

MENLO PARK: New Burgess Gym could cost the city at least \$26 million. Page 5

The Almanac

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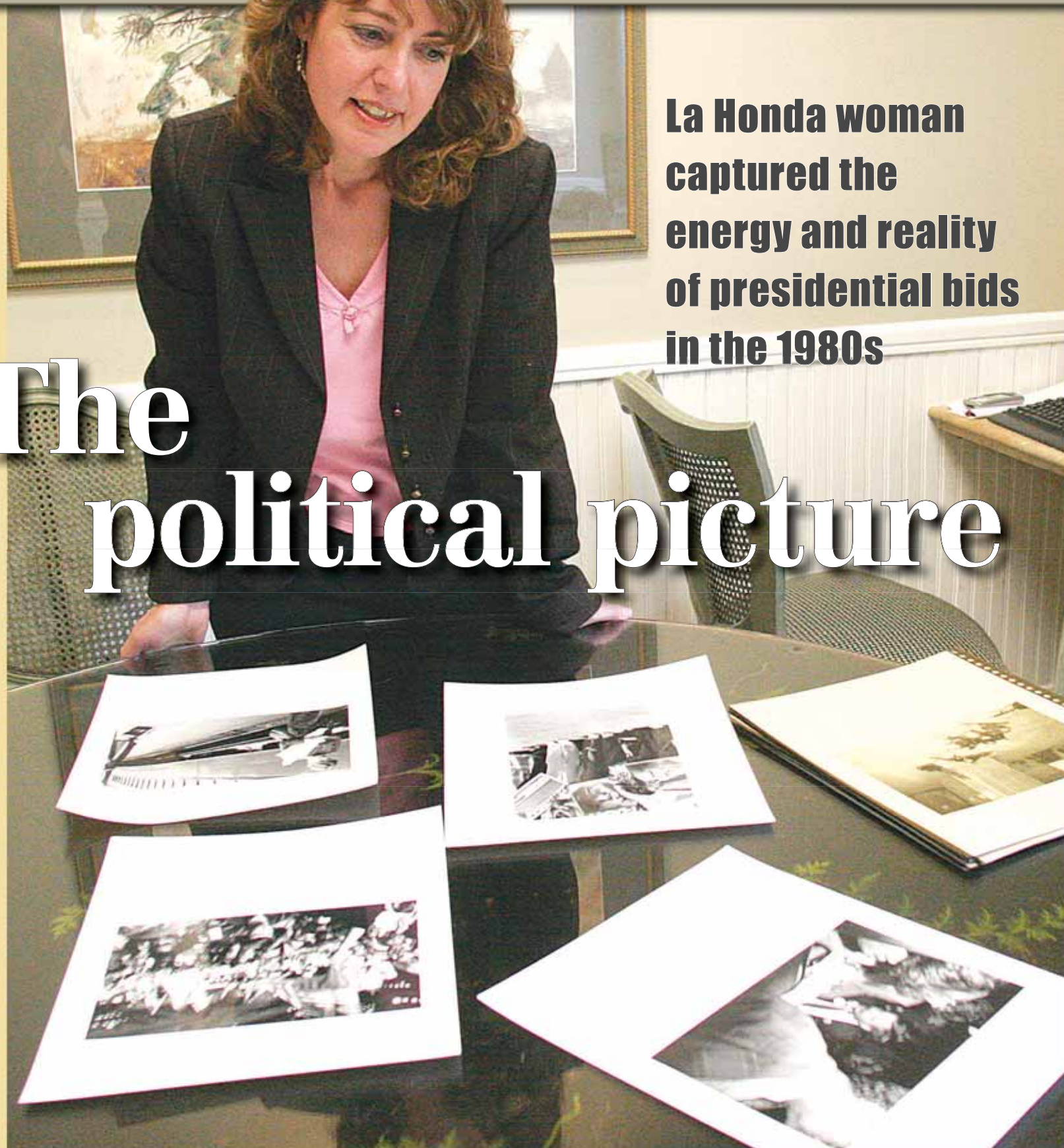
TheAlmanacOnline.com

MARCH 19, 2008

www.TheAlmanacOnline.com | VOL. 43 NO. 29

La Honda woman captured the energy and reality of presidential bids in the 1980s

The political picture



— STORY ON PAGE 16 —



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Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT



Photo by Bob Mitchell

On the hunt

An Easter egg hunt in the olive orchard is part of the festivities at Filoli's "Spring Fling" on Saturday, March 22, at the historic Woodside estate. See story on **Page 21**.

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Family Almanac

■ 'Price of Privilege' author Madeline Levine to speak at Hillview Middle School. **Cover, Section 2**

On the cover

Politics is fun, as Janis Grube of La Honda recalls about her involvement in Democratic campaigns in the 1980s. Ms. Grube's photos from the campaign trail are featured in a story that starts on **Page 16**. Cover photo by Veronica Weber.

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District 5

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The Planning Commission meets on the first and third Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.; Commissioners are appointed for a four-year term; one member is appointed from each Council district. A listing of district addresses is provided on the Town's web site at www.woodsidesidtown.org, Employment and Volunteer Opportunities.

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, at the Town's web site, www.woodsidesidtown.org, or telephone the Town Clerk at (650) 851-6790. Deadline for applications is Monday, March 31, 2008, 5:00 P.M.

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Local News

MENLO PARK | A THERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

New Burgess Gym could cost at least \$26 million

■ Costs are drastically higher than \$9 million city is expected to garner from next bond issue.

By Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park has an estimated \$9 million to spend on a new Burgess Gym, but it looks as if the city will need more for a gym to actually get built — a lot more.

Jaws dropped in disbelief at the March 12 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, when architects from Field Paoli, the San Francisco-based firm hired to design the new gym, said rising construction costs could push the price of the project to the neighborhood of \$26 million to \$42 million.

The cost projections are at least three times more than city staff's October 2006 estimates that pegged costs for a new gym at \$8.4 million.

Mark Schatz, a principal at Field Paoli, repeatedly told commissioners that the price tag is a "ballpark idea" (not a professional estimate) of how high costs could run, but he noted that the final price might not be far off from that guess, due in part to the rising cost of steel and other building materials.

He said that one plan to build

a new gym, gymnastics center and recreation center in one two-story structure could cost the city \$42 million, and other less elaborate plans, including building separate facilities for gymnastics and traditional gym sports, could have price tags of \$26 to \$32 million.

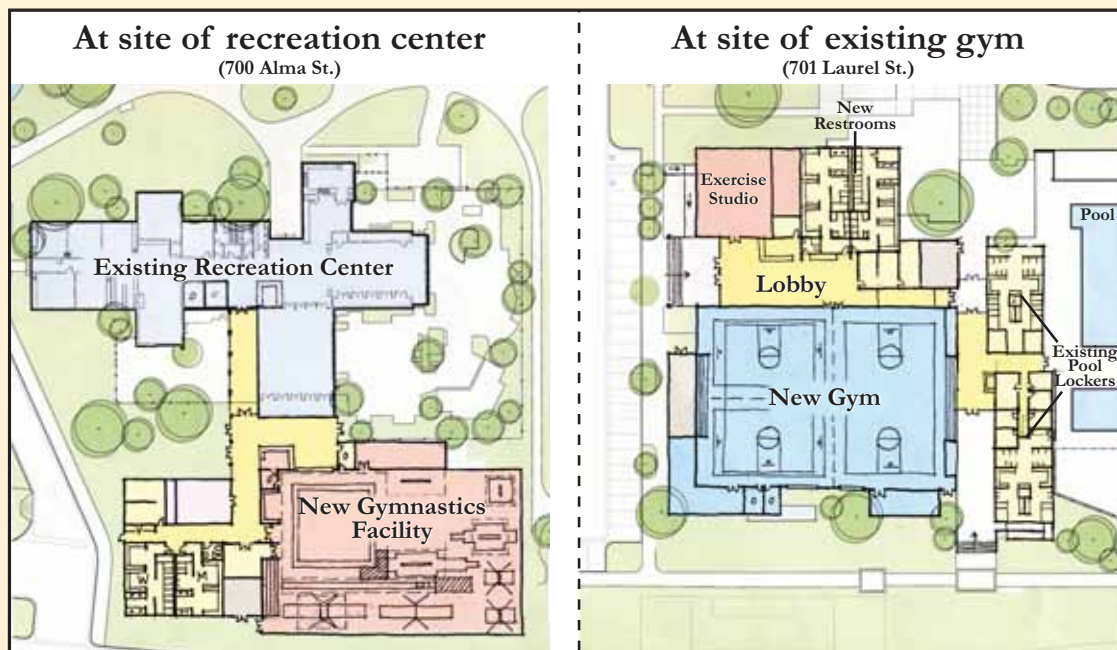
To see the four plans the parks commission discussed March 12, go to MenloPark.org/gym.

Falling short

A new Burgess Gym is one of several projects intended to be built with Measure T funds; the \$38 million bond measure was passed by voters in 2001.

But the next bond issue is expected to garner only \$9 million, according to the latest estimates, leaving parks commissioners and city staff with the task of figuring out how to get more funding for the project, or how to scale back the costs.

"This is just the beginning of the process," parks commissioner Paula Maurano told the Almanac. "There's no way [the parks commission] is going to approve numbers like you saw at the meeting. ... I'm sure we're going to get it back to the point



Courtesy Field Paoli

This plan for a new Burgess Gym calls for two new buildings — one for gymnastics programs and one for traditional gym uses. The gymnastics facility would be built adjacent to the current recreation center off Alma Street, and a new gym would be constructed off Laurel Street.

where we enter the range of reasonableness."

But how the city can cut back costs isn't so clear, as commissioners, residents and sports groups have called for larger, more modern facilities, which are expensive to build.

At the March 12 meeting, Mr. Schatz and other Field Paoli architects discouraged con-

sideration of remodeling the existing 34-year-old gym — a process that wouldn't prove significantly cheaper since it would require extensive demolition and renovation to bring the facility up to American Disability Act regulations and current building codes.

"We're going to look at our options, and figure out the next

step," said commission chair Nick Naclerio after the March 12 meeting. He suggested that the project be built in phases to spread out costs — an idea supported by other commissioners.

Richard Cline, one of several council members to attend the meeting, proposed that the city consider seeking private donations to build the new gym. ■

Council majority nixes study of grass versus turf, for now

By Dave Boyce
Almanac staff writer

■ PORTOLA VALLEY

Artificial grass covers a playing field at each of the two local public high schools and, after a lively community debate, one field at Woodside Elementary School. But the plastic stuff is unlikely to show up anytime soon on fields in Portola Valley, where even a thoughtful study of the idea is now off the table.

In a 2-1 vote at the Feb. 27 Town Council meeting, Mayor Maryann Moise Derwin and Councilman Richard Merk outvoted Councilman Steve Toben and rejected a proposal by the Parks & Recreation Committee to spend up to \$15,000 for a consultant to analyze the pros and cons of natural versus arti-

ficial playing surfaces. (Council members Ted Driscoll and Ann Wengert were absent.)

Grass covers the new baseball field at Town Center, while the Russ Miller soccer field there is scheduled for new sod and new irrigation and drainage systems this year at a cost of about \$350,000. Rossotti Field, the high-tech, fast-draining, \$400,000 natural-grass soccer field on Alpine Road, is five years into its estimated 10-year life span.

Rossotti Field requires 33 gallons of water per square foot to keep it green — nearly double what's needed for the traditionally designed Russ Miller field, said

See **GRASS**, page 8

Child care: City won't partner with district

By Andrea Gemmet
Almanac Staff Writer

The city said thanks, but no thanks, to the Menlo Park City School District's invitation to team up to create a new after-school child care program at Laurel Elementary School.

It seemed like a good idea: the school district could leverage state grant money by partnering with Menlo Park's existing child care program in order to build a small child care facility. It wouldn't accommodate all the children on the waiting list for after-school care at the city-run Menlo Children's Center, but it would have been a start, school board members said.

Menlo Park is not in a position to expand its child care services, due to budget challenges and economic uncertainty, said City Manager Glen Rojas in a letter to the school

district dated March 11.

"Our inability to consider a joint effort at this time is not a reflection of the importance of this issue," Mr. Rojas' letter said.

The city's rejection was a disheartening, but not unexpected, outcome for a group of working parents who have been lobbying the school district for on-site child care and doing their own research on options.

"We told you the city was not interested, and then (Superintendent Ken Ranella) said, 'I'll talk to the city,'" said a visibly frustrated Katherine Bailey at the school district's March 11 board meeting. "To me, that's not a good-faith effort."

Several other parents spoke at the meeting to offer their help, and continue pressing the district for what they say is desperately needed after-school care. Time is running out to get

a program into place in time for the new school year, they said.

The district's next best option appears to be contracting with a private child care provider. Mr. Ranella said he already approached Children's Creative Learning Centers (CCLC), a Sunnyvale-based company that runs a popular after-school care program for the Las Lomas School District, as well as on-site child care for many local companies.

"They've been at Las Lomas since 1995, but they are provided with three portable rooms," Mr. Ranella told the school board. "That concerned me. There's no place for three classrooms on Laurel, Encinal or Oak Knoll."

The idea of moving more portable buildings on to elementary school campuses is particularly

See **CHILDCARE**, page 8

Portola Valley seeks help in redesigning Web site

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

The New York Times has a Web site designed for the smaller screens of cell phone and other personal digital devices. So do Southwest Airlines, eBay, The Sporting News, the Sunnyvale public library and about 250 other "mobile Web sites" listed at cantoni.mobi.

Should the five-year-old Web site for the town of Portola Valley have small-screen oriented pages also? This is an implied question in a 16-question survey at www.portolavalley.net that asks residents about their level of satisfaction with the Web site and how it should evolve.

Survey results could go to the



Town Council for the April 9 meeting, said Stacie Nerdahl, Portola Valley's administrative services officer and the staff maintainer of the Web site.

The survey went online March 11 and is scheduled to come down Wednesday, March 19, Ms. Nerdahl said.

"We thought that would be enough time," she said, adding that the town is also publicizing the survey in the Yahoo forum for town residents and in an ad in The Almanac.

This survey follows a recent questionnaire to Town Council, staff and chairs of many of the town's 14 volunteer committees asking them what changes they would most like to see on the Web site to help them do their jobs better, Ms. Nerdahl said.

Helping Ms. Nerdahl analyze the survey will be consultants from Oakland-based Web-page designers Two Fish West, Councilwoman Ann Wengert, Town Administrator Angela Howard, and Planning Technician Carol Borck, who handles the environmental features for the town's Web site. ■

Woodside's Barkley Field is for the kids

The Woodside Town Council approved a conditional use permit for the new baseball diamond and overlapping soccer field at Barkley Fields and Park. The permit, approved March 11, includes several restrictions on how the facilities, located off Farm Hill Boulevard, are to be used.

For example, a soccer team from a youth league that serves the town of Woodside can reserve the field, but a team from an adult league cannot; the adult league can use the field during times when the field is not reserved.

Youth soccer tournaments are allowed, but only if they involve a single game and only if one of the teams is from a league that serves the residents of Woodside.

Also not allowed: barbecues, weddings, reunions, alcohol consumption and amplified sound. For a complete list of what is and is not permitted at the park, check with Town Hall.

Better roads

Over the two years that begin July 1, the town of Woodside is planning to spend about \$3.3 million for upkeep of the town's 45

TOWN NOTES

miles of roads, said Town Manager Susan George in a summary memo prepared for the March 11 Town Council meeting.

That preliminary budget includes \$586,000 for intensive repair and maintenance, \$309,000 for drainage and bridge improvements, and \$120,000 for sealing cracks in the roads, Ms. George said.

A new bike lane, at an estimated cost of \$175,000, is planned for one side of the stretch of Portola Road between Sand Hill Road and Mountain Home Road. This project would fulfill a request made by the council in December 2006, Ms. George said.

Housing at Cañada College

Deliberations are "going well" between a subcommittee of the Woodside Town Council and representatives from Cañada College and Redwood City over the scale of 56 to 60 apartments that would make up a new housing complex for faculty and staff, said Hope Sullivan, Woodside's planning director.

The group has met twice in



Photo by Dave Boyce/The Almanac

Thanks for 15 years

It's been 15 years since Susan George took over as town manager in Woodside. The Town Council celebrated her anniversary with a bouquet and a proclamation as the first order of business at the council's March 11 meeting in Independence Hall.

March and plans to meet again on Monday, March 24, said Councilman Peter Mason. "We're making good progress," he added.

Family gives \$500,000 to college

Menlo College has received a gift of \$500,000 from the Woodward Family Foundation in Cottage Grove, Oregon. The gift will be used as an investment toward an endowed chair in a specialized avenue of business.

The check was presented to Menlo College President G. Timothy Haight by Andrew "Andy" Woodard, who attended Menlo College and comes from a family with strong ties to the college. He is a third-generation alumnus. His grandfather Carlton Woodard, father Kim, uncle Casey, and sister Dena McCoy — all attended Menlo College.

Andrew Woodward is the manager of KCW Properties in Oregon. He serves on Menlo College's board of trustees.

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The Almanac



Mike Bedwell, former city manager in Menlo Park, dies at age 77

■ He held city's top staff post for 27 years.

Michael Allan Bedwell, Menlo Park city manager from 1964 to 1991, died March 9 after a fight with heart and lung problems, the city announced March 13.

Mr. Bedwell was 77, and died in Escondido, where he lived.

He served as assistant city manager in 1959 before being named to the city's top post in 1964. Under Mr. Bedwell's watch, the Menlo Park Redevelopment Agency was formed, and the Marsh Road garbage dump was capped and converted into Bayfront Park.

"[Mr. Bedwell] was known for his approachability, good humor and compassion," said Personnel Director Glen Kramer in an e-mail to all city employees.

Mr. Bedwell retired in 1991, but served as acting city manager of East Palo Alto in 1993.

He was born in Lone Pine, California, and grew up in Escondido before serving in the U.S. Navy, where he was commissioned as a lieutenant in 1954, according an obituary sent to the city by his wife Carleen.

After his stint in the Navy, he served a public service fellowship with the Coro Foundation in San Francisco before moving to Menlo Park and working for the city, the obituary says.

Following his retirement, he moved back to Escondido and spent time traveling with his wife, Carleen, and co-authored a book about his mother's side of the family.

Mr. Bedwell is survived by his wife, Carleen; his sons, Allan and Patrick; and two grandchildren.

Plans for a gathering to honor Mr. Bedwell are pending, and



Mike Bedwell in 1986, when he was Menlo Park's city manager.

the family has asked donations in his memory be sent to the Friends of Bodie Foundation, P.O. Box 515, Bridgepoint, CA 93517; or the Scripps Health Foundation, P.O. Box 85414, San Diego, CA 92186.

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Restrictive Covenants

Q: We just bought a house on the Peninsula and were surprised to find that there were recorded covenants on the property restricting ownership only to members of the white or Caucasian race. Are these covenants common in California?

A: Racial covenants and restrictions were very common in California and have been superseded by federal and state fair housing laws. It is striking to see them still on the record for homes in this area and a reminder of the discriminatory laws that were in effect here for a very long time.

Current laws forbid discrimination in housing based on race, color, religion, sex, familial sta-

tus, or handicap. It is unlawful for lenders to refuse mortgage loans based on these aspects as well. Brokers and agents must not assist anyone who is violating these laws or advertise in a way that discriminates against anyone included in these groups.

You and the other property owners who are covered by the same recorded covenants can amend them eliminating the racial and other restrictions that no longer apply or that you want to change. However, the original recordings

will always be a part of the history of your property even though they no longer apply.

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

Special meeting to purchase Mindego Ranch

By Marion Softky
Almanac Staff Writer

A historic Skyline ranch, featuring landmark Mindego Hill and one of the most panoramic views on the Peninsula, is on track to become public open space, as an expansion of the Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve just west of Skyline Boulevard and north of Alpine Road.

The board of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District will hold a special meeting Tuesday, March 18, from 7 to 9 p.m. The meeting will be held at the district's Skyline Field Office, 21150 Skyline Boulevard, to honor a commitment that actions concerning Coastside properties would be held on the Coastside.

The 1,047-acre Mindego Ranch was acquired by the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) last October from the family of the late Admiral Arnold True,

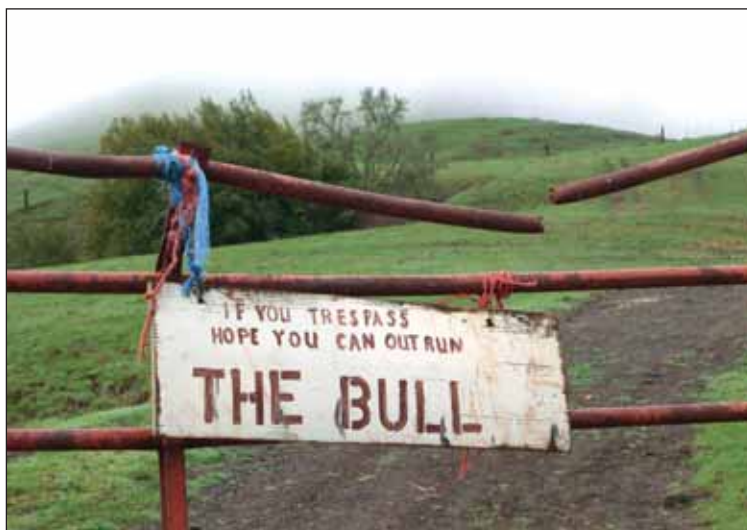


Photo by Marion Softky

Sign at entrance to future open space preserve at Mindego Hill warns: "If you trespass, hope you can outrun THE BULL."

who bought it in 1954.

The district is planning to purchase the working ranch from POST for \$22.5 million, a \$6 million cut from the \$28.5 mil-

lion purchase price, according to a district fact sheet. It expects to receive a \$7.5 million grant toward the purchase from the California Coastal Conservancy.

POST is raising private funds in a GoMindego campaign to make up the difference. It also received a \$2.3 million grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

Near the top of the district's priority list for years, Mindego Hill's 2,143-foot summit offers 360-degree views of the Bay and Coastside as far as Monterey. It is a short hike from trails on the Russian Ridge preserve.

tract in 1977 as land acquisition manager, and became general manager in 1994.

The event also celebrates the district's 35 years of acquiring open space land in the hills and coasts between San Carlos and Los Gatos. The total is expected to reach 60,000 acres in 2008.

Information on tickets at \$25 each may be obtained at 691-1200 or go to openspace.org.

Retirement party for Craig Britton

Friends and supporters of open space will celebrate the retirement of Craig Britton, general manager of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, who is retiring after 30 years with the district, at a dinner Friday, March 28, at the University Club, 3277 Miranda Ave. in Palo Alto. The reception will start at 6:30 p.m., with dinner at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Britton came to the dis-

See **MINDEGO**, page 10

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Photo by Veronica Weber/The Almanac

Stephanie Terpening juggles a soccer ball during CYSA practice at Rossotti Field in Portola Valley last August.

Portola Valley nixes grass-vs.-turf study

GRASS

continued from page 5

Recreation Facilities Coordinator Tony Macias in August 2007.

On a five-point scale with 5 being the highest, the town's fields are experiencing a use-rating of 4.5 and a maintenance rating of 2.5, Parks & Rec committee member Erica Hughes told the council. A fact-based analysis could be helpful in finding a way forward, she added.

Given the rapidly evolving technology of artificial grass and the years-long wait for the fields to be in need of re-sodding, Ms. Derwin and Mr. Merk said that conclusions reached in a study now would be obsolete when it came time to use them.

"I support a study in two years, but not now," Ms. Derwin said before her vote.

"Why are we doing this now,"

Mr. Merk asked. "Let's do that in the future, when the need is there and we're up to date on the science."

Mr. Toben countered that it's preferable to have a study when the pressure to resurface a field is not there. He also suggested waiting until Ms. Wengert and Mr. Driscoll returned.

Mayor Derwin declined to reschedule the vote. She said she agreed in concept that the matter could merit consideration by a full council, but noted that there had been ample notice that it would come before a smaller council.

They love grass

Applause greeted the council's decision from an audience of about 30, most of whom spoke of their fondness for and memories of playing on real grass. Among the tributes:

■ Real grass is soft when you

fall on it and it smells good.

■ Its irregular surface changes a ball's direction, adding unpredictability to games.

■ It's not made from petroleum and is a natural fit for a town that prides itself on its rural qualities.

■ A tough game in the rain can yield the enviable distinction of real mud on one's face and jersey.

Fair enough, Mr. Toben noted, but he wondered how those sentiments added up against a field that has to endure five games a day. "I want to learn more," he said. "I want to understand these arguments (as to why artificial grass) might be an attractive alternative."

Jon Myers, one of two audience members who supported a study now, noted that the town needs good and reliable playing fields and that "more information is better." ■

CHILDCARE

continued from page 5

unpalatable now that the district is in the midst of a \$100 million construction campaign to replace portable classrooms



with two-story buildings and reclaim playground space.

"We're trying to fit 15 pounds of flour into a 10-pound sack," said school board member Terry Thygesen. "If we weren't in a very space constrained (situation) we would plop down three portables ... but we'd be eating up playgrounds that we spent \$100 million in bond money to try to get back."

The after-school child care issue will come back before the school board at the April 15 meeting. School board meetings begin at 7 p.m. and are held in the district boardroom, 181 Encinal Ave. in Atherton. ■

MP man shot

A 23-year-old Menlo Park man was shot in south Stockton on March 3 after an altercation with a group of men, the Stockton Record reported.

The man, who was not identified, was driven to St. Joseph's Medical Center in Stockton, where he was treated for a gunshot wound, the paper reported on its Web site.

He told police he was walking in the 2300 block of South Airport Way when he passed several men who started bothering him. At some point he was shot, but he could not give more information about who shot him, police said.

Portola Valley approves final bid package for Town Center complex

The Portola Valley Town Council unanimously approved March 12 the final bid package to complete the \$20 million Town Center complex.

The package includes landscaping and irrigation for the Russ Miller soccer field at Town Center; new tennis courts; a basketball court; earthwork, paving and grading; concrete work; and a variety of woodwork.

The bid package also includes the first of two phases of a related plan to "daylight" about 280 feet of Sausal Creek at Town Center.

Phase 1 of the daylighting project includes extensive grading; building concrete walls to support two bridges, one for pedestrians and the other for vehicles; building a wall at the site where the creek emerges; building the vehicular bridge

itself; and rerouting Town Center utility lines under that bridge.

Phase 2 of the creek daylighting project would include constructing the creek bed, stabilizing it with native vegetation, opening the creek to flow in the new bed, and installing the pedestrian bridge, landscaping and irrigation.

The timing of the council's approval for phase 2 may hinge on fundraising efforts. The council could draw the \$787,000 from reserves, though a previous council pledged not to use town funds for this project, or phase 2 could have to wait until the money is made available in donations and/or grants.

The town is advertising the bid package and plans to open the bids April 10. The council is scheduled to award contracts April 23.

Night watches start at Town Center

■ PORTOLA VALLEY

A nighttime security guard will be keeping watch over construction equipment and the building materials awaiting installation in the new library, Town Hall and community hall at Portola Valley Town Center.

The Town Council unanimously approved spending up to \$36,000 to pay for dusk-to-dawn protection. It's an insurance policy against materials being stolen and causing a major delay in the tightly scheduled \$20 million project, Councilman Ted Driscoll said at the council's March 12 meeting.

Howard Young, the public works director, told the council that he tested the guard on a recent night by trying to sneak in. He was caught, he said.

Would lights be appropriate for this phase of the project, Councilwoman Ann Wengert asked. The design guidelines for residents discourage outside lighting and town government tries to live within the same set of rules, Mr. Young said.

Town creates 'green' position

The Portola Valley Town Council can put another notch in its green-leadership belt. At its March 12 meeting, the council unanimously approved a new town staff position: a sustainability and resource efficiency coordinator.

The town's job-classification consultant had no town to

look to for a comparable position. The new full-time position, which is experimental and would last at least one year, will start in July and pay from \$49,400 to \$70,600 a year.

The sustainability and resource efficiency coordinator would make presentations on green living to schools, businesses, and community groups and coordinate bulk purchases of compact-fluorescent light bulbs or double-paned windows, to name just two of the many duties outlined in the job description.

The council also approved hiring a full-time office assistant to work at the front counter in Town Hall and administer classes in the town's new community hall. This position will pay between \$33,900 and \$48,450 a year.

Town hosts 'green' workshop

Portola Valley is hosting a morning workshop on the benefits of building and remodeling homes so as to conserve energy, water, and other resources and materials.

The Saturday, April 5, event at Corte Madera School at 4575 Alpine Road is expected to include an interactive exercise and presentations by local architects familiar with building green homes. The workshop begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 12:30 p.m.

Willows traffic debate heats up

■ Some residents push for traffic study, but longtime neighbors say, "Been there, done that."

By Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park's Willows neighborhood may be named after the drooping trees of the same name, but for many residents, the area is best known for its contentious traffic debates.

If a recent wave of e-mails to the City Council is any indicator, those traffic debates will heat back up this year.

The years-old question of how, and if, the city should address cut-through traffic and speeding in the otherwise quiet, older neighborhood is back on the minds of a lot of Willows residents after the March 11 council meeting, when council members briefly discussed setting aside funding for a traffic study of the neighborhood — the area bounded by Middlefield and Willow roads, U.S. 101, and San Francisco Creek.

The study, which has the support of some Willows residents and a majority of transportation commissioners, would cost the city an estimated \$120,000. It is one of several dozen projects council members are considering funding in the fiscal year that starts July 1, and council members are expected to narrow down and adopt their list of 2008-09 fiscal year projects at their April 1 meeting.

A neighborhood divided

To some longtime Willows residents, the traffic study is a nightmare come true — a recurring nightmare.

In 1993, neighbors pushed the city to install traffic-calming measures, such as traffic circles, street-narrowing chokers, and new signs throughout the area to limit speeding and cut-through traffic. There was little opposition during the planning

stages, but once the measures were actually installed, some neighbors took to the street to protest the changes, and the city eventually removed the bulk of the traffic measures.

"We've been here, and done that," said Eric Doyle, a 30-year Willows resident and a transportation commissioner. "[Proponents] say this is just a study, but if history repeats itself, people are going to complain, and the city will have to tear up the streets all over again."

Mr. Doyle said that there's also a hidden agenda to the study, arguing that some residents want to close off streets that connect the Willows to East Palo Alto because they think doing so will limit neighborhood crime.

"For some people, the main driving factor of this study has do with the cultural clash of the Menlo Park section of the Willows and East Palo Alto," Mr. Doyle said. "Not everyone thinks this, but some people want to isolate East Palo Alto residents by closing our streets to them. That's what happened

[in 1993], and that's what is happening now."

Just a study

But supporters of the study say there's no hidden campaign to block East Palo Alto residents from using Menlo Park streets. The traffic study, they say, is just an effort to look at how to make it safer to walk and bike through the neighborhood.

"None of us are traffic experts, none of us know what the answers are to make traffic safer, and none of us are pushing one single solution to this problem," said Renato Iverson, a five-year Willows resident. "I'm not going to block a street, put in a speed bump or put up a stop sign. All I'm saying is, 'Let's have this study.'"

Anne Hilbert, a Willows resident since 2000, said the study is a way to look at and address bigger traffic issues, rather than just "ad hoc" measures that will push cars to other streets.

"There's a lot of families with young children here, and there's a lot of children from East Palo Alto walking to school," Ms. Hilbert said. "Traffic is traffic, and at the speeds the cars are going, all of these kids need to be protected." ■



The Almanac file photo

Traffic circles installed in the Willows in 1994, like this one at Gilbert and Central avenues, created a storm of controversy before they were removed. Some residents fear a new traffic study will yield similar results.

Fire district sells fire engine to Panamanian city

Fire officials from the Bugaba Fire Department in Panama were in Menlo Park last week to pick up a 1987 retired fire engine they are purchasing from the Menlo Park Fire Protection District for \$9,000.

The district is also selling a Ford Explorer command vehicle to the Panamanian department for \$900.

It's the second time that the Bugaba department has obtained used equipment from the Menlo Park fire district. The district donated a 1980 engine to the Panamanians last year.

The fire department's newest vehicle before then had been a 1953 engine.

"At a special ceremony, the whole town turned out when the new engine arrived at its new fire station," Menlo Park Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman said. The new owners call the engine "the Pride of Panama."

Bugaba is located near Panama's border with Costa Rica and has a population of 250,000 spread out over a large rural area. Its fire department is mostly volunteer.

The Panamanian department

also plans to buy a 1992 engine from the Menlo Park district later this year, at a fair market value, Chief Schapelhouman said.

— Don Kazak, Palo Alto Weekly

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TOWN OF WOODSIDE INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR COMMITTEES

BICYCLE COMMITTEE

Meets third Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m.; appointment for a two-year term.

The Committee advises and recommends to the Town Council on the policies for planning, developing, maintaining, and usage of Town's bikeways system and provides an open forum for bicycle issues.

CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Meets fourth Monday of each month, 6:00 p.m.; appointment for a two-year term.

The Committee advises and assists the Town Council, Planning Commission, and staff on conservation, open space, noise, public services and facilities as pertaining to the elements of the Town's General Plan.

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Meets fourth Thursday of each month at 5:00 P.M.; appointment for a two-year term.

The Committee advises and assists the Council and staff in implementing the policies and goals of the Open Space and Conservation Elements of the General Plan, specifically with respect to acquisition and maintenance of conservation easements and open space preservation.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Meets first Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m.; appointments for three-year and one-year terms.

The Committee guides the activities of the community recreation programs.

Committees are volunteer positions and serve in an advisory capacity to the Town Council,

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, on the web site at www.woodsidesidetown.org, or telephone (650) 851-6790. Deadline for applications is Monday, March 31, 2008, 5:00 p.m.

Published in THE ALMANAC on March 12, 19, 26, 2008.



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE
DERRY MIXED USE PROJECT
CITY OF MENLO PARK PLANNING COMMISSION**

MEETING OF MARCH 31, 2008

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

Rescind Previous Approvals for the Derry Project and Consider a General Plan Amendment, Zoning Ordinance Amendment, Rezoning, Planned Development Permit, Major Subdivision, Development Agreement, and Environmental Review for the Revised Derry Project/O'Brien at Derry Lane, LLC/550 to 580 Oak Grove Avenue and 540 to 570 Derry Lane:

- 1) General Plan Amendment to modify the El Camino Real land use designation and the associated land use intensity tables to allow the density for residential uses to exceed the base density of 18.5 dwelling units per acre (du/ac) and to allow the intensity to exceed the base floor area ratio (FAR) of 75 percent on this property;
- 2) Zoning Ordinance Amendment to modify Chapter 16.57 P-D District to allow the density for residential uses to exceed the base density of 18.5 du/ac and to allow intensity to exceed the overall floor area ratio (FAR) requirements of the existing C-4 General Commercial District (Applicable to El Camino Real) zoning designation on this property;
- 3) Rezoning the property from C-4 (ECR) District to P-D (Planned Development) District;
- 4) Planned Development Permit for the demolition of existing commercial structures and to establish specific development regulations and architectural designs for the construction of:
 - 108 residential units at a density of 40 du/net acre where 18.5 du/ac is the maximum density permitted by the pre-existing zoning designation;
 - Approximately 146,075 square feet of residential gross floor area;
 - Approximately 12,650 square feet of retail/restaurant (with permitted restaurant alcohol sales and outdoor seating) space and 12,275 square feet of non-medical office space for a total commercial gross floor area of 24,925 square feet;
 - An approximate residential FAR of 124 percent and commercial FAR of 21 percent for a total FAR of 145 percent where 75 percent is the maximum FAR permitted by the pre-existing zoning designation; and
 - Three-story building elements with a maximum building height of 40 feet where 30 feet is the maximum building height permitted by the pre-existing zoning designation; and
 - 301 on-site parking spaces in a partially submerged and below-grade parking structure where 366 parking spaces would be required by the existing C-4 (ECR) zoning designation.
- 5) Major Subdivision to merge eight existing lots, to abandon right-of-way, plan lines, and easements, to dedicate right-of-way and easements, and to create eight commercial and 108 residential condominium units;
- 6) Development Agreement to guarantee development rights associated with the requested entitlements;
- 7) Below Market Rate Agreement to provide 16 BMR units and in-lieu fees in accordance with the City's BMR Housing Program;
- 8) Heritage Tree Removal Permit to remove five on-site heritage trees, and to remove three off-site heritage trees associated with the proposed Derry Lane/Garwood Way right-of-way improvements and extension; and
- 9) Environmental Impact Report Addendum to compare the potential environmental impacts of the proposal with the certified EIR.

The above acts include rescinding the August 29, 2006 and September 12, 2006 approvals for a General Plan Amendment, Zoning Ordinance Amendment, Rezoning, Planned Development Permit, Major Subdivision, BMR Agreement, and Heritage Tree Removal Permit.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that said Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on public hearing items in the Council Chambers of the City of Menlo Park, located at 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, on Monday, March 31, 2008, 7:00 p.m. or as near as possible thereafter, at which time and place interested persons may appear and be heard thereon. If you challenge this item in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Menlo Park at, or prior to, the public hearing.

The project file may be viewed by the public on weekdays between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, with alternate Fridays closed, at the Department of Community Development, 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park. Please call Megan Fisher, Associate Planner, at (650) 330-6737 or email at mefisher@menlopark.org if you have any questions or comments

Si usted necesita más información sobre este proyecto, por favor llame al 650-330-6702, y pregunte por un asistente que hable español

Visit our Web site for Planning Commission public hearing, agenda, and staff report information: www.menlopark.org

DATED: March 13, 2008

Deanna Chow
Senior Planner

Visit our Web site for Planning Commission public hearing, agenda, and staff report information: www.menlopark.org

Published in THE ALMANAC on March 19, 2008.

Derry condo-commercial project may not be built without state funding

By Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

The O'Brien Group, the San Mateo-based developer behind the Derry condo-commercial project proposed for downtown Menlo Park, says it needs state funding, or its 108-condo development may not get built.

Citing rising construction costs and sub-prime mortgage trends, the O'Brien Group will ask City Council members in the next 60 days to sign off on an application to the state's Housing and Community Development Department for up to \$3.78 million to help get the project built. The estimated total cost of the project is \$34 million, according to city staff.

The O'Brien Group is applying for funds recently made available by the state for transit-oriented development — multi-home projects near transit stations.

The project is proposed for a 3.4-acre site bounded by El Camino Real, Oak Grove Avenue, and the train tracks. The terms of the project have been agreed upon in a settlement agreement between the O'Brien Group and Menlo Park Tomorrow, the residents group that led a referendum campaign against the original 135-condo project.

"At the time we negotiated the settlement agreement, the project

profitability and other financial metrics were reduced to levels at or below the minimum levels required by construction lenders," said Jim Pollart, spokesperson for the O'Brien Group in an e-mail sent to city staff and The Almanac. "Since that time, the residential market has not improved ... construction costs have not dropped, and the lending environment has tightened considerably due to the sub-prime mortgage issue and related credit crunch."

"[The O'Brien Group] has determined that there is a significant risk that the Derry project will not be viable without transit-oriented development housing program funding," said Arlinda Heineck, the city's community development director, in a staff report.

The grant would not cost the city anything, but a majority of council members must sign off on the application by the May 5 deadline if the project is to be eligible for state funds.

If the council approves the application, the state will hire a real estate economics adviser to examine whether the Derry project is feasible without state funds. The project itself still has to be approved by the City Council.

Council consideration of the grant application is not yet listed on the council's tentative schedule. ■

MINDEGO

continued from page 7

The name Mindego Hill goes back to 1859, when Basque farmer Juan Mindico established the first homestead and cattle ranch there.

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life. Its ponds and seeps harbor endangered red legged frogs, and its creeks in the upper watershed of San Gregorio Creek provide spawning ground for steelhead trout and coho salmon.

For more information, call the open space district at 691-1200; or go to openspace.org.

POST can be reached at 854-7696, or go to openspacetrust.org, or gomindego.org.



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Thar she blows!

Menlo Park had its very own geyser on March 10, when a large truck ran into a fire hydrant near Fremont Park at about 9:30 a.m., knocking the hydrant out of place and shooting water some 20 feet in the air. A Menlo Park Fire Protection District report said firefighters were unable to shut off the water, so it continued to flow — for about 20 minutes — until CalWater personnel arrived and turned off a nearby water main. About 20,000 gallons of water spilled on to nearby streets, said CalWater spokesperson Darin Duncan.



Photo by Todd Temple

Former finance director drops lawsuit against Atherton

Atherton's former finance director, John Johns, dropped his wrongful termination lawsuit against the town.

The lawsuit, which sought \$500,000 in damages from the town, was dismissed without prejudice in San Mateo County Superior Court on Friday, March 7, said Atherton City Attorney Marc Hynes. A dismissal without prejudice means the lawsuit can be refilled at a later date.

The San Mateo County District Attorney's Office is currently investigating whether Mr. Johns used town equipment or town time while doing outside consulting work, said Chief Deputy District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe.

At a hearing held Feb. 29, Judge Marie Weiner told Mr. Johns he had to decide between suing the town and avoiding the possibility of incriminating himself in the criminal investigation. Mr. Johns had sought to block the

town from questioning him as part of its defense against his wrongful termination lawsuit.

Mr. Johns was fired in October after being put on administrative leave for two months while a private attorney hired by the town conducted an investigation into complaints against him. The investigator's report painted Mr. Johns as a bully who may have improperly done outside work while on the town's time.

Mr. Johns maintains that he was targeted for blowing the whistle on fiscal improprieties in Atherton's building and other departments. He has called the report from the investigation flawed and inaccurate.

Neither Mr. Johns nor his attorney responded to the Almanac's request for comment.

Mr. Hynes said he didn't have an estimate of how much Atherton has spent defending itself against Mr. Johns' lawsuit. "It hasn't been cheap," he said.



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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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Supes back first response by fire service to calls for emergency medical help

By Renee Batti
Almanac News Editor

Fire service agencies of San Mateo County last week won an important round in their fight to preserve the 10-year-old emergency medical response system that places a firefighter/paramedic at the scene of injury or an accident before — often well before — an ambulance arrives.

That system, fire district and city officials feared, was being threatened as the county prepared to seek "requests for proposals" (RFPs) for a five- to 10-year ambulance contract, effective June 2009, when the current ambulance contract with American Medical Response (AMR) expires.

The county staff-proposed RFP, which was up for approval by the Board of Supervisors on March 11, sought proposals from ambulance companies for two models of ambulance service, one of which would abandon the firefighter/paramedic first-responder component and increase the allowable response time to an emergency call by two minutes.

The joint powers authority (JPA) made up of all 17 of the county's fire districts and cities that run their own fire departments opposed the proposed RFP. In a March 5 letter, the JPA asked the supervisors to change the proposed RFP in three key areas, including the scrapping of any option that would eliminate fire agency first-responders.

Last week the supervisors agreed with the JPA on two of its requests: They jettisoned the so-called Model A in the RFP, which would have removed fire service first-responders from the program; and eliminated an option for the ambulance company to operate its own dispatch center.

Currently, all emergency medi-

cal calls are handled through a county-operated dispatch center, which coordinates the fire agency first-responders and the AMR ambulance responses to emergency calls.

To remove ambulance dispatch from the current county-run system would result in "delays, inefficiencies and errors, thus placing fire and police first-responders and ultimately the public at risk," the JPA's letter stated.

County staff had added the option because of periodic disagreements between AMR and the dispatch center that result in time-consuming efforts by the staff to sort out, according to a staff report.

Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson said it was "absolutely critical" to retain the central dispatch system, and in the end the board directed the staff to eliminate the option to alter it. But board President Adrienne Tissier and Supervisor Rich Gordon noted that existing problems with the system need to be identified and fixed.

The supervisors didn't address the JPA's third request, which would allow the JPA, which now negotiates with the current ambulance provider to provide the first-responder services, to negotiate directly with the county.

Where's Model C?

Although relieved that the supervisors removed the segmented dispatch alternative and the Model A option to nix firefighter/paramedic first-responders from the program, some fire officials are still unhappy with the county's handling of the RFP.

The RFP that is likely to be approved by supervisors on March 25 will be a request for proposals for the existing "Model B" emergency response system, "But why didn't they come up with a Model C?" asked a frustrated Chief Harold Schapelhouman of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District.

When the process began in 2006 to develop the RFP — a nine-month process that included input from more than 100 people — ideas for improving and redesigning the emergency response program were plentiful and reasonable, he said.

The RFP as proposed now, he said, will retain the status quo, and that's disappointing to many people "who put in an inordinate amount of time trying to create something better."

The proposed RFP is scheduled for consideration by the supervisors at 10 a.m. March 25 in the supervisors' chambers at the County Civic Center in Redwood City. ■

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Vilma Serralta leads a protest march in Atherton.

Domestic worker sues Atherton couple for wages

■ The couple denies allegations.

By **Andrea Gemmet**
Almanac Staff Writer

A 69-year-old housekeeper has filed a federal lawsuit against an Atherton couple, claiming the pair engaged in illegal employment practices by requiring her to work long hours at far below minimum wage for four years. She is seeking \$120,000 in damages.

The couple is denying the allegations, but not commenting further, said their attorney, Elizabeth Tippett of Palo Alto-based Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati.

Vilma Serralta of San Mateo, who brought the suit, led a group of domestic workers in a protest march along Isabella Avenue in Atherton on Thursday, March 13, that culminated in a press conference in front of the home of Sakhawat and Roomy Khan. The 9,400-square-foot home is currently on the market with an

asking price of \$17.9 million.

Ms. Serralta said that as a live-in domestic worker for the Khans for four years, she worked 13- and 14-hour days, six or seven days a week, without being paid overtime, or even minimum wage.

"It is the responsibility of anyone who decides to employ someone to learn the basics of employment law," said Carole Vigne, an attorney with the Legal Aid Society-Employment Law Center in San Francisco. "Clearly, her employers are sophisticated people. We don't have too much information about (them), but we do know they work from home and appear to run their own business."

Ms. Vigne said damages owed to Ms. Serralta amount to at least \$120,000. She was paid a monthly salary of \$1,000 to \$1,300, amounting to hourly wages of less than \$3 to \$4 per hour, far below the California minimum wage of \$6.75 per

See **DOMESTIC**, page 24



Tavarez

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A community health education series from Stanford Hospital & Clinics

What Does a Good Night's Sleep Feel Like?



Bill Marshall at a construction site in Half Moon Bay

Snoring Isn't Normal

Bill Marshall, owner of a general contracting business in Half Moon Bay, grew up in construction and had snored for years. He knew that he woke up often in the night, but it took a visit from a friend and a trip to the Sleep Medicine Center at Stanford Hospital for Bill to understand that in his case, the snoring wasn't normal.

"My friend was visiting; we were in the family room watching a football game I guess, and I dozed off and stopped breathing for a while," recalls Bill. The friend recognized Bill's break in breathing while sleeping as sleep apnea, a condition he suffered from as well. "He told my wife Linda that she'd better have me checked out. We made an appointment with Stanford."

Sleep apnea affects approximately 7% to 10% of the US population, and is more commonly found in men than women. Many people suffering from sleep apnea don't even know they have it. However, the effects of untreated sleep apnea can be very serious, including hypertension, stroke, cardiac arrhythmia, and diastolic heart failure. So how do you know if you are suffering from sleep apnea? There are a few signs that may indicate snoring might be a bigger problem than you or your loved ones think, most notably regular loud snoring, choking sounds or gasps while sleeping.

A Center for Help

In 1973 the Stanford Sleep Medicine Center, led by Dr. William Dement, became the first accredited sleep center in the world. For the last quarter-century, the team at Stanford Hospital has developed a resource dedicated to helping sleepless Palo Altans discover what a good night's sleep really feels like.

Sleep disorders can be difficult both to study and to treat. Some, like insomnia, affect large numbers of people, but not necessarily in the same way. A condition like sleep apnea can be pinpointed more easily—but knowing is only half the battle. "Due to this complexity, the evaluation and management of troubled sleep or daytime tiredness, sleepiness or fatigue often requires the assessment of a sleep medicine expert," suggests Dr. Jed Black, Medical Director of the Stanford Sleep Medicine Center. Treating some sleep problems, especially apnea, requires time and dedication from patients.

Getting Into Treatment

People who turn to Stanford Hospital with sleeping issues have access to some of the world's most renowned experts in sleep medicine. The Stanford Sleep Medicine Center combines the expertise of clinicians in the respiratory, cardiology, neurology and psychology fields to determine the root cause and best course of action for people who have difficulty sleeping.

"What happened was I would fall asleep driving. I would get up to a red light and take a nap for 30 seconds or whatever, because I wasn't sleeping at night."

Bill arrived at the Stanford Sleep Medicine Center only knowing that he was often sleepy throughout the day. "What happened was, that as much as I drive, I would fall asleep driving. Or I would get up to a red light and take a nap for 30 seconds or whatever, because I wasn't sleeping at night," says Bill.

An overnight visit to the Stanford Sleep Medicine Center allows clinicians to fully monitor and assess a patient's sleep pattern. Connected to machines that measure brain waves, heart beat, eye movement and more, the information gathered in an overnight assessment provides a more complete picture for clinicians than a subjective self-report of a night's sleep might.



Bill heads out to tour construction sites for the day

When You Need More than a Pill

Sleeping pills are not the best treatment choice for people suffering from sleep apnea. Because a bad night's sleep in their case is actually the result of a restricted airway, these patients are often treated with a device called a continuous positive air pressure (CPAP) machine. This treatment involves sleeping with a nasal mask through which air is gently blown. The air acts as a splint to keep the airway from collapsing and prevents the airway blockages that seriously disrupt sleep (unbeknownst to the sleeper) and severely stress the heart and lungs.

"Getting a CPAP has made all of the difference in the world in two obvious ways," says Bill. "One being my ability to stay awake all day driving and functioning, and the other being able to get a good night's sleep and not endangering my health by not breathing for a minute or two at a time."

It takes time for patients to fully adjust to sleeping with a CPAP device, and treatment compliance can become an issue. Seeing that new patients needed support and more sources of information, the Sleep Medicine Center began offering monthly group meetings for sleep apnea patients.

Did You Know...

- 40% of adults are so sleepy during the day that it interferes with their daily activities
- 18% experience this level of daytime sleepiness at least a few days a week or more
- 34% of adults report snoring a few nights a week or more
- 16% of men and 10% of women report having had pauses in their breathing during sleep a few nights a week or more during the past year
- 56% of adults in the U.S. report one or more symptoms of insomnia a few nights a week
- 62% of adults who experience frequent difficulty in sleeping say they are concerned

AWAKE Meetings 2008

- April 2: Sleep Changes with Age
- May 7: Melatonin & Sleep

For more information about AWAKE meetings at Stanford Hospital, contact (650) 723-6601

Are You Sleepy?

Find out how you rate on the Epworth Sleepiness Scale. How likely are you to doze off or fall asleep in the following situations, in contrast to feeling just tired? This refers to your usual way of life in recent times. Even if you have not done some of these things recently try to work out how they would have affected you. Use the following scale to choose the most appropriate number for each situation:

- 0 = no chance of dozing
- 1 = slight chance of dozing
- 2 = moderate chance of dozing
- 3 = high chance of dozing

Situation	Chance of Dozing
Sitting and reading	
Watching TV	
Sitting inactive in a public place (e.g. a theater or a meeting)	
As a passenger in a car for an hour without a break	
Lying down to rest in the afternoon when circumstances permit	
Sitting and talking to someone	
Sitting quietly after a lunch without alcohol	
In a car, while stopped for a few minutes in traffic	

To check your sleepiness score, total the points. If you scored:

- 1 – 6: Congratulations, you are getting enough sleep
- 7 – 9: Your score is average
- 10 and up: Consider seeking the advice of a sleep specialist



Bill prepares for sleep with his CPAP machine

Taking place at 6:15 P.M. on the first Wednesday of each month, the purpose of the Alert, Well, And Keeping Energetic (AWAKE) group meetings are to provide a place for new patients to ask questions, learn from other patients' experiences, and to see that many others are struggling with similar problems. Many times people learn useful tips from other patients,

and gain the resolve to persist in making their treatment more comfortable and effective. Newcomer meetings are followed by a general meeting, where a doctor gives a sleep-related presentation and addresses any unanswered questions. The information shared at the AWAKE meetings

is often invaluable to people struggling to comply with what seems like a very cumbersome treatment at first.

"Some fit better than others, and you constantly have to adjust them somewhat. I don't know that you ever get to the point where it totally becomes second nature to you," admits Bill. "But when I started using it, the result after a few days or a week was obvious. It's the difference between being able to stay asleep or not, and breathing is, of course, important."

Meeting the Needs of a Growing Community

Demand for the Sleep Medicine Center's services is growing, and Stanford is expanding the facility to meet the need. A new state-of-the-art facility, currently under construction in Redwood City, will accommodate 16 patients per night, with 8 beds available for clinical research. The new Redwood City facility is projected to open in early 2009.

Photos of Bill Marshall by Mark Tuschman

Stanford Hospital & Clinics is known worldwide for advanced treatment of complex disorders in areas such as cardiac care, cancer treatment, neurosciences, surgery, and organ transplants. Consistently ranked among "America's Best Hospitals" by *U.S. News and World Report*, Stanford Hospital & Clinics is internationally recognized for translating medical breakthroughs into the care of patients. The Hospital is part of the Stanford University Medical Center, along with the Stanford University School of Medicine and Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford





The political picture

There's a peculiar kind of frenetic energy that permeates political conventions. The rarefied atmosphere in which a political party anoints a presidential candidate comes from the coalescence of fervent grassroots supporters, manipulative lobbyists and cynical political operatives in hotel ballrooms and crowded convention centers, a crush of humanity fueled by alcohol and caffeine, buzzing with sleep deprivation and tinged with hope and desperation.

Story by **Andrea Gemmet** / Almanac Staff Writer
Photos by **Janis Friedenbergrube**

Gary Hart supporters wait patiently for their candidate to arrive at a campaign rally in the 1980s.

Helmets and batons are at the ready for crowd control at the 1984 Democratic National Convention in San Francisco.



La Honda woman captured the energy and reality of presidential bids in the 1980s



Flags wave on the **crowded convention floor** at Moscone Center in San Francisco in 1984.

Janis Grube, a La Honda resident, captures some of that energy in photographs chronicling Democratic efforts to retake the White House in the 1980s. She went from an inauspicious start, cleaning in preparation for political house parties, then taking pictures, to getting Secret Service clearance at the 1984 National Democratic Convention in San Francisco.

“I grew up in a very politically active family,” Ms. Grube says. “They had us handing out leaflets as soon as we could toddle around.”

Her parents, anxious to find a politically viable candidate to challenge President Ronald Reagan, threw their support behind Sen. Gary Hart, she says. After discovering documentary photography as a student at Cabrillo College, Ms. Grube turned her lens on the campaign trail, she says.

“As people came to events, I met people involved with the state campaign, and I was invited to take pictures of the candidate at Big Sur,” she says.

From there, she says, her involvement grew and it carried her to the national convention and Washington, D.C. She was a congressional district organizer for the 1988 Hart campaign, she says.

In her photos, Ms. Grube captures both the excitement of campaign rallies and the lulls, as loyal political foot soldiers wait, posters in hand, for their candidate to arrive. There’s the palpable sheen of celebrity in photos that capture wide-eyed supporters getting face-time with Candidate Hart, and the sense of camaraderie among a group of young campaign volunteers posing in front of the San Francisco skyline.

Ms. Grube says she wasn’t part of any of the high-powered backroom wheeling and dealing at the conventions.

“I was really dumb,” she says with a laugh. “I still thought (Hart) was going to win.”

The situation in 1984 — a young, relatively unknown senator unexpectedly racks up primary wins, culminating in a showdown at the national convention against a more established front runner — certainly evokes the current race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

In 1984, Sen. Hart lost the party nomination to Walter Mondale, who in turn proved no match for Ronald Reagan’s re-election campaign.



Janis Grube’s photo of **Gary Hart** shows the presidential hopeful at a campaign rally in Big Sur in 1984. It was her first event with national campaign staff.

“It was hard, but everybody (in the campaign) stayed connected,” Ms. Grube says.

The 1988 campaign, on the other hand, was “really crushing,” she says.

As connoisseurs of political scandals may recall, the



Photo by Veronica Weber/The Almanac

Janis Grube, in her Woodside office, muses about the excitement of being a photographer on the campaign trail in the 1980s.



Congressman Tom Lantos, who died last month, is shown with his wife and grandchildren at an event in the mid-1980s.

Hart campaign was sunk when newspapers published photos of the married candidate canoodling with Donna Rice, a 29-year-old model who was not his wife, aboard a yacht named “Monkey Business.”

“Let’s not talk about that,” Ms. Grube says.

While her interest in photography remains, her involvement in politics waned a bit. She’s documented the plight of Mono Lake in photos used by the Sierra Club, and created a touching chronicle of Special Olympics athletes competing in Berkeley. These days, she’s a real estate broker for the Woodside office of Coldwell Banker, and her collection of prints resides in a box under her bed.

Ms. Grube declines to say what candidate she’s currently backing. “I have a very bad track record of backing people who had to drop out,” she says, but adds that she plans to get involved as the national presidential campaign heats up.

Getting involved in national politics can seem daunting, but it really isn’t, Ms. Grube says.

“It seems like such a huge thing that people don’t even want to vote, but in California, it’s broken into congressional districts. You really can get involved and it’s really fun,” she says. “You can have your voice heard.” ▀

Menlo Park district grapples with overload of kindergarten signups

By Andrea Gemmet

Almanac Staff Writer

Call it too much of a good thing. The Menlo Park City School District's drive to get incoming kindergartners registered early, in February, may have been a little too successful. More children than expected enrolled, raising the specter of forced transfers.

As a result, the district may have to add another kindergarten classroom in order to

keep class sizes at 20 or fewer children. Anything more than 20 kids per classroom could cause the district to lose nearly \$350,000 in state class-size reduction money.

The board is likely to decide what to do at its April 11 meeting.

For parents of the 30 or so children who didn't make the cut for the inaugural Spanish immersion kindergarten at Encinal School in Atherton, this could be good news. Superintendent Ken Ranella said

SCHOOLS

he would recommend adding a second Spanish immersion class if the district needs to expand from 15 to 16 kindergarten classrooms for the next school year.

Despite this year's redrawing of attendance boundaries to shift children away from the overpopulated Oak Knoll school campus, the Menlo Park K-5 school appears to be oversubscribed. An anxious

group of parents who live near the school are lobbying district officials to keep their children out of a lottery that would transfer children out of Oak Knoll to another campus.

At the board's March 11 meeting, parents asked that children who live in close proximity to the school be exempted from the transfer lottery, an idea district officials found hard to swallow.

"If you take all the people who live equidistant between two schools, and you say (they) live in a demilitarized zone ... you take all that uncertainty and you cram it into one neighborhood," said board member Terry Thygesen.

In the late hours of the meeting, long after the parents had left, Oak Knoll principal David Ackerman proposed creating

a combination kindergarten/first-grade classroom. It would solve the problem of having too few first graders and too many kindergartners while avoiding the transfer lottery, a solution that appealed to board members.

If the board decides a lottery is necessary, it won't happen until the end of April at the earliest, after the board has had a chance to see updated enrollment numbers, said Mr. Ranella.

Board member Laura Rich counseled patience, saying that many people are probably using the district as a "safety school" pending their children's acceptance to private school.

"We're knee-jerk reacting to early numbers," she said at the meeting. "People are going to drop out." ■

Studies released on Oak Knoll, Encinal projects

Now's the time for anyone wanting to weigh in on construction projects planned for the campuses of Oak Knoll school in Menlo Park and Encinal school in Atherton.

Last week, the Menlo Park City School District released environmental studies detailing traffic, drainage and other impacts from the construction, and the clock is ticking for those who want to comment.

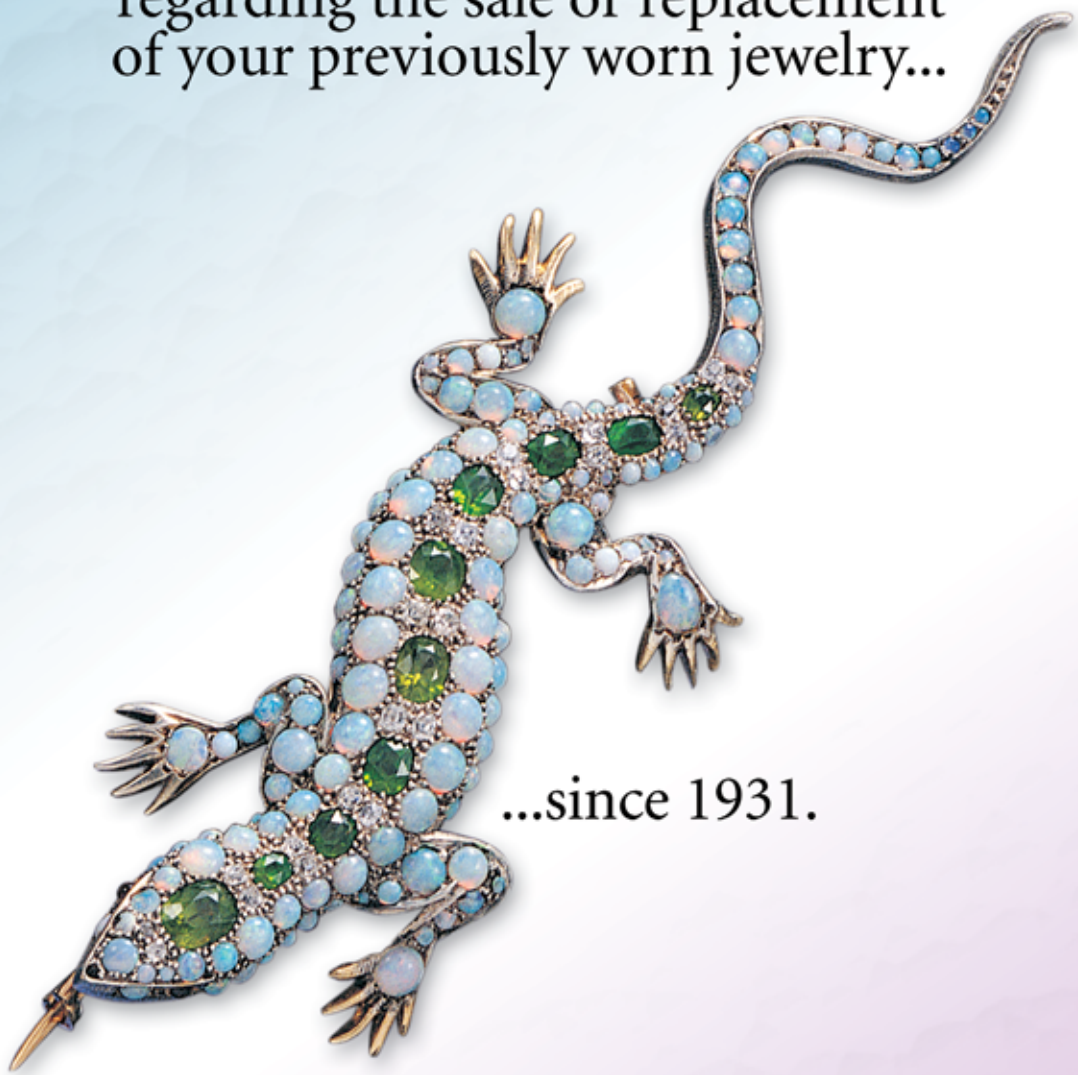
A draft study called a negative declaration details potential impacts of plans to reconfigure Oak Knoll elementary school's campus and replace portable classrooms with a two-story classroom building and multi-use room.

Encinal is being reconfigured from a grades 3-5 school to a K-5 school through the addition of a two-story classroom complex for fourth- and fifth-graders, a multi-use facility and a "teacher education resource center." A more extensive environmental study, called an environmental impact report, or EIR, details impacts and remedies.

The public comment period for both documents began March 11. The Oak Knoll draft negative declaration has a 30-day review period ending April 9, and the Encinal draft EIR has a 45-day review period ending Thursday, April 24.

The environmental studies are available online at www.MPCSD.org by clicking on "Facilities updates."

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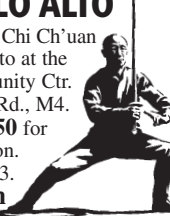
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Woodside board OKs layoffs due to revenue shortfall

By Andrea Gemmet
Almanac Staff Writer

■ SCHOOLS

The Woodside Elementary School Board authorized layoff notices to go out this month to teachers, administrators and staff. The belt-tightening is a result of an expected budget gap of \$380,000 for the next school year.

On the chopping block are 1.77 full-time equivalent teaching positions, an accountant and a network administrator, and the jobs of Assistant Principal Bob Sherman and Harlin Hansen, the district's director of technology.

The layoff notices are the first step in reducing personnel at the K-8 school. Final notification is to be given by May 15. The board approved the layoff plan at the March 11 meeting, after salvaging one full-time teaching position from the proposed cuts.

Board members worried over the impact of the potential layoffs.

"We've really hit technology very hard," said Board President Bettina Pike. "Nothing works without technology."

While the board is making cuts to balance the budget for the 2008-09 school year, they are also contemplating a restructuring plan for top administrators, in anticipation of Superintendent/principal Dan Vinson's retirement

in June 2009.

The March 11 meeting made it clear that there is still a lot of consensus-building needed before the school board settles on the plan.

Woodside teachers and staff haven't embraced either of Mr. Vinson's proposed scenarios that would replace his dual role with two people, a superintendent and a principal, while eliminating the assistant principal job. All told, the phased plan would reduce the number of administrators from 3.9 full-time positions to 2.4.

Board members appear split on the issue, debating whether the plan would leave the administration understaffed.

"I think we should look at something less draconian," said Ms. Pike at the meeting.

The board decided to put off searching for a new principal who would start in the fall, in part to save money, but also because there's still no agreement on the administrative restructuring plan.

The board decided to hold an additional meeting before its regularly scheduled April 11 meeting, to discuss the issue further. The meeting date and time is to be posted by the end of this week on the district's Web site: www.Woodside.k12.ca.us ■



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Saturday, March 29
9:00 am to 12:00 pm

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Students deliver books to Yucatan

Members of the Menlo School Interact Community Service Club are traveling to the Yucatan Peninsula on spring break to deliver 500 books to needy children.

The project is a collaboration between Menlo School's Adopt a

Village program and Bring Me a Book Foundation. The new hardcover books will go to the villages of Chicxulub and Cholul.

Menlo students raised more than \$12,000 toward the project by holding an auction at the school Nov. 29.

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Almanac

Ex-MP firefighter sentenced in wife-killing attempt

A retired Menlo Park district firefighter was sentenced in Santa Clara County court March 13 to 12 years and four months in prison for attempting to have his wife killed, according to the district attorney's office.

James Guasch, 52, worked for the Menlo Park Fire Protection District from 1980 to 1989, when he left on disability leave. He was found guilty March 10 of solicitation of murder and possession for sale of pharmaceutical drugs, county officials said.

Mr. Guasch allegedly solicited two undercover county enforcement team agents to kill his wife and dump her body in a mineshaft in the Nevada desert. He was introduced to the agents by a confidential informant and reportedly paid them a retainer with a bottle of Oxycodone, the district attorney's office reported.

The incident occurred while Mr. Guasch and his wife were in the midst of a highly contentious divorce that involved an estate esti-

ated to be worth \$15 million.

A large amount of prescription drugs, methamphetamine, ammunition, counter surveillance equipment and video of his wife's residence were discovered in Mr. Guasch's home during a search, the district attorney's office said.

The Menlo Park Fire Protection District released a statement on March 13 regarding Mr. Guasch.

— Bay City News Service

Court upholds conviction in molestation of MP girl

A state appeals court has upheld a Fremont piano teacher's conviction and 14-year sentence for molesting a young Menlo Park girl during her lessons, but at the same time ordered further proceedings in the case.

A three-judge panel of the Court of Appeal in San Francisco affirmed March 10 the conviction of Boping Chen,

56, in his direct appeal of his 2006 conviction in San Mateo Superior Court on 63 counts of molesting the student.

Prosecutors say the molestation took place between 2002 and 2004, beginning when the student was 8 years old, during her weekly lessons in the living room of her family's home. Mr. Chen maintains he is innocent.

However, the appeals panel ordered a further hearing in Superior Court in response to a habeas corpus petition filed by Mr. Chen.

Mr. Chen contends in the petition that his trial was unfair because his defense lawyer did not present psychiatric evidence showing that he lacked the characteristics of a child molester.

The appeals court ordered a hearing on that claim by May 30, saying Mr. Chen had made a preliminary showing that his trial lawyer "failed to render constitutionally adequate representation."

"We're very grateful the court ordered this hearing," said Doron Weinberg, a lawyer for Mr. Chen in the appeals. "We are hopeful that Mr. Chen will be vindicated."

"He did not molest this child," Mr. Weinberg added.

Mr. Chen, who emigrated to the United States from Shanghai, China, in 2000, taught the girl from 2001 to 2004.

The main witness against him at the trial was the girl, then 12 years old, who testified that beginning in the second year of the lessons, Mr. Chen touched her on the chest and inside her pants during every lesson, but would stop if anyone else in the house came near.

Prosecutors in court papers have called the child "an articulate and credible witness."

Deputy District Attorney Melissa McKowan told the trial jury during closing arguments in 2006: "This is not a girl who lies or makes up stories. She was being lewdly, cruelly and repeatedly touched. She didn't know what to say. She didn't know what to do."

Mr. Chen's attorneys contend the child had a motive for making the accusation because she wanted to stop taking lessons from Mr. Chen, who had a strict, old-fashioned approach to teaching. They say that Mr. Chen, who speaks limited English, was at a linguistic and cultural disadvantage in trying to defend himself.

— Bay City News Service



PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE OF INTENT TO INCREASE THE EXISTING SOLID WASTE / RECYCLING RATES FOR COMMERCIAL AND MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS WITHIN THE CITY OF MENLO PARK

The City Council of the City of Menlo Park hereby gives public notice of its intent to increase the existing solid waste / recycling rates for commercial and multi-family residential customers within the City of Menlo Park for the collection of solid waste and recyclable materials. The increase, if approved, would be retroactively effective as of January 1, 2008. The City Council plans to consider these rate increases at a public hearing on March 25, 2008 at 7:00 p.m., or as near as possible thereafter, in the City of Menlo Park Council Chambers Building at 701 Laurel Street - Civic Center.

What are the new rates:

Several rate increase levels will be considered at the public hearing. The maximum rate increase under consideration is 18.6% higher than current rates. A detailed listing of the proposed rates can be obtained from the Finance Department located on the second floor at City Hall, 701 Laurel Street, on-line at http://www.menlopark.org/departments/dep_finance.html, or by calling 650-330-6644.

Necessity for new rates:

The intended new rates are necessary due to the terms of the City's existing contract with Allied Waste Company which provide for fees to be set at a level which gives the Contractor a rate of return based on approved costs. The Contractor's costs have increased in the current year primarily due to increased labor and disposal costs. The City's costs of providing billing services and environmental programs that support reductions in solid waste have also increased in recent years, and rate increases have not kept pace with this combination of rising costs.

If you wish to file a written protest to these fee increases, please send a letter addressed to Solid Waste Rates, c/o City Clerk, City of Menlo Park, 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Your letter must identify the real property you own by street address and the assessor's parcel number. Your letter must be legibly signed by any one of the current property owners. Your name should be set forth as it appears on your tax bill. The City of Menlo Park must receive your letter at City Hall by 5:00 p.m. on March 21, 2008, or it must be presented at the City Council meeting March 25, 2008, prior to the close of the public hearing on the matter.

Any person interested, including all solid waste / recycling collection customers of the City of Menlo Park, may appear at the public hearing and be heard on any matter related to the proposed increase in rates.

Dated: March 3, 2008

/s/ SHERRY M. KELLY, City Clerk

Published in THE ALMANAC on March 12, 19, 2008.



PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE OF INTENT TO DEFINE THE SERVICE AREA AND INCREASE THE EXISTING SOLID WASTE / RECYCLING RATES FOR SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS WITHIN THE CITY OF MENLO PARK

The City Council of the City of Menlo Park hereby gives public notice of its intent to define the service area and increase the existing solid waste / recycling rates for single-family residential customers within the City of Menlo Park for the collection of solid waste and recyclable materials. The increase, if approved, will be effective on July 1, 2008. The City Council plans to consider these rate increases at a public hearing on March 25, 2008 at 7:00 p.m., or as near as possible thereafter, in the City of Menlo Park Council Chambers Building at 701 Laurel Street - Civic Center.

What are the new rates: Several rate increase amounts will be considered at the public hearing. The maximum rate increase under consideration is 18.6% higher than current rates. The maximum annual new rates are as follows:

Size of Containers (In Gallons)	CURBSIDE SERVICE			BACKYARD SERVICE		
	20	32	45	20	32	45
Rate for single container used	\$76.44	\$162.32	\$267.69	\$114.98	\$243.56	\$381.71
Rate per container when more than one container is used - 1st	N/A	201.02	267.69	N/A	282.24	381.71
2	N/A	402.03	535.38	N/A	564.50	763.43
3	N/A	603.03	803.06	N/A	846.74	1,145.15
4	N/A	804.05	1,070.76	N/A	1,129.00	1,526.87
5	N/A	1,005.06	1,338.45	N/A	1,411.25	1,908.58

Necessity for new rates:

The intended new rates are necessary due to the terms of the City's existing contract with Allied Waste Company, which provide for fees to be set at a level which gives the Contractor a rate of return based on approved costs. The Contractor's costs have increased primarily due to increased labor and disposal costs. The City's costs of providing billing services and environmental programs that support reductions in solid waste have also increased in recent years, and rate increases have not kept pace with this combination of rising costs.

If you would like additional information on the proposed rates, please visit the Finance Department located on the second floor at City Hall, 701 Laurel Street or call 650-330-6644.

If you wish to file a written protest, please send a letter addressed to Solid Waste Rates, c/o City Clerk, City of Menlo Park, 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Your letter must identify the real property you own by street address and the assessor's parcel number. Your letter must be legibly signed by any one of the current property owners. Your name should be set forth as it appears on your tax bill. The City of Menlo Park must receive your letter at City Hall by 5:00 p.m. on March 21, 2008, or it must be presented at the City Council meeting March 25, 2008, prior to the close of the public hearing on the matter.

Any person interested, including all solid waste / recycling collection customers of the City of Menlo Park, may appear at the public hearing and be heard on any matter related to the proposed increase in rates.

Dated: March 3, 2008

/s/ SHERRY M. KELLY, City Clerk

Published in THE ALMANAC on March 12, 19, 2008.

Community

NEWS OF LOCAL PEOPLE AND EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY

An early lupine blooms by one of the trails at Edgewood Natural Preserve. Woodland flowers are blooming earlier than the grasslands, which should glow yellow by April.
Photos by Marion Softky



It's wildflower time at local parks, preserves

Indian warrior; shooting star; poppies; milkmaids; ceanothus; hound's tongue; fritillary; lupine.

Early wildflowers are beginning to brighten the woods and fields and trails in Peninsula parks and open spaces.

And for those who want to learn, volunteer docents lead hikes to some of the best places for viewing California's native wildflowers.

Free docent-led hikes started at Edgewood Natural Preserve on March 15, and continue every weekend through June 8.

Edgewood is one of the most popular parks for wildflower viewing because of the spring displays of native wildflowers that carpet its special serpentine grasslands. These are chemically hostile to non-native plants and grasses; they support the natives that have adapted over time. They are also visible from Interstate 280, when you are driving south past Edgewood Road.

There are 203 flowering plants at Edgewood, says wildflower buff Paul Heiple of Ladera. The woods flowers are blooming now, but when the goldfields and tidy tips open up on the grasslands, "it's going to be spectacular," he said. "There are more flower stalks than

I have ever seen."

Docents from Friends of Edgewood will lead three-hour wildflower walks every Saturday and Sunday starting at 10 a.m. from the Old Stage Day Camp at the park entrance on Edgewood Road at the bottom of the hill going east from I-280.

On four Saturdays in April, there will be hikes to the grasslands from the Clarkia Trailhead on Canada Road, just south of the I-280 overpass.

Go to friendsofedgeswood.org for more information on Edgewood hikes.

Preserves of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District also feature wildflower displays in the woods and fields from the valley to Skyline and over toward the coast.

For information on the district's preserves and hikes, call 692-1200; or go to openspace.org.

Stanford's Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve also offers group docent-led hikes to view its displays of serpentine and other wildflowers. Hikes are offered by appointment only; the preserve is not open to the public.

For information on Jasper Ridge hikes, call 851-6813.

Bill McKibben to give POST lecture

Environmental writer Bill McKibben will launch the 15th annual Wallace Stegner Lecture Series for POST (Peninsula Open Space Trust) with a lecture Thursday, March 20, at 8 p.m., at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, at 500 Castro St.

Mr. McKibben is well known as an author and essayist on subjects such as global warming, alternative energy, and the risks associated with genetic engineering. His essays appear in the New Yorker, New York Times, Atlantic Monthly, Mother Jones, Rolling Stones, and elsewhere. His books include "Deep

Economy: the Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future"; and "The End of Nature."

The Wallace Stegner Lecture Series raises money for the land-saving activities of POST. Bill and Jean Lane of Portola Valley are again sponsoring the series.

Tickets for the series starting at \$75 per person may be ordered from POST at 854-7696. Single tickets at \$75 each may be ordered from the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts at 903-6000. For more information, go to openspacetrust.org and ci.mtnview.ca.us/mvcpa.

Filoli hosts 'Spring Fling,' Easter egg hunt

Thousands of tulips and daffodils will be in bloom for the annual "Spring Fling" and Easter egg hunt from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 22, at the historic Filoli estate in Woodside.

"Filoli has planted 92,000 bulbs in the garden and display pots this year," says Jim Salyards, Filoli greenhouse manager. The Sunken Garden will display 3,800 rose-color tulips.

The traditional Easter egg hunt for children ages 2-7, which takes place in the olive orchard, is sold out. However, general admission to the estate is still available. There will also be equestrian performances, Guide Dog puppies, face painting, story time, puppet shows, live music, crafts, and nature hikes.

Families may visit the greenhouse for a planting project. "We have a wonderful assortment of basil and pansies ready for the children to plant in their own decorated terra cotta pots," says Mr. Salyards.

General admission is \$10 for children 5-17 years, \$15 for adult Filoli members, and \$25 for adult non-members. For tickets, visit Filoli's Web site at www.filoli.org or call the ticket office at 364-8300, ext. 508.



See photo on Page 3.

Menlo Park egg hunt

Bring your baskets and cameras for the city of Menlo Park's annual free Easter egg hunt from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 22, at Burgess Park.

Activities will include a visit from the Easter bunny, rides on the "Old Tom" fire truck, and bounce houses.

Singers perform on Good Friday

The Valparaiso Singers will present the "St. Matthew Passion," part I by Johann Sebastian Bach, at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 21, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1105 Valparaiso Ave. in Menlo Park

Thomas Glenn, tenor, of the

San Francisco Opera will sing the role of the Evangelist and Michael Morris, baritone, of the San Jose Opera will sing the role of Jesus. Works by Dubois, Faure, Mendelssohn and Handel complete the program.

Judith Stewart is the director. James Welch is the organist. Admission is free and the public is welcome. For more information, call 854-3079.

Easter eggs in Atherton

The Atherton Dames will hold their annual Easter egg hunt at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 22, at Holbrook-Palmer Park in Atherton. The park opens at 9:30 a.m.

After the hunt there will be entertainment by Gerald the Magician and photos with the Easter Bunny. Breakfast goodies will include Hobee's coffee cake and specialty coffee drinks. Cost is \$5 per person.

For reservations call 853-0503 or e-mail vkogler@yahoo.com.

Bach celebration in Portola Valley

Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra (PACO) will present its 23rd Bach celebration at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 30, at Valley Presbyterian Church, 945 Portola Road in Portola Valley.

The annual event honors the birthday of Johann Sebastian Bach. The composer was born on March 21, 1685, in Eisenach, Germany.

For the concert, director and cellist Kris Yenny will be joined by guests Claire Kelm, soprano, Peter Lemberg, oboe, and Dina Glendening, harpsichord.

The music will include Gamba Sonata in D major, with soloists Mr. Yenny and Ms. Glendening; the Wedding Cantata, with soloists Ms. Kelm and Mr. Lemberg; and Concerto for Two Violins in D minor with soloists Christine Chon, Edwin Jeng, Angela The and Clara Chan.

After the concert, there will be a reception featuring German wines and beer, cider, coffee, bread, cheese and chocolate. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for student. For more information, call 856-3848 or go to pacomusic.org.

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Peninsula Easter Services

Spring Celebration



Easter Services
 Sunday, March 23 – 9:30 & 11 a.m.
Passover Seder
 Saturday, April 19 – 5:30 p.m.

505 East Charleston Road, Palo Alto (650) 494-0541 www.uucpa.org

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MAUNDY THURSDAY MARCH 20 7:00 pm	GOOD FRIDAY MARCH 21 Noon - 3:00 pm: Solemn Liturgy of The Passion 7:00 p.m.: Holy Communion Service	EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 23 10 am: Holy Communion Family Service 12 pm: Holy Communion
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ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Maundy Thursday— March 20

❖ 6:15pm *Monastic Supper & Liturgy of the Word followed by Holy Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar*

Good Friday — March 21

❖ Noon to 2:00pm *Seven Last Words Meditation*
 ❖ 2:00 to 3:00pm *Stations of the Cross: A Walking Meditation*
 ❖ 7:30 to 8:30pm *Good Friday Prayer and Meditation*

Easter — March 23

❖ 5:30am *Easter Vigil, Eucharist & Baptism*
 ❖ 8:00am *Festive Breakfast & Family Easter Activities*
 ❖ 10:00am *Festive Holy Eucharist*

600 Colorado Ave, P.A. (650) 326-3800
www.saint-marks.com



First Presbyterian Church
mountain view

You are Invited to Share This Special Time with Us!

March 20 – Maundy Thursday Communion Service

7:00 pm Fellowship Hall
 (Joint Service with Open Door Church)

Mar. 21 – Good Friday Service

Noon to 1 pm in the Chapel

**Mar. 23 – Easter Sunday
 Worship Service**

10:30 am

1667 Miramonte Ave.
 (Miramonte at Cuesta)
www.fpcmv.org • 650-968-4473



Woodside Village Church

3154 Woodside Road
 Woodside, CA
 (650) 851-1587

www.woodsidevillagechurch.org



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

March 16, Palm Sunday Worship - 9:30am
 March 20, Maundy Thursday - 7:00pm
 March 21, Good Friday Worship - 12 noon - 3pm
 Stations of the Cross
 Good Friday - 7:30 - 8:30pm Service of Darkness
 March 23, Easter Sunday Worship - 9:30am

*Celebration Reception immediately following in Guild Hall
 The Reverend Michael E. Harvey*

Celebrate Easter with Us!

Interested in *Unstoppable Life*?

We invite you to join us this Easter

Saturday, March 22 at 5 p.m. and Sunday, March 23 at
 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11 a.m. at 950 Santa Cruz Avenue

*For a more informal environment, join us at The Café, 9:32 a.m. and 11:05 a.m.
 700 Santa Cruz Avenue, Menlo Park*



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www.mppc.org

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FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL BLANCA YOC AT 650-326-8210 EXT. 221 OR EMAIL BYOC@PAWEEKLY.COM



Peninsula Easter Services

Valley Presbyterian Church

Worship in the Redwoods
HOLY WEEK SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY March 16: Worship at 8:40 am & 10:45 am
MAUNDY THURSDAY March 20: Soup Supper at 6:00 pm; The Holden Service with beautiful Lenten music 7 pm
GOOD FRIDAY March 21: Good Friday, Sacred Concert - St. John's Passion by JS Bach, 7:00 pm
EASTER SUNDAY March 23: Sunrise Service at 6:30 am (meet in parking lot at 6:15) 9:00 am & 11:00 am (Sunday School at 11:00 only for PreK-4th)

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 captivity to freedom,
 death to life—
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*grace
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 life*

Holy Week

Palm Sunday (3/16 | 8:30 & 10:45am)
Maundy Thursday (3/20 | 7pm)
Good Friday (3/21 | 12pm & 7pm)

Easter

Easter Vigil (3/22 | 7pm)
Easter Sunday (3/23 | 8:30am, 10:45am)
child care available at all services

Holy Week and Easter

at
St. Bede's Episcopal Church
 2650 Sand Hill Rd, Menlo Park
www.stbedesmenlopark.org

March 20 ❖ MAUNDY THURSDAY

12 noon Footwashing
12:10 pm Holy Eucharist & Healing Rite
7:15 pm Foot Washing in Narthex

7:30 pm Holy Eucharist

March 21 ❖ GOOD FRIDAY

12 noon Service of music, reflection, and prayer
7:30 pm Meditation on the Passion of Christ

March 22 ❖ HOLY SATURDAY

9 pm Great Vigil of Easter, Holy Baptism & Eucharist

March 23 ❖ EASTER DAY

8 am Eucharist with Hymns
10:15 am Sung Eucharist
11:30 am Easter Egg Hunt in the Courtyard
 Nursery available 10-11:30 pm

March 24 ❖ EASTER MONDAY
 Parish Office closed



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 (650) 856-6662 www.fccpa.org



Maundy Thursday, April 5

Soup Supper & Service of Tenebrae, 6:30pm

Good Friday, April 6th Service of Silence 4:00pm-6:00pm

Holy Communion at 5:00pm

Easter Sunday Celebration Worship at 9:30am & 11:00am

Oxford Street Brass & The Hallelujah Chorus

Easter Egg Hunt following 9:30 Worship

God Is Still Speaking!

ST. DENIS PARISH

Sacred Triduum

HOLY THURSDAY, March 20

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:30 pm at St. Denis Church

GOOD FRIDAY, March 21

Stations of the Cross 1:00 pm at both Churches
 7:30 pm at St. Denis Church
 Liturgy of the Lord's Passion 2:00 pm at both Churches
 Confession Following Liturgy at Our Lady of the Wayside Church

HOLY SATURDAY, March 22

Confession 3:00 to 4:00 pm at St. Denis Church
 Easter Vigil Liturgy 8:00 pm at St. Denis Church

EASTER SUNDAY, March 23

Mass of the Lord's Resurrection 7:30, 9:30 and 11:30 am at St. Denis
 8:30 and 10:00 am at Our Lady of the Wayside Church

St. Denis Church
 2250 Auy Avenue
 Menlo Park, CA 94025
 Ph. (650) 854-5976



Our Lady of the Wayside Church
 930 Portola Road
 Portola Valley, CA 94028
 Ph. (650) 851-5085



www.stdenisparish.org

Trinity Lutheran Church

LCMS



Maundy Thursday

Noon & 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday

Noon (to 3 p.m.) & 7 p.m.

Easter Vigil

on Holy Saturday

7:00 p.m.

Easter Services

6 a.m., 8:15 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

Easter Breakfast

7:30 a.m.

1295 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto
 (650) 853-1295
Trinity_Lutheran_Church.homestead.com



Join us at our
 Holy Week and
 Easter services.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

Maundy Thursday, March 20

6:30 pm - Holy Eucharist & Agape Meal in Angus Hall
 (Childcare provided)

Good Friday, March 21

7:00 am - Good Friday Service (Chapel)
 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm - Stations of the Cross (Church)
 7:30 pm - Good Friday Service (Chapel)

Holy Saturday, March 22

8:00 am - Holy Saturday Liturgy (Church)
 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm - Quiet Festival for children and families
 (Trinity Hall)
 8:00 pm - Easter Vigil (Chapel)

Easter Sunday, March 23

6:30 am - Sunrise Eucharist (Memorial Garden)
 8:30 am & 10:30 am - Festival Choral Eucharist (Church)
 Easter Egg Hunt follows the 10:30 service

330 Ravenswood Ave., Menlo Park (650) 326-2083
www.trinitymenlopark.org

Experience Easter.

Maundy Thursday - March 20, 7:30 p.m.

Communion Service
Choir sings Service of Darkness
Scripture readings

Good Friday - March 21, Noon to 3 p.m.
Guided Meditation with musical background

Easter Sunday - March 23, 9:30 a.m.

Family Service, music by
Children's Choir
Adult Choir

Ladera Community Church

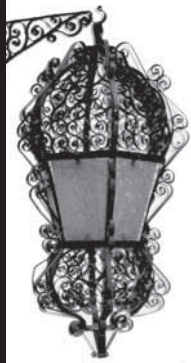
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★ CHOICE OF DESSERT:

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Kiwanis Club plans crab fest fundraiser

The Kiwanis Club of Menlo Park invites the public to its annual crab fest and auction to be held from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Saturday, March 29, at Menlo College. The menu will include all-you-can-eat crab, pasta, cole slaw, garlic bread, wine, beer and soft drinks. Tickets are \$55 each. To attend, call the Kiwanis Club at 289-1160.

The crab fest is the Kiwanis Club's biggest fundraiser of the year. Others are Bowling for Scholars in the fall and Connoisseur's Marketplace each July. The club also runs the Menlo Park Kiwanis Club's Christmas tree lot adjacent to Stanford Stadium every holiday season.

Every year the club dedicates part of the \$60,000 raised from projects to college scholarships for Menlo Park high school seniors.

The Kiwanis Club members also volunteer their time to 14 local community services and programs, including St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room, the Yes Reading Program, and the Ravenswood Youth Athletic Association.

The club welcomes new members. Membership inquiries should be directed to Jan Gabus, 325-7711.

Junior League holds spring gala

The Junior League of Palo Alto/Mid Peninsula will hold its spring gala on Saturday, March 29, at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View.

The evening will begin with a silent auction, followed by a multi-course dinner. There will also be a

AROUND TOWN

live auction and dancing.

The League hopes to build on the success of last year's gala, which raised \$78,000 for its programs, says League president Laura Whitman.

Tickets are \$135 per couple. For more information, call 321-7493.

Mayors deliver Meals on Wheels

Five local mayors will deliver Meals on Wheels to housebound seniors on Wednesday morning, March 19, as part of the nationwide March for Meals campaign. The event begins at Little House in Menlo Park and is sponsored by the Peninsula Volunteers Inc. Last year more than 900 mayors across the country took part in the project.

Local mayors delivering meals are James R. Janz of Atherton, Andrew M. Cohen of Menlo Park, Mary Ann Moise Derwin of Portola Valley, and Ron Romines of Woodside.

Each year since 1978, Peninsula Volunteers has provided more than 145,000 hot meals to

seniors and the homebound, the organization says.

Two-masted tall ship visits

The brig "Lady Washington," featured in the "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl" movie, arrives at the Port of Redwood City on Monday, March 24, for a 14-day visit. The ship will be joined by the topsail ketch "Hawaiian Chieftain" at Seaport Center, 451 Seaport Court, on South San Francisco Bay.

There will be walk-on dockside tours with a \$3 donation. There will also be public sailings, including four mock sea battles. Tickets for battle sails are \$60 for adults, \$50 for seniors and students, and \$40 for children under 12.

There is also a "family-friendly" adventure sail from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, April 6. For times and tickets, call 800-200-5239 or go to historicalseaport.com.

Advocates for Children benefit

Advocates for Children of San

See TOWN, next page

DOMESTIC

continued from page 13

hour, Ms. Vigne said.

While Ms. Serralta is a U.S. citizen, California labor laws apply to everyone, regardless of immigration or citizenship status, said Ms. Vigne.

In Ms. Serralta's complaint,

filed in the Northern District of California federal court on March 13, she said she worked long hours cleaning the Khans' large home, preparing meals and caring for their young daughter. She said the Khans yelled at her and called her "stupid," but she stayed because she had grown attached to the child, Ms. Vigne said.

It was only after she was arbitrarily fired in September 2006 that Ms. Serralta learned that her treatment was illegal, Ms. Vigne said.

Language barriers and cultural differences are among the reasons many domestic workers are unaware of their rights or are afraid to complain, Ms. Vigne said.

"Also, because they work in private homes and don't have coworkers, there is just the isolation from other people. That condition is worsened when they are working such long hours and they live in the home," she said.

Ms. Vigne said it's likely that Ms. Serralta's situation is not terribly different from that of many other domestic workers in wealthy communities such as Atherton. The lawsuit and the protest march, it is hoped, will shine a light on similar situations going on behind closed doors, she said.

"I do not want revenge. I simply want justice. And I do not want for anyone else to go through what I did," Ms. Serralta said in a press release. ■

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Celebrating Palm Sunday

These donkeys were brought to Valley Presbyterian Church in Portola Valley Sunday in celebration of Palm Sunday, marking the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, riding a donkey, in the days before his crucifixion. The donkeys are owned by church member Robin Whalen. In the picture are their caretakers, Jesus and Maria, and the pastor of Valley Presbyterian, the Rev. Mark Goodman-Morris.

Photo by Kelly Brieger



■ POLICE CALLS

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

ATHERTON

Burglary report: Make-up case and \$4 in change stolen from vehicle, first block of Stern Lane, March 10.

Fraud report: Unauthorized use of new credit card, first block of Rebecca Lane, March 13.

MENLO PARK

Burglary reports:

■ Purse stolen from vehicle and later found, 2100 block of Santa Cruz Ave., March 8.

■ Two baby monitors and a laptop computer stolen, 700 block of Central Ave., March 10.

■ Flat panel TV stolen from residence, 1100 block of Bieber Ave., March 11.

■ Purses stolen from vehicles after window smash, 1600 block of Marsh Road and 100 block of Sand Hill Circle, March 11.

■ Bag with debit card and cash inside stolen from vehicle, 1600 block of Marsh Road, March 11.

■ Cash stolen, 800 block of Hamilton Ave., March 11.

■ Golf clubs and stereo system stolen from vehicle, 300 block of Sharon Park Drive, March 12.

■ Computers, digital entertainment equipment, jewelry and bicycle stolen from residence, first block of Russell Court, March 13.

■ Laptop computer stolen from vehicle, 900 block of Santa Cruz Ave., March 13.

Shoplifting report: Three people stole 20 Versace eye-glass frames, 700 block of El Camino Real, March 13.

Fraud reports:

■ Social Security number stolen and used to create false credit card and phone accounts, 3700 block of Haven Ave., March 7.

■ Unauthorized cell phone accounts opened, 1000 block of Deanna Drive, March 7.

■ Identity theft, 800 block of Middle Ave., March 8.

■ Unauthorized use of debit card, 1100 block of Willow Road, March 10.

Grand theft report: Laptop computer stolen from residence, 200 block of Durham St., March 10.

Stolen vehicle report: 1990 Toyota Camry, 100 block of Terminal Ave., March 11.

Child protective services referral: 1100 block of Willow Road, March 11.

Spousal abuse report: 700 block of Laurel St., March 13.

PORTOLA VALLEY

Theft reports:

■ Unlocked bike valued at \$2,500 was stolen, 4000 block of Alpine Road, March 9.

■ Tool box and tools value at more than \$4,000 stolen from work site, 200 block of Westridge Drive, March 10.

Inspirations

St. Bede's Episcopal Church

2650 Sand Hill Road † Menlo Park

on Sunday

8 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I

9 am Soulwork — Education for Adults

10 am Sunday School — Children's Worship & Education

10-11:30 am Childcare

10:15 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II, with hymns, choir, & organ

INSPIRATIONS

A resource for special events and ongoing religious services. To inquire about or make space reservations please contact Blanca Yoc at 650-326-8210 x221 or email byoc@paweb.com

The Almanac

MARGARET DRAPER LAUDEREAU

OCTOBER 5, 1918 – MARCH 7, 2008



Margaret passed away at the age of 89 in Palo Alto after suffering a fall. She was the daughter of Stephen and Lula Draper. Born in Leesburg, Florida, she grew up in middle Tennessee as the 5th of 6 children.

She became a registered nurse in 1940 and served in WW II where she met her husband Maurice

Laudereau. They were married in 1946, and until his death in 1994, lived in Palo Alto, California. She is survived by 3 children, James Laudereau, Elizabeth Kauk, and Lois Cole.

Margaret was a devoted Christian, a loving mother, bridge player, geriatric nurse until she retired in 1984, and enjoyed bowling. She traveled the world, much of it with her daughter, Lois. Her family and friends will miss her greatly.

A memorial service was held at Redwood Church in Redwood City on March 13th. A donation to one's favorite charity in Margaret's memory would be appreciated.

PAID OBITUARY

TOWN

continued from previous page

Mateo County will present its second annual "Music for Our Children" concert and auction on Saturday, March 22, at The Little Fox Theatre, 2215 Broadway in Redwood City.

The evening of music, art and

auctions will begin at 7 p.m. Headlining the entertainment is singer Earl Thomas, who has performed on bills with B.B. King and Ike Turner. The gypsy jazz quartet, Esprit Gitan, led by guitarist Doug Martin, will close the evening.

Tickets are \$65 each and include two drinks and hors d'oeuvres. For tickets, call Yvonne at 212-4425.

MICHAEL EDWARD FOX

Michael Edward Fox, age 61 son of: Edward Lawrence Fox and Mary Ann Nonella, long time resident of Menlo Park. Real Estate Broker with Fox and Carskadon and Vietnam Veteran, Passed away Monday March 3rd.

Surviving are his 3 sons, Michael, Christopher and Jason; 2 grand-sons and 1 grand-daughter Kara Cevera-Fox; 3 brothers Gerald Fox, Robert Fox and Stephen Fox; 1 sister Kathleen Fox Weed. Lifetime friend and companion Pamela A. Nietert and family.

Memorial Service will be held 2:00 PM Friday March 14th at Spangler Mortuaries Located at 650 Live Oak Ave Menlo Park.

PAID OBITUARY

JOAN M. CHOIGNARD



Joan M. Chognard, a longtime resident of Menlo Park and Atherton, passed away peacefully on February 5th, following a short illness which she faced with dignity and courage.

Joan was born November 21, 1923, the only child of Frank and Elda Geiler, of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

After graduating from Radcliffe College, she worked in New York where she met and married Jean C. Chognard. They started a family in Boston, and completed it in Menlo Park. They had four children, and were divorced after 55 years of marriage.

Besides raising her four children, Joan had many interests including reading, traveling, opera, bridge, the San Francisco Giants, the San Francisco 49ers, cats, poetry, gardening, cooking, and nature. She

enjoyed playing competitive bridge and earned the title of Life Master. She traveled to many countries, a love she first acquired when she was in 8th grade. When she was younger, she volunteered at Stanford Hospital as a Candy Striper and at Allied Arts Guild as a server and hostess. She was always involved in the lives of her children.

Joan made friends easily. She was warm, loving, and giving. She will forever be in the hearts of her family and friends. Her love of life, her huge heart, and her warmth will never be forgotten.

We have lost our Best Friend.

Loved and remembered by her four children, Robert Chognard and wife Kathy of Atherton, Anne Chognard of San Francisco, Susan Ayala and husband Victor of Hollister, Chris Chognard of San Carlos; 4 grandchildren, Genevieve and Paulina Chognard, and Alex and Isabel Ayala, and ex-husband Jean C. Chognard of Sharon Heights.

Memorial donations may be made to the donor's charity of choice.

PAID OBITUARY

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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.

Stand up now for public schools

As the battle lines are drawn in Sacramento over the expected massive deficit in next year's state budget, most local school districts are cautiously optimistic that they will avoid drastic layoffs, but none will escape unscathed.

The Menlo Park City and Las Lomas districts, as well as Portola Valley and Woodside, are gearing up for tighter budgets, although these districts receive most of their operating funds from local property taxes, not state appropriations. And Woodside is issuing

EDITORIAL
The opinion of The Almanac

a few layoff notices to teachers now, but could retain them depending on the final state budget.

Nevertheless, this will not be a bumper year for the districts, which expect to lose state dollars for specific programs as their property tax income tapers off or decreases, as in the case of Portola Valley. And in some districts, enrollment is increasing, which means the schools will have to educate more students in a flat or declining revenue year.

Another worry is that a budget-stopping group of legislators can block any attempt to raise taxes to support education, which is expected to take a hit of \$4 billion or more in an overall \$16 billion downturn. The governor has said he wants the legislature to suspend Proposition 98, which was designed to guarantee that education gets a reasonable share of the state budget every year unless two-thirds of each house agree to suspend it. If Proposition 98 is put aside, lawmakers will be free to wield a hefty budget ax that could reverberate in local districts.

With the pressure of such huge budget cuts falling almost entirely on the 90 percent or so of state-funded school districts,

local schools that will lose relatively little of their property tax funding could become the target of the "have-not" contingent in the Legislature. Former Gov. Gray Davis attempted to dip into local taxes in 2004, but state Sen. Joe Simitian managed to block the effort and the districts held on to what is known as basic aid.

The stakes may be even higher this time around. With Republicans and Democrats already taking contrary positions on whether to raise taxes that could ease the budget crunch on schools, the parcel tax might — emphasis on might — become a bargaining chip in a possible settlement.

In the meantime, as pointed out by Las Lomas School District Superintendent Eric Hartwig in a guest opinion last week, local school officials and anyone else who cares about defending education in this critical time should let legislators know how they feel. The cuts to school funding advanced by Gov. Schwarzenegger are draconian, especially to districts that rely almost entirely on state funding.

Our local schools, supported by high property values and strong support from education foundations, can weather this storm. But thousands of other schools around the state may not be so lucky. If the current budget proposal is passed, many schools will be devastated by huge teacher lay-offs and other budget cuts. This is just the scenario Proposition 98 was supposed to prevent.

Somehow, legislators need to resolve the all-too-familiar budget standoff and, for once, think about the impacts on children and others if an austere budget that slashes education is adopted. If the current tax structure is not equipped to overcome this crisis, it is time for a new model. ■

LETTERS
Our readers write

Author responds to critique of high-speed rail

Editor:

The three rail-related letters published last week show that the authors haven't done their homework. We should keep them after school.

Mr. Cronin's claim that the French rail system is "very profitable" because the Economist says so is charming, but quite wrong. The SNCF is profitable the same way that Airbus is profitable; with massive government subsidies and tax relief.

And his question about whether the French are smarter than us? Well, "comme ci, comme ca." His gratuitous attack on Menlo Park Mayor Andy Cohen for doing his job of defending our city from railroad exploitation merits no response, only a stern look of admonition.

And Mr. Cronin, all of Menlo Park is NIMBY? Now, I'm confused. I thought it was just me.

Marta Morando pursues the well-known "ad hominem" NIMBY counter-attack, but loses the game since she does not address any substantive,



Jac Audiffred Collection

Our Regional Heritage

Around the turn of the 20th Century, the Audiffred family of Woodside would take month-long vacations in La Honda, pitching a group of tents at one of the local campgrounds. The men in the party enjoyed hunting and fishing and the women found activities at the Sears Hotel on Main Street in La Honda.

factual issues, but rather merely advocates sacrifice from the few for the sake of the many. Bonne chance, Marta!

Finally, former Mayor Steve Schmidt suggests that the much-

needed high-speed train should make no rail corridor changes at all, but merely share the existing, to-be-electrified tracks with Caltrain. Without, he adds, any grade separations.

Sacre bleu, Monsieur Schmidt, this is just the opposite of what Caltrain and high-speed rail officials want!

See **LETTERS**, next page

News about Hazele

Hazele Jelich of Portola Valley is the Hazele of Hazele and Ethyl's Creamery that Diane Daube Sperisen recalled nostalgically in a letter in the March 5 issue of *The Almanac*. Her daughter, Sandi Jelich Anderson, says the original creamery was at the corner of Santa Cruz Avenue and El Camino Real, located between a gas station and a doctor's office.

Hazele and Ethyl Farrell (later Dwyer) opened the creamery as young women, not long out of high school,

in the 1930s. It was there that Hazele met her future husband, George Jelich.

"Kids liked to hang out at the creamery in those days," she recalls.

A few years later, the creamery moved across the street on the El Camino. A photo of this location was featured in *Our Regional Heritage* in the August 23, 2006, issue of *The Almanac*.

Sandi reports that her mother still "makes a great ice cream sundae at age 93." Hazele also likes making banana splits for her grandkids.

This photo of Hazele and Ethyl's Creamery in downtown Menlo Park sparked a discussion about its location in the 1930s.

Portola Valley Archives



Here's what they're saying on Town Square

What's on your wish list for downtown Menlo Park?

Posted by Almanac staff

There are a number of empty spaces on Santa Cruz Avenue now, including the impressive new building at the site of the old Menlo Camera Shop. If you could hand over the keys to those storefronts to any specific business or type of business, what would your choices be?

Posted by Anna, a resident of the Menlo Park Willows neighborhood

In my opinion downtown Menlo Park is one of the saddest and oldest downtown of the area. I think it really needs to be revitalized with new retail stores, cafes and restaurants. The proximity of the Stanford mall makes the choice of the retail stores somehow tricky,

TownSquare

Join the conversation on www.TheAlmanacOnline.com. Click on links under the TownSquare banner.

but with careful consideration, it can work and become attractive again.

Posted by Joanna, a resident of the Menlo Park downtown.

I sure would appreciate a library drop box on the west side of El Camino. It is good for the environment because pedestrian attempts to get to the library are very dangerous. Anyone who has tried knows what I'm talking about

Posted by Allegra, a resident of the Linfield Oaks neighborhood

I'd like to see a CD store — one

that has a wide choice of CDs to listen to before buying. Don't know if that would be economically viable in such a high-rent area, but it's on my dream list.

Posted by 30 Something, a resident of the Menlo Park downtown.

More outdoorsy casual, restaurants, sandwich shops, a wine bar... People love to eat outdoors, especially with their kids and dogs. There aren't a lot of options for that. Two tables on a crowded sidewalk doesn't count. Also, baby and kids clothing that is **not** premium-priced. Also, I'd love to see a Gymboree Gym, MyGym, pump-it-up-type place downtown, especially one that has some open hours for walk-ins. We've been dying to find places to take our kids for fun when it's raining, or dark in the early evening.

Continued from previous page

Voila, as Mr. Cronin would say.

**Martin Engel, NIMBY
Stone Pine Lane, Menlo Park**

Distressed by 'knee-jerk' high-speed rail reaction

Editor:

As a long-time fan of your editorials, I am distressed that you seem to have bought the emotional, "not in my backyard," knee-jerk opposition to high-speed rail published March 5. A few facts might illuminate the situation.

With regard to rail alignment in general and grade crossings in particular, opponents should be aware that any train traveling at a speed of 220 mph requires a minimum radius of curvature of

LETTERS

3 miles. This means that it would not be feasible to merely lay two additional tracks alongside the Caltrain tracks.

A new alignment will be needed for much, if not all, of the route. In addition, the line must be completely isolated from all other traffic by elevating it, burying it, or securely fencing it. These two facts negate most focused concerns about grade crossings, lost trees and the like. Construction will surely create a mess and many hardships, but that is common for all large infrastructure projects.

High-speed rail noise is not a problem. The trains use electric propulsion which involves some catenary noise. Rail alignment must be exceptionally good, eliminating most wheel noise. High-speed trains go by with a whoosh

and not much more. In addition, when at speed, they go by very quickly. At 220 mph, they traverse a mile in only 16 seconds. The audible intrusion is much less.

Your comments on cost are well taken, but common to all large infrastructure projects. In Japan, France, Spain, and Germany high-speed rail has diverted substantial volumes of traffic from short haul air and highway travel. If given a chance, it can do so in the U.S. It is much too early to make any sort of an accurate estimate of high-speed rail costs; however, when fully developed, these costs may not be so outrageous when compared with the costs of airport expansions and highway projects needed to manage congestion for California's population as it grows to 40 million, 50 million and more.

**Paul Jones
Atherton**

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL

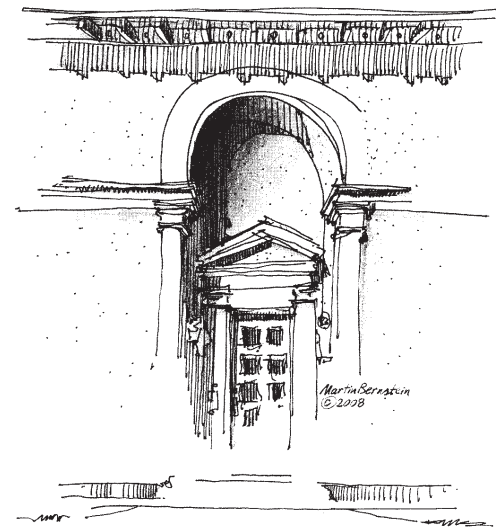
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You will serve as a member of the Palo Alto Weekly/Palo Alto Online management teams and manage a department of 4-6 designers and a three-person advertising services team.

The successful candidate will have experience in print and online page design and ideas for how information is best presented in varied formats, including Web pages, mobile Web browsers, cell phone messaging and online video.

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Working knowledge of InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator, Flash, and HTML is essential. A background in magazine design and production and videography is highly desirable.

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