, 2007.

## COVER STORY

### MACKENZIE

*continued from page 17*

longer emphasized and I think it's a huge mistake. We're not going to outsource the building of our homes or our auto mechanic (work). They're simply not being trained anymore."

M-A students can find vocational training in northern San Mateo County, but the implied question at M-A — "You want to go to college,

right?" — sends a signal that college is not a matter of if, but a matter of where, says M-A industrial arts teacher Mark Leeper.

Mr. Leeper says he knows of "a handful" of kids who dropped out of college after realizing they'd rather work with their hands. High school, he adds, needs to help kids "understand what they really like and what they're good at and help them value it."

College Information Specialist

Alice Kleeman, who works in the career center, says she agrees "100 percent" that more needs to be done for vocational education. At one time, she says, M-A had a grant that paid for a career specialist. "I would love it if we had someone like that again," she said in an e-mail.

The center's list of visiting school recruiters is biased toward colleges because career training

*Continued on next page*

## M-A teacher Jim MacKenzie will be missed in his retirement



THE ALMANAC/VERONICA WEBER

**Now he's here** but in September, social studies teacher Jim MacKenzie will have begun his retirement and what may be a difficult transition, at least for a while, for him and for his colleagues at Menlo-Atherton High School, his alma mater and workplace for the past 25 years.

### By David Boyce

*Almanac Staff Writer*

**C**lassroom B2 at Menlo-Atherton High School will have the same number on the door next fall, but longtime inhabitant Jim MacKenzie — an M-A graduate, an M-A parent and, for 25 years, a social studies teacher there — will be somewhere else.

He might be at home working on a history of M-A, or in his garden, or in the High Sierra building a cabin. These are some of his plans for retirement, which begins when this school year ends.

"It's hard for me to believe," he said, sitting in his empty classroom before the start of a 7:50 a.m. class. "Every September since 1950, I've been in school. It's going to be strange in September for me. That's when it's going to hit. I'm going to miss that. The truth is, it's going to be a difficult thing to leave."

It may be difficult for his colleagues, too.

"He has been my mentor and friend since the summer before I started at M-A (in) 1992. He is an amazing teacher," said social studies teacher Christina Galliano. "To say I will miss him is an understatement."

English teacher Liane Strub recalled a MacKenzie lesson perhaps not taught in teacher training but encountered during a classroom-management talk by a new teacher. The teacher noted ideas such as naming problem students on the board or having students vote in their own disciplinary procedures.

"The rather green and overly enthusiastic teacher who was leading the presentation turned to Jim and asked him what method he used to maintain discipline in his classroom," Ms. Strub recalled. "Jim looked the young teacher in the eye and said one word: 'Sarcasm.' Nothing like a little ribbing to keep a kid in line."

"What I love best about Jim is his desire to see every kid succeed,"

Ms. Strub continued. "He bends over backward to make both of his subjects — psychology and economics — accessible.

"His economics projects provide a way for kids to see the relevance of the 'dismal science' to their lives, and he's famous for his flexibility in testing. A student can argue the validity of a question, and earn the point back if his or her argument is sound."

Fun and real-life learning are the elements of a Jim MacKenzie class, said senior Stephen Hicks. "He really wants kids to learn."

The learning is not rote but independent, focused on the material rather than grades, and with no penalties for late work, Stephen said.

"I manage my time in his classes," he said. "I learned that for myself. I wasn't forced into that situation."

Some other teachers are "very rigid," he added. In Mr. MacKenzie's classes, "you can learn a life lesson and be independent and manage your own time." ■

Continued from previous page

schools tend not to include recruiting trips in their budgets, she says.

Profound career questions notwithstanding, more than 90 percent of M-A graduates do enroll in college, Ms. Kleeman says. How long they stay is another question, but she says it's a wiser choice to assume that kids are going to college and that they would be ill-served by being "funneled" into vocational careers that don't include college-prep classes.

**Bothered by bureaucracy**

Bureaucracy, both state and federal, drives education and is an abomination, Mr. MacKenzie says. "I believe the community knows better what their kids need than the president of the United States," he says. "Talk about being decentralized!"

The presidential reference is to the federal No Child Left Behind Act, a Bush administration program that dictates in detail what is expected from schools, uses standardized tests to measure results, and metes out penalties when the letter of law is not met.

M-A, because it missed some test participation and scoring targets, recently emerged from three years of No-Child act scrutiny.

The law is up for reauthorization and must be amended, Mr. MacKenzie says. "It's really important, I think, to recognize that we have a diverse group of children that we're educating."

M-A is unquestionably diverse, with 2,000 students drawn from largely white and wealthy Atherton and Menlo Park and relatively poor Hispanic, Pacific Islander and African-American families of East Palo Alto and Redwood City.

"Meeting the needs of this student body, which I believe is one of the most unusual in the United States, is a real challenge," he says.

There may be an advantage in M-A's red tape and sprawling diversity, Mr. MacKenzie says. Graduates may be better prepared than their private-school counterparts for the complexities of college and life after it. "It's another one of those skills you need. We don't coddle the kids so much here, but I think that's a real-life experience."

**Perceptions of M-A**

Mr. MacKenzie may be too close to M-A to be objective, but his long-term association with Menlo Park, Atherton (where he lives) and the school bring a unique perspective.

He attended Oak Knoll School when it was K-8, then went to M-A — as did his four brothers — and graduated in 1963.

His wife, Janet Hanbery, is a graduate of M-A, as are their two children. When he retires at the

end of the month, he plans, at some point, to write a history of the school.

The Almanac asked him to describe a public perception of M-A that pleases him. "The fact that there are many people in this community who could afford to send their kids anywhere they wanted and they sent them to M-A."

And a vexing perception? "Stereotypical" views of the school expressed at parties: the school is unsafe, or not sufficiently challenging, or not a gateway to the Ivy League.

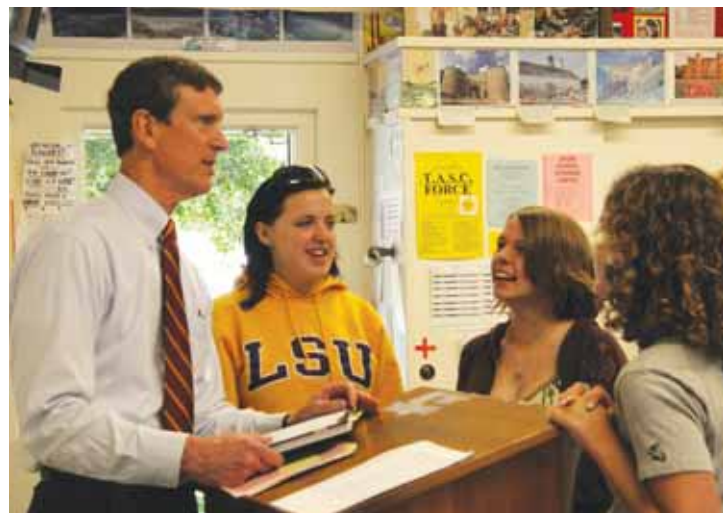
"I know that deep down, that

there's very little way you can change the opinions of these people," he says. "I see the real picture of what's going on here."

He says he regularly asks seniors how they feel about safety. "They never feel they're in real danger here," he says. "I don't think everybody belongs at M-A. I think some people are better off in a cloistered environment." ■

**A sense of humor,** subject knowledge, dedication, patience and collegiality are key to success as a teacher, says Jim MacKenzie.

THE ALMANAC/DAVID BOYCE



Kepler's  
BOOKS MAGAZINES

GO-GREEN SUMMER SERIES



Kepler's is pleased to announce a new summer series, GO-GREEN. We, in conjunction with a large group of other concerned organizations, will present programs on various topics to explore ways to improve our environment and create a healthier community. The series will tie in to the City of Menlo Park and its' Green Ribbon Citizen Committee's efforts to become a Cool City – a city committed to stopping global warming.

**JUNE 10**

Sunday, June 10, 4:00 - 7:00p.m. - Kepler's GO-GREEN SERIES KICK-OFF  
Hosted by Clark Kepler and Menlo Park Mayor Kelly Fergusson  
Ceremony to honor Menlo Park as a Sierra Club Cool City

Overview on Climate Change and how in suburban areas Energy Efficiency, along with transportation play a key role, by PG&E.

Overview on energy saving upgrades and customized conservation for your household by Acterra.

Green organizations will have display tables.

**JUNE 20**

Wednesday, June 20, 8:00p.m. - Kepler's THE GREEN MOVEMENT – the Coalition of Social Justice and Environmental Organizations



Paul Hawken, Author  
*Blessed Unrest: How the Largest Movement in the World Came into Being and Why No One Saw It Coming*

**JUNE 27**

Wednesday, June 27, 8:00p.m. - Kepler's ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOR OUR FUTURE, presented by Hidden Villa

Laurel and Encinal School representatives will present their "zero waste lunch" program.

Award winning solar schools program and other educational and community environmental initiatives will be presented by PG&E.

**JULY**

Independence from Oil - Green Transportation  
Wednesday, July 4, 11:30 a.m. -2:30 p.m.  
Burgess Park

What Can I Do? – Global Warming Essential Guide  
Wednesday, July 11, 8:00 p.m. – Kepler's

Youth in Nature  
Wednesday, July 18, 4-7pm – Arastradero Preserve

Organic Foods  
Thursday, July 26, 8:00 p.m. – Kepler's

Children's Go-Green Story Time  
Sunday, July 29, 11:30am – Kepler's

**AUGUST**

Eco-Travel  
Wednesday, August 1, 8:00 p.m. – Kepler's

Building Green  
Wednesday, August 8, 8:00 p.m. – Kepler's

Sunset on the Bay - The Importance of Open Space  
Saturday, August 11, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. – Bayfront Park

GO-GREEN Summer Series Closing Event: Changing the World, One Person at a Time  
Sunday, August 19, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. – Kepler's



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PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS:



## Supervisors to consider new lobbying ordinance

San Mateo County supervisors on Tuesday, June 5, will consider an ordinance aimed at making lobbying more transparent to the public.

The proposed legislation, authored by Supervisor Rich Gordon, would require anyone who lobbies county supervisors or their aides to register with the office of the county counsel and file reports of their lobbying activities every six months, according to Mr. Gordon's office.

The supervisors' meeting begins at 9 a.m. Tuesday in their chambers at 400 County Center in Redwood City.

"It is important that the public know who is attempting to influence their elected officials," said Mr. Gordon. "As elected officials we have a duty to the community to ensure the process is open and public."

The county counsel's office is

reviewing ways to make lobbying records public, including possibly posting them online, said Andrew Berthelsen, a legislative aide to Mr. Gordon.

Supervisors will also consider a resolution that would set a \$100

*'It is important that the public know who is attempting to influence their elected officials.'*

SUPERVISOR RICH GORDON

lobbyist registration fee.

More information about the proposed can be found at [www.co.sanmateo.co.us/smc/county/home](http://www.co.sanmateo.co.us/smc/county/home) and click on the Board of Supervisors link on the left side of the Web page.

Bay City News Service

## Little League playoffs

Continued from page 11

On the save, Colin said, "After Sam (Crowder) caught the line drive to get the second out, I knew I could get the final out."

Brix had the much-needed five-run cushion heading into the sixth inning thanks to some timely hitting.

Brandon Kurtz singled to center in the third inning, scoring Campbell Roellig, who stole third earlier in the inning on a fake bunt by Scott Crowe.

After a ground ball force out at second, Jack Larson hit a two-out, two-run home run — his first of the year.

Brix added to its lead in the fourth inning when Robert Larson led off with an infield single

and moved to second on a bad throw to first. After Hidalgo's groundball moved Larson to third with one out, Colin McGill drove him in with a groundout to make the score 4-0. Brix scored its last run in the sixth inning when Sam Crowder singled with one out, and scored after two passed balls and an errant throw.

"Offense by Jack and great pitching by Robert put us in position to beat Cashin," Coach McGill said. "Our team has really come together during the playoffs, and our outfield defense has made a difference in our two wins."

Before the June 2 game, Brix beat defending champion Draeger's 7-1, and Cashin — behind

a Ricky Galliani grand slam — beat Morgan Stanley 12-5.

Menlo-Atherton Little League playoff action continues this week, culminating in Saturday's 11 a.m. championship game at Harrison Field at Burgess Park. The Little League is holding "Player Appreciation Day" from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., featuring a mini-carnival, a BBQ (free for all Little League players), and a raffle.

In other playoff action on Saturday, third seed Lutticken's extended its season by defeating Draeger's by the score of 10-3 behind the pitching of Michael Holloway; Morgan Stanley's Andrew Lim capped off a fine season with a two run homer; and Goetz defeated Morgan Stanley 8-5 as Keenan Carr had three hits.

Dave Crowder is vice president of Menlo-Atherton Little League.

## They're good sports at M-A High

In recognition of its good sportsmanship, Menlo-Atherton High School is this year's recipient of the second annual Peninsula Athletic League's Commissioner's Cup.

M-A is the second school to receive the cup in the two-year-old award program.

Schools' varsity teams earn points toward the award by their order of finish in league

play, with bonus points given to teams that complete a season without any ejections of players or coaches.

When such ejections occur, the PAL penalizes a school one point for each one.

M-A gets to retain the silver cup for the next 12 months, when it will be rotated to the next recipient.

"Menlo-Atherton is very

proud of the hard work and dedication of their coaches, parents and athletes for earning this fine recognition," said Principal Denise Plante.

The award is meant to encourage "an atmosphere of positive competition and sportsmanship between all the schools in the league," said Susan Berghouse, a spokeswoman for the Sequoia Union High School District.

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and views on



www.AlmanacNews.com

## Barbecuing vegetarian style

A backyard barbecue with a vegetarian menu may seem incongruous to some, but do not count the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA among them.

The Humane Society is offering a two-hour class in vegetarian cooking — called Burgers & Backyard Bites — that starts at 11 a.m. Sunday, June 10. Leading the class will be notable vegetarian chef, nutritionist and animal rights activist Colleen Patrick-Goudreau.

Tickets are \$25 and advance registration is required. The

class takes place at the animal shelter's auditorium at 12 Airport Blvd. in San Mateo.

The menu of "mouthwatering vegetarian food" for the class includes Thai slaw, walnut-mushroom burgers, potato salad and no-bake strawberry pie, said Scott Delucchi, spokesman for the Humane Society.

The event is part of the Humane Society's Creature Features program. For more information, call 340-7022, ext. 369.

For more information about Ms. Patrick-Goudreau, go to [www.compassionatecooks.com](http://www.compassionatecooks.com).

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This space is donated as a community service by the Palo Alto Weekly.

# Vintage Affaire wine auction celebrates 25 years

Gala event benefits center for the blind

By Karen MacLaughlin  
Special to the Almanac

A private estate in Woodside will be the setting for Vintage Affaire 2007, the 25th annual wine auction that benefits Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, on Saturday, July 21.

The sponsors hope to raise at least \$400,000 to benefit the center, which serves over 1,400 clients and their families each year through rehabilitation, counseling, job development, and other programs that "promote independence and improve quality of life."

Vintage Affaire has raised more than \$5 million for Vista

Center over the past 24 years.

Bob Hockey of Menlo Park and Suzanne Legallet of Atherton are among the seven people who will be honored for their contributions to Vintage Affaire since the first wine tasting and auction event was organized 25 years ago.

Before the auction, guests will be invited to stroll through the estate gardens and sample fine wines and hors d'oeuvres prepared by notable chefs from the Peninsula and the Coastside.

Mark Sullivan, executive chef of The Village Pub in Woodside, is one of seven chefs featured. His culinary contribution, which he recommends pairing with a champagne, Riesling, or

sauvignon blanc, will be "Fresh Heirloom Tomato Gazpacho," served with garlic croutons seasoned with parsley chiffonade.

Wild boar ravioli, tangy semolina shells with mung bean "chaat," chilled summer pea soup with crab and mint salad, and grilled chiapetti lamb with licorice barbecue sauce will be offered by other chefs. The baccala gratinato (salt cod baked in a cream sauce) prepared by Donato Scotti of La Strada on University Avenue in

Palo Alto promises to illustrate his credo that "all food should be comfort food."

California vintners represented include: Amici, Arietta, Chateau Potelle, Duckhorn, Far Niente, Hanzell, HdV, Jones Family, Michaud, Murietta's Well, Ramey, Rubicon, Silver Oak, and Testarossa, among others.

Guests may bid on wine lots from hard-to-find California vintages; first-growth French Bordeaux, and vineyards "Down

Under"; a VIP winery tour and luncheon for six in Napa; and a "Great Gatsby" party for 100 in Atherton.

A string quartet will accompany the silent auction. Fritz Hatton and Ursula Hermacinski, both formerly of Christie's, will gavel the live auction that follows. The festivities will conclude with a gourmet supper served at sunset.

Tickets are \$250 per person and are available now. To receive an invitation, call Vista Center at 858-0202 or complete the online form at [www.vintageaffaire.org](http://www.vintageaffaire.org). ■

## Annual 'Hounds' stable tour set for this Sunday

The Los Altos Hounds organization 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 and 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 Woodside Town Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, at the corner of Whiskey Hill Road. They cost \$25 per person; children under 5 are admitted free. Luncheon tickets are \$25 and advance registration is suggested.

Send a check, made payable to LAH, 150 Golden Oak, Por-

### AROUND THE TOWN


tola Valley, CA 94028. Include your name, the number of tour tickets and the number of luncheon tickets desired. For more information, call 851-2551.

### Summer Book Sale

Children's books and videos, and light reading for adults will be available at the "Summer Reading Mini-Sale," sponsored by the Friends of the Menlo Park Library, on Saturday, June 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The sale is held in the Menlo Park Library meeting room, downstairs at 800 Alma St. Prices range from \$1 to \$2 and proceeds benefit the children's reading and adult literacy programs.

For more information, call Carol Water at 330-2521.




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- Tuesdays, June 5 - 26
- ✱ **BREASTFEEDING SEMINAR**  
While breastfeeding is natural, the process may not come as naturally as one might expect. Our certified lactation consultant provides tips for breastfeeding success as well as information about prenatal preparation for breastfeeding.  
- Thursday, June 21
- ✱ **INFANT & CHILD CPR**  
As part of our "Baby Safe Program," parents and other childcare providers will learn the techniques of infant and young child CPR and obtain essential information about environmental and transportation safety for newborns.  
- 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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**MENLO PARK FIRE  
PROTECTION DISTRICT  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED  
BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007/2008**

NOTICE IS GIVEN pursuant to California Health and Safety Code §13893 as follows:

1. The District Board of Menlo Park Fire Protection District Preliminary Budget for Fiscal year 2007/08. Copies of the Proposed Budget are available for examination by interested persons during regular business hours at the District's Offices, 300 Middlefield Road Menlo Park, California

2. The District Board will conduct a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday June 19, 2007 in the classroom at Station One, 300 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park, California to consider adoption of the final budget. The purpose of the Public Hearing will be to hear any person regarding any item in the budget or regarding the adoption of other items.

3. The public hearing conducted on Tuesday June 19, 2007 may be continued from time to time at the discretion of the District Board.

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on May 30, June 6, 2007.

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# Kepler's launches 'Go-Green' series of summer programs

Events will include authors' talks, demonstrations, and trips to parks and preserves

Clark Kepler, CEO of Kepler's, and Menlo Park Mayor Kelly Fergusson will host the kickoff event June 10 for a series of 12 Kepler's programs this summer that address the threat of global warming and what can be done about it.

Kepler's is organizing the "Go-Green Summer Series" in partnership with a number of local organizations. The series will include authors' talks, demonstrations, and trips to parks and preserves.

Most of the events, including the kickoff on Sunday, June 10, from 4 to 7 p.m., will be held at the bookstore at 1010 El Camino Real in Menlo Park.

At the June 10 program, the Sierra Club will honor the city of Menlo Park for adopting the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, which commits the city to adopt measures that reduce greenhouse gases.

In addition, Keith Reed, customer energy efficiency manager at PG&E, will discuss suburban energy use and transportation. Acterra, the Palo Alto-based environmental group, will give a presentation on energy-saving upgrades and a conservation plan for the home.

Among the authors partici-

pating in the Go-Green series are Paul Hawken ("Blessed Unrest: How the Largest Movement in the World Came into Being and Why No One Saw It Coming"), Sherry Boschert ("Plug In Hybrids: The Cars that will Recharge America"), Jessica Prentice ("Full Moon Feast: Food and the Hunger for Connection"), Jean Rusmore

**'We're all committed to walking more softly [on the planet], but we just don't know how.'**

CLARK KEPLER

("Peninsula Trails"), and Sissel Waage ("Ignition: What You Can Do to Fight Global Warming and Spark a Movement").

Kepler's will host story times for kids, too, including a reading of Alan Zweibel's "Our Tree Named Steve," and Graeme Base's "Uno's Garden."

A partial list of the local organizations participating in Go Green are: Cool Eat, Encinal and Laurel schools' "No Waste" programs, Friends of the Bayfront Park, GreenCareerCentral,

com, Hidden Villa, Menlo Park Green Ribbon Citizens Committee, PG&E, Peninsula Open Space Trust, Sierra Club-Loma Prieta Chapter, SRI International, Sun Microsystems, Sunset Magazine, Summit Travel Group/Eco Adventures, and TechShop.

## Elevating awareness

Mayor Fergusson said she is delighted that Kepler's is taking the initiative to elevate community awareness about how people can "tread more lightly on the planet."

"We're all committed to walking more softly, but we just don't know how," Mr. Kepler said in an interview.

The series, he said, is intended to help residents "have fun" in the process of learning how to improve the environment.

Kristi Breisch of Menlo Park, one of the organizers of the series, said a goal is to keep presentations as family-oriented as possible and give people concrete tips on how to change wasteful habits and "go green."

## INFORMATION

For more information about "Go Green" events, go to [www.keplers.com](http://www.keplers.com), place your cursor on the "Programs + Events" link in the navigation bar on the left, and select "Go-Green Events."

## A look at the 'Go-Green' program

Below are brief descriptions of the 12 programs of the Go-Green summer series. All events are at Kepler's bookstore, 1010 El Camino Real in Menlo Park, unless otherwise stated.

■ Wednesday, June 10, from 4 to 7 p.m. Clark Kepler, CEO of Kepler's, and Menlo Park Mayor Kelly Fergusson host the kickoff event. Sierra Club honors Menlo Park for adopting the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. Keith Reed of PG&E discusses suburban energy use. Acterra gives a presentation on energy-saving upgrades and a conservation plan for the home.

■ Wednesday, June 20, at 8 p.m.: Author Paul Hawken on "The Green Movement: the Coalition of Social Justice and Environmental Organizations."

■ Wednesday, June 27, at 8 p.m.: Alice Valentine from Laurel and Encinal schools will discuss the "No Waste Program." Garth Harwood,

director of Hidden Villa education programs, will talk about how environmental issues are being addressed for the young and very young. PG&E on the "solar schools" and other community initiatives.

■ Wednesday, July 4, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Burgess Park. Menlo Park's Independence Day celebration. Kepler's will sponsor a tent that will have information on green transportation and independence from oil. Sherry Boschert, author of "Plug-In Hybrids: The Cars that will Recharge America," plans to be there.

■ Wednesday, July 11, at 8 p.m. Focus on the book, "Ignition: What You Can Do to Fight Global Warming and Spark a Movement."

■ Wednesday, July 18, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Arastradero Preserve. Join high school students and Acterra representatives for an inter-active, hands-on event.

■ Thursday, July 26, at 8 p.m. Jessica Prentice on "Full Moon Feast: Food and the Hunger for Connection."

■ Sunday, July 29, at 11:30 a.m. "Children's Go-Green Story Time."

■ Wednesday, Aug. 1, at 8 p.m. "Eco-Travel," hosted by Mark Corpus of the Summit Travel Group. Presenter: Alma Megeath, president of Eco-Adventures.

■ Wednesday, Aug. 8, at 8 p.m. "Building Green." A number of green-building specialists will speak.

■ Saturday, Aug. 11, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Bayfront Park in Menlo Park. Members of the Friends of Bayfront Park will lead three walks: art walk, bird walk, salt pond restoration project.

■ Sunday, Aug. 19, from 4 to 7 p.m., "Closing Event: Changing the World, One Person at a Time." Includes a presentation on Al Gore's Climate Project.

# A reporter's brief encounter with World War II

By David Boyce  
 Almanac Staff Writer

Life was slower 65 years ago, when men in uniform packed themselves into propeller-driven bombers like the B17, B24 and B25 and fought their way through enemy flak and around fighter aircraft to their bombing targets in Europe and the Pacific.

The unique multi-engine rumble from one of each of these planes visited Bay Area skies recently as they took paying passengers for rides out of Mountain View's Moffett Field.

The three bombers flew in from Hollister on May 16 accompanied by about 20 guests, including some World War II veterans and an Almanac reporter, one of two passengers in the dual-engine B25 Mitchell. Joseph Heller immortalized the B25 in "Catch 22," his sardonic 1961 best-selling novel about World War II.

If a B25 illustrates anything, it is the embodiment of absolute economy of materials and a single purpose: carrying eight 500-pound bombs to a target, dropping them, and getting back home. For defense, the plane has machine guns in front, on top and along the sides — the waist guns.

This reporter, who spent the entire flight in the bright sun up behind the plexiglass-enclosed nose gun and bomb sight, felt a piercing vulnerability and sense of stark abandonment in being separated from the relative safety of the fuselage by an 8-foot-long passage that has the height, width and claustrophobic qualities of an air-conditioning duct.

It seemed a desperate machine for a desperate time. ▀



The Almanac/David Boyce

**Dusky Silicon Valley** terrain and May sunshine conspire to camouflage these two heavy bombers — the B17 Flying Fortress, with the single vertical stabilizing fin, and the B24 Liberator. In the foreground is part of the bomb sight of a B25 Mitchell bomber.



The Almanac/David Boyce

**Full-time B25 pilot** Jim Harley forces compression in the radial engine of the bomber so as to expel excess oil (seen dripping on the tarmac) from the cylinders.



The Almanac/David Boyce

**The view was excellent**, as it had to be for the nose-gunner in the B17 Flying Fortress. This restored plane, including bullet belts, and two other American bombers visited Moffett Field recently to take paying passengers up for brief flights over the Bay Area.



The Almanac/David Boyce

**The plexiglass canopy** on the nose of this World War II-era B25 Mitchell bomber indicates the station of the bombardier and nose gunner, both jobs performed by the same man, when required, in this cramped and vulnerable space.



Photo courtesy of David Gregg

Coach Wayne Rickert, from left, Sarah Gregg, Caroline Clark, Cassie Annunziata, Andrea Panayides, and Pauline Nguyen at Lake Natoma in Sacramento on May 19.

## Rowing champs to compete in Ohio

Menlo School students Sarah Gregg, 17, of Menlo Park and Caroline Clark, 18, are two of the crew members who will compete in the U.S. Rowing National Youth Championships on Saturday, June 9, after winning the NorCal Southwest regional rowing championship

last month.

The crew clocked in at 8 minutes and 5 seconds at the regional contest on May 19 in Sacramento, racing against teams in the lightweight women's 4+ category from California, Arizona, and Nevada.

The national championship

will be held in Cincinnati.

Cassie Annunziata, 16, of Notre Dame High School in Belmont, Andrea Panayides, 17, of Palo Alto High School, and Pauline Nguyen, 16, of Harker School in San Jose make up the rest of the team.

## Museum show shines light on 100 years of changes

A century of technological and domestic changes from "laundry room to living room" will be the focus of "Look How things Have Changed" at the Museum of American Heritage from June 16 through November 4.

The museum is located in the historic Williams House at 351 Homer Ave. in Palo Alto.

The exhibit, sponsored by Frank Livermore Trust and the Moore Family Foundation, is open Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4

p.m. Architectural tours of the Williams House are given at 2 p.m. on Saturdays. Admission is free.

The museum's mission is to provide "hands-on education to engage and encourage the public, especially youth, to understand and appreciate the history of technology as a stimulus for the creative mind," according to its statement.

For more information, call 321-1004 or log on to [www.moah.org](http://www.moah.org).


## New varsity basketball coach named for M-A High

With Craig Carson having recently retired as head coach of varsity basketball at Menlo-Atherton High School, a hiring committee has named another coach with championship experience to take over.

The new coach is Phillip White, who has 13 years of experience as a coach. During those years, he led two teams

to championships: as varsity head coach at San Jose's Overfelt High School in 2005, and earlier, as junior-varsity head coach at Sacred Heart Prep in Atherton, said M-A Principal Denise Plante.

Mr. White is a San Jose police officer and is planning to be married in July, Ms. Plante said.

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### Community Health Education Programs June 2007

Web site • [www.pamf.org](http://www.pamf.org) E-mail • [publicaffairs@pamf.org](mailto:publicaffairs@pamf.org)

#### Events & Lectures

**"ACL and Meniscal Injuries of the Knee"**  
Tuesday, June 12, 7 – 8:30 p.m.  
**Frank Chen, M.D., PAMF Orthopedics**

Dr. Chen will discuss anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) and meniscal injuries, the most common knee injuries, particularly among athletes. You will learn about diagnosis for these injuries and available surgical and nonsurgical treatment options.

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

**"Evaluation of Chest Pain"**  
Monday, June 25, 3:30 – 5 p.m.  
**Reena Ramrakhiani, M.D., PAMF Cardiology**

Dr. Ramrakhiani will discuss what factors go into evaluating chest pain, including weighing specific risk factors for women and men, and decisions about what tests to perform.

#### Classes

**"Supermarket Wise," Wednesday, June 6, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**  
Learn techniques for making healthier food choices in a local supermarket with dietitian Karen Ross, M.S., R.D.

**"What You Need to Know About Warfarin," Wednesday, June 20, 6 – 8 p.m.**  
Learn what warfarin is, why you are taking it and how you can help yourself.

**"Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Program," July 9 – August 27, 6:30 – 9 p.m.**  
**Free orientation on Monday, June 25, 6:30 – 9 p.m.** This program is designed to help people to deal effectively with physical and emotional stress by providing training in breathing, meditation and gentle yoga.

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

#### Support Groups

Cancer (1st & 3rd Tuesdays) • Diabetes (1st Wednesday) • Multiple Sclerosis (2nd & 4th Mondays) • Sleep Apnea (1st Thursday) • Alcohol and Drug Education (Every Tuesday) • Healing Imagery for Cancer Patients (June 6 & 20)

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

## Inspirations



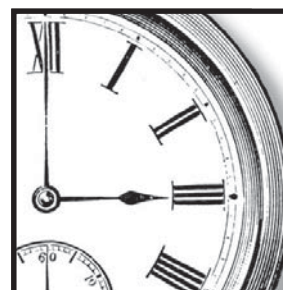
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A resource for special events and ongoing religious services. To inquire about or make space reservations for inspirations or for our Local Resource Guides, please contact Blanca Yoc at 650-326-8210 x221 or email [byoc@paweb.com](mailto:byoc@paweb.com)

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# Menlo Park cyclist seriously injured in crash with car

■ Second vehicle vs. bike accident on Sand Hill Road in four days.

By Andrea Gemmet  
Almanac Staff Writer

A Menlo Park mother is in critical condition after receiving major injuries when her bicycle collided with a car at the intersection of Sand Hill and Portola roads in Woodside on Monday, May 28.

Debra Weil, 51, of Menlo Park was taken by ambulance to Stanford Hospital, said Lt. Ken Jones of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office. The accident is still under investigation, he said.

The collision was the second vehicle vs. bicyclist accident on Sand Hill Road in a four-day period. Portola Valley resident Rodney Smith was killed May 25 while bicycling on Sand Hill,

just west of Interstate 280.

Ms. Weil was riding a bicycle westbound on Sand Hill Road around 11 a.m. when an eastbound car turned left in front of her, onto Portola Road, according to a witness account. She struck the passenger-side door of the car, driven by William Dempsey, 23, of Portola Valley, Lt. Jones said.

David Weil said his wife suffered severe injuries to her face and arms, and last week, she successfully underwent her second major facial reconstruction surgery. She has been under heavy sedation, he said.

She typically rides her bike along Sand Hill Road every weekend, Mr. Weil said. A

witness told him that Ms. Weil screamed at the driver to stop when the car turned left in front of her, but that she was traveling downhill and had only 15 feet or so to react, so she apparently couldn't stop or change course in time.

"The force of the collision was terrifying," said Jess Parks, a witness who gave a written account of the accident to Mr. Weil. "Sadly, Debra did not go over the hood of the car. She went directly head-first (face-first) into the side of the car."

There were four witnesses to the accident whom investigators with the Sheriff's Office will be interviewing, Lt. Jones said. ■

## ■ OBITUARIES

### Charles Mills Ernst

WWII veteran and federal administrator

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, June 21, for Charles Mills Ernst, who died of heart failure in Porterville on May 12. He was 90.

Mr. Ernst was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and graduated in 1939

from Whitman College, where he was a member of BetaThetaPi. He then attended Harvard School of Business and Public Administration and worked for the Department of Agriculture until 1942,

when he received his commission in the U.S. Navy.

Family members said it was there, among the newly inducted WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service), that Mr. Ernst "gazed across a sea of desks" and saw his future wife, Helen Elizabeth Julius. They were married in San Francisco in 1944.

Lt. Ernst and his fellow crewmen earned 11 battle stars while serving aboard the U.S.S. Monterey in the Pacific theater from the Gilbert Islands to the Philippines. He met his friend, Lt. Gerald Ford, while on board, and the two remained friends through the decades after the war. Lt. Ernst joined the Naval Reserve after his war service, retiring in 1973 with the rank of captain.

Family members said one of his proudest moments was swearing his son, Charles John, into naval service.

In 1960, after an eight-year residence in New York and Washington, D.C., Mr. Ernst and his family were relocated to Menlo Park, where he worked as Western Regional administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service of the Department of Agriculture until



Charles Ernst

his retirement in 1974.

He loved to play golf at Stanford and was considered a "consummate gentleman," friends said.

He is survived by his wife, Helen, of Menlo Park; a son, Charles Ernst, of Sierra Vista, Arizona; a daughter, Victoria Stark, of Porterville; a brother, David Ernst, of Cape Cod; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

The memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. on Thursday, June 21, at St. Bede's Episcopal Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park.

The family requests that donations in Mr. Ernst's name be made to Cardiac Therapy Foundation, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto 94303, or to the charity of the donor's choice.

### Henry M. K. Chan

Atherton businessman

Henry M. K. Chan died in Atherton on Saturday, May 26. He was 88.

Mr. Chan was born in Guan-gong, China, in 1919. He earned his bachelor's degree in English literature from West China University and married HongLin Chau in 1948.

In 1966, Mr. Chan and his family immigrated to the United States, where he began his own import/export business. He retired and moved to Atherton in 1984.

Mr. Chan enjoyed tending his roses and bonsai plants and loved to write poetry, the family said.

He is survived by his wife, HongLin Chan; sons John Chan of Atherton and Paul Chan of Hawaii; daughters, Alice Teng of Menlo Park and Rose Chan of Atherton; and four grandchildren.

Mr. Chan was buried in Alta Mesa Cemetery in Palo Alto on June 1 after a memorial service held at the Spangler Mortuary in Los Altos.



Henry Chan

## ■ POLICE CALLS

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

### ATHERTON

#### Theft reports:

- PlayStation2 stolen, Selby Lane School at 160 Selby Lane, May 24.
- Boy's blue 10-speed bicycle stolen, Laurel School at 95 Edge Road, May 29.

### MENLO PARK

#### Fraud reports:

- Unauthorized use of credit card, 2100 block of Menalto Avenue, Road, May 26.
- Unauthorized use of credit card information to make several purchases, reported at police station, May 29.

#### Theft reports:

- Cell phone stolen, Round Table Pizza at 1225 El Camino Real, May 25.
- Shoplifters arrested, Draeger's Supermarket at 1010 University Drive, May 25 and May 31.
- Camcorders stolen, Ritz Camera at 715 Santa Cruz Ave., May 25 and May 30.
- Purse stolen, 700 block of Laurel Street, May 28.
- Eyeglass frames stolen, LensCrafters at 700 El Camino Real, May 31.

### WOODSIDE

**Stolen vehicle report:** Construction vehicle and concrete-pumping trailer stolen from vacant site, 100 block of Northgate Drive, May 30.

## United Way offers 24/7 'help line'

The United Way is offering confidential, free phone referral service for a variety of needs, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The service, available in more than 150 languages, provides live operators who answer questions about where to get food, shelter, counseling, employment, child care, elder care, volunteer opportunities, and more, says Stacie Dong of the United Way.

She invites parents to call for information about summer programs for kids, including day, residential, therapeutic, and special-interest camps.

The number to call for San Mateo County is 800-273-6222. For more information, go to [www.211bayarea.org](http://www.211bayarea.org).

## ■ BIRTHS

### Atherton

- Linda and Joshua Mills, a son, May 8, at Sequoia Hospital.

### Menlo Park

- Stephanie and Nathan Bowen, a son, May 3, at Sequoia Hospital.

### Woodside

- Kelly and Gregory Golub, a daughter, May 3, at Sequoia Hospital.

## LETTERS

continued from page 27

ment that Menlo Park has a higher percentage of multi-family homes than other cities in our area.

I'd like to see just how we compare with Redwood City, Palo Alto, Mountain View and San Mateo.

These cities shame us in creating housing solutions for people who need or want other options besides single-family homes. At the same time, they understand and are reaping the environmental benefits of infill, transit-oriented housing.

Mr. Druehl suggests that the only form of housing that isn't high density is single-family housing. Really? There are quite

a lot of us who live in Menlo Park in apartments and duplexes who don't think we live in high density housing.

Having one transit-oriented housing complex does not give Menlo Park the right to think that it is doing its share. We lag far behind our neighbors, unless you are comparing us to Atherton. Even Woodside just approved multi-family faculty housing at Canada College.

On our El Camino corridor, we already have the four-story Schwab building, the 40-unit per acre Glenwood Retirement Inn and the Park Forest apartment building has three-plus stories. None of these buildings

is new but the result is the same. In spite of their height or density, they have not managed to destroy Menlo Park's character.

Well-designed, well-landscaped transit-oriented housing adds vitality to its surrounding neighborhood. Its residents benefit with convenient, walkable and in some cases, affordable, housing. Merchants benefit with increased customers and the city benefits with more revenue.

Menlo Park has a unique opportunity to create a vibrant downtown, help reduce our carbon impact and provide much needed housing, all at the same time.

Elizabeth Lasensky  
Fremont Street, Menlo Park

## Dog walkers need a trail on Coalmine Ridge

Editor:

I am writing to express my feelings about dogs on Coalmine Ridge trails in Portola Valley.

As you know, I was hoping that the mediation group would be able to find a compromise, and keep just one trail on Coalmine available to dog walkers. The only compromise the "no-dogs" side was willing to make was the opening of one trail on the upper area of Alpine Road. This compromise is not suitable to me and my neighbors as it requires us driving to upper Alpine Road

to access this trail.

The group continues to refer to the majority of town trails (miles and miles of them) that allow dogs. The majority of trails they refer to are the trails that parallel our streets, very unlike the nature trails at Coalmine Ridge. I have heard all the arguments, and I don't agree that there is good reason to ban dogs from all Coalmine trails. Allowing dogs on only one trail keeps the majority of the ridge in a natural state, and allows those who dislike hiking with dogs many good alternatives.

Jayne Mordell  
Palmer Lane, Portola Valley

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Tom Gibboney

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

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



## WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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

### TOWN SQUARE FORUM

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.

## Time for serious effort on bike safety?

If ever there was a tipping point to begin a major public education campaign on bike safety, it came last week when two tragic vehicle vs. bicycle accidents occurred on Sand Hill Road within a few days of each other.

On Memorial Day, a 51-year-old Menlo Park woman was struck by an automobile making a left turn in front of her as she was riding westbound on Sand Hill. The cyclist survived, but suffered major injuries. An investigation is still under way, but evidently the driver did not see the rider, who had the right of way as she crossed the intersection.

Just a few days before the Memorial Day accident, Portola Valley resident Rodney Smith was killed when an eastbound motorist hit him from behind as he neared the Interstate 280 interchange. In this case the driver was an 87-year-old Woodside resident. Mr. Smith, a Silicon Valley pioneer at the firm Altera Corp., was hit about 9:40 a.m. on May 25.

Sand Hill Road, and many of its cross streets, are some of the most popular cycling routes on the Peninsula. On weekends hundreds, and sometimes thousands, of cyclists flock to the Menlo Park, Portola Valley and Woodside neighborhoods to sample the rolling hills and rural scenery.

But the good riding opportunities should not be a fatal attraction. Local jurisdictions should double or triple their efforts to promote bike safety, both for residents and visitors. More signs saying bikes and cars share the road need to be installed, and police and sheriff's deputies need to be out in force on weekends and holidays to ensure drivers and riders obey traffic laws.

In the recent Sand Hill Road accidents, it appears that the motorists involved either did not see the cyclists or were impaired in another way. Investigations are under way in both cases.

But as reported in last week's Almanac, even when motorists are found guilty of running over and killing a cyclist, they rarely receive stiff sentences unless the accident was caused by substance abuse or other negligence. In a recent case, 82-year-old Beverly Oaks of Redwood City pleaded guilty to vehicular manslaughter and received only 30 days in county jail, a sentence she will likely serve in a work program. The court said she was negligent by making an unsafe attempt to pass cyclist Thomas Maddox on Skyline Drive in Woodside, but she will lose her driving

### EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

privileges for only 18 months.

Similar wrist-slapping sentences have been handed down in other cases where drivers have negligently injured or killed cyclists. It is time for the courts to be more aggressive when it

comes to sentences for fatal bike/car accidents when negligence is shown by either party.

As one of the most popular cycling areas in the state, the Bay Area needs its government leaders to find ways to advance the cause of bike/car safety. Here are some ideas that could be addressed at the local level:

- Local cities should empower and make funding available for their bicycle committees to mount multimedia safety campaigns, both in printed materials and online. Workshops should be offered at elementary schools for kids and at town halls for adults.

- Cops on bikes should patrol the busiest cycling areas to enforce stop sign and traffic light laws and pass out safety circulars to anyone who will take one.

- Cities should sponsor one or two annual bike rides or biking events where they could promote the safety theme. They should also send representatives to pass out safety materials to all organized rides in their area.

At the state level, the Legislature should:

- Add emphasis and more specific instructions about bike/driver safety in the Department of Motor Vehicles drivers' handbook. Many drivers do not know who has the right of way around cyclists and how to pass them properly.

- The state should consider issuing riding licenses for cyclists. There is no doubt that some cyclists simply ignore common sense when they violate road signs and stop lights.

- Reconsider the laws governing roadside signs to include more warnings about bikes in the area.

- Step up the testing requirements for elderly drivers to make sure their eyesight and reflexes are not impaired.

Few, if any of these proposals will be adopted unless a vocal constituency arises for bike safety. Cycling clubs and city bike committees are the best place to start. And it is not too early to send ideas to your local legislators. The dismal bike/car safety record can be improved. We owe it to those who have paid the ultimate price, or are living with debilitating injuries, to do better.

## Our Regional Heritage

James McDonnell, the longtime superintendent of the 1,400-acre Ormondale Ranch, stands beside a field of hay and vetch in this undated photo. The Portola Valley subdivisions of Westridge and Arrowhead Meadows replaced the ranch after World War II.

Portola Valley Archives



## LETTERS

Our readers write

## Troubled by two serious bike accidents

Editor:

Last week's Almanac contained two more tragic stories of cyclist deaths due to apparently careless car driving. Beyond the obvious personal tragedies, they are each troubling for their own reasons.

The first is the report of the sentence given to Beverly Oaks for killing Thomas Colby Maddox. She received 30 days that can be served as work release and an 18-month license suspension where time to date counts. This is for killing a person?

I am not one to suggest draconian punishments, but since the story indicates a clear negligence on the part of the driver, how can we tolerate so little consequence? Lest anyone start thinking that the cyclist probably contributed to it by being in the road, I argue that it is neither evident nor relevant. Bicycles share the same rights and obligations on the roadway as cars. While it is always a good safety strategy to stay out of the way of fast-moving vehicles, an overtaking car is always obligated to operate safely.

Although the reports of Rodney Smith's death do not contain a definitive cause, the facts indicate a concern for this regular cyclist on Sand Hill Road. Based on the location given (eastbound, 1/2 mile west of Interstate 280) there are two potential points where I have often seen car drivers come far too close to the cyclists. Either

## Time to support Dumbarton Rail

By Steve Schmidt

On March 14, 2007, Mayor Kelly Fergusson and City Council member Heyward Robinson held the first Green Cities Task Force meeting in Menlo Park. Hopes have been running high that these meetings will promote innovative and environmentally friendly policies on many issues, including public transit.

One of the Green Cities subcommittees is studying the Dumbarton rail extension which has been in the conceptual planning stages for over 10 years. Six commuter trains in the morning and six trains in the evening would run between the East Bay (Newark) and the Midpeninsula (Redwood City) where it would meet CalTrain. It is estimated that there would be between 5,000 to 7,000 rider-trips a day and that number could double in 10 years.

Not surprisingly, some residents object to the Dumbarton plan finally reaching our doors. Claims range from excessive cost, flawed ridership estimates, engine noise and crossing gate bells, vibration, automobile congestion caused by crossing gates, and the specter of freight trains using the line.

Opponents have come in at the 11th hour to suggest that other options would be better.

Why not light rail, they ask? Maybe electrified trains? Wouldn't it be better to change one of the lanes on the existing Dumbarton Bridge to a commute lane or to consider bus rapid transit (BRT)? Some demand that budget-busting grade separations be included.

Most of these issues were raised in January of 2000 by then-mayor Mary Jo Borak in a letter sent to the representative of the Dumbarton Corridor Task Force. This letter is now being circulated as evidence that cooler heads were in charge and were protecting the interests of Menlo Park residents.

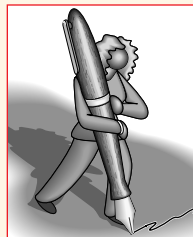
After 7.5 years of diligent efforts, much has been accomplished to move this project along. Ninety percent of the funding has been met thanks to San Mateo County voters. Mayor Borak's concerns voiced on behalf of the city were not forgotten and have been incorporated into the current environmental scoping and planning. The option of bus rapid transit instead of

trains on the rail bridge has been shown to be as costly as trains but less appealing to new riders.

Train noise and vibration will be minimized by completely rebuilding the railbed and installing quieter continuous welded rail. Instead of separations, quiet-zone crossing gates can be installed that preclude the sounding of horns at at-grade crossings. No concern of Mayor Borak's has been ignored and the project now has every reason to succeed. What seems to be lacking in Menlo Park is sincere resolve.

The Dumbarton rail extension will benefit Menlo Park and the region. It is also consistent with the goal of reducing global warming. The city should not spend its time and energy waxing poetic about reducing our carbon footprint while nitpicking the Dumbarton rail project to death. This quiet and disingenuous form of opposition has been going on for too long. Either we are players in the fight to reduce carbon emissions or we aren't. Here's an opportunity for Menlo Park to show our colors. Green or something else? Do we really care about the environment or will we let fear make our decisions?

*Steve Schmidt was Menlo Park mayor in 1997 and 2002. He lives on Central Avenue in Menlo Park.*



GUEST OPINION

they drift into the shoulder as they come around the blind top of the hill corner or they try to battle out the lane merges with the 280 on/off ramps. Both are highly dangerous practices committed by people that I will charitably call in a hurry.

I am afraid that these two stories are indicative of complacency toward road safety. This area is known far and wide as one of the best cycling locations to be found and yet we seem to be doing nothing to keep it safe. The Sand

Hill Road, Portola Valley loop is heavily ridden by cyclists every day of the year, yet there appears to be no program to aid safety to remind drivers that they need to share the road at all times. The only thing that has that effect — packs of riders occupying the road — unfortunately also understandably aggravates drivers.

Perhaps we can use these tragedies to start a dialog about bicycle/car safety and what can be done to share the roads more effectively. Ideas like

“Share the Road” signs in the area to remind people of the common bicycle traffic or re-engineering the road markings for greater safety.

For example, on Sand Hill Road the eastbound junction with Interstate 280 is particularly dangerous as it is a naturally high speed connection with no real effort to buffer auto and bicycle traffic. The westbound junction has been reconfigured to make it quite clear that there is bicycle traffic that needs to merge but eastbound is still a mini

freeway. Might this approach help eastbound as well?

**Tim Rochte**  
O'Connor Street, Menlo Park

## Is Menlo Park doing its share on housing?

Editor:

I'm curious to know where Mr. Druehl (Almanac letters last week) got the statistics to support his state-

See **LETTERS**, page 25

## Three ways to end local hunger

By S. Andrew Starbird

In 2006, Second Harvest Food Bank of San Mateo and Santa Clara counties completed its analysis of hunger in our community.

We found that all the agencies (federal, state, county, and private) involved in anti-hunger efforts were meeting only about half of the overall need. This means there are still thousands of chronically hungry children and adults in our schools, neighborhoods, and workplaces.

In light of these findings, Second Harvest has evaluated its existing programs and is in the process of developing new initiatives that address three goals: improving quantity, quality, and access. Quantity refers to the amount of food distributed to our neighbors in need; quality is a measure of the nutritional value of the product we distribute; and access means that the food we distribute has to be easy for our clients to get even if they are living in isolated communi-

ties, struggling with limited mobility, or working an unusual schedule.

The first program being launched to address these three areas is the Produce Mobile. The Produce Mobile brings high-quality, fresh produce to our “Family Harvest” sites, where families with dependent children come to get the food they need. This program will enhance the diet and the health of our clients. Over the next three years, the Food

Bank is going to put six new Produce Mobiles into service. When this project is completed, we will be distributing over 1.1 million pounds of fresh produce through this program.

The second program is a Mobile Pantry. Two of the poorest areas in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties are the Santee neighborhood of San Jose and the San Mateo coastal community of Pescadero. These areas are relatively isolated because the majority of residents do not have access to transportation and because there are no grocery stores or food distribution

sites within walking distance.

The Mobile Pantry brings pre-packaged, non-perishable products directly to these communities by truck. Over the next year, we expect to reach as many as 600 new households and to distribute over half a million pounds of food in these struggling neighborhoods.

The third effort is an enhancement of our Brown Bag program which reaches low income seniors. Our goal in this program is to regularly provide one-third of the minimum required daily nutritional needs for seniors. This effort means that we will increase our distribution of calcium-rich dairy products and decrease our distribution of canned foods that are relatively high in salt and sugar. The switch is costly, but it will enhance the quality of our food and, we hope, the quality of life of our elderly clients.

Our fourth program is a partnership with Santa Clara County to increase food stamp outreach. Money already allocated by the federal government for food assistance is going unused in our community. In fact, less than one-third of our neighbors who are eligible for food stamps use this program to get the food they need. The Food Bank

is working with the county to provide community outreach and to streamline the application process. We have just started this program, but our preliminary results are promising.

Finally, starting this summer, the Food Bank will sponsor a summer feeding program. School-aged children from low-income families are eligible for subsidized breakfasts and lunches during the school year. During the summer, however, these programs are unavailable, and students often go hungry. By sponsoring a summer feeding program, the Food Bank strives to ensure that no child goes hungry regardless of the time of year.

Through the development of these programs, Second Harvest is actively seeking to improve the quantity, quality, and access to food assistance in our communities. People interested in making a donation or learning more about the issue of hunger in our communities should visit [www.2ndharvest.net](http://www.2ndharvest.net).

*S. Andrew Starbird is a board member of Second Harvest Food Bank and associate professor of operations and MIS at Santa Clara University.*

GUEST OPINION

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