

**Gina Miles wins silver medal** in equestrian 'eventing' at the Olympic Games. Page 17

# The Almanac

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

AUGUST 20, 2008

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SEE PAGE 5

PAGE 14

## PEACE CAMP

MENLO PARK RESIDENT BRINGS ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS TO A SUMMER SPORTS CAMP IN THE U.S.

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# Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

## FIRST SHOT



Photo by Veronica Weber/The Almanac

### Tour de Menlo riders

Cyclists on Edgewood Road ride up one of the more difficult climbs of the day during the fifth annual Tour de Menlo, which took place Saturday, Aug. 16. The bike ride is sponsored by The Almanac and the Rotary Club of Menlo Park as a fundraiser for Rotary tutoring and scholarships. More than 270 cyclists rode from Menlo-Atherton High School to the lunch stop at Picchetti Open Space Preserve and Winery in Cupertino, and back to M-A.

### Atherton

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■ Caltrain seeking comments on bike parking and access plan. **Page 6**

### Sports

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### Family Almanac

■ Hip kids clothing boutique opens in Menlo Park. **Cover, Section 2**

### On the cover

Peace signs are chalked on the lifeguard chair that watches over Camp Susquehannock's Tripp Lake. The camp is the destination of three young Israelis of Palestinian and Jewish descent who were awarded scholarships from Menlo Park resident Robert Kent's Peace Camp Initiative. Photo by Tim Pervecz. See story, **Page 14**.

### CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

The Almanac offices are at **3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025**.

For Classified ads, call **854-0858**  
For all other calls, phone **854-2626**  
News: **Ext. 213**  
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■ E-mail news to (no photos please): **editor@AlmanacNews.com**  
■ E-mail news photos with captions to: **AlmanacPhotos@gmail.com**  
■ E-mail letters to the editor to: **letters@AlmanacNews.com**

To request free delivery, or stop delivery, of The Almanac in zip code 94025, 94027, 94028 and the Woodside portion of 94062, call **854-2626**.

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## 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Andy Garcia Memorial 5K

**WHEN:** **Labor Day**  
Monday, September 1<sup>st</sup>

**WHERE:** Triangle Park, Portola Valley  
(Intersection of Alpine & Portola Roads)

**WHEN:** 9:00 a.m.

Please join family and friends for a free pancake breakfast in the park following the run! Coffee and water will be provided.

Contact [kelly.arrillaga@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kelly.arrillaga@sbcglobal.net) for more information

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Roberts Tip of the Week

## Are Orchids Too Sexy?

Perhaps no other flower garners more rapt attention than orchids. Because they are so delicately and uniquely structured, one cannot help but appreciate and admire their beauty. In fact, one might say that orchids are positively seductive! At least, male wasps think so. As it turns out, Australian researchers have found that orchids mimic female wasps so well that male wasps prefer them over their female counterparts. Of course, most exotic orchids have evolved their complex shapes to attract insects. However, in the case of Australian tongue orchids (*Cryptostylis* species), the flowers may be doing their job to well. As a result, the male wasps are wasting precious time and energy pollinating the orchids instead of reproducing their own kind.



Orchids are truly beautiful, and at ROBERTS MARKET, our floral experts can help you celebrate their beauty with tips and advice about having orchids of your very own. In addition to food, and wine, we are your source for all things floral. Whether you need a beautiful bouquet for that special someone, a beautiful arrangement to match one of your prepared gourmet meals at dinner, or you want to have your very own orchids at home. We can help!

*HINT: Orchids are easier to raise as potted plants than you might have realized.*

## Wine

### *Santa Cruz Mountains Pinot Noir*

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# Local News

MENLO PARK | ATHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

## *The Almanac makes push for delivery by mail*

In an effort to reduce our carbon footprint and eliminate use of the ubiquitous blue plastic bags, The Almanac is beginning a campaign to return the paper to mail delivery. And we need our readers' help.

In order to meet postal regulations for the periodical rate, more than half of the 18,000-plus households currently receiving The Almanac must request the paper and can do so by going to our Web site, [www.AlmanacNews.com/request](http://www.AlmanacNews.com/request), or by calling our office at (650) 854-2626. If you get a recorded message, please enter 100 and leave your name, address and phone number. Either way takes only a minute, and will ensure that readers receive convenient home delivery of the paper for as long as they wish.

The switch to mail delivery will go into effect only after 9,000 or more households have requested

the paper. Readers requesting the paper must be in The Almanac area ZIP codes of 94025, 94027, 94028 or 94062, as well as P.O. Boxes in 94026.

Publisher Tom Gibboney said he is excited about the prospect of offering mail delivery.

"Using the mail, The Almanac will lower its carbon footprint by piggybacking delivery with the postal service and eliminating an extra carrier trip around the route. The blue plastic bags currently used in home delivery will also be eliminated.

"We are counting on Midpeninsula residents, who have loved The Almanac since it began publication more than 40 years ago, to help us out in this very important effort to qualify for periodical rate status," Mr. Gibboney said. "The last time we asked, more than 10,000 readers responded, and we hope they will continue to support us."

## Opponents of new charter school give Sequoia district board earful

■ Sequoia board may vote on petition in September.

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

Charter school opponents outnumbered advocates by about 15 to 1 last week at a sparsely attended public hearing on a petition for Everest, a four-year charter, closely modeled on Summit Preparatory Charter High School, that would open in the fall of 2009.

The governing board for the Sequoia Union High School District, which includes Menlo-Atherton and Woodside high schools, solicited public opinion at its Aug. 13 meeting. Board members did not comment, but may vote on the petition at their Sept. 17 meeting.

Given the board's familiarity with Summit Prep, Everest chose to minimize its presentation to the board and be "respectful of the process (and) not rally the troops," said spokeswoman

Yvette Sarnowski.

Summit Prep, a public school located in Redwood City, set a notable pace in its first six years, with 96 percent of its 2007 graduates having been accepted to four-year colleges, according to former executive director Diane Tavenner.

The Sequoia district provides Summit with a building and about \$2.5 million annually for its 400 students. About one third of its enrollment lives in the Almanac's circulation area.

Admission to Summit has been by lottery, a requirement when there are more applicants than there is space. The lottery for 2007-08 had 3.25 applicants for every freshman seat, a pertinent fact in petitioning for a second school, Ms. Tavenner said.

Those arguing against the petition, mostly parents from the district, said that one such

school in the Sequoia district is enough. They elaborated:

■ Another charter school, with its contingent costs, would divert money from the comprehensive schools such as M-A and Woodside. "Facilities are expensive in this district," said Brian Murphy, a Redwood City resident with two daughters at Woodside High.

The district projects a \$92 million budget for 2008-09, including \$3 million for charter schools, said Ed LaVigne, the district's recently departed financial officer.

■ Everest's ambitious goals, such as preparing all students for four-year colleges, smacks of exclusivity and is antithetical to the Sequoia district's embrace of diversity. An example: Everest would require all students to take Mandarin Chinese language classes, a not-so-subtle invitation to ambitious achiev-

See **EVEREST**, page 8

## Red-light-runner cameras go up on El Camino Real

By Rory Brown  
Almanac Staff Writer

Red-light cameras are up at El Camino Real and Ravenswood Avenue, and starting Sept. 13, violators will start getting ticketed for running red lights at the busy Menlo Park intersection.

The cameras are currently up and running as part of a 30-day trial period when red-light runners will receive warnings — instead of tickets — in the mail. The trial period ends at midnight Sept. 12, according to Menlo Park Sgt. Sharon Kaufman.

Red-light runners going in either direction on El Camino Real will be caught by a system of video and still-image cameras installed at the intersection. Alleged violators will be mailed tickets with fines of at least \$378.

Drivers who perform legal right turns from El Camino Real onto Menlo and Ravenswood avenues during red lights will not be ticketed, Sgt. Kaufman said.

### Second intersection

The El Camino Real/Raven-

swood Avenue intersection is the second intersection to be equipped with the camera technology.

Cameras have been helping Menlo Park police ticket drivers at the intersection of Willow Road and Bayfront Expressway — the same intersection where Pulitzer Prize-winning author and journalist David Halberstam was killed last year — since June 11. Only drivers that run red lights while turning left onto Willow Road from Bayfront Expressway are recorded by the camera system.

As of Aug. 14, a total of 335 drivers have been ticketed for running red lights while turning left at the intersection, Sgt. Kaufman said.

For every \$378 ticket, the city receives \$150. Over the roughly two months since cameras were installed at the intersection, the city has collected at least \$37,550. That total takes into account the monthly per camera fee of \$6,350 the city has agreed to pay Los Angeles-based Redflex Traffic Systems to install and monitor the cameras. ■



Photo by Veronica Weber/The Almanac

An employee at Hirzel Jewelers in downtown Menlo Park looks through a store window during the power outage Monday. The store and many other businesses along Santa Cruz Avenue were closed due to the outage.

## Guy wire snaps, cuts electricity for 21,000

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

A guy wire attached to a metal power pole apparently came loose, whipped up and hit an electri-

cal transmission line Monday, Aug. 18, at around 11:45 a.m., cutting power to about 21,000 Pacific Gas & Electric customers in Menlo Park, Atherton, Los Altos, Portola Valley and Redwood City, spokesman Joe

Molica told The Almanac.

All but about 3,900 customers in parts of Menlo Park and Portola Valley had power restored by 2 p.m., Mr. Molica

See **OUTAGE**, page 8

## Block party set for Wednesday

The third and final Menlo Park downtown block party of the summer will be held Wednesday, Aug. 20.

Santa Cruz Avenue will be closed to traffic between Evelyn and Doyle streets from 6 to 9:30 p.m. to make way for live bands, street-side dining, and kids' activities.

The bands set to perform at the block party include BLUE, a rhythm and blues group; Yohimbe, a five-piece blues band; the Spice Islander Steel Drum Band; the Clint Baker Trio, a jazz band; and Baby Blue Blues Band, a children's music group.

### Nominees sought for environmental awards

The deadline for nominations for Menlo Park's "Environmental Quality Awards" is Sept. 8.

#### ■ MENLO WATCH

Nominations are sought by the Environmental Quality Commission, which awards individuals, businesses, groups and organizations for environmentally conscious projects, practices and activities.

Nomination forms, which include descriptions of the award categories, can be downloaded online. Go to MenloPark.org and under "Latest News Releases" click on "Nominations for Environmental Quality Awards invited by Menlo Park."

E-mail completed nomination forms to [ddryer@menlopark.org](mailto:ddryer@menlopark.org) or print out a form, mark it for Diane Dryer, and drop it off in the administration building at the Civic Center, at 701 Laurel St.

## Man sentenced for punching teacher

A San Mateo man who pleaded no contest to felony assault for punching a Woodside High School teacher in the face last year was sentenced in San Mateo County Superior Court on Wednesday to six years in state prison, a chief deputy district attorney said.

Lamarr Edward Timmons, 19, allegedly knocked out two teeth of a teacher who was trying to break up a fight among a group of teenagers on Nov. 5, Chief Deputy District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe said.

The incident reportedly happened just after school let out. The teacher, Alan Eaton, was walking home from the school and came upon a group of teenagers arguing just off school grounds near the baseball field

on the Alameda de las Pulgas, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

The teens were also yelling at passing cars, and Mr. Eaton told the group to settle down, according to Mr. Wagstaffe. Mr. Timmons then approached Mr. Eaton and stood in front of the teacher, who told Mr. Timmons to calm down.

Mr. Timmons then started punching Mr. Eaton in the face, hitting him multiple times in the head and knocking him to the ground.

Mr. Eaton lost two teeth in the attack and required extensive oral surgery to repair the injury, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

A two-month investigation involving numerous interviews with witnesses and cooperation from the Woodside High School

community led to Mr. Timmons' arrest.

Mr. Timmons pleaded no contest on June 3 to felony assault with a special allegation of inflicting great bodily injury.

Mr. Eaton appeared in court Wednesday and spoke about how he has been affected by the attack, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

Mr. Timmons was then sentenced to six years in state prison.

He was ordered to pay \$8,000 in restitution to the victim and is required to serve 85 percent of his six-year sentence because the crime was a violent offense. He will be transported to San Quentin State Prison this week, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

— Bay City News Service

## Caltrain seeking comments on bike parking and access plan

Caltrain is seeking public comments on a bicycle access and parking plan that could bring bicycle parking and access improvements to the Caltrain stations most popular with bicyclists, including facilities at the Palo Alto and Redwood City stations.

Caltrain is accepting comments until 5 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9. To submit a comment, send an e-mail to [bikeplan@caltrain.com](mailto:bikeplan@caltrain.com).

Letters may be sent to: Caltrain Bicycle Access and Parking Plan, Attn: Planning and Development, P.O. Box 3006, San Carlos,

CA 94070.

The final plan will be presented to the Caltrain board for approval on Oct. 4. To see the overall plan, go to <http://tinyurl.com/CalTrain1>. To see the appendices that apply to individual stations, go to <http://tinyurl.com/CalTrain2>

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## PEOPLE

# Steve Rooks puts CPR to good use

By Barbara Wood

Special to The Almanac

Since the late 1970s, Menlo Park resident Steve Rooks has volunteered to teach others how to do first aid and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) for the Red Cross. In February, Mr. Rooks used those skills to give CPR to an unconscious elderly man and helped to save his life.

Mr. Rooks, a long-time SRI employee, was returning home from church when he saw a man lying in a driveway. Two bystanders said the man had simply dropped in front of them.

Mr. Rooks began the drill he had taught so many times, checking the man for consciousness and directing the others to call 911.

"The thing that came to me was 'Unconscious Adult CPR,'" Mr. Rooks

says, referring to one of the sections in the CPR lesson. Mr. Rooks ripped off his T-shirt to use as a makeshift barrier to infection, and started chest compressions and breathing.

When the fire department arrived, Mr. Rooks said he was asked to keep up the CPR until they could get their AED (automated external defibrillator) ready. After using the AED, they took over with a mechanical CPR machine and took the man to Stanford hospital.

A few weeks later Mr. Rooks was invited to meet the man whose life he had helped save.

This wasn't the first time Mr. Rooks had used his CPR training, either. Several decades ago, he performed CPR on two SRI co-workers. Mr. Rooks says one survived; but the

other, who had suffered his third heart attack, did not.

"It has to be drilled into your mind so you don't even think," Mr. Rooks says of the CPR routine. "You don't think while you're doing it."

Mr. Rooks initially got involved with the Red Cross by taking a first-aid class. Soon after he became qualified to teach first aid, and has been involved ever since.

Mr. Rooks' abiding interest in first aid and CPR may also be explained by his back-

department," says Suzanne Gelb, director of health and safety for the PAARC.

In addition to teaching, Mr. Rooks often volunteers to work at Red Cross first-aid stations at public events around the Bay Area. He has volunteered for the Red Cross at the scenes of four national disasters: Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Hugo in Puerto Rico, Hurricane Andrew in Florida, and floods in St. Louis.

Mr. Rooks volunteers for the regional Red Cross chapter as well as the local Palo Alto chapter.

He was born in New Jersey, moving to Michigan at the age of 7. He lived there until 1970, except for serving in the Army from 1962 to 1965. In 1970 he came to California for what he thought was a vacation and a visit with his brother. He never left.

Mr. Rooks is single, with a brother in Los Altos, another in Riverside, and two more siblings still in Michigan. He loves to run, and in November of last year he completed a 50-mile race in 11 1/2 hours. He's 64.

"It felt good for the first 36 miles," Mr. Rooks says of the run.

He attends church at both the Destiny Center in Sunnyvale and a Brazilian church in San Francisco, where a translator helps him understand the Portuguese service.

Working for the Red Cross keeps him so busy, he has mostly given up his past interests in travel and photography, Mr. Rooks says.

*Almanac columnist Barbara Wood lives in Woodside and is a Red Cross volunteer.*



"It has to be drilled into your mind so you don't even think," Steve Rooks says of the CPR routine.

Photo by Rosemary Bryne of the Red Cross

ground — he comes from a family with lots of members in the health-care field. He studied biology in college, and had planned to become a nurse.

But Mr. Rooks found a good job with the shipping and receiving department at SRI 38 years ago, and never got around to renewing his schooling, although he does have EMT (emergency medical technician) training.

"I enjoy working with people," says Mr. Rooks. "One of the gifts God has given me is being a helper."

Mr. Rooks was recently named volunteer of the month by the Palo Alto Area Red Cross. "I personally find Steve to be a wonderful, honest, genuine individual who makes a huge impact in this

## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



### Energy Costs Are Changing Home-buying Habits

**Q: I am renting and working in Palo Alto. I want to buy a condo and affordability is a factor. Palo Alto is expensive and I can get more for my money if I am willing to commute from more distant locations. What would you advise?**

**A:** Current high energy costs are likely to stay high for a long time and this fact is sinking into anyone who commutes to a job. The hike in prices has been so severe that buying habits are being affected. There has been a trend for several years for the "move-down" group: those whose children have grown and who no longer need a large home, to move to

downtown locations. Young singles and couples have also been buying in urban centers to be close to shops, restaurants and transportation. High energy costs are increasing these buying trends.

You should buy an affordable property in the best commuting location you can find. It is so much easier to read and relax on a commuter train than it is to sit in traffic jams that inevitably occur if you travel any distance on the highway. Conveniently located properties will hold their value better than properties that require long-distance commuting. You would do well to buy anywhere where there is a reliable and effective public transportation system.

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

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	Serapi 12 X 15	<del>19,500</del>	7,399
	Oushak 12 X 18	<del>27,500</del>	10,899
	Haj Jalili 14 X 24	<del>42,500</del>	13,855
Area Rug	Kazak 2 X 3	<del>1,100</del>	299
	Malayer 3 X 5	<del>1,850</del>	455
	Kerman 4 X 6	<del>2,150</del>	799
	Modern 5 X 8	<del>2,290</del>	988
	Gabbeh 6 X 9	<del>2,650</del>	1,049
Hall Runner	Sultanabad 2.6 X 6	<del>1,250</del>	399
	Tabriz 2.6 X 8	<del>1,890</del>	749
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	Sarouk 2.6 X 12	<del>2,950</del>	1,244
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# Now for the hard part: What belongs on El Camino?

■ Menlo Park enters “phase two” of visioning effort.

By **Rory Brown**  
Almanac Staff Writer

For the past several months, Menlo Park has spent \$226,000 in consultant fees and other costs to come up with a basic “vision plan” to revamp properties along El Camino Real and the city’s downtown area.

Among the goals of that plan, prepared by Berkeley-based consultant Design Community & Environment: “revitalizing” abandoned auto dealerships, making sure new development is sensitive to surrounding neighborhoods, providing better east-west connectivity across El Camino Real, and maintaining the city’s “unique village character.”

Now comes the hard part.

In coming weeks, City Council members are expected to begin “phase two” of efforts to overhaul El Camino Real and the city’s downtown area — another months-long consultant-led process of coming up with a specific plan to improve the aesthetics and viability of the city’s main thoroughfare.

But hammering out a detailed parcel-by-parcel plan — a process that could take up to a year and will include a costly envi-

ronmental impact report — will undoubtedly re-ignite community debates about how intense development should be along El Camino Real.

“Instead of an elephant in the room, it’s almost like we have a herd of elephants in the room when it comes to El Camino,” said Councilman John Boyle, referring to long-standing debates regarding building heights, housing densities, and potential construction and traffic impacts associated with developing El Camino Real. “We need to establish a kind of road map, so people can see we’re not talking about building skyscrapers up and down El Camino, but we’re not talking about building everything one story.”

## A first look

Phase two will get under way at the Aug. 20 downtown block party, when members of city staff will have artistic renderings on display of what a new and improved El Camino Real and downtown area could, theoretically, look like.

Councilwoman Kelly Ferguson stressed that the renderings aren’t the final vision for the city — they’re just a starting point to



Rendering courtesy city of Menlo Park

**Santa Cruz Avenue**, as imagined in this rendering, has wider sidewalks and taller buildings than it does now.

get members of the community talking about how to improve the El Camino Real corridor.

“It’s so important that we view these visuals as conversation starters,” Ms. Ferguson said. “This is about stimulating creativity in people, and letting the public tell [the council] what they want to see on El Camino.

This isn’t by any means what El Camino or our downtown will necessarily look like.”

Mayor Andy Cohen said it’s vital for the next phase of the visioning process to be led by residents, not the developers who will eventually propose and build projects for the city’s thoroughfare. Mr. Cohen has made no

secret that he wants Menlo Park to retain a small-town feel.

“[Developers] should always be heard, but I don’t think they should be steering the process — it’s not their city,” Mayor Cohen said. “Battle lines are being drawn. Menlo Park does not want to give up its village character.” ■

## EVEREST

continued from page 5

ers who can handle the language’s complexities, petition opponents said.

“Charter schools really aren’t open to everyone,” said Kathy Jackson, an Atherton resident and co-president of M-A’s Foundation for the Future. “When I pay my property tax bill, I want to believe that I am paying for schools that actually rather than theoretically educate everyone.”

■ In meeting with prospective families, Everest representatives compared Summit’s state test scores with lower scores from the district’s comprehensive schools, said Sequoia district Communications Director Susan Berghouse.

In a memo of understanding between Summit Prep and the district, both parties agreed not to “explicitly state or imply that either party or any of its schools are inferior.” That memo applies to Summit, not Everest, Ms. Berghouse said she was told.

■ Test score comparisons are inherently unfair because comprehensive schools tend to have more kids who struggle academically.

“I appreciate that my son has

had an opportunity to participate in a traditional public school,” said Carrie Rubinstein, a Portola Valley resident and parent of an autistic son.

Asked to comment on the public hearing, Sequoia Trustee Gordon Lewin, noting that the board is awaiting a staff report on the petition, said: “This is the first time we really heard words of opposition from members of the community (on a charter school petition). That’s a change. That’s a concern. Are we reaching a kind of tipping point here?”

## Teachers as consultants

Ms. Sarnowski, the petition’s spokeswoman, is the vice-president for leadership at the Summit Institute, a nonprofit founded in December and headed by Ms. Tavenner. Its purpose: to help teachers develop innovative classroom and leadership skills and advance their careers without having to give up teaching.

Institute-trained teachers may, for example, find that they’re in demand as consultants, Ms. Tavenner said in an interview. The Institute will be there to arrange consulting work that could “dramatically” increase teachers’ incomes, she said.

Dorothy Burnside, coordinator

of parent involvement for the Sequoia district, said she was disturbed by the idea of public school teachers making money on the side as consultants.

## Ethnically diverse

Ethnicity figures from the state Department of Education show Sequoia district students, over the last decade, to be about 40 percent from Hispanic ancestry and 40 percent from Caucasian, or white.

For the 2007-08 school year, district figures show the Hispanic sector leading with 42 percent compared to 40 percent white students.

At Summit Prep over the last six years, Hispanic and white students have numbered 39 percent and 49 percent, respectively, Ms. Sarnowski said. For the 2008-09 year, the lottery results indicate that 52 percent of Summit Prep’s freshman class are Hispanic and 34 percent are white, she said. ■

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## Hearing Aug. 27 on ‘scenic’ winery

A public hearing will be held Wednesday, Aug. 27, on a draft environmental impact report on the proposed Clos de la Tech winery west of Skyline Boulevard and above the rural community of La Honda.

The hearing will be held at 10:15 a.m. in the San Mateo County Supervisors Chambers at 400 County Center, located at the corner of Bradford and Hamilton streets in Redwood City.

T.J. Rodgers of Woodside, the CEO of Cypress Semiconductor, is seeking a permit from the county to install the winery

to produce pinot noir in three 25-foot-diameter caves that were blasted 300 feet into Langley Hill.

Mr. Rodgers is also seeking an expansion of county zoning regulations to create a new category for “scenic wineries” that would apply to wineries located above 1,500 feet in elevation. They would be allowed to produce 13,000 cases of wine a year, more than five times as much as the current limit of 2,500 cases a year.

More details will be provided in future issues of The Almanac.

## OUTAGE

continued from page 5

said in a 3 p.m. phone interview. Power may be restored completely by 5 p.m., he said, adding: “Our crews are working as quickly and safely as they can.”

Safety equipment on the transmission line near Fremont Road and Junipero Serra Blvd. shut the line down immediately when the guy wire hit and prevented damage to other equipment, he said.

When asked if there had been any danger of fire starting as a result of the incident, Mr. Molica said

he didn’t think that there was and compared the shutting down of the transmission line to “a giant circuit breaker.”

PG&E crews left immediately to find the break after system sensors gave them a rough idea of where it was, he said. “When a situation like this occurs, we will throw the resources at it to get people restored as quickly as possible.”

Guy wire inspections are a regular part of power line maintenance inspections, he said.

The outage shut many businesses on Santa Cruz Avenue. ■

# Players can have a beer after the game

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

## ■ PORTOLA VALLEY

The drinking may continue, within limits. Portola Valley's adult sandlot athletes are free to enjoy a beer or a glass of wine while rehashing a just-concluded game of softball, soccer, rugby or whatever.

Hard liquor, alcohol abuse and drinking during the game on or off the field are out, the Town Council said at its Aug. 13 meeting, but it's not as if any of those practices were ever really in.

A council consensus rejected a proposal by Town Administrator Angela Howard to ban drinking of alcoholic beverages altogether at athletic venues. Such bans are in place in many California cities

and towns, including Woodside, Ms. Howard said.

Passions did surface during the discussion.

"Temperate imbibing of wine and beer is part of the experience of getting together with friends and neighbors," said councilman and softball player Steve Toben. "I am vigorously opposed to the notion that we would prohibit alcohol. It would really change the complexion of the environment at ball games."

"I've been playing for years and years and I've never seen abuse of it," said softball player and resident SallyAnn Reiss.

It works out to about one

beer per player, Councilman Ted Driscoll noted.

Mayor Maryann Moise Derwin, who said she comes from a family that has had problems with alcohol, wanted no drinking at all. "I just sort or rolled with it," she said in an interview. "It wasn't the will of the council (and) there was a lot of pushback from the community. ... I don't like the idea of the modeling of sports and alcohol for the kids. I really think we have a problem in our culture."

Town staff will revise the playing field permits to explain the guidelines for alcoholic beverages. League representatives, who fill out the permits yearly in Town Hall, will be encouraged to remind players of the guidelines. ■

# K is for Kids' book by two MP residents

By Selena Simmons-Duffin

Special to the Almanac

Though they haven't known each other for too long, Diana Spieker and Krista Skehan finish each others' sentences, bubbling over with excitement about their recently completed creation: a children's book called "Alphabetica." The book was a year-long labor of love by the two Menlo Park residents, born out of a fast friendship and their combined creative talents.

Husbands Tod Spieker and Dan Skehan worked in the same cubicle at Cornish & Carey, and when the couples went to dinner together, the two women clicked. They started going on walks together, and building a friendship.

When Ms. Spieker, with an MFA in poetry from the University of San Francisco, reworked some of her old poems into a manuscript about the alphabet for her newborn son, James, she asked Ms. Skehan if she would do the art. An Atherton native, Ms. Skehan had her own freelance graphic design company, Personify.

At this point, Ms. Spieker imagined they would bind it at Kinko's for family and friends. "I had no idea how visionary she would be," Ms. Spieker says.

For the next year, they found collaboration easy. Ms. Skehan said she knew she wanted to branch out of the traditional children's book illustration and do computer art. "It wasn't a job," Ms. Skehan says. "It was the most fun I've ever had doing art."



Photo by Jerry Ungerman

Menlo Park residents Krista Skehan, left, and Diana Spieker recently published the children's book, "Alphabetica."

Stylized fonts and bright color schemes explode from each page. One word was chosen for each letter and dominates the design, with silhouettes of objects that start with that same letter hidden throughout. The book is thus an "I-spy" game for kids, in addition to reading practice. Some of the words are challenging, ("incandescence" and "notorious," for example), which the pair explain is designed to keep adult readers entertained.

After the book was completed, they two women started Personify Press to publish it, and found a printer in Singapore, making sure that the book was safely produced, and the printer used humane employment practices. Now they are distributing "Alphabetica," keeping the operation

small, local and independent. It is carried at Occasions in Menlo Park and at Pottery Barn nationwide.

They plan to continue working together. The art from the book is already on a set of postcards, and they imagine they might branch out into kids' wall art or bedding in the future.

"We're in this for the long haul," says Ms. Skehan. ■

## ■ INFORMATION

Ms. Spieker and Ms. Skehan will be reading from "Alphabetica" and signing copies at the San Francisco Bloomingdales on Saturday, Aug. 23 from 1 to 3 p.m. For more information about the book, visit <http://personifypress.us>.

## RESOLUTION NO. 1658 (2008)

### RESOLUTION OF INTENTION TO ANNEX CERTAIN TERRITORY TO THE WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT ON-SITE WASTEWATER DISPOSAL ZONE

#### LANDS OF SALAH

The District Board of West Bay Sanitary District finds and determines as follows:

A. This Resolution of Intention is adopted pursuant to the District's "Zone Master Annexation Resolution" ("ZOMAR"), which was adopted by the District Board on August 12, 1996. The provisions of ZOMAR are incorporated by reference into this Resolution of Intention.

B. The District has received an application to annex parcel of real property (the "Parcel") to the District's On-Site Wastewater Disposal Zone (the "Zone"). The Parcel is described in Exhibit "A" attached to this Resolution of Intention and the description contained in the Exhibit is incorporated by reference. The name and address of the applicants and the number, type, volume and location of on-site wastewater disposal systems which are proposed to operate on the parcel to be annexed are described in Exhibit "B" attached to this Resolution of Intention and the information contained in the Exhibit is incorporated by reference.

C. The applicant has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the District Board that the Parcel constitutes "real property" for the purposes of Section 2(b) of ZOMAR in that:

All of the conditions described in Subsections i., ii., iii., iv. and v. of ZOMAR Section 2(b) are satisfied; or

Other conditions exist which demonstrate that the Parcel will benefit directly or indirectly from the activities of the Zone. If applicable, those conditions are also set forth in Exhibit "B" and are incorporated by reference.

D. All of the conditions and requirements of ZOMAR Sections 2(a), 2(c), 2(d) and 2(e) have been fully satisfied.

In consideration of the foregoing findings and determinations,

**IT IS RESOLVED** by the District Board as follows:

1. It is the intention of the District Board to annex the Parcel to the Zone pursuant to the provisions of ZOMAR and applicable provisions of law.

2. In conjunction with a meeting of the District Board to be duly and regularly called and conducted, the Board will conduct a Public Hearing for the purpose of considering all matters pertaining to this Resolution of Intention.

The time, date and place of the Public Hearing are:

Date: September 10, 2008  
Time: 7:30 PM  
Place: West Bay Sanitary District Office  
431 Burgess Dr. Suite 120  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

At the Public Hearing, all interested persons will be heard.

3. This Resolution of Intention shall be published and copies shall be delivered to the persons and entities as specified in ZOMAR Section 2(e)(i.).

4. A true copy of this Resolution of Intention shall promptly be filed for record in the office of the County Recorder of the County of San Mateo.

5. The District Manager shall cause the matters set forth in Sections 3 and 4 of this Resolution of Intention to be completed as directed.

\*\*\*\*\*

Passed and adopted by the District Board of the West Bay Sanitary District at a regular meeting thereof held on the 23rd day of July, 2008 by the following vote:

AYES: Shepherd, Walker, Knight & Harrison  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: None

s/ Ronald Shepherd  
President of the District Board of the West Bay Sanitary District of San Mateo County, State of California

Attest:  
s/ David A. Walker  
Secretary of the District Board of the West Bay Sanitary District of San Mateo County, State of California  
THE ALMANAC on August 6, 20, 2008.

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### MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Mr. Jamis MacNiven, owner of Buck's of Woodside



## 'Motherhood in Developing World'

Photographs of mothers and children in Africa and Asia, taken by Mark Tuschman of Menlo Park, are on exhibit at the Clayman Institute for Gender Research at Stanford through Oct. 16. A reception for the artist will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 25, at the Clayman Institute at Serra House, 589 Capistrano Way, on the Stanford campus.

## Fifth candidate joins council race

By Andrea Gemmet

Almanac Staff Writer

The race for two seats on the Atherton City Council got a little more interesting. Less than an hour before the 5 p.m. filing deadline on Wednesday, Aug. 12, a fifth candidate entered the race for two seats on the council — David Henig.

Mr. Henig, 44, is an architect who moved to Atherton's west of Alameda neighborhood from Ladera in 2006. He's currently on the board of the Las Lomas Edu-

### ■ ATHERTON

cation Foundation, and previously served on the Ladera Community Association board, he said.

"I bring common sense, experience with zoning and building issues, and a fresh perspective to a council that could use those traits," Mr. Henig said of his decision to run in an e-mail to The Almanac.

Also running for the two, four-year terms on the five-member council are: incumbent Kathy McKeithen; Atherton Audit

Committee member Sam Goodman; former Atherton police chief and city manager Richard Moore; and Elizabeth Lewis, co-owner of a commercial property management company.

City Clerk Kathi Hamilton said Mr. Henig withdrew papers on Monday and filed two days later at 4:08 p.m. on the last day of the nomination period.

The filing deadline for the Nov. 4 election was extended by five days from Friday, Aug. 9, because incumbent Jim Janz is not running. ■

## Fire station has smoke alarms, no sprinklers

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

If there's one message for the public that preoccupies Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, it is the importance of equipping homes and buildings with sprinkler systems that spray a room in the event of a fire.

So it was with hints of irony that Chief Schapelhouman, in a telephone interview, related the tale of a small early morning mattress fire on Wednesday, Aug. 6, in a bedroom at fire station No. 6 at Oak Grove Avenue and Hoover Street, a building not equipped with sprinklers.

"Bad things happen to good people," Chief Schapelhouman said with a barely detectible ironic note. "They were really lucky that they caught it."

The firefighters left the station at 3:36 a.m. to attend to someone

with a severe diabetes reaction. Because the victim recovered and chose not to go to the hospital, the call was about an hour shorter than usual and brought the firefighters back to the station and a faint smell of smoke at about 4:25 a.m., Chief Schapelhouman said.

A search for something burning outside turned up nothing, but when a smoke alarm went off inside, they looked and found a smoldering mattress in one of the bedrooms.

### Rapid departure

A firefighter responding rapidly to the medical call had apparently bumped a magnetically attached reading lamp on his way out of bed, Chief Schapelhouman explained. "He didn't notice it, rushing to get out of the room," the chief said.

An incandescent bulb in the lamp burned its way through the

sheet and mattress pad and into the mattress. Fire investigators will likely recommend avoiding the use of incandescent bulbs because they get so hot, he said.

The fire station, built in the 1950s in an era before sprinkler systems, is due to be replaced in about a year, he said, adding: "We're not looking to speed that up" by burning down the dormitory area.

The new station will have sprinklers and likely a computerized system that turns off unnecessary electrical devices as the firefighters leave the station on a call, he said.

An Almanac reporter noted that the fire alert did not show up on the Web site firedispatch.com, which alerts online subscribers to emergencies in San Mateo County. Mr. Schapelhouman replied: "It never made it to firedispatch.com because it was something-burn-in-the-station.com." ■

## At Kepler's

Creator of the Benji series, author Joe Camp will discuss and sign his new book about horses, "Soul of a Horse: Life Lessons from the Herd," on Thursday, Aug. 21, at Kepler's bookstore, 1010 El Camino Real in Menlo Park. He will be accompanied by Benji and the event is a benefit for the Palo Alto Human Society, said Kepler's spokeswoman Susan Linder. For more information, call Kepler's at 324-4321 or go to [www.keplers.com](http://www.keplers.com).



# Caltrain reports record ridership for third year

Caltrain set record ridership for the third year in a row as people looked for options to high gas prices, Caltrain spokesperson Christine Dunn has announced.

A total of 11.96 million riders took Caltrain during its fiscal year that ended June 30. That's a gain of 8.6 percent over the previous fiscal year, and the highest ridership in the railroad's 145 year history, she said.

Revenues rose 15 percent to \$40 million during the year, Ms. Dunn reported.

The revenues gains were offset by a 66 percent jump in diesel fuel prices during the year, she said.

Caltrain has purchased eight new rail cars "but the railroad cannot do much more to expand its capacity or the frequency of its service until it completes electrification of its system," Ms. Dunn said in a press release.

With lighter electric trains, Caltrain can "dramatically decrease" commute times between stations and more than double the 98 weekday trains that run now, she said.

National numbers show a similar pattern of growth for public transit. Last year, she said, 10.3 billion trips were taken on U.S. public transportation, the highest number in 50 years.

## Motorcyclist killed west of Skyline Blvd.

A 69-year-old Fairfield man was killed and his wife injured Aug. 10 in a crash in unincorporated San Mateo County near the Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve, according to the California Highway Patrol and the San Mateo County coroner's office.

### BRIEFS

Richard Everett Johnson died in the crash just after 1 p.m. when the motorcycle he and his wife were riding went off Alpine Road and down an embankment just west of Skyline Boulevard, the CHP reported. Mr. Johnson's wife reportedly sustained minor injuries.

## Ruskin bill would penalize fraudsters

In a bid to save the spirit of a state program that gives business owners who are disabled veterans an advantage in landing state contracts, a bill by state Assemblyman Ira Ruskin, D-Redwood City, would raise penalties for businesses that misrepresent themselves as qualifying for the program.

The bill, AB 1942, passed the Assembly on Aug. 11 on a 75-2 vote. The bill, which now goes to the Senate, has the support of the California Small Business Association and the California Black Chamber of Commerce.

Abusers have portrayed disabled veterans as owning businesses when they did not, pretended that a qualified business was a subcontractor when it was not, and asserted that a qualified business had a larger subcontract than it actually had, said Nate Pinkston, an aide to Mr. Ruskin.

"I am going to continue looking into these contracts until I am sure that small businesses and veterans are being treated fairly and that taxpayers are getting a fair deal for their money," Mr. Ruskin said.

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A community health education series from Stanford Hospital & Clinics

## Support Groups Supply Crucial Help

### Sharing and learning for healing

Even before her weight loss surgery at Stanford Hospital & Clinics, Clare Sisto was reassured that her physician, John Morton, would prescribe more for her than an operation. He asked her to go to an informational support group meeting before her surgery – and also to a post-op support group meeting, one designed to be a vital and secure platform to manage the big life changes that come with the surgery. Sisto already knew that those changes wouldn't be easy.

**“We all had a story to share – and we all really want to help each other and be successful.”**

— Clare Sisto, Stanford Hospital & Clinics weight loss patient

At the pre-op meeting, patients receive valuable factual information from Morton, plastic surgeons and a nutritionist. Dana Schroeder is also there and introduces herself as the facilitator for the post-op group, the one that Morton knows is a crucial part of the surgery's success. When Schroeder tells the group that she went through the surgery several years ago, there is a gasp of admiration from the group.

Doctors can physically change someone's stomach, but the patient needs to make big life changes around what kind and how much food to eat – and then maintain them. “It's not an easy thing,” Morton said. “It's not easy at

all.” And it's important, he said, to know you're not alone.

At Stanford Hospital & Clinics, patients and their families can find many support groups, made possible by a firm belief and commitment to the idea that these groups are an essential and effective part of therapeutic treatment for many diseases and conditions, whether cancer, infertility or stroke. The Hospital has also gone one more important step farther, creating supportive care groups for patients' caregivers, in recognition of the valuable role they play.

#### The proven power of support

Morton patient Clare Sisto went to the support meetings at the Hospital “just to be part of the program,” she said. That changed quickly, however. “I wanted to go,” she said. “I wanted to participate. I wanted to be with other people who had experienced the surgery. We all had a story to share – and we all really want to help each other and be successful.”

The American tradition of people with similar issues gathering together to educate and support



Before her weight loss surgery, Anjanette DeVito wouldn't have been able to walk her dog, Scooter. Now, with the help of support group, she has lost weight and kept it off.

people who don't need to have anything explained. In the Stanford weight-loss surgery support group, Sisto said, she found that comfort. “I felt like they understood. Nobody understands like they do,” she said. “You feel a camaraderie with them – they share something you share, that even your best friend doesn't know what it's like.”

In the group's shelter of acceptance, Sisto felt free to vent about many things, including people's attitudes toward those with a lot of extra weight.

The group also serves as a backstop of accountability. One member told the group about “how she was eating all

each other through difficult times is one that dates back to the 18th century.

“You don't need to have a randomized trial to tell you that a parachute is helpful when you jump out of a plane,” Morton said. “We all accept support groups as a good thing.”

**“Surgery is a tool, not the answer. If you don't fix your head, you won't fix anything.”**

— Anjanette DeVito, Stanford Hospital & Clinics weight loss patient

Two years after her first weight loss support meeting, Sisto has lost 120 pounds and the group is a continuing companion of her journey. Losing the weight, she said, “doesn't mean the baggage goes away. It takes mental and physical work.” And the group is there for her when she's having a bad time. An hour with them, she said, and she can “walk away feeling good, and recognized.”

#### Acceptance and accountability

Transformation from one way of life to another is much easier with

this bad stuff. We kinda had this little network – one person agreed to call her a couple of times before the next meeting and she agreed that would be a good idea. We were all concerned about her.”

But some people want to do things for themselves – and resist going. Six months after her bariatric surgery at Stanford, Anjanette DeVito finally attended a meeting. She'd lost 100 pounds and “the stages of change were happening quickly,” she said. “I felt like I needed a lifeline. I had to reach out.” She had discovered that “surgery is a tool, not the answer. If you don't fix your head, you won't fix anything. I still struggle with emotional eating and find that if I have an outlet, I do better.”

#### A circle of understanding

When her mother died unexpectedly, DeVito might have gone back to eating as solace, but she turned to the group. “I knew it would pull me back,” she said. But occasionally, the group serves another purpose – it's a place where she can share freely her challenges without really needing specific advice. Just by verbalizing them, she said, “you take the mystery out of it, you take the fear out of it.”

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- Group Support- all cancers
- Head & Neck Support
- Leukemia & Lymphoma Family Support
- Renewal & Recovery Breast Cancer Support

To participate in the Weight Loss support group, contact Dana Schroeder, (408) 307-2890.

For more information on the Caregiver Solid Organ Transplant Support Group, contact Rodney Plante, (650) 725-8636. For more information on other support groups available for transplant patients, call (650) 723-4000.

For more information about the stroke support group, call Pam Triano, (650) 498-7852.

The Stanford Health Library is a resource for more information about many other Hospital support groups. The library has three locations: G-2B Stanford Shopping Center (650) 725-8400; E303 Stanford Hospital (650) 725-8100; Stanford Comprehensive Cancer Center, 875 Blake Wilbur Dr. (650) 736-7157.

The Stanford Women's Health program runs support groups and special workshops. Contact Penny Donnelly, (650) 723-6408.



Jack and Lola Schaefer had shared a long life together before her lung transplant, but they are both grateful for the lessons Jack learned in the Solid Organ Transplant Caregivers Support Group.

feel like you're the only one,” said another group facilitator, social worker Jenny Kwak. “It's isolating.”

Lola Schaefer's husband, Jack, turned eagerly to the group. The Schaefers, long-time residents of Los Gatos, active and enthusiastic about life, had lived for several years with Lola's lung disease, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. In the last winter before her transplant, Lola, 68, went skiing just as always, even though she had to take her oxygen tank with her. Then the disease advanced so quickly her only hope was a transplant.

instinctive thing of taking care of someone.” In the comfort of the group, he could ask the difficult questions and “things you don't even think of” to ask, he said.

The group's common experiences also helped Jack Schaefer cross the hurdle of isolation. “Mentally you know there are others like yourself,” he said, “but it doesn't hit reality until you're sitting in the room – and you all have the same problem.”

He became more empathetic, he said, helped by greater understanding of what transplant patients go through. “Otherwise the only thing you have to measure anything by is how you do it,” said his wife. “Hearing others' experiences opens your eyes - he became a lot more patient.”

And in better understanding, he said, “a lot of stuff that might have been an issue five years ago, you just ignore it.”

His wife's transplant was almost two years ago, but Jack Schaefer still goes to the group, now more for others than for himself. “You try to give encouragement and support for others,” he said, “in a safe place to talk about stuff you wouldn't talk about to anybody else.”

## Caregivers Need Support, Too

As plentiful as support groups are for many health conditions, one group is usually overlooked – the families and friends who provide very necessary support for transplant patients. Many are thrust into the role, completely unprepared for its strenuous emotional hardships and physical demands, both before and after surgery. That ongoing stress can lead to depression, burnout and post-traumatic stress disorder. And, out of concern for their loved ones, many caregivers bottle up their feelings, reluctant to show

anything other than unwavering strength and patience.

Stanford Hospital & Clinics has long provided support groups for caregivers. “Patients are inundated with care,” said Rodney Plante, one of the several Hospital social workers who lead the group. “Caregivers,” he said, “need a place where it's safe for them to have an emotional meltdown or an epiphany or a gripe session.” And the listeners are people who become friendly travelers on the same road. “You can

And for people who choose not to share news of their surgery with anyone other than their immediate family, the support group offers complete freedom of speech within the understanding circle of the group. Sometimes, said a patient who has kept her surgery private, food “calls your name so loudly,” like any addictive substance does. Then, having

the group to keep her from falling back into bad habits is where its support “comes into play,” she said. “I don't understand how people who don't get to have support groups get through a lot of the bad times.”

The support groups are so popular that the only complaint from members is that they don't meet

**“Mentally you know there are others like yourself, but it doesn't hit reality until you're sitting in the room – and you all have the same problem.”**

— Jack Schaefer, husband of a lung transplant patient

In the long pre-op interview, a social worker told Jack Schaefer about the caregivers support group. “I wanted to go to see what else there was to learn,” he said. And he was well aware that “being a male, you're lacking in that

often enough or for long enough. Space is the spoiler. “We are busting at the seams,” said Rodney Plante, a social worker who coordinates one of the Hospital's support groups. When the Stanford Medicine Outpatient Center opens in Redwood City in 2009, it will be the new home for an expanded Center for Weight Loss Surgery.



Anjanette DeVito loves her dog, Scooter, but to help her through the challenges of weight loss surgery, she turned to a support group.



Weight loss support group facilitator Dana Schroeder (l.) consults with bariatric surgery program worker, Marisol Fernando (r.), about the next support group meeting.

# TEAMING UP FOR PEACE

MENLO PARK RESIDENT BRINGS ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS TO SUMMER SPORTS CAMP IN THE U.S.

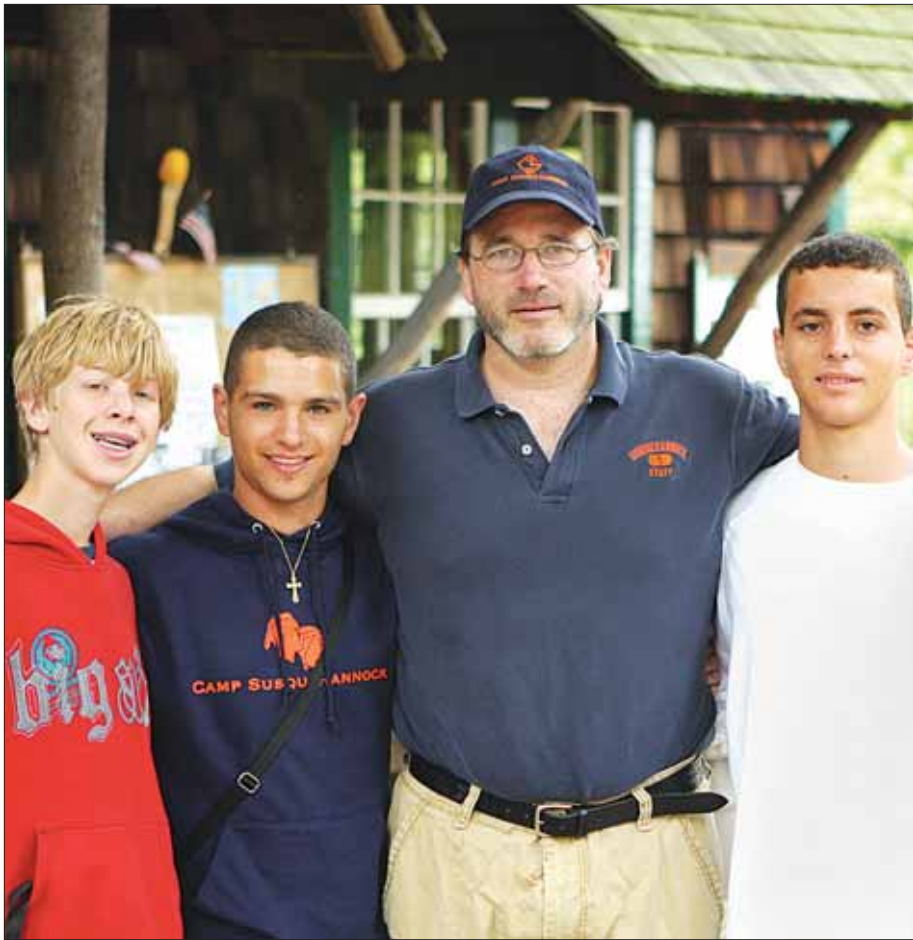


Photo by Josh Orylton

By Selena Simmons-Duffin

Special to the Almanac

Robert Kent never expected to find himself brushing shoulders with actress Maggie Gyllenhaal and Jerry Greenfield of Ben & Jerry's, lying in a peace sign-festooned bed, and spooning a new ice cream flavor before a crowd in Times Square.

Yet this past May, there he was, as he accepted a Ben & Jerry's "Peace Pioneer" award for founding an organization called the Peace Camp Initiative to bring together Israeli Jews and Palestinians in a traditional American summer camp.

After Times Square, the Menlo Park resident headed to the Pennsylvania wilderness, where he awaited the arrival of three boys from Israel — one Jewish, one Christian, and one Muslim — who were the first recipients of scholarships from the Peace Camp Initiative. Over the next few weeks, the three boys lived and played with students from all over the country and the world.

It is a kind of grand experiment — one man's attempt to do something good with a lifetime of organizational connections and the aplomb to follow through on an epiphany.

## From belief to action

Although the idea for the initiative has been floating around for some 20 years, the push to make it a reality happened in the fall of 2006 when Mr. Kent sat down to write a submission for NPR's

"This I Believe" essay series.

"I believe that the incandescent joy of a happy child transcends every ethnic and economic distinction humankind has invented to keep us apart," he wrote. "I believe that every prejudice, every oppression, every resentment, and every misunderstanding can be cured more quickly by mixing everyone's children together, making two teams, and letting them play than by any form of conflict resolution, court intercession, or legislation we've come up with so far."

Mr. Kent's background makes clear how this belief has informed his life course. He is a third-degree black belt aikido instructor, and directs the youth program at the Aikido West school in Redwood City. He is also a program director at a summer camp in Pennsylvania called Camp Susquehannock, where he has been involved in some capacity for the last 32 years.

Two weeks after he finished his essay, he realized his statement of belief could be the impetus for action. He spoke to his friend and fellow aikido instructor Jamie Zimron about her work using aikido for conflict resolution in the Middle East, and had the idea to found a scholarship program to send several kids from Israel and Palestine to Camp Susquehannock. Soon, the Peace Camp Initiative was born.

## "Magic in Play"

Mr. Kent's practice of aikido serves as the vehicle for the pro-

gram. His aikido work fostered the support of Budo for Peace and Aiki-extensions — both organizations work in Israel with young martial artists of both Jewish and Palestinian descent, providing the population of students Mr. Kent draws on for the scholarships.

The students who receive scholarships through the Peace Camp Initiative already have a background in martial arts (both aikido and other forms such as karate), and experience training with students from the other side of the conflict. Having studied

tage of Camp Susquehannock's 103-year-old traditions of sportsmanship: "It's about the integrity with which you play, sportsmanship, the pleasure of trying hard," Mr. Kent says. "I think there's magic in play — that's the magic I'm tapping into here."

## Long-awaited arrival

For three weeks this summer, Adam Horovitz, Zahi Tuama and Ahmed Hamudi went to Camp Susquehannock, and for all of them, the experience exceeded expectations.

camp, but because of the process of getting visas and traveling to America, not because they were all from Israel.

Zahi explained that the other American campers in the camp were very welcoming, and after the first week, didn't press them for details about their background. "They didn't actually care where we're from and what we are. They just want to know who is there. They just want to know me."

Adam added that getting past those details of the ethnic con-



Photo by Veronica Weber/The Almanac

'This is just one guy's modest attempt to try to make a difference just because the pieces seemed to fit naturally. Sometimes the world sits up and notices and tries to help.'

## ROBERT KENT OF MENLO PARK

martial arts, "the kids are already comfortable with the idea of conflict occurring with a limited chance of violence," Mr. Kent says. "They are predisposed to think that the right solution is one in which all the kids are working towards a post-partisan future."

At the camp, the kids are ordinary campers, learning popular American sports such as lacrosse and baseball, studying aikido with Mr. Kent, and meeting other campers from all over the world.

In this way, the kids take advan-

"The people here are so nice and everybody cares about each other. The spirit of the place is so amazing," said Zahi, a 15-year-old aikido student. "This camp is really special."

Ahmed agreed. The visa of the 16-year-old karate student almost didn't get approved in time to visit the camp this year, but with the assistance of U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein's office, he was able to come, too.

The three boys listed each other as their closest friends at the

flict is not easy. He is 14 years old and has been studying karate for almost 10 years. "[To] not care what happens in their hometown and only care about who they are — it's something hard to find if you don't look deep enough," he said. "I think whoever let us come here did look deep enough to let us have this chance."

"I think this entire project really will affect us in our life."

## Give ice cream a chance

The likelihood that more stu-



Photo by Ann Kent

**Zahi Tuama**, a 15-year-old aikido student of Palestinian descent, gets flipped over by his aikido instructor, Hanna Jiryis. **Far left:** Peace Camp scholarship students, from left, Adam Horovitz, Zahi Tuama and Ahmed Hamudi stand with Robert Kent on the last day of camp.

dents in the coming years will have the chance that Zahi, Ahmed, and Adam had is much more certain thanks to the Peace Pioneer prize from Ben & Jerry's.

The award was the result of a nationwide search for leaders in contemporary efforts for peace. Of 275 individuals and organizations nominated for the prize, Mr. Kent was one of two winners, and was awarded \$10,000 from the ice cream company.

The prize was awarded in Times Square during a commemorative Peace Bed-In in coordination with the John Lennon Estate and nonprofit Peace One Day. Ben & Jerry's also unveiled a new flavor for the occasion: a caramel ice cream base with toffee and chocolate peace signs called "Imagine Whirled Peace."

"The flavor is really good," attests Mr. Kent.

The prize money paid for the tuition and flight of one Peace Camp student this summer and will also allow Mr. Kent to travel to Israel in the winter. There, he will meet the people he's been working with over the last few years and make new connections. The remainder will pay for another student's scholarship next summer.

Mr. Kent says he is impressed with the sincerity of the Ben & Jerry's company, and thankful for this financial contribution.

"This is just one guy's modest attempt to try to make a difference just because the pieces seemed to fit naturally," Mr. Kent explains. "Sometimes the world sits up and notices and

tries to help."

#### Hybrid vigor

Mr. Kent's project is truly a cross-cultural, multi-organizational effort that combines Japanese, Middle Eastern, and American cultural influence. (Now that Ben & Jerry's has contributed its support with the "Peace Pioneers" prize, you can add John Lennon's pacifism to the mix.)

This blend makes perfect sense coming from Mr. Kent. In addition to his work at Aikido West and Camp Susquehannock, Mr. Kent is a professor of a course on ethics and aikido at Williams College in Massachusetts and a telecommuter for a Maryland-based tech start-up that makes robotic equipment to sand airplanes.

With Peace Camp, Mr. Kent combines strengths from each of these roles. His academic training in philosophy and ethics draws him to Israel, where, he says, each side has "a seemingly legitimate set of claims." Without an ethnic link on either side, ("I grew up vaguely Presbyterian," he notes), Mr. Kent says he was always interested and kept well informed about the situation in Israel between Jews and Palestinians. He has never visited Israel or done previous activism on the issue.

The start-up work, he explains, gives him background in fundraising and promotion.

In addition, working as a camp counselor for a long time gives him a strong background in conflict resolution. "I'm used to facilitating people hearing each other," Mr.

Kent says. "It's almost always about respect. When you can find a way for people to express their respect they have for the other side, you're most of the way there."

#### Organization and growth

Mr. Kent still has a long way to go before he reaches his goal of 12 students a year. Even when he had the money for two students to come last summer, the visas took too long to process, so the trips were delayed until this year.

Fundraising, he says, is still in the friends and family realm. He emphasizes the importance of growing organically, and is seeking both individual donations and renewable grants. "Long term viability would be based on some of both," he guesses.

He hopes that next summer will bring a larger group, with both male and female participants, and more formalized teaching and a discussion component for the students.

#### Ending words

Mr. Kent is modest about founding the Peace Camp Initiative and winning the Peace Pioneers award: "There's a way for everybody to make a difference; this just happens to be my way.

"I have to imagine that for anybody reading this, there's something they thought about trying. The world has already given us permission." ■

For more information, go to the Peace Camp Initiative Web site: <http://peacecampinitiative.org>.

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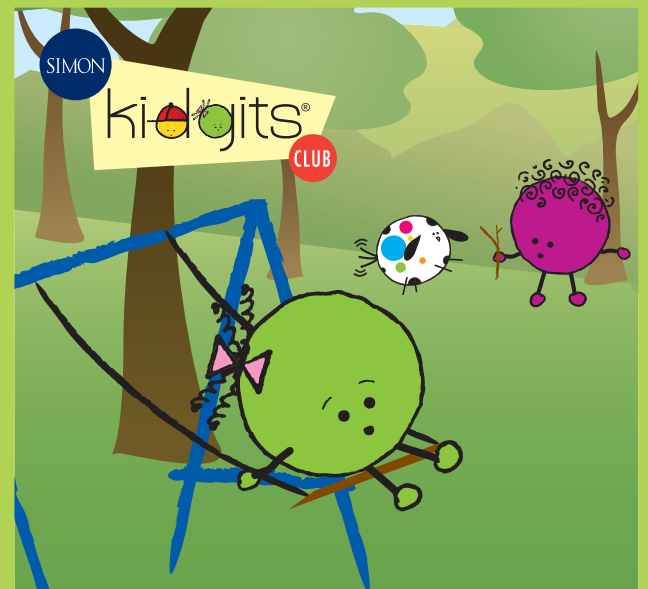


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Kidgits members will receive a jump rope, sports wristband, medal and achievement award while supplies last.

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## ESL students at M-A create a book about themselves

By Jill Youngberg

Volunteer Tutor

Many people think of politics and controversy when they think of immigrants settling into new lives in Northern California, but in one class at Menlo-Atherton High School there is an atmosphere of love and support. Kids in the class — newly arrived to the country and new to the English language — are learning to soar.

This room, full of energy, laughter, and lots of nagging, too, is J.J. Lee-Gilbert's ESL II class. The students use a combination of learning methods, from textbook, and reading and writing assignments, to state-of-the-art online programs.

Add to this the hours they spend each week practicing their newly acquired English skills with their tutors and these young people are making visible results. One of the shining projects they did this year using all they've learned is a book all about themselves called "Self-Portraits."

With support from M-A principal Matthew Zito and the M-A PTA, the kids in the class worked for months with their teacher and volunteer tutors to create an amazing book that spotlights each of these students who often don't get recognized in our community.

For them, the creation of this book was a process of self discovery that provided insights into their shortcomings, merits and goals. Their touching true stories are creatively displayed along with posters of their self-portraits, an introductory letter from each student, and his or her photo.

The book holds stories of hardship and happiness, favorite foods and sports, the journey to America, and memories of relatives left behind in Mexico and Central America. The students express their hope for better lives here in California and sorrow for the lives they have given up.

**About the author:** Jill Youngberg is a volunteer tutor in the ESL (English as a Second Language) class at Menlo-Atherton High School. This was written in June.

They praise mothers and fathers, grandparents and kind neighbors. Above all, these stories give the reader a glimpse into the lives of young people struggling to succeed in a new land. And every story is written in English.

"When I started working with these kids in September, they could hardly write a complete sentence in English," volunteer tutor Nancy Child says. "Now, their English writing skills are so much better."

The students worked one-on-one with Ms. Gilbert and volunteer tutors, as well as with each other, to write, rewrite, and proofread their stories. Producing the book in electronic form was a painstaking process that took many hours of Ms. Gilbert's personal time.

"The students kept wanting new pictures of themselves," she said. "Finally I had to tell them, 'Enough!'"

Jose Lopez spoke for his class when he said, "I'd like to thank everyone who helped us to create this book — Ms. Gilbert, our tutors and even our parents and guardians who guide our lives so patiently and brought us here to give us a better life in the U.S."

If you would like to know more about the lives, hopes and dreams of some of the newest young members of our community, you can purchase a copy of "Self-Portraits" at the online bookstore blurb.com. If you'd like to make a donation so that each of the student's families may have and treasure the book, contact ESL II tutor Jill Youngberg at jill.youngberg@comcast.net or ESL II teacher J.J. Lee-Gilbert at jgilbert@seq.org. ■

## Cashin company honors service leaders

Graduating seniors from five local schools were among 22 students honored with Community Service Awards from the real estate firm Cashin Co. Each senior, chosen by his or her school's faculty and staff, will receive a plaque and \$1,000 in cash.

Among those who received service awards are: Blair Nelson, Menlo School; Nubia Cazares, Menlo-Atherton High School; Shannon Hamilton, Sacred Heart Preparatory; Melissa Varel Diaz, Woodside High School;

and Molly Dellheim, Woodside Priory School.

The students have volunteered at homeless shelters, tutored children, taught English to immigrants, raised money for natural disasters, worked with the disabled, built homes in Mexico and helped in hospitals.

"We want to bring attention to the students who are helping others because they want to and not because they have to," said Emmet "Skip" Cashin in a written statement. "They are the true leaders of tomorrow." ■

## The Village Doctor Welcomes Dr. Marland Chancellor!



PHOTO: RIO COSTANTINI



F. MARLAND CHANCELLOR, III, MD  
2979 Woodside Road, Woodside  
650.851.4747  
www.villagedoctor.com

**D**r. Marland Chancellor is a board-certified family medicine physician who joined The Village Doctor after five-and-a-half years at the highly respected Palo Alto Medical Foundation, where he provided comprehensive care to families and individuals of all ages. In his practice, Dr. Chancellor stresses attention to each person's physical, mental, and spiritual health, with an emphasis on wellness, which he believes encompasses much more than just the absence of disease.

Dr. Chancellor was raised in Palo Alto, obtained a B.A. degree from Yale and an M.D. degree from Ohio State University, and then completed his family medicine residency training at UCLA. He practices the full spectrum of family medicine, and when not caring for his adult and pediatric patients he enjoys time with his wife and three young daughters.

# Sports

NEWS OF LOCAL ATHLETES AND TEAM SPORTS

## Gina Miles wins silver medal

By Selena Simmons-Duffin

Special to the Almanac

Gina Miles, well known in the local equestrian community, rode her horse McKinlaigh to an individual silver medal in Eventing in Hong Kong on Aug. 12 as part of the 2008 Olympic Games. She shared the podium with gold medal winner Hinrich Romeike of Germany, and individual bronze medallist Kristina Cook of Great Britain.

This was the first Olympics for Ms. Miles and 14-year old Irish Sport Horse McKinlaigh, who is co-owned by Ms. Miles, Thomas Schulz and Laura Coats. Ms. Miles and McKinlaigh were short-listed as alternates for the 2004 Athens games, but did not make it into competition.



Gina Miles waves to the crowd during her silver medal victory lap with McKinlaigh at the eventing Olympics competition in Hong Kong.

Originally from Davis, Ms. Miles began riding when she was 7 years old. Now 34, Ms. Miles is the youngest competitor on the U.S. Olympic Eventing team.

Though she lives in Creston with husband Morgan and children Austin and Taylor, she is a regular presence in the local equestrian community, teaching and showing at the Horse Park in Woodside.

She is also locally connected through her aunt and uncle, Ted Zayner and Dawn Neisser, who have lived in Woodside for 22 years. ■

For more information about Gina Miles and to read her online Olympics journal, go to [www.mileseventing.com](http://www.mileseventing.com).

## Novitsky, Neisser are nationally ranked

By Colin Becht

Special to The Almanac

John Novitsky and Dawn Neisser call Woodside home. One other home they share, the USA Cycling 50-54 National Time Trial Rankings.

Both Novitsky and Neisser are national ranked in time trials for their age group, with Novitsky currently holding the No. 1 men's ranking. Neisser is 28th for women.

Both Novitsky and Neisser raced in the USA Cycling 2008 Masters Road Time Trial Championships on June 30 in Louisville, Kentucky, with each of them reaching the podium.

Novitsky placed first for the Men's 50-54 group, while Neisser took home the bronze medal in the women's race. Novitsky completed the almost 39 km race with a time of 51:59.9, and Neisser finished in 1:01:18.4.

Novitsky will next be moving on to international racing, representing the United States at the Union Cycliste Internationale Road World Championships on Aug. 27. Because of his No. 1 ranking, Novitsky receives the

### ■ CYCLING



John Novitsky of Woodside placed first in the USA Cycling men's 50-54 national time trials.

honor of wearing the stars and stripes cycling jersey given to the top-ranked cyclist of each age group in the United States.

Other top cyclists will wear

their country's jersey as well.

Novitsky has already received his stars and stripes jersey in the mail with the team's sponsors printed on it.

"It looks awesome," he said.

As for Neisser, she, too, will represent the United States when she competes in the Senior Olympic Games to take place in 2009.

Novitsky said he did not try out for the Senior Olympic team.

Novitsky is an avid trainer, cycling six times each week, both during the cycling season and in the off-season. He said he bikes about 25 hours each week during the off-season, and reduces that to 16 hours of training when also competing.

Novitsky actually got into competitive cycling only as the result of an injury. A competitive runner, Novitsky "messed up" his knee when he was 45. He said that he really liked racing and his doctor agreed that he could bike without further injuring his knee.

Novitsky then hired a cycling coach, and now, just five years later, he is a national champion. ■

### NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS BID PROPOSALS SOUGHT FOR THE STREET LIGHT PAINTING PROJECT

The City of Menlo Park invites qualified contractors to submit sealed bid proposals for the construction of the STREET LIGHT PAINTING PROJECT. Work required as part of this project consists of, in general, street light painting including surface preparation, prime coat and final coat application and any necessary traffic control. Performance of this work requires a valid California Contractor's License Class C33. Project documents and copies of the 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 until 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 10, 2008, at which time they will be opened and publicly read. Additional information can be obtained on the City's website:

[www.menlopark.org/cip](http://www.menlopark.org/cip)

Published in THE ALMANAC on August 20, 27, 2008.

### NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS Bid Proposals Sought for OAK GROVE AVENUE RESURFACING PROJECT

The City of Menlo Park invites qualified contractors to submit sealed bid proposals for the construction of OAK GROVE AVENUE RESURFACING PROJECT. Work required as part of this project consists of, in general, grinding of existing asphalt concrete pavement, placement of new asphalt concrete, adjustment of utility covers (if necessary), installation of striping and pavement markings, and doing all appurtenant work. Performance of this work requires a valid California Contractor's License Class A.

This is a federal aid project that is considered to be part of the statewide overall Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal. The City is required to report DBE participation for all Federal-aid contracts each year so that attainment efforts may be evaluated. The City of Menlo Park hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, DBEs will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, age, or disability in consideration for an award. Bidders need not achieve the percentage stated in any DBE Availability Advisory as a condition of Award.

This project is subject to Federal minimum wage rate requirements and California prevailing wage requirements. If there is a difference between the minimum wage rates predetermined by the Secretary of Labor and the general prevailing wage rates predetermined by the Director of the California Department of Industrial Relations for similar classifications of labor, the Contractor and subcontractors shall pay not less than the higher wage rate.

This project is also subject to the "Buy America" provisions of the Surface Assistance Act of 1982 as amended by the intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991.

Project documents and copies of the 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 until 2 p.m. on Wednesday, September 10, 2008, at which time they will be opened and publicly read.

Additional information can be obtained on the City's website:

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Published in THE ALMANAC on August 20, 27, 2008.

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## PLANNING COMMISSION RECRUITMENT

The Town Council is seeking an individual to serve on the Town's Planning Commission to complete the term of a Planning Commissioner stepping down the end of July 2008. This will be a three-month position. The term will expire in December 2008 and will be available for a 4-year term in January 2009. The Town Council will hold interviews tentatively scheduled for September 10, 2008.

The objectives of the Commission are to continually advise the Town Council regarding the comprehensive planning of the Town and to administer the planning regulations. The duties and functions include review of the General Plan for development within the Town, recommend ordinance and resolutions to the Council as necessary to implement the General Plan, supervise the land use within the Town by conducting necessary public hearings and acting upon applications for: zoning amendments, conditional use permits, variances, subdivisions, site development permits and building permits.

The Planning Commission consists of 5 members appointed by the Town Council. The Commission meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month.

If you are interested in serving on the Planning Commission, please submit a letter of interest to the Town Council by Friday, August 29, 2008.

Published in THE ALMANAC on June 11, 18, 25, July 23, August 13, 20, 2008.

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## M-A Little League boosts instruction, sportsmanship

By Colin Becht

Special to The Almanac

The Menlo-Atherton Little League has made several key changes to its program aimed at both improving the quality of play and reducing overly competitive behavior in the younger age divisions, said Dale Sakai, an M-A Little League board member.

The changes, which began in the past season, involved using local high school players and coaches, as well as baseball organizations, to conduct clinics for divisions from T-Ball to Majors. And to reduce excessive competitiveness among younger players, the league has stopped keeping scores in T-Ball and the pitching machines divisions.

### Player development

The league launched a Player/Coach Development program to help coaches improve the quality of instruction and introduce players to new drills that enhance their baseball skills.

The development program tapped baseball organizations and local high school players and coaches to help instruct the Little League coaches and players.

Menlo-Atherton High School players and coaches helped with T-Ball instruction, putting on two clinics for each team at the M-A High field. The clinics covered beginning instructions for players, such as how to swing a bat and throw, while teaching Little League coaches how to instruct children at this early stage.

The idea was for the coaches to reinforce the same fundamentals and drills at each practice "and it worked out really well," said Sakai. "So the quality of play, actually, in T-Ball went up dramatically because we held this program."

A similar clinic, run by an organization called Kids Love Baseball, was held for players in Single-A, a pitching machine division for less-experienced players. The Menlo School baseball team ran a clinic for the players and coaches in Double-A (a pitching machine division for more advanced players).

Still another organization, called Starting Lineup, performed a clinic for the Triple-A division (the lower level of the kid-pitch divisions), while JS Athletics, run by Jim Noreiga, a former Stanford baseball player, held the clinic for the Majors division (the highest level of competition in Little League).

In addition to the clinics, the baseball organizations and high school programs were also paid to run one practice for each team in

the division they instructed.

The M-A Little League board created a curriculum for each division, describing the skills the board wanted each player to obtain at each level of play.

If some of the division names sound foreign, that's because of other changes by the board to improve quality of coaching and play. The pitching machine division of the past has been divided into Single-A and Double-A divisions to provide players with more age-appropriate instruction, Sakai said.

The pitching machine division used to have players from age 7 to 10 with a wide range of skill levels. That made it difficult to provide valuable instruction to each player.

Now, the Single-A division has the younger and less experienced players, and the Double-A division has older, more skilled players. Both divisions use a pitching machine, but there are differences in the pitching speed.

Sakai said the feedback he has gotten from players, parents and coaches in the league has been "overwhelmingly positive," and the level of play in each of the divisions noticeably improved.

### Sportsmanship

The M-A Little League board also made some changes to decrease the emphasis on winning in the younger division, and promote sportsmanship in all the divisions.

"We wanted to try to stop [unsportsmanlike] behavior because we thought it was counterproductive" for the kids, said Sakai.

The league, said Sakai, has had many incidents of poor sportsmanship, especially when coaches, parents, and players became overly competitive.

He cited an example of a coach in the former pitching machine division who had all of his players bunt, exploiting the weakness of fielding and throwing in the league to win games at the expense of real game experience for the players.

To combat such behavior, the league has stopped keeping game scores in T-Ball, Single-A and Double-A divisions, with the exception of the Double-A post-season tournament.

Also, the only individual award is one for sportsmanship, given to the player on each team who was not necessarily the best player, but who "exemplified and symbolized the Little League spirit, which is 'Play Fair, Strive to Win, Do One's Best,'" said Sakai. ■

# Kucera places second in rodeo 'cutting' event

By Colin Becht  
Special to The Almanac

Hollie Kucera, 17, placed second at the National High School Rodeo Finals in the "cutting" event, in which the rider uses her horse to separate a cow from the herd. Her score was 649.5, only four points short of the top place.



This was the second year that **Hollie Kucera** competed in the National High School Rodeo Finals in "cutting."

Hollie, a resident of Atherton, qualified for the National Finals, held in Farmington, New Mexico, when she won the all-around competition at the California High School Rodeo Finals in Bishop, California.

Hollie qualified to compete in the Nation Finals in cutting and barrel racing, two of the sixth events in the female rodeo competition. She came in 58th for barrel racing with a time of 36.109 seconds.

This was Hollie's second year competing in the National Finals in cutting, after she tied for 11th in 2006.

In the cutting competition, the rider uses the horse to keep a cow separated from the herd, but cannot use the reins to posi-

tion the horse, relying on feet and leg cues only.

The rider is judged on a point scale, and gains points for the degree of difficulty and minimal use of the reigns, but loses points for frightening the cow herd and not emulating the direction and movement of the cow with the horse.

In barrel racing, a speed event, rider races a horse around three barrels in a cloverleaf pattern. ■

# M-A fan clubs win laurels, some brickbats

By Colin Becht  
Special to The Almanac

When one thinks of college sports, what often comes to mind is the passion of the fans. Such passion has led to clubs of diehard fans such as the Cameron Crazies of Duke University and the 6th Man of Stanford University.

That passion can also be found in the 6th Man and 12th Man clubs at Menlo-Atherton High School. (The 6th is for basketball, and the 12th for football.)

Club members usually sit together at games, wear club T-shirts to set them off from others in attendance, and stand and chant together.

With up to 500 members in support of the Bears, the M-A fan clubs have been named the Top Cheering Section in the Bay Area by the San Francisco Chronicle.

M-A senior Andy Creighton, who calls himself the chairman and CEO of the M-A fan clubs, says the Sixth Man club was started four years ago by then-student Ryan Terribilini "to get people away from drugs and gangs during the weekend and just kind of have a positive place



Photo by Diane Branning

**Members** of the Menlo-Atherton 6th Man cheering section dress in "preppy" clothing for a basketball game at Menlo School in January.

for people to go."

Last year, the 12th Man club was created to provide M-A students with that same "positive place" during the football season, Creighton said.

The clubs, however, have run into confrontations with high school administrators, who want to tone down over-eager behav-

ior that can go over the line.

For example, Morgan Marchbanks, principal of Sequoia High School, recently created a rule that forbade spectators from standing during basketball games at Sequoia.

"She thinks [fan clubs are]

See **M-A FANS**, page 20

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Mark Schmidt is an American Board of Opticianry and National Contact Lens Examiners Certified Optician licensed by the Medical Board of California. He can be easily reached at Menlo Optical, 1166 University Drive, Menlo Park. 650-322-3900.

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Photo by Tom Haflinger.

This oil painting, "Amish Horses" by Daniel C. Trimbath, is one of the works featured in Menlo College's exhibit "Outside the box, Inside the Frame," which opens Aug. 21.

## Menlo College opens art exhibit

Menlo College will have an opening reception for the art exhibition "Outside the Box, Inside the Frame," on Thursday, Aug. 21, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the college's Administration Building.

The reception is open to the public and will feature music and a brief talk.

On display until Oct. 12, the exhibit features work from faculty, family and staff at the college,

and presents a wide range of media from painting to bookbinding.

It was organized by the Menlo College Art Committee to showcase the diversity of the community to incoming students and their families.

For more information, call 543-3901, or send an e-mail to [dblake@menlo.edu](mailto:dblake@menlo.edu). The college is located at 1000 El Camino Real in Atherton.

## Quadrus to host 'tri-city' chamber of commerce mixer

Menlo Park, Palo Alto, and East Palo chambers of commerce representatives are joining forces to hold an Aug. 27 regional mixer where local business people and others from the three cities can network.

The event will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the Quadrus Conference Center at 2400 Sand Hill Road, #101.

Admission is \$10, and members of any of the three participating chambers can reserve a table for \$125. To reserve a table, or to find out more information, call the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce at 325-2818.

### Musical duo

Colibri, a musical duo, will present a children's program at 4 p.m. Monday, Sept. 8, at the Atherton Library. Lichi Fuentes and Alisa Peres take their audience on a musical journey to Latin America through singing and playing instruments that are typically used in Latin American countries. The free program, recommended for children ages 3

### AROUND TOWN

and older, is sponsored by the Friends of the Atherton Library.

The library is located at 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane in Atherton. For more information, call the library at 328-2422.

### Aurora Singers

The Aurora Singers will hold auditions for the 2008-09 year at 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 2, at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto, 505 E. Charleston Road.

The 60-voice choir specializes in American music, with a repertoire ranging from gospel to Broadway tunes, as well as Christmas and holiday music. Concerts are held in December and in the spring.

Singers may bring a prepared piece to the auditions, but it is not necessary. Aurora Singers are directed by Dawn Reyen. For more information, call 365-6785.

### M-A FANS

*continued from page 19*

negative, when really we are just trying to help out ... and have a place for people to go instead of just getting drunk and high on the weekends," said Creighton.

He said he has discussed the issue with Sequoia Union High School officials in an attempt to dissuade schools from adopting such restrictive rules.

The clubs "really are more positive than they are negative," Creighton said of student cheering sections.

Creighton said that the clubs have also run into issues with the M-A administration related to inappropriate chants, though

he says such chants were not started by the leaders of the cheering section, but individuals within the clubs.

"The punishment for that now, this year, that I have put in place is you just get your shirt taken away, you get your money back ... and you'll be asked not to stand with the 6th Man club," he said. "It creates a bad name for the 6th Man club."

Such problems have led the M-A administration to distance itself from the cheering sections. On the Web site of the M-A 6th Man club, Creighton points out, "legally, I cannot say we are affiliated with MA high school whatsoever ... thanks to the big man up at the front office (Matthew Zito, Menlo-Atherton

principal)."

As for funding, the M-A clubs operate on their own funds received through donations. Creighton said the clubs are seeking a sponsorship from a local business to provide \$1,800 for the groups' shirts. In exchange for the contribution, Creighton said, the shirts would feature the sponsoring company's logo.

"We're willing to pretty much give anyone a good opportunity to get their names on the shirts," said Creighton. "We can negotiate for logos on the front and they can have a say on the design of the shirt."

The M-A 6th Man club Web site can be reached at [www.bbe-stories.com](http://www.bbe-stories.com). ■



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## OBITUARIES

## Heather Claire Broome

Retired chemist and consultant

Services for Heather Claire Broome will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Aug. 22, at Our Lady of the Wayside Church, 930 Portola Road in Portola Valley. A reception and buffet in the redwood grove behind the church will follow. Ms. Broome died Aug. 15 at Kaiser Hospital in Redwood City. She was 83.

Her lifetime achievement was continuing her career as a chemist, with special training in technical information services, while raising six children, say family members.



Heather Broome

A resident of Woodside, Ms. Broome was born in Paignton, Devonshire, England. She attended Newnham College at the University of Cambridge, studying chemistry. She received a master's degree in 1946.

In 1946, she married Kenneth R. Broome. Her early professional career included work as a research chemist for the Distillers Company in Tonbridge, Kent.

The Broome family immigrated to the United States in 1951, moving to Los Angeles, where Mr. Broome joined the aerospace industry. Ms. Broome became a technical librarian working with the U.S. Borax and Chemical Co. in Anaheim.

In 1964 the family moved to the Bay Area. Ms. Broome worked for Stanford Oil, and later, for Chevron Research Corp. In 1972 they moved to Reading, Pennsylvania, where they lived for the next 20 years. The couple became land developers, developing more than 100 residential lots in subdivisions

Obituaries are based on information provided by families and mortuaries.

in Berks County. They started a consulting engineering firm, K.R. Broome & Associates, which they relocated to Woodside in 1994.

Ms. Broome contributed to both the community and her church. She held leadership roles in the American Association of University Women and the League of Women Voters (learning computer skills to produce their newsletter at age 70). She was a member of the San Mateo County Grand Jury, a position she held until last December. She was a longtime member of the parish choir at Our Lady of the Wayside Church.

Ms. Broome is survived by her husband of 62 years, Kenneth; her children, Claire of Berkeley, Stephanie of Palo Alto, Rosemary of Woodside, Beth of San Diego, Jenny of Davis, and Martin of Newbury Park; and seven grandchildren.

The family prefers that memorial donations be made to the education fund of the League of Women Voters of the San Francisco Bay Area.

## Harry Kirkwood

Pacific Telephone executive

Harry Kirkwood, a resident of Menlo Park for 45 years, died at his home on July 14 due to heart complications. He was 90.

Mr. Kirkwood was born in Paterson, New Jersey, and attended local schools. He joined the U.S. Air Force during World War II and was honorably discharged in 1946 as a captain and a U.S. Field Artillery liaison pilot. After the war, he served as a captain in the New Jersey National Guard from 1947 to 1952.

Mr. Kirkwood married Laura Elizabeth Craig in 1948, and

they celebrated their 60th anniversary with family this year.

He graduated from New York University with a bachelor of science degree in 1951, and began work for AT&T in New York City.

In 1963, the family moved to Menlo Park, and he continued to work for Pacific Telephone in San Jose, Hayward, and Menlo Park. After almost 25 years, he retired in 1975. After retirement, he



Harry Kirkwood

formed a number of successful real estate ventures, family members said.

Mr. Kirkwood was a member of the Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club, San Francisco Marines Memorial Association, New York University Alumni Association, and Portola Valley Presbyterian Church.

Survivors include his wife, Laura Elizabeth Kirkwood of Menlo Park; sons Craig R. Kirkwood of Palo Alto and Douglas F. Kirkwood of Menlo Park; daughters Joan E. Cronin of Atherton and Elaine A. Watkins of Saratoga; and eight grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to the Max & Marion Caldwell Foundation, P.O. Box 1653, Capitola, CA 95010.

## John Neves Brown

Teacher and horseman

John Neves Brown, a resident of Woodside for 43 years before moving to San Martin, died July 22 at Santa Teresa Hospital in San Jose. He was 88.

Mr. Brown was born in Santiago, Chile. His father was American; his mother a native of Chile. He first came to the United States to serve in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

He received a bachelor's degree

from DePaul University in Chicago and his master's degree from Northwestern University.

A teacher in the Palo Alto Unified School District for 30 years, Mr. Brown taught Spanish and French to generations of high school students.

He and his wife, Florence, were active in equestrian circles and owned the Rohn Stables on Canada Road in Woodside for 13 years. They were also members of the Los Altos Hunt (now Hounds).

Mr. Brown belonged to several dance clubs with his wife, as well as Woodside and Menlo Park tennis groups. He enjoyed travel in Europe, South America, and other locations during summer vacations. The Browns moved to San Martin in 1999.

Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Florence; and a brother, Harold Brown of Evanston, Illinois.

## Jim D'Arcy

A requiem Mass for Jim D'Arcy of Menlo Park will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 21, at St. Raymond Church, 1100 Santa Cruz Ave. in Menlo Park. Mr. D'Arcy died peacefully at home on Aug. 14 at the age of 92.

A rosary will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 20, with visitation from 4 to 7 p.m. at Spangler Mortuary, 650 Live Oak Ave. in Menlo Park. Interment will be private at Holy Cross Cemetery in Colma.

A complete obituary for Mr. D'Arcy will appear in a future issue of The Almanac.

## Gary Kurtz

Rodeo rider and carpenter

A funeral service for Gary Kurtz will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, Aug. 25, at Messiah Lutheran Church, 1835 Valota Road in Redwood City.

Mr. Kurtz, a former resident of Woodside, died Aug. 13 at his home in Redwood City at the age of 70. As a teenager, he lived in Woodside and worked at Why Worry Farm. He was a member of Carpenters Union Local 217 and worked as a carpenter for 30 years, retiring in 1992.

Mr. Kurtz rode in the amateur rodeo circuit for many years and was a judge for the Woodside Junior Rodeo for 15 years. He enjoyed collecting classic cars and took part in car shows throughout California.

He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Diane; son Greg; and grandson Jake.

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## POLICE CALLS

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

## ATHERTON

**Grand theft report:** Computer stolen from residence, Menlo College at 1000 El Camino Real, Aug. 8.

**Fraud report:** Unauthorized check cashed for \$5,000, first block of Victoria Drive, Aug. 8.

**Assault and battery report:** Driver of dump truck punched driver of catering truck and then left scene, Walsh Road and Alameda de las Pulgas, Aug. 14.

## MENLO PARK

**Auto burglary reports:**

■ Wallet and purse taken after break-in, 1600 block of Marsh Road, Aug. 8.

■ Ulisses Hernandez-Mendoza, 21, East

Palo Alto and juvenile suspect arrested on charges that included auto burglary, 100 block of O'Keefe St., Aug. 14.

**Residential burglary reports:**

■ Tools and backpack stolen, 200 block of Elliott Drive, Aug. 8.

■ Copper stolen and damage done to storage locker and gate, 900 block of Hermosa Way, Aug. 11.

**Grand theft reports:**

■ Black bicycle stolen, 1900 block of Oakdell Drive, Aug. 8.

■ Bicycle stolen from yard, 600 block of Sharon Park Drive, Aug. 9.

**Stolen vehicle reports:**

■ Blue Toyota Camry, 200 block of Santa Margarita Ave., Aug. 13.

■ White Buick LeSabre, 1200 block of Carlton Ave., Aug. 14.

**Adult Protective Service referral report:** 1100 block of Bieber Ave., Aug. 9.

## WOODSIDE

**Auto burglary report:** Friend of resident detained strange man who was inside resident's vehicle and who fled after emptying his pockets of iPod, resident's black wallet, burglary tools and papers, 2100 block of Ward Way, Aug. 7.

**Theft reports:**

■ Two GPS systems, knife, three flashlights, strobe light and fanny pack stolen from two unlocked vehicles, 2100 block of Stockbridge Ave., Aug. 8.

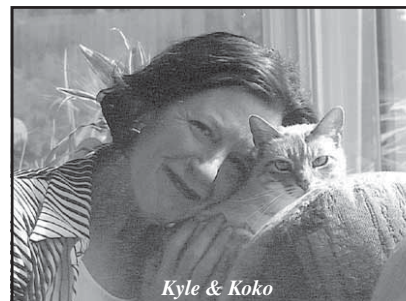
■ Apple iPod and radio transmitter stolen from unlocked vehicle, 2100 block of Stockbridge Ave., Aug. 8.

## WEST MENLO PARK

**Theft report:** Unauthorized checks amounting to \$6,000 stolen from victim's account via bank in Arizona, 1200 block of Bellair Way, Aug. 6.

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Tom Gibboney

**Editorial**

**Managing Editor** Richard Hine

**News Editor** Renee Batti

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**Senior Staff Writers**

Marion Softky, Marjorie Mader

**Staff Writers** Andrea Gemmet,

David Boyce, Rory Brown

**Editorial Intern**

Selena Simmons-Duffin

**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,

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**Advertising**

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(650) 854-2626

FAX (650) 854-0677

e-mail news (no photos please) to:

editor@AlmanacNews.com

e-mail photos with captions to:

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Voluntary subscriptions are available for delivery to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside at \$30 per year or \$50 for 2 years. Subscriptions by businesses or residents outside the area are \$50 for one year and \$80 for two years.



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## New lesson: bus or bike to school

For people of a certain age, riding a bike or taking a bus to school is not rocket science. In their day, parents rarely considered chauffeuring their kids to school. Either walk, bike or take the bus. Period.

Fast forward to the growth of suburbia, the vanishing school bus, the fear of shady characters lurking in the neighborhood — and parents embraced driving their loved

**EDITORIAL**  
The opinion of *The Almanac*

ones to school in the confines of a gas-guzzling eight-passenger van or SUV. These miniature trucks clogged the streets and choked school

neighborhoods during rush hour, creating a cascade of snarled traffic anywhere near a classroom. But parents rationalized that it was a small price to pay for the safety of their children.

And then came awareness of global warming, \$4-plus-a-gallon gas, and school neighbors increasingly upset with parents using their streets for a parking lot as they loaded and unloaded their precious cargo. And in Menlo Park, a predicted off-the-charts enrollment spike is forcing construction of new Hillview Middle School facilities to accommodate 900 students, a more than 25 percent increase over 2007-08 enrollment numbers.

Something has to give. And it did.

Now, after years of leaving student transport to parents, the Menlo Park City School District has launched a major promotion to get kids to school by means other than the one-parent/one-child model, in the hope that the massive traffic jams every morning and afternoon can be alleviated.

As reported in the Aug. 6 Almanac, the school district has devised a plan to press every family to get their child to and from school by walking, bicycling, taking a bus, or car pooling. With the help of an anonymous donor's \$100,000 gift and \$65,000 more from the state, the district was able to purchase two buses — a 64-passenger model and a smaller one that can carry 24 kids — and is making an all-out effort to explain all the transit options on its Web site, www.MPCSD.org. The schools' buses will focus on bringing younger children to school, while SamTrans buses will provide the best

options for slightly older students.

Neither Superintendent Ken Ranella nor any members of the school board knows for sure if this all-out transportation strategy will work. Old habits die hard, and when it comes to K-2 kids, parents probably won't be ready to do much more than car pool. Bikes and buses may be too forbidding for this age group, and walking could be a problem too, unless there is a safe route to school.

With its huge building program already under way, the Menlo Park school district will have to do everything possible around schools whose campuses are disrupted by construction activity. We urge parents to find a way for their child to get to school without riding alone with a parent in the family car. After all, walking and biking are good exercise, and taking a bus these days is helping to reduce production of greenhouse gases. If enough parents buy into this movement, the notices that kids are going back to school Aug. 25 won't bring the typical groan from school neighbors, who would normally expect to be inundated with opening-day traffic.

**LETTERS**  
Our readers write

**Fair treatment of a sensitive subject**

Editor:

Your treatment of gay marriage in the cover story, "A 30-year Engagement," was, in my opinion, even handed. This is a sensitive subject to readers of different convictions.

Between the recent court decision and the pending ballot

initiative there is lots of opportunity for disappointment, bitterness and seeing others as enemies.

Allow me to offer a quote from a true story by Denver Moore in "Same Kind of Different as Me." Denver writes, "...cause every person that look like an enemy on the outside ain't necessarily one on the inside." Because we differ does not have to equate to being enemies.

**Bill Russ**  
Cotton Street, Menlo Park



Atherton Heritage Association

**Our Regional Heritage**

City Council member Malcolm Dudley and Ruth Jackson stand with an unidentified volunteer during a 1992 campaign to raise funds for the Atherton Library.

# Tuolumne diversions lead to environmental degradation

By Will Derwin

Menlo Park, Portola Valley, Atherton, and Woodside are blessed with some of the best drinking water in the world from Yosemite National Park's Hetch Hetchy reservoir, which is diverted from the pristine Tuolumne River.

The Tuolumne River cascades 162 miles from the High Sierra before merging with the San Joaquin River. As the largest of three major tributaries to the San Joaquin, the Tuolumne contributes much-needed freshwater to the San Francisco Bay-delta.

The river supports a diverse biological community, including migratory waterfowl, raptors, black bears, foothill yellow-legged frogs, Sierra Nevada red fox, rainbow and steelhead trout, and Chinook salmon.

Unfortunately the Tuolumne, designated a wild and scenic river, has been extensively developed to provide irrigation, drinking water, and power to farms, businesses, and millions of households. On average, approximately 59 percent of the river's natural flow is diverted to farms and cities, causing environmental degradation and species decline. The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) diverts 225 million gallons of water per day from the river.

Along with other diversions, the

agency's water and power operations have greatly reduced the river's high flows during the Sierra Nevada snowmelt runoff period, decreasing the quality and quantity of habitat for fish and amphibians within the Tuolumne watershed.

Rising temperatures and climate change also are diminishing the amount of water in the Tuolumne and threatening its ecosystems and inhabitants. Due to population growth, increasing use of fossil-fuels, and the resulting emissions of greenhouse gasses, all global climate models project increased temperatures over the next century. Projected increases vary from approximately 3 to 10 degrees Fahrenheit.

These rising temperatures are expected to reduce snow accumulation in mountain watersheds, including the Sierra Nevada. Warmer conditions during the last few decades have caused more precipitation to fall as rain instead of snow, and snowpacks over the region have melted earlier in the spring. These snowpack changes have already significantly impacted water supplies, natural ecosystems, and recreational activities (including skiing and rafting).

Future snowpack modeling suggests that losses of spring snow accumulation will become progressively larger over the next century. By the 2035-2065 period, the Sierra Nevada snowpack is projected to decrease by 12 to 47 percent under the lower range of projected warming and 26 percent to 40 percent under the higher projected range. By 2100, snowpack could decrease by up to 90 percent.

The reduction of future snowpack poses challenges to water managers, hampers hydropower generation, threatens our freshwater supply, and may nearly eliminate recreational activities in the area. As the snowpack melts earlier, there will be shorter seasons and fewer areas for people to ski. Similarly, as spring snowmelt runoff declines, river water levels will decrease, and recreational rafting will be less predictable.

Higher water temperatures also have harmed fish, especially their spawning tendencies. Between 2000 and 2008, the Chinook salmon population of the Tuolumne dropped 99 percent — from 18,000 to just over 200.

Yet despite the increasing damage forced upon the Tuolumne and its inhabitants by climate change

and water diversion, the SFPUC is proposing to divert up to 25 million more gallons of water per day from the river as part of its water system improvement program.

However, the agency's projections are based on flawed modeling that inflates future demand while underestimating the potential for conservation. Outdoor water use alone drives 60 percent of the anticipated increase, suggesting there is tremendous potential to use water more efficiently.

There are many simple conservation opportunities that individuals can employ in their daily lives. Regarding outdoor water use, people can plant drought-tolerant plants, deep-soak their lawns less frequently, check sprinkler heads and valves, cover pools, and use brooms instead of hoses to clean outdoor surfaces.

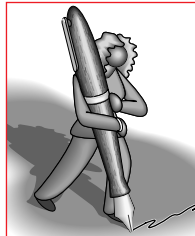
As for indoor water use, conservation efforts focus on newer, more efficient models of toilets, low-flow shower heads and clothes washers, and the installation of faucet aerators on sinks. Many Bay Area water utilities provide free water conservation plumbing fixtures, as well as cash rebates for residential customers who purchase water-efficient appliances. For more water conservation tips and opportuni-

ties, individuals should visit <http://watersavinghero.com/>.

The town of Portola Valley has made a strong commitment to the Tuolumne River by passing a resolution in support of water conservation and recycling and opposed to increased water diversions. In addition, the California Water Service Company, which serves drinking water to our local communities, recently has increased its water conservation budget. Information about its conservation opportunities and potential rebates can be found at <http://www.calwater.com/conservation/index.php>.

Between population growth and climate change, water is becoming the most important issue in California. If our communities follow a path towards water conservation, the Tuolumne River can continue to support the lives of countless animals and plants, humans' power and drinking needs, and recreational opportunities for centuries to come.

**Will Derwin is a Portola Valley native entering his second year at Kenyon College in Ohio. He is studying environmental studies, with an interest in climate change.**



GUEST OPINION

## A healthy education

By Julia Ransohoff

Teen health education does not begin and end in the classroom.

Along with parental discussions, classroom lessons are just the beginning. At the end of middle school, motivated by my realization of how little my peers knew about healthy living and sex education, I was determined to become a peer health educator. My mentor, Nancy Brown, the manager of health education at the Palo Alto Medical Foundation Research Institute of Sutter Health, has provided energetic support and guidance. With her help it became clear to me that there is a need for information to be delivered in a safe, caring, and trusted voice. There are many uninformed teens, yet this is due less to a lack of curiosity and interest than to a paucity of trusted voices and safe sources. Teens' questions and concerns have to be welcomed with respect. Peer education can provide one such arena.

For five years, I have worked on methods of improving public health education for young people, through helping develop the preteen Web site, iWe're Talking

Too!i ([www.pamf.org/preteen](http://www.pamf.org/preteen)), writing articles for Sutter Health's teen Web site, iWe're Talking! ([www.pamf.org/teen](http://www.pamf.org/teen)), and teaching peers in local classrooms.

With support from several grants, I played a role in writing and teaching two modules,

one on bullying prevention (Bullies: Who, What, and Why) and one on healthy relationships for teens and teen educators (The ABCs of Healthy Relationships: Awareness, Balance, and Choices). Both help teens explore their curiosity, develop self-respect, and stay on track for college. I taught these modules in several local elementary, middle, and high schools. Most recently, in June, with my sister and co-author, Katie Ransohoff, we taught three middle school classes at East Palo Alto Charter School about bullying prevention and healthy relationships.

On the Web sites and in the classrooms, I have seen hundreds of my peers eager to learn about their health concerns, gain access to relevant information, and engage in expansive conversations. Many adults underestimate our generation's capacity to learn from its own members and the resources we have created for each other.

I am not alone in reaching out to my peers and modeling mutual respect and understanding, but the very fact that so many teens are not only willing to listen, but also to talk about health-related topics, signifies a positive step for our age group.

Although the predominant, heavily marketed image of teens these days is of mindless experimentation with sex, drugs, and alcohol, there is contrary evidence that suggests teens are engaging increasingly less in such behaviors. I am proud to contribute to my generation's knowledge and I hope that adults will help inform their teens, support school-based curricula, and respect the development and power of peer-to-peer health education.

**Julia Ransohoff will be a senior at Menlo-Atherton High School when school re-opens this week.**



Julie Ransohoff

GUEST OPINION



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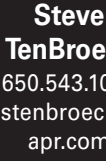
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