

Legendary coach Bill Walsh dies
Monday at his Woodside home. Page 5

The Almanac

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

AUGUST 1, 2007

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Food & Drink: Stone fruit offer the sweet taste of summer. Cover, Section 2

mural magic

Hillview students create whimsical, outdoor masterpieces for their Menlo Park school

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Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT



The Almanac/Veronica Weber

Eve of destruction

The J Building, the 1950s-era multi-use room at Menlo-Atherton High School, may look sturdy but the yellow machine with the big jaw will humble it soon enough. The building is coming down this week to make room for M-A's dramatic new \$28 million, 31,000-square-foot performing arts center that it will share with the city of Menlo Park, which contributed \$2.6 million to the project. The theater is scheduled to open in mid-2009.

Atherton

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Food & Drink

■ Time to load up on this season's honey-sweet, versatile stone fruit. **Cover, Section 2**
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On the cover

For 15 years, student artists at Menlo Park's Hillview Middle School have created murals that enliven their school's walls. In the cover photo, Grant Timmermann adds finishing details to his Chinese dragon, one of 32 dragons in this year's mural. Almanac photo by Veronica Weber. **See Page 12** for a story and more photos.

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Looking for an Edge

In recent years, Merlot has emerged from its subservient role as a blending grape to stand on its own. Merlot possesses the softness and velvety smoothness that can take the edge off the highly tannic, rougher Cabernet Sauvignon, its traditional blending partner in the great red wines of Bordeaux. Yet, the very same qualities that make Merlot mix so well with Cabernet Sauvignon can render it rather inconspicuous on its own. The fact is that some Merlot varietals are so smooth that they lack the character that would otherwise make them interesting. With this in mind, be on the lookout for Merlot varietals that display all the fruit flavors and acids that make them complete and substantial wines.



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WINE

Merlot

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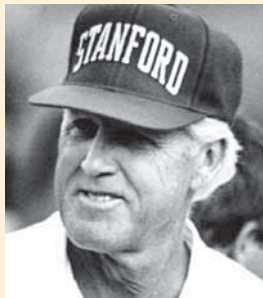
Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Legendary coach Bill Walsh dies Monday in Woodside

By Rick Eyrer
Palo Alto Weekly

Bill Walsh, an integral part of the Stanford Athletic community, and who guided the San Francisco 49ers to three Super Bowl championships and six NFC West division titles in his 10 years as head coach, died Monday morning at his Woodside home with his family at his side. He was 75.



Bill Walsh

Mr. Walsh, who disclosed last year that he was suffering from leukemia, was as gracious with his time as he was genius at his work. His first head coaching position was on The Farm in 1977. His final coaching position was also at Stanford, in 1993-94.

Mr. Walsh never stopped working. When he stepped aside from a successful NFL career, he returned once again to familiar surroundings on Stanford's campus. He never left again.

Most of the world knows Bill Walsh because of what he accomplished with the San Francisco 49ers. There are countless others in the Stanford community who were touched by him and his dedication to football and life.

He served many roles at Stanford, including head football coach, athletic director, special adviser to the athletic director, and general consultant. Mostly, though, he was just a friend.

His office doors at Stanford remained mostly open to anyone interested in gaining his perspective. He selflessly shared his time and knowledge, carefully designing a message of success and achievement.

While known as an offensive genius, Mr. Walsh began his college career as a defensive assistant at California under Marv Levy and Stanford under John Ralston. He

switched to offensive when Al Davis hired him as an Oakland Raiders assistant. He began perfecting his system with the Cincinnati Bengals under Paul Brown.

At Stanford, he finally received his opportunity to put his system into operation. Quarterback Guy Benjamin, receiver James Lofton and running back Darrin Nelson were perfectly suited to Mr. Walsh's system, which grew into the "West Coast Offense."

In 1978 Mr. Walsh did it all over again with new faces: quarterback Steve Dils, wide receiver Ken Margerum joining Nelson and Ceresino and kicker Ken Naber.

He was hired by the 49ers for the 1979 season and the rest of his professional career is well documented. He coached the 49ers to the Super Bowl XIX title at Stanford on Jan. 20, 1985.

After retiring from the NFL he returned for a second stint at Stanford, guiding the 1992 team to a 10-3 mark, a No. 9 ranking in the final poll, and a victory in the 1993 Blockbuster Bowl.

Mr. Walsh sustained two consecutive losing seasons in 1993-94, although he did recruit the players who were the foundation of the 1995 Liberty Bowl and 1996 Sun Bowl teams.

Mr. Walsh returned to the 49ers in a front office position but after an ownership change, he came back to Stanford to stay.

Mr. Walsh is survived by his wife, Geri, son Craig, daughter Elizabeth, sister Maureen, daughter-in-law Kim, grandchildren Samantha and Nathan and brother-in-law Ed. His son Steve died of leukemia at age 46 in 2002. Funeral services are pending.

Resignations leave Menlo dispatch center understaffed

■ After merger with San Carlos, police dispatchers are stuck taking 911 calls from two cities.

By Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

Call 911 only if it's a real emergency.

That's the message from Jan Lanier, the communications manager for the Menlo Park Police Department, who oversees the city's dispatch center.

The center is in the midst of a staffing crisis because the recent merger of operations with the city of San Carlos — a move that was supposed to make it easier to respond to 911 calls — has actually made things more difficult, as all of the dispatchers that came from San Carlos in the merger have resigned.

Last June, Menlo Park and

San Carlos agreed to a five-year contract that merged the cities' dispatch services under one roof.

Under the contract, four dispatchers from San Carlos were supposed to become Menlo Park employees, joining Menlo's eight existing dispatchers. All of the dispatchers were cross-trained to handle calls from both cities, and San Carlos agreed to pay Menlo Park some \$574,000 annually.

The agreement was viewed as a win for both cities — San Carlos saved money by outsourcing its dispatching services, and Menlo Park could have three, rather than two, around-the-clock dispatchers to handle calls.

But what looked good on paper hasn't worked in practice — only three of the four dispatchers transferred to Menlo Park from San Carlos in the first place, and all of them have resigned for police or dispatch jobs with better pay or shorter commutes, Ms. Lanier said.

Now, Menlo Park is left with eight, instead of 12, dispatchers to cover 911 calls from both cities, and the burden of finding new dispatchers to fill the staffing void.

"If you've got nobody to answer the phone or radio, you're in trouble," Ms. Lanier said. "It hasn't affected our response time, but we're pulling a lot of extra hours."

Ms. Lanier said the depart-

See DISPATCH, page 8

Helicopter attacks mosquitoes at Searsville

By Marion Softky
Almanac Staff Writer

Until you're right there, you forget what a terrific wind a rising helicopter makes.

Four times on the morning of July 25, the black-and-yellow helicopter surged off a grassy lot near Searsville Lake, dangling a white steel pot containing pellets of Vectolex CG. The helicopter receded rapidly on its mission to spread the chemical over marshes and cattails surrounding Searsville Lake and nearby ponds.

This mission was part of a program run by the San Mateo County Mosquito Abatement District to control mosquitoes in an attempt to limit the spread of West Nile virus in San Mateo County. So far this year, just one tree squirrel infected with the deadly disease has been found in the county; it was discovered on July 9 in San Mateo.

Every three weeks, the helicopter comes to spread the bacteria that specifically target the mosquito larvae in the dense vegetation around the lake. "It only works on

mosquito larvae," says James Counts, operations supervisor for the district. "We use the least toxic material we can."

While Philippe Cohen, director of Stanford's Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, has reservations about spraying, he accepts this program as being well-conducted, and addressing a public health issue. He e-mails the neighbors before each application. "This makes a lot of sense," he says.

On its way to Searsville, the helicopter had sprayed 20 acres at San Francisco Airport, and a four-acre pond on Tom Siebel's property in Woodside, Mr. Counts said. After spraying some 40 acres at Searsville, it headed to Pacifica to cover 36 acres at Sharp Park.

San Mateo County harbors



The Almanac/Marion Softky

A helicopter lifts off at Stanford's Jasper Ridge to spread a larvicide that kills the larvae of mosquitoes that might carry West Nile virus. The helicopter made four trips, dangling a seed spreader that spreads the bacterial agent over the cattails and marshes surrounding the lake and two nearby ponds.

20 species of mosquito, compared with 54 species in all of California and more than 3,500 in the world, Mr. Counts

See DISPATCH, page 8

Menlo Park to lose bus service?

■ VTA plans to shorten 22 route, breaking direct connection to Santa Clara County.

By **Rory Brown**
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park resident Meg Minto usually takes the 22 bus from the Menlo Park Caltrain Station to her job at Stanford Hospital — a two-mile commute that could get a lot more complicated starting Jan. 1, 2008.

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority is proposing eliminating the Route 22 bus service to Menlo Park starting next year, forcing Ms. Minto and other local bus riders to find new means of transportation to get to stops in Santa Clara County.

The 22 route now loops from Eastridge Mall in San Jose to the Menlo Park train station, but VTA officials, as part of a re-evaluation of the entire bus system, are proposing that the route go no farther north than

the Palo Alto Caltrain station.

The VTA board is set to make a final decision on the proposed route change on Aug. 30.

VTA spokesperson Bernice Alaniz said the change has been proposed because of low ridership in Menlo Park. She said some 400 people a day board the bus in Menlo Park, compared with thousands of riders at other stops.

Ms. Alaniz said riders can still board San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) buses at the Menlo Park train station, take those buses to the Palo Alto train station, and transfer to VTA buses to head farther south into Santa Clara County.

But Ms. Minto and others say VTA officials are disregarding Menlo Park riders because they don't live in Santa Clara County.

"Menlo Park and Palo Alto are often losers when it comes to these transportation decisions, because they're at the outskirts of their respective counties," Ms. Minto said. "And this is a really bad deal for Menlo Park."

Employees at information



The Almanac/Veronica Weber

The 22 bus, which picks up some 400 people a day at the Menlo Park Caltrain station, may no longer stop in Menlo Park.

desks at both SamTrans and VTA said the transit agencies don't necessarily synchronize their schedules, meaning passengers may have long waits when transferring from one type of bus to the other.

"This would seriously affect my ability to travel into Santa Clara County," said Ezio Alviti, a Menlo Park resident who is blind and occasionally depends on the 22 bus to travel south. "It's insensitive to the visually

impaired, and to bus riders in general. ... VTA isn't acting like a good neighbor to San Mateo County riders."

Ruskin to the rescue?

Elizabeth Lasensky, a Menlo Park resident who is an outspoken advocate of public transportation and transit-oriented housing, said she plans to contact Assemblyman Ira Ruskin, D-Redwood City, and urge his office to save 22 bus service to Menlo Park.

In 2005, Mr. Ruskin's office "came to the rescue" and blocked previously proposed cuts to Menlo Park bus service, Ms. Lasensky said.

When asked about VTA's proposed changes to the 22 bus route, Mayor Kelly Fergusson stressed the importance of public transportation.

"We can't let transit stop at county boundaries," she said. "This bus line, in particular, is a key regional link." ■

Attorney found dead at his Menlo Park home

Daniel J. Weiser, 48, a corporate finance attorney and partner in Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, was found dead July 23 in his Menlo Park home.

The San Mateo County Coroner's Office is investigating the cause of the death.

The Menlo Park Police Department on July 27 issued a corrected press release on the death. The original release said the coroner's office attributed the death to asphyxiation and confirmed the police department's determination that the death was accidental.

In its corrected release, the department deleted that information and substituted: "The Coroner's Office is continuing their investigation in determining the cause of death."

The police department still says that its officers concluded that the death was accidental.

Menlo Park police discovered Mr. Weiser's body at 4 p.m. Monday at his residence in the 800 block of Creek Drive in Menlo Park, said Nicole Acker, public information officer for the department. Mr. Weiser's wife and two



Daniel Weiser

children were vacationing in Paris at the time.

John Fore, who runs the corporate finance practice group for Wilson Sonsini, said that Mr. Weiser didn't show up in the Palo Alto office Monday, July 23, but "that's not unusual for part-

ners" who could be in meetings. "I thought that he was possibly joining his wife and kids in Paris."

Mr. Weiser is survived by his wife, Melanie, an attorney at Hewlett-Packard, and two children: Sophia, who will turn 3 this month, and Daniel, who will turn 1 this month, Mr. Fore said.

His death "came as a complete surprise and shock," said Mr. Fore, who noted that Mr. Weiser had no health problems that members of the firm were aware of.

Mr. Weiser has been working at Wilson Sonsini for about seven years, Mr. Fore said. He specialized in corporate securities, finance and restructurings. He received a master's degree in business from the University of Chicago in 1983 and a law degree from Boalt Hall School of Law at UC Berkeley in 1985.

MP to close street for downtown block party

Menlo Park Mayor Kelly Fergusson's political opponents and others can take aim at the mayor on Wednesday, Aug. 1, as she sits above a dunk tank as part of a downtown block party, sponsored by the city and the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce.

The event is scheduled from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., and will include performances by six bands; free food provided by local restaurants Left Bank, Bistro Vida, Angelo Mio, Sultana, Crepe Cafe, and Deelish; a movie screening for families at the Presbyterian Social Hall; and children's activities.

Green businesses and alternative fuel vehicles will be on display, and visitors can watch tutorials regarding how to compost and conserve water.

Santa Cruz Avenue will be closed to traffic from about 3 to 11 p.m. from University Drive to Doyle Street.

The "dunk the mayor" tank will be up at about 7:30 p.m.,



The Bingtones, a self-proclaimed "big band with soul," will play at Fremont Park (at Santa Cruz Avenue and University Drive) from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 1.

when participants can try to hit a target to drop Mayor Fergusson into a tank of water. It will cost \$100 to try, and all proceeds will go to the Boys & Girls Club, Ms. Fergusson said.

Three bands will play for the duration of the event: Big Dog and the Bite, a band that specializes in Top 40 hits from the 1950s and 1960s; Emerson Growiser, a three-piece jazz band; and another jazz band that will play at Bistro Vida restaurant, near

the intersection of Santa Cruz Avenue and Doyle Street.

Three other bands will play shorter sets: The Bingtones, a self-proclaimed "big band with soul," will play at Fremont Park from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. as part of the city's regular summer concert series; the Stoney Mountain Ramblers, a bluegrass group, will play from 7 to 9 p.m.; and nine members of Music@Menlo will perform portions of Bach's "Brandenburg" concertos.

Mayor: Green businesses should be part of revamping downtown

By **Rory Brown**

Almanac Staff Writer

When Councilwoman Kelly Fergusson was named by her council colleagues to the ceremonial post of mayor of Menlo Park last December, she put at the top of her agenda healing the city's longstanding political divide.

In one respect, Ms. Fergusson has done that, spurring residents to collectively take on the ambitious project of curbing greenhouse gas emissions at the local level.

But even as residents from various sides of Menlo Park's political spectrum unite to address global warming, the city has its share of divisions and controversies.

Some people, for example, argue that the council should have dropped the new utility tax after the public was misled about city budget deficits; others are divided about the council's process and plans for revamping properties along El Camino Real.

In an interview with the Almanac, Ms. Fergusson discussed these and other issues before the city. The questions and answers below have been edited for brevity and relevance.

Q. *Menlo Park has this history of a divisive political scene. Do you think that divisiveness has subsided since the new council took office in December?*

A. I'm definitely feeling an improved tone in the council chambers, but there's no question that there's still very challenging issues facing this city.

Q. *One issue that has divided the community is the utility tax. Some residents say the city exaggerated the need for the tax to get it passed. What do you have to say to residents who feel that way?*

A. I've tried to reach out to people who have expressed disappointment with the way the tax debate occurred and with the outcome. For example, I invited (former councilman) Dee Tolles in to see if we could find some common ground.

Q. *Do you feel you've reached common ground with Dee Tolles and others who say they were misled about the need for the tax?*

A. I think people really want to be assured that taxpayer money is being spent wisely — that's the bottom line. And that the city is being run efficiently,



The Almanac/Veronica Weber

Mayor **Kelly Fergusson** says she's open to expanding the City Council from five to seven members.

while at the same time retaining the high level of services that residents expect. I think everyone understands we have to achieve all those goals.

Q. *Do you think the tax is still a necessity?*

A. I do. Remember, the budget doesn't put funds aside for efforts on El Camino Real, and I think we're all pretty clear that's a high priority for us.

Q. *Is revamping El Camino Real the core issue that this council will be graded on? Has it put a lot of pressure on you to make something happen?*

A. Well, I think it's El Camino and Santa Cruz Avenue. We're trying a lot of different things to inject life into our downtown corridor, starting with the downtown block party. But the planning and zoning effort is another aspect of this, and that will take some

time. Other cities that have approached similar problems have not been successful if they try and rush to a solution.

Q. *What is your personal vision of a new El Camino Real?*

A. I hope it becomes a vibrant, thriving community — an exciting place to be and a place that's family friendly. I do believe transit-oriented development is a part of that. I also want the businesses on El Camino Real and Santa Cruz to be successful.

Q. *Is there any specific type of new businesses you'd like to see downtown?*

A. I think there's definitely opportunity for green businesses. We have a terrific demographic here — a very well-educated population that is concerned about the future of our planet that are ready to back their concerns with action and purchasing power.

Q. *Menlo Park is already a home to some major green companies that are located in the eastern part of the city, right?*

A. Oh yeah. We have these alternate energy companies and green-tech companies coming in, and they're coming here because they want to grow their businesses. In Menlo Park we have a history of innovation, and we have a wealth of residents who are engineers and scientists that work for these companies.

Q. *But a lot of the same people who want to make Menlo Park a greener place are pretty resistant to projects that environmentalists support, such as high-density housing and the Dumbarton Rail project. If Menlo Park is really going to be a green city, do residents need to think on a larger, more regional scale?*

A. With Dumbarton Rail, the message I hear is that we have a lot of residents that are proponents of public transportation, but they do not want heavy rail. There are clearly federal laws that need to be changed to allow tracks to use alternatives to heavy diesel trains.

Q. *Would you support Dumbarton Rail if it was heavy rail?*

A. I would want to see what the realistic alternatives are.

See **FERGUSSON**, page 9

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Gloria Darke



Is It Still A Good Time To Buy

Q: Considering all the horrible news constantly before us, it seems this would be an awful time to buy. The stock market just went down over 500 points, and everyone says that housing will not come back for 2, possibly 3 years. What do you recommend? Just rent until things stabilize?

— Arlene

A: Dear Arlene,

I just met with some former clients this week who have been in their house for over 30 years. They moved here from another country and had to buy when they arrived here in the U. S. Interest rates were sky high, there was an oil crisis and gas lines, the economy was in big trouble and no one was buying real estate. Even at the time they knew

they got a very good buy but especially looking at it from today's perspective it was an unreal bargain. I look back just 6 years ago after the stock market decline followed by 9/11 and buyers were not eager to put their money in real estate or anything else. Those prices today also look like an incredible bargain. As with the stock market, you cannot time the real estate market. If this is for a long-term place to live, even if there is some adjustment in our market (which we haven't seen yet) you will be glad that you bought when you did. Having said that, our inventory right now is very low so just keep looking and hopefully, in September there will be more properties to choose from. Good luck, and remember, the greatest wealth has been created by the real estate market.

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*Anticipated Return

Cyclist dies after fall on Sand Hill Road

By David Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Deborah Johnson, the 51-year-old Palo Alto woman who was hospitalized Sunday, July 22, after falling off her bike that afternoon on Sand Hill Road, died Tuesday, July 24, according to the Santa Clara County Coroner's Office.

In response to recent serious bike accidents along the 55 mph portion of Sand Hill Road between Interstate 280 and Whiskey Hill Road, the county is planning steps to make that part of the road safer.

Ms. Johnson, who was wearing a helmet and riding with friends, hit her head in the fall that occurred west of Branner Drive in Menlo Park while the group was heading east on Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park police said.

Police are investigating the incident. The Santa Clara County Coroner's Office will not release information to the public about the cause of Ms. Johnson's death until after the autopsy is complete, a spokeswoman said.

A safer road ahead?

Drivers and cyclists may notice that the bike-lane stripes are whiter along the 55 mph portion of Sand Hill Road, which San Mateo County maintains.

The new paint is part of an effort under way in the Public Works Division to make the road safer, said Lisa Ekers, the road operations manager. More signs are coming, she said, along with new paint for the lettering and images inside the bike lanes on the pavement.

A lower speed limit may

be in the cards for that section of road. Public Works is collaborating with the California Highway Patrol and the Sheriff's Office, which are working with the traffic court, Ms. Ekers said.

"The county is open to and is looking into adjusting the speed limit," she said. "The difficulty is having something that is enforceable in court."

Speed limits are governed by a state law that determines a legal limit as the speed

of 85 percent of the traffic, she said. A driver can successfully fight a speeding ticket if the limit runs afoul of the 85th per-

centile rule.

While a road's "natural" limit is affected by its physical characteristics — the number of curves, driveways and side streets, for example — heavy bicycle use may also be a factor, Ms. Ekers said.

The 55 mph section of Sand Hill Road "has a pretty good opportunity" for a lower limit, she said, given the high volume of cyclists and the "blatant disregard" for lane lines that some drivers have shown.

The process of change is "frustratingly slow," she added. "Some of the road's users, especially the bicyclists, will probably be frustrated by the pace."

Asked if the county is looking at pavement elements like chevrons that would vibrate wheels and deliver a warning to motorists and cyclists when they cross the bike-lane stripe, Ms. Ekers replied: "The reality is that no amount of noise or paint is going to keep some drivers in their lane. They just want to go faster." ■

Bike lanes to be refurbished; 55 mph speed limit under scrutiny.



The Almanac/Veronica Weber

Dispatcher Yvonne Gulley monitors calls in the Menlo Park dispatch center. Dispatchers provide 911 service to Menlo Park and San Carlos.

Resignations hit MP dispatch center

DISPATCH

continued from page 5

ment is trying to recruit new dispatchers, but has yet to receive any applications.

The financial impact of the problematic merger isn't clear. Glen Kramer, the city's personnel director, referred questions about the cost of paying Menlo Park dispatchers overtime versus the cost of paying

the salaries and benefits of additional dispatchers to Police Chief Bruce Goitia, who could not be reached for comment.

Replenishing staff

Dispatchers aren't the only police department employees leaving Menlo Park — at least 12 sworn officers have left the force since 2005, and Chief Goitia has pointed to the staffing shortage as a major obstacle for the

department.

Mayor Kelly Fergusson said the new city manager, Glen Rojas, "faced a police staffing shortage he was able to solve" when he was city manager of Chino. Mr. Rojas takes Menlo Park's top staff post on Aug. 2.

"He's an expert at addressing these problems, and full staffing of the police department is of the utmost importance to me," she said. ■

Atherton names interim city manager

Wende Protzman, assistant to Atherton City Manager Jim Robinson, has been named interim city manager while the town searches for a permanent manager, the City Council decided Thursday at a special meeting.

Ms. Protzman will take over the post Aug. 1, overseeing city operations and reporting

directly to the council.

Since May 2006, she has served as assistant to the city manager. Previously, she was a senior management analyst in the city manager's office for



Wende Protzman

the city of San Mateo.

"Her municipal career has spanned both the operational and administrative side of local government and has provided her with a broad range of experience throughout all city departments," according to a press release from the Atherton city manager's office.

PESTICIDE

continued from page 5

says. Of the 20, eight bite people, and three may carry West Nile virus.

West Nile virus is passed by infected mosquitoes to birds, humans, horses and squirrels, according to an alert from the San Mateo County Health Department. Birds, particularly crows, ravens, and blue jays, are especially susceptible.

The alert suggests precautions people can take to reduce the risk of the disease:

- Drain standing water around the house and yard, and fix leaks.

- To avoid getting bitten, wear long sleeves when mosquitoes are active at dusk and dawn; fix window and door screens.

- Vaccinate horses.

- Use insect repellents with DEET, an effective ingredient. Follow instructions carefully. smhealth.org/fightthebite. ■

■ INFORMATION

For information about mosquito problems, call the San Mateo County Mosquito Abatement District at 344-8592, or go to smcmad.org. Anyone who finds a dead bird or squirrel should report it to the state at 877-WNV-BIRD (877-968-2473); or online at westnile.ca.gov. More information is available at the county health department.

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Times change at Town Center: New look for baseball field

■ Full backstop and sideline fences to replace homey rectangle behind home plate.

By David Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

In redoing the old Portola Valley School campus with a new complex of community buildings and recreation facilities at Town Center, one notable casualty will be the knock-around atmosphere at the baseball field, a grassy diamond with just one formal safety precaution: a rectangle of chain-link fence stuck up behind home plate.

When Little League "Minors" baseball and adult softball return to Town Center next spring, the players will be ensconced inside a set of black chain-link fences, including a 14-foot-high traditional backstop plus 48-foot-long, 8-foot-high fences along the first- and third-base lines.

Spectators will be outside the fences. Unlike at the previous field where they could watch the game from blankets on the grass, they will sit on bleachers, a new concept to the Town Center.

These changes have critics complaining that the fences will obscure views of the western hills and that a full-blown backstop is antithetical to the rural nature of the town.

However, the fences address a legal and safety matter for the town. Running parallel to the third-base line and a few yards to the west will be a walking path ideal for strolling, learning to ride a bike and other activities that don't include worrying about a line drive headed your way.

The fences will help provide

■ PORTOLA VALLEY

the town with "design immunity" if an errant ball or flung bat hits someone on the path, said Councilman Steve Toben in an interview. "We're going to have a lot of traffic on that pathway," he added. "We really had to take account of that."

Reflecting the controversy, the Town Council voted 3-2 on July 11 to go ahead with the fencing plan, with support from Mr. Toben and, reluctantly, Mayor Ted Driscoll and Councilman Ed Davis. "I believe that this is the smallest (fencing) that we can put in today and be legally secure,"

The changes have critics complaining that fences will obscure views of the western hills.

Mr. Driscoll told the Almanac.

Councilman Richard Merk and Councilwoman Maryann Moise Derwin opposed the plan. In an interview, Mr. Merk said the design is too urban. "What we had (before) was really simple and homey and rural," he said. He wanted a so-called clamshell, a one-piece quarter-dome fence that encloses just the area around home plate, as he said is used at the Woodside Priory School up the road.

View obscured?

The new baseball field will be

at the southern end of the 11.2-acre park-like site. A pedestrian headed around the outfield and to the northern end of the site will find an oak grassland and unrestricted views of the Coast Range now that the old school buildings have come down.

Pedestrians at the southern end of the field may find that the third-base fence interrupts their view to the west. This is anathema to some. That view, blocked for over 50 years by the school, had just opened up.

In part because of this issue, the fencing plan came to the council with a negative recommendation from a 4-1 majority on the town's Architectural & Site Control Commission.

The fence "really divides the experience of being on the site and I don't think it resonates with what we're trying to do," said ASCC commissioner Danna Breen. "I wish we had decided to pick up the old backstop and move it. ... This isn't all about the baseball community. This about the entire community."

"I think we have to keep some perspective here as to what has been gained," Mr. Toben said. "We've achieved a great win for the view-shed with the removal of these buildings."

Parks & Recreation Committee member Lindsay Bowen said he feels good about the new backstop and fences. The old field "really didn't offer the protection we felt kids need when they are learning," he said.

To an adult, a kid throwing a ball to the third baseman or letting go of a bat after a hit without flinging it away "looks so easy. It's not," he added. ■

FERGUSON

continued from page 7

Q. *What do you think of the idea of expanding the council to seven members?*

A. I think that's an idea that needs to stay on the table. I think my colleagues have gained appreciation for the regional duties we have, and it's a lot of work for five council members. It's a very difficult challenge to balance that type of workload with a job that pays a salary.

Q. *What efforts have you seen this council make toward incorporating Belle Haven residents in city decisions?*

A. The council's priority of community outreach will help bring in more Belle Haven participation — we need more outreach in that community. I'd like to see an e-mail list in Belle Haven along the lines of a neighborhood watch group we have in the Willows, and the list forming in west Menlo. I've seen how effective these e-mail groups have been for policing and overall neighborhood support.

Q. *There are questions surfacing from the police department. There's a pending racial discrimination lawsuit against the department, and a lot of officers have resigned. Have you discussed these issues with the chief?*

A. Absolutely. This is high on my radar screen, and we're trying to figure out the appropriate leadership role for the council to take in tackling these challenges. We need to determine how we can support the chief in solving these difficult personnel issues.

Q. *Have you heard of any morale problems in the department?*

A. I'm going to defer that question to the chief and our personnel director.

Q. *Your term on the council ends next year. Are you going to run for re-election?*

A. That's a decision for the future. ■



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF MENLO PARK PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING OF AUGUST 13, 2007

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

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

Use Permit/Mandana Jamshidnejad/578 Olive Street: Request for a use permit to construct a new two-story, single-family residence on a substandard lot with regard to lot width in the R-1-S (Residential Single-Family Suburban) zoning district.

Use Permit/Aida Merrill/620 Windsor Drive: Request for a use permit to construct a new two-story, single-family residence on a substandard lot with regard to lot area and depth in the R-1-S (Residential Single-Family Suburban) zoning district, and for excavation into required rear yard setback for egress associated with a basement.

Use Permit/Rick Loretz/1371 Sevier Avenue: Request for a use permit to demolish an existing single-story, single-family residence and construct a new two-story, single-family residence on a substandard lot with regard to lot width and lot area in the R-1-U (Single-Family Urban) zoning district.

Use Permit Revision/Angel and Lynne Sanchez/1058 Ringwood Avenue: Request for a revision to an existing use permit to construct a second story addition to an existing single-story, single-family non-conforming residence that would exceed 50 percent of the replacement value of the existing structure in a 12-month period in the R-1-U (Single-Family Urban) zoning district. The revision would increase the height of the second story by 18 inches.

Minor Subdivision/Cupertino Development Corp./2199 Clayton Drive: Request for a minor subdivision to create four single-family residential parcels where one parcel currently exists in the R-1-S (Single-Family Suburban) zoning district.

Architectural Control/Roger Hagman/728 Santa Cruz Avenue: Request for architectural control to remodel the exterior of a commercial building in the C-3 (Central Commercial) zoning district.

Reconsideration of Use Permit and Architectural Control/Hayes Group/250 Middlefield Road: Request for a use permit and architectural control for installation of new parking spaces, for establishing the total number of parking stalls per the use-based guidelines rather than the zoning district requirements, and for exterior building modifications and site improvements, including changes to the width of the driveway entrance along Middlefield Road, new windows, doors, balcony railing on the existing building, and new enclosures for trash and mechanical equipment for an existing building located in the C-1 (Administrative and Professional District, Restrictive) zoning district. This item was conditionally approved at the July 16, 2007 meeting.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that said Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on this item in the Council Chambers of the City of Menlo Park, located at 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, on Monday, August 13, 2007, 7:00 p.m. or as near as possible thereafter, at which time and place interested persons may appear and be heard thereon. If you challenge this item in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Menlo Park at, or prior to, the public hearing.

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

DATED: July 26, 2007 Deanna Chow, Senior Planner
Menlo Park Planning Commission

Visit our Web site for Planning Commission public hearing, agenda, and staff report information: www.menlopark.org
Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on August 1, 2007.

More trees for Menlo and El Camino Real

El Camino Real is still peppered with abandoned auto dealerships, but the middle of the street is set to improve.

Nine new London Plane trees will be planted in the El Camino median from Cambridge Avenue to the Palo Alto border, courtesy of Trees for Menlo, a nonprofit corporation consisting of local residents and businesses.

The trees, which will be planted this summer, are the final piece of the nonprofit's plan to plant trees along El Camino from Middle Avenue to San Francisquito Creek.

"Community members and local businesses people have told us that they really appreciate the tremendous difference in the appearance of our city and we all benefit from the improved air quality," said Lucile Spurlock, Trees for Menlo co-founder, in a press release.

The nonprofit hopes to garner more donations and plant more

■ MENLO WATCH

trees, Ms. Spurlock said. For more information, go to TreesForMenlo.com.

Time change for green speakers

Global warming experts Winston Hickox and Larry Goulder will speak an hour earlier than previously announced when they come to Menlo Park on Aug. 1.

They will speak from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the council chambers at the Menlo Park Civic Center, between Laurel and Alma streets. They were slated to speak from 5 to 6 p.m., but the presentation was rescheduled so it doesn't conflict with the city's downtown block party on Santa Cruz Avenue, set to start at 5:30 p.m., said Mayor Kelly Fergusson.

Mr. Hickox and Mr. Goulder are chair and vice chair, respectively, of the California Market Advisory Committee, established by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to develop a market system of carbon offsets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

■ TOWN SQUARE

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

New restaurant deal in works for Allied Arts Guild in Menlo

By Rory Brown

Almanac Staff Writer

A restaurateur has signed a letter of intent to move into the Allied Arts Guild in Menlo Park, the Almanac learned last week.

Jean Coblenz, president of the Woodside-Atherton Auxiliary, which owns and operates the historic complex at 75 Arbor Road, would not disclose the identity of

the restaurateur, but said the two parties are negotiating a lease.

A successful restaurant is crucial to drawing people to the guild, whose proceeds go to the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. Since the volunteer-operated restaurant closed Feb. 28, artists and craftsmen at the guild have experienced a significant drop in foot traffic and business.

The Palo Alto Auxiliary to the children's hospital operated a restaurant at the site for 75 years, but the Woodside-Atherton Auxiliary opted to not renew its lease in favor of finding a more profitable tenant.

But initial plans to have local restaurateur Jesse Cool set up a restaurant at the guild fell through, and the space has been empty since. ■

Woodside: hazards of leaving automobile unlocked

Two successful and one attempted auto burglary in Woodside show once again the hazards of leaving cars unlocked or with valuables exposed to passersby.

A CD collection, sunglasses, a handheld altimeter and a de-activated cell phone were taken overnight from the unlocked vehicle of a resident in the 200 block of Highland Terrace, it was reported July 21.

After receiving an e-mail from the aforementioned resident about his car being burglarized, a woman living on the next block went outside that same day to find that one of her vehicles,

also unlocked, had been ransacked. Stolen were her sunglasses and purse, which contained her driver's license, check book, two passports, a credit card and \$200.

Neither victim could recall suspicious activity, although the woman remembered hearing her dogs barking. She told police she thought they were reacting to local wildlife.

On July 24, deputies received a call that someone had attempted to steal a handbag from a vehicle parked at Roberts market on 3015 Woodside Road. The would-be thief attempted to break the right-front passenger window.

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Hillview artists work to finish this year's "Dragon Mural," outside the school library.

COVER STORY

mural magic

Hillview students create whimsical, outdoor masterpieces for their Menlo Park school



Eighth-grader Michael Farzi traces the projected image of his dragon on butcher paper before transferring it to the wall.

by **marjorie mader**
photos **veronica weber**



Detail from the "Underwater Sea" mural, left, and vibrant "Rainforest," right.

Students at Hillview Middle School test their creativity each year by transforming the Menlo Park school's blank, beige exterior walls into an amazing display of vibrant, whimsical murals.

This year's "Dragon Mural" is probably "the splashiest, longest and most visible of all," says art teacher Terry McMahon, who launched the mural project 15 years ago.

Students and visitors smile when they see Asian dragons — without wings — use an umbrella to fly across the library wall. Western dragons on the wall move freely because they have wings. "Evil dragons" and "good luck" ones are among the 32 brightly painted dragons, plus one egg, created by the 36 students in Ms. McMahon's mural elective classes.

The dragon mural is Ms. McMahon's last one at Hillview. After 22 years in the Menlo Park district, she retired last month with accolades from trustees as "Artiste Extraordinaire and a genuine Community Treasure." During two decades, she touched the lives of thousands of students.

The new art teacher, Janet Strauss, who has been a docent with the Hillview murals, plans to continue the project next year, says Ms. McMahon.

However, the murals may be short-lived. Plans call for demolishing the current Hillview buildings (except the multi-use room) upon completion of a new Hillview school on the site of the present playing field along Santa Cruz Avenue. It's part of the district's \$91.1-million bond project to expand faci-

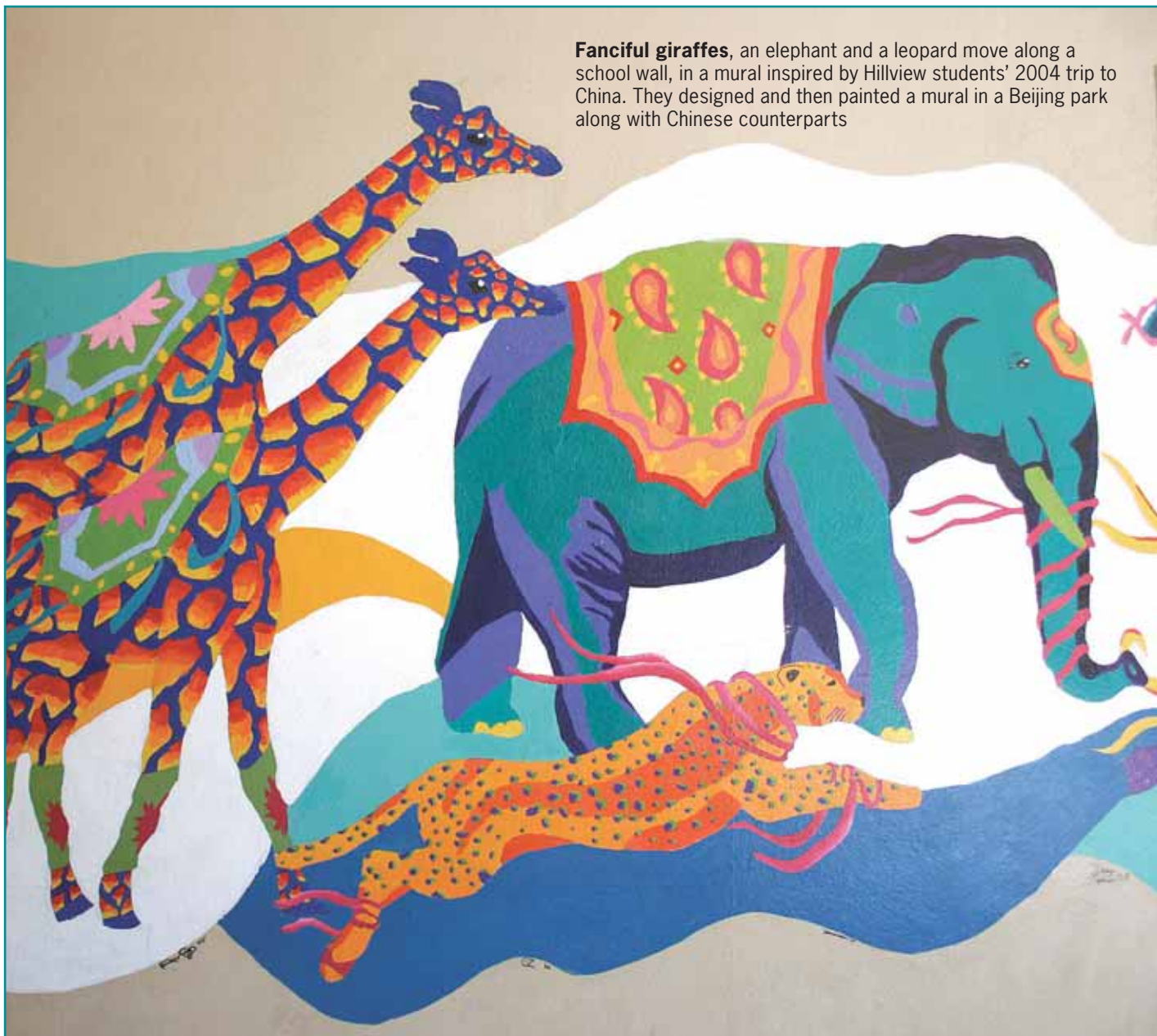
ties at all four schools to accommodate a projected upswing in enrollment.

How it began

Ms. McMahon recalls that Principal Mike Moore planted the idea of creating murals many years ago when he said, "We ought to do something with all those blank, beige walls." That was long before the first modernization of the weary, late 1940s Hillview campus.

He suggested she contact artist Greg Brown, who was commissioned by the city of Palo Alto and created whimsical murals of characters who pop up unexpectedly on downtown buildings. For example, people look twice at his "Bank Robber's Mishap," painted on the outside wall of Washington Mutual Bank at 300 Hamilton Ave..

Fanciful giraffes, an elephant and a leopard move along a school wall, in a mural inspired by Hillview students' 2004 trip to China. They designed and then painted a mural in a Beijing park along with Chinese counterparts



Art teacher Terry McMahon, launched the creative mural project 15 years ago and kept it going. Details, from left, a New Guinea mask; student portraits along Santa Cruz Avenue wall; above right, a bloom from "The Flower Garden"; below, parrots roost in the "Rainforest."

Mr. Brown came to Hillview and talked with art students about how he approached creating the life-size people murals. He showed slides of his projects and even gave tips on such details as painting hair so it looks like hair and making shadows. Hillview's first murals in 1992 were in Mr. Brown's style. Students painted themselves in funny, whimsical situations. A bounding kangaroo pulls a boy on Rollerblades. A girl opens a book and out pops a wizard, dinosaur, and space rocket that could jump right out of the pages of sci-fi and fantasy books on the library shelves. After awhile, says Ms. McMahon, "we decided to get out of the Greg Brown style and choose themes for larger murals." Enter the "Under-

water Sea Mural," opposite the library, that extends from the wall up and under the building's overhang as if a person is underwater, surrounded by sharks, whirling sea anemones, swimming sea turtles, and sea divers. Other murals in this venue include the brilliant-hued "Rainforest," with pink-feathered flamingos, toucans, giant frogs and stands of bamboo; and "The Flower Garden," with giant flowers and ants that wraps around the school courtyard and near a real garden. More murals tie into the curriculum. The detailed Renaissance playing cards along hallways reflect the seventh-graders' study unit devoted to that period of history. The stylized mummies or sarcophagi represent

the sixth-grade class on Egypt. One of the most visible murals, along Santa Cruz Avenue, captures digitalized photos of the students in a palette of five colors. Students created their own portraits and painted the school's name in a mirror image. This 2004 mural, says Ms. McMahon, represents the "spirit of this age with its youthful and vibrant faces." Also in 2004, young Hillview artists had the unusual opportunity of being invited to design a mural for a 60-foot-long curving wall in the China National Children's Center park in Beijing. At home, they created a lively, colorful design of fanciful animals before they packed their paints and bags for China, where they painted the mural along with Chinese counterparts.

The China trip inspired the theme for the 2005 Hillview mural. Large elephants, multi-striped zebras, and more animals bound along the curving wall of the pavilion and the wall of the art room. Without the continuing support of Sue Scheid and Wendy Ellis, former Hillview parents, who signed on as docents when their children were at the school, the mural project could not have lasted this long, says Ms. McMahon. She also gives credit for the project's longevity to "Mike Moore, who has allowed us to have the artistic freedom to do pretty much what we wanted."

The steps

Picking out the wall is the first

step in the mural-making process. Usually the wall is 12 feet tall, and it must be in the shade. Then, says Ms. McMahon, "we brainstorm as a class to see what subject matter would work." Since this will be public art, "the subject can't offend anyone," she says. Next, each student in the two mural classes (about 15 students per class) creates a drawing, such as a dragon, to the desired size. A palette of colors is selected, which involves mixing colors. Then, all the drawings are arranged on paper as a mockup of the entire mural. Using an overhead projector, the drawings are enlarged and transferred to large pieces of butcher

See **MURAL MAGIC**, page 14

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Community

NEWS OF LOCAL PEOPLE AND EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Charity Show to attract 750 horses

Six-day event opens Aug. 7 in Atherton

Only a few hours after entry blanks for the six-day Menlo Charity Horse Show were posted online, the event had a waiting list of 400 competitors, says Betsy Glikbarg of Atherton, founder and co-chairman of the hunter/jumper show that benefits the Vista Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired.

"As much as we'd like to accommodate everyone, we have reached our limit (750 horses) because of space constraints and fire department regulations," says Ms. Glikbarg.

This year the horse show runs Aug. 7-12 at the Menlo Circus Club, 190 Park Lane in Atherton. Hours are 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is \$10 per day, or \$35 for a six-day pass.

Children under 12 and seniors over 65 are admitted free. There's ample street parking with shuttle service provided. Food and beverages will be available for purchase and the club house will be open to the public for lunch every day. Some 40 vendors will offer clothing, jewelry, artwork and items for the home, garden and stable.

Competition is continuous in three arenas for all six days of the show, as top riders on the West Coast vie for more than \$150,000 in prize money and awards donated from such companies as Tiffany, Neiman Marcus and Hermes, says Nan Chapman, the show's spokesperson.

Highlights of the event are:

- The pony classes on Tuesday and Thursday at 7 a.m.
- The \$10,000 Maple Leaf Farm Ryman Memorial Speed Jumping Class at 6 p.m. Friday.
- The \$10,000 Grand Hunter Challenge just preceding the Ryman Class.
- The \$40,000 Grand Prix in



Alex Lawler, son of Anne and Ken Lawler of Atherton, guides Savvy over a jump at the 2006 Menlo Charity Horse Show.

memory of Bob Robinson at 6 p.m. Saturday.

■ The perennial crowd-pleaser, the Children (under 6) Lead Line Class at 1 p.m. Saturday in the sand arena.

Sunday is dedicated to a series of hunter and jumper classics where one needs to have qualified by winning in a previous event.

A gala dinner, auction and dance will take place immediately after the Ryman Speed Jumping Class on Friday night.

Among items to be auctioned off are: a mixed media painting on canvas, titled "Hunter," donated by the official horse show artist, Jolyn Montgomery of Woodside; a Holland American cruise for two to the Caribbean; a dinner for eight by famed caterer, Paula LeDuc; four nights in Cozumel; and a CWD saddle with tack trunk.

Tickets for the dinner are \$175 per person. For reservations, call 322-7686.

"Amid all the enthusiasm and excitement of the event, there will be an aura of sadness and loss, as Bob Robinson, a long-time friend

of the horse show and sponsor of the \$40,000 Grand Prix since its inception 20 years ago, passed away in February," says Ms. Chapman. "This year's show has been dedicated to his memory."

Mr. Robinson's widow, Nancy, who was one of the members of the original horse show committee 36 years ago and who, along with her daughter Caerry has competed in every show since then, has donated a perpetual trophy in his name, which will be awarded to future Grand Prix champions.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Palo Alto-based Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, a rehabilitation facility for visually impaired residents of four counties, including San Mateo.

Last year's horse show raised \$440,000 for the center.

INFORMATION

For more information about the Vista Center, contact Pam Brandin, executive director, at 858-0202 or www.vista-center.org. For more information about the horse show, call 701-0543 or go to www.menlohorseshow.com.

MURAL MAGIC

continued from page 13

paper, cut out, blackened with charcoal, and arranged on the wall, according to the mock-up. Using black felt-tipped pens, the students trace the drawings on the wall before they begin painting.

It's a lot of physical work because most murals require ladders, paint trays, and water that must be brought to the site for each session. The classes meet for only 45 minutes every other day.

Other students say they love to watch as the mural takes shape. They take pride in the murals. Community people and out-of-



A tiger and monkey leap across a wall at Hillview Middle School in Menlo Park.

towners also check out Hillview and its amazing display of student art.

"The murals have never been

graffitied," says Ms. McMahon, probably because students respect the work of young students and the school. ■

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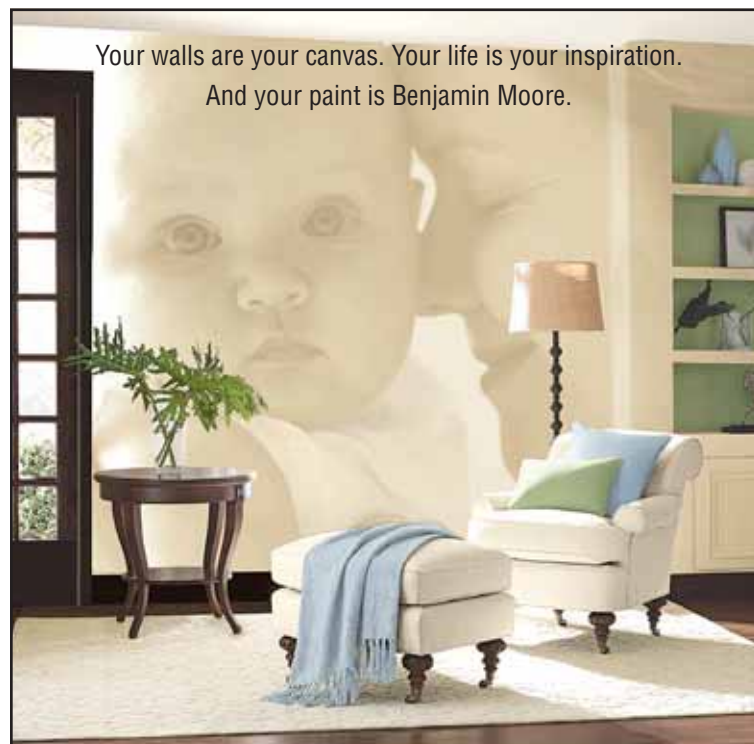
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A new look for Ladera Oaks Swim & Tennis Club, as viewed from Alpine Road.

Ladera Oaks Swim & Tennis to rebuild its clubhouse

By Marjorie Mader

Almanac Staff Writer

After 50 years, Ladera Oaks Swim & Tennis Club plans to rebuild its clubhouse, originally the rustic ranch house for the Merryvale Antique Shop and Nursery when the club purchased the property in 1958.

Other structures on the site — pool dressing rooms, a ping-pong room and a caretaker's cottage will be rebuilt to make them energy-efficient and compliant with the federal disability law, said club president Mike Miller of Portola Valley.

Members have approved the changes at the club, located at 3294 Alpine Road, adjacent to Portola Valley but within the unincorporated area.

A major goal, Mr. Miller noted, is to make the club "green." The facilities will be designed to support photovoltaic power generation, for example.

The club's recently built fitness center, upper swimming pool, courtside tennis lounge and six tennis courts are not part of the project. They will continue to be available to members as the project moves ahead, he said. Plumbing for the lower swimming pool will be replaced as part of the project in 2009.

The cost of the project could

run between \$5 million and \$6.5 million. Members will vote on the funding in September.

Architect Carter Warr of Portola Valley has drawn up conceptual plans for the project and will develop working drawings later. He also designed the fitness center and swim office at the upper pool.

Six subcommittees of members are at work determining members' preferences, primarily in terms of interior design and furnishings.

"The plan is to minimize disruption during construction and to keep the facilities open as much as we can for the members," said club manager Jim Gorman.

The club applied June 4 to San Mateo County to amend its use permit to improve and update its facilities. Public hearings will be set by the county Planning Commission.

Mr. Gorman said he plans to schedule a meeting in September for neighbors and others to learn about the plans and ask questions.

Ladera Oaks, a nonprofit corporation, was established in 1958 by a group of area residents to provide recreational facilities and social programs for its members. The club now has 525 family members and has no plans to expand its membership, Mr. Gorman said. ■

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While breastfeeding is natural, the process may not come as naturally as one might expect. Our certified lactation consultant provides tips for breastfeeding success as well as information about prenatal preparation for breastfeeding.

- Thursday, August 23
- ✱ **BECOMING GRANDPARENTS**

Designed for new and expectant grandparents, this class examines the change in labor and delivery practices, the latest recommendations for infant care and the unique role of grandparents in today's society.

- Thursday, August 23
- ✱ **CESAREAN BIRTH CLASS**

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

- Wednesday, September 5

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

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Cindy moves her flowers and gifts

New shop will have three times the space

By **Natalie Jabbar**
Special to the Almanac

After 24 years at its Oak Grove Avenue location, in back of the post office, Cindy's Flowers & Gifts is moving to a new shop with more than three times the space at 558 Santa Cruz Ave., the site of the former Wessex bookstore.

When faced with a huge rent increase at her Oak Grove store, owner Cindy Smith realized it was time to move, she says.

"I had always wanted to have my store on Santa Cruz anyway," she notes.

The new location, which she expects to open by mid-August, has 2,600 square feet; the former store at 657 1/2 Oak Grove was only 750 square feet. The added space will allow her to sell a wider variety of products, such as tropical flower arrangements and more high-style vases, she

■ BUSINESS

says. She will also be adding a wedding consulting area.

In an effort to make certain flowers last longer, Ms. Smith is adding a walk-in refrigerator — which customers can access — and incorporating a new system for the water in which the flowers are placed.

She will continue to sell fresh flowers, balloon arrangements, gourmet gift baskets and other items she offered at her old store.

The new shop's location near the Menlo Park train station gives her an opportunity to offer special services to customers. "I'll go over and hand the flowers to them as they get on or off the train," she says.

For those who prefer online shopping, she will continue to sell products at cindysflowersandgifts.com. "You can shop in your pajamas if you want," she says.

Having lived in Menlo Park for



The Almanac/Veronica Weber

Cindy Smith of Cindy's Flowers & Gifts arranges a "get well" bouquet for a customer. The shop won the Almanac's 2007 Readers' Choice Award.

most of her life and graduated from Menlo-Atherton High School, Ms. Smith says she is looking forward to remaining a part of the community.

"I've seen my customers

date, get married, have children — then their children have children and they come in, too," she says.

Although her previous location on Oak Grove Avenue has

closed, and the new shop won't open until mid-August, she is open for business in the meantime via the Web (cindysflowersandgifts.com) and phone (321-4864). ■

Former MP legal officer receives honorary degree

Daniel J. Lanahan, a former Menlo Park resident who served as a legal officer for the Menlo Park Police Department in the 1970s and 1980s, has been awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree by Sonoma State University.

Mr. Lanahan, founder of the Santa Rosa law firm, Lanahan & Reilly, was a resident of Menlo Park between 1968 and 1972.



Daniel Lanahan

action and mass tort litigation. Acting as the national coordinat-

He moved to Redwood City in 1972 and to Sonoma County in 1989.

The bulk of his work in the past quarter century has involved class

ing counsel, he negotiated a case involving the food supplement, L-Tryptophan, that resulted in a settlement awarding major U.S. pharmaceutical companies more than \$3 billion dollars from a Japanese company.

Mr. Lanahan teaches at Sonoma State University, Empire College School of Law in Santa Rosa, and San Francisco Law School.

County counsel names chief deputy

Deborah Penny Bennett, a 30-year veteran with the County Counsel's office in San Mateo County, will become a chief deputy county counsel Sept. 1, when County Counsel Tom Casey retires.

Assistant County Counsel Michael Murphy, who will succeed Mr. Casey as county counsel, made the appointment so he will have a complete management team in place when he

takes office.

"Ms. Bennett has represented nearly all (county) departments at one time or another," Mr. Murphy said. "She has rightfully gained the respect of everyone she has worked with."

Ms. Bennett will become the third chief deputy county counsel; the other two are Brenda Carlson and John Beiers. A graduate of the University of California Berkeley and Golden Gate University Law School, she came to San Mateo County in 1977. Her most recent assignments include the courts, the Sheriff's Office, public works and the health plan.

The county counsel, who is appointed by the Board of Supervisors, serves as attorney for the county, its elected officials, and departments. He is also legal counsel for 22 of the county's 24 school districts, as well as many special districts and other government agencies in the county.

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Combined driving in Woodside

The sport of combined driving, which strives to keep alive the elegant and traditional aspects of carriage driving, returns to the Horse Park at Woodside Aug. 2-5 with the fifth combined driving event dedicated to the memory of Dr. Henry Boyd and sponsored by the Peninsula Carriage Driving Club.

The event, free and open to the public, honors the late Dr. Boyd, a veterinarian in Marin County, who pioneered combined driving events in Northern California.

The public is invited to attend free. Thursday and Friday are dressage events; Saturday is the marathon or cross-country phase,

when carriages race through a series of hazards, such as water or gates made of different materials; and Sunday is the "cones" event: the goal is for carriages to negotiate the cones without knocking them down.

Events this year include singles, pairs, tandems of ponies and horses, and four-in-hand of horses, formerly belonging to the former world champion driver Michael Freund, but now owned and driven by Josh Rector of Arizona.

Among competitors are drivers whose mobility is seriously impaired, but who compete in their carriages on a level playing-field with others. Two of them have

competed in Europe, representing the United States at the Disabled Driving Championships.

The Boyd Memorial benefits the United States Driving for the Disabled and BOK, a local therapeutic riding program for handicapped children.

The driving club, founded in 1982, "is more important than ever with the ongoing restoration efforts for the Folger Barn in Woodside," said a spokesperson. "Our members use a wide variety of horses of which Morgans are the most popular."

For more information, go to www.henryboydcde.com or call Ellie Ferrari at 650-851-3543.

Talk on 'eco-travel' at Kepler's Books

Alma Megeath, president of EcoAdventures, will talk about top destinations for "ecological travel" at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 1, at Kepler's bookstore in Menlo Park.

The event, hosted by Ed Phillips, owner of Meridian World Travel Group of Menlo Park, is part of Kepler's "Go Green" summer series.

EcoAdventures is a company

NOTES

that specializes in Latin and South American itineraries designed to minimize the ecological impact of travel, Kepler's says.

Shirley Temple film festival

The Wednesday movie series at Little House activity center

in Menlo Park will be Shirley Temple-themed in August.

The movie "The Little Colonel" will show Aug. 8 and "Dimples," on Aug. 15. There will be no movie Aug. 22 and "Just Around the Corner" will be shown Aug. 29.

All movies are at 1 p.m. in the auditorium of Little House, located at 800 Middle Ave. in Menlo Park. The cost is \$1 for members and \$2 for others. For more information, call 326-2025.

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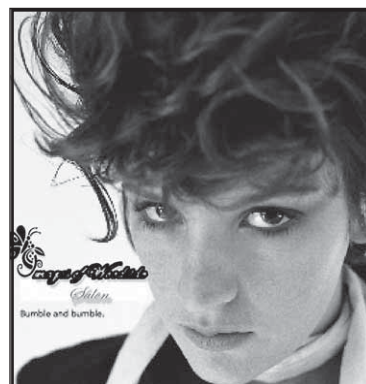


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Calendar

MEETINGS, MUSIC, THEATER, FAMILY ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Special Events

Menlo Park Goes Green Block Party.

Music, food from local restaurants, family entertainment and learning how to "go green" at home and everywhere in the community. This is a bike friendly event with bike corral. Wed., Aug. 1, 5:30-9:30 p.m. Free. Santa Cruz Ave. will be closed to vehicle traffic between El Camino and Fremont Park, Menlo Park. Call 650-326-9661.

Menlo Park Summer Concert Series.

Modern big band with soul music will be performed by the Bingtones. Wed., Aug. 1, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Fremont Park, Santa Cruz & University, Menlo Park.

Menlo Charity Horse Show. A benefit for the Vista Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired. More than 700 equestrians competing in Olympic-style jumping events. Vendors offering items for the home, house and stable. Food and beverages available for purchase. Street parking. Shuttle service provided. Aug. 7-12, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. \$10/day, 6 days/\$35, Kids under 12 and adults over 65 free. Menlo Circus Club, 190 Park Lane, Atherton. Call 7650-01-0543. www.menlohorseshow.com

Menlo Park Summer Concert Series. Funk and soul artist Tony Lindsay. Wed., Aug. 8, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Fremont Park, Santa Cruz & University, Menlo Park.

The Horn Man. The Horn Man (Bill Nemyten) plays instruments from 5 continents. The music includes classics, jazz, gospel and folk songs. Sat., Aug. 4, 11 a.m.-noon. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. Call 650-330-2512. www.menloparklibrary.org

Vintage Vehicles and Family Festival. Presented by The Museum of American Heritage. Aug. 5, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. El Camino Park, 100 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. Call 321-1004. www.moah.org

Shakespeare production in the Woodside woods. "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by William Shakespeare. Directed by Stuart Bousel. Performed outdoors as part of a leisurely hike through Woodside's redwood forest. Weekends, Aug. 4-Sept. 2, 1 p.m. \$20 general admission, \$15 TBA members/students/seniors. Theatre in the Woods (a branch of AtmosTheatre), 2170 Bear Gulch Road West, Woodside. Call 415-370-8945. www.atmostheatre.com

TheatreWorks presents "Theophilus North." TheatreWorks presents the West Coast premiere of "Theophilus North."

Based on Thornton Wilder's autobiographical novel. Leslie Martinson directs. Weds., July 18 through Sun., August 12, Tue. & Wed. 7:30 p.m., Thu. through Sat., 8 p.m.; Sun. 2 & 7 p.m. \$20-56. TheatreWorks at Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. www.theatreworks.org

"Farewell to a Cannibal Rage." One of four shows in Stanford Summer theatre's season, "Africa Onstage." This comedy offers a treatment of the archetypal tale of familial-crossed lovers. Aug. 9-12, 8-10 p.m. \$20 if reserved online. Pigott Theatre, Memorial Auditorium, 551 Serra Mall, Stanford. Call 650-725-5838. summertheater.stanford.edu

Late Night Catechism. An irrepressible "Sister" teaches a catechism class to a roomful of "students" in this interactive comedy by Maripat Donovan and Vicki Quade. Aug. 3-5, \$25. Bus Barn Theater, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. Call 650-941-0551. www.busbarn.org

Rengstorff House Arts Festival. Shakespeare in the garden. Woman's Will, the Bay Area's all-female Shakespeare company, presents "Romeo and Juliet" in the Victorian garden. General admission. Lawn seating. Sun., Aug. 5, 1-3 p.m. Free/donations accepted. Rengstorff House, 3070 N. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. www.r-house.org

Early Music Choral Workshop. Members of the California Bach Society under the direction of Joshua Habermann, director of choral studies at San Francisco State University, in singing and exploring William Byrd's Music for the Catholic and Anglican churches. Aug. 18, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; register by Aug. 8. \$45, includes music and lunch. Directions given upon registration, Palo Alto. Call (415) 262-0272. www.calbach.org

Fall Veggie Garden Workshop. Learn sustainable, organic methods for soil preparation and techniques for transplanting season vegetable seedlings in this hands-on workshop

"Sweet Charity." Peninsula Youth Theatre will present the Tony-winning musical "Sweet Charity" July 28-Aug. 5. Showtimes are 2 and 7:30 p.m. Aug. 4; 7:30 p.m. Aug. 3; and 2 p.m. Aug. 5. Group discounts are available. \$10-\$18. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. www.pyt.net

Doctor Faustus. Christopher Marlowe's Doctor Faustus. Performed by high school & college members of the Wingspread summer stock company on the outdoor Magic Castle Stage. Aug 5-11, 7 p.m. \$8 Adult, \$4 Child. Palo Alto Children's Theatre Magic Castle Stage, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-463-4930.

"Juvie" by Jerome McDonough. Performed by local teens. July 27-Aug. 19, 8 p.m. \$15 - \$25. Dragon Productions, 535 Alma St., Palo Alto. www.dragonproductions.net

Talks/Authors

"In the Shadow of the Bomb." Loulena Miles, staff attorney at Tri-Valley CARES (Livermore Labs watchdog organization) will talk about "In the Shadow of the Bomb: Nuclear Proliferation in a Time of War." Sponsored by the Peninsula Peace and Justice Center. Tue., Aug. 7, 7 p.m. Free. Community Media Center, 900 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-326-8837. www.peaceandjustice.org

Clean energy entrepreneurs. Fountain-Blue's Clean Energy Entrepreneurs' Forum, "Incubating Clean Energy Companies." Mon., Aug. 6, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. \$18-\$25 pre-registered, \$30 on-site. DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary, 2000 University, East Palo Alto. Call 650-996-3987. <http://www.SVCleanEnergy.com>

Open Mic Poetry. Poetry Action Movement meets the last Thursday of the month. After a featured poet reads, all other poets are invited to participate. Through Aug. 30, 7-9 p.m. Free. Burgess Recreation Center, 700 Alma St., Menlo Park. Call 650-325-5257.

PARC Forum. "You Are What You Make," Dale Dougherty, editor and publisher of Make and Craft magazines. Thu., Aug. 2, 4-5 p.m. Free. George E. Pake Auditorium, 3333 Coyote Hill Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-812-4000. www.parc.com

Art Galleries

"In the Garden: Images of Allied Arts." Exhibit runs through Aug. 31, Portola Art Gallery, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park. www.portolaartgallery.com

Allegro Framing and Art presents. Bay Area artist Maralyn Miller. Through Aug. 31, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Allegro Framing and Art, 3130 Alpine Road, #370, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-4300. www.allegroframing.com

Benefits

Vintage Vehicles Gala. A night of "rockin' & rollin'" to support the Museum of American Heritage. This evening celebrates the cars, culture, and craziness of the 1950s. Saturday, August 4, 5:30-9:30 p.m. \$115 members/\$125 general public. Call for information, San Carlos. Call 650-321-1004. www.moah.org

Classes/Workshops

"Connecting With Your Child Every Day" (5-11 years). Explore ways to build a lifelong parent-child relationship of trust and love through open communication and true respect. With Susan Stone Belton, BSE. Pre-registration is required. July 31 & Aug. 7, 7-7:30 p.m. \$50 for two sessions Parents Place, 200 Channing Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-688-3040. www.parentsplaceonline.org

Early Music Choral Workshop. Members of the California Bach Society under the direction of Joshua Habermann, director of choral studies at San Francisco State University, in singing and exploring William Byrd's Music for the Catholic and Anglican churches. Aug. 18, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; register by Aug. 8. \$45, includes music and lunch. Directions given upon registration, Palo Alto. Call (415) 262-0272. www.calbach.org

Fall Veggie Garden Workshop. Learn sustainable, organic methods for soil preparation and techniques for transplanting season vegetable seedlings in this hands-on workshop

by master gardeners at their Palo Alto demonstration garden. Beginning gardeners are especially welcome. Open garden follows, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Sat., Aug. 4, 10-11 a.m. Free. Palo Alto Demonstration Garden, 851 Center Drive, Palo Alto. mastergardeners.org

Intuition for Productivity, Innovation & Wellness. Material is drawn from mind-body practices that use imagery, relaxation, body awareness and sensory perceptions. Relaxation CD provided. Fri., Aug. 3, 12-1:15 p.m. \$50. Stanford Health Improvement Program, 655 Serra St., Mag-nolia Room, Stanford. hip.stanford.edu

Menlo Park Boot Camp. Outdoor workout designed for men and women of all fitness levels. New session starts July 24. Drop-ins welcome. Through Aug. 16, 12-1 p.m. \$8-\$10 per class. Burgess Park, 701 Laurel St., Menlo Park. Call 650-330-2200. www.menlopark.org

Plant Cool Season Veggies Now. UC Master Gardener Susan Zaslaw demonstrates how to plan and plant a vegetable garden suited to the unique, Mediterranean climate of the Bay Area. Sat., Aug. 11, 9-11 a.m. Free. Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverly St., Palo Alto. Call 408-282-3105. www.gamblegarden.org

Clubs/Meetings

Little House Book Club. Discuss Deborah Davis' book "Strapless" in the Conference Room. Club is open to all and newcomers are welcome. Wed., Aug. 1, 1-2 p.m. Free. PV Inc Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-326-2025 ext. 30. www.peninsula-volunteers.org

Woodside Library Book Club. Discuss "Carry On Jeeves" by P.G. Wodehouse. Tue., Aug. 7, 11:15 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside. Call 650-851-0147.

Concerts

Music@Menlo Chamber Music Festival. Encounter III: "Knock 'em Dead! Composers Wanted: Dead or Alive." Thu., Aug. 2, 7:30 p.m. Concert Program IV: "Death and Transfiguration." Sat., Aug. 4, 8 p.m. Carte Blanche Concert III: "The Violin Sonata Tree of Life, c. 1700-1999." Sun., Aug. 5, 10:30 a.m. Concerts: \$48 center/\$30 side adult, \$25 center/\$10 side student. Encounter IV: "Borrowing: Repurposing or Theft? The Composer as Cultural Emissary." Aug. 6, 7:30 p.m. Carte Blanche Concert IV: Schubert's "Die Schöne Müllerin." Tue., Aug. 7, 8 p.m. Encounters: \$30 adult; \$15 student. Martin Family Hall, Menlo School, 50 Valparaiso Ave., Atherton. www.musicatmenlo.org

Jimmy Cobb Quartet featuring Kenny Barron. Drummer Jimmy Cobb will be joined for this concert by pianist Kenny Barron. Wed., Aug. 1, 8 p.m. \$16-32. Dinkelspiel Auditorium, 471 Lagunita Drive, Stanford. Call 650-736-0324. www.stanfordjazz.org

Lee Konitz. Alto saxophonist Konitz's soloing style is associated with the cool and free jazz movements Konitz also played with the Stan Kenton Orchestra from 1952-54. Sat., Aug. 4, 8 p.m. \$20-40. Campbell Recital Hall, Braun Music Center, 541 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. Call 650-736-0324. www.stanfordjazz.org

SJW All-Star Jam Session. Stanford Jazz Workshop unites artists of past and present, including Lee Konitz, Frank Wess, Wycliffe Gordon, Terrell Stafford, Kenny Barron, Eddie Gomez and Jimmy Cobb. Thu., Aug. 2, 8 p.m. \$18-36. Dinkelspiel Auditorium, 471 Lagunita Drive, Stanford. Call 650-736-0324. www.stanfordjazz.org

Outdoors

"Walk in the Wild" Sculpture Tours. Djerassi Program's sculpture tours, located on a private ranch. Approximately 40 sculptures located on hiking trails. Director's tours (Aug. 18, Sept. 9 and Oct. 6) and two-mile tours (Aug. 19, Aug. 30, Sept. 22, Oct. 4 and Oct. 27). Reservations required. 9:45 a.m. Director's tours: \$40; Two-mile tours: free. Djerassi Resident Artists Program, 2325 Bear Gulch Road, Woodside. Call 650-747-1250. www.djerassi.org

Exhibits

Woodside Community Museum Open Sundays. Visit the Woodside Community Museum, now featuring an exhibit celebrating the town's incorporation in 1956. The museum's

Submitting information to the Calendar

Information for Calendar listings must be submitted online. Please go to www.AlmanacNews.com, page down to "Master Community Calendar" on the left, and click on the link, "Post an Event." For all Calendar listings, click on the link, "Search Entire Calendar."



At Kepler's

Known for her Newbery Honor Book, "Ella Enchanted," author Gail Carson Levine is a "master at capturing the hearts and dreams of girls of all ages," says Kepler's spokesperson Susan Lider. To celebrate Ms. Levine's newest book, "Fairy Haven and the Quest for the Wand," Kepler's bookstore in Menlo Park is turning its courtyard into a "fairy's haven of wonderment and beauty," says Ms. Lider. The program starts at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 7, at Kepler's, 1010 El Camino Real.

photo and historic resource collection is also available for public use. 2-5 p.m. No charge. Woodside Community Museum, Town Center, Whiskey Hill and Woodside Roads, W2woodside. Call 851-1294.

Kids & Families

Woodside Library Presents The Horn Man. Take a musical journey and hear 12 instruments in a fast paced program. For ages 3 and up. Wed., Aug. 8, 4-5 p.m. Free. 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside. Call 650-851-0147.

Family Fun on Theatre Way. Comedy, juggling, magic, drumming performances and environmental presentations featuring live birds of prey. Saturdays through Aug. 31, 12-3 p.m. Free. Courthouse Square, 2200 Broadway, Redwood City. Call 650-780-7253. www.redwoodcity.org/events

Infant Storytime. For infants ages 0-18 months. Wednesdays, 10 a.m. Music, finger plays, and puppets. Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside.

Movies on the Square. The summer in the city experience continues with a showing of 10 movies on Wednesday evenings starting at sundown. Come early for the best seats (limited number available). June 20-Aug. 29, 8:45 p.m. Free. Courthouse Square, 2200 Broadway St., Redwood City. Call 650-780-7311. <http://www.redwoodcity.org/events/Movies.html>

Musical Storytime. Family storytime with sing-a-longs and stories. Through Aug. 22, 4-4:30 p.m. Free. Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 650-328-2422. <http://www.smcl.org>

Musical Storytime. A half-hour of sing-a-longs and stories for the whole family. Through Aug. 8, 4-4:30 p.m. Free. Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 650-328-2422. www.smcl.org

Outdoor Family Art Activities with Miss Zanocco. Miss Zanocco will facilitate outdoor art activities. Wed., Aug. 1, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Cheeky Monkey Toys, 640 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-328-7975. www.cheekymonkeytoys.com

Stories from the Past Program. Learn about the life of Ohlone Native Americans. Hear the telling of the stories "Trura-The Thunders" and "How People Were Made" by Linda Yamane. Afterward, children are invited to play games and make crafts. Fri., Aug. 10, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Free for children 5 and under. \$2 for students. \$4 adults. San Mateo County History Museum, 2200 Broadway, Redwood City. Call 650-299-0104. www.historysmc.org

Storytime with Mrs. Glare at Cheeky Monkey Toys. Hear Mrs. Glare, Menlo Park School District Librarian, read special selections. Thu., Aug. 2, 4-4:45 p.m. Free. Cheeky Monkey Toys, 640 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park.

www.cheekymonkeytoys.com

Wacky Wednesday: Rex and Boots Super Sleuths. Swazelle will perform a new puppet show based on the theme of the Summer Reading Program, Get a Clue @ Your Library. Wed., Aug. 1, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Free. Main Library, 1213 Newell Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-329-2205.

Woodside Library Presents Steve Chaney. Join ventriloquist Steve Chaney and his sidekick Cornelius Crow. Wed., Aug. 1, 4-5 p.m. Free. 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside. Call 650-851-0147.

Et Alia

"Art on the Square." Fine arts and crafts. The shows complement "Music on the Square," the city's Friday evening summer concerts. Fri., Aug. 3, 5-8:30 p.m. Free. Art on the Square, Broadway between Hamilton & Middlefield, Redwood City. www.redwoodcity.org/events

Relay For Life of Menlo Park. Volunteers needed to plan the annual "Relay For Life" of Menlo Park, a fundraiser that is community based and volunteer driven. Volunteers needed first Thursdays, monthly through Aug. 12, 7-8 p.m. Free. Burgess Park, 701 Laurel St., Menlo Park. Call 408-892-3643. www.relayforlife.org

Restore a wetland. Removing non-native plants like fennel, mustard, pepperweed and thistle. Volunteers will also help with seed collection, site monitoring, watering of plants, continuing shoreline clean-up and transplanting. RSVP at website. Sat., Aug. 4, 9 a.m.-noon. Free. Palo Alto Baylands Nature Preserve, Palo Alto. Call 510-452-9261 ext.119. <http://www.savesfbay.org/bayevents>

Ballroom Dancing. West Coast Swing (state dance) will be taught Fri., Aug. 3. Lessons for beginning and intermediate levels, no experience and no partner necessary. General dance party 9 p.m.-midnight. Singles & couples welcome. Free refreshments. Dressy casual attire. 8 p.m.-12 a.m. \$7. Cubberley Community Center Pavilion, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-856-9930. www.readybyte.com/fridaynightdance

Homeowners & Renters. Senior homeowners & renters may qualify for cash rebate from the state of California. Free preparation of claim forms will be provided by AARP volunteers at Little House on Tuesdays. Call Community Services to make an appointment. Through Aug. 7, 1-4 p.m. Free. PV Inc Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-326-2025. www.peninsula-volunteers.org

Zydeco Festival. Live zydeco music by Andre Thierry & Zydeco Magic www.myspace.com/andrethierryzydecomagic. Sat., Aug. 4, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. St. Francis of Assisi Church, 1425 Bay Road, East Palo Alto. Call 650-566-8641.

Play conveys Wilder's intent, but direction unfocused

By Karen MacLaughlin

Special to the Almanac

Everything runs like clockwork in the TheatreWorks production of Matthew Burnett's "Theophilus North." Mark Anderson Phillips, as Theophilus, glides around the stage in the title role on a sumptuously fat-tired bicycle, while a competent supporting cast marks off spring and summer in a series of vignettes set among the mansions, tennis courts, speakeasies, and beaches of 1920s Newport, Rhode Island.

But clockwork is not the stuff of which drama is made. Conflict is. And while that conflict is amply written into the script by Mr. Burnett, it is too broadly staged by director Leslie Martinson.

The play is an adaptation of Thornton Wilder's novel of the same name, and the first rule of adaptation is to convey the author's intent. Mr. Burnett

THEATER REVIEW

has managed to preserve the author's subtle ache for connection, but Ms. Martinson's direction shoots it all out a cannon. Thankfully, the emotional truth of the performances saves the evening from burlesque.

Patrick Sieler is a very pleasant poke in the ribs as the cockney "gentleman's gentleman," Henry Simmons. Mr. Sieler also plays Hilary Jones, a coach who is advised by Theophilus to bore his bride away by talking nonstop about sports. He succeeds with her by making small town athletics sound positively epiphanous to us.

Julia Brothers moves faithfully (like the ferry boat she represents in one scene) between a tip-toeing lady's companion, Cora, and a sure-footed, self-made Mrs. Cranston. She has the ability to

pinpoint emotional nuance.

Jackson Davis as philosopher-invalid Dr. Bosworth, and Craig Marker as painfully repressed adolescent Charles Fenwick, both get us guffawing. And if you enjoy Hugh Laurie's portrayals of Bertie Wooster, you'll relish Mr. Phillips as Theophilus.

"I am a part of all that I have met," a line from Tennyson's "Ulysses," is repeated throughout the play. Mr. Burnett has done admirably in fitting what he has met of Theophilus North into the little wooden "O" of dramaturgy. May his next effort prove him even more deft. ▀

INFORMATION

TheatreWorks' "Theophilus North" runs through August 12 at the Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Tickets: \$21-\$57. Call 903-6000 or log on at theatreworks.org.

Library program: 'Horn Man' plays 12 instruments from five continents

Bill Nemoyten, also known as "The Horn Man," will perform a historical, geographical, and ethnic medley with 12 instruments from five continents on Saturday, Aug. 4, at 11 a.m. at the Menlo Park Library.

In addition to more familiar instruments such as the trombone and French horn, Mr. Nemoyten will play the Australian didgeridoo, Tibetan randung, Swiss Alp horn and South Seas conch shell.

The music will range from classics and jazz to gospel and folk

songs. Audience members will be encouraged to participate with clapping, singing and mimicking certain instruments.

During the performance, the longtime musician and educator will also talk about his worldwide travels and his experiences with diverse cultures and music.

The Menlo Park Library is located at 800 Alma St. Free van service is available for Menlo Park seniors and people with disabilities.

For more information or to schedule transportation, call 330-2512 or e-mail rlrth@menlopark.org.

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PLANNING COMMISSION

August 7, 2007

7:30 PM

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

2. **Woodside Developers LLC** Final EIR
Lawler Ranch Road
Consideration of the Certification of the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Sandhill Estates and adoption of a Mitigation Monitoring Program. In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, the EIR analyzes the environmental impacts of the construction of a private roadway and bridges for two driveways across creeks, as well as a detention basin and drainage improvements, on 92.2 acres of land
3. **Woodside Developers LLC** LLA2003-005
Lawler Ranch Road
Review of a request for a lot line adjustment to allow for the adjustment of property lines of four existing parcels.
4. **Woodside Developers LLC** CUP2004-001
Lawler Ranch Road
Review of a request for a Conditional Use Permit to construct three bridges and a roadway in the stream corridor.
5. **Woodside Developers LLC** SDPC2004-001
Lawler Ranch Road
Review of a request for site development approval in accordance with the provisions of Woodside Municipal Code section 151.22 to permit grading in excess of 1500 cubic yards for purposes of a roadway. The mass grading quantities are projected to be 4200 cubic yard of fill and 4700 cubic yard of cut,
6. **First Virtual Properties** Final EIR
3000 Portola Road
Consideration of the Certification of the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Natural Terrain Renovations and adoption of a Mitigation Monitoring Program. In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, the EIR analyzes the environmental impacts of the bridge replacement and pond dredging and site restoration on a 41.5 acre property.
7. **First Virtual Properties** CUP07-002
3000 Portola Road
Review of a proposal to construct a replacement bridge in the stream corridor.
8. **First Virtual Properties** XSD 07-003
3000 Portola Road
Review of a request for site development approval in accordance with the provisions of Woodside Municipal Code section 151.22 to permit grading in excess of 1500 cubic yards for pond dredging and disbursement of 10,600 cubic yards consisting of 9,600 cubic yards of dredged materials and 1000 cubic yards of amendment materials.
9. **McDonald Family LLC** VAR 05-007
408 Eleanor Drive
Review of a request to alter slopes in excess of 35 percent for purposes roadway construction.
10. **McDonald Family LLC** XSD 06-003
408 Eleanor Drive
Review of a request for deviation from the roadway standards in accordance with the provisions of Section 151.73 of the Woodside Municipal Code..
11. **Don Fischer** APPL 07-006
510 Mountain Home Road
Appeal of the Planning Director's determination that the removal of three oak trees for relocation offsite violates Woodside Municipal Code section 153.173 and constitutes "tree destruction." Each of the three trees qualifies as a significant tree.

All application materials are available for public review at the Woodside Planning and Building Counter, Woodside Town Hall, weekdays from 8:00 - 10:00 AM and 1:00 - 3:00 PM, or by appointment. For more information, contact the Woodside Planning and Building Department at (650) 851-6790.

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on August 1, 2007.

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Babe Ruth 13s aim for regional title

By Keith Peters

Palo Alto Weekly

The Palo Alto Babe Ruth 13-year-old all-stars are taking a detour on the road to a possible title in the Pacific Southwest Regional in Richfield, Utah.

Instead of taking the easy route through the winners' bracket, the team — which includes players from Woodside and Menlo Park — will go through the consolation bracket following its 12-8 loss to Yuma (Ariz.) on Saturday.

Palo Alto has a few days off before playing Tuesday against the winner of Taylorsville (Utah)

and host Richfield — a team Palo Alto beat in the opening round.

Yuma found holes in Palo Alto's usually tight defense and pounded 16 hits in Saturday night's second-round game.

Palo Alto's uncharacteristically shoddy play provided a stark contrast to the beautiful summer evening in Richfield, Utah.

Palo Alto committed five errors and left 10 runners on base. Palo Alto's BJ Boyd delivered another strong game with two hits, including a triple, three runs scored, and continued stellar play in center field. Freddy Avis had three hits,

including an RBI double.

Jake Batchelder (a single and an RBI double) and Jordan Piha (two doubles with an RBI) also bolstered the Palo Alto attack. Batchelder started on the mound for Palo Alto, and was followed by Sam Falkenhagen and Kyle Zirbes. Zirbes, in particular, pitched well but was the victim of inopportune defensive miscues.

Palo Alto certainly had its opportunities offensively, banging out 11 hits and receiving eight walks, but couldn't cash in.

— Greg Avis contributed to this story.

Draeger's is Alpine Minor League champion

Report by Kirt Thomson, Draeger's coach.

After playing a grueling 13-team, double-elimination tournament, Draeger's defeated the TZR Builders team 11-9 in a very hard-fought Minor League Championship game at Portola Valley's Ford Field on June 14.

With the victory, Draeger's won the Minor League title in the Alpine/West Menlo Little League.

Draeger's efforts were lead by their starting pitcher, Noah

Milman, who threw four solid innings before being relieved by ace Danny LaPorte, who closed out the game for the win.

All Star nominee Danny Draeger captained the winning team and provided solid leadership as the team's catcher, while Ian DeLisle and Sam Ferguson drove in multiple runs with great hitting.

Christopher Scherm pitched a fine game for TZR and was backed by outstanding defensive play from Andrew Carney, Miles McCann Robinson and Lucas

and Christian Fioretti. TZR Builders rallied for four runs in the bottom of the sixth before being retired by Draeger's strong pitching and defense.

Members of the Draeger's team are Ian DeLisle, Danny Draeger, Cameron Steck, Noah Milman, Sam Ferguson, John Guiragossian, Danny LaPorte, Chris Bower, Cole Thomson, Kyle Cahners, Erik Shelton and Alejo Nighan. Coaches are Vasken Guiragossian, Kirt Thomson and Brian LaPorte.

Atherton youth swims around Alcatraz

Nicolas Caine of Atherton placed 6th in the men's division/no wet suit in the Water World's "Swim Around the Rock" (Alcatraz) on May 26, said his mother, Marilyn Caine.

Nicholas has been swimming with Solo Aquatics in Menlo Park

since he was 7, said Ms. Caine. His pool coach is Tom McRae.

In the hopes of swimming the Catalina Channel this summer, Nicholas trains five days a week for two hours a day. He plans to attend Sacred Heart Preparatory School in Atherton this fall.

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The Almanac

■ OBITUARY

Edward John Lewandowski

Menlo Park Resident and San Francisco longshoreman

Longtime Menlo Park resident and San Francisco longshoreman Edward John Lewandowski died on Saturday, July 21, in Fort Jones, California. He was 82.

Born in Crucible, Pennsylvania, he worked on riverboats as a teen and was in the U.S. Navy, serving in the Pacific theater.

After being discharged from the Navy, Mr. Lewandowski came to California, where he worked for 47 years as a longshoreman on the San Francisco and Oakland waterfronts.

He and his family resided in Felton Gables in Menlo Park for more than 30 years. He and his wife moved to Fort Jones near Yreka 12 years ago after he retired as a superintendent.

Mr. Lewandowski is survived by his wife, Marjorie, of Fort

Jones; daughters Carol Lewandowski of Half Moon Bay and Janet Baldwin of Cashmere, Washington; and a grandson.

Services were held July 21 in Fort Jones. A memorial for friends and family is planned for the afternoon of Oct. 7. Contact the family at 726-3534 for more information.

Memorial donations can be made in his name to Madrone Hospice at 255 Collier Circle St., Yreka, CA 96097 or through www.madronehospice.org/html/donation_opportunities.htm

Memorial service for Charlotte Anderson

There will be a memorial service for Charlotte Anderson, longtime community leader and garden expert in Portola Valley, at 3 p.m. Tuesday, July 31, at Christ Church, 815 Portola Road, Portola Valley. She died June 10 at The Sequoias in Portola Valley at age 82. She had lived in Portola Valley for 57 years.

Vintage Affair

Tiffany & Co. recently celebrated the 25th anniversary for Vintage Affaire — the wine auction fundraiser for the Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired that was held July 21 at a private Woodside estate. The Tiffany party was held at the Stanford Shopping Center store on June 29. Shown above are, from left, Mary Johnson, the event chair; Bebe Kokab, the director of Tiffany & Co. in Palo Alto; and Pam Brandin, director of the Vista Center. For more information on Vintage Affaire, call Vista Center at 858-0202 or go to www.vintageaffaire.org.

Photo by Caroline Kopp



■ 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

Auto burglary report: Window smashed, first block of Belleau Ave., July 20.

Fraud report: Unauthorized activity on bank account, first block of Stern Lane, July 26.

MENLO PARK

Auto theft reports:

■ 1988 red Buick Riviera stolen, 1300 block of Carlton Ave., July 22.

■ 1992 blue Honda Accord stolen, 1300 block of Chilco St., July 23.

Auto burglary reports:

■ Pick-up truck burglarized, 1400 block of San Antonio St., July 22.

■ Vehicle break-in, 700 block of Coleman Ave., July 24.

■ Vehicle break-in, Kent Place, July 25.

Burglary reports:

■ Cash stolen from a closed business at night, 900 block of Willow Road, July 20.

■ Refrigerator stolen, 2300 block of Warner Range Road, July 25.

Battery report: Assault on person by two females, 1300 block of Willow Road, July 21.

Fraud report: Embezzlement, 700 block of Santa Cruz Ave., July 26.

■ BIRTHS

Menlo Park

■ Tonia Broussard and Eric Breuninger, a son, July 9 at Sequoia Hospital.

Relay around the clock fights cancer

The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life in Menlo Park will take place on Saturday, Aug. 11, and Sunday, Aug. 12, as local residents walk around the clock in the battle against cancer.

Teams of local residents will gather at Burgess Park starting at 10 a.m. Saturday for a 24-hour overnight relay. Each team will have at least one member walking on the track at all times during the event.

The relay is not a competition or a race, but rather a family-oriented community gathering, organizers say.

Menlo Park resident Jeannette McNeil said of her participation

in last year's relay, "The experience was so powerful for us because it was a wonderful way to honor family and friends who have survived cancer, as well as those who are no longer with us."

The biggest group of walkers is expected at dusk when the Ceremony of Hope, or Luminaria Ceremony, begins. Luminarias are bags filled with sand that have a small candle in them so they glow as the sun goes down.

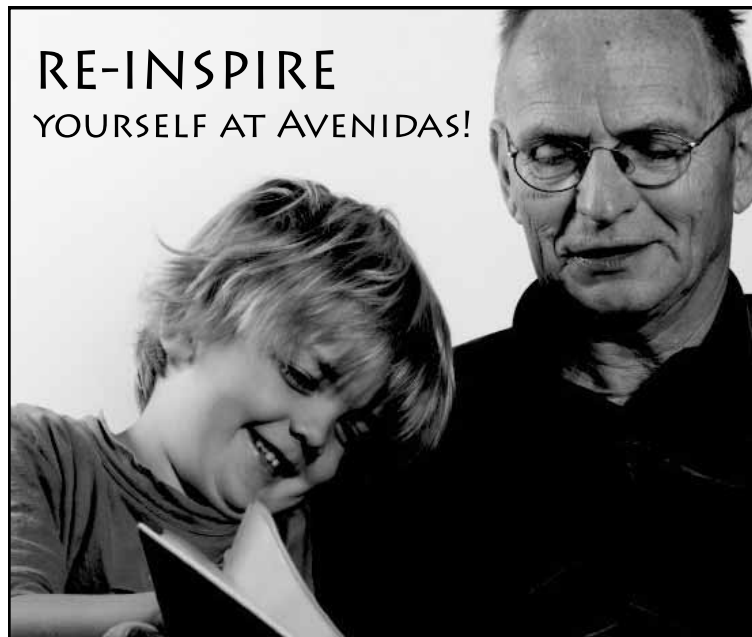
Each Luminaria has the name of a person who has battled cancer, with a personal message. As they burn into the night, the candles light the way for walkers.

Funds raised at the relay will allow for the American Cancer Society to support local services and resources for cancer patients and their families. In addition, the funds support critical cancer research and community education programs.

Relay for Life extends beyond Menlo Park — 4,200 communities around the country have held their own relays, and 270 of those were in California.

For information on starting your own team, or joining an existing one, call 854-5228; for additional information, go to acsevents.org/relay/ca/menlopark.

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NANCY HUBBARD REA



Nancy died peacefully at her home in Portola Valley, California on July 24 after a battle with cancer.

A resident of Palo Alto and Menlo Park since 1950, Nancy was the granddaughter of M J Hawley, a pioneer developer in San Francisco's South of Market area, and the daughter of Elting C. and Helen Hawley Hubbard of Piedmont. She was born in Oakland, California on August 27, 1923 and attended Piedmont High School with her friends, including the Rover Girls. She graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1945 with a B. A. degree in political science and economics. While at U.C. she was a member of Delta Gamma sorority and reigned as Cal's Senior Sweetheart, Queen of the Senior Ball. During the war years she served as a nurse's aide and as a driver for the Red Cross Motorcorp.

"Mommanan" will always be remembered by her family for her loving care, her cheerfulness and wit. With a flawless eye for color, she was impeccable and stylish in her dress, home and garden. She was a loving guide in conduct, speech and manners and ever alert to the pursuits of her family and world affairs.

She married the love of her life, Frederic M. Rea, on August 23, 1947 and is the mother of three children: Nancy Teresa

Rea of Mill Valley, Geary F. Rea of Santa Rosa and Elizabeth Rea Kosier of Lincoln, Nebraska and enjoyed the love of three grandchildren — Riley and Nathan Rea and Brian Kosier — and her daughter-in-law, Leslie Barbieri Rea and her son-in-law, Timothy S. Kosier.

Active in community affairs, she had served on the Board of Directors of the Junior League of Palo Alto and had been a member of the Palo Alto Garden Club, the Palo Alto Red Cross, the Volunteer Bureau and the Children's Health Council. She applied her talents to service on the Landscape and other committees of the Menlo Country Club.

In her younger years, she was a competitive swimmer, and loved tennis, golf and bridge. For many years, she and her husband traveled extensively overseas, from the towering temples of Bangkok to the castles on the Rhine. She loved to gather family members for vacations at her favorite spots — Lake Tahoe, Stinson Beach and Pebble Beach.

Carrying on her family legacy, she has been on the Board of Directors of Hawley Terminal Inc., a real estate property development company since 1960 and served continuously as vice president and treasurer of the company since 1969.

A private memorial service will be held for family members. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, Oncology Research Fund, 795 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, CA 94301, or a charity of your choice.

PAID OBITUARY

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The Almanac, established in September, 1965, is delivered each week to residents of Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside and adjacent unincorporated areas of southern San Mateo County. The Almanac is qualified by decree of the Superior Court of San Mateo County to publish public notices of a governmental and legal nature, as stated in Decree No. 147530, issued November 9, 1969. Voluntary subscriptions are available for delivery to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside at \$30 per year or \$50 for 2 years. Subscriptions by businesses or residents outside the area are \$50 for one year and \$80 for two years.



WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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

TOWN SQUARE FORUM

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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.

This could be a long drought

It's only July, and the Sierra snow pack — the water bank that supports California's millions of people and trillion-plus-dollar economy through its long dry seasons — is essentially gone.

After the fourth driest year on record, the water pundits in San Francisco tell us there's probably enough water stored in the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir to provide water this year for the 2.4 million people in the Bay Area who depend on it — if they keep conserving.

But what if next year is dry too? California has a history of multi-year droughts.

Overshadowing short-term concerns over water for this year and next is the larger worry about climate change. The scientists tell us that warmer climates will deliver less water as snow pack, which fills reservoirs over long summers; more will fall as rain, often in large storms that run off rapidly.

Whatever the future, people need to become more conscious of water: how to save it; how to not waste it; how to manage it better; how to use it more efficiently.

San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom and the agencies that provide San Francisco water to 2.4 million people in four Bay Area counties recently launched a million-dollar campaign to remind residents and businesses to continue saving water this summer and fall. Billboards, buses, newspapers and radio are blaring the message of the "Water Saving Hero" campaign. This features ordinary people doing simple things to save water — like little Jackie Wong, who turns off the water when she brushes her teeth.

Key players in the campaign are the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), which manages the system of dams, reservoirs, and pipes that brings water from the Sierra to the Bay Area; and the Bay Area Water Supply & Conservation Agency (BAWSCA), which represents the 28 local agencies that buy water wholesale from San Francisco. Midpeninsula residents and businesses buy their water from local members of BAWSCA, including the Bear Gulch District of the California Water Service Company, the Menlo Park Water Department, and the Skyline County Water District.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

Anyone who shares the worries about having enough water in the faucet this year and into the future can get lots of help and information from these agen-

cies and their Web sites.

The new campaign Web site, www.WaterSavinghero.com, is a good place to start. So is the BAWSCA site, bawasca.org; those who prefer telephones can call BAWSCA at 349-3000, or their local water supplier.

Assistance can take many forms: information, water-saving kits, a free CD on water-wise landscaping from BAWSCA, and rebates on water-saving toilets and washing machines. There are free items such as low-flow shower heads and aerators for faucets, and education kits for schools. Businesses can often get assistance or audits to help save water, as well as rebates on some new equipment. BAWSCA sponsors a Large Landscape Audit Program through some of its member agencies.

But a lot of saving water is just common sense and attention. Some suggestions to be a "water hero":

- Fix leaks. A dripping faucet or running toilet can soon add up to hundreds of gallons.
- Replace old toilets or washing machines; use the rebates.
- Don't run the water at full force; take shorter showers; turn off the faucet when you brush your teeth. Install faucet aerators.
- Wash your car with a bucket or at least a hose nozzle that turns itself off; better yet, take it to a carwash that recycles.
- Shrink your lawns — the biggest water guzzler. Water morning or evening when it's cool, adjust the sprinklers, and don't over-water.

■ Consider re-landscaping with more native or drought-tolerant plants. They don't have to be gray and prickly; they can be pretty.

Basically, we all need to think about water. Saving water is no longer just a virtue; it could be critical. We could run out.

LETTERS

Our readers write

Allied Arts leaders should perform or be replaced

Editor:

Given the apparent inability of both auxiliaries that are or were attached to the historic Allied Arts Guild to create a viable business entity at the Guild, and given the massive amounts of donor funds that it took to restore this property to its current state, it will be a sheer miracle if the current board of directors of the governing auxiliary and the current property manager are not sued for misrepresentation of intent and for fraud by the donors through class action suit.

If the current governing board and property manager and auxiliary cannot adequately do the job of creating viability for this beau-

See **LETTERS**, next page



Our Regional Heritage

Nan, Elizabeth and Julia McDonnell pose in their finery in this early 20th century photo. They were the daughters of James McDonnell, longtime superintendent of the Ormondale Ranch in Portola Valley. Elizabeth taught at Portola School and provided many details about early valley life to historians.

Portola Valley Archives

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

tiful facility, then they should be removed and replaced by professionals who can.

Mary Eileen Perkins
Stanford Avenue, Menlo Park

Bemoaning lost opportunity for Cadillac property

Editor:

Thanks to our City Council for its lack of courage and vision in dealing with Sand Hill Properties we have now lost a rare opportunity to have mixed-use, transit-oriented housing on the valuable Cadillac property.

With the loss of the housing, we also lose 22 "below market rate" units in the one- and two-bedroom size. Those 22 units

would have gone a long way in helping us alleviate a housing crisis in our community.

When Sand Hill Properties sought guidance on their plans for the Cadillac site, our current City Council blatantly rebuffed the density request of 40 units per acre, which is the same density level as the newly revised Derry project. Rather than focus on one or two changes or improvements, like the setback, which would have made the project more amenable, the council nitpicked the rest of the project to death.

We need transit-oriented and affordable housing far more than we need another grocery store. It's a shame our City Council, enamored with green ribbon and affordable housing concepts but not substance, didn't agree and didn't fight for housing where and when we need it.

Elizabeth Lasensky
Fremont Street, Menlo Park



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NOTICE OF PROPOSED RATE CHANGE BEFORE THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (CPUC)

On August 1, 2007, California Water Service Company (Cal Water) will file Advice Letter 1830, which requests a rate increase of \$477,100 or 2.2% in the Bear Gulch District to offset increased purchased water rates from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC). SFPUC raised wholesale purchased water rates effective July 1, 2007. Accordingly, Cal Water has filed for an increase in the Quantity Rates it charges water customers for each 100 cubic feet of water delivered from a current \$2.7106 to \$2.7875 or \$0.0769 to account for the increase in purchased water costs.

The CPUC provides two ways to respond to this notice. You can send a protest to the CPUC and, if you do, you must send a copy of the protest to Cal Water; or you can send a response to the CPUC with a copy to Cal Water if you wish. A protest is a document objecting to the granting in whole or in part of the authority sought in this advice letter. A response is a document that does not object to the authority sought, but nevertheless presents information that the party tendering the response believes would be useful to the CPUC in acting on the request.

A protest must be mailed within 20 days of the publication of this notice or of the CPUC advice letter filing date, whichever is later. The filing date is the date the advice letter was put on the CPUC Calendar. The Calendar is available at the CPUC's website at www.cpuc.ca.gov. A protest must state the facts on which the protest is based, the effect that approval of the advice letter might have on the protestant, and the reasons the protestant believes the advice letter, or a part of it, is not justified. If the protest requests an evidentiary hearing, the protest must state the facts the protestant would present at an evidentiary hearing to support its request for whole or partial denial of the advice letter. The utility must respond to a protest within five days. All protests should be sent to California Water Service Company, 1720 North First Street, San Jose, CA 95112, or faxed to (408) 367-8430, or e-mailed to ratesquestion@calwater.com. If you have not received a reply to your protest within 10 business days, please call Cal Water at (408) 367-8200.

The California Public Utilities Commission welcomes your comments. If you wish to make a response to this rate request, you may submit written comments to the CPUC at the address listed below. Simply state that you are writing about Advice Letter No. 1830 of the California Water Service Company. If you need help, you may contact the Public Advisor's office of the Public Utilities Commission by writing them at 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102.

A copy of the California Water Service Company advice letter may be obtained by writing to its offices located at 1720 North First Street, San Jose, California 95112-4598, by emailing ratesquestion@calwater.com or from the office of the California Public Utilities Commission, Water Division, 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, California 94102.

CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE COMPANY
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