

MATTESON COMPANIES proposes to build 48 condos plus commercial space on El Camino Real. Page 7

The Almanac

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

MAY 14, 2008 | VOL. 43 NO. 37

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Swimming to China

JOE WISE, 14, QUALIFIES FOR THE U.S. PARALYMPICS SWIM TEAM **page 18**

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Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT



Photo by Veronica Weber/The Almanac

'Willy Wonka Jr.'

Fifth-graders Isabelle Tearse, center, and Gray Perrone perform a scene in "Willy Wonka Jr.," La Entrada's all-school musical. This year, 85 students from fourth through eighth grades were in the cast. They presented the school version of the show, known as "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," three times — for students May 1, and for a school assembly and an evening show for parents and grandparents May 2 in Jensen Hall on the middle-school campus in Menlo Park.

Menlo Park

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Artscene

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On the cover

Sacred Heart Prep freshman Joe Wise of Menlo Park is the youngest male on the U.S. Paralympic swim team competing in Beijing. Photo by Veronica Weber. See story and pictures on **Page 18**

CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

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62nd ANNUAL MEETING FOR ALL RESIDENTS

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 7:00 PM**

THE PAVILION

AT HOLBROOK PALMER PARK

7:00 - 7:15PM **ANNUAL MEETING**
 Election of Directors
 and Officers

7:15 - 7:35PM **MAYOR JAMES JANZ**
 "The State of the Town"

7:35 - 7:45PM **CITY MANAGER
 JEROME GRUBER**
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7:45 - 8:40PM **TOWN COUNCIL
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Roberts Tip of the Week

Que Sera Syrah

The Rhone wine known as Syrah is fast gaining ground in California, literally. Planted acreage of this versatile red grape has skyrocketed from a little more than 2,000 acres in 1996 to nearly 19,000 acres at most recent count. California winemakers have come to value the grape for its ability to grow in a variety of regions and microclimates, and consumers have grown to love its flavor. Domestic Syrah variety come in two basic styles. The first is spicy and peppery, with berry flavors and mouth-puckering tannins. This style most resembles that of the Northern Rhone. The other style is more like its Australian counterpart Shiraz. It is riper and more luxurious. These wines deserve your attention.



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HINT: Syrah pairs well with grilled eats or pepperoni pizza.

Wine

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Going, going, gone

Football tickets and fine wines, yoga lessons and Bot-ox — what do these things have in common? They're all up for bid at the Woodside School Foundation's 25th annual auction.

An online auction is going on right now, and the Roaring '20s-themed live auction is set for Saturday, May 17.

Funds raised by the foundation make up 25 percent of Woodside Elementary School's annual operating budget, so the pressure's on to shell out big bucks.

You can check out the massive auction catalog at <http://auctions.readysetauction.com/woodside>.

Doin' it old school

Ever notice how city council or school board members are usually well-stocked with water bottles during their interminable meetings? Even when they are, say, discussing green building protocols, waste-reduction policies or environmental programs? Bucking the trend is the Menlo Park City School District board. In honor of Earth Day, at a recent meeting the board members swilled water out of actual drinking glasses filled from a pitcher.

Goldilocks strikes again

On the evening of Saturday, May 3, a trespasser reportedly entered a home on Bolivar Lane in Portola Valley and lay down on a bed. The Sheriff's Office report is silent on whether there were bowls of porridge in various sizes, and one assumes the absent residents were humans, not bears.

The back door was suspiciously open when the couple who lives there returned home at about 10:30 p.m., deputies said. A cursory inspection turned up nothing missing from the home.

A transcript has not been made available to the press of the couple's reaction when they discovered the rumpled bed covers. The incident is an eerie echo of an similar case, fictionalized around 1837, when family members reportedly said, "Someone's been sleeping in my bed."

Deputies say they will increase patrols in the area.

Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Summit director to open new charter school

■ Diane Tavenner will leave Summit to focus on the new school and a teacher-training institute.

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

An assembly line worked by humans rather than robots may be a 20th century artifact, but ask Diane Tavenner, the outgoing executive director of Summit Preparatory Charter High School in Redwood City, and she'll tell you that human-powered sequential production still holds sway in the United States — in traditional public high schools.

"The high schools of America are designed as factories really. There are all these individuals who are putting one piece on a student," she says in an interview. "That system doesn't work for human beings and it certainly doesn't work for teenagers."

Such schools, she says, prepare a minority for managerial and professional occupations, and a literate majority for the rest of the workforce. Those who don't make it are considered "defects," she says. "If you look at the statistics

Page 8: Sequoia Union High School District repudiates 'factory' analogy.

today, they do that perfectly."

The above priorities reflect the broader society and the economy, not the efforts of educators, she says, adding: "I think the people in the system do their very best to make it work for as many kids as possible."

Ms. Tavenner spoke with The Almanac in the context of her June 30 departure from Summit Prep. One new focus of her work will be launching Everest, a charter high school based on Summit. She plans to locate the school somewhere in the Sequoia Union High School District and open it in September 2009.

Summit, a public school, is sponsored by the Sequoia district. The district annually contributes about \$2.8 million to Summit's operating funds.

The decision for a new school seems timely. Summit receives 3.5



Photo by Dave Boyce/The Almanac

Diane Tavenner, standing in front of M.C. Escher-style tessellations, made by students at Summit Preparatory Charter High School, will be leaving the school in June to work on Everest, a new charter school planned for fall 2009 in the Sequoia Union High School District. She also heads the Summit Institute, a teacher-training nonprofit.

applications for every seat in its annual lottery, she says. "There's clearly a need and a demand for a different method for preparing kids for college, (one) that is highly successful," she says.

College preparation is another draw. Of Summit's class of 2007, she says, 96 percent were accepted

to four-year colleges. One third of Summit's enrollment lives in the Almanac's circulation area.

In leaving, Ms. Tavenner will also focus on the Summit Institute, a new teacher-training nonprofit organization intended to

See **SUMMIT**, page 8



This architect's rendering shows the planned changes to the frontage of Oak Knoll School in Menlo Park, as seen from Oak Knoll Lane. It's part of a \$15 million campus renovation project scheduled to start this year.

Image courtesy of Deems Lewis McKinley Architecture

School board approves Oak Knoll campus renovation

By Andrea Gemmet

Almanac Staff Writer

Despite the Menlo Park City School District's efforts to make some crowd-pleasing changes to the planned \$15 million renovation of the Oak Knoll elementary school in Menlo Park, a passionate and vocal mass of people gathered at the Thursday, May 8, board meeting, some to lobby for more changes, and others to urge the district to get started on the construction as soon as possible.

Minor modifications to the renovation plans were approved by the board on a 5-0 vote. The key change preserves three large oak trees — one by reducing

parking spaces in a new lot planned for Oak Avenue, and the other two by realigning the combined soccer/baseball field toward the back of the campus.

Oak trees

Six heritage-size trees will still have to be removed to accommodate the construction, including a large Joshua tree, said Ahmad Sheikholeslami, the district's facility planner. The plan to remove any trees at all upset some people who spoke at the meeting.

"I understand that you have a very difficult job, but I hope you could find a way to work around the trees," said Carol Taggart, a retired Oak Knoll teacher.

One large oak tree at the center of campus that district officials planned to keep is now slated to come down. Arborist Walt Fuji said its surprisingly poor condition — it has less than 30 percent good wood, due to a large hollow, he said — led him to reluctantly recommend its removal for safety reasons.

The planned project includes removing the 14 portable buildings on the K-5 school's campus, adding 10 classrooms and modernizing existing ones, and constructing a two-story multi-purpose building near Oak Avenue. Parking areas and the pick-up/drop-off-lane would also be reconfigured.

Lots of comments

More than 40 people spoke at the meeting, many to express support for getting construction under way quickly.

"When I moved to California, I spent more (money) than my parents can fathom, only to send my children to school in a double-wide," said district parent Roy Sardinia. "Start digging that hole tomorrow."

Others, especially nearby residents, urged the district to slow down enough to consider bigger changes, like relocating the planned multi-use room to the other side of campus, and rethinking the lengthy new drop-

See **OAK KNOLL**, page 8



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Rendering courtesy Dahlin Group

Matteson Companies' rendering of its plans to build 48 condos and 5,080 square feet of commercial space. This view is from El Camino Real near College Avenue.

Menlo council to take first look at plans for 48 homes on El Camino

By Rory Brown

Almanac Staff Writer

A majority of Menlo Park City Council members vowed to hold off considering major housing projects proposed for El Camino Real until the city has a comprehensive plan for the area, but it seems that isn't enough to keep them from taking a look at a nearly 60-foot-tall condo-commercial project proposed for the city's main thoroughfare.

At a May 13 study session, the council will look at plans by the Redwood City-based Matteson Companies to build 48 condos and 5,080 square feet of ground-floor commercial space at the site of the former Anderson Chevrolet truck lot, a block south of the Safeway store.

The meeting is scheduled to start at 7 p.m. in the council chambers at the Civic Center, between Laurel and Alma streets.

The 1.23-acre site of the proposed project is at 389 El Camino

Real, near College Avenue. Matteson Companies is proposing a total of 140 parking spaces, 116 of which would be in an underground garage.

Matteson Companies spokesperson John Baer could not be reached for comment.

Opposition

Although the council doesn't take action or set policies at study sessions, resident Morris Brown has already fired an e-mail to council members in opposition to the meeting.

Mr. Brown said council members should not hold a public meeting devoted to a particular project while the city is in the midst of a months-long campaign of soliciting residents' input on how to revitalize El Camino Real and the city's downtown area.

The next step in that process comes May 19, when the Planning Commission will review a rough plan to improve the aesthetics and

viability of El Camino Real and Santa Cruz Avenue.

"You have asked the community to participate in the formulation of a new vision for the El Camino and downtown areas," Mr. Brown said in his e-mail. "Now you are essentially doing an 'end run' by studying a project that would certainly affect the south end of that corridor."

The four-story project, which includes plans for buildings 59-feet high and has a ratio of 39 homes per acre, would require an amendment to the city's general plan and change to the current zoning. Current restrictions limit projects to 30 feet high and densities no greater than 18.5 units per acre along El Camino Real.

Council members Richard Cline, Andy Cohen and Heyward Robinson said last March that they would not consider making exceptions to the general

See **MATTESON**, page 27

City manager: Donor's identity would be disclosed when council OKs gym design

By Rory Brown

Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park has a tricky situation on its hands. Someone is offering the city \$8 million or more to build a new Burgess Gym, on the condition that he or she stays anonymous.

The city, short on funds to build the new gym, is trying to enter some type of agreement with the would-be donor before launching lengthy and costly city-funded environmental studies for the project.

But any contract between the donor and the city would be public information, and would reveal the donor's identity.

So what's the city to do?

City Manager Glen Rojas said the city is treading carefully, walking the fine line of protecting the donor's identity while staying

on solid legal ground.

"This is exciting to us, but it's new," he told The Almanac. "We're still trying to figure out how this can work ... but the No. 1 priority is protecting the city's interests."

Releasing the name

Mr. Rojas noted that the identity of the donor — which is known to City Council members and some staff, but being kept a secret from the public — could be released sooner than people expect.

He said the city staff report released April 24 incorrectly says that the donor would remain anonymous "until after the (gym) project has been completed." The donor's name would actually be released if and when the council votes to approve the donor's gym plans, he said — plans that include allowing the donor to choose the project contractor.

But the city would still keep the identity of the donor from the public during months of environmental review, under the timeline outlined by Mr. Rojas.

Council members, who unanimously supported the city staff's recommendation to move ahead with the donor's proposal to cover all but \$6.2 million of the building costs (estimated to be at least \$8 million), have expressed no reservations about keeping information from the public, or allowing the would-be donor to play a prominent role in the construction process.

"We don't have the money to fund all these promises," said Councilman Richard Cline, referring to the new gym and new recreation center the city has pledged to build. "We're talking about taking free money from the donor, and we have to respect his requests." ■

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Condo Responsibilities

Q: I live in a multi-story condo building and water recently poured into my unit from the unit upstairs. There is considerable damage, not to mention inconvenience. Who pays for repairs?

would be liable for the cost. Individual condo and townhouse owners should carry sufficient insurance to pay for liabilities not covered by general homeowners insurance.

If the damage was from a burst pipe that was located in the common wall or floor area, then the homeowners association might be responsible for repairs. The HOA would make a claim using the common insurance policy.

A: The answer depends on where the damage originated. If the water came from a source inside the upstairs unit, for example, an overflowing bathtub or sink, then the owner is responsible for repairing your unit, and would probably make a homeowners' insurance claim to cover the cost. If the damage was caused by the owner's negligence, the insurance company may decline to pay in which case the homeowner

If you live in a condominium or townhouse, you should be sure that the insurance coverage, both individual and group, is adequate for the kinds of damages that may occur. Living close to your neighbors can bring added risk.

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



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The City of Menlo Park invites qualified contractors to submit sealed bid proposals for the construction of the City's STREET RESURFACING PROJECT 2007-08. Work required as part of this project consists of, in general, resurfacing select city streets by means of (a) reconstruction, including a deep area grind of the full street width, removal and disposal of existing pavement, compaction of the road base, and installation of new asphalt concrete pavement; (b) applying an asphalt concrete overlay, including related work such as wedge cutting, repairing failed pavement sections by grinding and installing deep lift asphalt concrete, and installing reinforcing fabric where specified; or (c) applying a slurry seal, including related work such as repairing failed pavement sections. Other related work includes: adjusting manhole, valve, and monument covers, constructing Portland cement concrete curb and gutter, valley gutters, and curb ramps, installing traffic stripes, markings, and roadway reflectors, providing traffic control, street posting, and residential notification, and doing all appurtenant work in place and ready for use including all necessary labor, equipment, materials, transportation and disposal fees described in the scope of work as set forth in the contract documents. Performance of this work requires a valid California Contractor's License Class A. Project documents and copies of the required prevailing rate of wages can be obtained from the Menlo Park Engineering Division, located in the Administrative Building at 701 Laurel St. Sealed bid proposals will be received at the Engineering Division office up until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, JUNE 3, 2008, at which time they will be opened and publicly read. Additional information is available on the City's website:

www.menlopark.org/cip

Published in THE ALMANAC on May 7, 14 2008.

Sequoia high school district repudiates 'factory' analogy

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

The executive director of Summit Preparatory Charter High School, Diane Tavenner, citing societal and economic forces beyond educators' control, recently compared traditional American high schools to factories that channel a minority of students into top management and professional careers and ensure a literate majority for an effective workforce.

"Our schools do not fit her definition of a traditional American high school," said Gordon Lewin, a trustee of the Sequoia Union High School District, which includes Menlo-Atherton and Woodside high schools. "We have really

dynamic schools right now."

Mr. Lewin noted that eight years ago, district high schools did not have improvement goals, but that today each comprehensive high school does, as does each department in the school.

"There's a lot of good things that are going on in American public education in schools that are not charter schools," he said. Ms. Tavenner should not be impugning the reputation of public schools, he added. "We don't spend time talking about charter schools that have failed," he added.

"Our schools do a pretty darn good job," Sequoia board president Lorraine Rumley said. "Charter schools seem to educate a very small group of students in our district. We educate everyone

who comes through the door.

"I think we're doing very innovative and very progressive education. We really do try to meet the needs of the individual students."

Summit Prep, located in Redwood City, receives 3.5 applications for every seat in its annual enrollment lottery, and 96 percent of students in its senior class last year were accepted to four-year colleges, Ms. Tavenner said.

Summit, a public school, is sponsored by the Sequoia district. The district annually contributes about \$2.8 million to Summit's operating funds.

"We certainly applaud the work Diane's done," Mr. Lewin said. "Charter schools' structure allows people who are entrepreneurial to have opportunities." ■

Summit director to open new charter school

SUMMIT
continued from page 5

develop teachers who will build innovative schools and stay in the profession. The five-month-old institute is still "virtual" and won't have offices or staff until July 1, she says.

The institute could create incentive structures by arranging for Summit and Everest teachers to share their experience and earn extra income as consultants and "dramatically" increase their incomes, she says, adding: "We get calls all the time."

Rethinking teaching

Fifty percent of new teachers leave within five years, most because they're "frustrated and unhappy with working conditions," Reg Weaver, president of the National Education Association, said recently.

"We're really interested in helping to solve that problem," Ms. Tavenner says.

Teacher quality is the key to student achievement, according to a

2007 worldwide study commissioned and authored by McKinsey & Company, a global consulting firm.

The report's foreword warns traditional education systems of a world "indifferent to tradition and past reputations, unforgiving of frailty, and ignorant of custom or practice. Success will go to those individuals and countries which are swift to adapt, slow to complain and open to change."

Charter schools can be flexible since they are not bound by most state education code regulations and tend not to have to consider union contracts.

Flexibility was evident in Summit's response to cuts proposed for the 2008-09 state budget. School management and the entire faculty met nine times to talk about cuts.

What emerged was "a series of very thoughtful decisions made collectively and by consensus," Ms. Tavenner says. "We ended up with a solution that doesn't feel like cuts. It feels like enhancements."

OAK KNOLL
continued from page 5

off lane.

"We've been characterized as opponents to construction, and that couldn't be further from the truth," said Ram Duriseti, who lives on Oak Knoll Lane. "It's not about yes or no to development, but (about) what kind of development."

Another nearby resident, Rich Rollins, told the board that the project's environmental study, called a negative declaration,

should be revised and recirculated because of "serious judicial impacts if you proceed as recommended by your consultants."

The project's modifications are substantial and require more study according to the California Environmental Quality Act, Mr. Rollins said. However, Deputy County Counsel Tim Fox, who was at the meeting representing the school district, disagreed with Mr. Rollins' assessment.

Traffic flow

Traffic flow and parking

remained key areas of concern, particularly the exit from the planned drop-off lane. Currently, the school allows only a right turn out of its main parking lot on Oak Knoll Lane, but the plan calls for both right and left turns to be allowed.

"It may move the line (of cars) faster, but it will not make it safer for kids walking down the street," said Julie McGannon, a parent who lives on Oak Knoll Lane.

Superintendent Ken Ranella

See OAK KNOLL, page 27



This illustration is from "The Whole Green World," a book by Elisa Kleven, who will take part in the Children's Authors Salon.

Children, parents invited to authors salon in Menlo Park

Children will be able to visit with authors, illustrators and filmmakers at the Children's Authors Salon on Sunday, May 18, from 1 to 4:30 p.m. at Little House, 800 Middle Ave. in Menlo Park.

The event is sponsored by the Peninsula Volunteers in partnership with Books Inc., Rotary Club of Menlo Park Foundation, Target Store in Redwood City.

The nine authors, illustrators, and filmmakers will speak at various times during the afternoon and be available for book signing. Both adults and children are welcome at the free salon.

Those featured at the salon are:

■ Stephanie Bauer, artist and illustrator, known for her book illustrations for "Alligator Alphabet" and "Counting Cockatoos."

■ Jeanne DuPrau of Menlo Park is working on her fourth and final book in the City of Sparks series, "City of Embers," to be introduced in the fall of 2008.

■ Mark J. Gordon, author and filmmaker of "Her Majesty," a story set in New Zealand in 1953 about a young girl who realizes her lifelong dream when Queen Elizabeth comes to visit in her hometown.

■ Elissa Haden Guest,

author of the Iris and Walter series. She presents her books in different formats, depending on the age of the children in the audience.

■ Elisa Kleven, author and illustrator, "The Apple Doll."

Nine authors, illustrators, and filmmakers will speak at various times during the afternoon.

Ms. Kleven makes up characters and builds stories and environments around

them. She uses many media: watercolor, ink, colored, pencils, pastels, markers, crayons — anything that works.

■ David M. Schwartz — author of "Where in the Wild" and "How Much is a Million?" — writes about science, nature, math, cooking and people.

■ Ashley Wolff, illustrator of Miss Bindergarten series, talks to children and involves them in a participatory drawing exercise. Based on their ideas for characters and setting, she illustrate a story that extends over several pages.

■ Suzanne M. Williams, author of "The Inuit" and "Made in China," has traveled three times to the Canadian Arctic to work with Inuit people.

■ Caryn Yacowitz, author of "Native American" series. Geared to second-, third- and fourth-grade readers, the books are about Indian tribes, past and present. The books are illustrated with paintings by Native American artists.



Photo by Veronica Weber/The Almanac

New campus at Phillips Brooks

With some help from Kimberly Birn, left, Alvaro Cervantes hangs colorful butterfly decorations, made by first-graders, onto the new multi-purpose building at Phillips Brooks School on Avy Avenue in Menlo Park in advance of a May 9 celebration of the new campus. Student art, representing all grades, is on exhibit inside the building. A story on and photos of the new campus will appear in a future issue of The Almanac.

Draft vision of El Camino to be unveiled

By Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

■ MENLO WATCH

For months, a city-hired consultant has asked Menlo Park residents what changes they'd like to see along El Camino Real and in the city's downtown area.

Now it's the consultant's turn to show how those ideas could be incorporated into a plan to revitalize the areas.

At a special May 19 meeting of the Planning Commission, representatives from Berkeley-based Design Community & Environment will present a rough plan to improve the aesthetics and viability of the city's main thoroughfare and downtown area, said Dahlia Chazan, a DC&E associate. The meeting is set to start at 7 p.m. at Little House activity center at 800 Middle Ave. in Menlo Park.

Aspects of the rough plan include a new hotel and conference center along El Camino Real; housing, restaurants and a small park near the train station; and housing on Santa Cruz Avenue to generate more business

downtown. The plan also would limit the heights of buildings on the west side of El Camino Real to protect nearby neighborhoods, Ms. Chazan said.

She noted that DC&E is still looking for community input on the plan, specifically on how to add downtown parking, improve traffic circulation, and make it easier for cars, bicyclists and pedestrians to cross from one side of El Camino Real to the other.

Participants will discuss the draft vision in small groups, and will have the opportunity to comment to the commission. Planning commissioners will also weigh in on the plan, Ms. Chazan said.

The City Council is scheduled to discuss the draft vision on June 10.

Bike to work

Bike to Work Day is Thursday, May 15, and to encourage residents to use two wheels, instead of four, Menlo Park will set up four "ener-

gizer stations" around town with free treats for bicyclists.

The stations will have bananas, bagels, water, energy bars and bicycle accessories.

The stations will be at the Willow Place bike bridge, the San Mateo Drive bike bridge, the Ravenswood bike and pedestrian bridge, and the city's Caltrain station. The stations will be open from 7 to 9 a.m.

Kepler's gives to library

Belle Haven Library in Menlo Park is getting a \$2,200 donation from Kepler's Books and Magazines in Menlo Park.

The donation stems from the May 3 "Magic of Reading" event, organized by Kepler's, the Menlo Park Friends of the Library and local schools.

Kepler's donates a percentage of all sales from that day to the Belle Haven Library, and this year's donation is the largest in the event's 12-year history, said Susan Lider, a spokesperson for the bookstore. ■

The Almanac launches video ads

TheAlmanacOnline.com, the community news and information Web site of The Almanac, has launched online video advertising from local businesses.

The 30- to 60-second video ads will appear at the top right portion of all pages on TheAlmanacOnline.com. A link to the Web site of the business appears below the video.

The videos typically feature the owner or manager of the business and in some cases an employee or

customer. In addition, a second type of video ad will appear in a video business directory. Those ads will show service providers describing themselves and their business. The directory is aimed primarily at licensed professionals, such as chiropractors, attorneys, accountants, therapists and financial advisers.

The video ads are part of a continuing roll-out of new features on TheAlmanacOnline.com. Recently TheAlmanacOnline.com

launched a new Web site with real-estate information, including maps and pictures of local homes for sale, open houses, prior sales data, and virtual tours.

The new video ads are the result of six months of research and planning, including a collaboration with a dozen local businesses.

"We are immensely grateful to our test group of businesses," said Tom Gibboney, publisher of TheAlmanacOnline.com.



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY

The current plans for the new Town Center project include construction of tennis courts and an all sports court, to be completed this year. The Town Council will be discussing the current configuration of these courts in light of newly discovered site constraints, and the Council may consider modification or reduction in these recreational amenities. The discussion will take place at a regular meeting of the Town Council to be held on:

Wednesday, May 14, 2008
8:00 p.m.

The Historic Schoolhouse
765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA

The public is encouraged to attend.

Published in THE ALMANAC on May 7, 14, 2008.



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY 765 Portola Road Portola Valley, CA 94028

The Town Council for the Town of Portola Valley will consider entry into a new contract with GreenWaste Recovery, Inc., its current refuse collection and disposal service provider, at its regular meeting of:

Wednesday, May 14, 2008
8:00 p.m.

The Historic Schoolhouse
765 Portola Road
Portola Valley, CA

The proposed contract is available at Town Hall at the above address for anyone interested in reviewing its content.

For more information, please contact Janet McDougall at (650) 851-1700, ext. 18 or through e-mail at jmcdougall@portolavalley.net.

Published in THE ALMANAC on May 7, 14, 2008.

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MP Council OKs request for state funds for Derry project

By Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

Citing rising construction costs and subprime mortgage trends, the developers behind the proposed Derry condo-commercial project say they need state money to make sure the project is profitable.

The Menlo Park City Council is on board with that request.

Council members voted 5-0 on May 6 to co-sign an application by the San Mateo-based O'Brien Group asking for up to \$4.02 million from the state to help construct the 108-condo project planned for downtown Menlo Park.

The O'Brien Group is applying

for funds made available by the state's Housing and Community Development Department for multi-home projects near transit stations.

The estimated total cost of the project is \$34 million.

Co-signing the grant application with the developer doesn't cost the city anything, but the council's approval was required for the application to go forward.

The Derry project itself, planned for a 3.4-acre site bounded by El Camino Real, Oak Grove Avenue, Derry Lane, and the train tracks, still has to be approved by the council. Jim Pollart, spokesperson for the O'Brien Group, said he hopes the project will go before the council in June.

State officials are expected to evaluate the project and decide whether it would be profitable without state funds.

In addition to the one-, two-, and three-bedroom condos, the project includes plans for about 25,000 square feet of commercial space and a public plaza. ■



Youstra wins seat on PV school board

By Marjorie Mader
Almanac Staff Writer

Bill Youstra, an Internet product and media consultant, will take his seat on the governing board of the Portola Valley School District later this month after the elections office completes its canvas of votes in the May 6 all-mail election.

Semi-official results — unlikely to change — show Mr. Youstra with 784 votes or 53 percent of the 1,458 votes cast. Runner-up Dr. David Morris, a physician and researcher, received 666 votes or 46 percent. About 29 percent of the district's 4,994 registered voters participated in this special election.

Mr. Youstra was elected to complete the 18 months remaining in the term of Donna Carano, who resigned from the board Oct. 19. Since then, the board has conducted district business with only four members.

In December, the board attempted to appoint the fifth member but deadlocked 2-2 on the two candidates who

SCHOOLS

applied. The board then called the special election.

Superintendent Anne Campbell said Mr. Youstra will join the board most likely at its May 28 meeting after the school board certifies the results.

Both Mr. Youstra and Dr. Morris said they planned to be candidates in the November 2009 election to fill three seats: those of Mr. Youstra, Ray Villareal and Don Collat.

"I've enjoyed meeting Dave Morris and his wife, Annie," said Mr. Youstra. "I look forward to working with them through the years as our kids wind their way through the district."

Dr. Morris noted "the election was reasonably close in light of the fact I'm new to the district." The election was "run respectfully, and the district will be well



Bill Youstra

served," he said, adding that he will continue to be involved in school matters.

Mr. Youstra said it was "inspiring" to meet so many people interested in the schools — people with and without school kids.

These elections are useful, he said, as they provide a snapshot of the priorities of voters and parents. In addition to a solid education delivered by a corps of the best teachers with the most effective tools, the key priorities he heard were "differentiated" instruction keyed to differentiated learning styles of kids, and financial security to protect children from future budget volatility.

The Portola Valley district has 708 students in its two schools: Ormondale (grades K-3) and Corte Madera (grades 4-8). Both schools have received the California Distinguished School awards.

The next school board meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 28, in the Room 1001 of Corte Madera School, 4575 Alpine Road in Portola Valley. ■

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Dieter Bruno, M.D.
Urologist





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Measure O: Second try to pass 1/8-cent sales tax for parks

By Marion Softky

Almanac Staff Writer

The only countywide measure on the June ballot would put extra money into San Mateo County and city parks and recreation programs squeezed for years by hard economic times and tight budgets.

Measure O would enact a one-eighth-cent sales tax that would be divided among the county, its 20 cities, and three special districts. The new tax would raise the sales tax in San Mateo County from 8.25 percent to 8.375 percent for 25 years. It needs approval of two-thirds of the voters to pass.

The estimated \$16 million per year it would raise could be used for after-school and summer programs for kids and teens; overdue maintenance and upgrades to trails, recreation areas, and park facilities; repairing and upgrading playgrounds and playing fields; and preserving natural open space.

This is the second try for park supporters. In 2006, they suffered an agonizing defeat when an identical measure garnered approval of 55 percent of the



voters on a crowded ballot — a substantial majority, but far short of two-thirds.

The proposed tax would cost the average person \$18 per year, or \$1.50 per month, supporters say.

The \$16 million would be divided so that the county would get 42 percent; the cities, 52 percent; and three special districts, 6 percent.

In the South County, Menlo Park would get more than \$300,000 per year for parks, based on 2002 sales tax figures. Atherton, Woodside and Portola Valley would each get close to \$200,000 per year; the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District would get some \$630,000 a year; and the Ladera Recreation District would get over \$90,000. San Mateo County would get some \$6.3 million.

“When times get tough, what goes first? Parks,” said Supervisor Adrienne Tissier, president of the Board of Supervisors. “We need to get ahead of the curve.”

County Parks Director Dave Holland described the problems faced by the county. Eighteen park units totaling 16,000 acres have been under-funded by about 40 percent for at least five years, he said. This results in a maintenance backlog of \$112 million, and the ranger staff of 55 is short about 15 rangers. Park needs range from improved restrooms, to safer play equipment, to new trails.

“Measure O will close to double our budget,” Mr. Holland said. “We could meet our annual maintenance need, and reduce our backlog. It’s significant.”

Pros and cons

Supporters of Measure O stress the value of parks to communities and their quality of life; opponents focus on the new tax.

“Our parks really do need help,” said Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson. “A small percentage increase in taxes provides tremendous benefits. We need to make sure our parks are not only safe but desirable, and the cities can provide better activities.”

Supporters signing the ballot arguments for Measure O include: former state senator,



Bayfront Park is among local parks that could benefit from passage of the 1/8-cent sales tax for parks and recreation.

and now congresswoman, Jackie Speier; former sheriff Don Horsley; Lennie Roberts of the Committee for Green Foothills; Linda Asbury, CEO of the San Mateo Area Chamber of Commerce; and Memo Morantes, trustee of the San Mateo County Board of Education.

Opponents of Measure O stress the hardships of the

poorest people and the iniquity of increasing any taxes during hard times. They say the county is already wealthy, and county government inflated.

“A tax increase now is insane,” the argument says. “Why should we tax the poor to pay wealthy San Mateo County? Vote for those

See **MEASURE O**, page 15



Len Tillem, Esq.

Host of KGO's "Legaltalk"

Len Tillem & Associates

KGO's Len Tillem & Michael Gilfix

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

2:30-4:30 pm or 6:30-8:30 pm



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The following are issues about which I believe you should know the facts.

-Elizabeth Lewis



Dear Atherton Residents,

Fiscal Accountability and Responsibility: My opponent says that he wants to “keep up the financial progress of the past six years.” But the next Councilmember needs to be aware of what the financial situation looks like down the road as well as look back to see if the financial footing is indeed solid. That is what I have done, and here is what I have found:

Fact: Revenue has exceeded projections due to increased assessment of property values, property taxes and building department permits, fees, and business licenses.

Fact: Town recently benefited from a substantial rebate from the State for over-withheld property tax revenue from the 1990’s.

Fact: There is approximately \$200,000 in Business License fees that must be refunded, and more than \$800,000 that should be allocated to the Building Department to relocate from their temporary trailers.

Fact: Reserve Fund will very shortly be reduced by more than \$1,000,000 to correct these errors.

Frivolous Lawsuits: My opponent has a record of supporting wasteful lawsuits:

Fact: Lawsuit Against Sequoia Union School District cost Atherton \$58,000 in legal fees. My opponent states in the Almanac “the Town had no choice” but to sue the District. The Editor of the Almanac in 2006 said, “It is a shame that the Council allowed this “NIMBY” lawsuit to proceed.

Fact: Lawsuit Against Property Rights regarding a resident wishing to relocate two urns from one property to another property in Atherton. My opponent supported the Lindenwood Homes Association’s appeal of the Planning Commission’s permission to allow the resident to relocate the urns under the Heritage Artifact Ordinance regulations. This resulted in a lawsuit costing the Town over \$200,000 in legal fees. A Superior Court Judge chastised the Town saying it acted “capriciously” and should pay a portion of the resident’s legal fees.

Field Usage: I support organized youth sports activities and their ability to use M/A’s fields:

Fact: My opponent has confronted young football players during practice telling them to vacate the fields, and his supporters have used intimidating behavior to prevent these youths from using the public fields.

As a General Plan Committee member since 2006 I have made balanced decisions:

- I supported limits on construction time and a construction operation plan (COP) for job sites to help minimize the impact of new home construction.
- I voted for the implementation of Green Building guidelines to help preserve our environment.
- I voted to overturn the 2002 decision to prohibit basements under accessory structures.
- I voted against the controversial Historic Artifact Ordinance and suggested that a non-profit, volunteer foundation be established. I lost this vote and consequently the Town is in a costly lawsuit.

It is clear that Atherton needs new leadership– I am running to change the tone of local politics. I have the experience, demeanor and breadth of knowledge necessary to bring a voice of reason and change to the Town Council.

To learn more about me, log onto my website: www.elizabeth2008.com.

Fact: My opponent does not have a website. Voters should know that my opponent would be “more of the same.”

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Lewis

Elizabeth Lewis
Candidate Atherton City Council

for more information visit www.elizabeth2008.com



HEALTHCARE TOMORROW
• SPEAKER SERIES •

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Stanford University Medical Center invites you to join us for a public forum on the state of Emergency Medicine nationwide and how emergency preparedness and rapid response affect our community. Learn about the latest trends in Emergency Medicine, what it means to be a Level-1 trauma center, and how the plans underway to rebuild and modernize our hospitals will help us continue to be here when you need us most.

The forum will feature leading physicians from Stanford Hospital & Clinics who specialize in Emergency Medicine.

Thursday, May 22, 2008

6:00 – 7:30 pm

Palo Alto Art Center

1313 Newell Road

Palo Alto

Light refreshments will be served.

For more information, please visit our website at:

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HEALTHCARE TOMORROW is a speaker series presented by the Stanford University Medical Center Renewal Project discussing topics ranging from Sustainability and Modern Hospital Design to the Future of Emergency Medicine.



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**Paul S. Auerbach, MD, MS,
FACEP, FAWM**

Clinical Professor of Surgery,
Division of Emergency Medicine,
Stanford Hospital & Clinics

Robert L. Norris, MD, FACEP

Division Chief, Emergency Medicine;
Associate Professor,
Stanford Hospital & Clinics

MODERATOR

Shelley Hébert

Executive Director for Public Affairs,
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June 3: It's time to vote, again

■ June ballot features mainly incumbents and three major ballot measures.

By Marion Soft ky
Almanac Staff Writer

Welcome to the second of the three elections in 2008. With the excitement of California's Presidential Primary well behind, California voters in the June 3 primary will fill out the ticket for the November ballot.

On a relatively short ballot, voters in South San Mateo County will help select party candidates for Congress, the state Senate, and state Assembly; weigh in on three San Mateo County supervisors, one judge, and some party central committee members; and vote on two state and one local ballot measures.

Absentee voting started May 5, before some South County residents received their ballot information pamphlets. More than one-third of San Mateo County's 358,960 registered voters have signed up to vote by mail, according to Chief Elec-



tions Officer Warren Slocum.

Legislative candidates

Three incumbents face no opposition within their own party for the 14th Congressional District, the 11th state Senate district, and the 21st Assembly district.

Veteran Democratic Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, D-Menlo Park, however will face three opponents in November: the three candidates running unopposed in their party primaries. They are Republican real estate agent Ronny Santana; Green Party candidate Carol Brouillet, a nonprofit director and activist; and Libertarian Brian Holtz, an engineer and author.

State Sen. Joe Simitian, a Democrat from Palo Alto, will face Republican Blair Nathan in November.

Assemblyman Ira Ruskin of Redwood City will face

Republican financial consultant Annalisa Yenne of Menlo Park in November.

Supervisors

Three county supervisors — Adrienne Tissier of Daly City, Mark Church of Millbrae, and Rose Jacobs Gibson of East Palo Alto — are running for another four-year term, which will start in January 2009. Supervisors Church and Jacobs Gibson face challengers; Supervisor Tissier, this year's president of the board, is running unopposed.

San Mateo County is one of the few counties in California where supervisors must live in a district but run at large. So all county voters vote on each supervisorial contest.

Ms. Jacobs Gibson, who is running for a third and final term, is facing a challenge from fellow East Palo Alto, John Bostic, a retired community college administrator who has served on the East Palo Alto City Council and is now a board member of the Ravenswood School District.

Ms. Jacobs Gibson, the first

See **TIME TO VOTE**, page 26

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW

Polling places will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, June 3.

People wanting an absentee ballot can submit the form on the back of their Sample Ballot and Voter Information Pamphlet they received from the San Mateo County elections office. These are also available in Spanish or Chinese. The application must be received by the elections office no later than May 27.

Voters can cast their ballots in person at two Universal Voting Centers, located at 40 Tower Road in San Mateo, or 555 County Center in Redwood City. They can choose between paper and electronic ballot, according to Chief Elections Officer Warren Slocum.

The last day to register to vote in the June 3 election is Monday, May 19. Registration forms are available in public libraries, county and city offices, U.S. post offices, and online at shapethefuture.org.

For more information, call the county elections office at 312-5222; or go to shapethefuture.org.

Other sites with election information are the California election site at sos.ca.gov/elections and or the League of Women Voters site, smartvoter.org.

MEASURE O

continued from page 12

hardest hit in these tough times."

Opponents signing the ballot arguments include: Don Pettengill, treasurer of Coastside Citizens for Good Govern-

ment; Christopher Schmidt, secretary of the Libertarian Party of San Mateo County; Jack Hickey, member of the Sequoia Healthcare District board; Kennita Watson, retired quality engineer; and Brian Perry, editor. ■

PARTIAL LIST OF JIM DOBBIE'S ENDORSERS ✓

- | | | | |
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Past Chairman
Holbrook Palmer
Park Foundation | Patrick Goodenough
Pam Goodenough
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Martha Woolomes
Paul Wythes
Marcia Wythes
Richard Zukin
Jean Zukin |



JIM DOBBIE Atherton Council

VOTE FOR JIM DOBBIE ON JUNE 3

JIM is focused on the most important and complex issues facing Atherton. Here's where Jim stands:

ISSUES	JIM'S POSITION
CONSTRUCTION	Residents' Rights Over Builder-Developer Profit\$
COMMUNICATION TO RESIDENTS	Improve and Increase
TOWN GOVERNANCE	Closer Council Oversight of Town Management
TOWN FINANCES	Continue Improvement since 2002
LITIGATION	Only When Absolutely Essential
DRAINAGE	Retain as Much as Possible on Site: Channel Overflow into an Improved Atherton Drainage System
SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS	Town Manager and School Superintendent to Negotiate Terms and Settlement
MENLO PARK FIRE DISTRICT	Continued and Improved Collaboration and Cooperation
HIGH SPEED RAIL	Very Few Benefits for Athertonians at Enormous Cost



JIM DOBBIE has the business management and financial experience, love of Atherton, familiarity with Town activities and in-depth understanding of the issues to ensure that Atherton's quality of life is enjoyed now and preserved for future generations.

JIM DOBBIE
is qualified, objective, involved
and accessible.

JIM DOBBIE ATHERTON COUNCIL

VOTE FOR JIM DOBBIE ON JUNE 3

jim_dobbie@yahoo.com

Endorsed by The Almanac

Stanford Hospital Health Notes

A community health education series from Stanford Hospital & Clinics



Tom Chivington, an avid fisherman, prepares his line.

Help When You Need it Most: Surviving a Stroke

It Can Happen to Anybody

Tom Chivington and his wife Georgie were the picture of excellent health. “I’ve always been very healthy and in shape. My vocation was as a men’s tennis coach at Foothill College,” says Tom. “We ski, we go to the gym. I jog, ride bicycles, all of it. I wasn’t a candidate. I had a very good cholesterol count, very normal blood pressure, not high at all. I guess what I’m saying is—it can happen to anybody.”

Frequent travelers and avid sports enthusiasts, the couple had been taking advantage of their retirement years with time spent in Molokai, Tahoe, Burma and elsewhere. One day in January 2005, Tom was alone at the couple’s Woodside home. “I was downstairs at a file cabinet and had some dizziness,” Tom recalls. “I couldn’t walk and my balance was off; I just felt uncoordinated. So I called 911. I knew to do that because a week before I’d had a minor incident, a TIA.”

A TIA, or transient ischemic attack, is caused by a temporary interruption in the blood supply to the brain. These “mini-strokes” are accompanied by the same symptoms as a stroke—sudden dizziness, numbness or lack of coordination. The symptoms occur rapidly and last a relatively short time, usually from a few minutes to several hours, always with complete recovery within 24 hours. Even though the symptoms do not last, TIAs can be a warning sign for an impending stroke and should be evaluated on an urgent basis.

“I’ve always been very healthy and in shape. I wasn’t a candidate. I had a very good cholesterol count, very normal blood pressure. It can happen to anybody.”

“Urgent evaluation of TIA symptoms is extremely important. It is estimated that 20% of patients suffering a TIA will go on to have a stroke within 90 days, and one half of those will have a stroke within the first 24-48 hours,” explains Connie Wolford, TIA Nurse Coordinator for the Stroke Center at Stanford Hospital. “A timely and complete medical evaluation of a TIA provides an opportunity to identify the cause of the interruption in blood flow and initiate treatments before a debilitating or fatal stroke occurs.”

Is It a Stroke?

A stroke (also called a cerebrovascular accident or CVA) occurs when blood vessels carrying oxygen and other nutrients to a specific part of the brain suddenly burst or become blocked. When blood fails to get through to the affected parts of the brain, the oxygen supply is cut off, and brain cells begin to die. Blood supply to the brain is very important. Brain cells must have a continuous supply of oxygen and other nutrients from the blood in order to function. When the blood supply is disrupted, a stroke results. Clinicians at Stanford Hospital’s Stroke Center are working to reduce the long-term affects of stroke.

The Stanford Stroke Center’s TIA Clinic is one of the newest lines of defense for people at risk for stroke. Officially established in 2006, the TIA Clinic has

developed an innovative approach to patient assessment and treatment that provides personalized care for TIA patients judged to be at low risk for an imminent stroke. Patients arriving at the Stanford Hospital Emergency Room with symptoms of TIA or stroke receive an initial assessment by a Stroke Center physician. Approximately 60% of TIA patients can now avoid hospitalization and have urgent follow-up care provided in the TIA Clinic. “Being treated at our Emergency Room for a stroke can make the difference between full recovery and permanent disability,” says SHC President and CEO Martha Marsh.

Knowing the Signs

Tom’s knowledge of the warning signs of stroke quite possibly saved his life—and his swift action increased his chances of recovery. Signs of a stroke include sudden weakness, numbness or paralysis of the face, arm or leg (especially on one side of the body); sudden difficulty talking or understanding others; sudden loss of vision; sudden, severe headache with no apparent cause or unexplained dizziness, loss of balance or coordination.

Unfortunately, patients often do not seek help for a day or more after the first symptoms appear. By that time, it is usually too late for treatments to be effective. Recognizing and responding to the warning signs of stroke—as soon as they appear—offers the best chance for an optimal recovery.

Timing Is Everything

Every second the brain survives without blood flow, damage is occurring. When paramedics arrived at Tom’s house, they began treating him right away. Calling an ambulance, rather than having someone close by take him to the hospital, also saved precious time when Tom arrived at the Stanford Hospital Emergency Department.

“They called me at the gym down in Menlo Park, so I actually got there before he did,” says Georgie Chivington, who was not at home when her husband first experienced stroke symptoms. “Dr. Albers and the team were there already, waiting for him. He actually had the stroke in the hospital.”

“Tom and Georgie did what we wish everyone who experiences stroke symptoms would do—they called 911,” says Dr. Greg Albers, the Director of the Stanford Stroke Center. “Tom received clot-busting medication in the emergency room followed by additional therapy administered by a catheter directly into the blood clot that was causing his stroke. Tom’s stroke was one of the most dangerous types and very difficult to treat; he had a clot blocking the blood flow to his brainstem.”

“I had the major part of it in the hospital,” says Tom. “I had all these symptoms. At first, you just have dizziness, something that maybe if you weren’t really aware you would wait and wait and wait. Then all of a sudden I got into the emergency room and I started experiencing the double vision and



Nurses from the Stroke Center review x-rays. (From left to right) Stephanie Kemp, JJ Bauman and Connie Wolford.

Did You Know...

- The Stanford Stroke Center has provided care for more than 15,000 patients with cerebrovascular disorders
- More than 750,000 strokes occur in the United States each year; as our population ages, it is estimated that the number of strokes will increase substantially over the next decade
- The current window of opportunity for treating most stroke patients is only three hours, which severely limits the number of patients who can be effectively treated

What to Do in a Stroke

- FACE:** Ask the person to smile—does one side of the face droop?
- ARMS:** Ask the person to raise both arms—does one arm drift downward?
- SPEECH:** Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence—are the words slurred?
- TIME:** If the person shows any of these symptoms, time is important—Call 911

We’re Here When You Need Us Most

When a person suffers an acute heart attack or stroke, proximity to a highly trained and capable ED staff can mean the difference between life or death, full recovery or permanent disability. The Stanford Hospital Emergency Department:

- Sees nearly 40,000 patients each year
- Is the region’s only designated Level 1 Trauma Center, a distinction indicating that the Stanford ED has all the capabilities to handle any trauma patient, no matter how severely injured

The Stanford ED is an integral part of the Emergency Cardiac Care and Stroke services offered by Stanford Hospital & Clinics, providing immediate access to specialists who are always ready to quickly intervene. We’re here when you need us most.

the slurred speech and the paralysis started to set in. The paralysis started on my left side and then went to the right side.”

“We were so lucky that we were here and had access to the best care.”

were off the southern coast of Burma. How lucky can you get? We feel so good that we’re close to Stanford and the Stroke Center there.”

“The fact that he arrived early and the stroke progressed while he was already in the hospital allowed us to use treatments that would not have been safe to employ if he had not arrived so quickly,” agrees Dr. Albers.



Since recovering from his stroke, Tom is able to hit tennis balls with his old colleagues at Foothill College.

Treatment and Recovery

The Stanford Stroke Center is one of the first comprehensive, multidisciplinary centers of its kind. Established in 1992 to develop new approaches to diagnose and treat stroke, the Stroke Center is comprised of neurologists, neurosurgeons, neuroradiologists, nurse specialists, basic scientists, and clinical researchers. The

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

special feature

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Stanford University Medical Center invites you to join us for a public forum on the state of Emergency Medicine nationwide and how emergency preparedness and rapid response affect our community. Learn about the latest trends in Emergency Medicine, what it means to be a Level-1 trauma center, and how the plans underway to rebuild and modernize our hospitals will help us continue to be here when you need us most.

The forum will feature leading physicians from Stanford Hospital & Clinics who specialize in Emergency Medicine.

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Clinical Professor of Surgery,
Division of Emergency Medicine,
Stanford Hospital & Clinics

Robert L. Norris, MD, FACEP
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Stanford Hospital & Clinics

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Stanford Stroke Center team works to significantly improve the chances that a patient can prevent, or recover optimally, from a stroke. They work closely with the occupational therapists at Stanford Hospital to provide full rehabilitation services to stroke survivors.

“The best thing that Greg Albers ever did for me, was what he told me. Not long after the stroke, he leaned down and said to me ‘you know, you can recover from this.’ And at that point I was wondering if I ever could,” says Tom. “There’s more to it than the physical care, which is outstanding, obviously. Hope was given and that made a tremendous difference.”

“I do everything I want to do, and you probably wouldn’t ever tell I had a stroke. Having a positive attitude is a real key.”

It took a year for Tom to fully recover from his stroke. With the dark days behind him, he and Georgie have gotten back to life as usual, resuming their travel schedule and staying active. An avid fisherman, Tom is able to take his boat out again. “I know how lucky I am, to have fully recovered,” Tom admits with a smile. “I do everything I want to do, and you probably wouldn’t ever tell I had a stroke. Having a positive attitude is a real key.”



Georgie and Tom plan their next vacation to Egypt.



“ When I first found out [I had mitochondrial myopathy], I kind of felt like, ‘Why is this happening to me and not anyone else? But now, with swimming, I fell in love with the sport and I can see why this happened to me.’ ”

Swimming to China

JOE WISE, 14, QUALIFIES FOR THE U.S. PARALYMPICS SWIM TEAM

By Colin Becht
Special to The Almanac

Last year, Joe Wise placed fourth in the Parapan American Games in Rio de Janeiro in the 400-meter freestyle, and as a freshman earned a spot on the Sacred Heart Prep varsity swimming team.

Oh yeah, and he has mitochondrial myopathy, a form of muscular dystrophy that leaves Wise with only 30 percent lung capacity.

Wise, 14 and a resident of Menlo Park, qualified for the United States Paralympic swim team in the 400-meter freestyle at swim trials in Minneapolis on April 5.

In September, he and the rest of the 38-member team will travel to Beijing, China, to compete in the 2009 Paralympic Games. Held in the same year and venues as the Olympics, the Paralympics are for elite female and male athletes in various disability groups.

In addition to qualifying for the U.S. Paralympic team, Wise won gold medals in the 200-meter backstroke, the 200-meter individual medley, and the 400-meter freestyle at the Minneapolis trials. In that last event, he set the U.S. record with a time of 4 minutes and 24.92 seconds, the sixth best in the world for all ages in his disability group.

However, he is not completely satisfied with being sixth in the world. In Beijing, he says, “I just want to do my best and drop down my world ranking to maybe fourth or fifth.”

Given that the Paralympics are not until September, he says: “I’m excited right now. I’ll probably be a little nervous when the day rolls around for my race. But I think once I get in the pool, hopefully I’ll be fine and make the finals.”

It’s “an honor,” he says, being the youngest on the team of 38 representing the United States in the Paralympics.

Wise is classified in the Paralympics as an S10 athlete out of 10 levels of physical disability, with 10 as the least disabled.

Nevertheless, Wise’s disease, mitochondrial myopathy, causes severe muscle weakness and wasting, preventing him from running and occasionally confining him to a wheelchair.

“It was pretty shocking for my husband and I to have him diagnosed with [mitochondrial myopathy],” says Wise’s mother, Marie Wise.

However, she says, exercise actually helps the mitochondria in Joe’s cells function more effectively. “By swimming everyday, he actually feels better when he comes out of the pool. He may be tired going in, but he feels better coming out.”

According to Wise’s physicians, swimming has extended his life.

Before he was diagnosed at age 9, he “was in love with baseball,” he says. “But after the doctor said I couldn’t run, I still wanted to stay active and in sports activities, so I fell back on swimming.”

Before his diagnosis, he swam, but “it was against my will,” he says. “My mom wanted me to swim because of my allergies.”

Far removed from when swimming was a demand from his mom, it has now become his passion.

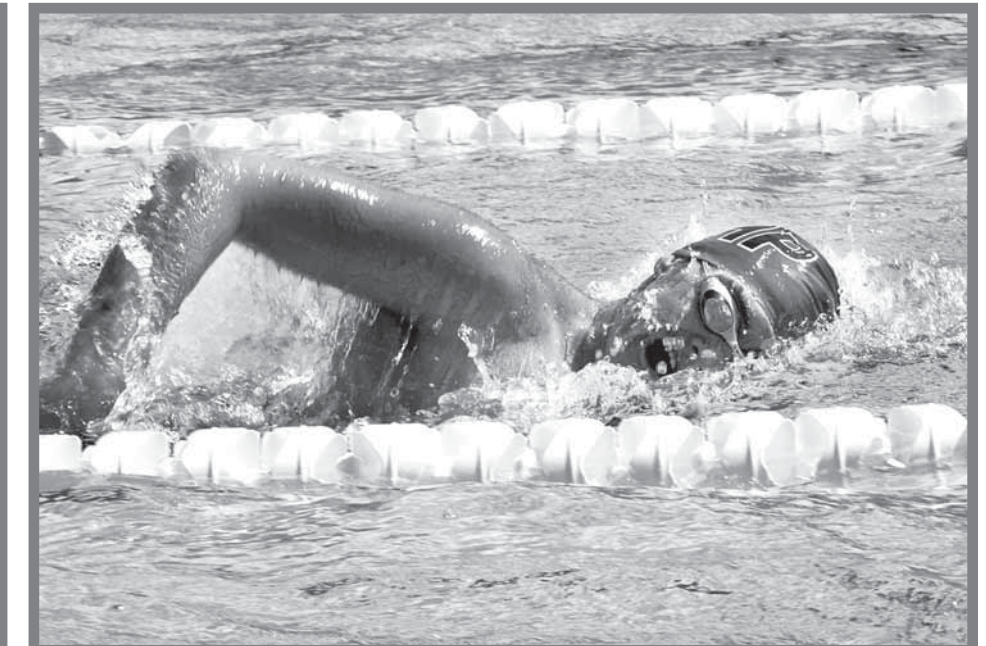
In addition to being on of the Sacred Heart Preparatory varsity swim team, he’s a member of the Palo Alto Stanford Aquatics Swim Team — despite competing against others with 70 percent better lung capacity. “There’s a lot of great non-disabled athletes, so for me it’s just an honor competing against them,” he says.

“When I first found out [I had mitochondrial myopathy], I kind of felt like, ‘Why is this happening to me and not anyone else?’” he says. “But now, with swimming, I fell in love with the sport and I can see why this happened to me.” ■



Joe Wise of Menlo Park checks the scoreboard during the West Catholic Athletic League boys swim trials at St. Francis High School in Mountain View on May 8.

Wise’s disease, mitochondrial myopathy, causes severe muscle weakness and wasting, preventing him from running and occasionally confining him to a wheelchair.



Photos by Veronica Weber/The Almanac



Top, left: Joe Wise adjusts his cap before beginning his warm-up laps at the West Catholic Athletic League trials in Mountain View on May 8.

Top, right: Wise competes in a freestyle competition at the WCAL trials. (At the Paralympic trials in Minneapolis in April, he set the U.S. record in the 400-meter freestyle for all ages in his disability group.)

Bottom, left: Wise (foreground) lies down to relax with his iPod while breathing through a ventilator in between races at the Mountain View swim meet. Wise, who has mitochondrial myopathy, a form of muscular dystrophy, lives with only 30 percent of his lung capacity.

Bottom, right: Wise gets ready for his first race, the 200-meter freestyle at the St. Francis High School event.

Rash of auto burglaries triggers police alert

A "significant increase" in auto burglaries, thefts and vandalism has triggered an alert from the Menlo Park Police Department.

The crimes occurred throughout Menlo Park, although there has been a high concentration in the area west of El Camino Real, said Nicole Acker, the department's public information officer.

She reminded drivers to lock their cars and not leave anything of value in the car. "Please be aware of your surroundings and

report anything suspicious," she said in an e-mail alert.

The non-emergency police department telephone number is 330-6300.

Firefighters control blaze at MP home

A fire at a Menlo Park home caused more than \$100,000 in damage May 6, according to the Menlo Park Fire Protection District.

Firefighters were dispatched just after 5 p.m. to a single-family residence at 1311 Hobart St.

The blaze was kept from spreading beyond the kitchen where it began, but smoke and heat damaged the rest of the home, said officials.

Investigators determined the cause of the fire was accidental: a purse was left on top of a stove that had been left on.

There were no reported injuries to residents or firefighters.

Prison ahead for shooter in MP gang-related attack

A San Mateo County jury deliberated for four hours on May 7 before convicting Manuel Enraine Moreno of premeditated attempted murder in a March 2007 gang-related shooting of a teen pedestrian in Menlo Park.

The victim, who was not identified because he was a juvenile, spent a week in a hospital and survived his injuries — two shots in the back and three in

the legs, said Chief Deputy District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe.

Mr. Moreno, 27, an East Palo Alto resident who was also convicted of discharging a semi-automatic handgun resulting in great bodily injury, could be sentenced to 100 years to life in state prison, said Mr. Wagstaffe.

The shooting was an unprovoked attack done "just to execute a hit" on a member of an opposing gang, Mr. Wagstaffe said in a May 8 report.

Mr. Moreno remains in custody on a no-bail status. He rejected a plea bargain that would have guaranteed a prison stay of 14 years, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

A sentencing hearing is set for 9 a.m. July 11 at Superior Court in Redwood City.

She really wants her scooter back

Gail Sredanovic of Menlo Park is lost without her mobility scooter. It was taken Saturday, April 26, from the parking lot near the Las Lomitas Elementary School District office on Altschul Avenue.

Gail, a disabled senior, parked the scooter in the lot while playing with her dog, Tara. She says she really needs the scooter to get around and is offering a reward. If a student finds the scooter, she asks them to tell their teacher or, otherwise, call her at 854-0344.

"I don't want to punish anybody," says Gail. "I just want my scooter back."



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Tom LeMieux
Coldwell Banker San Francisco
Peninsula #2 Agent, 2007



■ BIRTHS

Atherton

- Elizabeth and John Balena, a son, April 10, at Sequoia Hospital.
- Meegan and Marc Ferrari, a son, April 21, at Sequoia Hospital.
- Carolyn and Ben Carpenter, a daughter, May 1, at Sequoia Hospital.

Menlo Park

- Fiona and David Walker, a daughter, May 1, at Sequoia Hospital.

Woodside

- Stella and Scott Kister, a daughter, April 10, at Sequoia Hospital.
- Carey Gibson and Gregory Carrier, a son, April 19, at Sequoia Hospital.

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The Almanac

Tennis courts, old oak tree, buried creek return to council agenda

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

■ PORTOLA VALLEY

The design of the new complex at Portola Valley Town Center had originally settled on two dedicated tennis courts and one mixed-use court, called a sport court, that can be striped for basketball and various racquet sports.

Now that it's time to build them, town officials have learned that the canopy of a large heritage oak could interfere with play on one court, and that the original plan for three full-sized courts may be a threat to the tree's health.

The Town Council, at a May 14 meeting that begins at 8 p.m. in the Historic Schoolhouse, will consider the original plan and three alternatives: the original layout but with one tennis court

offset to avoid the tree; one sport court, one tennis court and one "half court;" or that layout but without the half court.

The council is also set to reconsider its April 9 vote that authorized trimming and bolstering a diseased but charming oak tree that shades the home-team dugout at Ford Field, a tree that six arborists had independently agreed was in danger of falling over.

Mayor Maryann Derwin said that she decided to revisit the matter in part because at least one arborist could not guarantee that a trimmed and supported tree, if it were to fall, would not cause injuries.

The town is "assuming potential liability," Planning Manager

Leslie Lambert said in a staff memo to the council.

Also on the agenda: the opening up of part of Sausal Creek to the air at Town Center and how to proceed with Phase 2 of the project, for which there is, as yet, not enough funding to finish the job.

The creek daylighting, like the overall complex, is being financed with private donations, but in a separate fundraising

campaign. The latest estimate puts the cost at \$1.4 million; project advocates have \$664,100 so far in gifts and pledges and say they are seeking \$280,000 in grant money. A matching donation program could raise another \$400,000.

Phase 1 is funded and includes doing the initial grading for the creek bed, building three concrete supporting walls, and

installing a vehicular bridge.

Phase 2 includes constructing the creek bed, stabilizing it with native vegetation, opening the creek to flow in its new bed, and installing a pedestrian bridge, landscaping and irrigation.

Town staff recommends that the council either approve Phase 2 for this year or delay it until next year, which could add \$120,000 to the cost. ■

Creek cleanup Saturday, with kayaks

What better way to celebrate National Rivers Cleanup Day than to clear litter from San Francisquito and Adobe creeks on Saturday, May 17, from 9 a.m. until noon.

In a new wrinkle on cleanup, the Watershed Council


wants people with kayaks. They can help clean up the mess that's accumulated along Adobe Creek, somewhat to the south of San Francisquito.

Creek helpers — on foot or with boats — will meet Saturday, May 17, at 9 a.m. at the cor-

ner of Woodland and Manhattan avenues in Palo Alto. Kids are welcome, accompanied by parent or guardian with waiver.

For information call Ryan Navratil at 961-1035, ext. 310; or go to sanfrancisquito.org or cleanacreek.org.


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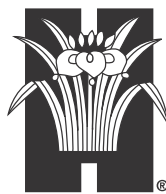
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PV parents in uproar over possible cancellation of Yosemite field trip

By Marjorie Mader
Almanac Staff Writer

Word that Corte Madera School's seventh-grade field trip to Yosemite next fall might be cancelled unleashed a barrage of parent e-mails, phone calls to trustees, and a delegation to the May 7 school board meeting.

"Not too many things in the school district get such strong reactions," said Trustee Steve Humphreys.

Board President Ray Villareal said he was surprised that this issue had come up after the board's lengthy discussion of field trips two years ago. The board agreed then on three field trips: the fourth grade's Gold County trip, the Yosemite trip for seventh grade, and the eighth-grade trip to Washington, D.C.

Principal Joel Willen said the Corte Madera staff has decided the seventh-grade field trip will not occur during the 2008-09 school year. He said the teachers had expressed concern that

the trip is not aligned with the seventh-grade curriculum standards. Teachers, he said, also believe their efforts would be better directed by having their students in school.

The superintendent's recommendation was to approve the fourth- and eighth-grade trips, which was done, but discuss the seventh-grade trip.

Several trustees said their backs were up against the wall. The \$8,000 deposit for the Yosemite trip was due the next day and if not paid, the school would lose its time slot at Yosemite.

After more discussion, the board decided to buy time by sending the deposit to save the space. The deposit is not refundable, but Trustee Villareal said they could possibly "sublet the space" if they do not make the trip.

This action, trustees said, would provide time to talk further with staff, learn reasons for stopping the trip, look at other options such as making it a sixth-grade trip, and involve the parent community. ■

Seniors can get parcel-tax exemption

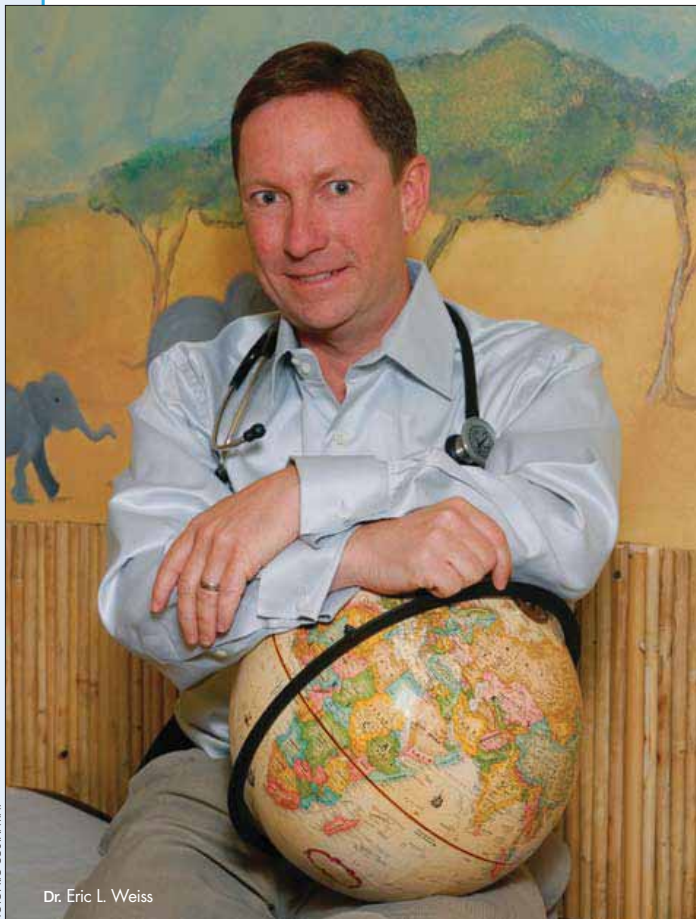
People who are 65 years or older and reside on their property in the Las Lomas School District may apply until June 2 for an exemption to the district's \$311 annual parcel tax.

The exemption was part of the parcel-tax proposal voters approved in March 2007. School officials say the tax generates money to help maintain small classes and support educational technology and other programs at the district's two schools: Las Lomas (grades K-3) in Atherton, and La Entrada (grades 4-8) in Menlo Park.

To qualify for the 2008-09

exemption, people must be 65 years or older as of July 1, 2008, and must live on the property for which they request an exemption.

To receive an application for the exemption, call the Las Lomas School District office at 854-6311.



Dr. Eric L. Weiss



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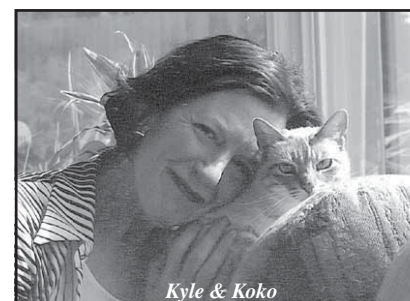
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St. Raymond ends dream season with alumni game

Two of the most-successful basketball teams in St. Raymond School's history came together recently for a spirited, action-packed alumni game.

Returning alumni, including top scorers Wes Hagman and Colin Terndrup, topped the eighth-grade boys, 50-42, with Matthew McNamara, Duke Moran and Luke Quinton leading the eighth-grade team in both scoring and rebounds.

The game, played before a packed gymnasium of cheering families and students, took on new meaning this year, given the impressive records of both teams.

The eighth-grade team, coached by Bob McNamara and Les Dewitt, has been league and division champs for the past three years. Meanwhile, alumni

coaches Mark Pitchford, Vince Sakowski and Chris Terndrup returned with players from the Class of 2007. These players were undefeated at St. Raymond for a spectacular four-year run.

The game also featured a little sibling rivalry. Alumni players Charlie Moran and Patrick McNamara, who are now freshman at Sacred Heart Prep, squared off against their eighth-grade brothers, Duke Moran and Matthew McNamara.

"It was a close game, but both teams won the hearts of the St. Raymond fans," said Sr. Ann Bernard, principal of the K-8 elementary school.

Story from Tricia Mansur, a parent and a member of the St. Raymond Athletic Advisor Board.



Photo by Marjorie Mader/The Almanac

Laurels for Laurel

Principal Nancy Hendry and her team gave kudos to the kids at Laurel School in Atherton for their important role in the K-2 school's winning the California Distinguished Schools award. The 500-some students gathered on the lawn May 9 for the assembly geared to them — very short speeches, lots of singing and popcorn for all.

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Atherton Garden Guild holds spring show

The Atherton Garden Guild held its 19th spring flower show May 7 at the home of Kathy and Michael Ladra in Atherton. Prize-winning flower arrangements were on display throughout the Ladra's home.

All 45 active members of the guild and six junior exhibitors took part in the show.

Exhibits included flower design, horticulture, a junior exhibit, and educational special exhibits.

Top honors in flower design went to Joan Sanders who won the Designer's Choice Award and Karlene Elder who won the Tri-Color Award.

The show chairmen were Shirley Carlson, Lynne Hepberger, Darlene Shaheen and Julie Davis.

Nancy Butler and Jane Crocker coordinated floral entries. Horticultural entries were organized by Suzanne Legallet, Betty Ogawa, Jean Willis, Esther Eitel, and Sonia McClellan. Joan Sanders and Marguerite Johnson created the educational exhibit featuring succulents. Junior exhibitors from Sacred Heart Preparatory were coordinated by Montye Rodgers.



Joan Sanders wins the Designer's Choice Award.

Members of the refreshment committee were Betty Weinstock, Patti Cavender, Nancy Faisant, Marcia Rehms, Margaret London and Linda Larson.

The flower show program featured original art work of the

Eiffel Tower and blooming cherry blossoms by Nancy Faisant.

The Atherton Garden Guild was founded in 1966. Its president is Kathy Schubin. Proceeds from the show benefit Atherton and the surrounding community.

Corte Madera children's art at Allegro in Portola Valley

Allegro Framing and Art in Portola Valley is featuring children's artwork from Corte Madera School in Portola Valley through May 23. In the Corte Madera School art program, students learn about different artists and art from many places. They are encouraged to experiment with a variety of art materials and learn new techniques.

AROUND TOWN

The shop will exhibit children's artwork from Walter Hays Elementary School in Palo Alto from May 24 to June 7, with a reception from 2 to 6 p.m. Saturday, May 31. There is also a benefit drawing supporting the Beechwood School art program. Beechwood is a non-

profit school serving families from East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park.

Allegro Art Gallery is located at 3130 Alpine Road in Portola Valley. The phone number is 851-4300.

Classes, events at Little House in MP

The Little House activity center at 800 Middle Ave. in Menlo Park will host these classes and events. For more information, call 326-2025.

Chiropractor Dr. Jordan Savara will be available at Little House for advice and treatment of various health issues on the first and third Thursday of the month between 1 and 2 p.m. For an appointment and fee, call Community Services at 326-2025, ext. 230.

The Thursday Night Dance will continue from 7 to 10 p.m. through May. "Bring your partner and enjoy both live and recorded music to set your feet moving," says Angela M. Owen of Little House. Fee: \$7 per person.

The "Mature Driving Class" for seniors over 50 will be held in May on Wednesdays, May 14 and May 21, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Fee: \$10 at first class. Register with Community Services, 326-2025, ext. 230. For details, call 326-2025.

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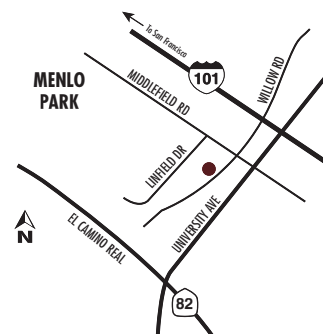
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Avalanche players qualify for national team

By Gabe Foo
 Manager, MVLA Avalanlanche

■ SPORTS

Abby Dahlkemper of Menlo Park, a member of the Mountain View/Los Altos Avalanche soccer team, along with her teammate Kelsey Foo, are members of the Under-15 Girls U.S. National Team.

The U.S. team recently competed in a high-intensity training camp at Stanford. Dahlkemper is a forward and Foo plays as a center-midfielder on the U.S. and Avalanche teams.

The Avalanche won the 2007 Cal-North State championship.

Dahlkemper and Foo also travel and compete in the U.S. Olympic Development Program for youth soccer.

The journey to reach the U.S. National Team took three years of intense tryouts, hundreds of soccer games, travel across the country, and thousands of miles commuting to and from soccer practice.

They started their journey back in 2005, when they competed against 120 of the top soccer players in the Bay Area, and were selected to the local district Olympic development team.

The following year, they were invited to tryout for the Cal-

North State Olympic development team, where six of their MVLA Avalanche teammates also made the selection over 120 of the best soccer players from Northern California.

In June 2006, they competed against 140 of the top soccer players from the Western U.S. (13 states from Colorado west to Hawaii), and made the 30-player pool selection for the Regional Olympic development team.

Last July, they traveled to Cal-Poly Pomona to compete and tryout against the top 100 players in the U.S.

Dahlkemper, a powerful and prolific goal-scoring forward, immediately caught the eye of Tad Bobak, the U.S. national team coach. She was invited to join his U14 Girls U.S. national team camp last September, but could not attend due to back injuries.

It took Abby nearly two months to recover and rebuild her fitness and strength. A lot of focus, determination and hard-work was needed to attain her top competition form.

Foo was exhausted at the July camp last year after months of soccer tournaments and Olympic development camps, and did not show well in front of the national team coaches. She returned from camp and kept working on her soccer game. A second chance came last September when her regional Olympic development coach asked Kelsey to guest play with his club soccer team, and to compete against the very U14 Girls U.S. national team she wanted to join.

She flew to Los Angeles and played a great game controlling the tempo of the midfield, and even scored against the U.S. team. Her performance caught the eye of Coach Bobak and she was finally on his radar screen.

Last January, both were called into the U15 girls national team camp at the Home Depot Center (home of the U.S. National Team, along with David Beckham and the LA Galaxy) and spent the week training and trying out for the U.S. Team.

More information on Avalanlanche is at eteamz.com/Avalanlanche/. ■

TIME TO VOTE

continued from page 15

African-American to serve on the board, said she hopes to continue her work on eliminating disparities in health care, providing affordable housing, and promoting green building and green business. She also said she

wants to focus on improving the community of North Fair Oaks in cooperation with its residents.

Mr. Bostic wants to focus more on strengthening the tax base and services in developing communities such as East Palo Alto, North Fair Oaks and Daly City. In a statement, he called for empowering the 150,000 county residents

living under the poverty line, and improving health care for those who can't afford it.

Supervisor Church is facing a challenge from Demetrios Nikas of San Mateo. Mr. Nikas did not return a phone call. There is no information on him in the sample ballot pamphlet or on election Web sites.

Ballot measures

South County voters will see three ballot measures: San Mateo County's Measure O to raise money to improve county and city parks; and two competing measure that claim to tackle abuses of eminent domain.

Propositions 98 and 99 are opposing measures to curtail the power of eminent domain to take private property for private rather than public uses.

Proposition 98, backed by property rights and taxpayers groups, would be far more sweeping. It would prohibit rent control and drastically limit the ability of local governments to regulate private property. It is opposed by a wide range of government agencies, environmental organizations, and the League of Women Voters.

Proposition 99 would simply prohibit government from using eminent domain to acquire owner-occupied residences to be transferred to a private person or business. It has broad support from organizations that oppose Proposition 98. ■

Ex-GOP chair to address Republicans

■ NOTEBOOK

Duf Sundheim, immediate past chairman of the California Republican Party, will be the guest of honor at a meeting of the South Peninsula Area Republican Coalition on Monday, May 19, at the Main Street Cafe, 134 Main St. in Los Altos.

Registration and refreshments are at 6 p.m.; the program begins at 6:45 p.m. Cost is \$15 for members, \$18 for others, and \$20 at the door without reservations. For reservations, call 917-9125.

Immigrants Day event in Redwood City

Courthouse Square and the San Mateo County History Museum will celebrate the diversity of the Peninsula heritage on Immigrants Day on Saturday, May 17, from noon to 4 p.m., at 2200 Broadway, in Redwood City.

Groups from the cultures that

built the Peninsula will perform in Courthouse Square in front of the historic courthouse. The entertainment will reflect traditions brought by immigrants from Italy, China, the Philippines, Mexico, Ireland, Portugal and Japan.

Kids and their families will be able to make crafts from these cultures inside the Rotunda of the museum. They can paint an Irish shamrock, trace Chinese characters, and make a Portuguese flag or an Italian Pinocchio puppet to take home. Museum admission is free.

A food tasting card is \$5 for tastings from seven countries, between noon and 2 p.m. For more information, call the museum at 299-0104, or go to historysmc.org.



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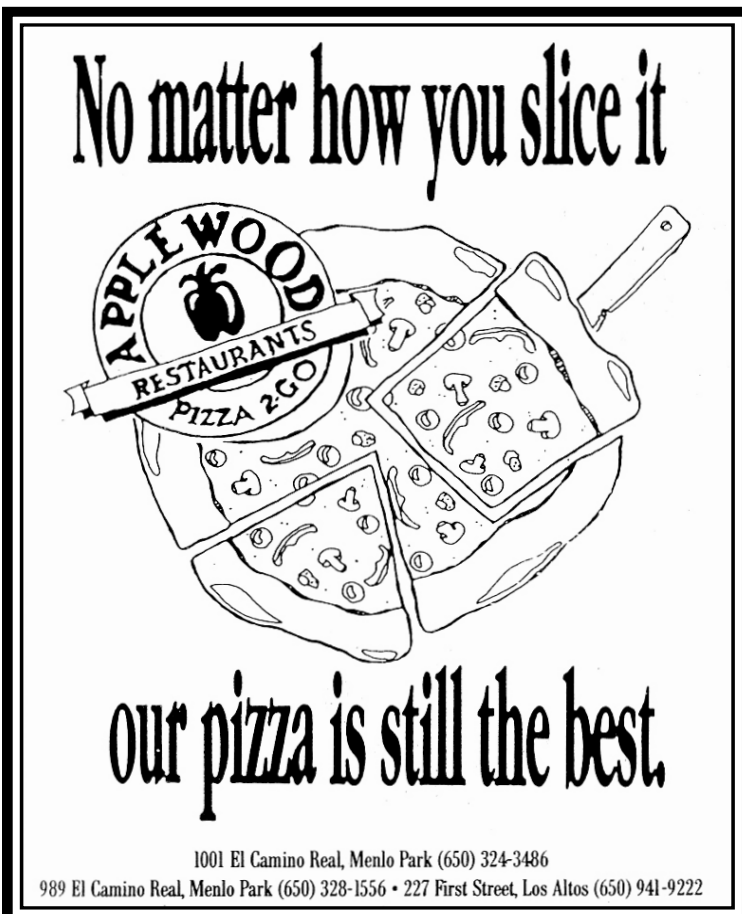
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Woodside High grad dies at Giants game

An 18-year-old man died Saturday, May 10, from head injuries sustained during an assault from another teenager at a San Francisco Giants home game on Friday, May 9, according to the San Francisco Police Department.

The victim, said by several daily news outlets to be Woodside High School alumnus and Redwood City resident Anthony Giraudo, was assaulted by San Carlos resident Taylor Buckley, also 18, around 10:30 p.m., toward the

end of the baseball game at AT&T Park, police said.

San Francisco police spokesman Neville Gittens said some type of argument broke out at about 9:45 p.m. outside the ballpark and that Mr. Buckley punched Mr. Giraudo in the head. Mr. Giraudo fell to the ground, striking his head on the pavement, Mr. Gittens said.

Mr. Giraudo was taken to San Francisco General Hospital in critical condition and pronounced dead at about noon

Saturday, police said.

Police arrested Mr. Buckley at the ballpark on assault charges. The incident is now a homicide case and a murder charge will be added, police said. Mr. Buckley posted bail and was released, police said.

The Almanac archives show Mr. Giraudo as having graduated from Woodside High in June 2007.

— Bay City News Service

■ POLICE CALLS

ATHERTON

Burglary report: Digital music player stolen from vehicle, Burns Ave., May 6.

Stolen vehicle report: Green 1996 Acura four-door with chrome rims, Menlo-Atherton High School at 555 Middlefield Road, May 7.

Fraud report: Identity theft, Moulton Drive, May 6.

MENLO PARK

Burglary reports:

■ Bicycle stolen from garage, 1100 block of Werth Ave., May 3.
■ Three lockers broken into in underground parking area, 600 block of Sharon Park Drive, May 8.

■ Copper stolen from houses under construction and storage bins broken into, 75 block of Willow Road, May 8.

■ Vehicle broken into and navigation unit stolen, 1300 block of Hoover St., May 7.

■ Vehicle broken into and music player and cable stolen, 300 block of Sharon Park Drive, May 7.

■ Vehicle broken into and navigation unit and phone charger stolen, 300 block of Arbor Road, May 7.

Grand theft report: Laptop computer stolen, U.S. Geological Service in 300 block of Middlefield Road, May 5.

Stolen vehicle report: Blue Suzuki SUV, 700 block of Pierce Road, May 2.

Assault with deadly weapon report: Richard Sequeira, 66, arrested and booked into county jail on felony assault charges

of using car as deadly weapon, Cotton St. and Valparaiso Ave., May 5.

Spousal abuse reports:

■ 1400 block of Almanor Ave., May 3.

■ 700 block of Coleman Ave., May 4.

Child protective services reports: 1400 block of Modoc Ave. and police station, May 5 and 7.

Fraud reports: Unauthorized charges on credit cards, 1000 Berkeley Ave. and 1100 block of Marcussen Drive, May 6 and 8.

WOODSIDE

Burglary report: Items valued at \$710 stolen from vehicle after window was smashed, Lawler Ranch Road, May 1.

PORTOLA VALLEY

Burglary report: Several purses with a total value of \$500 stolen from vehicle after window was smashed, 100 block of Willowbrook Drive, May 2.

LADERA

Burglary report: Fur coats, a man's suit, jewelry, coins and two handguns stolen from residence, 200 block of La Cuesta Drive, May 8.

WEST MENLO PARK

Burglary report: Basement door window smashed with brick and basement rummaged through, 100 block of Hillside Ave., May 2.

MATTESON

continued from page 7

plan or zoning restrictions along El Camino Real until the city's visioning process was complete, and Mr. Cline said his viewpoint has not changed.

"We're not talking about taking a vote, so I'm OK with looking at this project," said Mr. Cline. "But we're in the middle of a visioning process, and I'm not comfortable supporting a project that goes above and beyond what we have in our general plan."

Mayor Andy Cohen shared Mr. Cline's views, noting he has "major issues" with the height of the project, but said the developer has the right to present the project to the public.

Councilman John Boyle said the study session was "perfect timing," as council members could one day choose to integrate the condo-commercial project into a greater plan for El Camino Real.

"This is just a study session — it's an opportunity for the public, council members, and the developer to exchange ideas," he said. ■

OAK KNOLL

continued from page 8

said restricting turns is an operational decision that can be made later, and doesn't affect the environmental review. The city of Menlo Park will also have some input, because the district will require permits in order to construct the new exit, Mr. Ranella said.

Other people objected to devoting so much of the campus frontage to a long, "airport-style" drop-off lane when walking or biking to school should be encouraged.

"I really believe we share one common interest — to do what's best for our children," said board

member Deborah Fitz. "As difficult, and, dare I say, contentious as this process has been, I have great faith in this plan."

Four and a half hours after the meeting started, the school board voted to adopt the environmental study, called a negative declaration, on a 4-0 vote, with Jeff Child abstaining. Mr. Child, who was on a business trip, arrived late and said he didn't feel right about voting when he hadn't heard all of the public comments.

With the approval of the negative declaration, construction on the Oak Knoll project is expected to start this fall, although work to modernize existing classrooms will begin when school gets out this summer, said Mr. Ranella. ■

Obituary policy

The Almanac publishes obituaries about people who lived in Atherton, Menlo Park, Portola Valley and Woodside, or played a prominent role in these communities. These obituaries are news stories, written by Almanac staff writers, based on information provided by mortuaries and family members. There is no charge. Due to space limits and other reasons, these stories may not include all the information a family wishes. Some families choose to write their own memorial announcements, and purchase space to publish them in the Almanac. For information about that, e-mail Blanca Yoc in the Advertising Department at byoc@paweekly.com or call 326-8210, ext. 221.

■ OBITUARIES

Winifred Silver

Community volunteer, animal lover

Winifred Green Silver of Menlo Park died May 5 following a long illness. A member of an early San Francisco family, Ms. Silver was 87.

Born in San Francisco in 1920, Ms. Silver attended Miss Burke's school, Las Lomas elementary school and Castilleja high school, where she was student body president. At the University of Oregon she was president of Heads of Houses. She was one of three students invited to have tea with Eleanor Roosevelt when she visited the university.

At the university she met her future husband, David Silver. The couple moved to California when he took the California State Bar examination. Mr. Silver died in 2004.

In her youth Ms. Silver was an avid equestrian, favoring the Western saddle. She gave up riding to raise her two daughters. An animal lover, she raised champion standard schnauzers. She was a volunteer at Allied Arts Guild and in the psychiatric department at Stanford University Hospital.

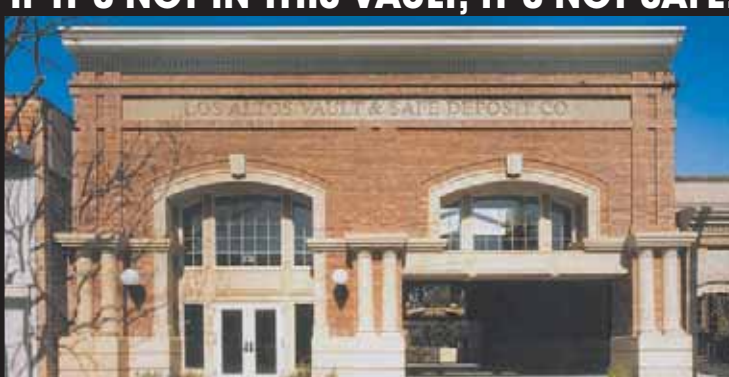
A respected bridge player, Ms. Silver continued playing until recently. She was appreciated for her kindness and consideration for others, say family members.

She is survived by her daughters, Dale of San Francisco, and Barbara of Paris; a brother, William Green; a sister, Marion Euphrat; and two grandsons.

Memorials in her name may be made to Sempervirens Fund, Drawer BE, Los Altos, CA 94023; the Peninsula Humane Society, 12 Airport Blvd., San Mateo, CA

Continued on next page

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MARGUERETTE SHEPARD PAPONIS



A Memorial Celebration of the life of Marguerette Shepard Paponis will be held Saturday, May 17, 2008 at 1:00pm at Stent Family Hall at Menlo School, 50 Valparaiso at University, Atherton. Born on January 9, 1928, Marguerette lived with her family in Atherton until her marriage to Louis S. Paponis in 1963. They moved to San Mateo and, in 1966, she gave birth to a daughter, Dena. In 1980, she and Lou purchased an acre of her family's land from her mother, Edith Linkins Shepard, built a home, and moved back to Atherton in 1984, where she resided until her death last month. Marguerette attended Central School in Menlo, Sequoia High School in Redwood City and got her Associate Degree from San Mateo College in Physical Education. She worked briefly at Stanford University and had a career with Pacific Telephone, first as a Teller, then Supervisor and finally High School/College Recruiter. She became a stay-at-home mom after the birth of their daughter. She was very active in her community. As member of the Atherton Arts Committee, she produced their last Big Daddy Jazz Festival. She was the Complex Director for the Allied Arts Guild for two years, and a member of the Atherton/Palo Alto Auxiliary and Menlo Park Historical Society. She was a quilter, a jazz enthusiast, and an avid gardener. She was a devoted wife, mother and sister to her siblings and their families. She loved people and made lasting friendships. Her home became the gathering place. Marguerette will be dearly missed by husband Lou, daughter Dena and her family, by all her relatives and many friends. She will always be remembered as a "true lady".

PAID OBITUARY

Police probe MP homicide

Police are investigating the homicide death of Jose Antonio Contreras, a 19-year-old East Palo Alto man who was fatally wounded at about 1:35 a.m. on May 6 while a passenger in a vehicle traveling westbound on Bayfront Expressway near the intersection with Willow Road in Menlo Park.

Mr. Contreras died at Stanford Hospital of a single gunshot wound. He was taken to the hospital by his two friends who were in the vehicle with him, Menlo Park Police Department Detective Alan Corpuz said in an interview.

The hospital staff called the police. The only witnesses currently known to the police are the two friends and they aren't talking, Mr. Corpuz said.

The vehicle, which had been shot at while moving, had two slugs in it from a .40-caliber weapon, Mr. Corpuz said.

Mr. Corpuz would not comment on whether the homicide was gang-related. Police found no weapons in the vehicle.

Police are asking anyone with information about this incident to call the Menlo Park police at 330-6300 or the anonymous tip line at 330-6395.

OBITUARIES

continued from previous page

94401-1006; or a favorite charity.

John Larson

Former chief operating officer of the Chronicle



John Larson

John Westcott Larson of Atherton, a former chief operating officer of the San Francisco Chronicle, Bay Area business consultant, and venture capital executive, died May 2. He was 70.

Mr. Larson served on the board of trustees of the California Academy of Sciences, where he was vice chairman and was involved in the museum's long-range planning and development.

Mr. Larson was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he attended Minnetonka High School and served as class president. He graduated cum laude from Carleton College, where he was a George Baker Scholar and received the Dana Award for excellence in athletics and scholarship. He earned an MBA degree with honors from Columbia University, where he was an International Fellow and International Nickel Fellow.

He joined McKinsey & Co. in 1965 and was elected senior director in 1976. He spent 10 years as manager of the San Francisco office. He was a general partner of J.H. Whitney & Co., a venture capital and buyout firm, from 1984 to 1990. He also served as chief operating officer of Chronicle Publishing Co. in San Francisco, leaving in 1992 to pursue private investment activities.

Mr. Larson was a director for Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream and served on the advisory board of Churchill Capital, a Minneapo-

lis-based private equity firm. He also served on the boards of several private companies. He was also a trustee of Carleton College over the past 23 years.

Mr. Larson was a world traveler, a skier, a sailor and longtime member of the Pacific Union Club and the Palo Alto Club. He is survived by his wife, Linda, of Atherton; son Rod Larson of Portland; daughter Suki Larson of London; brothers Robert Larson and David Larson; and two grandchildren.

A private memorial gathering will be held in June in Atherton.

Elizabeth Heath Parker

Artist

Elizabeth "Betty" Heath Parker, a longtime resident of Palo Alto and Woodside, died May 6 from complications following surgery. She was 91.

Ms. Parker was born in Buffalo, New York. Her interest in painting began in 1960, while she was living in her summer home in Bolinas. She had several art shows in Woodside and San Francisco and continued painting well into her 80s. She was a volunteer with the Junior League of Palo Alto/Mid Peninsula and Stanford Hospital Auxiliary. She enjoyed playing tennis and dancing, family members say.

Ms. Parker is survived by her three daughters, Jill of Brattleboro, Vermont, Wende of Point Richmond, and Lee of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada; six grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

Her grandchildren cherished her quirky sense of humor and passionate opinions about social issues and politics, say family members.

A private family memorial service will be held.



Elizabeth Parker

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LETTERS

continued from page 30

What will these new cameras really do besides helping Caltrain document that these accidents are not their fault, thus mitigating their liability? (It's what we call CYA.) Maybe there need to be more lawsuits to inspire them to greater substantive rather than merely rhetorical safety efforts.

I raised some of these issues several years ago in letters like this one. My guess is that what Caltrain is waiting for is the high-speed train to come with their deep pockets to bail them out; to provide all the fencing and grade separations, along with their dream list of electrification, additional tracks, and widened rail corridor.

However, we don't want to wait for several more years, and many more deaths on the rails, until the high-speed train bulldozers show up. We are waiting for honest answers and, especially now, for serious action.

Martin Engel
Stone Pine Lane, Menlo Park

Get healthy: Bike to work on May 15

Editor:

Concerned about global warming and carbon emissions? Bothered by the high price of gas? Overweight? Need some cardiovascular exercise?

If you said yes to any of the above, dust off your bike and join hundreds of others in biking to work on Thursday, May 15.

On your morning commute, stop at one of the Energizer Stations located along major commute routes and at many Caltrain stations. Volunteers will be handing out complimentary

County DA could end calls for death penalty

By Henry Organ

Should citizens of San Mateo County seek the election of a district attorney who would not seek the death penalty?

Here is some background for the question. A decision by the U.S. Supreme Court last month allows states executing prisoners by lethal injection to resume that practice, and some have hastily begun. In addition, the court raised the requirements of those who seek to find the methods unconstitutional. (In California, the methods are lethal injection and gas.)

Given the various opinions of the justices, there is less than faint hope this court will ever find executions "cruel and unusual punishment." They are not "tinkering" with the death penalty, but bolstering it. (There are approximately 50 federal prisoners on death row, and some of them are incarcerated in California.)

At the state level, the legislature is to be applauded for establishing the California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice. In summary, the purpose of this nonpartisan, blue-ribbon body is to gather and review the administration of criminal

justice, and submit recommendations to the legislature. This study, of course, includes the death penalty. The district attorney of San Mateo County is a member of the commission.

The commission was established in 2004, and is to submit its final report to the legislature next month. During the life of the commission, several recommendations resulted in legislation. The governor, however, has vetoed each bill. (There are currently 669 inmates on California's death row.)

So, there is no hope to stop the death penalty at the federal level, or in California.

At the county level there is the Office of the District Attorney. This officer decides if the death penalty is sought. (Currently, there are 14 inmates on death row sentenced in San Mateo County.)

An Illinois commission, the predecessor of the California commission, concluded in 2000 that it is humanly impossible to construct criminal procedures that will preclude executing an innocent person. Seeking and administering the death penalty must be at "no risk" of taking the life of even one innocent person. There should

be "zero tolerance" for error in the administration of the death penalty. Thus, the prevailing issue should not be the method of execution (now heavily in the news), but the moral unacceptability of executing the innocent.

There is belief among some political consultants that a candidate or incumbent cannot be elected or re-elected to public office if portrayed as "soft on crime." Conversely, the question must be asked: Is a person who is "hard on protecting the innocent" electable?

Given the orientation of the U.S. Supreme Court, and the current governor of California, the abolition of the death penalty may not be through seeking its unconstitutionality or illegality. A tactical strategy, equivalent to abolition, is the election of a district attorney who will not seek this penalty. "De facto" abolition, if you will.

The answer to the lead-in question, a challenge, is: YES!

Henry Organ lives on Euclid Avenue in Menlo Park. He is a member of California People of Faith Working Against the Death Penalty and the Thomas Merton Center of Palo Alto, and a supporter of Death Penalty Focus.



treats and tote bags, and providing tips on bicycle commuting.

Check out the bicycling tab on the 511.org Web page for information on bicycle commuting, Bike to Work Day events, and locations of Energizer Stations.

Bob Page
Woodside Road, Woodside

Puzzled about study of El Camino project

Editor:

A study session has been placed on the Menlo Park City Council's agenda for Tuesday, May 13, for

a proposed 48-unit town home and condominium project at 389 El Camino. I understood council had defined benchmarks for new projects in this time period and am confused and wondering why such a study session has been scheduled.

My understanding is that new developments along the El Camino corridor would not presently be entertained, unless they conformed to our existing general plan and zoning codes.

The proposed project would require both a general plan amendment and zoning change to be approved. The project is

almost 60 feet in height, where 30 feet is the maximum. The project has a density of 40 residential units per acre where the zoning permits 18.5 units per acre. The project appears to have a FAR (floor area ratio) of 1.69 where the maximum would allow 0.75. The project is totally non-conforming under the existing general plan and zoning codes.

Why is this developer being given preferential treatment for a study session when the council is on record saying non-conforming projects will not be considered while the visioning

process is underway?

The council asked the community to participate in the formulation of a new vision for the El Camino and downtown areas. Now the council seems to be doing an "end run" by studying a project that would certainly affect the south end of that corridor. Why should our community have any faith at all in the visioning process if the council is just going to go its own way and study and perhaps approve projects regardless of the outcome of this process?

Morris Brown
Stone Pine Lane, Menlo Park

Here's what they're saying on Town Square

Few cheers for Menlo's new system to catch red-light runners

Posted by Non Trusting Believing, a resident of central Menlo Park
This is certainly far too much unchecked power for a machine to have in this day and age. Remember that the city of Menlo Park gains no money from any law-abiding citizen. That is why I fear that this program is a big cash cow and ticket mill for the police. I therefore expect many false citations to be given to line the coffers of Menlo Park. People would be very foolish and naive to take the stated word of the city at face value for such a vital issue. In order to have a happy

society we need to be able to have high trust and confidence in the actions of government. Very sadly we cannot afford to have such trust in government under this historical context. According to an article in Popular Mechanics, some jurisdictions shorten the duration of yellow lights, apparently to generate more ticket revenue. The magazine said that last year, CBS News reported on an especially egregious case in Maryland: A traffic-camera intersection had a 2.7-second yellow light, while nearby intersections had 4-second times. Shorter yellow lights are more dangerous — but shorter yellow lights plus traffic cameras generate revenue.



Posted by Donald, a resident of another community

The machine whose unchecked power I fear is the automobile. In order to have a happy society we need to have drivers who drive safely and considerately. We can no longer afford enough police officers to keep driver behavior within reasonable limits. Programs like this are the wave of the future. They just need to be implemented in a way that guarantees fairness.

Posted by Intrigued, a resident of another community

In the UK, they started with a camera here and there, and made so much money they put them up at every intersection, and cities and towns fell over themselves to buy the cameras. Next came the speed cameras, and same thing there. The sudden influx of millions of dollars is good for the city I suppose, but at what cost is it to us, and where does it end? I like that we are a free society and would like to keep it as such. I still think we should be able to face our accuser, as the constitution demands, not a camera caretaker. The fine also seems inordinately high. Tax and fine us to death. I fear we are closer to socialism than we think.

Posted by Joe, a resident of the Allied Arts/Stanford Park neighborhood
Having recently received a ticket for not stopping at a stop sign, I think that they ought to have one roving camera placed at various stop signs throughout the city. The importance of careful, heads-up driving is easily forgotten by long-time drivers who think they are experts, and by new drivers in a culture that has never known a slower pace of life. Vehicles are weapons when driven irresponsibly, and seeing people drive irresponsibly and get away with it is bad for society as a whole. Bad drivers don't learn from close calls, of which there are many in a city without sidewalks. This technology is a small step in the right direction, given the shortage of police on the streets and a go-go culture in inappropriate places — the streets.

Editor & Publisher

Tom Gibboney

Editorial

Managing Editor Richard Hine

News Editor Renee Batti

Lifestyles Editor Jane Knoerle

Senior Staff Writers

Marion Softky, Marjorie Mader

Staff Writers Andrea Gemmet,

David Boyce, Rory Brown

Contributors Barbara Wood,

Kate Daly, Bill Rayburn, Miles

McMullin, Katie Blankenberg

Special Sections Editors

Carol Blitzer, Sue Dremann

Photographer Veronica Weber

Design & Production

Design Director Raul Perez

Designers Linda Atilano,

Gail Thoreson, Joanne Lee,

Laura Don, Gary Vennarucci

Advertising

Advertising Manager Neal Fine

Display Advertising Sales

Ella Fleishman

Real Estate Account

Advertising Assistant

Coordinator Nora Cecilia Meléndez

Advertising Services

Receptionists Renee Meil

Circulation, Classified,

& Legal Advertising Bill Rayburn

Published every Wednesday at

3525 Alameda de las Pulgas,

Menlo Park, CA 94025

(650) 854-2626

FAX (650) 854-0677

e-mail news (no photos please) to:

editor@AlmanacNews.com

e-mail photos with captions to:

photo@AlmanacNews.com

e-mail letters to:

letters@AlmanacNews.com

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WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

All views must include a home address and contact phone number. Published letters will also appear on the web site, www.TheAlmanacOnline.com, and occasionally on the Town Square forum.

TOWN SQUARE FORUM

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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.

Endorsements

Vote yes on Measure O for parklands, open space

It will not be easy for San Mateo County voters to fork out a teeny bit more in sales tax to support parks and open space, but we hope they do just that and say yes to Measure O on June 3.

By doing so, voters will ensure that maintenance of the county's incomparable open space and park holdings will continue and that cities and special districts also will receive financial support for maintaining their parks.

The measure, which would cost county residents an estimated \$1.50 a month or \$18 a year, is expected to raise \$16 million annually, of which 52 percent would go to cities and 42 percent to the county.

The remaining 6 percent would go to special districts, primarily the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. The funds would be allocated according to strict guidelines published in the current election pamphlet mailed to all voters.

Most residents will agree that this county's superb quality of life comes in large part from our proximity to huge amounts of open space. The 55 rangers in the county parks department are responsible for overseeing 16,000 acres of land in 18 parks. The county says its staff is short 15 rangers and has a backlog of \$112 million in deferred maintenance and other projects. It is a recipe for disaster that must be changed.

Measure O will help protect the open space that we admire as we drive north on Interstate 280, or breath in as we head down Highway 1 to Santa Cruz, or hike into the foothills. These are the precious lands that will remain open space in perpetuity, and are our responsibility to maintain and protect. Measure O, which will keep money flowing to our park system for 25 years, is the best way to ensure that these precious lands will be protected and managed properly.

In 2006, 55 percent of voters approved this measure, but the num-

ber fell short of the two-thirds majority it needed to pass. This time around, we urge all voters to not only support Measure O, but to make sure their friends and relatives do as well. The parks and open space areas that we are blessed with cannot run on autopilot. We must do our share, and in this instance, the price is a tiny, tiny fraction of the revenue we routinely shell out in sales taxes. We urge a yes vote on Measure O, to support our county and city parks.



Huddart Park near Woodside would receive Measure O funding.

EDITORIAL
The opinion of The Almanac

Vote no on Prop. 98, and yes on Prop. 99

There are only two initiatives on the statewide June primary ballot. Both are constitutional amendments that restrict the power of eminent domain — the ability of governments to take private property for a public purpose in return for fair compensation.

Proposition 98, sponsored by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, prohibits state and local governments from condemning or damaging private property for private uses and prohibits rent control as well. The latter provision would override local rent control ordinances, including controls on rents in mobile home parks in dozens of California cities. It might also eliminate the type of inclusionary affordable housing

See **ENDORSEMENTS**, page 31

LETTERS
Our readers write

When will Caltrain move on safety?

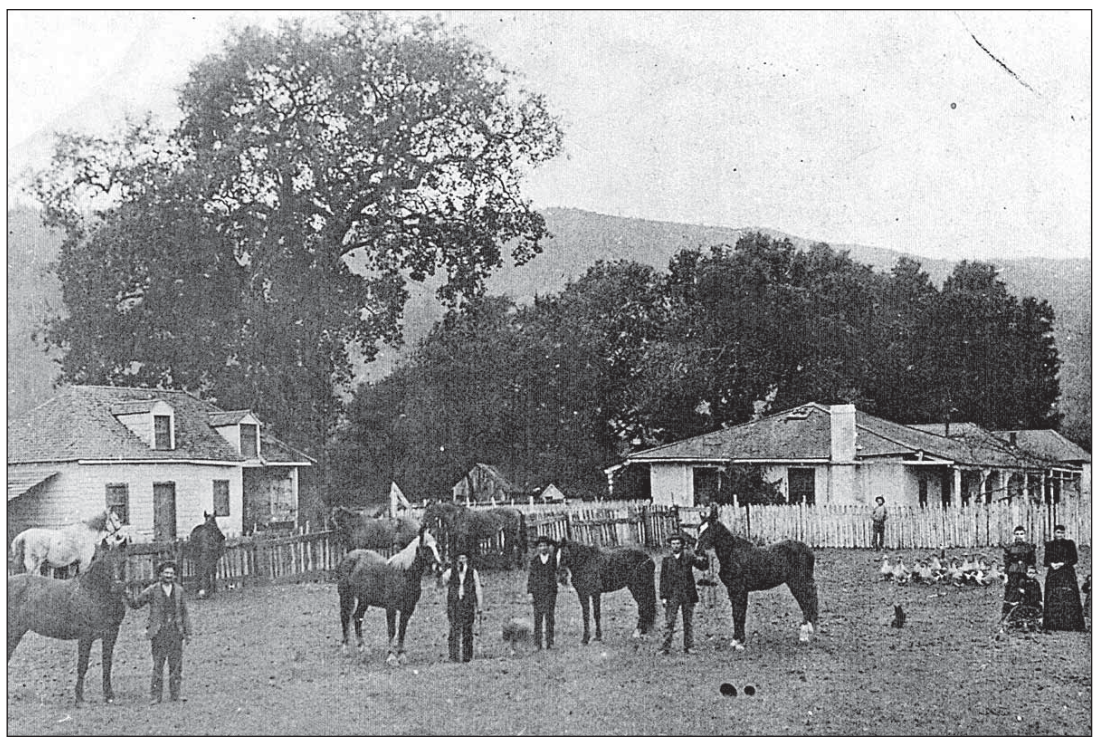
Editor:

On May 6, a bicycle rider ran into a moving Caltrain train, knocking the man unconscious. Fortunately, he did not die. It was the third Caltrain accident in 30 days. The two others were fatalities.

Caltrain says that they are very concerned about all the accidents on the rail corridor. They say that they are going to spend \$15 million on safety. They intend to buy half a million dollars worth of train-mounted cameras "for safety."

Actually, we need to ask when this is going to happen. When will all of the rail corridor be fully fenced? That appears not to be part of their current plan. When will all the at-grade intersections get four-quad gates? Right now, they are only committed to one intersection in Atherton.

See **LETTERS**, page 29



Woodside Library Collection

Our Regional Heritage

Members of the Copinger and Greer families of Woodside pose with horses in front of their adobe home, right, and carriage house. Built in 1840, the main building of the adobe was destroyed in the 1906 earthquake. The carriage house was converted to a home and survived until 1980, when a new owner of the property tore it down.

Letters of support for Atherton council candidates

Former mayor sides with Elizabeth Lewis

By Alan Carlson

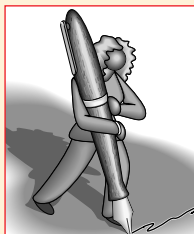
I have endorsed Elizabeth Lewis' candidacy for the Atherton City Council. Through nine years on the council, concluding as mayor last year, I gained a unique perspective of both candidates, one not enjoyed by the Almanac for its endorsement of Jim Dobbie.

While on the City Council, I knew both, voted to appoint each to the town's General Plan Committee, and worked with and observed them on that committee. In my view, their qualifications and civic experience in the town is near equal.

So arises the question, why do I find Elizabeth Lewis the better candidate? The answer is in my knowledge of the community. Mr. Dobbie resides in Lindenwood, where I also was a resident. Mr. Dobbie styles himself as an "independent," but in my view, is closely associated with the Lindenwood Homes Association board of directors, the members of which support him.

I fear he will be unduly influenced by a small group of Lindenwood resi-

dents, those who advocated the Historic Artifacts Ordinance and supported the lawsuit against Menlo-Atherton High School, both of which are of narrow interest to some in Lindenwood, but not Atherton generally.



GUEST OPINION

Not surprisingly, Mr. Dobbie publicly continues to defend and support the litigation surrounding these matters, which I also supported, but have come to view as unduly costly to the town and divisive to its residents. Elizabeth Lewis has thoughtfully expressed they should have been avoided, with other solutions found.

Overlooked by the Almanac, Elizabeth Lewis has no singular neighborhood allegiance, but one solely to the Atherton community generally. Most importantly, I find Elizabeth Lewis to be inclusive, whose views have not advocated or represented narrow interests, or those of one neighborhood over another, but are broadly thought out with the greater community good in mind.

For these reasons, I urge Atherton residents to vote for Elizabeth Lewis in the June election.

Alan Carlson is a former City Council member and mayor of Atherton

Jim Dobbie has edge in experience

By John Rugeiro

I am a 29-year resident of Atherton and in your edition of April 30, Elizabeth Lewis, a candidate for the Atherton City Council, received an endorsement from Alan Carlson, a former council member.

The endorsement contained major variances from city records and my recollection of the events, and as a result, I believe they have to be refuted.

Mr. Carlson said he worked with Jim Dobbie on the General Plan Committee, when in fact, after checking the records, there was only one meeting where Mr. Dobbie and Mr. Carlson were present at the time Mr. Dobbie was on the committee.

Mr. Carlson also said he watched both candidates as they appeared before the City Council. John Sisson, chairman of the Lloyd Park Homeowners Association and I, as chairman of the Atherton Civic Interest League's town council committee, have attended nearly every council meeting over the last 10 to 15 years. We can only recall seeing Elizabeth Lewis twice at any council meeting during that time.

Mr. Dobbie has been a regular attendee and speaker at these meetings for many

years and has presented many positive suggestions. Elizabeth Lewis may have a record in community service in some communities, but certainly not in Atherton. Mr. Dobbie is chairman of the General Plan Committee and is striving to make it a more goal-oriented body. He is also vice chairman of the Planning Commission and has the full support of all of the commissioners. He has also led the charge to limit construction times and clarify the rules for contractors.

Some years ago he also led a team to work with the Airport Roundtable and the FAA to control low-flying jet aircraft.

Elizabeth Lewis's experience has been mostly as a commercial real estate agent and she is heavily supported by the builders and developers in Atherton. Their influence in the town is already disproportionate to their numbers as residents and by having their proxy as a council member, this would certainly increase.

I hope the voters of Atherton will vote for someone who has 40 years of real management experience, loves the town and wants to keep it as rural and countrified as possible, so that present and future generations can continue to enjoy living here.

John Rugeiro lives on Stockbridge Avenue in Atherton

An easy vote for better parks

By Bill Lane

Global warming, rain forest destruction, polar ice melting, ozone depletion, endangered species, pollution.

Mortgage foreclosures, the rising cost of gasoline, the credit crunch.

With all the global environmental and economic problems confronting us today, it is difficult to focus on the issues facing our communities in San Mateo County. But your community, and specifically your local parks, are exactly what I'm asking you to focus on for the upcoming election.

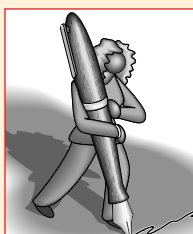
On June 3, San Mateo County voters will be asked to approve Measure O—Parks for the Future. Measure O will create a dedicated source of revenue to support parks and recreation in San Mateo County, the cities located within the county, the Ladera and Highlands recreation districts, and the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District by increasing San Mateo County's sales tax by one-eighth of a penny.

The revenue derived from Measure O's small increase in the sales tax is projected to raise \$16 million per year and cost the average resident only \$18 per year, but would make an incredible investment in our local parks at a time when they are most needed.

Parks and recreation, especially during times of economic downturn, provide badly needed resources for our most vulnerable populations, from after-school and summer programs for children and teens to programs and services for low-income seniors who might otherwise be isolated in their homes. Parks and recreation also

give our families a chance to recreate together, a very important respite when they are experiencing more economic stress.

Measure O gives local control over how the new parks and recreation money should be spent, whether that's for playing fields and playgrounds in Menlo Park or for trails and open space in Portola Valley or Woodside. Measure O distributes money on a per capita basis while ensuring that smaller towns like Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside receive a minimum of \$200,000 a year for the next 25 years.



GUEST OPINION

Menlo Park, being a little larger, would actually receive approximately \$325,000 per year under the formula.

Measure O will also allow us to help preserve our precious open space and coastline, and make some badly needed repairs to some of our park facilities, including restrooms, athletic playing fields, and playground equipment. It will also allow us to maintain and improve the hiking, equestrian, and biking trails that allow us to enjoy the natural beauty of this area.

A similar measure was on the ballot in November 2006 and won 55 percent of the vote. But a two-thirds majority is required for its passage. Recent polls showed that 70 percent of the people support such a measure.

Please join me in supporting Measure O to invest in our local parks, our magnificent open spaces and coastlines, and our pristine natural habitats. Most of all, please remember to vote, either by absentee ballot or on Election Day June 3.

Bill Lane of Portola Valley has long been involved in organizations that conserve national, state and local parklands and open space.

ENDORSEMENTS

continued from page 30

provisions that have been used in Menlo Park to require developers to build some affordable units along with higher-priced homes. The land use/ eminent domain restrictions attempt to accomplish what a similar initiative, Proposition 90, proposed, and the voters rejected, in 2006.

We opposed Proposition 90 in 2006 because we believed it had the potential to effectively prevent the state and local governments from enacting laws to protect the environment and open space and would have undermined the authority of locally elected leaders to do what they think is best in their communities. Proposition 98 appears to have even broader application than Proposition 90 did. Proposition 98 is opposed by the state's major environmental groups and a diverse coalition including the Consumer Federation of California, the League of Women Voters, the California Chamber of Commerce, California Teachers Association, the Western Center on Law and Poverty, tenants' groups, labor organizations and others. Proponents, in addition to the Jarvis group, include major mobile home and apartment

owners' organizations.

Opponents argue that the measure's language could void many existing environmental protections, prohibit new ones and restrict actions needed for water projects, schools and infrastructure, and lead to lawsuits and project delays.

Most opponents of this initiative are supporting a competing measure, Proposition 99, which addresses the core issue that Proposition 98 proponents say they are addressing, without all the collateral damage. It prohibits state and local governments from using eminent domain to acquire an owner-occupied residence for conveyance to a private person or business entity with exceptions for public work or improvement, public health and safety protection, and crime prevention. This provision deals with the core fear triggered by the U.S. Supreme Court's 2005 Kelo decision. It is drafted to nullify Proposition 98 if it receives more votes.

It is clear to us that Proposition 98 is a dangerous initiative that deserves to be rejected. The sleazy ads being run by its proponents, with the voices of children talking about their fears, complete the picture. You can vote against 98 a second time by voting for 99.

We recommend No on Proposition 98 and Yes on Proposition 99.

Prime Atherton

OPEN SUNDAY
May 18, 1:30 - 4:30 PM



261 PARK LANE ■ ATHERTON

Welcome to this contemporary French provincial home, designed and built by William F. Christofferson in 1967. Located on approximately one acre near the Circus Club, this enchanting one-story home is nestled in the midst of a dappled grove of oaks and redwoods. Inside, lofty ceilings and sparkling windows enhance the elegance of the living room, dining room, and library. A sunny breakfast area expands the updated kitchen. There are three bedrooms and two full baths in the main part of the house, including a master suite with two walk-in closets. A fourth bedroom and a full bath are found near the kitchen. Outside, a lacy gazebo provides a charming accent in the rear garden, and aggregate patios bordered by a profusion of flowering shrubs surround the house. The detached, fully finished three-car garage offers extensive built-in storage.

*Offered at \$6,000,000**

- Four bedrooms and three full baths
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