

'Specialty grocery store' planned for former Cadillac site on El Camino. Page 5

The Almanac

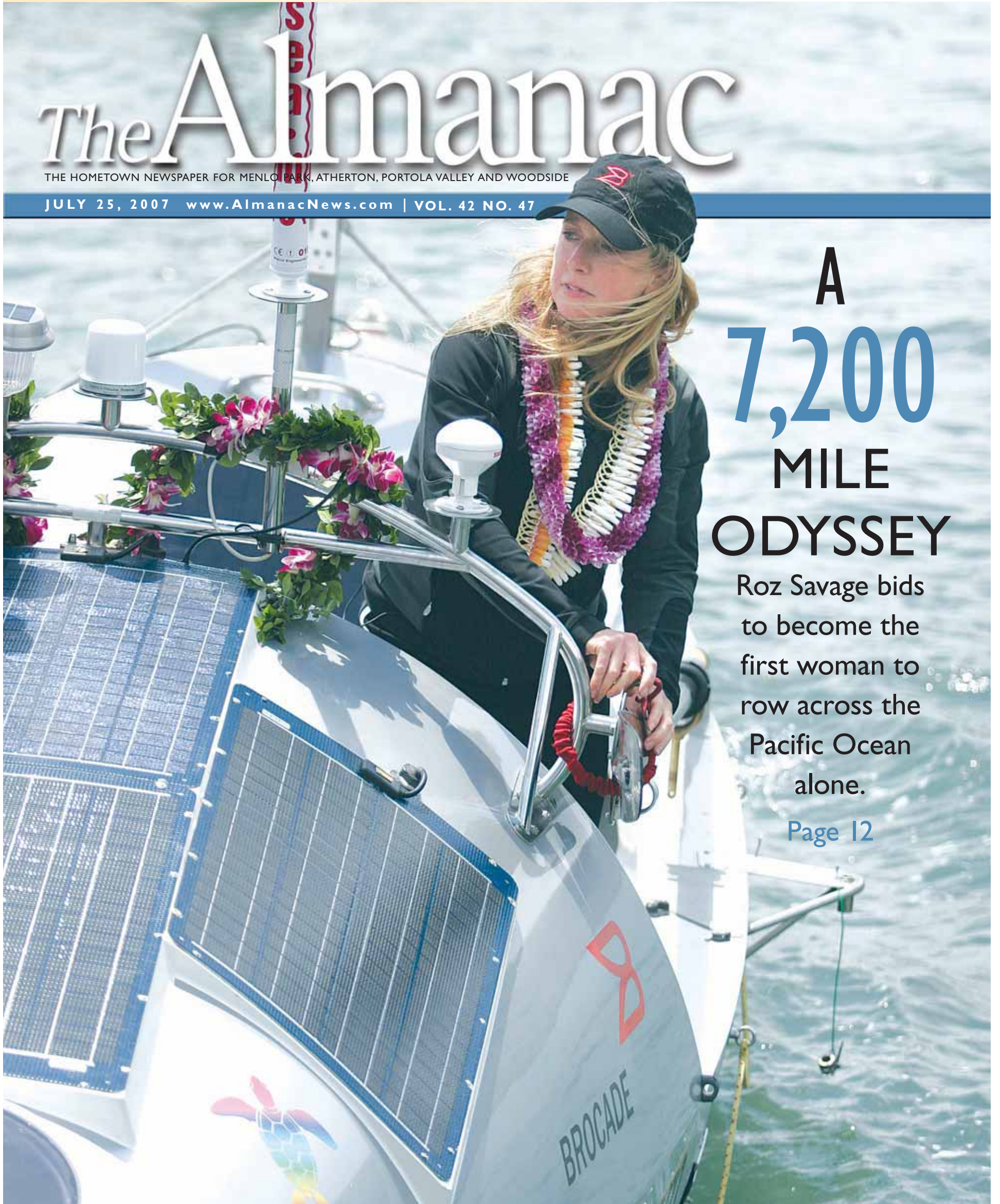
THE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER FOR MENLO PARK, ATHERTON, PORTOLA VALLEY AND WOODSIDE

JULY 25, 2007 www.AlmanacNews.com | VOL. 42 NO. 47

A 7,200 MILE ODYSSEY

Roz Savage bids to become the first woman to row across the Pacific Ocean alone.

Page 12



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Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT



The Almanac/Veronica Weber

All sorted out

Harry Potter fan Natalie Dullerud, 9, happily shows "Professor McGonagall" (aka Angela Mann) that she was chosen to be a student of Gryffindor House at Kepler's bookstore's release party for "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" on Friday, July 20. Natalie, dressed as Potter sidekick Hermione Granger, participated in a re-creation of the book's "sorting hat" ritual, one of the games and activities offered at the party celebrating the seventh — and reportedly final — book in the popular fantasy series about a young English wizard.

Atherton

■ Looser rules will allow larger basements for Atherton homes. **Page 5**

Menlo Park

- Grocery store planned for former Cadillac site on El Camino Real; fate of other auto lots still unknown. **Page 5**
- Downtown block party on Aug. 1 will close off Santa Cruz Avenue. **Page 14**

Woodside

■ Petition effort succeeds: Grass will grow on K-3 soccer field at Woodside School. **Page 9**

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CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

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Election 2007

■ Candidates lining up for local races on November ballot. **Page 16**

Regional

■ Hearing Aug. 2 on draft EIR for Huddart, Wunderlich master plan. **Page 15**

Community

- Sister Helen Costello of Sacred Heart Schools looks back at her years of ministry at the 'Castle' and beyond. **Cover, Section 2**
- Woodside's Village Barber loses lease, closing after three decades. **Page 7**

On the cover

Roz Savage gets ready to take her 23-by-6-foot boat, the Brocade, into the waters of the San Francisco Bay. Now living in Woodside, she hopes to set out soon for the 2,324 miles of the first stage of her solo row to Waikiki. Photo by Veronica Weber. See story and additional photos, **Page 12**.

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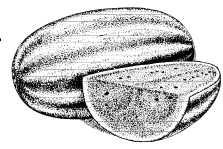
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Caffe, Per Favore

At home or in Rome, cap your meal with coffee. Here are some tips so you can order with the assurance of a native. Caffe in Italy is what we would call espresso (a very small cup of very strong coffee). Americano is American-style, but still stronger than most coffee drinkers are accustomed to. Caffe corretto has a shot of grappa, cognac, or liquor in it. Freddo is iced coffee, and hag is decaffeinated. Caffe latte has hot milk mixed in, and is customarily served with breakfast. Cappuccino is espresso infused with steamed milk, and drunk by purists only in the morning; caffe macchiato is similar to small cappuccino – coffee with just a drop of steamed milk.

Coffee is a beverage that most everyone to enjoy! At ROBERTS MARKET, we have a large selection of coffee products to choose from. So think about coffee, next time you need something to end a meal. 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 home-made hot soups, sandwiches, salads, and gourmet food stuffs.



HINT: On a hot summer day, order granitadi di caffe con panne – iced coffee topped with whipped cream!

GROCERY

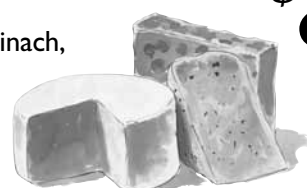
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Local News

MENLO PARK | ATHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Know your local pests

Bev Lipman, a Portola Valley resident concerned about the light brown apple moth infestation in San Mateo County, swears this exchange actually happened at the Menlo Park Trader Joe's when she was considering buying a basil plant:

At the customer service desk, I hold up the plant and say, "Is this OK? Do you know about light brown apple moth?" The man says, "What?"

"Light brown apple moth," I say. He says, "Light brown what?"

I say, "Light brown apple moth." He says, "Light brown apple what?"

I say, "Light brown apple moth."

Shaking his head, he says, "We don't carry it."

Dick Tagg to the rescue

A slow Sunday at the Woodside Community Museum got lively quickly when History Committee member Dick Tagg spotted a runaway horse headed toward Woodside Road.

The horse, hitched outside of the Pioneer, had fallen and broken its rope, said museum volunteer Lisha Mainz. "Dick sprinted over and turned into the horse whisperer," she said. "He wrangled this big filly right back to the post. ... It was a beautiful display of horsemanship!"

If there are any future displays of derring-do, the museum, located at Town Center and open Sundays from 2 to 5 p.m., should prove a good vantage point.

Big bucks raised for injured girl

At a breakfast fundraiser held at Buck's restaurant in Woodside on July 12, firefighters helped raise \$50,000 for Sarah Portz through the Redwood City Firefighters Association's Create-a-Smile foundation. Sarah, the 6-year-old daughter of two Buck's employees, was seriously injured after being hit by a car on June 15.

Residents from Woodside, Portola Valley and neighboring cities came to Buck's to drop off donations, said Capt. Rick Franchi of Redwood City fire.

Sarah is out of the hospital, but is still bed-ridden, he said.

What's in store for El Camino?

■ Grocery store planned for former Cadillac site; fate of other auto lots still unknown.

By Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

As Menlo Park city officials continue the wearisome debate on how to revamp properties along El Camino Real, one developer is going ahead with a plan to build a grocery store and office space at the former Cadillac dealership.

Sand Hill Property Co., the San Mateo-based developer that built a Whole Foods store in Los Altos last year, is planning to build a 50,850-square-foot grocery store and 58,000 square feet of office space at the former Cadillac site at 1300 El Camino Real, near Valparaiso Avenue.

Sand Hill partner Jeff Warmoth would not disclose the identity of the grocery store opera-

tor or give a timeline for when the project could be built, but said he is in talks with "a specialty grocery store tenant" to fill the space.

The grocery store would front El Camino Real with 30,000 square feet of office space on the second story; the remaining office space would be behind the store in a two-story building, according to plans filed with the city's planning department.

The plans also call for a 322-space underground parking garage, 98 at-grade parking spaces, and an 8,000-square-foot patio for outdoor dining.

The Planning Commission is tentatively scheduled to hold a study session on the project in August.

Second try

This is Mr. Warmoth's second attempt to develop the 3.45-acre Cadillac site, which is adjacent to the site proposed for the Derry

condo-commercial project.

In February 2006 he proposed building 135 apartments and 81,000 square feet of commercial space. That project called for about 40 homes per acre, and during a March study session, councilmen Richard Cline, Andy Cohen and Heyward Robinson said the project was too dense.

The three councilmen said the city should create a new plan for El Camino Real, including how much housing, commercial space, and other development is appropriate for the area. They said the city should not consider projects greater than the maximum 18.5 units per acre permitted under current zoning until a new plan for El Camino Real is in place.

Creating a plan

Thus far, the council members have

See EL CAMINO, page 8



Sequoia Hospital of the future

This rendering of a new entrance to Sequoia Hospital, as seen looking north from Whipple Avenue, is part of a planned \$240 million expansion at the Redwood City facility. Sequoia Hospital got a big step closer to final approval for the project by winning the unanimous support of the Redwood City Planning Commission on July 17. Plans include building a new 148,000-square-foot hospital; remodeling and upgrading much of the existing building; and adding a large parking structure. See story on Page 9.

Courtesy, Moon Mayoras Architects Inc. 2007

Looser rules will allow larger basements for Atherton homes

■ Basements can extend beyond the footprint of the house.

By Andrea Gemmet
Almanac Staff Writer

After spending several years tightening up restrictions on basement construction, the Atherton City Council is loosening the town's rules to allow larger basements.

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

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

Under new rules slated to take effect in September, basements can be larger than the house — up to 130 percent of the first floor's area — if the builder gets a use permit from the Planning Commission. The vote was 5-0 at the City Council's July 18 meeting.

Basements, once virtually unheard of in California, have become a popular amenity in

new homes on the Peninsula. In Atherton, they're used for everything from home theaters

In Atherton, basements are used for everything from home theaters and wine cellars to his-and-hers gyms and playrooms for kids.

and wine cellars to his-and-hers gyms and playrooms for kids.

Atherton resident Carol Flaherty successfully pushed to get the basement size limit bumped up from a proposed 120 percent to 130 percent by telling the council

that a 6,000-square-foot L-shaped house otherwise wouldn't be able to fit a home theater and a hallway in its basement.

"At 130 percent, you can accommodate almost anything," she told the council at its June meeting.

The September start date coincides with the council's expected adoption of new drainage rules following a town-wide study of storm run-off and groundwater.

At the July meeting, the council also approved stricter standards for installing fire suppression sprinklers.

Under the new rules, all new basements, no matter the size, will have to include sprinklers.

Putting a new basement of more than 250 square feet under an existing house would trigger the need to install sprinklers in the entire house, including the basement. ■



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The Almanac/Veronica Weber

Cecelia Medina trims longtime customer Jack Schutz's hair at the Village Barbershop in Woodside. The shop is closing July 31 after 31 years in Woodside.

Woodside's Village Barber closing after three decades

By **Kate Daly**
Special to the Almanac

It's the end of an hair-a," jokes Woodside barber Cecilia Medina, referring to her forced move out of town after 31 years of cutting hair in Woodside.

"My lease is up and it's all about money," she says.

Rumor has it that venture capitalists are moving into the building, and edging out the neighboring dentists, R. Bruce Jones and Jeffrey B. Jones, too.

"The small business person cannot compete. So we are closing our doors on July 31 and moving to the next village, Ladera in Portola Valley," Ms. Medina explains.

During these last days of doing business in Woodside, she is overwhelmed at times with the prospect of dismantling the Village Barber. Customers keep asking her about plans for a goodbye party, but she is having a hard time focusing on the details.

She has hundreds of clients to consider, ranging in age from 92 years to 8 months. "There is a lot of love here at the Village Barber shop. So you see this is quite an emotional blow," she admits.

Longtime customers stream in as usual, most of them still without appointments, and Ms. Medina continues to banter with them. "Here's an old cowboy," she exclaims when gray-haired Bill Jabs walks in the door. He used to live in Woodside and now drives in from the Grass Valley area for a haircut. "He's

been coming here since he had black hair," Ms. Medina notes.

He first sat in her chair at her old Woodside location next to the Stage Coach Restaurant, now Buck's. She then moved her shop to a nearby space by the hardware store, and 21 years ago landed in the current spot at 2975 Woodside Road, a block away and across the street.

A petite person with shoulder-length dark, curly hair, Ms.

'There is a lot of love here at the Village Barber shop. So you see (the closure) is quite an emotional blow.'

CECILIA MEDINA

Medina was born in Redwood City and raised her family there. She attended Barber College in San Jose in 1976, and says, "The training is the same today as it was then."

During her early years in Woodside, she paired up with Gina Kelley, who retired her scissors a long time ago, but still lives in Woodside.

For 21 years now, Ms. Medina has worked with another friendly brunette, Lisa Palm of Belmont, who studied cosmetology at the College of San Mateo and offers additional services such as color for men, and a wash, cut and blow-dry for female customers.

Ms. Palm grew up in Portola Valley and figures Woodside "has had a barber for probably over 100 years." She's mad about being "smooshed out of this town," and says, "You know who's really

angry are the customers."

Both Ms. Medina and Ms. Palm are proud to be part of the town's community and tradition. Ms. Medina says of the shop: "It's like your favorite neighbor. You come and hang out. ... You come for the town scoop, the scoop du jour."

She quips that one client tells her: "You're like my wife. You yell at me, then I give you money."

Lars Ahlstrom of Woodside has been a regular client for 10 years. He comes in about every eight weeks, and Ms. Medina automatically gives him a trim, with no need to talk about what he wants.

"We're family, we're friends," she says. "It's not about the haircut."

Andy Sandham walks in and Ms. Medina asks him if he still has his dog. He settles into Ms. Palm's chair and appears to feel at home. He moved away from Woodside six years ago, and still comes back to the Village Barber even though he lives in Cambridge, England.

Ms. Medina says she makes house calls for some of her older clients. She smiles when she recalls a former customer who for decades would always show up half an hour early and read the free copies of Playboy magazine in the back room. She used to tease him that when he stopped coming she would cancel the subscription. In the end, she didn't have to. When he died the magazine stopped coming, too.

"The worst day is when a customer dies," Ms. Medina says. "I've had a whole generation leave. I've been to a lot of funerals."

See **BARBER**, next page

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



The Market is Active This Summer

Q: I missed out on some properties last spring because of the competition from other buyers. I was hoping the activity would slow down in the summer months, but to my dismay, it hasn't. How do you see the market in the next few months?

A: I know it is hard to be a buyer this year in a very strong Mid-Peninsula real estate market. The problem is that there is very low inventory and very high demand. You might expect that more homeowners would decide to sell knowing that the market was so strong, but that has not been the case. It is possible that homeowners who

want to sell face the same dilemma as everyone else, namely that they can't find a property to buy and so they can't sell until they do.

So far the summer has seen multiple offers on properties in all price ranges. Demand has not slowed down and doesn't look like it is going to any time soon. The fall will likely be more of the same. Homeowners should know that if they were thinking of selling their home sometime in the near future, that a very good time to sell is right now. Buyers should not get discouraged by this activity but should make whatever compromises they can to succeed in this market.

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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After car crash, council delays plans for medical office complex

■ Traffic study warranted for Acorn project, council decides.

By Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

Following a serious car crash July 14 on El Camino Real near the former Acorn restaurant site, the Menlo Park City Council decided last week that a traffic study is needed before a proposed medical office complex can be built on the property.

The council voted 4-1 on July 17 to send the plan — which involves demolishing the restaurant structure and building the two-story office project at 1906 El Camino — back to the Planning Commission. Councilman John Boyle opposed the action.

The project, with the traffic study results, will return to the Planning Commission for a final decision, unless someone appeals

■ MENLO PARK

that ruling to the council.

The traffic study will take at least five weeks, according to city staff.

The Planning Commission initially approved the project at its May 7 meeting, but resident Mike Brady appealed that decision, arguing the applicant took advantage of the city's relaxed building guidelines in getting the project approved without a traffic study.

On Saturday, July 14, a car crash left a 28-year-old woman from Alameda seriously injured when her car was struck by a van as she apparently attempted to turn left onto southbound El Camino Real from Watkins Avenue, according to police.

That accident, coupled with two non-injury accidents that have occurred at the intersection in the past two years, prompted council members to require a traffic study

before the project moves forward.

"The issue here is that it's a dangerous intersection," said Councilman Heyward Robinson.

Mr. Brady, who lives several blocks from the Acorn site, and five other residents who live in the area, stressed that the intersection is dangerous as is, and the medical office complex would increase traffic at the site.

Council members said the traffic study should include potential mitigations to slow traffic and make the intersection safer. But any safety measures will have to be approved by Atherton because, although the former Acorn site is in Menlo Park, that segment of El Camino Real is in Atherton.

Councilman Boyle agreed that measures should be taken to make the intersection safer, but he said that process shouldn't hold up the construction of the medical office project. ■

What's in store for El Camino?

continued from page 5

struggled getting the El Camino Real plan off the ground.

Since establishing El Camino as a top priority in January, the topic has been at the root of confusion and bickering, as council members have been unable to determine what mix of public participation and consultant input is needed to make sure the look and feel of the major thoroughfare is designed to residents' liking.

"We need a road map so there's consistency on El Camino Real," Mr. Cline said. "It's going to require a ton of hours, a ton of headaches, and a lot of patience from everybody."

Mr. Cohen agreed that planning El Camino is a daunting task, but said councilmen John Boyle and Cline, as part of a subcommittee studying the issue, are failing to get much done.

Waiting it out

Other developers are waiting in

'We're being patient and letting the city establish a vision, but we view the Derry project as a very clear signal of what the community is comfortable with.'

JOHN BAER, SENIOR VP
THE MATTESON COMPANIES

the wings for the city to establish a new vision for El Camino Real so new projects can be built.

Plans to build a condo-commercial project at the former Anderson Chevrolet truck lot at 389 El Camino Real have been put on hold as the site developer, the Matteson Companies, waits for the council to start the planning process.

John Baer, a senior vice president with the Matteson Companies, said he hopes the proposed 108-condo Derry project off Oak Grove Avenue will set a stan-

dard for El Camino Real development.

"We're being patient and letting the city establish a vision, but we view the Derry project as a very clear signal of what the community is comfortable with," he said.

Stanford University is another major player in El Camino real estate, as Stanford Real Estate owns three important sites: the former Anderson Chevrolet car lot at 300 El Camino Real; the Lincoln Mercury site at 444 El Camino Real that closed its doors June 30; and the former University Ford site at 450 El Camino Real.

"The ultimate goal is to do a redevelopment of all of our properties at once, and we want to do that in conjunction with the city's El Camino Real plan," said Steve Elliott, a spokesperson for Stanford Real Estate. ■

lot of changes in Woodside over the years. She still uses scissors and clippers, but straight edged razors are a thing of the past. Back in 1976, haircuts were \$8; they are now \$27 for adults.

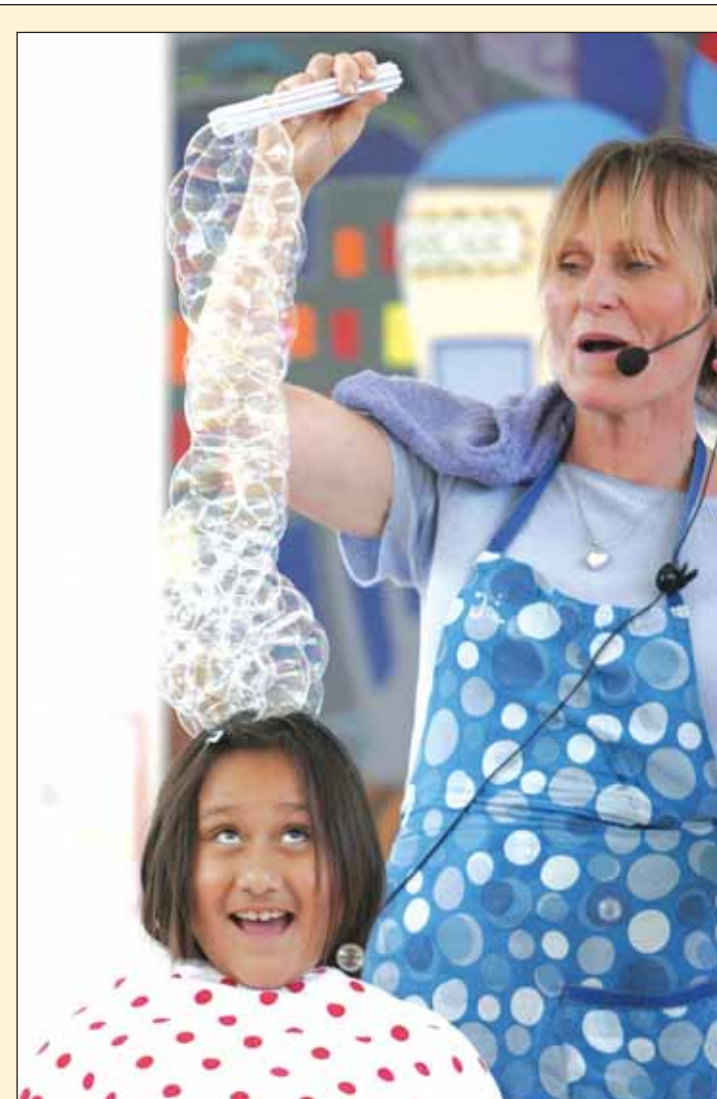
Woodside Harvey Rutenberg reminds her about the time about 30 years ago when he received only half a hair cut. He was called out on police patrol in mid-snip and had to come back later.

He says he'll follow Ms. Medina to her new location, a chair she'll be renting at Diane's Beauty Salon at Ladera Country Shopper starting Aug. 1.

The Village Barber phone number will stay the same: 851-3036. Ms. Medina plans to work Tuesdays through Fridays, and Ms. Palm will continue seeing clients on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Dogs aren't allowed at the new shop, so May-May the Westie will be staying at home.

The barber pole is the only fixture they are taking with them to Ladera. Ms. Medina says it once belonged to a customer who used to display it at his shop. She estimates it's at least 60 years old, and like her, on the move again and not ready to retire. ■



The Almanac/Veronica Weber

Bountiful bubbles

Jasmine Soria, 8, gets a "bubble-do" from Rebecca Nile, aka "The Bubble Lady," during a mid-day program last week at the Belle Haven Library. The program was part of a summer series for kids at the Belle Haven branch of the Menlo Park Library.

Open House/Open Studios Sunday at Djerassi ranch

Bright Oguchukwu Eke, a prize-winning environmental artist from Nigeria, will show his installation of carved redwood fish soaked in oil at the annual Open House/Open Studios of the Djerassi Resident Artists Program on Sunday, July 29, from 1 to 5 p.m.

Attendees can meet the eight resident artists, visit the octagonal Artists' Barn, attend performances, and walk the trails dotted with sculptures through the spectacular coastal hills with ocean vistas. There will be gourmet refreshments.

The Djerassi Residents Artists Program was founded in 1979 by Dr. Carl Djerassi, inventor of the birth control pill, to give artists uninterrupted time for work and reflection in a collegial setting of great beauty. The ranch, located on Bear Gulch Road west of Skyline and Woodside, is permanently protected by a conservation easement.

This year's resident artists,

who will show their work and give performances at the event, come from widely different places and disciplines. They are: Mr. Eke of Nsukka, Nigeria; Catherine Eastman, a visual artist from Los Angeles; Lynn Marie Kirby, a media artist from San Francisco; Brian Bevlander, a composer from Tiffin, Ohio; Hee Kung Cho, a choreographer from Seoul, Korea; Eugene Gloria, a poet from Greencastle, Maryland; Kerry Jones, a writer from Wichita City, Kansas; and Adrian White, a writer from Dublin, Ireland.

Admission is \$25 per person, and reservations are required. No pets are allowed.

For reservations, call 747-1250; or go online to djerassi.org.

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TOWNSQUARE
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Grass will grow on K-3 soccer field in Woodside

■ Petition effort succeeds, but synthetic surface retained for middle school field.

By David Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

The tempest over synthetic grass at Woodside School is apparently over.

In the wake of school-community protests at a July 16 board meeting and via an online petition, the five-member board of the Woodside Elementary School District agreed in a 4-1 vote on July 19 to use natural grass on the soccer field meant for K-3 children, while leaving intact plans to cover the middle school soccer field with artificial stuff.

The soccer fields are being redone as part of a \$13.3 million construction project begun last year that will also bring to the one-school district 13 new permanent classrooms, two music rooms, a computer lab, a new administration building and a community room.

Among the reasons cited by the petitioners in opposing the board's original plans for synthetic soccer fields: a simple preference for grass, the anti-environmental message a "green plastic carpet" might send to kids and other living creatures, and how such a field is "not consistent" with Woodside values.

"I'm thrilled with what the board has done," said Kristina Phipps, a parent and the author of the petition. The board acted with an open mind, she said, adding, "I think they should be commended."

Trustee Elianne Frankel-Popell opposed the compromise but would not explain her reasoning to the Almanac. "I don't want to

go into the details," she said. "I am a member of the board and so I will now implement the decision of the majority. ... I don't think that (explanations are) in the best interest of moving forward."

The synthetic-grass issue appeared to reach a full boil at a meeting convened Monday, July 16, where it was standing-room-only at one point, Ms. Phipps said. A motion by two trustees to continue that discussion to a later meeting failed to win a board majority, according to district staff.

A second meeting three days later, most of which was held behind closed doors, came about "in anticipation of litigation." The matter related to the soccer fields, the school district's attorney told the Almanac before the meeting.

In explaining the board's action, President Kimberley McMorrow said in a statement that staff "had provided the board with additional financial strategies which were independent from private donations and would not necessitate dipping into the district's reserves."

In a July 4 story, the Almanac reported that the district had planned to spend \$950,000 on the field upgrades, a sum composed of bond funds and a \$400,000 gift from the Woodside School Foundation. Assistant Superintendent Tim Hanretty re-affirmed those figures.

Superintendent Dan Vinson, the only person the board designated as a spokesman for the decision, did not return the Almanac's calls

requesting comment.

Memories of cut grass

Synthetic grass fields are popular, in part, because they don't need costly watering and don't deteriorate like grass fields do.

The online petition "Keep One WES Soccer Field Natural Grass" read simply enough: "Please reconsider the decision to install artificial turf on both soccer fields at Woodside Elementary School. We are strongly in favor of having a natural grass soccer field on campus."

Asked why she was pleased with one grass field and one synthetic, Ms. Phipps replied: "It seemed like one-and-one was actually a compromise that optimized happiness (and) utility" in a community that was also aware of the lateness of the petition.

Between Friday, July 13, when the petition went up, and Friday, July 20, 115 people signed it, including Susan Doherty, a parent of twins headed for pre-school at Woodside in September.

"I just have memories of when I walk in cut grass. It brings back memories of childhood," she said. "It is what childhood is about if you're lucky enough to live in a place where grass will grow."

Regarding the board members and their overall management of the year-long campus project, Ms. Doherty said: "I hold them in the highest regard. They've done such a fabulous job with the rest of the project, keeping it moving forward. I don't want them to feel that (because) this one issue needs to be revisited (that it) casts them in a bad light." ■



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Sequoia Hospital plan wins key approval

Sequoia Hospital got a big step closer to breaking ground on a \$240 million project to rebuild and expand its facilities in Redwood City. The project won the unanimous support of the Redwood City Planning Commission on July 17.

The plan involves building a new 148,000-square-foot hospital building at its site on Alameda de las Pulgas at Whipple Avenue; remodeling and upgrading much of the existing building; and adding a four-and-a-half-level parking structure.

At its meeting, the commission certified the project's final environmental impact report, and recommended approval of the project to the City Council.

A City Council study session is scheduled for July 23 to review the plans, and the council is set to hold a public hearing Aug. 27 for final approvals, said Sequoia Hospital spokeswoman Joanie Cavanaugh.

As part of the project, a 47,750-square-foot skilled nursing facility on the site would be demolished and a 50,000-square-foot medical office building would be constructed in its place.

The net increase in development would be 106,000 square feet for hospital use and 50,000 square feet for medical offices.

Hospital officials hope to begin construction in the fall, and complete the entire project

by 2012, said Ms. Cavanaugh. "The hospital will be fully operational the whole time," she said.

As with other hospitals in the state, Sequoia is facing a 2013 deadline to complete seismic upgrades.

"It provided us with a wonderful opportunity to update the hospital," Ms. Cavanaugh said. "It's perfect timing for us. We'll beat the deadline by a year."

For information on the Sequoia Hospital Project, go to <http://www.SequoiaHospital.org> and click on "About us" or call Redwood City senior planner Maureen Riordan at 780-7298.

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Atherton: New traffic signal OK, but no green light for funding

By Andrea Gemmet

Almanac Staff Writer

Traffic at a key intersection near Encinal School is already bad, and a major expansion planned at the elementary school's campus is only going to make things worse, said Atherton town staff.

Improving the flow of traffic through the intersection of Middlefield Road and Encinal Avenue is going to require the installation of a signal, said Atherton Public Works Director Duncan Jones. But a possible conflict over the signal's funding could be brewing.

Currently, the intersection is controlled by a stop sign on Encinal Avenue; traffic on Middlefield Road does not have to stop. The Menlo Park City School District sought—and got—the Atherton City Council's conceptual endorsement for a plan to add traffic lights. The vote was 5-0 at the July 18 meeting.

The council, however, added a caveat: It would approve install-

ing the signals only if the shared funding arrangement arrived at by the town, the school district and the city of Menlo Park is acceptable. It rejected the staff's recommendation to authorize a contribution of up to \$100,000.

"For us to pay \$100,000 to clear up their problem is wrong," said Councilwoman Kathy McKeithen. "It's primarily the school and Menlo Park causing the existing problem. It's not of our making."

Mr. Jones said a traffic study showed that the intersection is performing poorly during peak hours, getting an "F" level of service, meaning drivers face delays of 60 seconds or more turning from Encinal onto Middlefield.

Installing traffic signals alone could cost \$150,000 to \$200,000 he said, and the cost could go up to \$400,000 if roadway widening or other improvements are included.

For the school district, new stoplights are key traffic mitigations needed for the project to

expand Encinal from a grade 3-5 school with 395 students to a K-5 school with up to 700 students.

If signals aren't approve for the intersection, the school district will be required to conduct a full environmental impact report, costing between \$75,000 and \$90,000, said facility program manager Ahmad Sheikholesami. The district would rather use bond money on the facilities, not on environmental studies, he said.

In a related item, the council voted 5-0 to allow construction of a Middlefield Road entrance to a new teachers' parking lot on the Encinal campus.

A proposal for an alternate entrance to the lot on Prior Lane is opposed by many of that cul-de-sac's residents, and the council agreed that the Middlefield Road entrance would be a better choice.

Atherton's general plan limits driveway access on Middlefield Road, but Mr. Jones said town staff could justify an exception in the case of a public school. ■

Simitian to hit the trail in area state parks

In an effort to see for himself the effects of a proposed 30 percent cut to the California state parks budgets, state Sen. Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, will go hiking.

Sen. Simitian, whose district covers parts of San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties, plans to meet with rangers, hike several parks and see where the parks may be impacted.

The 2006-07 state budget included \$603 million for state

parks, but the 2007-08 proposed budget provides only \$422 million, according to Sen. Simitian.

"Year after year our state parks have borne the brunt of our struggle to balance the state budget," he said. "This longstanding neglect of state parklands has gotten to the point where we have a billion dollar backlog of maintenance and repair."

— Bay City News Service

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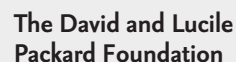
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ROZ SAVAGE BIDS TO BECOME THE FIRST WOMAN TO ROW ACROSS THE PACIFIC OCEAN ALONE

Story & Photos by Staff Photographer Veronica Weber

After surviving the frequent tipping-over of her 23-by-6-foot boat, the breaking of all four oars, and the complete breakdown of a navigation system, satellite phone, stove, and music player while rowing solo across the Atlantic Ocean in 2005, Roz Savage might be expected to be through with rowing oceans forever.

Quite the contrary. Ms. Savage has never been more eager to get back into the open waters as she now prepares for her next journey: rowing solo across the Pacific Ocean. If she's successful, she'll be the first woman in history to do so.

For the past few months, Ms. Savage has been living in Woodside in a friend's cottage, preparing for her Pacific odyssey — raising money and finding sponsors. During that process, she spoke to local residents, and the Almanac, about what motivated her.

After realizing she wasn't satisfied with the life she was leading back in Britain, she said, she set out to row the 3,000 miles of the Atlantic Ocean as part of the 2005 Atlantic Rowing Race in order to gain

perspective of her life and to challenge herself.

"I was at a stage in my life when I had turned my back on the corporate rat race, looking for a life that was more about who I was rather than what I owned," she said. "The way I wanted to do that happened to be to have a big adventure."

Once successfully completing the 103-day long journey across the seas, Ms. Savage decided to take on the 7,200 miles of the Pacific Ocean, this time doing things differently.

Instead of attempting the journey all at once, she has divided it up into three different stages. The first stage will be from San Francisco to Waikiki, Hawaii; then she will proceed to the islands of Tuvalu in the South Pacific, and on to Australia, where she hopes to arrive in 2009.

She's also got a lot more technology aboard her boat, *The Brocade*. The boat is a communications powerhouse filled with \$80,000 worth of equipment including laptops, satellite phones, navigation systems, digital still

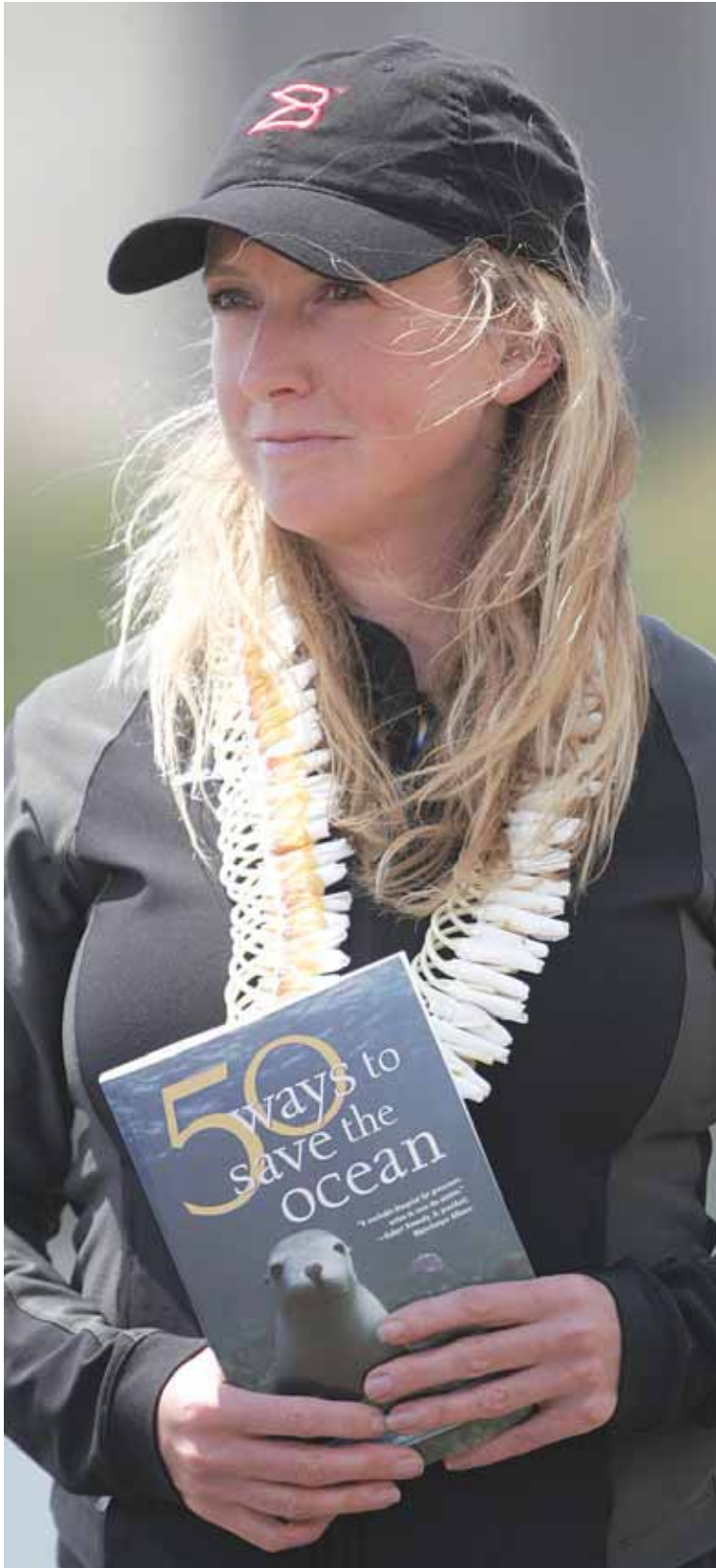
and video cameras, and a water-maker that provides drinking water — all powered by solar panels, a wind generator and batteries.

Working with groups like the Blue Frontier Campaign and the National Environment Trust, she said she hopes to use all this technology to help raise awareness of the state of the world's oceans.

If the weather conditions are right for her to row out of the San Francisco Bay, Ms. Savage will embark on her biggest challenge ever, which will ultimately test her body and mind like never before.

"I believe that if you don't keep pushing the boundaries, keep expanding your comfort zone... you can't achieve anything, you can't grow. And so I keep pushing, keep developing, keep evolving. I keep showing what an ordinary person can do when they put their hearts and minds and souls into it," she said.

To keep posted on Ms. Savage's journey across the Pacific, you can check her Web site at www.rozsavage.com, which she plans to update regularly. ■



INFORMATION:

Listen to Roz speak about her voyage in an audio slideshow posted at www.AlmanacNews.com.

COLLAGE OF PHOTOS:

Clockwise, from top left: One reason Ms. Savage has taken on the Pacific Ocean is to raise awareness of the effects pollution has had on the oceans. The support Ms. Savage gets from others helps keep her motivated while alone for months at sea. The Brocade is equipped with the technology needed for her to update her Web site, record podcasts, and send video of her voyage. The planned route. The carbon fiber hull of the Brocade has two cabins, one used for sleeping quarters and the other used for storage and communications.

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Downtown block party on Aug. 1

The Connoisseurs' Marketplace has come and gone, but more entertainment is coming to downtown Menlo Park when the city closes off Santa Cruz Avenue to traffic on Wednesday, Aug. 1, for a citywide block party.

From 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., there will be an range of activities, including live music in Fremont Park, free ice cream, and face painting, said Todd Temple, a member of the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce who is co-chairing the event with Brian Flagel.

■ MENLO WATCH

Mr. Temple said there will also be a "dunk the mayor" dunk tank, where participants can try to hit a target to drop Mayor Kelly Fergusson into a tank of water.

Local restaurants such as Left Bank, Bistro Vida, Angelo Mio, Sultana and Deelish will provide some food for the event, and various green technologies, such as electric cars, will be on display, Mr. Temple said.

Another block party is scheduled for Aug. 15.

Green speakers

Two experts on addressing global warming will be the featured speakers at the Aug. 1 meeting of the Menlo Park Green Ribbon Citizens' Committee.

The meeting is scheduled for 5 to 6 p.m. in the council chambers at the Civic Center, between Laurel and Alma streets.

The speakers, Winston Hickox and Larry Goulder, are chair and vice chair, respectively, of the California Market Advisory Committee. The committee was established by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to develop a market system of carbon offsets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Meeting canceled

The Menlo Park City Council will not meet on Tuesday, July 24. Regular meetings will resume July 31.

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Kepler's launches GO-GREEN Summer Series in conjunction with local organizations. All events are free and located at Kepler's unless otherwise noted.

AUGUST 1

ECO-TRAVEL

Wednesday, August 1, 8:00 p.m.

Presentation by Alma Megeath, President of EcoAdventures on responsible tourism, which promotes positive cultural and environmental ethics in travel, and provide insights into the top destinations for eco-travel.

Hosted by Meridian World Travel Group.

AUGUST 8

BUILDING GREEN

Wednesday, August 8, 8:00 p.m.

Green building is a design and construction practice that promotes the economic health and well-being of the family, the community and the environment. In this session, Ask questions to the panel of green building specialists including:

What is Green Design? Susan Davis: Spectrum Fine Homes

Building Science Matt Golden: Sustainable Spaces; Building Performance

How Do You Build Green? David Edwards, PhD.: Earth Bound Homes Construction

True Solar Cities Brian Sullivan: Solar City

There will also be table displays by Eco Design Resources, Solectric Electric, Green Building Exchange, Harrell Remodeling and City of Menlo Park.

AUGUST 11

SUNSET ON THE BAY -THE IMPORTANCE OF OPEN SPACE

Saturday, August 11, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m., Bayfront Park

Join the Friends of Bayfront Park for a leisurely and fascinating stroll along the Bay. Three walks will be available: art, bird, and salt pond restoration project.

AUGUST 15

WHAT CAN I DO? GLOBAL WARMING GUIDE

Wednesday, Aug 15, 8:00 p.m.

Sissel Waage, author *Ignition: What You Can Do To Fight Global Warming and Spark a Movement*, For anyone who feels compelled to do more than change their light bulbs or occasionally carpool, Ignition is an essential guide.

The Sierra Club will also talk on how you, the community, can implement greenhouse gas emission standards.

AUGUST 19

CHANGING THE WORLD, ONE PERSON AT A TIME

Sunday, August 19, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Hosted by Clark Kepler, Menlo Park Mayor Kelly Fergusson. State Senator Joe Simitian will Emcee.

Al Gore's Climate Project presentation. The purpose of The Climate Project is to create a movement to educate and challenge citizens and governments into action against the growing crisis of global warming.

Certified Co-Presenters: Karen Amon, a realtor and eco-broker at Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Palo Alto; and, Jill Cody, SJSU Professor and internationally recognized professional meeting facilitator will make the presentation.



Don't Stop at Changing Your Light Bulbs, Green Your Career Panel

Led by Carol McClelland, PhD, author of *Your Dream Career For Dummies* and founder of GreenCareerCentral.com.

Think of the difference we can make if the 2,000 hours we spend at work each year contribute to reversing the effects of our past actions and minimizing our impact in the future. Green Career Panel includes:

Environmental Career - Dianne Dryer, Environmental Programs Coordinator, City of Menlo Park

Renewable Energy - Barbara Heydorn, Director, Center of Excellence in Energy, SRI

Green Building - Iris Harrell, Founder & Contractor, Harrell Construction

Green Products - Linda Kerwin, Owner, Customer Service, Minuteman Press

Green Services - Chris Erickson, CEO, Cooler

Climate Smart Presentation Robert Parkhurst, ClimateSmart Manager, PG&E

Participating organizations will have display tables at the event.



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Hearing on draft EIR for Huddart, Wunderlich plan

More than a year after San Mateo County adopted a 20-year master plan for Huddart and Wunderlich parks following numerous contentious hearings, the county has issued an environmental impact report (EIR) analyzing the impacts of the master plan.

The San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Commission will hold a public hearing on the EIR at its meeting Thursday, Aug. 2, at 2:30 p.m. in the Supervisors Chambers at 400 County Center (corner of Bradford and Hamilton streets) in Redwood City.

At the same meeting the commission will also hold a public hearing on an environmental

review of proposed improvements and realignment of the Bay Trail within the county's Coyote Point Recreation Area.

The EIR on Huddart Wunderlich can be viewed at Woodside Town Hall, 2955 Woodside Road; the Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Road; or online at eparks.net.

Comments on the Huddart Wunderlich EIR may be submitted until Aug. 30 to: Sam Herzberg, senior planner; San Mateo County Parks Department, 455 County Center, 4th Floor; Redwood City, CA 94063; or e-mailed to sherzberg@co.sanmateo.ca.us.

For information or questions, call Mr. Herzberg at 363-1823.

Workshop on preventing Sudden Oak Death Aug. 2

The telltale signs of Sudden Oak Death are being seen in Portola Valley and Woodside — brown and brittle leaves on an oak tree that died so quickly, it didn't have time to drop its leaves. The disease threatens majestic oak trees in open space preserves and on private property.

Woodside and Portola Valley are holding a joint educational meeting on Sudden Oak Death from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 2, in Independence Hall, 2955 Woodside Road in Woodside.

Residents are invited to attend to learn about the pathogen, find out how to prevent its spread, and hear about preven-

tative treatment methods.

The meeting is a collaborative effort of the University of California at Berkeley, the Woodside Conservation and Environmental Health Committee, the Portola Valley Environmental Committee and the California Oak Mortality Task Force.

The task force has a wealth of information available on its Web site, including resources for homeowners, newsletters and updated scientific research. Go to www.SuddenOakDeath.org.

Information about the meeting is available by calling Woodside's Town Hall at 851-6790, or Teresa Dentino at 851-8959.

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AN INVITATION TO ALL PORTOLA VALLEY RESIDENTS:

Paul Revere earned his living as a silversmith. But what is he remembered for? His volunteer work! The community of Portola Valley was founded in that same spirit of municipal volunteerism, and has several opportunities for you to serve in an advisory capacity and satisfy your spirit of giving:

Were you born to organize? Love to plan big parties? Think you could teach Martha Stewart a thing or two? Serving on the **Town's Community Events Committee** offers you the opportunity to help plan the Town's annual party events, including the summer-capping Blues & Barbecue event!

Is the History Channel your idea of must-see TV? Are you fascinated with the significance of past events? The **Historic Resource Committee** needs your help to procure, organize, and preserve its items of historical interest.

Do you believe that the hills are alive with the sound of music? Do you have a passion for preserving the rural environment? Then you will enjoy serving with the **Open Space Acquisition Advisory Committee**, which advises the Town Council on open space acquisition and use.

Are you a jock at heart? Are your seasons subdivided by sports activity vs temperature and foliage? The **Parks & Recreation Committee** works to develop and promote quality recreational and community enrichment programs, facilities and park areas.

Hey teens! Are you interested in municipal government? Maybe not. What about dancing, skiing, and meeting other teens? We know you know everything and the **Teen Committee** needs you!! (Adult "teenagers-at-heart" are also needed.)

Stop! Yield! Caution! Slow Down! Do you drive? pedal? walk? In other words, do you use the roads in Town? The Town's **Traffic Committee** is geared towards safer road conditions for all users.

Feel like you're in a rut? Well, happy trails are here for you! And plenty of 'em. Portola Valley has more trails than paved roads. If you like to stroll, power walk, marathon train, take Silver out for a canter or Fido out for a jog, you can thank the active members of the **Town's Trails Committee**. Better yet, join them; they need you.

Do you always want to know what's going on around Town? Well, so do we. But we need an editor to go out and get the stories (and pictures!) for us. So if you'd like to be the editor for the bi-annual **Portola Valley Town Post** (and report the inside scoop on the new Town Center!) then note that this is a volunteer opportunity that comes with pay.

Interested residents may apply for any of these committee openings or positions by sending a brief letter of interest to:

Angela Howard, Town Administrator
Town of Portola Valley
765 Portola Road
Portola Valley, CA 94028
Or

E-mail: townhall@portolavalley.net

For questions, please contact Asst. Town Clerk Sharon Hanlon at Town Hall (650) 851-1700 ex. 10.

Published in THE COUNTRY
ALMANAC on July 25, 2007



"How far that little candle throws its beams!
So shines a good deed in a weary world."

—William Shakespeare

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— The Bowshers

Menlo Park parents of a 3 yr. old and 9 mo. old

Candidates lining up for local races on November ballot

By David Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

It's summertime, the living is easy and there are still about three weeks left to register as a candidate for local office in the November 2007 election.

Some candidates have already jumped in the pool or have indicated their plans to, but there are many seats still unapplied for.

In the town of Atherton and the city of Menlo Park, none of the council members are up for re-election this year. The same is true for trustees on the school boards in the Las Lomas and Menlo Park elementary school districts.

Portola Valley

Portola Valley incumbent Councilman Steve Toben has taken out candidate papers for a second four-year term on the Town Council, and Planning Commission chair Ann Wengert is planning to file for her first council term, said Assistant Town Clerk Sharon Hanlon.

Incumbent two-term Councilman Ed Davis is not running. "I'm literally going to take a rest," he told the Almanac. Being on the council "really has been not only a great deal of fun, but quite rewarding," he said.

In the Portola Valley School District, incumbent Trustee Teresa Godfrey said she is not planning to run for a second four-year term, while board president Karen Jordan said she hasn't decided.

Ladera resident Karen Fryling has filed for election to a four-year term on the board of the Ladera Recreation District, a special district formed almost 50 years ago to provide recreational activities for community families.

Incumbent Judy Hood said she will not run for a third

term, while incumbent Brian McGarry did not return a phone call by press time.

Woodside

Two incumbents had taken out papers for seats on the Town Council as of Monday morning, said Town Clerk Janet Koelsch. They are Mayor Sue Boynton, who represents District 3, and Ron Romines, who in September 2005 was appointed to fill the District 1 seat vacated when Dave Tanner moved out of the Glens neighborhood.

Incumbent Paul Goeld, a Woodside Hills resident who represents District 5, told the Almanac that he does not plan to run again. He was appointed to the council in 1999, following the death of Pete Empey, then was elected to the seat in a special election in 2000, and re-elected in 2003.

"I've definitely enjoyed my time on the Town Council and have loved working with (Town Manager) Susan George and her superb staff ... but I think it's time to give someone else a chance to serve," he said.

Councilman Pete Sinclair, a resident of Old La Honda Road, said he was still undecided about running for a fourth term representing District 7.

Woodside is divided into seven council districts, and four of the council seats are up for election in November. Council members must reside in the voting district they represent, although they are elected in a town-wide vote.

In the Woodside Elementary School District, board president Kimberley McMorrow told the Almanac that she will not be seeking another term. Still undecided is Trustee Ellen Ablow, elected in 2006 upon the retirement of Lori Livingston.

See **CANDIDATES**, on next page

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 -Workshop Attendee

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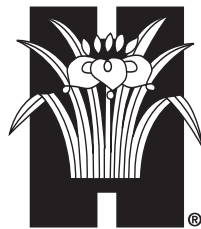
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CANDIDATES

continued from previous page

Other races

All three incumbent trustees in the Sequoia Union High School District — Don Gibson, Olivia Martinez and Lorraine Rumley — have filed for re-election.

In the San Mateo County Community College District, incumbent trustees Karen Schwarz of Redwood City and Dave Mandelkern of Burlingame took out papers. Incumbent Patricia Miljanich of Redwood City said she plans to run again as well.

In the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, both incumbents whose terms are expiring say they will run for re-election. As of Monday afternoon, only Bart Spencer had filed papers to run for a third term. John Osmer says he will seek a second term.

Two of three seats on the board of the Woodside Fire Protection District are up for election. Incumbent Patrick Cain, who lives in Ladera, said he intends to run for re-election. Incumbent John Gardner of Portola Valley could not be reached by the Almanac's deadline.

The district provides fire protection and emergency medical services to Woodside, Portola Valley, Ladera and nearby unincorporated areas.

No one has yet filed for the Los Trancos or Skyline county water districts, each of which has two seats up for grabs, or the West Bay Sanitary District, with three seats.

To file papers

Candidates for city and town councils, school boards and special districts have until 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 10, to return filing papers.

If an incumbent decides not to run for re-election, the filing deadline for that race is extended three working days to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 15.

To file in a municipal election, contact the clerk at your respective town hall: Portola Valley, Sharon Hanlon at 851-1700, ext. 10; and Woodside, Janet Koelsch at 851-6790.

To file for a school district or special district election, make an appointment with the county elections office at 40 Tower Road in San Mateo. Call Steve Dennison at 312-5370 or send e-mail to sdennison@smcare.org. ■

Almanac reporters Andrea Gemmet and Marjorie Mader contributed to this report.

■ INFORMATION

For information on elections in San Mateo County, go to shapethefuture.org.

County environmental report on PV council agenda

A presentation on the annual environmental report from San Mateo County is scheduled for shortly after 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 25, at the Portola Valley Town Council meeting in the Historic Schoolhouse.

The evening's agenda also notes that the public works director

will recommend that the council request bids for construction of a new softball field.

This job had been set to be bid this winter, but was advanced to align with the council's decision to complete the field in the spring of 2008, a year earlier than originally planned.

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FEATURED AUTHORS

My Dreams Out in the Street

Kim Addonizio



Thursday, August 16
7:30 p.m.

A heartrending follow-up to National Book Award Finalist Kim Addonizio's lavishly praised and much beloved novel, *Little Beauties*. *My Dreams Out in the Street* is a transcendent story about the power of love, featuring a beautiful young homeless woman and the husband she believes can make it all better again. It seems unlikely that these sweet, damaged people will ever come to anything, let alone find and -- miracle of miracles -- save one another. But fate, in Addonizio's hands, works in strange and beautiful geometries. And redemption, she tells us, is never impossible.

Fairy Haven and the Quest for the Wand

Gail Carson Levine



Tuesday, August 7
7:30 p.m.

You are invited to an exquisite garden party under the stars with our very special guest: GAIL CARSON LEVINE! Known best for her Newbery Honor Book *Ella Enchanted*, Gail Carson Levine is a master at capturing the hearts and dreams of girls of all ages. To celebrate her newest book, *Fairy Haven and the Quest for the Wand*, Kepler's is turning its courtyard into a fairy's haven of wonderment and beauty. Nestled away in this enchanted kingdom, humans and fairies alike will be transported to the magical world of Fairy Haven with Levine as their guide.

Don't miss these other exciting author events!

Writing Workshop with Martha Engber

Growing Great Characters From the Ground Up: A Thorough Primer for Writers of Fiction and Nonfiction
Friday, August 2, 7:30 p.m.



Dave Newhouse
Old Bears: The Class of 1956 Reaches its Fiftieth Reunion, Reflecting on the Happy Days and the Unhappy Days
Thursday, August 9, 7:30 p.m.



Alice LaPlante
The Making of a Story: A Norton Guide to Writing Fiction and Nonfiction
Tuesday, August 14, 7:30 p.m.



GO-GREEN Event: What Can I Do? Global Warming Essential Guide

Sissel Waage
Ignition: What You Can Do to Fight Global Warming and Spark a Movement
Wednesday, August 15, 8:00 p.m.



Mildred Armstrong Kalish
Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm During the Great Depression
Friday, August 17, 2:00 p.m.



Moira Gunn
Welcome to Biotech Nation: My Unexpected Odyssey into the Land of Small Molecules, Lean Genes, and Big Ideas
Tuesday, August 21, 7:30 p.m.



Herbert Kohl
Painting Chinese: A Lifelong Teacher Gains the Wisdom of Youth
Wednesday, August 22, 7:30 p.m.



Fan Wu
February Flowers
Thursday, August 23, 7:30 p.m.



Kepler's In-Store Book Groups

Kepler's Book Groups are free and open to the public.

Middle School Book Club
Wednesday, August 22, 6:30 p.m.
Title To Be Announced

Speculative Fiction Book Club
Sunday, August 12, 6:00 p.m.
Air by Geoff Ryman

Fiction Book Club
Monday, August 20, 7:00 p.m.
The Man Who Loved Children by Christina Stead

High School Book Club
Wednesday, August 29, 7:00 p.m.
Title To Be Announced

Spanish Book Club
Monday, August 13, 7:00 p.m.
La piel del cielo by Elena Poniatowska

Bay Area Living Book Group
Sunday, August 26, 6:00 p.m.
The Perfect Man by Naeem Murr

Kepler's Story Time every Sunday at 11:30 a.m.

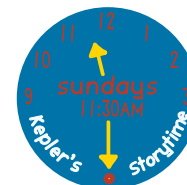
August 5 Story Time with Barb Odanaka Not only does Barb Odanaka write children's books, she skateboards too. She'll be bringing her board to show us some wicked tricks after she reads her enlivening stories about a very hungry garbage truck and a mom with a "tricky" past.

August 12 'Cool Off' Story Time Bring your favorite hat and scarf and gather round to listen to the best stories to make you forget the heat. Appropriately refreshing beverages will be served to help stave off the heat and bring on the chill. Counselors from SCORE Educational Centers will join us with goodie bags, a snowflake craft activity, and more!

August 19 Story Time with Betsy Franco After cooling down with the previous week's story time, prolific and truly delightful local author Betsy Franco gets us up and about by celebrating the freedom, the fun and the happiness that summer brings to our hearts.

August 26 Story Time with Judy Sierra and J. Otto Seibold: *Mind Your Manners B.B. Wolf* Brush up on your tea manners with Little Red Riding Hood and the Big Bad Wolf in this hilarious instructional that gently teaches kids about being polite. Who knows...maybe the characters will show up to help with the lesson.

All events are at Kepler's unless otherwise noted.



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Follow me to Kepler's. It's our bookstore.

New principal has challenge of creating 'new school'

■ San Carlos educator named principal at Encinal School.

By Marjorie Mader
Almanac Staff Writer

Encinal School's new principal — Allison Liner, principal of the grade K-4 Arundel School in San Carlos for the past five years — has signed up for a big job.

Encinal, a grade 3-5 school in Atherton with 395 students, will add grades K-2 and substantially increase students, faculty and staff over the next few years. Enrollment is expected to peak at about 680 students by 2011, according to projection of the

Menlo Park City School District.

Ms. Liner (pronounced Lin-er) said she is "excited and intrigued to take on the possibility of helping create a new school."

In addition to being a principal for five years, Ms. Liner, 36, has taught every grade from first through fifth. She doubled as a teaching principal at Panorama School in Daly City, handling administration in the morning and teaching fifth-grade in the afternoon.

A graduate of Rutgers University, Ms. Liner received a master's degree in educational administration and policy from Stanford University.

The district received 19 applicants, mostly public school

principals from across the state and country. No current district employee applied.

Trustee Deborah Fitz, a member of the selection committee and an Encinal parent, said that when she read Ms. Liner's resume and application, "I was very excited and felt we potentially had a good fit. When I met her, she really lived up to my expectations."

Ms. Liner finalized her contract with the district July 16. Her annual salary, including benefits, is \$133,938 plus a \$1,500 yearly stipend for having a master's degree. Her first day on the new job will be July 30.

She fills the vacancy created when former Principal Stacy Marshall, now the mother of twins, informed Superintendent Ken Ranella in May that she would not return to the district after being on disability and maternity leave since last fall. Maria Clemo, former Encinal teacher and assistant principal at Oak Knoll, returned to Enci-



Allison Liner, 36, has taught every grade from first through fifth.

The Almanac/
Veronica Weber

nal as interim principal.

The prospect of ongoing construction at Encinal doesn't seem to faze Ms. Liner. Arundel School, which has 400 students, has been under construction and modernization for the past year.

"It's hard to say goodbye to Arundel because the community has been very supportive," said Ms. Liner. The school foundation there has enabled the school to accomplish much, she said.

Ms. Liner is married to Tom Liner, a former professional soccer player, and the men's soccer team coach at Foothill College. He also teaches tennis, badminton, golf, mountain biking and weight training at Foothill. The Liners have two sons, Jack, 5, who will start kindergarten at White Oaks School in San Carlos this fall, and Luke, 3. They live in San Carlos. ■

PV schools' early-release day retained

Children in Portola Valley schools will continue to be dismissed early on Wednesdays during the coming school year after school officials determined the pilot program put in place earlier this year to test the early dismissal plan was worth keeping.

The Portola Valley School District board voted to retain the short-day schedule on Wednesdays — with a minor change for Ormondale School (K-3) — at its June 19 meeting. The early release program gives teachers additional planning time.

Under the pilot program last spring, first- through third-graders had lunch at school and were dismissed at 12:50 p.m. Under the newly approved schedule, those students will be dismissed at 12:05 p.m., before lunch.

Release time for kindergartners will continue to be 12:05 p.m. on Wednesdays.

At Corte Madera (grades 4-8), all students will be dismissed at 2:10 p.m. on Wednesdays.

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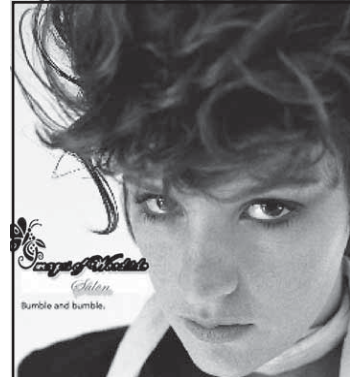
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■ OBITUARIES

Bernard B. "Bud" Bellit

*Aerospace engineer;
accomplished sailor*

A memorial service will be held Aug. 18 in Palo Alto for Bernard B. "Bud" Bellit. He died on July 15 after a long battle with cancer. He was 76.

Born in New York City, Mr. Bellit attended City College of New York and then earned his electrical engineering degree at Johns Hopkins University.

As an aerospace engineer and marketing executive, he

worked at Philco Ford, Ford Aerospace, and Space Systems Loral, delivering communications systems across Southeast Asia and Europe.

Mr. Bellit was an active member of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, and was recognized as an outstanding volunteer for his work with the National Park Service's historic sailing vessel Alma.

A resident of Menlo Park and Palo Alto for 40 years, Mr. Bellit was an accomplished sailor, and enjoyed skiing, cycling and tennis, family members said.

Mr. Bellit is survived by his wife, Nancy Adler; daughter Elizabeth Lamson of Salt Lake City; son Thomas Belit of Kailua, Hawaii; stepsons Gregory Adler of San Jose and Keith Adler of Kona, Hawaii; and stepdaughter Lisa Adler of San Francisco.

Memorial donations can be made in his name to the Whiting School of Engineering at Johns Hopkins University.

Louise Hunt

Menlo Park volunteer

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 9, at the Menlo Park Presbyterian Church for Louise Hunt. She died July 11 at the age of 88.

Ms. Hunt was an active Menlo Park resident for 45 years, dedicating time to the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and the PTA at Oak Knoll School and Menlo-Atherton High School, where she helped start the first Career Guidance Program. She also worked with the youth at First Methodist Church in Palo Alto and at Environmental Volunteers, where she also served on the Board of Directors.

Born Virginia Louise Feagins in Alliance, Nebraska, she graduated from Colorado State College with a degree in business education and a minor in Spanish and speech. She taught high school, then went on to work as chief clerk in the Denver office of the FBI.

Ms. Hunt is survived by her husband of 64 years, Murray, of Redwood City; daughters Kathleen Siegel of Grants Pass, Oregon, Eileen Hunt-Haas of Napa, and Claudia Pedersen of Redwood City; son Ross C. Hunt of Paradise, California; and four grandchildren.


Menlo Park Presbyterian Church is at 950 Santa Cruz Ave. in Menlo Park. Memorials can be made to Home, Health and Hospice, 585 North Mary Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94085; Parkinson's Institute, 1170 Morse Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94089; or Environmental Volunteers, 3921 East Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303.



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■ COLLEGE GRADS

■ **David Mendelson** of Atherton received a master of business administration from Emory University in Atlanta. He is the son of Alan and Janis Mendelson.

■ **Jeffrey B. Volckmann** of Woodside received a bachelor of science degree, cum laude, from Vanderbilt University in Nashville. Jeffrey is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Volckman.

■ **Jennifer F. Harris** of Menlo Park received a bachelor of arts degree in English. Jennifer is the daughter of Robert and Leonie Harris.

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■ POLICE CALLS

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

ATHERTON

Residential burglary report: Report taken, first block of Selby Lane, July 18.

MENLO PARK

Theft reports

■ Utility trailer stolen, 100 block of Constitution Drive, July 14.

■ Jewelry stolen, 200 block of Arden Road, July 16.

■ Blackberry personal digital device stolen, 100 block of El Camino Real, July 18.

Armed robbery report: Man armed with hand gun attempted car-jack, 1300 block of Willow Road, July 14.

Commercial burglary report: Man arrested on theft charges, Big 5 Sporting Goods at 700 El Camino Real, July 14.

Auto burglary reports

■ GPS navigation unit and MP3 music player stolen, 500 block of Middlefield Road, July 18.

■ Property stolen, Bayfront Park at 1600 Marsh Road, July 18.

■ Property stolen, 1200 block of Carlton Ave., July 18.

Fraud report: Identity theft, 1400 block of Plumas Ave., July 19.

Child protection services report:

Report taken, 700 block of San Mateo Drive, July 16.

Rape report: Report taken, July 19.

Domestic disturbance report: Arrest made, Coleman Place, July 19.

WOODSIDE

Vandalism report: Vehicle cover damaged, 100 block of Grandview Drive, July 13.

WEST MENLO PARK

Vandalism report: Parked vehicle's tires slashed and paint keyed, intersection of Liberty Park Ave. and Alameda de Las Pulgas, July 16.

Woman injured in bike accident

The Menlo Park Police Department is seeking information about a bicycle accident that occurred on Sand Hill Road west of Branner Drive on July 22 at about 1:05 p.m. in which a 54-year-old woman was injured.

The woman was wearing a helmet when she reportedly fell and struck her head while riding her bicycle with friends going east on Sand Hill Road, on the south side of the roadway.

She was taken to Stanford Hospital for her injuries. The cause of the accident is still being investigated.

Police are asking anyone with additional information regarding the incident to call the investigating officer at 330-6300.

PV library closed Monday, Tuesday

The Portola Valley public library will be closed Monday and Tuesday, July 30 and 31, to allow parking lot repairs at Corte Madera School.

Story-time programs on these days are canceled; returns of library materials may be made at Town Hall or at libraries in Woodside, Menlo Park or Redwood City.

Are you interested in learning more about your diet and your risk of heart disease?

Health Research & Studies Center in Los Altos is recruiting volunteers for a study on the effects of fish oil supplements on the risk of heart disease. We are looking for healthy men ages 35-65 willing to take a fish oil supplement for 8 weeks. There will be \$100 compensation for those who finish the study, plus lots of information on how to optimize your diet to keep a healthy heart. If you are interested, please call (650) 941-7984, or email us at:

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NOTIFICATION OF APPLICATION FOR A RATE INCREASE BY CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE COMPANY - BEAR GULCH SERVICE AREA REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS APPLICATION NO. 07-07-001

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is seeking public comment on Application 07-07-001 by the California Water Service Company (Cal Water) to review its general operations costs in fiscal years 2008-2009 and 2009-2010. A portion of the adopted changes in costs would be included in rates in the **BEAR GULCH DISTRICT** at the conclusion of the proceeding, but no earlier than July 1, 2008. As part of its decision-making process, the CPUC is interested in your comments on any aspect of the company's operation including proposed rates, service quality or any other issue of concern.

Cal Water's general operations functions include employee benefits, engineering, water quality, maintenance, billing, accounting, and other administrative functions. Since the last time the CPUC reviewed costs for these services in 2004, Cal Water has experienced significant increases in health care, retiree health care, pension, and workers' compensation insurance costs. In addition, Cal Water plans two significant statewide water quality programs for water main flushing and cross-connection control inspections. Finally, Cal Water plans to add after-hours customer service support to supplement its local service centers.

If the general operations costs were adopted as Cal Water has proposed them, customers in the **BEAR GULCH DISTRICT** would see increases of \$2,456,941 or 12.39% in July 2008 and \$582,839 or 2.62% in July 2009.

The purpose of this notice is to inform customers of the filing of the Application and to provide instructions on how to provide input in the process.

The Application

The following table shows Cal Water's forecasted rate changes by connection type:

Monthly Metered Service Charge

Meter Sizes

5/8 x 3/4-inch
3/4-inch
1 -inch
1 1/2-inch
2-inch
3-inch
4-inch
6-inch
8-inch
10-inch
12-inch
14-inch

Present Rates

\$13.11
\$19.67
\$25.48
\$37.64
\$57.00
\$122.59
\$215.07
\$370.99
\$1,048.81
\$1,507.66
\$2,163.17
\$2,949.77

Rates Proposed in Cal Water's Application

7/01/2008 Rates

\$14.73
\$22.10
\$28.63
\$42.29
\$64.04
\$137.72
\$241.62
\$416.79
\$1,178.29
\$1,693.78
\$2,430.22
\$3,313.92

7/01/2009 Rates

\$15.11
\$22.67
\$29.37
\$43.39
\$65.70
\$141.31
\$247.92
\$427.65
\$1,209.00
\$1,737.93
\$2,493.56
\$3,400.31

Quantity Charges (Per Ccf)

Tier I

\$2.7106

\$3.0209

\$3.0945

If Cal Water's proposal is adopted, a typical metered customer with a 5/8" x 3/4" meter using 28 Ccf of water per month would see a monthly water bill increase of \$10.30 or 11.6% from \$89.01 at present rates to \$99.31 in mid-2008 and \$2.45 or 2.5% to \$101.76 in mid-2009.

The rates shown on your monthly water bill may vary slightly from the existing rates shown above due to temporary surcredits or surcharges currently in effect in your area.

The CPUC's Process

The CPUC's Division of Ratepayer Advocates (DRA) will review the Application and submit its independent analysis and recommendations in written reports for the CPUC's consideration. Once completed, the report is available to the public upon request, or by downloading from DRA's website. DRA consists of engineers, auditors, and other professional staff who represent the long-term interest of all utility ratepayers. Other interested parties may also participate in the proceeding.

Evidentiary hearings may be held whereby parties of record will present their testimony and will be subject to cross-examination before the assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ). These evidentiary hearings are open to the public, but only those wishing to present evidence or cross-examine witnesses may directly participate in the hearing process. If you wish to become a party and participate in the evidentiary hearings, please contact the CPUC's Public Advisor at the address shown below.

Parties at these hearings may offer proposals to the CPUC that differ from those requested by Cal Water. After considering all proposals and evidence presented during the formal hearing process, the assigned Administrative Law Judge will issue a proposed decision. When the CPUC issues a final decision on this application it may adopt all or part of the ALJ's proposed decision as written, amend or modify it, or deny the Application. The CPUC's final decision may be different from Cal Water's proposal.

Protesting the Application

Anyone wishing to do so, can file a protest to this application filing and should mail the protest to the CPUC. The CPUC's Public Advisor's Office was established to assist members of the public who want to protest or otherwise participate in the Commission's proceedings. For assistance in filing a protest with the CPUC or otherwise participating in the proceeding, please contact the Public Advisor's Office at:

Public Comment

Written public comment by Cal Water customers is very much desired by the CPUC and may be sent to the Public Advisor's Office at the address shown above. These comments will become part of the formal correspondence file of the proceeding and will be circulated to the assigned ALJ, appropriate CPUC staff, and to the five Commissioners. Additionally, comments will also be tallied and the numbers received will be reported to key CPUC staff on a regular basis. Please send those comments to the CPUC's Public Advisor's Office as mentioned above. In addition, public participation hearings may be held at a later date, and you will receive notification in the mail on the dates that have been set. If you are writing to the CPUC, please refer to Application A.07-07-001.

A copy of Cal Water's Application and further information may be obtained from the company's local offices by calling (650) 367-6800. You may also contact the company's headquarters at 1720 North First Street, San Jose, California 95112-4598, or by calling (408) 367-8200.

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WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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

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

Vicious circle at Allied Arts

Last week's cover story describing the sad state of the Allied Arts Guild makes one thing perfectly clear: Without a viable restaurant or another way to attract customers, the beautiful garden complex in Menlo Park is doomed to fail.

Allied Arts is a nonprofit whose main purpose is to support the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. It's located in a residential neighborhood a considerable

distance from downtown Menlo Park, and has relied on tour bus visits and a restaurant staffed by volunteers to attract enough custom-

ers to the dozen or so shops that lease space in the recently restored historic buildings.

But the decision earlier this year to end a long relationship with the Palo Alto Auxiliary, whose volunteer members operated the restaurant, has proven catastrophic to the business model advanced by the Woodside-Atherton Auxiliary, owners of the complex. And it has not helped that tour buses, filled with customers ready for lunch and a visit to the shops, have stopped coming, apparently after a redesign of the complex took away their turnaround space.

The latest bad news is that the auxiliary's plan to open a new restaurant fell through when a potential operator could not live with the restrictions imposed after a long legal battle with neighbors. Menlo Park restaurateur Jesse Cool had agreed to open at the complex, but pulled out when it became clear that she could not use the state-of-the-art kitchen at the complex for the bulk of her catering operations.

The auxiliary is continuing to search for a new restaurant

operator, but with open hours restricted to the late morning and early afternoon, and other limits imposed on catering and the size of events, it will be a challenge to find any takers.

Another key part of the Allied Arts business plan — to attract corporate retreats and seminars to the beautifully restored buildings and grounds — has failed to materialize, in part due to the lack of a food purveyor at the site. Without the ability to offer meals to corporate clients or to private parties such as weddings or other family celebrations, it seems like Allied Arts is stuck in a vicious circle.

Without a restaurant or the ability to attract large parties, customers won't come to the artisan shops that define the character of Allied Arts. But under the current neighborhood restrictions, it appears that Allied Arts cannot attract a restaurant or the corporate clients that auxiliary officials had hoped would justify the more than \$8.5 million it cost to rebuild and refurbish the grounds and buildings several years ago.

As we have often said in this space, it would be a tragedy to lose this treasure, built in 1929 as an artist colony. But without the ability to raise even modest amounts of money to support the children's hospital, we doubt if the auxiliary can sustain the effort. Already, rumors have surfaced on the Town Square forum of the Almanac's Web site that a property similar to Allied Arts is being shopped in San Francisco real estate circles.

If true, it would be a tremendous defeat for the thousands of volunteers who have spent countless hours keeping the doors open at Allied Arts. To lose it now, without making a serious effort to hammer out a better deal between the neighbors and the auxiliary, would be tragic.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS

Our readers write

Is it time to weigh in on BART again?

Editor:

It has been quite some time since the voters of San Mateo and Santa Clara counties have had a chance to weigh in on bringing BART to the Peninsula and South Bay. So far, not enough voters have agreed on the price tag.

Perhaps times have changed and voters would now approve of having a truly Bay Area transit system and would be willing to foot the bill.

The challenge for our local BART supporters would be to get enough signatures to put BART on the ballot in two counties and get a sufficient number of voters in both counties to agree. Are you all prepared to do that?

Elizabeth Lasensky
Fremont Street, Menlo Park

See LETTERS, next page



Atherton Heritage Association

Our Regional Heritage

Local artist Rachel Bentley painted this view of the Atherton train station in the 1950s. It was green at the time, but after a fire in the 1990s, the color was changed to yellow and beige.

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

Bikes riding against traffic not the way to go

Editor:

I am a cyclist and a driver. I am uncomfortable with the suggestions made by some readers of this paper that bikes should ride facing traffic.

Richard Swent already has pointed out one reason that this is highly dangerous: Drivers turning right are looking left. If you are riding your bike facing traffic, even though you have the right of way, you will not be seen by cars turning right into the roadway.

Here is another reason: closing speed. Say you are driving your car 35 mph on Portola Road. A cyclist is up ahead, traveling with traffic, moving at 15 mph. You therefore approach that rider at a rate of 20 mph. Now consider another rider moving against traffic at the same speed. You will approach that cyclist at a rate of 50 mph!

Put another way, if the cyclists are 100 yards away, you will pass the first rider in 10.2 seconds, but pass the second rider in 4.1 seconds.

As a cyclist and a driver, I would much prefer to afford drivers of vehicles as much reaction time as possible.

Jackie Macdonald
Elder Court, Menlo Park

Menlo Park dispatchers need some help

Editor:

I recently visited the Menlo Park Police department to turn in some keys that I found while at Burgess Park.

This was on a weekend day. I was greeted by a police dispatcher, who asked if I could wait just a moment. I could, and found it very interesting to watch the 911 operations center at work.

These two people were juggling phone call after phone call, as well as talking on the microphone to the police officers in their cars. It was several minutes before the young lady was able to assist me, which was fine as I hadn't seen this operation in the works before and was amazed.

I did inquire if they had more people to help them as she and her partner seemed very busy. She politely stated that someone

would be in in a couple of hours, but that they were currently short-staffed.

When I inquired further she said that they were supposed to be a staff of 12, but had recently lost three people, and would soon be losing one more. This gave me cause for concern, for when I may need to call 911, I want to make sure that someone answers.

What can the citizens of Menlo Park do to help these wonderful people who answer our calls? And did anyone else know that they were so short-staffed? Let's do our part and call in only when we have a true emergency.

Anne Chase
Menlo Park

Riding against traffic too dangerous for cyclists

Editor:

Regarding Ron Wilson's recommendation that bicyclists travel facing traffic:

This would require two sets of rules for bicyclists. One for city streets, perhaps, and another for winding country roads. I wonder if that would be a good idea.

I live on Old La Honda Road, a winding, narrow, country road that is extremely popular with bicyclists. Even under current rules, it is not uncommon to drive around one of our hairpin curves and find a bicyclist in the middle of the road. If the rules were changed as Mr. Wilson suggests, bicyclists would be in grave danger.

There are many cyclists who live dangerously. Only last evening as we were driving down Sand Hill Road to Palo Alto during the evening commute, we passed a group of cyclists traveling side by side. The one closest to the traffic was pedaling with no hands and straying out of the bike lane. That is very scary for a motorist.

Jane Corcoran
Old La Honda Road, Woodside

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One misconception that has consistently surrounded wearing eyeglasses is that glasses supposedly do the work of the eyes, which in turn weakens the eyes due to under use. The fact is, however, that prescription lenses simply compensate for structural defects, such as improperly shaped eyeballs or for stiffening lenses, which compromise the eye's ability to focus despite the lens muscles' best efforts. Wearing prescription lenses produces a compensatory effect that relieves the eye muscles'

need to be abnormally tense or relaxed, depending on whether the eyes are nearsighted or farsighted. The muscles still have to work just as hard as they would in a normal eye in order to focus on objects at varying distances.

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P.S. Nearsightedness is usually the result of the eyeball being too long (from front to back), while farsightedness is characterized by eyeballs that are too short.

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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