PORTOLA VALLEY man dies, unnoticed, in busy parking lot. Page 5

The Almanac

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

JUNE 13, 2007 www.AlmanacNews.com | VOL. 42 NO. 41

Theater review: Fine acting lends depth to MP festival's 'Julius Caesar.' Page 36

Presenting The Class of 2007

Page 16

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Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT

The Almanac/Veronica Weber

Thinking outside the classroom

Oak Knoll fifth-grader Cayla Stillman, center, huddles with teammates, from left, Helmi Henkins, Ryan Roberts, Alex Menell and Valerie Taylor as they figure out their next move in the Menlo Park school's first Science Olympiad last Friday. The competition for fourth- and fifth-graders is designed to encourage student interest in science. More on the event will appear in the next print edition of the Almanac.

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On the cover

Layers of leis symbolize the jubilation of graduation for Fisiipeau Langi, a member of the Class of 2007 at Menlo-Atherton High School, one of many local schools that held graduation events last week. Almanac photo by Veronica Weber. See **Page 16** for photos and stories.

CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

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RETIREMENT CELEBRATION SALE

See inside for more details on page 13!

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City Of Menlo Park

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Menlo Park's Summer Activity Guide has arrived with classes and events for all ages. This is the perfect opportunity to schedule your summer fun. Register for classes by fax, mail, or drop-in.

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YESEMIA & EMMA

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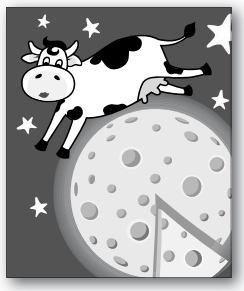
Health experts agree that everyone should eat three servings of dairy every day, but research shows that people are falling short of doing so. The calcium in dairy products is vitally important for healthy bones, muscles, and teeth. You can find new ways to add dairy into your diet by looking for the 3-A-Day logo on packages of cheese, milk, or yogurt. Try different flavors of milk or yogurt. You'll find a lot of unexpected and delicious flavors in today's yogurt and yogurt smoothies. There are several low-fat options so that you can get recommended dairy allowances without eating too much fat. Think of 3 p.m. as your dairy time, and have a protein-packed cheese stick or yogurt.



Dairy foods are truly necessary for a complete daily intake of calcium, and other vitamins. At ROBERTS MARKET, we carry great food products including a great selection of delicious cheeses. And of course, we have the staple of dairy: milk! Our employees are trained to provide you with what you want. Our service is unmatched in the area. If you find yourself pressed for time visit our "heat and eat it" department for wonderful gourmet prepared foods. You can find prepared foods such as homemade hot soups, sandwiches, salads, and gourmet food stuffs.

HINT: *One serving of dairy consists of 8 oz. of milk, three cheese cubes, or an 8 oz. container of yogurt.*

WINE

Fine
Pinot Noirs In Stock

Pinot Noir seems to be the hottest "varietal" in wine these days. Here at Roberts, Pinot-Noir is an area of specialization. Here are a few of the outstanding wines currently in stock.

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Short takes

To-do over dog doo

The Marquess of Queensbury would have looked away.

A man residing on Stanford Avenue in west Menlo Park visited upon his female neighbor a variation of a front-porch prank that normally involves a paper bag, dog excrement and a match.

The May 28 incident began after the neighbor's dog had made a deposit in the man's back yard once too often. He bagged it and left it with a note attached to her front door, according to a Sheriff's Office report.

Meanwhile, the man's wife happened to see the woman who owned the dog and confronted her, deputies said. When the dog's owner tried to walk away, the man's wife reached out and touched her, whereupon the dog's owner turned and punched the woman in the face.

They "wrestled for a few seconds" before the man separated them. No one pressed charges, deputies said.

Teach the children well

The kind folks at the Selby Education Foundation are hoping to find local donors to provide items on the teachers' wish list at Selby Lane School in Atherton. Items range from math magazines and white boards to DVD players and laptop computers.

In recent years, Atherton residents and the Atherton Civic Interest League have stepped up to help the struggling school turn around, even though few Atherton families send their kids there. Send donations to 50 Woodside Plaza Suite 513, Redwood City, CA 94061. For the full wish list, go to SelbyEducationFoundation.org and click on "Events."

Fine wine, fine cause

Last month's Vine & Dine fundraiser netted a record $57,000 for Today's Youth Matter, a charitable group that provides adult mentoring to abused and battered children, says Atherton Councilman Charles Marsala, who hosted the event at his house.

Assessed value bump: $8 billion

What kind of property tax hit are you going to take this year? Chances are, the answer is already waiting in your mailbox.

The San Mateo County Assessor's office sent out property value assessments this week, giving homeowners fair warning before the first bill comes due this fall.

Last year, home prices increased a modest 3 percent in the county over 2005 prices, said Warren Slocum, the county assessor. The volume of home sales dropped a whopping 17 percent over the past year, but despite the dip, the county expects to see a 6.75 percent increase in its assessment roll for both residential and commercial properties.

"This represents an increase of more than $8 billion in assessed value and will generate approximately $80 million in increased property tax revenues for schools, the county, cities and special districts," Mr. Slocum said.

Most property owners will receive letters tallying the mandated 2 percent increase in their property tax bill. A few may be eligible for reduced taxes if their property values have declined.

Anyone whose property value experienced a dramatic change in value due to new construction or a transfer in ownership should probably be sitting down before opening the assessor's letter.

Help with questions or protests can be had by calling the property tax hotline, open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays, at 363-4197. Information is available online at SMcare.org.

Henry Riggs behind utility tax survey

By Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

The mystery has been solved behind an anonymous survey targeting Menlo Park's utility tax.

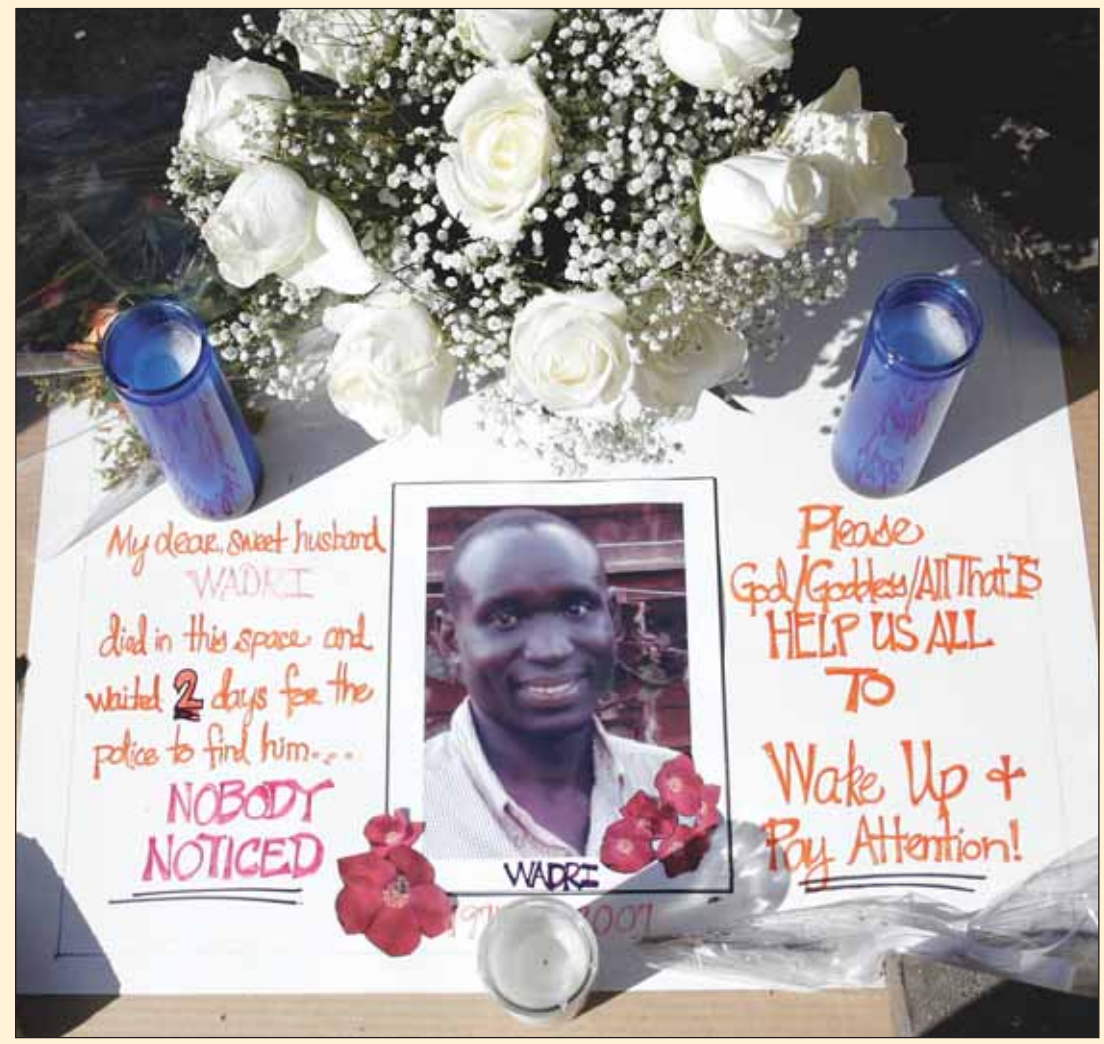
Planning Commissioner Henry Riggs, a leading critic of the utility tax, e-mailed a link to an online survey to some 4,000 Menlo Park voters on June 8, seeking what he called the "community's voice" regarding what the City Council should do with the tax.

This isn't Mr. Riggs' first criticism of the utility tax — he firmly opposed the council's decision to enact the tax at the maximum rates starting April 1, and was joined by Councilman John Boyle and former councilwoman Lee Duboc in opposition to the utility tax.

Mr. Riggs said about 200 people completed the eight-question survey, and most of the respondents shared the sentiment he has expressed to the council over the past several months — if the city was more upfront about the city's better-than-expected financial situation, the tax wouldn't have passed.

According to the survey results e-mailed by Mr. Riggs to the council, about 88 percent of the participants would not have voted for the tax if they knew the city ran a $3.7 million surplus in the 2005-06 fiscal year, compared to the $800,000 deficit city staff projected prior to the election. He said about 94 percent of participants said the city should reform its "fiscal

See **SURVEY,** *page 8*



The Almanac/Veronica Weber

A memorial for Peter Wadri Worogga, a Portola Valley resident who died in his car at the Sharon Heights Shopping Center, was placed in the parking spot where he was found.

PV man dies, unnoticed, in busy parking lot

By Andrea Gemmet
Almanac Staff Writer

A tender memorial has cropped up in an unusual place — a parking space at the Sharon Heights Shopping Center.

Peter Wadri Worogga, a 29-year-old Portola Valley man, was found dead in his car last month. Last week, his widow, Mary des Jardins, set out a bouquet of white roses, candles and a sign lamenting the loss of her husband. A stream of curious onlookers ventured over to the cordoned-off parking space.

Mr. Worogga died of heatstroke in his car on May 8, and his death was ruled accidental, said San Mateo County Coroner Robert Foucrault. He said he didn't believe Mr. Worogga was there for more than 24 hours before his body was discovered, he said.

"He could have fallen asleep. It was hot," said Mr. Foucrault.

Ms. des Jardins said her husband had been suffering from undiagnosed stomach pain, and she thought that may have been what caused him to pass out behind the wheel.

See **MEMORIAL,** *page 8*

LIAM
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Lucile Packard Children's Hospital AT STANFORD

Atherton's James Mack Gerstley, borax tycoon, arts patron, dies

By Marion Softky
Almanac Staff Writer

■ OBITUARY

James Gerstley helped found Asian Art Museum in San Francisco.

James Mack Gerstley, whose colorful career ranged from borax mining in Death Valley to co-founding the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco, died at home in Atherton on June 2. He was 99.

While Mr. Gerstley built his fortune in borax — think 20 Mule Team — he may have had his greatest impact after retiring in 1961.

Living in Woodside and then Atherton, Mr. Gerstley helped found the Asian Art Museum and contributed to numerous other artistic and cultural causes in the Bay Area and California. "He was a big leader in the community," said Elizabeth Gerstley, his wife of 72 years.

Born in 1907 to an English father and a mother from San Francisco, he was brought up in London. After completing with honors the Tripos scientific program at Cambridge, he still was shy of a requirement for graduation. When his father gave him a choice of finishing Cambridge or taking a trip around the world, young James jumped at the trip, said his son, James Gerstley of Los Angeles.

James Gerstley built the Pacific Borax Co. into what became the U.S. Borax & Chemical Co.

By the time Mr. Gerstley reached Japan, he had run out of money. The junior Mr. Gerstley told of his father's arrival in San Francisco in 1929: "He came on a straw pallet on a Japanese ship, and kept alive eating Hershey bars."

In San Francisco, Mr. Gerstley worked for the Great Western Electric Chemical Co.; he also met Elizabeth Lilienthal. They were married in 1934 at Madeleine Russell's house on Atherton Avenue in Atherton.

About the same time, Mr. Gerstley took a job in Los Angeles with Pacific Borax Co., where he became president in 1950. He continued to build the company, which later became the U.S. Borax & Chemical Co.; it was listed on the New York Stock Exchange in 1957. Mr. Gerstley was inducted into the National Mining Hall of Fame in 2003. He even had a mineral, gerstleyite, named after him.

Mrs. Gerstley remembers their personal "Death Valley Days," separate from the famous television series sponsored by the firm, which made borax and 20-mule teams famous as icons of the Wild West, with Ronald Reagan as the "Old Ranger."

Mr. Gerstly was a wonderful leader and good at inspiring people with loyalty to the company, Mrs. Gerstley recalls. "He made it fun for them. They had horseback riding, and barbecues up the valley; they swam at night."

Mr. Gerstley was also interested in history and wrote a book, "The History of Pacific Coast Borax," which sometimes turns up on eBay.

After retiring and moving to Woodside, Mr. Gerstley remained active both culturally and recreationally. An accomplished fundraiser, he was intensely engaged in launching the Asian Art Museum and securing the Avery Brundage collection, which forms its core. Mayor Joseph Alioto appointed him to the Asian Art Commission, and he later became chair of the Asian Art Museum and Foundation.

His fundraising success in bringing an exhibit of famous terracotta warriors from Xian in China to San Francisco in 1975 earned him an invitation to one of the first tourist groups to visit China.

Mrs. Gerstley remembers vividly that people there had never seen westerners before. "At the zoo, people were not looking at pandas, they were looking at us," she said.

She also remembers that her husband had the foresight to ask Stanford for help in preparing to give a speech at the trip's farewell banquet. "He made the banquet speech — in Chinese," she said proudly.

Mr. Gerstley was also a devoted golfer and avid fly fisherman; he was a member of the British Piscatorial Society. The Gerstleys kept horses, and he wrote "A History of the Shack Riders Club" about the Woodside horse group.

Mrs. Gerstley remembers going with him on fly-fishing trips around the world. She also remembers sitting around while he fished. In Scotland, for example, "We took tea sitting on the heath under umbrellas in the rain."

Mr. Gerstley accumulated many other honors and accomplishments. He was a trustee of Pomona College and received an honorary doctorate there. He gave an extended oral biography to the Bancroft Library, and was named the "1989 Business Leader of the Year for the Arts" by the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Gerstley is survived by his son, James Gerstley of Los Angeles; his daughter, Anne Pieper of Concord; a granddaughter; and two great-granddaughters.

Services are private.

The family suggests contributions to the Asian Art Museum, 200 Larkin St., San Francisco, CA 94102; Pomona College Scholarship Fund, 333 N. College Way, Claremont, CA 91711; or the Haas-Lilienthal House, 20007 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 941009. ▲

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman

Tax-Deferred Exchanges

Q: I am going to participate in my first tax-deferred exchange. I will be selling a rental property and "rolling" the proceeds into another rental property. What should I look for in a trustee (exchange accommodator) for this transaction?

A: In order to take advantage of Internal Revenue Code Section 1031, which allows the seller of rental property to defer the tax due on sale by buying another rental property within strict time limits, you must engage a trustee to handle the transaction so that you never take possession of any money. You should be very careful when appointing such a trustee because you want to be sure that every aspect of the transaction is handled properly in accordance with the tax law. If the exchange is not done correctly, you will not be able to defer the tax on any gain.

Many banks and title companies have departments that handle 1031 exchanges. You want to be sure that your trustee is reputable and will use the utmost care in managing your transaction. There have been cases recently where disreputable firms have embezzled or otherwise stolen funds entrusted to them. Your attorney may also be able to act as trustee in a 1031 exchange.

The process itself is straightforward, and if you adhere to the rules, (identify an exchange property within 45 days and close escrow within six months), your trustee should be able to help you have a smooth transaction.

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

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Later, Adios, Sayonara.

MP council plans to lower tax rates

■ Two council members say utility tax rates should be zero.

By Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park residents and businesses can expect some kind of tax break on their utility bills beginning next month, but with less than a week before the City Council is scheduled to set the city's utility tax rate for the next fiscal year, it's not clear how large a savings are in store for them.

Four of five council members said they favor lowering the tax rates for fiscal-year 2007-08, meaning the rates would drop starting July 1. Two of those council members — John Boyle and Richard Cline — said the city should set the tax rates at zero.

The two-tiered tax was enacted April 1 at the maximum rates — 3.5 percent on utilities (water, gas and electric bills) and 2.5 percent on communications (landline telephone, cell phone, cable TV and Internet bills). The tax is expected to net the city about $600,000 from April 1 to June 30.

Before the tax went before voters for approval in November, the city was projecting long-term deficits of about $2.2 million a year. But analysis included in the proposed 2007-08 budget paints a different picture, revealing that the city's property tax, sales tax, and hotel tax revenues have exceeded expectations.

The city is expected to build a $250,000 surplus in the 2006-07 fiscal year, and revenues look more promising for 2007-08, according to projections by city staff.

The sudden turnaround of the city's financial projections prompted Councilman Cline to urge the council to set the tax rates at zero during the council's June 5 preliminary budget discussion.

"I'm just not seeing a justification for it," he said, noting that the city can rely on other tax revenues.

Mr. Cline joined Mr. Boyle — a longstanding critic of the tax — to push for a zero rate.

"With the benefit of hindsight, we probably didn't need [the tax]," Mr. Boyle said. He noted that the tax, which can be raised or lowered with a simple majority vote of the council, is a "very handy tool to have," but said the city's anticipated long-term financial deficit was overstated due to "overly conservative budget projections."

"I think it's a shame this tax passed," Mr. Boyle said. "It's OK if we're going to use conservative estimates when we figure out where our budget will be several years down the road, but we need to recognize those estimates are conservative to begin with."

Council members Kelly Fergusson and Heyward Robinson said enhanced revenues should prompt the city to lower the tax, but they favored rates closer to what city staff is recommending: 2 percent for both utilities and communications. Under that formula, the tax would add about $1.82 million a year to the city's coffers during the next fiscal year.

Councilman Andy Cohen said the council should keep the tax at the maximum rates for three more months to ensure that the city's financial projections are accurate.

Adding employees

With additional revenue from the utility tax and growing property- and sales-tax revenues, city staff is asking the council to approve funding to add six employees to the city's depleted workforce.

The city currently has 235 full-time-equivalent employees — down from 265 in fiscal year 2002-03.

Among the new positions Interim City Manager Kent Steffens has recommended are:

■ Two police officers to patrol local traffic.

■ A transportation planner to help study local traffic safety.

■ Administrative support for the city's business development manager.

■ A community engagement specialist to improve community participation in council decisions, and revamp the city's Web site.

The new positions would cost the city a combined $665,000 a year, Mr. Steffens said.

Although all council members were receptive to giving the police department $295,000 to recruit and hire two motorcycle officers to patrol local traffic, they were wary of adding other positions to the city's payroll.

Mr. Boyle said that hiring more employees would increase short- and long-term costs, as city workers have retirement and benefit packages that are costly to the city.

The Almanac/Veronica Weber

Shoppers pause to look at the memorial for Peter Wadri Worogga, a Portola Valley resident who died in his car at the Sharon Heights Shopping Center. His widow said he was missing for two days before police found him.

PV man dies, unnoticed, in busy parking lot

MEMORIAL
continued from page 5

A native of Uganda, Mr. Worogga had moved to Portola Valley in September and was a student at Foothill College. The two had been married only four months, Ms. des Jardins said.

"He wanted to get a degree in international communications," she told the Almanac. "He wanted to hopefully, someday, be an ambassador for his country."

Ms. des Jardins said she returned home from a business trip on May 6 and reported her husband missing to the Menlo Park police.

On the memorial sign, Ms. des Jardins wrote, "My dear, sweet husband Wadri died in this space and waited 2 days for the police to find him ... nobody noticed. Please God/Goddess/All That Is, help us to wake up and pay attention."

The pair met at a documentary photography workshop in Uganda in 2005, she said. Ms. des Jardins is the executive director for Outside the Dream, a nonprofit helping 70 AIDS orphans and former child soldiers in Uganda, she said. In January, they married in his home village of Arua, near the Congolese border, she said.

Mr. Worogga was the eldest son of a village elder, and he had studied journalism in Sweden, South Africa and London, Ms. des Jardins said. Mr. Worogga was a former photojournalist for the Daily Monitor, a newspaper based in Kampala, Uganda. Besides Ms. des Jardins, he is survived by his parents, six siblings, and three sons, all living in Uganda.

"A few months ago we had read and discussed two different cases where a person had died in their homes and gone unnoticed for over a year. Wadri shared that that would never have happened in Ugandan culture, due to its close social and family networks, " Ms. des Jardins said.

"How synchronistic that the very situation we had read and discussed ended up becoming part of his story. It is my hope that this serves as a reminder for us all to slow down and pay attention to those around us as we move through our day."

SURVEY
continued from page 5

auditing process so that voters will have accurate information prior to voting."

"I know this is an imperfect research tool, but a whole group of [Menlo Park residents] have had a list of concerns about the [utility tax] and the whole budget process," Mr. Riggs said. "We need a little more daylight on our financial process ... so we can end this awkward and rather unfortunate tax."

■ TOWN SQUARE

Post your views and comments on TownSquare: www.AlmanacNews.com

Woodside chips away at fire danger

Woodside Fire Protection District's annual chipper program is in full swing. Free of charge, the district offers the use of its wood chipper to residents who go through the trouble of trimming tree branches and clearing brush to reduce the danger of wildfire.

Extra precautions are being taken this year to prevent the spread of Sudden Oak Death, says Fire Marshal Denise Enea.

The chipper travels to various neighborhoods through the summer. A schedule is posted on the fire district's Web site, www.WoodsideFire.org. Click on the 2007 chipper program link. For information, call the fire district at 851-1594.

Budget talk in Las Lomitas district

Trustees of the Las Lomitas School District will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the La Entrada Middle School library on Tuesday, June 12, to discuss and possibly vote on the budget for the 2007-08 school year.

Revenues are up due to the higher parcel tax that voters approved and a larger gift from the district foundation, said Business Manager De Modderman.

Trustees may also approve two-year contracts with teachers and staff.

It's all about green in town budget

■ Plenty of cash to fund solar energy, other green proposals.

By Andrea Gemmet
Almanac Staff Writer

■ WOODSIDE

Green fields at a new town park, environmentally green projects and plenty of nice green cash are in the forecast for the town of Woodside.

Thanks to Woodside's "enviable financial health," the proposed two-year budget created by Town Manager Susan George earmarks a substantial amount of money for green projects, such as converting the Town Hall complex and branch library to solar power. The town is projected to bring in enough revenue to fund the extra projects while still adding to its reserve fund, she said.

Seven projects are designed 'to locally and specifically address the issue of global warming,' the budget says.

The council will consider the proposed budget at the Tuesday, June 12, meeting.

A $7.1 million budget is proposed for the fiscal year that begins July 1, with a $6.6 million budget for fiscal year 2008-09.

Seven projects, designed "to locally and specifically address the issue of global warming," are funded in the proposed budget, including a Global Warming-themed Environment Fest in October.

Besides the possible conversion to solar energy, the budget holds $25,000 for a feasibility study of water recycling at Town Center, with treated wastewater to be used for landscape irrigation.

Also in the proposed budget: $35,000 for a biodiesel vehicle to replace an old town maintenance truck; replacement of failed double-paned windows and inefficient lighting fixtures at Town Hall; a design study to expand Town Hall, using green building concepts; and $20,000 in the planning and building department budget to support green building initiatives, including a review of existing design guidelines to incorporate green concepts, and sponsoring a green building workshop for residents.

A grand opening celebration, complete with entertainment, is planned for September for the new Barkley Fields and Park, Woodside's first municipal park.

The proposed budget for 2007-08 shows a 43 percent decrease from this year's unusually high budget of $12.5 million. Woodside's current year budget included two extraordinary expenditures that almost entirely account for the big jump: $4.4 million to build Barkley Park, and a one-time $1.9 million payment to retire Woodside's debts associated with building the Town Hall complex and purchasing the Mathisen house property.

The proposed budget also contains a bump of $250,000 for the town's road repair program, for a total of $1.7 million for 2007-08 and $1.45 million for 2008-09.

Horse owners could face the first increase in trail user fees in several years. The budget proposes a charge of $50 per horse, up from $35, in order to fund a "backlog of trails projects." The additional $22,000 brought in annually by the higher fees would be used to leverage a grant of $50,000 worth of labor on the trails from the East Bay Conservation Corps.

Besides a possible switch to solar power, Woodside's branch library is also budgeted to get a new paint job, new planting beds installed in the rear garden, and improved lighting system controls.

The budget also includes a continuation of an extra motorcycle traffic patrol unit provided by the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.

The only real bad news in the budget is a likely future increase in sewer fees. Ms. George said the town is on notice that the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors is considering a substantial, multi-year increase for the Fair Oaks Sewer Maintenance District, and a related increase in Redwood City's sewer charges is pending. Users of the Town Center Sewer District will be affected, but probably not for a year or so, she said. ▲

■ INFORMATION

The proposed budget is available online at WoodsideTown.org and at Town Hall, 2955 Woodside Road. The June 12 council meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. at Independence Hall; call 851-6790 for information.

Authors speak at immigrants event

Three authors will speak about their immigrants experiences at an Immigrant Day Festival at the San Mateo County History Museum on Saturday, June 16, from noon to 4 p.m.

The authors and their books are Rose Castillo Guilbault, "Farm Worker's Daughter: Growing up Mexican in America," who will speak at 12:30 p.m.; Evangeline Canonizado Buell, "Twenty-Five Chickens and a Pig for a Bride: Growing Up in a Filipino Immigrant Family," at 1:30 p.m.; and David Bertao, "Portuguese Shore Whalers of California," at 2:30 p.m.

The event will include food, performances, and a chance to view the permanent exhibit: "Land of Opportunity: The Immigrant Experience in San Mateo County."

The museum is located 2200 Broadway in Redwood City. For more information, call 299.0104 or go to www.historysmc.org.

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Photo by Derek Marsano

Puttin' a little pepper on it

Alan Shaw of Menlo Park throws out the first pitch at the June 5 game between the Oakland A's and Boston Red Sox. Mr. Shaw is the president and CEO of the Redwood City-based biotech company Codexis, and was recently named to the board of BIO, a life sciences industry trade group.

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Dogs on trails: Town-wide vote?

If a majority on the Portola Valley Town Council agrees, residents may have a chance to respond en masse to the contentious question of whether leashed dogs should be allowed where they are not allowed now: on a wooded, preserve-like, six-mile part of the town's 36-mile trail system.

Councilman Steve Toben is likely to propose a November town-wide advisory vote on the matter at the Wednesday, June 13, council meeting that begins at 8 p.m. in the Historic Schoolhouse.

Dogs are allowed on all trails except the Coalmine Ridge system, but people walk dogs there anyway and say they're carrying on a long tradition. Many dogs also go unleashed in violation of county law, according to reports from a committee formed by Mr. Toben over the winter to try to find a compromise.

Residents on both sides of the issue have been writing to the council.

The council will also review the town's budget for the 12-month period that begins July 1.

Digging starts for Los Trancos sewers

By Marion Softky
Almanac Staff Writer

Monday, June 4, marked a two-edged red-letter day for residents of Los Trancos Woods: They celebrated eight years of community effort to get sewers for the former summer home community with small lots and failing septic tanks. At the same time, they braced for a dismal summer of closed roads as work crews dig up their narrow roads to lay sewer lines.

"It's going to be more than difficult," said Tim Clayton, district manager of the West Bay Sanitary District at a groundbreaking party June 4.

The party was held at district headquarters in Menlo Park; local residents had worried about the traffic and parking at the originally scheduled location at the intersection of Los Trancos and Lake roads.

Julie Duncan, who led the rural community through the tortuous process of organizing neighbors and pressuring multiple bureaucracies to get the sewers, received a big bouquet.

The process had as many potholes as some of the roads. The organizers had to enlist neighbors in the effort, persuade various county agencies to set up an assessment district to raise upwards of $2 million for the project, and then find a state agency to handle bonds for the construction.

Then they persuaded 60 owners, out of 137 parcels, to commit themselves to pay some $60,000 each for the sewers.

Just a year ago, construction was about to begin when the contractor pulled out. The sewers were not built; the matter is still in litigation, Mr. Clayton said.

Now K.J. Woods Construction is beginning to dig potholes along the roads in the community above Blue Oaks in Portola Valley to lay out the system. Within weeks, many of the roads in lower Los Trancos Woods will be closed. Residents will have to meander out of the hilly community via Vista Verde, and Alpine Road in Portola Valley.

The sewers should be in by fall, Mr. Clayton said. The project includes 1.5 miles of sewer pipes along six roads, and 73 manholes. The final bid was for $2.14 million.

Mr. Clayton thanked residents for their patience up to now and in the future. "The journey to the installation of sewers to serve our properties has certainly been long and winding," he said. "We ask for your continued patience during construction and look forward to the work's completion."

Marc Levaggi, another stalwart in the community-driven effort, expects that once the sewers are in, many more property owners will join. "Most people will hook up," he said.

Man arrested for possessing fireworks

Darnell Sowers, 21, of Menlo Park was arrested June 4 on charges of possessing fireworks, defined as explosive devices under state law.

The arrest followed several reports of suspected gunshots in the vicinity of San Antonio Street, Encinal Avenue and Garwood Way in Menlo Park.

By talking with neighbors in the 1500 block of San Antonio Street, Officer Mary Ferguson of the Menlo Park Police Department found a resident had several fireworks, said Sgt. William A. Dixon.

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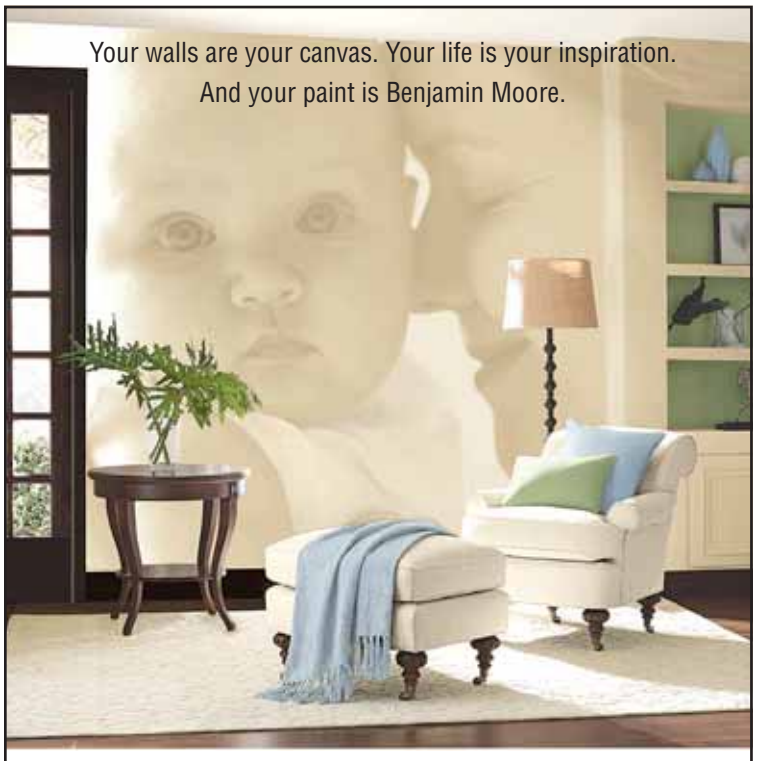

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Mayor to give 'State of City' report June 12

Menlo Park Mayor Kelly Fergusson plans to give a "State of the City" address on Tuesday, June 12.

The talk is set to start at 7 p.m. in the council chambers at the Civic Center, between Laurel and Alma streets. A reception will follow.

WATCH MENLO

The purpose of the address is for the mayor to outline her views and goals for the city, said Interim City Manager Kent Steffens.

Scoping session on hotel/office complex

Members of the public are asked to help define the scope of an environmental impact study on David Bohannon's plans to build a hotel and office complex in Menlo Park.

A second "scoping session" on the project is set for the City Council meeting on Tuesday, June 19, which starts at 7 p.m. in the council chambers in the Civic Center.

Mr. Bohannon is proposing an eight-story, 235-room hotel and about 695,000 square feet of office space at two sites totaling 15 acres in Bohannon Industrial Park.

A Marriott hotel and associated athletic club, one office building, and a five-story parking garage are planned for 110-190 Independence Drive. The hotel could be up and running by 2009.

Two more office buildings, two smaller parking garages and a 400-space parking lot are proposed for a site two blocks away at 101-155 Constitution Drive.

Recycling computers, other electronics

Residents of Menlo Park, Atherton and East Palo Alto can drop off computers, printers, televisions, cell phones and other unwanted electronic equipment at a June 23 recycling event in Menlo Park.

Equipment can be dropped off from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Tyco Electronics Co. campus at 300 Constitution Drive, near the intersection with Chilco Street. For more information, call Sims Recycling at 510-259-0340.

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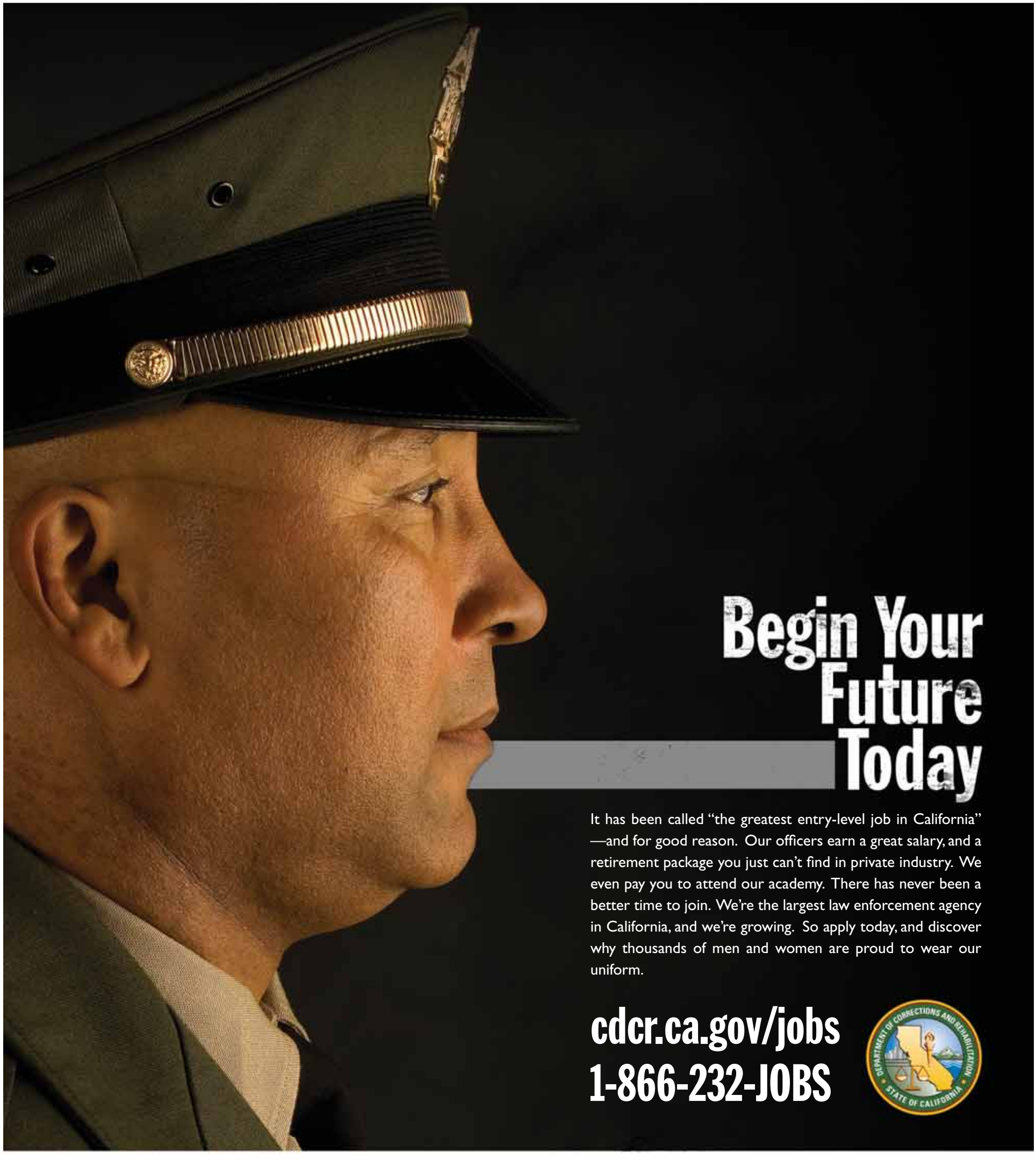

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High school board may raise fee on home construction

The school board of the Sequoia Union High School District may increase the district's fee on home construction, including remodels, at its meeting on Wednesday, June 13.

A public hearing is scheduled on a resolution to raise the fee to the state maximum of $2.63 per square foot, from the previous maximum of $2.24.

The higher fee will help the district fund construction projects such as a new 30,000-square-foot classroom building at Sequoia High School in Redwood City.

The board meeting starts at 5:45 p.m. at the district office at 480 James Ave. in Redwood City.

Forty percent of the money from the fee goes to the high school district and 60 percent goes to the elementary school districts whose graduates move on to the Sequoia district.

Costs vary by elementary school district, which can set rates independently. Increases would occur in Portola Valley and Woodside — both now at $2.24 — and the Las Lomitas district at $2.14. Menlo Park's rate would not increase as it is already at $2.63.

The Sequoia board may raise the fee again in January if the state raises the maximum rate.

Cyclist in bottle-throwing incident to be arraigned on misdemeanor

A trial may be ahead for the Menlo Park cyclist who threw a water bottle that bounced off a car and struck and injured a 62-year-old Portola Valley pedestrian last November.

William Gordon Innes, 35, is being charged with a vehicle-code misdemeanor: throwing a substance at a vehicle on a highway, said Lt. Ken Jones of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.

His arraignment is scheduled for Thursday, July 5, in a Redwood City courtroom at San Mateo County Superior Court, Lt. Jones said.

When the water bottle hit Nancy Baglietto on Portola Road on the morning of November 16, the blow knocked her down and she hit her head on the path, she said. Her injuries included a black-and-blue area on her face, a chipped tooth and a loose tooth, she said.

Mr. Innes, who was riding in a group of cyclists, kept going after the incident but called later to apologize, Ms. Baglietto said.

Deputy District Attorney Rick Good said his office did not seek a charge of battery because Mr. Innes showed no intention of causing injury.

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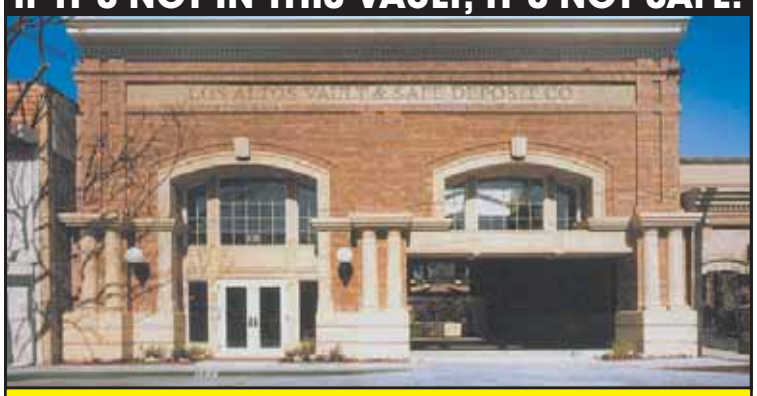

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Presenting The CLASS *of* 2007

The Almanac/Veronica Weber

Graduation is something to shout about for Phillis Vainikolo (center) at Menlo-Atherton High School, where the Class of 2007 said farewell on Thursday, June 7. Jolene Walton is on the left.

Class of 2007 says goodbye to M-A

Some 380 seniors graduated from Menlo-Atherton High School on Thursday afternoon, June 7, before parents, teachers and staff gathered at Coach Parks Field.

After a presentation of the flag by a contingent of U.S. Marines and a recitation of the pledge of allegiance by senior Paolo Lopez, the assembly heard from accomplished jazz songstress and graduating senior Hale Baskin, who sang the national anthem.

Principal Denise Plante welcomed everyone, economics teacher Jim MacKenzie acknowledged retiring staff and teachers — a list that includes himself this year — and six seniors gave five speeches: "Our Journey" by Sandy Islas, "Four Years Gone" by Paolo Lopez and Adilene Nunez, "Flutters of Kindness" by Carson Rosenberg, " M-A is a Constant" by Jenny Brandon, and "First, Best & Last" by Catherine Razavi.

Ms. Plante presented the graduating class to Superintendent Pat Gemma of the Sequoia Union High School District and Trustee Sally Stuart. District officials and school staff members handed out diplomas, with six seniors taking turns announcing the graduates' names.

The ceremony came to a close with the graduates, led by Ms. Plante, switching the tassels on their hats from the left to the right side.

A Martin Alejandro Acosta, Raquel Varela Aguilera, Jose Alarcon, Andrew James Althoff, Jose Alfredo Alvarez, Jesus Analco Leon, Devon Stuart Anderson, Kristopher Montgomery Anderson, Francesca Elizabeth Angelo, Diana Arellano Lopez, Sophie Hosay Asher, Arya Azarshahy

B Christopher Martin Bachler, Jason David Banich, Aeriana Katrice Barries, Hale Ann Baskin, Samantha Palmer Bassin, Sienna Grace Beckman, Carina Berlin, Elizabeth Rose Fishbach Bird, Nicole Marie Bitler, David Richard Blank, Jordan Samuel Blickman, Jeffrey Stewart Bliss, Sara Kristin Bogart, Catherine Melanie Bostian, Emma Louise Bowley, Matthew Kelvin Boyd, Jennifer Anne Brandon, Tenley Rugh Breen, Christafer Alan Brown, Rashida Shani Bryant, Martell Buffin, Rita Ann Bullwinkel, Keith Evan Burgelin, Bryan Robert Burks

C Juanita Cabrera, Joe Charles Cain, Kimberly Jean Cain, Stephen Carlisle Call, Lydia Cardoza Bello, Luis Angel Ceja, Zzachry Edward Charland Snow, Sarah Anne Charley, Eric Ismael Chavez, Fernando Quinonez Chavez, Maria de la Luz Chipres, Molly Ayako Chow, Amanda Chuan, Paloma Chrisman Clohossey, Noemy Guadalupe Contreras, Lose Ula Falelalava Cook, Andrew Grosvenor Cooper, Emily Lilli Cooper, Tomasa Arisbeth Cortes Sixtos, Christine Amalia Cortez, Noemi Maribel Cortez, Kyle Richard Crager, Erin Jennifer Crowley, Alma Lorena Cruz Cardena, Lauralyn Emily Joy Curry Leech

D Molly Mahar Dallmar, Christina Ann Dalton, Allison Margaret Darko, Brian Michael Dayog, Douglas Matthew DeFilipps, Irina Degtiar, Paul Rene Delagnes, Ryan Patrick Delaney, Jimmy David DeLisle, Nathan Darrell William Dennies, Rory John Desmond, Gavin Walter DeVaughn, Kevin Curtis DiSibio, Christina Ross Dixon, Rob Justin Doyle, Ryan Artemis Duchin, Ariana Finstad Dumpis, Jose Duran

E-F John Robert Eaton, Mohammad El Bibany, Roscoe Joseph Elliott, Lea P. Engelhardt, Victoria Sarait Escorza, Felicia Ann Evans, Brittany Dana Fair, Alicia Alejandra Fajardo, Katherine Elizabeth Fanelli, Ben Jacob Farber, Siobhan Kelly Feehan, Abigail G. Feiler, Eric Maxwell Felder, Sione Mounga Jesse Fifita, Matthew James Fisher, Gilberto Flores, Karina Flores, John Sheridan Folker, Samuel Degne Fox, Samuel Franco, Evan Thomas Fredericksen, Jake David Friedman, Mio Viktoria Kobayashi Frisk

G Kelli Alexandra Lorentz Galdes, Jessica Mayra Garcia, Ana Edith Garcia Juarez, Rigoberto Garcia-Diaz, Abigail Grace Geballe, Kendra Elizabeth Gilbertson, Anna Cotter Glantz, Alvin M. Gochez, Oliver Goldberg-Seder,

See **MENLO-ATHERTON HIGH,** *page 20*

GRADUATION GUIDE Graduates are listed on these pages:

CORTE MADERA SCHOOL	Page 21	MENLO-ATHERTON HIGH SCHOOL	Page 16
HILLVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL	Page 18	WOODSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	Page 19
LA ENTRADA SCHOOL	Page 19	WOODSIDE HIGH SCHOOL	Page 18

REPORTS BY DAVID BOYCE & MARJORIE MADER, *Almanac Staff Writers*

See, hear graduation ceremonies online

Check AlmanacNews.com for a slide show with audio on graduation ceremonies at Woodside and Menlo-Atherton high schools.

Student body president and Woodside High School senior Brieanna Wright graduated June 8 and plans to study psychology and communication at the University of California at Berkeley.

The Almanac/Veronica Weber

Her head is in this game

With UC Berkeley ahead, Woodside High grad Brieanna Wright is raring to go

FEATURE STORY
By David Boyce

Pablo Picasso once noted that there are painters who, in trying to capture the sun, end up with a yellow circle on the canvas, while others, by applying their intelligence and talent, transform a yellow circle into the sun.

Woodside High School senior Brieanna Wright isn't planning a career in fine art, but if she continues to apply her intelligence and her talent as she appears to be ready to do, she could distinguish herself in the manner of Picasso's latter category.

Consider her methodical approach to her September arrival at the University of California at Berkeley, where she has a full four-year scholarship. (She competed for and won Berkeley's Incentive Award scholarship.)

College away from home can be a big change and if it seems not to be a fit, Ms. Wright says she'll be busy figuring out how to make it work. Does she need to take more classes or fewer? Is dorm life right for her or would an apartment be better? Should she join a club?

"I expect to find out how I can deal with beginning to be really independent," she says.

Managing her time won't be a problem, she says. That skill has come with juggling her activities at Woodside, which include student government, conflict mediation, tutoring five to seven hours a week for four years, taking optional grade-appropriate college-level classes for four years, working part-time to earn her own money and help with family expenses, and throwing the shot-put and discus on the track-and-field team.

She says she can also manage money, her own and other people's. She's into her second year as a bank teller — part-time during the school year and full-time otherwise — and has an option to continue her banking job while in college.

"I expect to be able to succeed at Berkeley," she says. "I think I can do fine as long as I keep focused."

> *'Whenever an obstacle presents itself, Brieanna finds a way to respond to and learn from the challenge.'*
>
> LISA VASQUES, WOODSIDE HIGH TEACHER

For her entire time at Woodside High, Ms. Wright has been a student in MESA and AVID, programs designed to encourage studies in math and science and to support students who want to excel in school and go on to college. She, along with her older brother and sister, are the first generation in their Redwood City family to go to college, she says.

Ms. Wright is also the recipient of between $1,000 and $3,000 in the form of the Kelly J. Kolozsi Memorial Scholarship, said Tita Kolozsi, who heads the interview team in determining winners of the financial-need-based award.

"She was very vivacious and very personable in her interview," Ms. Kolozsi said. "She sold everybody on what she had been doing. ... Quite frankly, we wanted her to qualify."

A woman's place

An intended major in psychology and communications with career plans as a psychology professional, Ms. Wright recently completed advanced-placement calculus at Woodside, one of several math and science courses she's taken there.

■ STUDENT PROFILE

Brieanna Wright is one of the exemplary local high school graduates in the Class of 2007.

AP calculus probably wasn't vital to her choice of career.

"(Brieanna) loves math and relishes the advanced math courses she has taken," says Lisa Vasquez, a Woodside High English teacher and one of Brieanna's mentors. "Whenever an obstacle presents itself, Brieanna finds a way to respond to and learn from the challenge."

She's also tested her knowledge of physics in helping build and gauge the strength of a small wooden bridge.

She was on a team that built a container which, when dropped, had to protect some number of chicken eggs inside. The more eggs — given the size rules for the container — the tougher the challenge, the greater the risk and the more points awarded.

Notwithstanding her humanities major, she says she plans to continue her math and science studies in college.

To the anxieties that young women may have about studying math and science, she has a ready answer: "Oh yeah, we can do this. We don't have to take home economics."

What about being in a science class with young men, reputed to dominate the scene by being quicker with answers. "I think that young ladies can handle that," she says. "I think that we have to do that to break those barriers."

If she sounds like a leader, it's no accident. She was a member of Woodside's leadership class — as class secretary in her junior year and as student body president as a senior.

In her capacity as a student representative, she has joined in many discussions with parents and teachers as a member of the school's Shared Decision Making Committee.

She's lobbied for stocking campus vending machines with healthful snacks for athletes who don't make it home to eat after practice.

She's arranged multi-cultural activities to emphasize the importance of mutual respect, "a major part of being an active member of society and representing yourself well," she says.

"I found out that my preference, where I'd really like to be, is being a link to connect people of different backgrounds, different interests and different circumstances."

"Brieanna's decision to become student body president reflects a desire to make positive changes for other young people," says Ms. Vasquez. "She has the confidence to explain student concerns to the principal, faculty and other adult committee members."

Ms. Wright's studies at Woodside have included an essay assignment addressing the question of whether human nature is good or bad. "It's kind of in the middle, but naturally good," she concludes. "I think it's more your surroundings and how you develop."

Sounds like something a psychologist might say.

So long Woodside High, from the Class of 2007

Friday, June 8, was graduation day for about 356 seniors from the class of 2007 at Woodside High School.

Friends, relatives, students and staff assembled on Bradley Field at 10 a.m. to the strains of the processional music "Pomp and Circumstance." The school band played the national anthem under the direction of Rob Baker.

Sabrina Garretson, the senior class president, welcomed the guests and introduced seniors Monica Mora and Brieanna Wright, who gave a speech entitled "Life is ...," and Vanessa Falepouono, whose speech had the title of "Make Your Own Star."

Sabrina Garretson, Nicole Greco, Matthias Pelesasa and Nicolas Mantani presided over the presentation of the senior class gift to the school.

Principal Linda Common introduced the 13 valedictorians and their serial speech entitled "Know Your Rock, Love Your Rock." The speakers were Jessica Brandt, Thomas Gariffo, Jarred Hare, Kylie Harris, Joanna Ingebritsen, Krista Lee, Rebecca Lyman, Kara Mantini, Nicholas Markwith, Samara Miller, Max Schneider, Emily Stockwell and Ryan Tate.

Presenting diplomas this year were Trustee Don Gibson of the Board of Trustees of the Sequoia Union High School District; Debra Moore Washington, assistant superintendent for human resources and professional development for the Sequoia district; and Ms. Common.

Announcing the names of the graduating students were 23 seniors. The ceremony ended with Ms. Garretson leading the class in the symbolic switching of tassels on their mortarboards.

The Almanac/Veronica Weber

Woodside High School valedictorians look for friends and family sitting in the stands during the Commencement ceremony on Friday.

WOODSIDE HIGH SCHOOL CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION

A Douglas Hayes Adams, Peter Randall Adams, Sefita Toli Afu, Nora Arlette Aguirre, Eugene A. Albert, Leonel G. Alcala, Fatima Alcantar, Amanda Aleman, Mohammad Tayseer Alhuniti, Marian Eloisa Allen, Diego U. Alvarado, Laura Yvette Amaya, Kevin James Anderson, Roberto Anguiano Jr., Kristin Marie Anthony, Danna Iveth Aquino, Jesus Ramon Aranda, Louisa W.C. Arbuckle, Rocio Arenas, Cindy Argueta, Maira Arias, Anabel Arroyo, Yesenia Arroyo, Julitza Arzate, Rosa Avila, Alfredo Ayon

B Dennis Bailon, Rachel V. Baker, Ashley Paige Barbour, Alejandro Barragan Jr., Leiana Rae Batson, Maria Guadalupe Bazan, Erin Michel Bedell, Cory Adam Beecher, Andrew J. Bierman, Pavlova Janelle Bigsby, Jamil Montreal Bishop, Christopher W. Blekis, Tiffany Amber Blue, Amber C. Botello, Antonio C Bowens, Jessica Elizabeth Brandt, Austen Rose Breen, Benjamin Jay Bresler, Daniela Iris Brissett, Anne Elizabeth Broderick, Sean Douglas Brown, Lindsay Suzanne Brunner, Roberto Bugarin, Xavier Burgueno

C Kelley Anne Cage, Christina A. Calonje, Amber Cangiamilla, Jordan Alan Carr, Juan Antonio Carranza, Elena Maria Carrillo, Jillian Renee Carrillo, Jennifer Lynn Carter, Brandon Joseph Cassidy, Manuel De Jesus Castro, Miguel Angel Cervantes, Elvia Gabriela Chavez, Christopher Chicas, Leslie Roxana Chocano, Lucas Ryan Coe, Hollie A. Coil, Sophie Caldwell Collins, Lisa Conchas, Brook McCrory Constantz, Christian McCrory Constantz, Elisabeth Dianne Cornell, Dayana Janeth Coronado, Janelly Cortez, Jennifer Dorothy Cowitz, Hilary Martinez Craven, Ricky C. Crawford, Nicholas Liam Crowley, Josue O. CuellarDominguez, Jose Antonio Cuevas, Mayra Guadalupe Cuevas

D Alissa I. Dau, Rafael De La Cruz, Omar Del Rio, John Ryan Deoliviera, Sharnet Dickinson, Christopher W. Douglas, Camryn Anne Douglass, Russell H. Du Bois, Tiffany V. Duong, Chantel Diane Dupee, Katie Nicole Durant

E-F Sean Alan Eagleton, Joshua Elliot, Nicole Elizabeth Ellis, Gregory Michael Escolta, Prescilla Pogisa Evaimalo, Lisa Helen Fahey, Michelle Fajardo, Easter Jaime'Jo Falepouono, Vanessa Melody Falepouono, Anthony Steven Fantozzi, Maria Luisa Farias, Gary Farmer, Michael James Fazio, Miki W. Fetuu, Fabiola Figueroa, James M. Fitzgerald, Janessa C. Flores, Justine Michelle Fortes, Kelley M. Fracchia

G Briana Garcia, Clara I. Garcia, Mayra Janette Garcia, Thomas R. Gariffo, Sabrina Noel Garretson, Blair Nicole Georgakas,

See **WOODSIDE HIGH,** *page 20*

Hillview Middle School graduates 216 eighth-graders

The Almanac/Marjorie Mader

Hillvew graduating eight-graders, from left, Nic Brody, Erika Athens, Hallee Foster, Kei Masuda and Sam Hausman served as student body presidents and vice presidents this year.

Hillview Middle School will graduate 216 eighth-graders on Friday, June 15, during outdoor ceremonies that start at 5 p.m. on the school's blacktop.

Hillview is the sole middle school in the Menlo Park City School District.

The Hillview Concert Band will perform a pre-ceremony concert as well as the traditional processional, "Pomp and Circumstance" by Edward Elgar, and "Legacy March" by Steve Hodges as the recessional.

Richard Vaughan, music specialist, will direct the band of sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders as they also play "Louie, Louie," "Evil Ways," "Secret Agent Man" and "Salute to Freedom" as a prelude to the ceremony.

Students are being chosen this week as graduation speakers to represent the Class of 2007. The Hillview tradition is for all eighth-graders to reflect on their experiences and how they have shaped their lives. They all write, memorize and give a speech to classmates on "Life Lessons" they have learned. The finalists are selected by the students from their classes.

The eighth-graders are selecting a guest speaker for the graduation ceremony.

This year, Dr. Morrie Sorrells will present the Jeff Sorrells Memorial Award, a $2,000 college scholarship, to an eighth-grader, who will use the college scholarship in four years upon graduation from high school. The award, now given for the 21st year, was established by the Sorrells family in honor of their son, who was a student at Hillview.

Principal Mike Moore will give a short talk and present the eighth-grade class to their core teachers, who will present the diplomas.

A reception for the graduates and guests will be hosted by the seventh-grade parents at the school immediately after the ceremony.

The graduates will celebrate later at the traditional grad night party, sponsored by their parents and held in the school's multi-use room.

HILLVIEW GRADUATES

A-B David Abbott, Michael Abramson, Alexander Ackerman, Emily Aguilar, Lidia Arenas, Brandi Armstrong, Erik Athens, John Athens, Adrian Austin-King, Erin Badduke, Madeline Bahr, Calder Baloff, Trent Bastian, Samantha Battaglia, Max Bazan, Adrian Bennett-de Avila, Alexander Bercow, Matthew

See **HILLVIEW,** *page 20*

The Almanac/Marjorie Mader

La Entrada eighth-graders who will speak at the commencement are, from left, Joe Wise, Su Lin Blodgett, Evan Amato and Colin Sutton, student body president.

La Entrada leads the graduation procession

La Entrada School in Menlo Park, the first of four local eighth-grade graduations this week, will hold its traditional "promotional exercise" on Wednesday, June 13, at 6 p.m. on the school's blacktop.

The program features student speakers; short, recorded reflections by the eighth-graders; music; and award presentations. The eighth-graders will enter the assembly area to the sounds of "World" by Five for Fighting and will exit to "One Love" by Bob Marley.

Mary Ann Somerville, superintendent of the Las Lomitas School District, will welcome the students, their families and guests.

Again, this year, the featured speakers will be four graduating eighth-graders. They are Evan Amato, Su Lin Blodgett, Joe Wise and Colin Sutton, La Entrada student body president.

All eighth-graders wrote an essay in their English classes about some thing, person or place that inspired them. The speeches were narrowed to finalists, who gave their speeches to teachers who served as judges.

La Entrada Principal Dee Brummett will announce the student awards.

A representative of the Larry McCarty Foundation for Kids will present the Larry McCarty Inspirational Award to an eighth-grader, who was nominated by a peer and chosen by a committee of foundation and school representatives.

Lee Anderson, president of the Las Lomitas district school board, will award the diplomas.

A reception will be held immediately after the ceremony before the graduates celebrate at "Grad Night," the party planned by their parents, in the school's Jensen Hall.

LA ENTRADA GRADUATES

A-C Dalila Adofo, Evan Amato, Sergio Balcazar-Mendoza, Katherine Barrus, Juliette Berlin, Kristopher Bliss, Su Lin Blodgett, Clark Bonham, Adalyn Brian, Cedric Brossard, Caroline Bucksbaum, Lara Butler, James Buttram, Teresa Cain, Katie Castro, Jennifer Chan, Michael Chan, Michael Chu, Elena Cleary, Nicholas Cuisinot

D-G Troy Davis, D'Eric Deckard, Grant Dettmer, Matthew Diaz, Emily Dorst, Anastasios Douglas, Amy Du Bose, Maria Elicea, Lauren Espeseth, David Faris, Robert Faris, Victoria Fernandez, Shelby Fero, Galen Fliege, Prescott Foland, Thomas Forter, Siobhan Foster, Jonathan Friedman, Taylor Gananian, Spencer Gump

H-L Sean Higgins, Karin Hiltbrand, Megan Hinshaw, Jonathan Hoech, Rachel Jewell, Ryan Johnston, Arseny Kaluzhinsky, Koji Kameda, Cameron Kelley, Caitlin Kenney, Franklin Knowles, Stephanie Krutolow, Maximillian Lin, Svenja Lintz, David Lockwood

M-R Ian Macartney, MacKenzie Masten, Ausia Mataele, Louis McCabe, Reed McConnell, William McConnell, Zachary Metteauer, Sarah Mitchell, Shayan Modjtehedi, Hafiz Mohammad Hazani, Zoe Moyer, Kenta Muraoka, Takumi Nakagawa, Andrew Nixon, Clemence Parmentier, Emma Paye, Jackson Rafter, Samuel Ransohoff, Alexandra Richardson, Samuel Rupprecht

S-T Atzin Sanchez, Bailey Scott, Beatrice Segura, Thomas Selby, Summer Senna, Rod Shayesteh, Jake Smith, Julia Sommer, Noah Stid, Sophia Stid, Rebecca Strehlow, Colin Sutton, Miranda Tabuena, Forrest Thurston, Kirsten Tinyo, Adrian Torres-Flores, Sela Tupou, Stefan Turkowski, Theodore Tussing

V-Z Katrina Van Atta, Alec Van Stone, Jai Vaswani, Juliette Verstaen, Nikhil Viswanathan, Celia Walker, Victoria Walsh, Lachlynn Warner, James Wenzel, Robert Wickers, Joseph Wise, Leah Worthington, Margot Yecies, Alexander Youngberg, Conrad Yu, and Lupita Zamora.

The Almanac/Marjorie Mader

Commencement and construction take center stage at Woodside Elementary School this week. Eighth-grade graduation speakers put on hard hats and use the fifth-grade classroom construction site as a backdrop for the graduation photo. Students are, front row, from left, Kaycee Nerhan, Cassidy Robinson, Chandler Johnson, Cheyenne Robinson, Hannah Norman, Laura Fracchia and Brigitte Losey; and back row, Lili Pike, Graeson Topper, Sam Kelley, Brooks Kelly and Devon McNaughton. The project is scheduled for completion in the fall.

Woodside Elementary School keeps its graduation traditions

Woodside Elementary School's amphitheater will be the setting for the eighth-grade graduation, which begins at 5:30 p.m. Friday, June 15.

The Woodside School Band, directed by Amanda Negrete, will play Edward Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstances" for the processional as the eighth-graders enter the amphitheater.

Students Brooks Kelly and Graeson Topper will lead their classmates, families and friends in the salute to the flag and the singing of the national anthem.

Dr. Daniel Vinson, superintendent/principal, will give the welcome. Students Hannah Norman and Lili Pike will present "Small Town Charm."

The class of 2007 has chosen "Little Wonders," composed by Rob Thomas, as its class song.

Student speeches will begin with Chandler Johnson talking about "What Lies Ahead"; Laura Fracchia, "Today's Goodbye, Tomorrow's Hello"; and Devon McNaughton, "What Do You See?"

Earlier at the eighth-grade luncheon, hosted by the seventh-grade parents, eighth-graders will give these speeches: Brigitte Losey, "Webster's New World"; Cassidy and Cheyenne Robinson, "The Entrance to Our Future"; Sam Kelly, "Reach for the Stars"; and Kaycee Nerhan, "An Unbreakable Bond."

Awards will be presented to students by teachers and trustees. Hardin Hansen, director of educational technology, will present the academic award; Karen Arimoto-Peterson, community service; Amanda Negrete, music; and Kimberly McMorrow, president of the Woodside district school board, the trustees award.

Trustee Ellen Ablow will give the commencement address.

Bob Sherman, assistant principal, will present the class of 2007 to Superintendent/Principal Vinson and Trustee Bettina Pike, who will award the diplomas.

A reception for the graduates, their families and guests will begin immediately after the ceremony.

WOODSIDE ELEMENTARY GRADUATES

A-G Pheniley Alvarez, Ana Alicia Arriaga-Lemus, Holden Thomas Bamford, Cassandra Marie Boris, Monette Cherice Clemons, John Patrick Daly, Nicole Kathrin Dancer, Katelynn Nicole Degnan, Laura Jacqueline Fracchia, Gerelyn Kataryne Gilbert-Soto, Jesus Gomez, Kristina Georgene Guerra

H-N Nathaniel Boynton Hinman, Laura Armineh Jalalian, Chandler Elisabeth Johnson, Samuel Levi Kelley, Brooks Michael Kelly, Antonia Nicole Kowtko, Brigitte Claire Francesca Losey, Taylor Caitlin McCarthy, Devon Jeanelle McNaughton, Kaycee Jade Nerhan, Hannah Ablow Norman, Ryan James Nowicki

P-Y Connor Kenzo Burt Patrick, LeeAnn Akiko Patrick, Elizabeth Watson Pike, Alexandra Maria Quinby, Maxime Davis Rappaport, Alejandra Rebuelta-Salazar, Jake E.L. Rickard, Cassidy Wells Robinson, Cheyenne Leigh Robinson, Nancy Marie Rossi, Aaron Graeson T. Topper, Stephanie Nathalie Yakupitriyage.

The Class of 2007

MENLO-ATHERTON HIGH

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Adolfo Daniel Gonzalez, Braulio Gonzalez, Everardo Gonzalez, Juliza Gonzalez, Karen Janet Gonzalez, Alexander Edward Gould, Bailey Griscom, James Gump, Claudia Janet Gutierrez

H Siosaia Muti Haatoa, Dana Hafter-Manza, Haviland LeClaire Hage, Joseph Alexander Hallock, Brittany J. Hampton, Justin Happ, Adam Hardy, Sarah Lois Hausman, Todd Hazen, Samuel Hedges, Scott Henderson, Sandra Hernandez, Stephen Hicks, Colin Hightower, Kalie Hodgin, Bennett Charles Holland, Christina J. Holmes, Richard A. Holmes III, Andrew R. Holmgren, Lauren Eva Hood, Jasmine L. Hughes, Elliot N. Hume, Gabriela Hurtado, William Christopher Hyrne

I-J Sandy Noemi Islas, Sargon Jacob, Peter D. Jacobs, Sigourney Leigh Jellins, Daniel Brian Jenkins, Jeanne Marie Jensen, Alex H. Johnson, Calvin Mann Johnson, Sara C. Johnson, Channing J. Johnston, Daniel R. Johnston, De'Eric L. Jones, DeAndre Jones, Paul Jones, Gabi G. Jubran Jr.

K Dale Christopher Kallstrom, Kimberly Kaslow, Alex Katona, John Katona, Kathryn Brooke Keating, Kerry Keating, Isaac Kehler, Evan Kelso, Steven Thomas Kent, Laura Kieninger, Derek King, Ethan Klivans, Ellen Knapp, Eric Koleckar, Suzanne Elizabeth Nicely Kopf, Thomas Duncan Kozlowski, Jessica Kumar

L Rebecca Joy Langeloh, Fisiipeau Langi, Annelise Lawrence, Rachael L. Lawson, Rotem Lenchner, Patrick Welling Leugers, Jeff Lewis, Harrison Hon Mon Li, Karen Jatzyry Linares, Jamila Kibibi Efyia Lincoln, Paul Linton, Nathan Alan Lipps, Sione Mafi Lolohea Jr., Carina I. Lombera, Geovanni S. Lopez, Miguel A. Lopez, Paolo Pancrazio-Ferrando Lopez

M Diego A. Maciel, Laura Jane MacMillan, Juan Carlos Magana, Jose Maldonado, Claire Martin, Sara S. Martineau, Ivan J Martinez, Monique A. Martinez, Donald S. Massaro, Andrew Matheson, Lauren Matthews, Lauren Maynard, Jonathan McCarty, Sarah Alice McCracken, Helen Lyons McCurdy, Lauren Aisling McDonnell, Corey L. McGee, Kaitlin Joy McGhee, Georgia L. McMillan, Christopher McQuilkin, Maria Elizabeth Medina, Perla Medina Campos, Natalia Medrano Anzaldo, David Gleason Merrill, Matthew W. Metteauer, Lauren Elicea Michaels, Matthew Mohr, Isaac Molina, Jose Carlos Montesinos, Margiel Moran Ramos, Alberto Moreno, Martin Moreno, Emiko Brenna Moriarty, Abigail Katharine Alviti Morin, Matthew Morrissey, Jacob Walter Morton, Daniel V. Moyer, Fernando Munguia

N-O Chelsea Madeleine Nash, Janelle Navarrete, Ariel Loi Ngirachitei, Adilene Nunez, Andy O'Brien, Robert Ogborn II, Elizabeth Rose Ordonez, John Carlos Ortberg III, Cindy Oseguera

P Jennifer A. Park, Edwin A. Pech, Nicholas Peters, Reba Sharleen Phillips, Luis R. Pimentel, Marta Pinilla, Nick Pollack, Geoffrey Blair Pound, Megan Power, Marguerite Alicia Poyatos, Adrian Prasad, Lena Pressesky, Pablo Antonio Puerto, Elishea Adrianna Putman

R Erika Crystal Ramirez, Bjorn Eirik Ramleth, Catherine Razavi, Brian Reich, Jonathan Rendon, Jesus Revuelta, Anel Reyes, Katherine Riddle, Andrea Christine Rivera, Jesus A. Rivera, MacKenzie Christine Rodgers, Julian Rodriguez, Kelly Julia Roos, Heather Rosen, Carson B Rosenberg, Myles Kenyon Rowland, Byron Habiger Ruby, Alex Curtis Rudolph, Obed Rueda, Magdalena Ruiz, Sarah Catherine Rundle, David Lucius Rust, Rachael Camille Ryals

S Luisa Agnes Saafi, Elizabeth Jeanne Sachs, Luisana Sahagun, Kasra Andrew Saidi, Gregory Sako, Coral Salto, Danna Salvaleon, Francisco Javier Sanchez, Jessica Sanchez, Margarita Sanchez, Richard Santana, Zachary Santiago, Jordan Craig Santos Sanvictores, Benjamin Sattler, Courtney Ann Scheuch, Ashton Richard Michael Schramm, Zachary Feigenbaum Schwab, Jamil Xavier Scott, Kathryn Marie Scott, Teague K. Scott, Roxsana Sepulveda, Daniel Serrano, Jessica Marie Shelton, Mayra Sierra, Miguel Angel Silva, Rafael Silva, Devarier Simien, Amity Rebecca Sims, Kaitlyn Michelle Sitts, Logan Y. Skidmore, Colin B. Smith, Mitchell L Solomon, Katharina N. Somporn, Sydney Jane Louise Speece, Derrick Stamper Jr., Ryan Anthony Starr, Samantha Jane Steele, Andrew Stern, Taylor Kathryn Stevens, Blake A. Stevenson, Azahria Johanna Stone, Sarah Stowell, Brittney Angel Stratton, Allison Leigh Stroud, Melissa Ann Stroud, Jany Sun, Lauren Renee Swartz, Parker N. Swope

T Jorge Tafolla, Erik Tafoya, Delan H. Tai, Melanie TupouAHua Talakai, Tiulipe Mei Talakai, Keianna Talton, Alexander Tsubasa Tashiro, Anna Tashman, Keisuke William Teeple, Joshua Ryan Tennefoss, DeBraun Thomas, Jared Keith Thomas, Hannah Maryan Thomson, Risean Tinsley, Daisy Torres Maldonado, Ismael Torres, Jessica J. Torres, Lauren Taylor Torres, Raul Tovar Hernandez, Jeffrey Traeger, John Walter Tsu, Ana Seini Tupou

U-Z Kayla Catherine Ushman, Fatai Vailala, Phillis Vainikolo, Cindy Evett Valdivias, Ariel Valencia, Paula Marijke Van Creveld, Natalie Erica Van Stone, Lauren Marie Verity, Brian Charles Vieth, Nicolas Villa, Yesenia Villegas, Earl Aubern R. Villorente, Molly Rose Wachtel, Jamie Walsh, Jolene Emilia Walton, Eric Andrew-Biagini Webb, Dillon Brian-Thomas Webster, Lauren Ann Weisenfluh, Eric A. Weiss, Elliot Michael Welsh, Jessica L. Welton, Joshua Wiener, Fa'atuai Debbie Williams, Harry Shakeem Williams, Michael Williams, Pamela Grace Williams, Brittany Wilson, Sydney Leigh Wilson, Jessica Wijtman, Patricia Marie Woodley, Emily B. Wright, Sergio Zamora, Leo Zarco, Ruben Zepeda. ▲

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Clayton M. Gibson, Janet Eileen Girardot, Anthony J. Giraudo, Marisa Gomez, Francisco Xavier Gonzalez, Reanne M. Gopez, Stephen Lawrence Gordon, Roman V. Gorpenko, Nicole Marie Greco, Jessica Dawn Gregory, Christopher Maklin Griffin, Rachel Rose Gryn, Sandra Leticia Guardado, Ricardo Guerrero, Juanita Alejandra Guizar-Lopez

H Himeka Erin Hagiwara, Suzanne Hanko, Jarred Jeffrey Hare, Kylie Marie Harris, Kyra Meyosha Harris, Nathaniel Alan Harris, Jennifer Christine Harvath, Kimberly Michelle Harvey, Deonte Lamar Hawkins, Justin Tyler Heavenston, Stanley Rex Holbrook, Ashley Anne Houser, Shawn Ryan Housholder, Asia M. Houston, Elias Huerta, Donte Hunt

I-K Joanna R. Ingebritsen, Garrett R. Introcaso, Kyle Joseph Introcaso, Kevin Thomas Irish, Edwin William Jacoubowsky, Ashley Jahns, Ian M. Jasper, Courtney Kimiko Johnson, Casey Thomas Jones, Jessica Lynn Jones, Megan Elizabeth Jones, Rachael Louise Jones, Luis Alek Juarez, Keith Benford Knudsen, Lisha Marie Koesnodihardjo, Daniel James Kolb, Travis S. Krutt

L Lesly Mae Racaza Latoreno, Brandon James Lawlor, Sesilia Marietta Leafa, Adrienne Elizabeth Lebsack, Krista E. Lee, Robert William Lewis III, Brenda Lopez, Sara Lopez , Israel De Jesus Loza, Jacob Paul Luras, Rebecca Katherine Lyman, Ryley L. Lyon

M Steven Thomas Mackall, Armando Madrigal, Kara Christine Mantani, Nicolas Edmond Mantani, Catherine Maravilla, Rodrigo Margain, Antoinette Alesia Marino, Nicholas Ryan Markwith, Cynthia Nicole Martin, James Anthony Martinucci, Cherrylyn P. Mast, Sophia C. McCavitt-Malvido, Casey D. McBride, Kaitlin Emily McCoy, Anthony Mendoza, Jazmin Mendoza, Ricardo Mendoza, Monique Elizabeth Micallef, Christopher Ryan Miller, Kelsey J. Miller, Samara Miller, Fabienne Kathleen Miskelly, Sonny Moe, Jordan Andrew Montalvo, David Lea Montgomery, Arturo Montoya, Tyler Moody, Monica Lizzet Mora, Marissa Elizabeth Morales, Sally S. Moreno, Jessica Munguia, Nadine Munguia, Amanda Marie Noelani Murphy, Cory Murphy, Ashley Myers

N-O Lauren Nachazel, Marisol Navarro Buendia, Nadia Stephanie Nothelfer Pereira, Brenda G. Nunez, Ariana O'Brien, Katherine Elizabeth O'Dowd, Sarah-Anne Genevieve O'Leary, Alan Diego Ochoa, Fatima Paola Olivares, Jesus Jose Olivares, Shane Akira Ono, Bryan Orellana, Zulem Orozco, Erika Yesenia Ortega, Mia Sara Ortiz, Xochitl Mendoza Ortiz, Amanda Ottosson, Katelyn Margaret Oyer

P-Q Yasmin Veronica Padron, Benjamin David Parnes, Angel Isidro Paz, Jessica Pedraza, Matthias Gabriel Pelesasa, Kenia Arlette Pereda, Janet Perez, Marquis Brion Pickrom, Alfred Pineda, John Paul Pollio, Angela Rose Pomi, Alexander Georges Purcell, Brenda Esmeralda Quezada, Paula Maria Quezada

R Elisabeth Aliti Radravu, Diana Nicole Ramies, Margaret Kelly Ranes, Christine Nicole Reinertson, Eduardo Revuelta, Eric G. Revuelta, John Reyes, Grace Lucille Rhodes, Michael Thomas Rhodes, Craig Bjorn Richins, Eric Alan Rider, Roberto Rios, Pablo Rocha, Deana E. Rojas, Alexander Roman, Georgina Romero, Linda Romero, Nicholas Roschkowsky, Bradley Lawrence Rosinski, David Roughgarden, Alexander B. Rudolph, Nathaniel Glen Ruffner, Kricia M. Ruiz

S Kirollous M. Salama, Alexander Salazar, Alesandra Christine Sanchez, Antonia Sanchez, Juan C. Sanchez, Sophia Esther Sanchez, Beatriz Sandoval, Monica Marie Sandoval, Timothy Michael Barrett Santomango, Jesus Santos, Spencer Zellerbach Sarver, Amanda Grace Saucedo, Kalsey M. Schiedick, Daniel Robert Schmeeckle, Max D. Schneider, Ashley Rian Selb, Melanie Ruth Siegel, Rayan Silva, Arindra P. Singh, Shinal Singh, Jesse Jordan Slater, Casey Smithart, Sergio Solis, Ashley Soria, Natalie Jo Spremich, Victor M. Squillacioti, John David Stockford, Emily Stockwell, Kaarin Sundquist Storum, Trevor John Sturm, Alisa Lauren Summerour

T Karol Tafur, Tominiko Niko Takapu, Karla Iliana Talancon, Ryan Tate, Lopeti M. Taufoou, Maribel Tejada, Miguel Tellez, Zachary Test, Andrew S. Theiss, Derek Daniel Thompson, Kenneth Thompson, Lindsey Grace Thompson, Rachael Elizabeth Quintero Thorpe, Michael M. Torchia, Daniel L. Torres, Pedro Torres, Raymond Armando Torres, Paul A. Tuiono, Polly Tzelepis

U-Z Alberto Jose Urieta, Curtis A. Vail, Katarina E. Vailetti, Jose Alberto Valdovinos, Denise I. Valencia, Ryan Lee Valtierra, Ethan Vandermaas, Nury C. Vargas, Joanna A. Vasquez, Miguel Alejandro Vasquez, Jessica Janeth Vazquez, Veronika Susan Veres, Oliver Villa, Cesar Villegas, Jamin Adrianna Vimahi, Andrea Frances Walker, James Charles Walker IV, Daniel Robert Walters, Alysa A. Warren, Caitlin M. Watt, Benjamin Andrew Weiher, Shane Taylor Weiss, Britni Sara West, Thomas E. West, Robert Wetzel, Christopher James Whiteside, Cameron Joseph Williams, Torrence Williams, Veronika Ashley Withers, Amanda Natalie Wood, Brieanna A. Wright, Paul Charles Yapp, Justin E. Yee, David E. Zamora, Guadalupe Zamudio-Molina, Rachael Noel Zarate, Maria Fernanda Zarzosa, Dong Dong Zhao, Nicolas Rudi Zier, Christopher D. Zinnanti. ▲

HILLVIEW

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Berger, Haley Berggren, James Blawie, Isaac Block, Melanie Bloom, Benjamin Brees, Daniel Brenzel, Charles Brock, Nicolas Brody

C-D Robert Caine, Alison Candlin, Laura Canessa, Nicole Case, Jeffrey Casey, Kathleen Champion, Ian Chase, Andrew Chavirs, Christopher Chavolla, Grace Chen, Jennifer Chute, Gillian Collom, Austin Costello, Armando Cristerna, Anna Crookston-Herschlag, Michael Culhane, Thomas Cummings, Kathleen Dahlhoff, Victoria Dahlhoff, Abigail Dahlkemper, Robert Davis, Stas Della Morte, Robert DeSandre, Amanda Devine, Sofia Dewar, Michael Dickey, Stephen Dickey, Amanda Dobson, Emily Doherty, Quentin Doyonnas

E-G Chandler Eason, Cristofer Echols, Camille Escobar, Kate Estkowski, Eric Evans, Gregory Evans, MollyFagan, Jordyn Fantuzzi, Michael Farzi, Alison Feldman, Alexander Fioretti, Grahame Fitz, Jeremie Fitzpatrick, Christina Fogel, Katharina Fore, Hallee Foster, Rachel Fox, Esmeralda Garcia, Justin Genevro, Jack Gertridge, Megan Glazebrook, Citlali Gonzalez, Jose Gonzalez, Nahuiketzali Gonzalez, Nicolette Gottuso, William Gray, Hailly Green, Amanda Griffin, Russell Gurman

H-K Charlotte Hailey, Emma Hailey, Paul Hailey, Brendan Hale, Jonathan Halprin, Kenna Harpell, Anthony Hatfield, Samuel Hausman, Nicolas Henze, Christina Hidalgo, Brett Hightower, Anelise Hohl, Madeline Holtzman, Natalia Huerta, Keith Inman, Kassidy Iwashita, Edward Johnson, Emily Johnson, Taylor Karis, Paige Keating, Alexis Keller, Colin Kelley, Rory Kennan, Kurt Kessler, Christopher King, Sofia King, Fiona Kirby, Julian Kitzmiller, Sara Kline, Bridget Kludt, Tristan Konolige, Courtney Kurtz

L-M Tyler Lawrence, Clarissa Lee, Sydney LeFebvre, Katherine Liang, Ian Lindelsee, Jacob Lindquist, Brian Little, Sofie Madden, Linda Marroquin, Francis Masuda McKinley Mathon, Jason McGhee, Natalie McMahon, Amy Meltzer, Jacob Meyers, Lauren Miller, Samantha Mitchell, Daniel Mohr, William Mohr, Kendall Mongird, John Morey, Henry Mouat, Izamar Moya, Regina Mullen

N-P Farzan Naimi, Yuga Nakayama-Larrabee, Jiayi Ning, Yuki Nishimura, Laurin Noguchi, Maria Nunez, Maxwell Nuyens, Brogan O'Hara, Daniel O'Neel, Megan O'Neil, David Oser, Gregory Owen, Viliami Palu, Edwin Parada, Karen Parada, Dylan Ping, Nicholas Plante

Q-S Kelera Qauqau, Preben Ramleth, Austin Randall, Kate Reardon, Lauren Richards, Joseph Ricktor, Christina Rodgers, Hannah Rosenfeld, Rachel Rosensweig, Tyler Ryan, Jailan Sabet, Clary Sawyer, Maggie Schack-Lambdin, Kyle Scherba, Garrett

Continued on next page

Corte Madera graduates head on to high school

Ready to graduate are these student leaders at Corte Madera School in Portola Valley. They are, front row, left, Justin Lannin, Paige Solomon, Emily Parsons, Shani Taylor-Keeling, Kayla Emmerson, Kendra Carano, Kate Savoca, Caitlin Brandman; standing, Evan Cann, Max Moore, Ronnie Thompson, John Gabriel Jernick, and Ryan Townsend.

The Almanac/Marjorie Mader

Eighth-graders will graduate from Corte Madera School and the Portola Valley School District on Friday, June 15, during "promotional exercises" that start at 5:30 p.m. in the school's multi-purpose room.

Principal Joel Willen, in his third year at Corte Madera, will give the principal's message.

Students who have written speeches are being chosen to represent their class as graduation speakers.

The eighth-graders have chosen as their class song, "My Wish," with music and lyrics by Jeffrey Steele and Steve Robson.

Several awards will be given during the ceremony. The following teachers will present awards: service, Brigetta Brown; scholar-athlete, Dan Flahavan; CARE (stands for Character, Attitude, Responsibility, Effort), Serge Morgan; academic honors, Brigid Corboy; and outstanding student, Jeff Mead. Mr. Willen will present the principal's award.

Parents, whose youngest child is a member of the graduating class, will be recognized and acknowledged.

Karen Jordan, president of the Portola Valley district school board, and Trustee Donna Carano will assist Principal Willen in presenting diplomas.

A reception will be held after the ceremony, hosted by parents of seventh-graders and sixth-graders.

Later, the graduates will be whisked away to an undisclosed destination for the traditional Grad Night, planned by their parents on a surprise theme.

CORTE MADERA SCHOOL GRADUATES

A-D Dante Andrighetto, Erica Balderrama, Ruben Beraza, Samantha Boulanger, Caitlin Brandman, Kevin Bui, Ryan Burger, Evan Cann, Kendra Carano, Grant Carr, Samuel Cronin, Michael DeBroeck, Britney Dominguez

E-J Kayla Emmerson, Ali Fabbro, Ricky Falore, Mariah Fraumeni, Melanie Galindo, Nick Gebhart, Pamela Gluss, Thomas Gore-Schreck, Ryan Goulden, Stephen Harman, Eliza Henderson, Seniuila Hopoi, Daniel Hunt, Gregory Hyver, John Gabriel Jernick

K-R Shivana Khatod, Sophie Koontz, Geoffrey Lalonde, Justin Lannin, Mason Lewis, Taryn Lewis, Ben London, Alec MacKenzie, Paulo Mataele, Richard Mendelsohn, Maxwell Moore, Brian Moran, Bryan Munks, Emily Parsons, Juan Revollar

S-Z Kate Savoca, Jarvis Sill, Corinn Small, Paige Solomon, Aleksandr Staprans, Will Strober, Shani Taylor-Keeling, Ronnie Thompson, Samuel Tindell, Ryan Townsend, Kellie Ullom, Charlie West, Rebecca Wilson, Robert Wiszowaty.

HILLVIEW

continued from previous page

Schwanke, Marisa Schwarz, Diane Seely, Samuel Sexton, Joseph Shepard, Cara Sivara, Nathaniel Skinner, Adam Sklarin, Matthew Smith, Buck Stanek, Kelley Stanske, Kristina Steben, John Strebler, Andrew Sweeney, Julia Sylvester

T-Z Weston Tapia, Salofi Tautua'a, Sulia Teu, William Thomsen, Abigail Thornburg, Christoffer Thygesen, Colton Toy, Ross Trammell, Pesa Tupa, Nicolas Valencia, Willie Veenhuyzen, Julia Vitale, Jordan Voskuil, Chace Warren, Sarah Watson, Evan Weiner, Zachary Wentz, Nicola White, Elisabeth Wilkinson, Daniel Windham, Zoe Winkworth, Cameron Winn, Shelby Wirtz, Philip Witham, Nathan Wulff, Caleb Young, Miles Young, Neil Zaky, Sylvia Zasslow.

Summit Prep graduates first class June 15

The first graduation ceremony at Summit Preparatory Charter High School, with 70 seniors graduating, is scheduled for 6 p.m. Friday, June 15, in Carrington Hall on the campus of Sequoia High School at 1201 Brewster Ave. in Redwood City.

After the ceremony, a reception will take place in a grove outside the hall, where a film and slide shows will celebrate the Class of 2007, said Diane Tavenner, executive director of the school.

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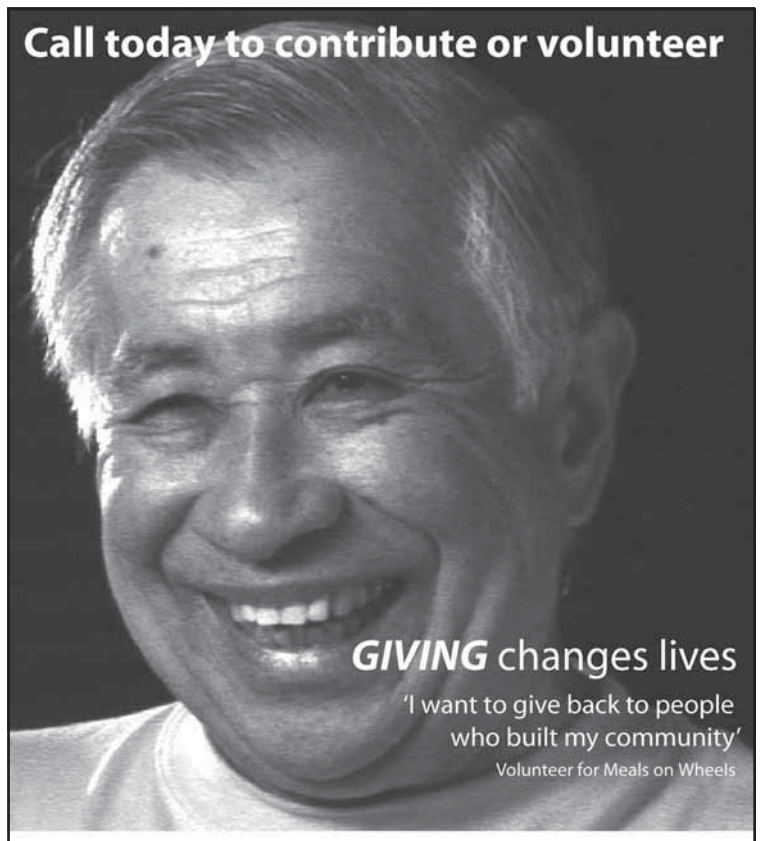

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the Town of Atherton will hold a public hearing on Monday, June 18, 2007, commencing at 7:00 p.m. (or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard), in the Town Council Chambers, 94 Ashfield Road, Atherton, for the purpose of:

DISCUSSION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2007/2008 INTEGRATED OPERATING/CAPITAL BUDGET; AND

CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE FISCAL YEAR 2007/2008 INTEGRATED OPERATING/CAPITAL BUDGET

INTERESTED PERSONS may appear and be heard, or written comments may be submitted to the Atherton City Council, c/o City Clerk, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, CA, 94027. Comments may also be faxed to the City Council at 650-688-6528, or emailed to: **khamilton@ci.atherton.ca.us.** Any attendee who wishes accommodation for a disability should contact the City Clerk's Office at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Kathi Hamilton Acting City Clerk
Dated and Posted: June 1, 2007
Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on JUNE 13, 2007.

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PV board balks at expanding plan to release kids early from school

■ Board asks for more information from superintendent.

By Marjorie Mader
Almanac Staff Writer

Earlier this year, the Portola Valley School District adopted a pilot program to dismiss kids from class early on Wednesday to give teachers more time to collaborate and plan instruction time.

Corte Madera students in grades 6-8, for example, were dismissed at 2:10 p.m. instead of at 3 p.m.

On June 6 the school board voted to continue the program for the 2007-08 school year, but board members balked at a proposal by Superintendent Anne Campbell to further decrease instructional minutes. The board asked for more information before making a decision at its June 19 meeting.

Under Ms. Campbell's new proposal, the Wednesday dismissal time at Corte Madera for grades 6-8 would be 1:05 p.m.

The net decrease in instructional time for grades 6-8 under the pilot program is 1,109 minutes for the entire school year, versus 2,404 minutes under the new proposal.

Ms. Campbell said the early release gives teachers the additional planning time needed to implement the district's strategic plan, which includes educating students to acquire skills and information to "make positive contributions to a diverse and changing world."

Some board members said that before adopting the new proposal, they want to know how the change would result in more effective teaching.

Ms. Campbell said she would bring more information, including results of a survey of parents, and possibly a revised proposal to the next board meeting. "We do want to reach out and communicate with the parents before moving forward," said Ms. Campbell.

'Surprise' proposal

Trustee Teresa Godfrey said the proposal was "a surprise to me." She said she had expected an analysis of the pilot program instead of being presented with a new proposal.

Four parents at the June 6 meeting expressed concern about the loss of classroom minutes for Corte Madera students.

Under the proposal, Corte Madera students in grades 6-8 would be in school for 282 minutes on Wednesdays, 79 minutes fewer than on other school days.

At the district's other school, Ormondale (for grades K-3) students would be dismissed at 12:35 p.m. Wednesdays under the proposed schedule as compared to 12:50 p.m. under the pilot that included lunch and recess, and compared to 2:40 p.m. on regular days for grades 1-3. For kindergarteners, the proposed plan would go into effect after the February break.

If the board adopts the proposal, the instructional minutes at both schools would remain well above state minimum requirements, said the superintendent.

The proposal would also better align dismissal times at the two schools, which would be more convenient for the 81 families that have children at both schools.

After a lengthy discussion, Trustee Don Collat made a motion to continue the pilot program, which was supported by board members Godfrey, Donna Carano and Karen Jordan, as well as Mr. Collat. Trustee Ray Villareal abstained, and suggested surveying parents prior to making a decision at the June 19 meeting.

An "early Wednesday" or "early Thursday" dismissal for students has for years been a regular part of the schedule at most local elementary school districts. ▲

■ SCHOOLS

■ MEETING

The school board of the Portola Valley School District will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 19, in Room 1001 at Corte Madera School, 4575 Alpine Road in Portola Valley.

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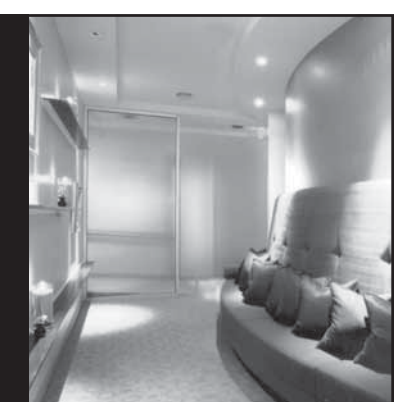

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Kevin Tabb, M.D.
Chief Quality & Medical Information Officer, Stanford Hospital & Clinics and Stanford Medical Center

MODERATOR

Mark Tortorich, FAIA
Vice President, Planning, Design and Construction, Stanford Hospital & Clinics and Lucile Packard Children's Hospital

Man sentenced in kidnapping of MP woman

A Fresno man who conspired in 2005 to kidnap a Menlo Park woman and bring her to Fresno, where she was to be raped and murdered, was sentenced to 35 years to life in prison Friday in San Mateo County Superior Court.

Alfonso Cuevas Gonzalez, 40, was convicted in March of conspiracy to commit murder, conspiracy to commit rape, kidnapping during a carjacking and criminal threats.

Judge Craig Parsons sentenced Gonzalez to 25 year to life in prison on conspiracy charges, with an additional 10 years added to the sentence because Mr. Gonzalez held the woman at gunpoint during the kidnapping, according to Deputy District Attorney Morris Maya.

Mr. Gonzalez was hired in 2005 by Menlo Park jewelry storeowner Ricardo Zambrano to kidnap a former female employee of Zambrano's — a woman in her 20s from Mexico — who had refused his romantic advances.

After kidnapping the woman at gunpoint on June 10, 2005, Mr. Gonzalez told the woman as he drove her to Fresno that he, another man and Mr. Zambrano were going to rape and kill her, according to the victim's testimony during the trial.

However, the kidnapping plan dissolved when Mr. Gonzalez couldn't find his accomplices. The woman eventually escaped with the help of a Fresno woman who had foreknowledge of the plan and who was an acquaintance of both Mr. Zambrano and Mr. Gonzalez. Both men were arrested soon afterward.

Mr. Zambrano, 38, also of Fresno, was convicted in April of conspiracy to commit rape, kidnapping with the intent to commit rape, kidnapping during a carjacking, dissuading a witness and false imprisonment.

— Bay City News Service

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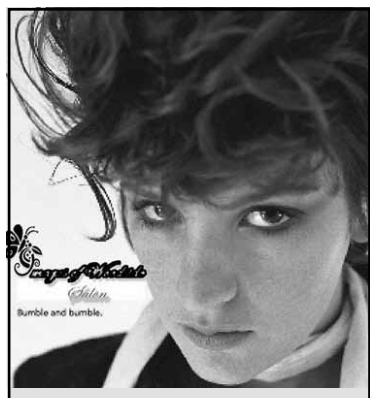

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Community

NEWS OF LOCAL PEOPLE AND EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Benefit showcases local actresses

"Divas-in-Training" Kathryn Foley of Menlo Park, Molly Murphy of Emerald Hills and Megan Putnam of Portola Valley will perform with Molly Bell and a cluster of other professional actresses in a Los Altos cabaret show that benefits Relay for Life: American Cancer Society.

The show starts at 7 p.m. Monday, June 18, at the Eagle Theater of Los Altos High School.

"I think it's important for everyone on the Peninsula to see how much talent comes from our community," says Ms. Bell.

Her father, Larry, died of lymphoma in 1999. This is the third year she has staged a cabaret to help combat the disease.

The "family friendly" event also features William Liberatore, resident musical director of TheatreWorks, as "Divo of the Keys" — the pianist, says Ms. Bell.

A VIP reception will follow the show at 8:30 p.m.

Local actresses, from left, Molly Murphy, Molly Bell and Megan Putnam are among those who will perform in a cabaret show benefiting the American Cancer Society.

Los Altos High School is at 201 Almond Ave. Tickets range from $25 to $75. For information, go to www.missmollybell.com.

Summer book sale in Menlo Park

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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La Honda holds music, arts festival

The annual La Honda Faire and Music Festival is set for Saturday and Sunday, June 16-17, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at La Honda Gardens, 8865 La Honda Road.

The fair brings together musicians, artists and craftspeople, with proceeds benefiting the La Honda Elementary School art and music program. Admission is free.

A schedule of musical performances, and other information, is online at La-Honda-Faire.org. It is also is available by calling Bonnie Fiedler at 747-0640.

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Filoli to exhibit botanical paintings

Lee McCaffree and Catherine M. Watters are among the 40 artists whose paintings will be featured at Filoli's ninth annual Botanical Art Exhibit to be held June 21 through July 29.

Ms. McCaffree and Ms. Watters are the primary curriculum developers and instructors of the Botanical Art Certificate Program at Filoli. Ms. McCaffree has exhibited her paintings at the Royal Horticultural Society in London. Ms. Watters is an illustrator.

The ballroom of the Woodside mansion will showcase the 74 scientifically accurate original botanical art paintings from local and global artists. A selection of antique prints from Lyons Ltd. and the Banks Florilegium will also be displayed elsewhere in the house and at the Visitor and Education Center.

A free public reception with wine and hors d'oeuvres will be held on Thursday, June 21, from 5 to 7 p.m. Reservations must be made by June 15. Call 364-8300, ext. 298, or e-mail classes@filoli.org.

Filoli is at 86 Canada Road in Woodside. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and Sundays 11 to 3:30 p.m. Last admission is at 2:30 p.m.

Admission for non-members is $12 for adults and $5 for students ages 5-17. Children under 5 are admitted free. For more information, call 364-8300 or visit www.filoli.org.

Hiller goes vertical with aerial stunt shows

The Red Bull BO-105 helicopter will perform aerial stunts and even fly upside down at "Wild Brew Yonder — Twilight Helicopter Air Show Microbrew Fest" on Friday, June 15, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the San Carlos Airport.

The event is a preview for the eighth annual "Hiller Aviation Vertical Challenge" air show staged the next day. Both events are sponsored by the Hiller Aviation Museum.

Also on the bill for the Friday event are "Showcopters," a team that performs an aerial ballet to "Flight of the Valkyries," as well as a barrel-racing helicopter named "Otto the Clown."

An array of international foods and a selection of beers from Bay Area brewing companies will be available.

On Saturday, June 16, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., the "Vertical Challenge" will feature more than 50 helicopters performing stunts and offering rides. Search and rescue demonstrations by the Coast Guard's HH-65 Dolphin, extraction demonstrations by the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department, and water drops by the California Department of Forestry will also be staged.

There will be refreshments, live entertainment, kids' attractions and helicopter rides ($45 per person).

Tickets for the Friday event are $50 for museum members and $60 for non-members. Tickets for the "Vertical Challenge" are $15 for adults and $10 for children age 5-17. Seniors 65 and older and kids under 5 are admitted free.

The Hiller Aviation Museum is located at the San Carlos Airport, 601 Skyway Road in San Carlos. For more information, call 654-0200 or visit hiller.org.

■ NOTES

Traffic-safety class for older drivers

A traffic-safety class for older drivers will be held July 12 in the Rainbow Room of the Sequoia YMCA, 1445 Hudson St. in Redwood City, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The class, taught by CHP volunteers, aims to equip older drivers to stay on the road for as long as possible and as safely as possible, says Bill Chiang, spokesman for San Mateo County Supervisor Adrienne Tissier, who is sponsoring the event. Some 750 Peninsula seniors have taken the program, Mr. Chiang says.

For information or to register, call the office of County Superintendent Adrienne J. Tissier at 363-4572.

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Call for artists of Bay Area nature

Bay Area painters and photographers who portray the beauties of the local environment are invited to submit works to show at "Nature's Inspirations: Celebrating the Arts," a juried art exhibition to he held this year on Sunday, Sept. 23, at the home of Bob and Jan Fenwick in Los Altos Hills. Deadline for entries is July 6.

The Committee for Green Foothills is looking for works that portray places, people and organizations that inspire the protection of agricultural and open space lands. Photographs or original paintings in oil, acrylic, watercolor, mixed media, or pastel are welcome.

■ NOTES

Six artists will be selected to participate in the September exhibition and art sale. One will win the Jane Gallagher Award, named for the late Portola Valley artist.

For information, call 968-7243, ext. 314; or go to greenfoothills.org/CFA

The Almanac/Veronica Weber

Going green

Mayor Kelly Fergusson gets a peek inside a ZX40 electric car shown to members of the Menlo Park Green Ribbon Citizens Committee outside the Menlo Park Library. The zero-emissions vehicle can travel at speeds up to 25 miles per hour, according to the Miles Automotive Group, the company that manufactures the car.

Watercolor classes at Little House

A watercolor painting class begins this week and is offered through July 23 from 9 a.m. to noon in the Garden Room of the Little House Activity Center, 800 Middle Ave. in Menlo Park. The cost is $55 for members, $60 for non-members. To register, visit the Community Service Desk or call 326-2025, x 230.

Walking group at Little House

The Avenidas/Little House Walking Group meets every Thursday in June at 9 a.m. in the Little House lobby at 800 Middle Ave. in Menlo Park. Walks explore the local area and take about two hours. For destination and details, call Hal Makin at 948-2310.

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Mark Schmidt is an American Board of Opticianry and National Contact Lens Examiners Certified Optician licensed by the Medical Board of California. He can be easily reached at Menlo Optical, 1166 University Drive, Menlo Park. 650-322-3900.

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PHOTO: RO COSTANTINI
Dr. Eric L. Weiss

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■ POLICE CALLS

ATHERTON

Burglary report: Break-in attempted in storage shed behind Child Development Center, 170 Selby Lane, June 4.

Fraud report: Unauthorized attempt to start telephone service in victim's name, 100 block of Walnut Avenue, June 1.

Theft reports:

■ Black bike worth $2,000 stolen from rack at Circus Club, 190 Park Lane, June 4.

■ Yellow diamond earrings and rings worth about $120,000 stolen, Monte Vista Avenue, June 5.

MENLO PARK

Auto burglary reports: ■ Car damaged by attempted forced entry during night, 1400 block of Laurel Street, June 1.

■ Car windows smashed, 700 block of Roble Avenue and 900 block of Evelyn Street, June 2.

■ Miscellaneous items stolen from car several nights ago, 2200 block of Eastridge Avenue, June 2.

Burglary reports:

■ House broken into, 1400 block of Plumas Avenue, June 4.

■ Residential burglary attempt, 1300 block of Henderson Avenue, June 5.

■ Anthony Joseph Feipel, 62 and a transient, arrested and charged with burglary, 100 block of Willow Road, June 6.

Fraud reports:

■ Unauthorized use of Social Security number, 100 block of Iris Lane, June 4.

■ Identity thefts, Lorelei Lane and 1700 block of Stanford Avenue, June 7.

Theft reports:

■ Air compressor stolen from yard after fence cut, 100 block of Constitution Drive, June 1.

■ Wallet robbed, 1300 Windermere Avenue, June 4.

■ Job site robbed, 2200 block of Avy Avenue, June 5.

■ Purse stolen, 900 block of Willow Road, June 6.

Spousal abuse report: 700 block of Laurel Street, June 4.

PORTOLA VALLEY

Residential burglary report: Road bike worth $2,200 stolen from unlocked garage, 100 block of Cherokee Court, June 4.

WOODSIDE

Traffic report: Driver and two passengers with minor injuries and moderate damage to car after swerving to avoid deer and skidding into oak tree, 400 block of Mountain Home Road, June 2.

■ COLLEGE GRADS

■ **Priyanka Jacob** daughter of Ravi and Eva Jacob of Atherton, received a bachelor of arts degree from Amherst College in Amherst, Massachusetts. She is a graduate of Castilleja School in Palo Alto.

■ **Elizabeth A. Burkholder** received a bachelor of arts in history from Davidson College in Davidson, North Carolina. While at Davidson, she served as an admissions office student ambassador, and studied abroad in Denmark during her junior year. She is a graduate of Menlo-Atherton High School and the daughter of Dr. John and Debbie Burkholder of Menlo Park

■ OBITUARY

Charlotte Anderson

Portola Valley resident Charlotte Anderson, the wife of former mayor and councilman Bob Anderson who died in January, died over the weekend.

She died at The Sequoias retirement community where she lived, said Anderson family friend Lt. Ken Jones of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office. She was 82, Lt. Jones said.

The Almanac will publish an obituary in a future issue.

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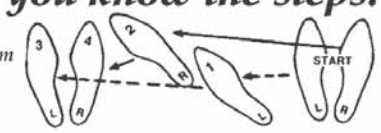

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LETTERS

continued from page 31

Building projects ruining quiet Atherton neighborhood

Editor:

What happened to my nice, quiet neighborhood?

I've lived in my home for over 40 years, in a wonderful, nice quiet neighborhood with quaint older homes and lots of trees.

But now many of the homes are being replaced by "McMansions." And also, it seems as more houses go up, more trees come down. What has replaced them is lots of noise and traffic.

The construction noise goes on all day every day and the traffic is always there, many times blocking the whole street. And cars are parked everywhere, making it difficult to get out of our driveway. The hammering and sawing are not as bad as the beeping of trucks while they are backing up. Can they back up all day long?

No one ever apologizes for the noise or the street being hard to get through. In the past, the prior owners of these properties would respect each other by letting each other know that they would be making noise because of repairs, trimming of trees or having a party.

Now it seems that all the newcomers feel they have all the rights and none of the obligations. The new houses look like motels, and they are bringing in full-grown trees to replace all the beautiful old ones that were cut down. One of the big problems is too many building permits are given at a time.

Lil Kavanaugh
Park Lane, Atherton

City should oppose Dumbarton rail extension

Editor:

With all due respect to my friend Steve Schmidt, I believe Menlo Park should register opposition to the Dumbarton rail extension as presently proposed.

Why? Because, while the trains will benefit the Peninsula to the north, they will not do anything for Menlo Park. To the contrary, they will inflict undue noise and emissions on the Belle Haven, Suburban Park and Lorelei Manor neighborhoods.

The proposal could be revised in either of two ways to improve the equation. On the one hand, using light rail and either electric power or non-emitting diesels would minimize the adverse impact on the abutting neighborhoods.

As an alternative, adding a station stop adjacent to the Willow Road crossing and including a shuttle bus between that stop and the areas in Menlo Park where commuters are likely to be employed would provide the missing benefit.

James R. Madison
Holly Avenue, Menlo Park

Consolidate fire agencies, and don't stop there

Editor:

In the May 30 Almanac there was an item asking: "Should San Mateo County fire agencies be consolidated?"

From my point of view the answer is "absolutely!"

For years it seems that the area is so overloaded with "managers" that there are insufficient "workers" to support them.

Perhaps consolidation should be considered in other areas. It is about 20 miles from the northern end of San Mateo County to the southern end in Menlo Park. Considering only the area east of Skyline there are at least 17 communities, or one every 1.2 miles.

Of course every town has its "NIMBY" factor, and some of it is justified. But probably more commonality than uniqueness exists. Most towns have a city manager, as well as police and sometimes a fire department, as well as sections or departments for planning, permits, purchasing, and so on. And each of these departments has its own manager, assistant manager, chief, assistant chiefs etc.

Schools also are overloaded with superfluous overseers. I know of one district that has two schools, a superintendent, assistant superintendent, two principals and two assistant principals.

It is my strong belief that much of these common needs could be better served by central offices. The libraries have done an excellent job of sharing their efforts. I do not know how cost-effective it has been, but certainly there has been considerable savings in the purchase of books.

For example, having perhaps three or four central purchasing centers instead of the 15 or so that now exist could mean a significant cost savings for the taxpayer.

No doubt there are many other areas where functions could be unified and every community could still retain their uniqueness. So let's get back to the drawing board and consider more than just fire protection.

Dan Goodman
Trinity Drive, Menlo Park

Rubber and plastic slab not good for kids

Editor:

What is best for the children of Woodside: playing on natural grass fields or on rubber and plastic fields?

It's really a rhetorical question because everyone knows that children should be in harmony with the natural world, not isolated from nature by a huge slab of hot rubber and plastic. It should not be a question of what's easiest or cheapest. It's what's best for the children.

What is best for the environment at Woodside Elementary School? Taking two out of the three cool natural grass fields and turning them into a hot, dead desert of rubber and plastic is pure madness.

What is best for our community? Would you rather picnic on rubber and plastic with loose rubber pellets on the surface or on natural grass where your children could make daisy chain necklaces if they wanted to?

Recently two whales got lost and swam up the delta almost to Sacramento and miraculously found their way back home to the open ocean. All the people who loved them kept visualizing them swimming under the bridges out to sea. The whales saw their way home in our hearts. If we open our hearts and let the whales help us we will see that our children should not be separated from the natural world. Our natural community park — sport fields should remain natural.

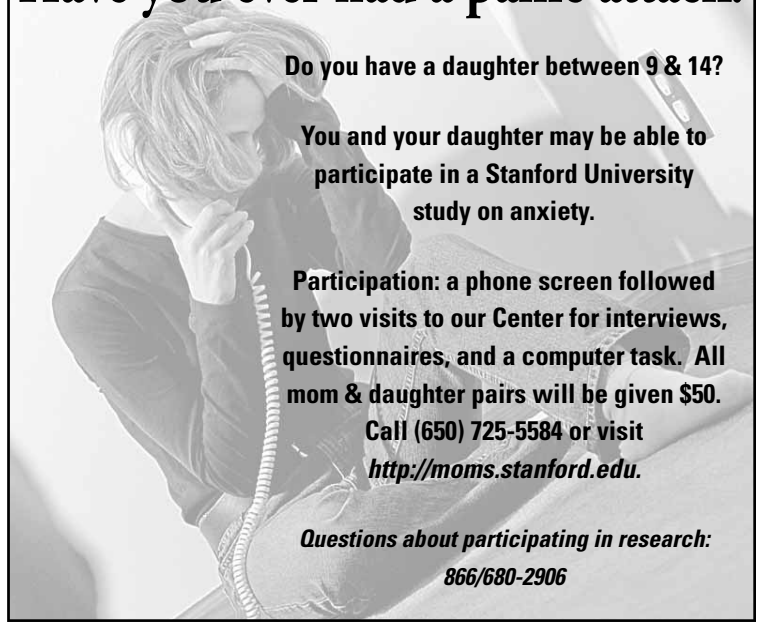
It's not about the number of games that can be played on the fields. It's about the health of our children and their environment. It's about the air and the water and the health of the birds and the butterflies and the squirrels and the bees. Let's put the extra money that we would spend on the installation of the artificial turf on properly maintaining new natural turf fields.

Patrick Noonan
Glenwood Avenue, Woodside

Stanford University
Department of Psychiatry

Paid Research for Moms & Daughters

Have you ever had a panic attack?



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PETER HANS PANDE
1918-2007

Peter Hans Pande, born on August 18, 1918 in San Francisco, died suddenly on May 23rd. He had lived in Palo Alto for 56 years. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Barbara, his daughter Eliza Warde, her husband Jake, and four grandchildren, Eben, Emily, Henry, and Caroline, and his brother Albert of Lafayette. His daughter Katharine predeceased him. Peter graduated from Stanford in 1940 and from the Stanford Business School in1942. He served in the Army in World War II as a medical officer. Peter had a love of cars and was fortunate to be able to work in the car business all his life. He and his partner Leonard Ely had a car dealership in Menlo Park for many years. During his life, he was president of the Foothills Tennis Club, and was on the board of Miramonte Mental Health and Avenidas Group. Private services will be held at All Saints Episcopal Church. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Alliance for Community Care, San Jose, Ca. Roller Hapgood Tinney Funeral Home,

PAID OBITUARY

The Almanac
Serving Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley, and Woodside for 40 years.

Viewpoint

Ideas, thoughts and opinions about local issues from people in our community. Edited by Tom Gibboney.

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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.

Finally, a deal on Derry

EDITORIAL
The opinion of The Almanac

About a month ago, we castigated the Menlo Park City Council in this space for its failure to embrace dense housing projects downtown, despite the "green" aspirations espoused by the city's Green Ribbon Task Force.

In particular, we cited the council's willingness to take a back seat during the lingering and secret negotiations of Morris Brown and the O'Brien Group over the size and impact of what is known as the Derry Project, a mixed-use housing/commercial development on Oak Grove Avenue downtown that had been proposed with 135 units of condominium housing. Mr. Brown last fall led a successful petition drive challenging the project and calling for a referendum vote. Since then, the council has allowed Mr. Brown and the O'Brien Group to attempt a compromise in secret negotiations, rather than rescind the project or place a referendum vote on the ballot.

But last week, after more than six months of evidently very complex and arduous talks, Mr. Brown and the O'Brien Group announced a compromise plan, which significantly downsizes the project and requires the developers to pay the city a $2 million "public benefit" fee. Other rollbacks include significantly fewer units, from 135 to 108, although some condos will be larger than in the original plan, and a lower density, from 50 to 40 units per acre. The height of the buildings has also been reduced, from 50 to 40 feet.

As a supporter of the original Derry plan, we were not a fan of Mr. Brown's petition drive, which came late in the game. But we applaud this compromise, and urge the Planning Commission and City Council to pass it after fair hearings. There is no guarantee that the plan will survive intact, although Mr. Brown said he did keep some city officials informed during the secret negotiations, which should defuse most opposition. No one outside the negotiating team except for a few council members was privy to the talks, a strategy Mr. Brown said was necessary to keep the process moving.

He says he hopes that voters who signed his petition will follow his lead and endorse the new Derry Project. He never intended to defeat the project entirely, he said; the goal instead was to bring it closer to the already-approved size limits permitted by Menlo Park zoning ordinances.

We believe there are plenty of reasons for the original signers to back Mr. Brown's view of the project. Here are a few:

- Overall, this is a smaller project whose large — 3,500 square feet — plaza could become just as popular as the Kepler's/Cafe Borrone complex at Menlo Center.
- The project will include 16 below-market-rate units, and offer about 25,000 square feet of commercial space in the heart of downtown.
- The city will gain an extra $2 million from the developers, as well as $3.4 million in park in-lieu fees, money that can be used to develop badly needed recreational facilities.
- The current buildings on the 3.4-acre site are overdue for redevelopment. The city is fortunate to have a first-class project to consider for this important site, and should not let the opportunity slip away.
- The project's size certainly helps defuse the criticism that Menlo Park is not open to high-density housing near transit.

Despite our earlier criticism of the lengthy and secret negotiations, Mr. Brown and his colleagues, former council members Paul Collacchi and Jack Morris, former planning commissioner Patti Fry, Elias Blawie and David Speer, as well as Jim Pollart from the O'Brien Group, should be congratulated for their effort. Now it is up to the planning commissioners, the council, and the public, to take a good hard look and then move the project forward. ▲

LETTERS
Our readers write

Physician adds an idea for bike safety

Editor:

As a practicing family doctor commuting by bike daily between Portola Valley, Menlo Park and Palo Alto, I could not help but respond to the emphasis in your editorial last week titled, "Time for serious effort on bike safety?" which addresses bike and driver education as well as law enforcement.

I appreciate your editorial and agree it is time, past time, for an effort on bike safety, but there are more important and more expensive adjustments which must be made.

Clearly, Sand Hill Road and Woodside Road suffer terribly from an absence of safe bike lanes and/or bridges when they encounter the usual All-American highway sprawl at clover-leaf intersections. We are continuing to create extremely dangerous routes for any modern recreation or alternative transportation by allowing our highway system to move forward with more and more high-speed on-ramps and narrow bike lanes in between traffic lanes.

It is indeed time to change the model, to decrease on-ramp merging speeds and to make safe biking and hiking routes wherever possible but most importantly under, over, or through busy high-speed intersections.

In medical practice we are seeing unacceptable numbers of biking injuries, both minor and major. The message in my

See **LETTERS,** *next page*

Collection of Jac Audiffred

Our Regional Heritage

The Woodside Village Church celebrated its 100th anniversary way back in 1993. According to a note provided by Jac Audiffred, the small church was to be dedicated at 2 p.m. on May 21, 1893, with a seating capacity of 100 and a Mason and Hamlin organ. The church cost $1,200 to build and remains one of Woodside's most venerable institutions. It is still located at the original site, 3154 Woodside Road.

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.

LETTERS

continued from page 30

opinion, however, is not to get meaner in terms of penalties and more cautious in our approach to transportation options. Our culture is full of those sentiments already.

This cultural style is having incalculable long-term negative effects on the way we raise our children, our attitude towards nature, exploration and exercise, and our hopes for a better future. What we need are connections and travel routes which are truly safe and bike friendly.

Mary Page Hufty, M.D.
Mapeche Drive, Portola Valley

Change direction; ride bikes against traffic

Editor:

I read with great interest your recent editorial on bike safety and agree with everything it recommended, but it left out one vital element — the direction that bikes are ridden on the road.

When I was a kid I was always told by my parents to walk and ride **against** the traffic so I could see the cars and bicyclists that were coming my way and get out of the way if they were coming too close to me. There were no bike lanes then and you really had to look where you were going.

I don't know when the law was changed to require bikes to ride with the traffic, but if the law is changed, it could save a lot of lives. A person would at least have a chance to "bail out" if they saw a car or bike coming at them in the bike lane.

I have lived and ridden a bike in Portola Valley for 40 years (I'm 76) and used to ride the Loop regularly but no more. I now go to Stanford and ride around the campus or I ride on back roads in Portola Valley or up Old Alpine Road because there is very little traffic.

In my view, bikers should be banned from riding on Arastradero Road from the Alpine Inn (Zotts) to Old Page Mill Road because it is too narrow and has no bike lane. And bikes should also be banned from Old La Honda Road and La Honda Road for the same reasons. Canada Road is much safer, as are many other roads in the area, especially if one was riding facing all the traffic that was coming at them.

Some of the recent deaths probably could have been avoided if the riders had a visual warning that said, "Hey, that car is in the bike lane and may hit me so I had better take some evasive action." If riders can't see the car or bikers coming, people will continue to be killed.

Ron Wilson
Bear Paw, Portola Valley

Can Menlo's downtown dream come true?

By Rich Cline

So, what do you envision for downtown Menlo Park in 20 years?

The question is sure to elicit many creative responses relating to land use and architectural themes. This is the question that Menlo Park leaders have addressed several times, but we are still seeking the holy grail of answers.

Rich Cline

I submit that much of the problem in recent years is that it's the wrong question. And if we ask it now, we are one step closer to yet another unfulfilled public engagement. As alluring as it is to ask for everyone's ideas and vision and dreams for downtown, we first have to solve the one single problem that constantly plagues us in Menlo Park.

How do you want your Menlo Park leaders to engage the community to develop a vision for the downtown?

The case for a comprehensive plan is easy — it provides a consistent set of development and land use parameters so that developers and business owners can easily navigate their projects. It will evaluate traffic patterns and include opportunities for better pedestrian and bike access. And it gives city leaders a measuring stick for negotiation when large projects are presented in these areas.

A new comprehensive plan will enable Menlo Park to control its future rather than respond piecemeal, project by project. It will also spur economic development and restore a sense of vibrancy in our downtown. Sounds easy, right?

It has been anything but easy. Public process is an ambiguous term and community engagement reminds me of former Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart's comment on pornography, "I shall not today attempt further to define the kinds of material I understand to be embraced, but I know it when I see it." We know good community engagement when we see it. And for most of us it has been a rare sighting.

This is the elephant in the council chambers.

So where do we draw the line on public engagement?

The most prevalent feedback I hear is that process sounds like a time waste and we don't want to be processed to death.

This gets right to the core of Menlo Park's political culture (of which I am a direct result, of course). If you don't gain consensus on the process, you will never gain consensus on the end result. How many different proof points do we need? You cannot speed up a project or a plan by shrinking the amount of outreach. You speed up the process by making sure your community engagement is done right and you avoid the delays and political conjecture at the end.

So today, while I know many people have strong and poignant views about what our downtown should or should not be, it is in our best interest to talk thoroughly about what process we plan to use. And you, as citizens, need to tell us, as council members, what process you want to use.

Yes, it is true that elections swing the outcome dramatically and it has in many instances. I would argue that if the community engagement is true, then it is without political bias and it therefore should easily survive a shift in balance on the council.

But the first rule of order is to let the community define its structural process. Each one is different and unique to that city — see Belmont, Redwood City, Mountain View or Los Gatos. In most cases a good process is a combination of concepts such as these:

Workgroup/Stakeholder Model; Regional Community Forums; Educational Symposia; Public Meetings; World CafÈ; and Surveys.

We also need to borrow from what we have done right in the past. Public hearings for off-leash dog parks under the previous council were very successful. The budget advisory concept in Your City/Your Decision was also quite effective and the current Green Ribbon Citizens' Committee has some ideas.

In the end, if we are to be successful, you, the public, will decide your own engagement process. And Menlo Park needs you to step up.

The revitalization is a cornerstone for future developments. We are talking about the livelihood of local businesses. We are talking about the essential "quality of life" elements that make Menlo Park so wonderful. And we are talking about significant amounts of money at play.

Let's get it done right.

Rich Cline is a Menlo Park City Council member who serves on the council's El Camino Real subcommittee.

Arastradero an accident waiting to happen

Editor:

I read last week's editorial about the bicycle accidents between bikes and cars on Sand Hill Road.

Both were tragic accidents. And there is an automobile/cyclist accident waiting to happen on the section of Arastradero Road between the Alpine Inn in Portola Valley to Page Mill Road in Palo Alto. It is a winding, hilly, narrow two-lane road that has no bike lane and no shoulder on either side. I know the cyclists have just as much right to use that road as motor vehicles, but they are in danger. An automobile can go around a sharp curve and find a cyclist in front of him. I never drive on that road unless I am going to the Arastradero Preserve.

Lee Boucher
Valencia Court, Portola Valley

Menlo should try Neighborhood Watch

Editor:

The upshot of the recent Menlo Park town meeting about the Willows shootings seems to be that the Menlo Park police are too short-staffed to adequately patrol the neighborhood.

Yet the police department seems to be responding by calling for the hiring of two new officers for traffic enforcement! Hiring two glorified meter maids for the purpose of revenue collection will do nothing to improve the safety of the Willows. If the city hires more police, they should be actual patrol officers who can improve public safety for the entire city, not just the Willows neighborhood.

Notably absent from the account of the town meeting in (a recent Almanac article) was any suggestion of revitalizing the Neighborhood Watch program, something that would be far more beneficial to the Willows than adding even more speed bumps to our streets.

Brian Schar
Laurel Avenue, Menlo Park

Unhappy with city's tax and budget process

Editor:

As I watched last week's Menlo Park City Council meeting about the 2007-'08 budget, I was troubled again by the circumstances by which we came to this point. It's not especially important whether the Utility Users Tax is set at 0, 2 or the maximum 3.5 percent. What is important is to understand the flawed and ethically dubious process by which the city carefully seeded the ground for the tax by telling the voters for most of the year that we had an intractable budget deficit of $2.9 million.

Then, a month before the election, it comes out very quietly, that in fact the city did not have a deficit at all. Even without Measure K, the utility tax, we will be enjoying a $3.9 million dollar **surplus**.

The question is why was this information withheld until it was almost too late to do anything about it? Who had this information but failed to quickly disseminate it to the voters so that they would be able to vote accordingly?

Did the City Council members know? With due consideration of the fact that Measure K won by about 60 votes out of thousands cast, would we even have a utility tax today?

I call upon today's City Council to consider these facts very carefully when they levy the utility tax, and to investigate the circumstances by which we came to have a tax. Above all, I call upon the council to create a permanent independent commission to review and audit the city's budget on an on-going basis.

Shirley Chiu
Patricia Place, Menlo Park

See **LETTERS,** *page 29*

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