

PORTOLA VALLEY: New Roberts market could get use permit this week. Page 5

The Almanac

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

DECEMBER 5, 2007 | VOL. 43 NO. 14

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Local and (soon) *Luxurious*

Page 14

Rosewood hotel complex under construction on Sand Hill Road will shoot for a 5-star rating

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Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT



Almanac photo by Veronica Weber

Driving in zero-emissions style

John Boyle was one of three Menlo Park City Council members to ride in the all-electric Tesla Roadster on Nov. 30. A Tesla Motors spokesperson gave rides, and talked about the \$100,000 car at 300 El Camino Real, the site for a planned Tesla showroom and service center. See story on **Page 20**.

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On the cover

It looks unremarkable now, but in the spring of 2009 hotel rating agencies may award five stars to Stanford University's luxurious two-story hotel complex going up at the corner of Sand Hill Road and Interstate 280 in Menlo Park. Photo by Veronica Weber. Story on **Page 14**.

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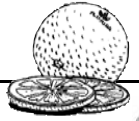
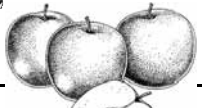
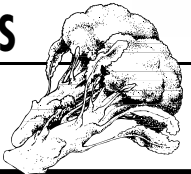
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Ready For a New Twist?

While cork has remained the stopper of choice for wine bottles for centuries, this natural material has its limitations. To begin with, up to one in every dozen bottles may be "corked," which means that a leaky (or defective) cork has allowed sufficient bacteria or oxygen to enter the bottle and spoiled the wine. In addition, many people find removing the cork from bottles to be both challenging and time-consuming. Various synthetic materials have been developed as cork substitutes, but air-leakage and off-taste have remained problems. All this has led to screw-type caps, which are increasingly being adopted by wineries. Screw tops may have been associated with inexpensive wines in the past, however, top-quality wines are now also wearing screw tops.

The stigma of screw caps being used with cheap wines is no longer any where near true. At ROBERTS MARKET, we have a selection of quality wines that utilize screw caps, which are not only easy to open, but may help prevent air-leaks in your wine. When you stop by to check out our fantastic wine selection be sure to visit our "heat and eat it" department for wonderful gourmet prepared foods. You can find prepared foods such as home-made hot soups, sandwiches, salads, and gourmet food stuffs.

HINT: Some people argue that uncorking a bottle of wine contributes to the romance of wine-drinking experience.



DELI

Roberts Market Hoilday Menu 2007

MAIN DISHES	DIESTEL RANCH ALL NATURAL FREE-RANGE TURKEYS	
	Large 16 - 18lbs. ~ Serves 14 to 16 people	\$59.00
	Small 10 - 12lbs. ~ Serves 8 to 10 people	\$49.00
	<small>* The Diestel turkeys are pre-roasted and will need approximately 2 hours to reheat at 300° in your oven.</small>	
	PRIME RIB - Seasoned and Roasted to Medium Rare	
	Whole ~ Serves 16 to 20 people	\$190.00
	Half ~ Serves 10 to 12 people	\$99.00
	CARANDO SPIRAL SLICED HAM - Baked with a honey mustard glaze	
	~ Serves 10 to 12 people	\$60.00
SIDE DISHES	POTATO AU GRATIN - baked with cheese, garlic, spices and cream	
	~ Serves 12 to 16 people	\$29.00
	SAUTEED BRUSSEL SPROUTS - with pine nuts and pancetta	
	Pint \$5.75 Quart \$11.50	
	MOLASSES BAKED YAMS - with spicy orange butter	
	Pint \$5.75 Quart \$11.50	
	CLASSIC WHIPPED POTATOES - traditional potatoes with butter & cream	
	Pint \$5.25 Quart \$10.50	
DESSERT	RUBICON BAKERY - 8" TARTS	
	Apple Almond, Apple Cranberry, Carmel Nut, Lemon	~ Serves 6 \$16.99
	RUBICON BAKERY - 6" TARTS	
	Pumpkin Cheesecake, Chocolate Cake, Chocolate Turtle, Carrot Spice Cake	~ Serves 6 \$14.99
	UPPER CRUST BAKERY - 8" PIES	
	Apple, Apple Streusel, Berry Supreme, Pumpkin, Pumpkin Amaretto, Cranapple and Pecan	~ Serves 6 to 8 people \$17.99

WINE

Screw Cap Wines

Has the world gone mad? Have space aliens infiltrated the wine producing world? Hardly! The demand for corks has out-stripped supply and modern screw caps work better than corks, anyway. If you buy wines to drink sooner than later, there's no excuse for putting a cork in the bottle. It's time to let go of the tradition of corks and embrace the screw cap.

New Zealand is the industry leader in screw caps for wine. Here are a few good ones:

2007 St Clair Sauvignon Blanc - Marlborough	\$16.49
2007 Kim Crawford Sauvignon Blanc - Marlborough	\$17.99
2006 Isabel Sauvignon Blanc - Marlborough	\$17.99
2005 Isabel Dry Riesling - Marlborough	\$17.99
2006 Shaky Bridge Pinot Gris - Central Otago	\$18.99
2005 Sleeping Dogs Pinot Noir - Central Otago	\$27.99
2003 Terra Vin Pinot Noir - Omaka Valley	\$29.99
2004 Ata Rangi Pinot Noir - Martinborough	\$44.99


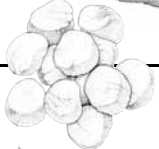

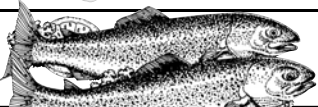
NOTE: The above wines assort for a 10% case discount

GROCERY

7UP - A&W ROOTBEER - CANADA DRY GINGER ALE	\$1.99
12 oz. - 6 Pack Cans - Plus Calif. Redeem Value	
PILLSBURY CINNAMON SWEET ROLLS	\$1.99
12 oz.	
STOUFFERS MACARONI & CHEESE	\$1.79
12 oz. - Also Spinach Souffle - Corn Souffle	
NESSTLES SEMI SWEET CHOCOLATE MORSELS	\$2.39
12 oz. - Also Butterscotch	
NABISCO HONEY MAID GRAHAM CRACKERS	\$2.69
14 oz. - Also Lowfat	
FRISKIES CANNED CAT FOOD	45¢
5 oz.	

MEAT/SEAFOOD

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Roberts Market could get use permit this week

By David Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

The Portola Valley Planning Commission may issue a conditional use permit this week for the new Roberts Market going in where John's Valley Foods used to be, near the corner of Portola and Alpine roads.

The commission is set to discuss and possibly vote on a permit — it's the third item on the agenda — at its 8 p.m. meeting Wednesday, Dec. 5, in the His-

toric Schoolhouse. The decision might be put off until Dec. 19 if the character of public comment suggests that a delay is appropriate, Planning Manager Leslie Lambert said.

If the permit is issued, the store would likely open in the spring, Ms. Lambert said.

The market came up in an impromptu discussion near the end of the Nov. 28 Town Council meeting when Town Planner George Mader mentioned talk around the community of the

■ PORTOLA VALLEY

new store's potential as a gathering place.

It would seem a natural spot for chance encounters given the store's central location, its essential purpose, the community's warm welcome, and Portola Valley's lack of a grocery store since John's closed in July 2006.

One problem: there's little in the way of outside facilities where people can sit and chat. The Plan-

ning Commission will discuss this issue in particular, Commissioner Ann Wengert told the council from the audience.

Market owner George Roberts is naturally interested in moving customers into and out of his store, Ms. Lambert said, but added that he appears willing to consider a bench or two and maybe a couple of tables.

Could residents wanting to chat be directed to the small and secluded Triangle Park at the corner of Alpine and Portola

roads? Its grassy expanse is designed for kids, but "maybe it's time to look at it," Ms. Lambert said. ■

Town Square: Should the town of Portola Valley encourage the new Roberts market to provide facilities, such as a benches, so the market can serve as a "gathering place" for residents? Post your ideas in the Portola Valley category of the Town Square online forum at www.TheAlmanacOnline.com.

School board works on shifting school boundaries

■ Changes would start with children entering kindergarten next August.

By Marjorie Mader
Almanac Staff Writer

Reality hit home last week when parents learned their children who will start kindergarten in August may go to Encinal School instead of Oak Knoll or Laurel.

The school board of the Menlo Park City School District is considering these and other changes to accommodate growing enrollment.

The changes would start with children entering kindergarten in August. Students currently in the district will continue at their current schools regardless of boundary changes.

About 80 parents came to Encinal's multi-use room for a school board study session Nov. 26 and to hear Superintendent Ken Ranella present information and propose options for shifting attendance boundaries for the three elementary schools. This was the first time the entire board had seen the proposed options.

The boundary issue will be back for further discussion at

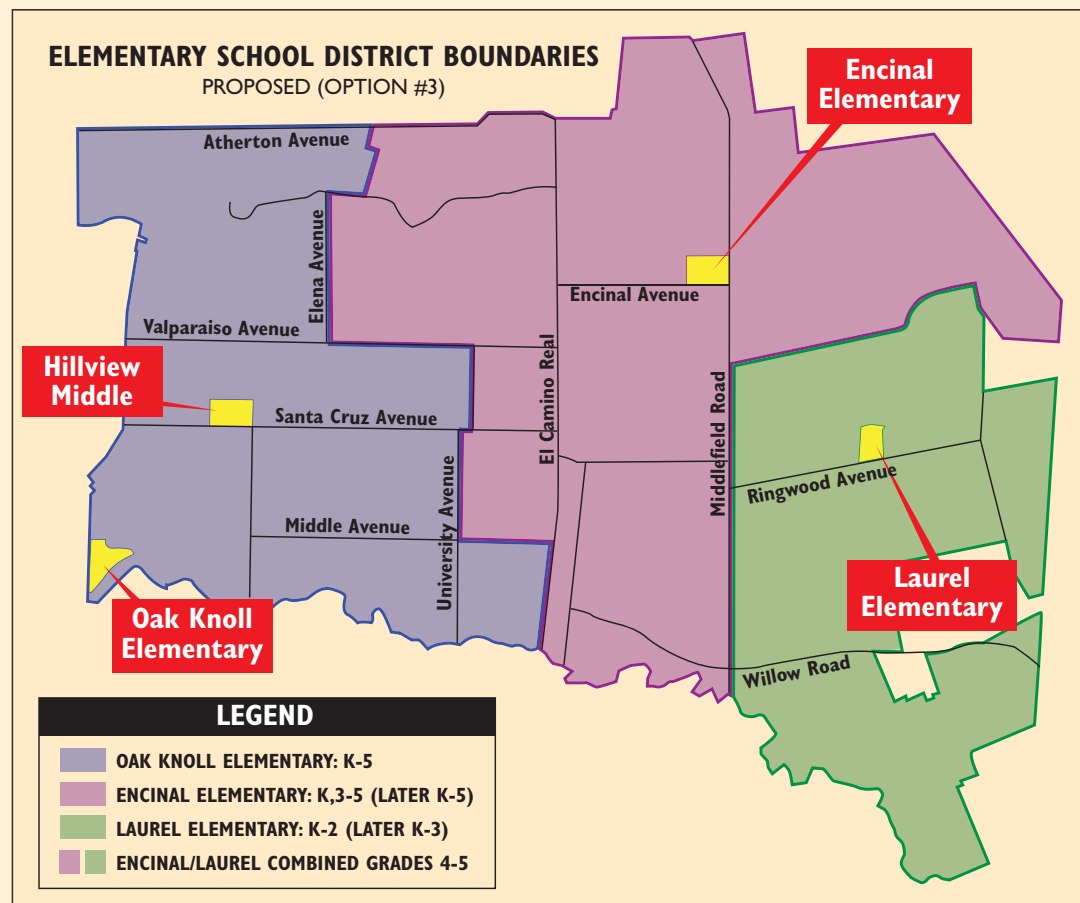
a meeting to be scheduled in early January. A decision needs to be made by the end of January before parents of incoming kindergartners register their students at the three school sites, beginning in February.

Trustees asked Mr. Ranella to return with a detailed analysis of proposed Option 3 that might be tweaked or revised. The district will conduct a phone survey of Oak Knoll school parents to identify preschool siblings who could be future students.

He also may come back with options to "grandfather" families so that siblings of Oak Knoll students go to Oak Knoll despite boundary changes.

Boundary changes are necessary, said Superintendent Ranella, to carry out the K-5 reorganization plan, adopted by the board in the fall of 2006, to provide facilities for an enrollment projected to increase from 1,660 students this year to a peak of 1,804 students in 2010.

The plan would increase enrollment at Encinal, the district's smallest school with 405



Proposed Option 3 for changing attendance boundaries in the Menlo Park City School District was favored by trustees, but they expect to make some revisions when it comes back for discussion in January. The colored areas show the proposed school boundaries: blue for K-5 students at Oak Knoll; purple for Encinal School, now a grade 3-5 school that will grow into a K-5 over the next three years, starting with the addition of kindergarten next year; green for Laurel, now K-2, but will become a smaller school with grades K-3. A proposed grade 4-5 complex at Encinal will house future fourth- and fifth-graders who live east of El Camino Real.

students on the largest site by adding kindergarten this fall and an additional grade each year until the school becomes a K-5.

The plan also calls for lowering enrollment at both Oak Knoll, a K-5 with 735 students, and Laurel, a K-2 school with

520 students. Laurel would become a K-3 with fewer stu-

See **BOUNDARIES**, page 8

Family of Portola Valley cyclist Rodney Smith files wrongful death suit

By David Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

A more detailed picture of the circumstances surrounding the car accident that killed cyclist and former Altera Corp.

chief executive Rodney Smith of Portola Valley may be forthcoming now that a wrongful death lawsuit has been filed against the driver by Mr. Smith's family.

In the Nov. 19 lawsuit, San Mateo attorney Terry O'Reilly, on behalf of

Rodney Smith's wife, Mary Smith, describes the driver, Woodside resident Anthony Rose, 87, as careless and negligent when his vehicle collided with Mr. Smith, 67, who was riding in the bike lane on Sand Hill Road in unincorporated San

Mateo County.

The incident occurred about 9:45 a.m. on May 25, 2007, near the crest of the hill between Interstate 280 and Whiskey Hill Road. Both Mr. Smith and Mr. Rose were east-bound. The speed limit there is 55

mph, but it is a roomy road with a wide shoulder and is popular with cyclists.

The scenario Mr. O'Reilly describes in the complaint — that

See **SMITH**, page 8

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The Almanac/Veronica Weber

A gelato counter is one of the new features at the new Safeway store on El Camino Real in Menlo Park. Safeway employees Michael Arrington and Becky Cox serve samples Friday, several hours after the store opened.

New Safeway open for business

■ In-store Jamba Juice, expanded deli and an olive bar are among new features.

By Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

■ BUSINESS

After seven years of planning, designing, redesigning and building, a new Safeway store opened Friday at 625 El Camino Real in Menlo Park, on the same site as the former Safeway, which will be demolished to make way for 15,000 square feet of retail operations.

Judging by the steady stream of wowed customers walking through the front doors for the first time, the seven-year wait for the triangular-shaped 65,017-square-foot store was worth it.

"I couldn't ask for a better shopping experience, from what I've seen," said Menlo Park resident Marc Schoonbrood, a frequent shopper at the old Safeway. "I'm glad this opened up just in time for the Christmas holidays, as people have family in town and a lot of shopping to do. This store is a big upgrade."

The new store is part of Safeway's "Lifestyle" strategy to improve the decor in its stores

and provide more organic and local products, according to spokesperson Sherry Reckler.

Among the features of the new Menlo Park store are an expanded deli, larger meat and seafood counters, more organic produce, a sushi bar, a full-service pharmacy, and in-store Jamba Juice and Starbucks counters. The store also has a salad bar, olive bar, nut bar, a gelato counter, and a host of pre-made meals, including Chinese food.

David Johnson, the city's business development manager, said the new store employs approximately 100 more people than the previous store. The old store closed for good at 4 p.m. on Nov. 30.

The El Camino Real Safeway is the 1,000th store out of 1,738 in the western United States and Canada to undergo the "Lifestyles" transformation, Ms. Reckler said.

"It's incredible — you can't even compare the old store to this one," said Justin Guerrero, a manager

behind the meat and seafood counters at Safeway for about two years. "We have more fish, more meat, more room and more everything."

'Successful partnership'

Mayor Kelly Fergusson, a member of the City Council that unanimously approved the new Safeway more than two years ago, said the new store is "fabulous."

She noted that the store is the result of a "successful partnership" between Safeway, the city, and a working group of neighbors who had major reservations about the traffic and noise impacts that would accompany the construction and operation of a new store. The neighbors helped Safeway officials redesign the store, resulting in the building's triangular shape.

Mayor Fergusson, other council members, and Safeway officials attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new store on Nov. 30, which included a performance by the M-A High School jazz band and the presentation of a \$10,000 check from Safeway to InnVision, a local nonprofit that helps families in need. ■

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Gloria Darke



How Should I Price?

Q: Dear Gloria, We have just interviewed two real estate agents to discuss listing our home after the first of the year. They both did professional market analysis presentations but their end results in coming up with a suggested list price was very different. These are both active agents who have access to the same information. I don't understand what could account for such a discrepancy. The agent I prefer suggested the lower price but I don't know if I should list with him because of that lower appraisal.

— Donna B.

A: Dear Donna, Remember, appraising property is an art, not a science. It has been made much easier to come up with an accurate number with the help of the computer. There are newer programs that break it down in to price per square foot,

which turns out to be amazingly accurate. In order to get the right number for price per square foot, like any other data put in the computer, you have to use the right statistics. It needs to be from the same area (Atherton has 4 areas, Menlo Park has 11) and the same type of house or the numbers will be off. Of course, that is just one of the components of an appraisal. That information needs to be fine-tuned according to the size of the lot, the condition of the house, the appeal of the house, functional obsolescence, location, age, landscaping, pool and on and on.

Ask both realtors what the price per square foot in your neighborhood is and do the math yourself. I wouldn't be at all concerned about listing with the agent who came in with the lower appraisal. It may be the more realistic one and in the end, net you a better sales price than listing it too high. We all know what the end result of that is.

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



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School board works on shifting school boundaries

BOUNDARIES

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dents under the reorganization. Third-graders from Laurel would join Encinal's contingent and attend fourth and fifth grades in a new grade 4-5 school complex on the drawing boards for Encinal.

Changes in attendance boundaries raise concerns for parents because for the past two decades, students living west of El Camino Real went to Oak Knoll School for grades K-5 and students living east of El Camino went to Laurel for K-2 and Encinal for grades 3-5. All district students go to Hillview Middle School for grades 6-8.

During a discussion, board members said that of the proposed boundary change options, they preferred Option 3, but they would like to see some revisions. They noted that none of the options met all the guidelines for adjusting boundaries.

Among the guidelines: minimizing disruption for families, promoting walking and biking to school by the proximity of the school to residences, keeping in tact identifiable neighborhoods, using major roads to the extent possible to determine boundaries, and promoting socio-economic diversity of families in the school.

Option 3 was described as the most "family friendly" of the proposals. It preserves much of the existing Oak Knoll boundaries but would shift to Encinal School the area bounded by Elena, Valparaiso, University, Middle, El Camino Real, and Atherton Avenue back to Elena.

The attendance area for Encinal School also would include areas bounded by El Camino Real, the Palo Alto boundary,

Middlefield Road, a fence line through Lindenwood to Bay Road, the Flood Triangle, and the district boundary back to Atherton Avenue. The boundary that divides Lindenwood starts at Middlefield between Linden Avenue and Oak Grove Avenue and follows fence lines slightly northeast to Bay Road.

Laurel School's proposed attendance boundaries would serve the balance of the district, including the eastern part of Lindenwood, Vintage Oaks, the Willows, and Suburban Park.

Most parents speaking at the meeting urged the board to keep families together when making boundary changes. They asked the board to "grandfather" families so siblings of current students could continue to go to the same school.

A contingent from Lindenwood urged trustees to keep Lindenwood together. "Lindenwood is the only neighborhood that is being divided under the proposal," said Veronica Kogler. She was one of the six parents who circulated a petition in Lindenwood in the fall of 2006, signed by 150 residents, asking the board to keep their area as a unit. "We would be happy as a unit to go to Laurel for K-3 or to Encinal for K-5," she said.

Parents living in Atherton bordering Menlo College and across El Camino near Encinal Avenue also said they want to remain in the Oak Knoll attendance area.

"Family grandfathering is the right thing for the community," said Kim Guthrie, an Oak Knoll parent involved in the planning process for expanding Oak Knoll. "I hope you are willing to adjust plans, based on community feedback." ■



Menlo-Atherton senior linebacker Andrew Klein reflects on his team's tough 14-7 loss to Palo Alto on Friday in the CCS Large School Division championship game. At right is running back Will Latu, who was held to just 87 rushing yards by the Vikings.

Photo by Keith Peters

So near, and yet so far for M-A

■ No. 1 seeded Bears close great season with loss to Paly in CCS title game.

By Colin Becht

Special to the Almanac

The Menlo-Atherton football team came within 20 seconds of a shot in overtime for the school's second Central Coast Section football championship. However, those 20 seconds dashed the hope of the Bears and brought an end to an otherwise dream season.

In the Large School Division title game Friday night at Foothill College, M-A had come back to tie Palo Alto High School at 7-7 with 6:01 left to play. But Paly came right back, driving downfield and scoring the winning touchdown on a 14 yard pass from quarterback Will Brandin to wide receiver Mike Scott with 13.6 seconds left to complete the upset.

M-A was the No. 1 seed in CCS, and had been favored to win the game.

"I am just surprised and

shocked," said M-A co-captain and middle linebacker Andrew Klein. The entire M-A sideline just fell silent in disbelief, as some players even fell to the ground in grief.

Still, "it was the greatest season ever," said Klein.

Nevertheless, that touchdown pass, the final play for Klein and other M-A seniors on defense, made the difference between "the greatest season ever," and the greatest championship season ever.

"We knew Paly like the back of our hands. It's just really uncharacteristic of our team," said Klein who had an interception in the game.

M-A entered the game with a nine-game winning streak, during which they averaged 38.9 points per game. However, the stringent Paly defense, which prevented M-A from scoring after reaching the red zone twice, held M-A to seven points, while forcing three

turnovers.

"We didn't capitalize," said M-A co-captain and quarterback Troy McCabe. McCabe finished 12-of-17 for 135 yard with a touchdown and two interceptions.

"We ran up and down the field on them, but we didn't execute towards the goal line," M-A head coach Bob Sykes.

M-A, regardless of the loss, did not complete the season without merit, finishing with an impressive 11-2 record, including going 7-0 in Peninsula Athletic League Bay Division and winning the league championship, its first since 1992.

"There is a lot of positive stuff that we accomplished," said Sykes "We got to this point. We got to the championship game, and we didn't come up a winner, but we sure played well. I'm real proud of our guys."

"I love these guys to death. ... It's a great team," said Klein.

Colin Becht is a Menlo School student and sportswriter.

SMITH

continued from page 5

of a negligent driver drifting into the bike lane — is at odds with a California Highway Patrol report that does not charge Mr. Rose, a former principal of Portola Valley School. The report faults Mr. Smith with a vehicle code violation for doing an unanticipated U turn from the bike lane out into traffic and into the path of Mr. Rose's car.

The damage to the bicycle, found at the edge of the paved surface, included a detached front wheel and a broken front fork, the report said. Mr. Rose's 1995 Volvo had a broken right headlight, two large round dents in the right front quarter panel, a large hole in the

passenger side windshield, and a dent in the roof above that hole, the report said.

"No prior vehicle damage was claimed or noted," the report continued.

In an interview, Mr. O'Reilly disputed the idea that Mr. Smith was hit by the front end of a car that, he said, had "dents and scrapes all over it." Bicycles hit by a vehicle's front tend to be crushed, he said, adding: "The cop didn't do a very good job of pinning down the physical evidence."

Mr. O'Reilly said he has argued 20 to 30 bicycle-versus-vehicle cases over the last 40 years and that he employs experts in accident reconstruction. CHP officers, he said, have little time to work on such

cases and don't have access to the same level of reconstruction expertise. "They do the best they can."

The narrative in the accident report describes Mr. Rose as seeing a bicyclist 50 to 100 feet ahead of him and about a foot inside the bike lane. When Mr. Rose was "several feet behind" him, the cyclist "suddenly turned to look over his left shoulder," then turned sharply into traffic. Mr. Rose was traveling 30 to 35 mph, the report said.

"I had no time to react," Mr. Rose is quoted as saying, adding that he saw Mr. Smith hit the windshield, was shaken emotionally by it, and pulled over and walked back to where Mr. Smith was lying.

In the interview, Mr. O'Reilly disputed that account. Street traffic

in that area travels at least 60 mph, he said. And there were no skid marks at the scene, which leads Mr. O'Reilly to conclude that Mr. Rose did not immediately realize what had happened.

"Taking a U turn into Sand Hill traffic would be nuts," he told the Almanac. "I think the police made a big mistake here and I think it was out of the warmth of their hearts for this old fellow."

The CHP narrative said that, after the accident, Mary Smith took a trip in a squad car to track the couple's normal bike route with an officer.

Without knowing where the accident took place, she pointed to a reflective marker where they would "always turn around" to avoid a

return trip that started on an uphill grade. That spot was two feet east of where Mr. Smith collided with the car, the report said.

After her initial disbelief that she had found the right marker, the report describes Ms. Smith as saying: "No, it is the right marker, but he still wouldn't have turned without making sure the roadway was clear first."

The lawsuit does not specify an amount of damages and is not meant to be punitive, Mr. O'Reilly said. "I'm sure this guy feels guilty enough as it is." But Ms. Smith wants to get to the bottom of this, Mr. O'Reilly said, adding that a lawsuit is the only way to force Mr. Rose's insurance company to divulge what it knows. ■

Judge OKs release of report on Atherton's fired finance chief

By Andrea Gemmet
Almanac Staff Writer

The investigator's report that led to Atherton Finance Director John Johns being fired must be released to the public, San Mateo County Superior Court Judge John Runde ruled Friday.

However, Judge Runde granted a 10-day stay of his order in case Mr. Johns chooses to file an appeal. If there is no appeal, the report becomes public on Dec. 10.

Mr. Johns, a town employee since 2001, has called the investigator's report inaccurate, and sought to prevent its release via a preliminary injunction. If made public, the report would harm his reputation and his future employment prospects, he said.

Mr. Johns also filed a wrongful termination claim against the town seeking \$500,000 in damages.

Last month, a judge granted a temporary restraining order preventing the report from being released to the Almanac newspaper in response to the Almanac's public records act request of Oct. 31.

At the hearing on Nov. 30, Judge Runde ruled that a redacted version of the personnel report could be released, but not the exhibits, including 60 pages of pictures, that accompany the report.

The personnel investigation of Mr. Johns, conducted by attorney Mary Topliff, was triggered by a hostile workplace complaint filed by Atherton Police Chief Bob Brennan in May.

Mr. Johns' attorney, George

Camerlengo, argued that the investigation report, and Mr. Johns' subsequent firing on Oct. 29, was in retaliation for his work uncovering problems in the Atherton's building department and uncovering "preferential treatment to three of the City Council members, in terms of their building permits."

"This man cleaned up (Atherton's) finances, he tried to clean up the building department, he got the town operating in the black," Mr. Camerlengo said. "He stepped on some toes in the process and now the town is chomping at the bit to release (the report)."

Attorneys for Atherton argued that the public's right to know about the conduct of a public official outweighs any right to privacy Mr. Johns might have.

"Mr. Johns made himself a public figure and waived a reasonable expectation of privacy," said Atherton City Attorney Marc Hynes, citing an Almanac article that quoted Mr. Johns saying that, as Atherton's second-longest serving department head, he was well-qualified for the city manager job.

The City Council is in the midst of interviewing city manager candidates, following the retirement of City Manager Jim Robinson in July.

Atherton co-counsel Louis Leone also argued that because Mr. Johns gave copies of the investigator's report to three people, he effectively published it and made it a public document. Mr. Camerlengo countered that Mr. Johns

was seeking the advice of three people involved in the investigation, and that none of them had read the report.

A "friend of the court" letter, filed by the California First Amendment Coalition executive director Peter Scheer, argued that blocking release of the report deprives the town of Atherton from communicating with the public.

"Whatever aspersions (Mr. Johns) may cast on the conduct and motivations of the town only heighten the public concern in the dispute," Mr. Scheer wrote. "Depriving the government of its right to disseminate that information, and the public of its right to seek and obtain it, cannot be justified on the basis of the speculation and conjecture that (Mr. Johns) has offered in support of his request for injunctive relief."

The fact that Atherton officials had intended to release the report on Mr. Johns is a dramatic change from last year, when even City Council members had to fight to get access to a report from an investigation into the conduct of building department staff.

Mr. Hynes told the Almanac that recent judicial decisions paved the way for public disclosure of reports on management employees such as Mr. Johns and former Building Official Mike Hood, but not of rank-and-file employees. A 2006 investigator's report on Mr. Hood should be released in early December, Mr. Hynes said. ■

M-A theater: Lawsuit may yet get settled

By Andrea Gemmet
Almanac Staff Writer

A settlement is back on the table. A proposal to end the town of Atherton's lawsuit over the new performing arts center at Menlo-Atherton High School is back in the hands of Sequoia Union High School District officials, with some "minor changes."

Last month, a settlement agreement won the support of school district officials and a subcommittee of the Atherton City Council, but surprisingly, was voted down Nov. 14 by a majority of council members who said they thought they could get a better deal.

"It's the original (settlement) with a few small changes," said Atherton City Attorney Marc Hynes of the newest version.

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■ ATHERTON

arts center is under construction, and will serve as a venue for some Menlo Park city events when it's not needed for high school uses.

In November 2006, Atherton officials filed a lawsuit alleging that the school district dodged an environmental impact report when it approved construction of the theater. The suit says the theater could increase traffic congestion, stormwater runoff and noise.

The proposed settlement requires drainage work, as well as measures to address parking and traffic, pending the results of a traffic study that's under way. The council unanimously approved the changes to the proposed settlement at a recent closed session, but it remains to be seen whether the school

board will be amenable at its Dec. 5 meeting.

The changes include having the parking plan approved by "a qualified registered professional traffic engineer." The rest of the changes are mostly just word-smithing, said Councilman Charles Marsala.

"In Atherton's opinion these are very minor changes, so we'll see if our (school) board feels (the same) way," said Superintendent Pat Gemma. "I think we're close to the end, and if this finally settles it, then good, we can all move on."

Public opinion in Atherton is divided between two very different constituencies. Many residents who live near the school were not satisfied with the original proposed settlement, saying it was vague and didn't

See LAWSUIT, page 10

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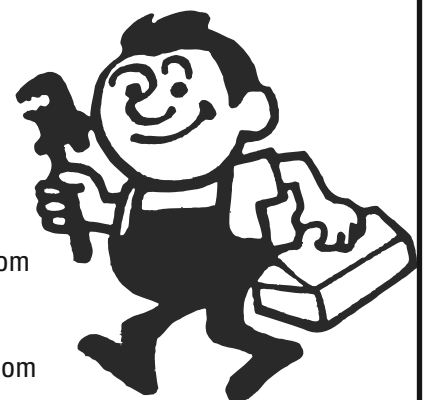
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Armed men rob woman in her home

Two men, one brandishing a small revolver, robbed a woman Saturday in her home in the 1300 block of Willow Road, Menlo Park police reported.

The men knocked on her door at around 9:45 a.m., and when she opened it, pushed her into the apartment and demanded money, said Sgt. Van Trask of the Menlo Park Police Department.

The armed man entered her bedroom with her and took money from the pocket of a pair of jeans on the floor, Sgt. Trask said. Then they fled.

One of the men had a sweatshirt covering his face and the other wore a Halloween mask, police said.

The woman was not injured. Police were called and searched the surrounding neighborhood.

The suspects were described as black, one with a slender build and wearing a black hooded sweatshirt and blue jeans, and the other wearing a Halloween mask and a black zip-up hooded sweatshirt.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call the investigating officer at 330-6300 or the anonymous tip hotline at 330-6395.

LAWSUIT

continued from page 9

do enough to protect them. Other residents, especially alumni and parents of M-A students, have lambasted the council for being obstructionist and indifferent to the school's need for a better facility. ■

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No more public oversight for hospital

By Renee Batti
Almanac News Editor

The public will no longer play a role in the governance of Sequoia Hospital, built with taxpayer funds in Redwood City some 57 years ago to serve much of the Midpeninsula as a community hospital.

On Nov. 30, the board of the Sequoia Healthcare District, which has shared oversight of the hospital with Catholic Healthcare West (CHW) for the last 11 years, voted unanimously to approve a complicated deal that would turn over the hospital and its governance to the nonprofit CHW, while contributing \$75 million in public funds to help rebuild the facility.

The deal was criticized by some, including the League of Women Voters of South San Mateo County, for not being put before the voters for approval, and for the district's relinquishing its oversight role in behalf of the public.

Sequoia Hospital must meet a 2013 state deadline to replace or seismically retrofit its facilities. The rebuilding project is expected to cost about \$240 million, and is projected to be completed just

before the deadline.

The public district owned Sequoia until 1996, when, faced with an increasingly crushing debt, it entered into a partnership with CHW to create a nonprofit corporation — Sequoia Health Services (SHS) — that would own and govern the hospital. SHS's board of directors is made up of five members appointed by the health-care district and five appointed by CHW.

Under the 1996 agreement, approved by voters, CHW began operating the hospital.

Under the just-approved deal, SHS, CHW and the health-care district will each contribute \$75 million to the rebuilding project, with the remaining \$15 million coming from private donations. CHW will absorb SHS, becoming the sole owner of the hospital, which it will run as a non-religious facility.

The agreement prohibits CHW from selling the hospital for seven and a half years from the time of the reconstruction's completion without written approval from the district. It also creates a profit-sharing plan in which the district would receive 50 percent of Sequoia's profits once a speci-

fied threshold is met.

Dr. Michael Papalian, speaking for the hospital's professional staff group, praised the deal shortly before the board's vote, saying that most of Sequoia's physicians support it. "We've had a 10-year trial period" with CHW, he said, adding that the relationship has worked.

But another Sequoia physician, Dr. Michael Griffin, asked the board to reconsider. "This agreement abandons the successful public-private partnership that exists now," he said.

He and health-care advocate Herbert Marks said in a written statement: "As a matter of public policy there is no reason or justification to end public governance or public ownership of Sequoia Hospital without the knowledge, direct participation and approval of Sequoia district voters."

After the meeting, Dr. Griffin stressed that CHW will be free to sell the hospital by around 2020 to any buyer it chooses. "The question is, who will decide the future of the hospital," he said, adding that, in his view, the public should decide.

San Mateo County Supervisor

See HOSPITAL, page 12

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Neighbors fear subdivision

Technically, it's a merger of 23 tiny parcels along Old La Honda Road in Woodside. To nearby neighbors, however, it looks an awful lot like a five-home subdivision is in the works to replace a single home built on about 13 acres.

The Woodside Planning Commission is set to mull over the proposed merger by George and Nancy Serrurier at its Wednesday, Dec. 5, meeting. Gilbert Draper, an Orchard Hill Road resident with

WOODSIDE

property adjacent to the Serrurier's land, is rallying his neighbors to come to the meeting and protest.

The merger involves quarter-acre lots that date to the Woodside Country Club subdivision of 1927. Current Woodside zoning for the area requires lots be at least 7.5 acres, but since the Country Club subdivision not only pre-

dates Woodside's zoning code but also predates the town itself, the quarter-acre parcels are "grandfathered." The new parcels would still be undersized, but town officials consider such mergers an improvement that lessens the nonconformity of the lots.

Because much of the land is steep, heavily wooded or unsuitable for septic systems, Woodside planning staff is recommending that the merger result in only three lots, instead of the proposed five.

HOSPITAL

continued from page 11

Jerry Hill is pushing for the district to contribute millions of dollars to the county's health insurance program for uninsured adults living in the district.

Funding the program would be a way for the district to make up in part for what Mr. Hill considers a bad deal it has made with CHW. With the board agreeing to spend \$75 million to rebuild a hospital it will no longer own or help govern, "what are taxpayers getting from this deal?" he said.

By helping uninsured district residents get health insurance, "those residents ... will then be able to use Sequoia Hospital, even though they couldn't otherwise afford it," he said.

Mr. Hill said board members have been generally receptive to the idea of helping to fund the program.

The district raises about \$7 million annually in tax revenue. ■

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New deal saves local ambulance

By **Andrea Gemmet**
Almanac Staff Writer

The Woodside Fire Protection District, which includes Portola Valley as well as Woodside and nearby unincorporated areas, is no longer in danger of losing its firefighter-staffed ambulance.

After months of negotiations, the district last week managed to almost double its reimbursement for staffing an ambulance. The new amount—\$350,000 in annual funding from the Joint Powers Authority that oversees the county's emergency medical services—still doesn't cover the district's annual cost for the ambulance, which is upwards of \$750,000, but it's just enough to make it feasible, said Chief Armando Muela.

While Woodside's ambulance has been a money-losing proposition from day one, district officials reasoned that the benefits of faster service for its rural population and the hands-on experience gained by its paramedics made it worthwhile. However, increased costs have severely outpaced the rate of reimbursement, and earlier this year Woodside fire's board of directors warned that the district could not continue to spend more than a half-million dollars a year to subsidize the ambulance service.

Exactly why there are problems funding ambulance service is complicated. An existing agreement essentially grants a private company, American Medical Response (AMR), a monopoly on county-wide ambulance service until 2009.

The Woodside district ambulance operates as a subcontractor to AMR, and receives its funding not from patient billing, but through the Joint Powers Authority, a government agency representing fire districts in San Mateo County. The convoluted arrangement means that the Woodside district doesn't know exactly how much money the ambulance brings in. However, district officials estimate that patient billing brings in far more than its current annual reimbursement of \$177,000.

"The value of our ambulance is worth more than what we're being paid," Chief Muela said.

And now, they have some numbers to prove it. AMR estimated that it would cost \$689,000 a year to replace Woodside's ambulance with one of its own. After prolonged lobbying, the JPA members voted to increase Woodside's

ambulance funding.

Woodside fire district is the last fire agency in San Mateo County that runs its own ambulance, staffed by firefighter/paramedics. Menlo Park, Half Moon Bay and Pacifica all dropped out after facing similar funding problems. However, the fire agencies aren't allowed to just opt out. Menlo Park, Pacifica and Half Moon Bay have to pay for the privilege of getting out of their ambulance contracts, to make up for AMR's increased costs. If Woodside dropped its ambulance, it would have had to do the same.


So, JPA officials figured out how much it would cost for the Woodside fire district to drop out, and agreed to give a portion of that money to Woodside to continue its ambulance service, rather than pay AMR to take over, Chief Muela said. ■

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WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT

GENERAL REGULATION NO. 124

A REGULATION AMENDING GENERAL REGULATION NO. 58 "A GENERAL REGULATION ADOPTING CODE OF GENERAL REGULATIONS"

BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE District Board of West Bay Sanitary District that General Regulation No. 58, "A General Regulation Adopting Code of General Regulations", passed and approved on November 27, 1982, as heretofore amended, is further amended as follows:

SECTION 201. Regular Meetings
The regular meetings of the District Board shall be held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office, unless the regular meeting day is a District holiday, in which case the meeting shall be held at a time and date to be determined by the District Board and noticed in accordance with these regulations and statute. The District Board may cancel a regular meeting at any time.

Passed and approved by the District Board of the West Bay Sanitary District on November 14, 2007 by the following vote:

Ayes:	Walker, Lomax, Knight, Harrison	Abstain:	None
Noes:	None	Absent:	Shepherd

/s/ David A. Walker
President Pro Tem of the District Board of the West Bay Sanitary District
County of San Mateo, State of California

Attest:
/s/ John B. Lomax
Secretary Pro Tem of the District Board of the West Bay Sanitary District,
County of San Mateo, State of California
Published in The Country Almanac on December 5, 12, 2007.

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Low-profile

Story by David Boyce

Photos by Veronica Weber

Luxury

Start with \$200 million and 21 acres of undeveloped property at the corner of Sand Hill Road and Interstate 280 in Menlo Park; gather plenty of wood, concrete, plastic and steel; add project management and construction expertise; and around February 2009 expect a grand opening of a two-story hotel complex that includes 121 rooms, luxury spa, restaurant and office spaces. The elite Dallas-based Rosewood Hotels & Resorts will operate Stanford University's Rosewood Sand Hill, shown in a rendering on the opposite page, and it may earn a five-star rating.





Menlo Park's new two-story hotel complex will try for five stars

In Lexus advertising around this time of year, the oversize decorative bow on the roof of a new car tends to make its appearance, implying — to those attuned to that kind of signal — an abundance of luxury within.

Such a decoration may never adorn the roof of the new two-story Rosewood Sand Hill hotel complex — with spa, bungalows, restaurant and offices — going in at the corner of Sand Hill Road and Interstate 280 in Menlo Park, but a bow would not be out of place in February 2009, when the hotel is scheduled to open.

“It’s going to be a very high-quality hotel,” said Steve Elliott, the managing director of development projects for Stanford University. Stanford owns the land and will own the buildings, but will leave the running of the hotel to Dallas-based Rosewood Hotels & Resorts, “one of the world-class luxury hotel operators,” Mr. Elliott said.

The hope is that ratings services will award the hotel five stars within a few months of its opening, Mr. Elliott said. “What’s critical to a five-star hotel is the quality of service,” he added. “That’s what Rosewood does really well.”

The Bay Area has three five-star hotels, all in San Francisco. “We’re hoping we will be the first down here,” Mr. Elliott said. “You do your best.”

A towering edifice like the St. Regis the Rosewood Sand Hill will not be. The plan for the 21-acre site includes about 24 one- and two-story buildings with 121 guest rooms, a 15,000-square-foot “luxury” spa, five bungalows for long-term rental, a restaurant and 100,000 square feet of office space, Mr. Elliott said. Rooms will start at \$400 a night.

Community minded

With its sloping grounds and low profile buildings, the hotel is intended to offer views of the Coast Range without imposing itself on others’ views, Mr. Elliott said.

The hotel is also apparently trying to be a good neighbor to Portola Valley across the freeway, where ordinances discourage non-native vegetation and bright lights at night.

Hotel lighting will be “kept to a minimum” and the number of non-native plants has been cut back and restricted to the site’s interior, with natives-only on the periphery,

Mr. Elliott said. The driveway will have just “three or four” Canary Island palms.

The environmental elements include drought-tolerant plants, concrete augmented by fly ash to lower its greenhouse gas footprint, buildings oriented for maximum daylight intrusion, and highly efficient windows and heating and air-conditioning systems, he said. Solar power is not in the mix.

As part of its agreement with the city of Menlo Park, Stanford agreed to build a new wetland near San Francisquito Creek and across the freeway from the hotel complex. That’s been done, Mr. Elliott said.

The hotel’s spa will be open to non-guests, as will the restaurant. “I think there will be a strong demand for breakfast in this area,” Mr. Elliott said. There aren’t many places near there that serve breakfast, he said.

To address traffic, while Caltrans hasn’t officially signed off on it yet, the northbound I-280 exit ramp at Sand Hill Road is very likely to have a second right-turn lane and it will extend further along the ramp than the current setup, he said. ▀



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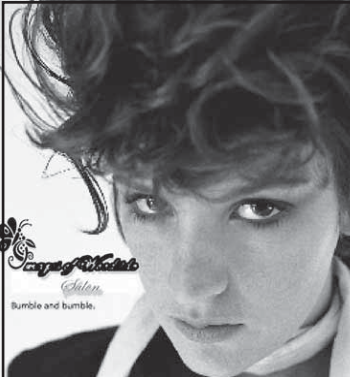
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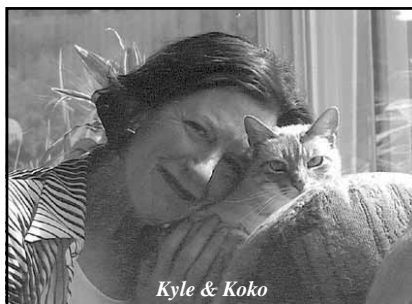
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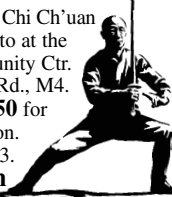
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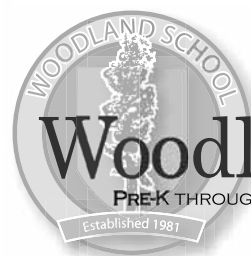
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Taking a ride in Tesla's electric sports car

By **Rory Brown**
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park City Council members already brimming with excitement about Tesla Motors setting up a showroom on El Camino Real got a chance to ride in the automaker's trendy all-electric Roadster sports car last week.

The reviews were extremely positive.

"I want one. I could get used to

this," said Mayor Kelly Fergusson, after stepping out of the passenger's seat of one the Redwood City-based automaker's 20 prototype cars. "The acceleration is exhilarating, no question."

Tesla is planning to build a showroom at 300 El Camino Real, the site of the old Chevrolet dealership adjacent to the Stanford Park Hotel. Cars will be sold and serviced at the site, and the showroom could open as early as March 1, 2008, said John Hamilton, a Tesla spokesperson.

Mayor Fergusson, council members John Boyle and Andy Cohen, and an Almanac reporter got brief rides in a Roadster as part of a Nov. 30 presentation by Tesla at the future showroom site.

"It's simultaneously a really neat and weird experience, because you're moving, but you don't hear anything," said Councilman Boyle, noting the absence of engine noise while riding in the \$100,000 car.

"You don't need to have the roar of the engine to really have power,"

Mr. Hamilton said. "This car is about no longer depending on a single source of energy."

The Roadster runs entirely on a rechargeable battery, which creates no emissions, and "instant acceleration," Mr. Hamilton said. The car can travel from 0 to 60 miles per hour in less than four seconds, and can hit top speeds of 125 mph, he said.

The battery takes about 3 hours and 30 minutes to charge using the 220V home charger, and the car can travel for about 245 miles on a single charge, according to Tesla.

Roadsters are scheduled to hit

See photo on Page 3.

the road early next year, but Mr. Hamilton said the cars will be in such high demand and low supply, that Tesla likely won't have any extra cars to put on display in Menlo Park.

"We're going to get 600 cars out next year to the people who have already ordered them," he said. "After that, we still have a waiting list of 174 people to get to. If all the cars are getting sold, a showroom with no cars is a good problem to have." ■

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Kids' health care access improves in county, but threatened by D.C.

By Marion Softky

Almanac Staff Writer

There's a real good news-bad news scenario playing out for low-income kids in San Mateo County.

The good news is that San Mateo County's Healthy Kids insurance program has reduced the number of uninsured kids under 18 years old from 17,000 to 3,000 between 2001 and 2005, according to the California Health Insurance Survey. That reduces the percentage of uninsured children in the county from 4.3 percent to 1.9 percent.

The bad news is that wrangling in Washington could end up killing a major national children's health insurance program (SCHIP), which supports low-in-

come children across the country — including 9,400 in San Mateo County.

Congress has just days before Christmas recess to resolve a huge number of issues — including the fate of SCHIP. Congress failed — by 17 votes in the House of Representatives — to override President George Bush's veto of legislation renewing and expanding SCHIP.

Failure to renew the national SCHIP would be devastating, said Rose Jacobs Gibson, president of the county Board of Supervisors. These programs "play a vital role in helping our county's children receive the preventive and regular care they need to be healthy," she said.

Health gains

Children in San Mateo County

enrolled in Healthy Kids, its locally funded health insurance program, have shown consistent and dramatic gains in health and well-being, according to a new study.

The study of Healthy Kids programs in San Mateo, Santa Clara and Los Angeles counties was conducted by the Mathematica Policy Institute; the University of California, San Francisco; and the Urban Institute.

Thanks to Healthy Kids, 90 percent of children in each county now have a regular source of health care, the study found. That represented an increase of 36 percent in San Mateo County and 45 percent in Santa Clara County, from the period 2001 to 2005.

Healthy Kids provides a third layer of affordable insurance

for low-income families that don't qualify for other programs, explained Marmi Bermudez, county program manager for children's health coverage. State and federal Medi-Cal programs support the very-low income, and the federal SCHIP (State Children's Health Insurance Programs) funds California's Healthy Families programs.

Healthy Kids has enrolled 15,775 kids since it began in 2003, Ms. Bermudez reports. It is available to families with incomes up to 400 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$82,000 a year for a family of four. The federal SCHIP tops at 300 percent.

"The vast majority of people utilizing our program earn far less. These are not wealthy people," said Supervisor Jacobs Gibson.

What next?

If SCHIP is not re-authorized, 9,400 kids in San Mateo County would not have health care,

said Ms. Bermudez. A total of 830,000 children in California would lose insurance, she said.

Healthy Kids would not be as immediately affected as the kids enrolled in Healthy Families, because it is funded from different sources. But it could be hit, too, Ms. Bermudez said.

It's anybody's guess whether the Democratic majority in Congress will be able to keep the popular program alive in some form. This could involve: finding a compromise acceptable to the president; passing a bill with a veto-proof majority; or passing a continuing resolution that would extend the current law.

Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Menlo Park, is a staunch supporter; she co-sponsored the bill that was vetoed. In a statement before the veto vote, she said, "There are 10 million reasons to insure the children of our nation because 10 million children don't have health care coverage today." ■

Andy Cohen: 'I want to be mayor'

By Rory Brown

Almanac Staff Writer

No Menlo Park City Council member will come out and say it, but it looks as if Councilman Andy Cohen will be the city's next mayor.

Mr. Cohen, a frequent critic of major development projects proposed for Menlo Park since he took office in 2004, is the only council member to publicly express a desire to become the

next mayor.

Council members are expected to pick a new mayor at their Tuesday, Dec. 4 meeting, which starts at 7 p.m. A reception will follow in the Gatehouse, near the intersection of Laurel Street and Ravenswood Avenue.

CheckTheAlmanacOnline.com for a news update.

"Do I want to be mayor? Yeah, I do," Mr. Cohen said in an interview. He also sent a memo to all council members asking for their

support in his bid for the mayoral chair.

The mayor chairs council meetings, serves as the ceremonial head of the city, and sets council meeting agendas. Mr. Cohen is currently the city's mayor pro tem (vice mayor).

"To be mayor of my hometown, of my city, would be a great opportunity to do a great service," Mr. Cohen said.

Mr. Cohen's and Mayor Fergusson's council seats are up for

election in November.

"I always feel pressure, so my focus is on what a great opportunity this is for me, not how it affects any chances of getting re-elected," he said.

On the council, Mr. Cohen has opposed major projects such as the original Derry project, the Stanford/Rosewood Hotel, and housing complexes being built in the Linfield Oaks neighborhood.

Other council members did not openly endorse Mr. Cohen's bid to become mayor, but hinted at the notion that he'll be next to pick up the gavel.

"I assume [this council] is going to follow the city's policy, and also probably take seniority into account for our decision," said Councilman John Boyle.

According to the city's non-binding mayoral policy, to be eligible to become mayor, council members must have served at least one year and not previously been mayor. Since the policy is nonbinding, council members can ignore it, and they have in the past. Seniority, although not part of the policy, has been taken into account in past votes. ■

Fed funds unlikely for San Francisquito Creek

By Becky Trout

Palo Alto Weekly

Pitted against the Central Valley levees and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta — not to mention the war in Iraq — the San Francisquito Creek project may miss out on much-needed federal money this year.

What that means for the local community, and even for the creek itself, remains unclear, according to Cynthia D'Agosta, executive director of the five-member San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (JPA), which includes the city of Menlo Park.

"Since we're not in the budget, the next step is to figure out how we can keep things going," said Heyward Robinson, a Menlo Park councilman and delegate to the JPA. "There's a worry that if we stop work altogether, we could lose a lot of momentum."

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is focused on larger projects and congressional leaders have cracked

down on "earmarks," which are additions to funding bills that have funded the project in the past, Ms. D'Agosta said. "There's not a lot of patience for or interest in small-town projects," she said.

Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Menlo Park, has tried repeatedly to find money for the bill, Ms. D'Agosta has said, noting the final budget has not yet been approved. "We're not giving up and neither is Eshoo," she said.

San Francisquito Creek's massive flood protection and ecosystem restoration project is currently two years into a \$7.5-million feasibility study — originally slated for completion in 2011, an estimate that has now been pushed back to 2013 or 2015, Ms. D'Agosta said.

The study is focused on how to reduce the chance for flooding along the creek, and how to best restore wildlife.

But without the requested \$700,000 in federal funds for the 2008 fiscal year, the actual project could remain more than a decade away.

The JPA has options, however, Ms.

D'Agosta said.

The local partners — including Santa Clara Valley Water District, San Mateo County Flood Control District, East Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Palo Alto — could pitch in more than their expected \$700,000 this year to keep the study progressing, Ms. D'Agosta said.

Councilman Robinson said the money could come from the state level, and he's asked Assemblyman Ira Ruskin, D-Redwood City, to lobby for state funds to go toward the creek project.

The JPA could also try to find a different federal source, such as the recently passed Water Resources Development Act, or find a replacement for the Army Corps, Ms. D'Agosta said. ■

Meeting: The board of the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority will meet at 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6, at the city of Menlo Park Council Chambers, 701 Laurel St.

Almanac staff writer Rory Brown contributed to this report.

TOWN OF WOODSIDE

INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND SITE REVIEW BOARD

The Architectural and Site Review Board reviews and makes recommendations to the Director of Community Design and Development on residential, site design and commercial applications.

Meetings are held on the first and third Monday of each month, 4:30 p.m. Appointment is for a term expiring in February 2011.

Interested residents may request information and applications Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 12 noon and 1:00-5:00 p.m. at Town Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, by telephone at (650) 851-6790, or through the Town's web site at www.woodsidetown.org. Deadline for applications is Friday, December 7, 2007, 5:00 p.m.

Published in the Country Almanac on November 21, 28, December 5, 2007.

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Amanda Pauline Knudsen

74-year resident of Menlo Park

Amanda Pauline Fladeland Knudsen, who had lived in her West Menlo Park home since 1933, died Nov. 17 with family members at her side. She was 98.

Ms. Knudsen was a cook who worked at Allied Arts Guild, Stanford Hospital in the Hoover Pavilion, and Braner Hall until her retirement from Stanford University in 1964.

Born to parents who emigrated from Norway, Ms. Knudsen learned her skills as a young girl growing up in North Dakota. At 16 she left her parents' home to work on her Aunt Betsy's farm, baking as many as 16 loaves of bread a week, along with performing other chores on a working



Amanda Knudsen

■ OBITUARIES

farm in the 1920s.

In 1928 she moved to San Luis Obispo to join her sister, Jessie, and worked at a local boarding house. There she met her future husband, Kay Bardram Knudsen, a civil engineer. They were married in 1930. In 1933 the couple purchased their home in Menlo Park from Mr. Knudsen's father.

Because Mr. Knudsen's career took him away a great deal, Ms. Knudsen raised their two daughters almost single-handedly, says her daughter, Vivian Knudsen Johsens.

Ms. Knudsen was a life member of the Las Lomas PTA and served as its treasurer when her daughters were attending Las Lomas School.

Ms. Knudsen enjoyed working in her garden. She "devoured the Almanac when it arrived every Tuesday," says her daughter, Ms. Johsens.

A highlight of her life was a trip to Norway in 1984. A week before she died, she watched her great-granddaughter play soccer in Santa Cruz and five days before her death made her usual visit to Rosener House, where she went three days a week, says her daughter.

Ms. Knudsen is survived by her daughters, Vivian Johsens, with

whom she lived in Menlo Park, and Emily Matocha of Wesley, Arkansas; eight grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and 12 great-great-grandchildren. Her husband, Kay Bardram Knudsen, died in 1953.

Services were held Nov. 29 at Golden Gate Cemetery in San Bruno, where she was buried with her husband. A celebration of her life was held at the Dutch Goose in Menlo Park. Memorial services on what would have been her 99th birthday will be held Feb. 2 at the family home in Menlo Park.

The family prefers donations to Rosener House, 500 Arbor Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025; or to the Salvation Army.

Lucille Chaput

Menlo Park resident

Services will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 17, at the Church of the Nativity in Menlo Park for Lucille Longuy Chaput, who died Nov. 19. Ms. Chaput, a seven-year resident of Menlo Park, was 94.

Ms. Chaput was born in San Jose and grew up in the French community in San Francisco. She was a 1930 graduate of Ideal Girls High School in San Francisco, where she was a basketball captain, although only 5 foot 1 inch tall. She was also

Continued on next page

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Continued from previous page

a member of La Jeunesse Francaise Care & Culture Club and the Sports & Pastimes Association.

Before the Golden Gate Bridge was built, San Franciscans went by ferry to the country for weekends. While waiting for the ferry in Sausalito, Lucille struck up a conversation with other passengers and discovered they all spoke French. It was there she met her future husband, Gene Chaput.



Lucille Chaput

After their marriage, the Chaputs lived in "The Park" area of San Mateo for 70 years.

Ms. Chaput is survived by her son, Gene Chaput of Portola Valley; six grandchildren; and three great-grandsons. She was preceded in death by her husband, Gene, and son Marc.

The family prefers memorials in her name be sent to Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford.

Dale Waldon Cauble

Building contractor, horseman
Dale Waldon Cauble of Portola Valley died Sept. 21 at the age of 90.

He was a building contractor in the Bay Area and, among many other projects, built several homes for his family.

From his youth, he was also an outstanding horseman, say family members. He owned and trained quarter horses. He was a member of the San Mateo County Horseman's Association, the Woodside Mounted Patrol, and the Shack Riders until almost his 85th birthday.

Mr. Cauble was born in Alva, Oklahoma. He graduated from Central Missouri University, where he was a member of Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity.

He served in the South Pacific as a first lieutenant and company commander in the 110th Ordnance Company of the U.S. Army.

In 1943 he met and married Ilse Gerda Fisher of Roseville. They had two children, Kathryn and Keith. Mr. Cauble retired from his career as a building contractor in 1977.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Ilse Gerda Cauble; daughter Kathryn Thompson, and son Keith Cauble. Burial was to be conducted on Dec. 5 at Arlington National Cemetery.

Deadline Wednesday to apply for board seat

It's official. Judith Mendelsohn and Steve Humphreys are the newly elected members of the Board of Trustees of the Portola Valley School District.

In the official count certified by the county Nov. 27, Ms. Mendelsohn received 921 votes and Mr. Humphreys, 817. Brad Turner, with 790 votes, came in third in the race for two board seats.

The question now is who will be appointed to complete the

two-year term of former Trustee Donna Carano, who resigned Oct. 17.

No one has applied for the appointment as of the Almanac's deadline Monday. Trustee Karen Jordan, whose four-year term ends this week, has taken out an application and said she will apply. There's speculation Mr. Turner may apply. He is traveling in Europe and expected to return soon.

The deadline to submit an application is 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 5, at the school district office at Corte Madera School, 4575 Alpine Road, Portola Valley.

Continuing board members Don Collat and Ray Villareal and the two new board members along with Trustee Teresa Godfrey are scheduled to interview candidates for the appointment from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Dec. 11, in the district office.

■ POLICE CALLS

ATHERTON

Fraud report: Unauthorized charges on credit card, Atherton Ave., Nov. 28.

MENLO PARK

Burglary reports:

- Plasma TV stolen from vacant house, 300 block of Laurel Ave., Nov. 23.
- Stereo stolen from car, 700 block of Coleman Ave., Nov. 25.
- Suspect returned stolen merchandise

for cash refund, 700 block of El Camino Real, Nov. 27.

Assault report: Victim picked up by suspect and raped in San Carlos, 800 block of Hamilton Ave., Nov. 20.

Stolen vehicle reports:

- Red 1993 Nissan pick-up, 1300 block of Henderson Ave., Nov. 20.
- 1200 block of Laurel Drive, Nov. 24.
- Silver BMW, 800 block Willow Road, Nov. 29.

Fraud reports:

- Unauthorized use of ATM card attempted, 600 block of Santa Cruz Ave., Nov. 19.
- Fraud reported, 800 block of Monte Rosa Drive, Nov. 19.
- Identity theft, 200 block of Oakhurst Place, Nov. 29.

Grand theft reports:

- Electric stroller stolen, Laurel St. at Burgess Drive, Nov. 19.

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PORTOLA VALLEY, CA 94028

THE PORTOLA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Invites interested citizens to apply for a School Board Vacancy

Any interested parent or community member must send a completed application form and a letter of interest stating his/her experience in and commitment to educational, youth, and community activities.

Application forms are available at the Portola Valley School District Office at 4575 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, CA or online at www.pvsd.net. Completed applications and a letter of interest must be submitted by **December 5, 2007, at 5:00 p.m.**

Application and letter should be sent to:
Ms. Anne E. Campbell, Superintendent
4575 Alpine Road
Portola Valley, CA 94028

or via e-mail to: acampbell@pvsd.net

Interviews will be held on Tuesday, December 11th, between 9 and noon.

An applicant must reside within the Portola Valley School District boundaries and must be a registered voter. The Governing Board meets every third Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
For further information, contact Anne Campbell at (650) 851-1777, ext. 3010 or at acampbell@pvsd.net.
Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on November 14, 21, 28, December 5, 2007.

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Photo by Tom Upton

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Holiday Fund

Nevida's legacy: hunger program still nurtures needy families

EHP looking for a new director as Nevida Butler, its inspiration for 25 years, heads for Texas

By **Marion Softky**
 Almanac Staff Writer

Thousands of needy people east of Bayshore will have a brighter holiday thanks to Ecumenical Hunger Program, which will provide more than 1,000 families with Christmas baskets. Their children will enjoy parties, gifts, and visits with Santa, in the little "Sunset House," fixed up and donated to EHP by Sunset magazine in 2002.

But EHP is facing a major transition: Nevida Butler, who built the organization from a small food closet to a vibrant center for community giving, is moving to Texas in January. Her assistant, Maleah Choi, has already moved to Texas, leaving both top jobs vacant.

"We expected the transition to be difficult, and it is," says Judy Kincaid, chair of the EHP board. "A lot of knowledge is missing."

The main problems are: maintaining funding for current programs, as well as expanded support programs for women, children, and maybe men; and developing new leadership following Ms. Butler's retirement in April and Ms. Choi's departure.

Ms. Kincaid also cites "a lot of positives." Lesia Preston, Ms. Butler's daughter and an EHP veteran for 26 years, has taken over as interim executive director. And the dedicated staff and "incredible volunteers" are pitching in. "There must be someone out there looking out for us," Ms. Kincaid says.

Ms. Butler has remained as a consultant, as has Ms. Choi from Texas, easing the transition. Ms. Butler has reactivated the Women's Support Group, and remains very much a part of the organization. She leads tours of the EHP campus, and will participate in Christmas festivities. "My heart is still here," she says.

The board expects to appoint a new executive director early next year, Ms. Kincaid said.

A tour of the EHP campus with Ms. Preston barely hints at the range of activities EHP is



Almanac photo by Marion Softky

Nevida Butler, who built the organization from a small food closet to a vibrant center for community giving, is moving to Texas.

still conducting.

The Sunset House is used for children's crafts and activities, support groups, and parties. Behind the offices are neat raised beds of a vegetable garden cultivated by a volunteer. Another small house is available free to community organizations, such as the Lions and Neighborhood Watch.

In a large pantry with walk-in refrigerators, a pair of volunteers

and small appliances that have been donated. These are available to give away by appointment, Ms. Preston says. "People get on a waiting list. We call them as soon as items come in."

The EHP fall newsletter, "ehp cares," gives an idea of the scope of the organization. In 2006, EHP distributed 5,547 food boxes, served 4,842 hot meals, received 21,283 visits to the clothes closet, gave away 2,246 items of furniture, had 2,323 visits to its computer and technology center, logged 14,041 volunteer hours, and received about \$1.1 million in in-kind donations. In all, it served 15,825 people.

The need for help is growing, Ms. Preston says. "Our numbers are increasing. We're seeing more single mothers with children, more grandmothers raising children."

EHP relies heavily on volunteers and community donations, especially more than 50 churches, synagogues and religious organizations that funnel resources and energy into its programs.

"We're trying to look at the health of the whole family," says Ms. Kincaid.

Wishes

"Our most important need is money," says Ms. Preston. "Getting the money so we can continue serving people in need."

EHP also welcomes many kinds of donations, ranging from hams and clothes to toys, appliances and furniture, even sofas and mattresses, if they are clean and in good condition. It will pick up major items, and sometimes clothes, Ms. Preston says.

Everyone at EHP stresses they need gifts for teenagers: watches, wallets, anything electronic, sports apparel, extra long T-shirts, or gift cards at popular stores. "Everyone likes to give to little kids," Ms. Preston says. "Teenagers get left out. We want to let them know they're important too."

Ms. Kincaid concludes, "Please continue to be there for us as we intend to be there for the community." ■

INFORMATION

Ecumenical Hunger Program is located at 2411 Pulgas Ave. in East Palo Alto. It can be reached at 323-7781; or online at www.ehpcare.org.

Inspirations

St. Bede's Episcopal Church

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10 am Sunday School — Children's Worship & Education

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The Almanac



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY
 765 Portola Road
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Town of Portola Valley Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration

A notice, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended (Public Resources Code 21,000 et seq.) that the following project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Project Title: **C-1 Trail Project, Town of Portola Valley**

Contact Person: **Leslie Lambert** Phone Number: **(650) 851-1700**

Project Location: Trail is on the east side of Alpine Road from the northerly town boundary to the intersection of Arastradero Road with Alpine Road.

Project Description:

Project includes removal of an old asphalt path along Alpine Road and construction of a new asphalt path 8 ft. wide with 2 ft. shoulders. The trail is approximately 5,500 ft in length. The trail extends from the intersection of Arastradero Road with Alpine Road to the northerly town limits at the Ladera Oaks Tennis and Swim Club. The route of the path is largely changed to be closer to Los Trancos Creek. A bridge and creek bank protection measures are included. New plantings will be with plant materials that are native to the Portola Valley Area.

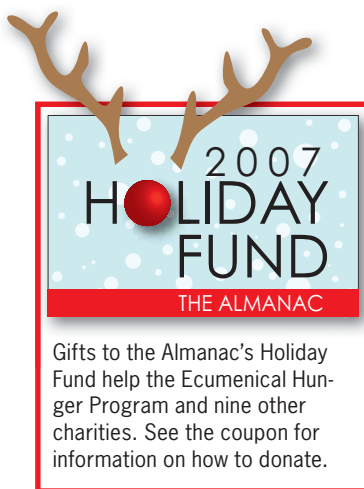
Purpose of Notice: The purpose of this notice is to inform you that a mitigated negative declaration has been recommended for this project. Approval of a Negative Declaration does not constitute approval of the project under consideration. The decision to approve or deny the project is a separate action.

Address where document may be received: Portola Valley Town Hall, 765 Portola Road, Town of Portola Valley, CA 94028.

Public Review Period: Begins: November 28, 2007 Ends: January 3, 2008

Scheduled Public Hearings (date, time, place), if known: Tentatively, January 9, 2008

Published in the Country Almanac on December 5, 2007.



is loading boxes of food. About 250 boxes loaded with everything from tuna and rice to meat go out to needy families every month, Ms. Preston says. Second Harvest Food Bank puts on a food giveaway twice a month in the parking lot, one for fresh produce, and one for families.

A warehouse across the parking lot holds clothes, bedding, furniture, mattresses, and large

Health center removes barriers for those in need

By Megan Rawlins
Special to the Almanac

Many assume that access to a doctor when medical care is needed is a right shared by all in our society. The ability to make a phone call, schedule an appointment and be taken care of is taken for granted. Really, how hard could it be?

For some, however, there are frequently insurmountable obstacles to seeing a doctor. Whether it is the lack of health insurance, a language or cultural barrier, or the inability to take time off work, impediments such as these deny many the "inalienable right" to make that simple phone call.

The mission of the Belle Haven Clinic and its parent company, the Ravenswood Family Health Center, is to restore that right, to provide community-based primary health care services to all of those in need "... regardless of ability to pay."

The Belle Haven Clinic offers a variety of medical and special services including pediatric care, chronic disease management, lab services and a pharmacy assistance program that are available to the poor and homeless without consideration of the patient's legal or insurance status.

"We have a community health advocate who helps our patients access programs that assist with expenses," says Margaret Allen, the clinic's lead clinician, "and a pharmacy assistance coordinator who helps patients receive their medications at no cost from the pharmaceutical companies."

Additionally, the staff at the clinic provides a space of comfort and safety where the patients know them all by name and have taken a degree of ownership and pride in

HOLIDAY FUND

Gifts to the Almanac's Holiday Fund benefit the Belle Haven Clinic and nine other charities. See the coupon for information on how to donate.

this community asset, according to the health center's literature.

The Ravenswood Family Health Center served more than 10,000 people in 2007, including 600 at the Belle Haven Clinic. Ms. Allen says she is looking forward to new growth and new projects in 2008, such as expanded clinic hours and possibly a health literacy campaign.

"Health literacy is a big problem, with many patients unable to read or write, or having very little education. This makes treating their illness or disease quite difficult," Ms. Allen says, adding that the clinic is looking for "resources to develop material that will help our illiterate and poorly educated patients."

She also works hard to take advantage of new research that would benefit her patients. "New research out of Stanford shows that having a pedometer increases the amount that people walk. Now, that is something I could use for my patients. It would be wonderful if we could get, say, 30 pedometers. I would do a before-and-after study on weight loss, comparing those who have a pedometer with those who do not." ■

INFORMATION

Belle Haven Clinic is located at 100 Terminal Ave., next to the Onetta Harris Senior Center, in Menlo Park. It is satellite clinic of the Ravenswood Family Health Center, based in East Palo Alto. For more information call the clinic at 321-0980 or the health center at 330-7400, or go online to www.ravenswoodfhc.org.

Holiday Fund donors

As of Nov. 29, 2007

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Phyllis Blum Quilter for Frank N. Blum & Joseph F. Quilter
Abigail Wilder for Robert Homans & Fessenden Wilder

TOTALS: As of Nov. 29, 2007, 29 donors have given \$34,875 to the Almanac's Holiday Fund.

* The asterisk designates that the donor did not want to publish the amount of the gift.

Giving to the Holiday Fund

Your gift helps children and others in need



Contributions to the Holiday Fund will go directly to the programs that benefit Peninsula residents. Last year, Almanac readers contributed more than \$110,000, and with available matching grants, over \$150,000 was raised for 10 agencies that feed the hungry, house the homeless and provide numerous other services to those in need.

Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched

to the extent possible by generous community corporations, foundations and individuals, including the Rotary Club of Menlo Park, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. No administrative costs will be deducted from the gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

All donations to the Holiday Fund will be shared equally among the 10 recipient agencies.

This year, the Almanac's Holiday Fund will support the following nonprofit organizations in the community:

- **Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula**
Provides after-school and academic support and activities for 3,200 young people, 6 to 18, at clubhouses in Menlo Park's Belle Haven neighborhood, East Palo Alto, and Redwood City and offers programs at Flood and Belle Haven schools in Menlo Park, Hoover Community School in Redwood City, and McNair School in East Palo Alto
- **Ecumenical Hunger Program**
Provides emergency food, clothing, household essentials, and sometimes financial assistance to families in need, regardless of religious preference, including Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for more than 2,000 households.
- **Free at Last**
Provides recovery and rehabilitation programs for addicts in East Palo Alto, Belle Haven, North Fair Oaks and southern Redwood City. Founded in 1993, it serves about 4,200 people each year, predominantly African Americans, Latinos, and Pacific Islanders. Services include: street outreach; a drop-in center for youth and adults; intensive outpatient treatment programs; prevention and intervention for youth; a DUI first offender program; residential treatment programs for men and women; and transitional housing for men, women, and women with children.
- **Ravenswood Family Health Center**
Provides primary medical and preventive health care for all ages at its clinics in Belle Haven and East Palo Alto. It also operates a mobile clinic at school sites. Of the 16,500 registered patients, most are low income and uninsured from the ethnically diverse East Palo Alto, Belle Haven, and North Fair Oaks area.
- **St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room**
Serves hundreds of hot meals six days a week to people in need who walk through the doors. Funded entirely by voluntary contributions, St. Anthony's is the largest dining room for the needy between San Francisco and San Jose. It also offers emergency food and clothing assistance.
- **Second Harvest Food Bank**
The largest collector and distributor of food on the Peninsula, Second Harvest Food Bank distributed 30 million pounds of food last year. It gathers donations from individuals and businesses and distributes food to some 162,000 people each month through more than 700 agencies and distribution sites in San Mateo and Santa Clara County.
- **Service League of San Mateo County**
Provides services to inmates in county jails and programs to help them re-enter the community successfully after release. The league aids inmates in communication with families and provides a children's waiting room at the jails, a library, religious services, counseling, and Christmas gifts. In five residential Hope Houses some 30 men and women released from jail receive six months of drug and alcohol treatment, and training in life skills.
- **Shelter Network**
Provides short-term shelter and transitional housing services to more than 3,500 homeless people and children each year. Offers programs for families and individuals to become self-sufficient and return to permanent housing.
- **Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition**
Provides educational programs for youth and adults to help teens make healthy choices that will result in lower rates of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Its Teen Talk program last year served 3,650 youth at 23 public school sites in San Mateo County.
- **Youth and Family Enrichment Services**
Provides 22 programs to help people who struggle with substance abuse, domestic violence, mental health, relationship and communications issues. Helps strengthen youth, families, and individuals to overcome challenges through counseling, education, and residential services.

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The organizations named below provide major matching grants to the Holiday Fund.

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Rotary Club of Menlo Park

The Almanac will make every effort to publish donor names for donations received before Dec. 31, 2007, unless the donor checks the anonymous box. All donations will be acknowledged by mail.

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Managing Editor Richard Hine

News Editor Renee Batti

Lifestyles Editor Jane Knoerle

Senior Staff Writers

Marion Softky, Marjorie Mader

Staff Writers Andrea Gemmet,

David Boyce, Rory Brown

Editorial Intern Megan Rawlins

Contributors Barbara Wood,

Kate Daly, Bill Rayburn, Miles

McMullin, Katie Blankenberg

Special Sections Editors

Carol Blitzer, Sue Dremann

Photographer Veronica Weber

Design & Production

Design Director Raul Perez

Designers Linda Atilano,

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editor@AlmanacNews.com

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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 web site, www.TheAlmanacOnline.com, and occasionally on the Town Square forum.

TOWN SQUARE FORUM

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

EMAIL

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

MAIL

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

CALL

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

A dirty question for Stanford

Other than looking out for its own best interests, we wonder whether Stanford seriously considered all the downsides of trucking up to 300,000 cubic yards of excess dirt from campus construction projects to its former Christmas tree farm south and west of Sand Hill Road and Interstate 280?

The university is asking the San Mateo County Planning Commission for permission to spread this huge amount of fill over the

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

143-acre site, formerly known as the Christmas Tree Farm.

The 10-year plan would enable Stanford to avoid preparing an environmental impact report,

a more complex analysis than the negative declaration process under way now, which requires the applicant to address all concerns raised by the public and official agencies.

And just last week, the county said it had sent Stanford another batch of comments that need to be addressed, which will likely delay consideration of the plan well into next year. The Sand Hill property is in San Mateo County and is not covered by the general use permit issued to Stanford by Santa Clara County to build up to 5 million square feet of space on the campus.

Concerns raised by the Department of Fish and Game, the town of Portola Valley and the Committee for Green Foothills raise very pertinent questions in the following areas:

■ **Truck traffic.** Convoys of 20-yard gravel trucks would become a fixture on Sand Hill Road if the permit were approved. The slow-moving inbound trucks would be turning across a busy road with a 55 mph speed limit that is also one of the most popular bicycle routes in the county.

Mitigations suggested so far include limiting hours of truck operation; covering all truck loads to alleviate dust; requiring flagmen where trucks enter and leave the site; and perhaps requiring installation of left-turn and acceleration lanes on Sand Hill Road.

■ **Grading at the site.** After removing a topsoil cap, Stanford proposes to spread a layer of dirt 5 to 7 feet thick over a signifi-

cant portion of the site, raising concerns about runoff damaging streams, wetlands and native vegetation, as well as spreading non-native invasive plants like the star thistle. Much of the site drains across the Stanford Linear Accelerator property into the Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve and San Francisquito Creek. If not carefully managed, runoff loaded with dirt could threaten the integrity of the preserve and the creek. Dust control is also an issue that must be closely monitored to protect air quality around the site.

■ **Study's findings.** Early last month, the Department of Fish and Game raised questions about findings in Stanford's initial study, including whether the San Francisco garter snake is present; expanded examination of all potential bird nesting habitats within 200 feet of the impact areas for nests; and a cautionary note about requiring a Fish and Game permit for working around a stream or streambed.

Additional questions have been raised about the need to dispose of such a high amount of fill, and whether the university examined alternative disposal sites. Committee for Green Foothills spokesperson Lennie Roberts suggested in a recent Almanac guest opinion that the fill be trucked to Bair Island, where it could be used to restore wetlands reclaimed from the former Cargill salt ponds.

There are numerous other concerns, including issuing a permit for 10 years without being able to gauge the total impact of the project. A far better approach would be to issue a one- or two-year permit that would include specific goals and renew the permits only if Stanford were to meet the targets.

Even though it owns far more land than any other institution in the area, Stanford is not entitled to avoid the basic rules of land use that apply to all property owners. In this case, the sheer size of the request, and the 10-year permit period, stretch the envelope. The county owes it to area residents to carefully oversee the treatment of this very visible and environmentally sensitive site. Other alternatives should be thoroughly investigated before Stanford is given approval to use it as a long-term dumping ground to facilitate its expansion agenda.



Menlo Park Historical Association

Our Regional Heritage

German immigrants Martin and Diedrich Kuck owned and operated the Menlo Park Hotel, which opened in 1868 north of Oak Grove Avenue near the railroad tracks. In addition to its showplace grounds, the hotel offered guests a bowling alley, billiard tables and a selection of liquors and cigars at the bar.

LETTERS

Our readers write

Bad timing at Alameda, Sharon Road signal

Editor:

I am very concerned about the new signal timing at the intersection of Sharon Road and Alameda de las Pulgas in Menlo Park.

I understand the signal timing was changed in an effort to keep the traffic on the Alameda moving through the commercial area by the Dutch Goose.

I have lived very close to this intersection for over 20 years. Traffic has never backed up on the Alameda at this intersection. The previous signal timing allowed Sharon Road traffic to quickly move through the intersection, and the light timing was quick enough to allow the Alameda traffic to keep moving through with just a brief stop, not long enough to create any more than a four- or five-car backup, even during commute time.

Sharon Road is busy. La Entrada Middle School is just two blocks from the Alameda on Sharon Road. Over 550 students attend school there. Many are dropped off by parents and many walk, bike or use a scooter. There are hundreds of apartments along Sharon Road, as well as the Safeway and Longs Drugs at the Sharon Heights Shopping Center. Sharon Road is also a shortcut for commuters on their way to Interstate 280.

With the new signal timing, I have seen traffic on Sharon Road backed up all the way to the parking lot entrance to La Entrada. This in turn backs up all the school traffic, as well as any other traffic trying to get through the area.

My biggest concern is for the students trying to get to school. My son has seen students crossing the Alameda on red lights, and I have seen many pedestrians cross on red lights since the timing was changed. I have also seen impatient drivers go through the

intersection on red lights after they have stopped and waited, but since it takes so long for the light to change and there is no traffic on the Alameda, they just go.

I have repeatedly called the county to explain what impacts the signal timing change has had. I still have not seen it improve. I hope the county reconsiders the change to the signal timing. It has worked very well for the last 20 years. Please change it back.

Kristin Smith
Sharon Road, Menlo Park

Bring back the buses

Editor:

The Almanac's support of local classroom climate change efforts (cover story Nov. 14) was commendable, but ironic.

To quote Dena Belzer of Strategic Economics (Menlo Park speaker series, Nov. 14), there is no larger issue in global warming than transportation. And according to local traffic studies, the largest single component to Menlo Park's morning traffic is mom and dad's private taxi service to local schools. Older kids are already training to be commuters with their own cars at M-A.

Where is the iconic school bus? Buses were removed from school district budgets because no one thought they were important enough to fight for, but designer performing arts centers are worth any effort in fundraising. And the district wonders why communities don't see the schools as a good neighbor.

The Nov. 14 article was about schools leading by example. The return of the big yellow bus might make that real.

Henry Riggs
Callie Lane, Menlo Park

TOWN SQUARE

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

A light will shine,

and a Child will be born.

Isaiah 9:2-6

Take the journey with us. We are a community with diversity of belief, united in spiritual discovery and desire to make justice and compassion our ultimate concerns. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Ladera Community Church
3300 Portola Rd., Portola Valley
(650) 854-5481 www.ladera.org
Sunday Services at 9:30 a.m.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  God is still speaking.

Introducing our newest...

Village Doctor!

Dr. Sangani is a Board Certified Internist who comes to **The Village Doctor** after five years of thriving private practice in the Pacific Heights area of San Francisco. Her health care philosophy integrates physical, social, and mental health and she strives to provide individualized care for her patients' unique lifestyles.



Dr. Sangani has a strong background in preventive medicine and promoting **wellness** and education among her patients. In addition, she has extensive experience in **women's health** and chronic disease management.

With her years of practice, Dr. Sangani has cultivated strong relationships among the physician and patient community in the Bay Area. She was also named one of "America's Top Physicians" in 2006 by the Consumers Research Council of America. Please give The Village Doctor a call to schedule your introductory meeting: 650.851.4747.



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1453 Woodside Road, Redwood City (Next to Gray's Paint)



**M. Gullixson &
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Atherton... Stunning new 5bd/5.5ba estate on 1.5+-ac at the end of a cul-de-sac. Fully equipped 1bd/2ba guesthouse with sauna. **\$12,990,000**



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Redwood City... Stunning, 2-year old Emerald Hills home with 4bd/3ba + office and level, park-like yard. Located on a private cul-de-sac. **\$2,295,000**



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Menlo Park... 4bd/3.5ba University Park home with private yard, magnificent blue oak & award winning schools. Close to MP & Stanford shopping. **\$1,599,000**



**Loren
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Redwood City... Situated in the sought after Mt. Carmel neighborhood, this delightful, updated 3bd/2ba home includes separate studio guest unit. **\$1,250,000**



**Roseann
Miller**
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Redwood City... Situated on a private cul-de-sac, this 3bd/2.5ba home features an open floor plan that flows to the deck and charming gardens beyond. **\$1,189,000**



**Marybeth
Dorst**
650.543.1227



Menlo Park... 3bd/2ba rancher in the Willows neighborhood has hardwood floors, dual pane & custom window treatments throughout. Top Menlo Park Schools. **\$1,050,000**



**Diane
Rosland**
650.543.1216



Redwood City... Prime location overlooking lake and fountains. 3bd/2ba light, bright unit in Park Atherton. Close to schools and shopping. **\$687,000**

Square footage, acreage, and other information herein, has been received from one or more of a variety of different sources. Such information has not been verified by Alain Pinel Realtors. If important to buyers, buyers should conduct their own investigation.

MENLO PARK 1550 El Camino Real, Suite 100 650.462.1111
WOODSIDE 2930 Woodside Road 650.529.1111

