

EX-ATHERTON COP ordered to pay restitution
for selling stolen golf clubs. Page 9

The Almanac

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

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APPROVE!
SEE PAGE 26



SEPTEMBER 3, 2008

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Back to school

Kindergarteners embark on the new
Spanish immersion program at Encinal School

See *The Almanac's* Back to School report on what's
new at five public school districts, starting on **Page 12**

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Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT



Photo by Veronica Weber/The Almanac

Literary pursuits

Caleb and Carleigh relax in the reading corner in their kindergarten classroom on the first day of school, Aug. 25, at Encinal in Atherton. Two of Encinal's five new kindergarten classrooms, like this one, are part of the Menlo Park City School District's fledgling bilingual Spanish immersion program. The Almanac's complete back-to-school coverage begins on Page 12.

Atherton

■ Following big fuss, Atherton couple gets their driveway; town avoids lawsuit. **Page 11**

Menlo Park

■ High-speed rail face-off in Menlo Park on Sept. 9. **Page 5**

Portola Valley

■ Town staff readying for shift to new Town Hall. **Page 5**

Regional

■ West Nile virus found in Atherton. **Page 9**

Community

■ Creative Arts Day at Allied Arts Guild set for Sept. 11. **Page 8**

People

■ County Supervisor Rich Gordon marries longtime partner. **Page 5**
 ■ Inventor Paul Baran of Atherton to receive national honor. **Page 7**

Food & Drink

■ When it comes to heirloom tomatoes, Tim Johnston says a little is good, more is a lot better. **Cover, Section 2**
 ■ 'Taste of Woodside' slated for Sept. 21. **Page 27**

Also Inside

Calendar	28
Letters	22
Obituaries	21
Police Calls	20

On the cover

It's hard to say if the first day of kindergarten is harder on parents or on the kindergartners, as evidenced by an apprehensive-looking Sonia Goyle being reassured by her mom, Renu Goyle, on her first day of school at Encinal on Aug. 25. There are a lot of new things in store this year as local students of all ages head back to school. Photo by Veronica Weber. Stories begin on **Page 12**.

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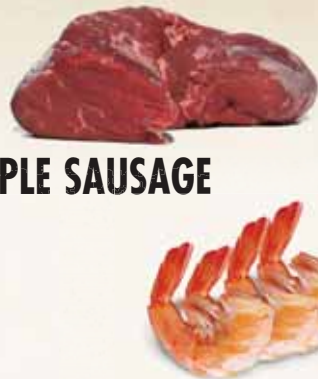
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Wilted Spinach: Nothing Limp About it

After generations as the object of ridicule by American school children, spinach has come into its culinary own. One of the easiest ways to enjoy spinach, other than fresh by the handful, is wilted. Fortunately for all these school kids, this cooking technique has effectively replaced the cook-it-into-slime approach that clouded spinach's reputation for so long in this country. The procedure is simple: Melt butter or pour a small amount of oil in a sauté pan, add fresh spinach, and toss, cooking just until the spinach starts to soften. At this point, you may season it with salt, pepper, lemon juice or vinegar, and serve as a vegetable. Nutmeg is another complementary seasoning. Barely wilted spinach may also be prepared as a salad and tossed with such ingredients as almonds and garlic, bacon bits, tomatoes and parmesan cheese, or hard-cooked eggs. Spinach is an often overlooked vegetable, much and unfairly maligned. Today, this leafy green makes fabulous salads and a terrific side dish when properly prepared. We only select the freshest produce so you can make the salad of your dreams. If you need a quick snack or the makings for a fine dinner, we have it all right here. We work hard to bring you satisfaction in everything we stock.

Hint: In the south of France, a favorite dessert is made by combining spinach with sugar, a custard sauce, and apricots.



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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Town staff readying for shift to new Town Hall

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

■ PORTOLA VALLEY

People with town business in Portola Valley on or after Sept. 9 will cross the threshold of a new Town Hall designed to be environmentally friendly and, unlike the old Town Hall that operated out of an un-reinforced 1950s-era elementary school building, built for its intended purpose.

Traces of the San Andreas fault run through the Town Center site at 765 Portola Road. The new complex of buildings, which includes a library and community hall, are placed far enough from the fault to be deemed safe.

The Town Hall is also built with extra durability to serve as an emergency operations center for the town, if needed.

To accommodate the staff's move to the new Town Hall, the old Town Hall, which has been housed in a temporary building since 2004, will close at 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 4, and reopen at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9, in the new building a few hundred feet to the west. The rest of the Town Center is set to open Sept. 14.

"Now we have really safe

buildings," Town Administrator Angela Howard said. Ms. Howard and many of the staff spent years in the old school complex, which sat atop one of the trace faults.

A map prepared for the town by geologists in 2002 shows the fault now running under open space and a relocated baseball field at the 11.2-acre site.

Maxed out for space

The elementary school may be gone but it is not forgotten in the new Town Hall. Wood taken from branches and tree trunks removed from the site during construction is used to trim the new cabinets.

The new front counter, now big enough to accommodate the unrolling of house plans, was originally part of the massive laminated beams that spanned the ceiling in the old school's multi-use room.

"It looks almost like a butcher-block counter," said Assistant Town Administrator Janet McDougall. "It's very nice looking."

See **TOWN HALL**, page 8

Portola Valley plans dinner, grand opening for \$20 million Town Center complex

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

A select group of Portola Valley donors and their family members, 75 residents in all, are receiving invitations to a dinner to recognize their major gifts to the Town Center project. The dinner's cost, about \$179 per person, will come from a fund of private donations to the project that is administered by the town.

Invitations went to donors who gave at least \$50,000 to the project, said Town Center fundraising campaign co-chairs Beth Rabuczewski and SallyAnn Reiss.

The \$20 million complex at 765 Portola Road, scheduled to open at the Blues and Barbecue festival on Sunday, Sept. 14, will have a new library, Town Hall, community hall and maintenance buildings, plus outdoor facilities that include a softball field, tennis courts and a lawn suitable for relaxing during open-air performances.

A list of donors published at pvtowncenter.com shows 39 gifts greater than \$50,000, including three anonymous gifts and six from institutions or foundations.

To pay for the dinner, the Town Council on Aug. 13 granted a request from Ms. Rabuczewski for \$13,154, along with \$6,915 for the Sept. 14 ribbon-cutting ceremony and \$500 for an appreciation

lunch for town staff. The money will be drawn from donated funds.

The council approved the request on a 4 to 1 vote, with Councilman Richard Merk opposed. The sticking point was the \$179 per person for the dinner. "That just seems over the top," Mr. Merk said.

The idea, Ms. Rabuczewski replied, is to try to make the dinner memorable because people with thousands or millions of dollars of disposable income go to such dinners all the time. "I'd be happy to put out red-checked tablecloths and hamburgers," she added as a rejoinder.

Given the strong environmental emphasis to this project, Mr. Merk also asked whether anyone had considered the carbon-dioxide footprint of this dinner. They have. The handmade table centerpieces are locally grown — from foliage in Ms. Reiss' yard, Ms. Rabuczewski said.

In an interview, Ms. Reiss noted that the interest the town earned on \$17 million in donations more than covers the cost of the dinner.

Asked to comment, Mr. Merk replied: "To me, that's totally irrelevant. It's the use of the money. The interest could have gone to any number of things that we still need money for."

Then he added: "Hey, I was voted down and that's the end of it. I vote my conscience when I'm up there (behind the dais) and that's the way I feel about it." ■

High-speed rail face-off in Menlo Park on Sept. 9

By Rory Brown
Almanac Staff Writer

■ MENLO PARK

Menlo Park residents and City Council members have slammed plans for high-speed trains to zoom through town, and now they'll hear the opposing point of view from some of the project's biggest supporters.

Quentin Kopp, chairman of the California High Speed Rail Authority, and authority board member Rod Diridon are among the expected speakers at a Sept. 9 study session devoted to plans to connect Northern and Southern California with electric trains that travel up to 220 miles per hour.

The study session is scheduled for 5 p.m. in the council chambers at the Civic Center, between Laurel and Alma streets. The council's regular meeting will follow the study session.

The council isn't expected to

take any action at the Sept. 9 meeting, but that doesn't mean things won't get contentious.

Menlo Park, Atherton, and several nonprofit groups are suing the California High Speed Rail Authority, arguing that it picked an environmentally sensitive route to send trains through the Bay Area. As currently planned, trains would connect to Gilroy from the Central Valley, then shoot up the Caltrain corridor — through Menlo Park and Atherton — to connect to San Francisco.

Menlo Park joined the lawsuit on a 2-1 council vote, due to a recusal and an absence.

Council members Kelly Ferguson and Richard Cline — the council members in favor of

See **RAIL**, page 8



Rich Gordon, left, and husband Dennis McShane at their wedding in Half Moon Bay.
Photo by Rod Searcey

Supervisor Gordon marries longtime partner

By Selena Simmons-Duffin
Special to the Almanac

San Mateo County Supervisor Rich Gordon married his partner of nearly 26 years, Dennis McShane,

on Saturday, Aug. 16, at the Oceano Hotel in Half Moon Bay.

Larry Purcell, director of the Catholic Worker House in Redwood City, officiated, pronouncing the couple "hus-

band and husband" before a crowd of about 190 guests, Mr. Gordon said. The ceremony was followed by a reception, dinner and dancing.

See **GORDON**, page 8

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Paul Baran slated for national honor

Atherton resident and noted inventor Paul Baran, who is credited with developing the concept underlying modern communications networks, will receive the National Medal of Technology and Innovation from President Bush in a White House ceremony on Sept. 28.

With the application of Mr. Baran's invention, called packet switching, digital media such as e-mail messages, Web pages and cable TV shows are disassembled into hundreds or thousands of "packets," each with its own number and address, and sent along various paths in a mesh-like network, then cleanly and quickly reassembled in the right order at the other end with the recipient



Paul Baran of Atherton, a serial entrepreneur and a member of the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

none the wiser.

Packet switching is important because it dramatically lowers the cost of communications networks and the risk of failure in cases of physical damage to network components, whether by lightning or terrorist attack.

Mr. Baran, 82, is a serial entrepreneur and a member of the National Inventors Hall of Fame. Medal recipients this year include eBay Corp. and the Skunk Works, a division of Lockheed Martin Corp. that developed aircraft such as the U-2 and SR-71 spy planes and the F-117 stealth fighter-bomber.

For more on Mr. Baran, go to <http://tinyurl.com/PaulBaranStory>.

Hewlett Foundation names new education director

The Menlo Park-based William and Flora Hewlett Foundation tapped a congressional policy director as the new head of its education program.

Barbara Chow, currently the policy director for the Budget Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, will replace Marshall Smith, the foundation announced on Aug. 14.

"We're delighted she'll be working with us to help our grantees improve education in California and around the world," said Hewlett Foundation President Paul Brest in a press release.

Ms. Chow served in both terms of the Clinton White House as a special assistant to the president for legislative affairs, and from 1997 to 2001 was an associate director with the Office of Management and Budget, according to the Hewlett Foundation.

At the Hewlett Foundation,

PEOPLE

Ms. Chow will oversee educational grants in four categories: low-performing urban schools; efforts to reform the state's K-12 public schools; improving outcomes at community colleges; and broadening access to educational materials on the Internet.

Rosanne Foust named VP at SAMCEDA

Redwood City Mayor Rosanne Foust is joining the San Mateo County Economic Development Association (SAMCEDA), the county's chief organization promoting business, as vice president.

Ms. Foust has broad roots in the community. She also chairs the board of the San Mateo County Transportation Authority, and

is deputy chair and past chair of the Redwood City Chamber of Commerce. She serves on the boards of other community and civic organizations.

"Rosanne brings not only business leadership but a broader county-wide perspective on the issues and challenges facing large and small businesses," said Dan Cruey, president and CEO of SAMCEDA. "Her leadership on housing, transportation, and environmental issues will contribute to the collaborative efforts SAMCEDA has undertaken on behalf of its members and the business community at large."

Ms. Foust has been assigned to lead SAMCEDA's business development effort, and work with business and county leaders to develop programs to promote economic vitality in the county.

For information, call Mr. Cruey at 413-5600.

Dr. Margaret Deanesly to talk on getting ready to get old

Dr. Margaret Deanesly of Menlo Park, a popular international speaker on health, will make her first local appearance in two years at a lecture and lunch in Atherton's Holbrook-Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Ave., on Thursday, Sept. 18, starting at 9:30 a.m.

"Getting Your Act Together Before You Have To" will be Dr. Deanesly's topic as she discusses physical, emotional, and legal aspects of aging.

Dr. Deanesly started her career of presenting serious information about health, wrapped in laughter, more than 30 years

ago with her popular "Mornings with Margaret" series at Holbrook-Palmer Park. Many local women still remember laughing their way through menopause.

While serving as a physician at the Palo Alto Medical Clinic and the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, Dr. Deanesly expanded her repertoire of talks to other issues, including men's health, which she addressed with catchy titles such as "Risky Parts: Prostates and Hearts."

Dr. Deanesly has lectured around the world, most notably in Dubai, where a mixed audience including men and veiled

women heard her discuss men's health problems.

In 2006, Dr. Deanesly received a Lifetime of Achievement Award from Avenidas, the Palo Alto senior center.

The Sept. 18 event is a fundraiser for the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, sponsored by the Palo Alto Auxiliary. It will include a mid-morning coffee break with treats featured in the auxiliary cookbook, "Tastes, Tales and Traditions," and a catered box lunch by Whole Foods.

Reservations are still available at \$65 each by calling 325-9692.

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Art, nature, fitness classes return to Town Center

After a hiatus of more than three years during construction of a new community complex, children's art and nature classes and various fitness and martial arts classes are again happening at Portola Valley's Town Center.

Creative art classes for children from preschool to age 8 begin Sept. 23 in the new community hall. The schedule offers morning and afternoon classes on Saturdays and selected weekdays.

For information on schedules and costs for art instruction and all other classes, go to <http://tinyurl.com/PVClasses>. Fees range from \$165 for a 45-minute adult Tai Chi class to \$380 for a two-hour children's art class. All classes take

■ PORTOLA VALLEY

place in the community hall.

Fitness sessions for all ages are scheduled for Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings in Room 3 starting on Sept. 15, the same day that martial arts classes start in kickboxing, karate and Tai Chi.

Afternoon hands-on nature classes on the ways and habits of a creek begin Sept. 15. The classes center on Sausal Creek, a seasonal waterway that, after decades of traveling through a pipe under Town Center, is being partially exposed to the air in a rebuilt stream bed.

TOWN HALL

continued from page 5

The reuse of old materials is one of many steps taken to earn for the new complex what is likely to be the highest honor in terms of environmentally sensitive construction. For all that, however, the 4,500-square-foot Town Hall is about as occupied as it can be in terms of employees.

"In the offices, I think we're pretty well maxed out," Ms. Howard said. The town has 14 full-time and two part-time employees.

Three of the staff — the recreation facilities coordinator and the two-person maintenance staff

— will have offices in the new maintenance building, Ms. Howard said.

In Town Hall, the partial second floor designed for storage, computer servers and the building's mechanical equipment is now also home to two office cubicles with room for two more if the staff grows, she said.

The building's original design was larger and included a mezzanine and a full basement for storage. "When dreams hit the reality of the budget, everything shrank," Ms. Howard said. "They were just trying to get the cost down. It'll be fine now."

In a first for Portola Valley, Town Hall now complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Ms. Howard said. ■

GORDON

continued from page 5

Attendees included all four of Mr. Gordon's colleagues on the Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Liz Kniss from Santa Clara County, and Congresswoman Anna Eshoo. There were also family members from as far away as England. "And lots of friends," Mr. Gordon added.

"It was just a beautiful event," he said. "Both of us were overwhelmed by the presence of love in the room, the support that was there."

The couple made the wedding

their own: They wrote their own vows and dressed in kilts. Mr. Gordon is of Scottish descent, and Mr. McShane is of Irish descent. "Both of these Celtic peoples wore kilts historically," Mr. Gordon said. "We decided it would be a way to pay honor to our heritage."

How's married life? "After 25 years together, it's not that much different," Mr. Gordon said. "I think what really is different is knowing that our relationship now is affirmed by the state of California and we are treated equally and fairly as any other couple who gets married in the state." ■

RAIL

continued from page 5

joining the suit — said the rail authority showed little sign of listening to the city's concerns about the potential noise, construction, and environmental

impacts associated with high-speed trains zooming through town. That viewpoint is shared by Menlo Park residents who live near the tracks, who have become some of the project's staunchest critics.

High-speed rail supporters, including Judge Kopp, have dis-

missed Menlo Park's stance as a "not in my backyard" attitude toward the project; they are rallying support for Proposition 1, the \$9.95 billion bond measure slated to appear on the Nov. 4 ballot that would provide the initial stage of funding for the estimated \$45 billion project. ■



The grounds at Allied Arts Guild in Menlo Park.

Creative Arts Day at Allied Arts Guild

Visitors will be able to learn wheat weaving, do Chinese brush painting, make a candle, or take a 30-minute line-dance lesson on Creative Arts Day, set for Thursday, Sept. 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Allied Arts Guild in Menlo Park.

This is the fourth year for Creative Arts Day, which will be held throughout the historic buildings and gardens at 75 Arbor Road.

The shops will have demonstrations of jewelry-making, needlework, floral design, glass blowing, Chinese calligraphy, sculpture, and digital photography.

Pottery was one of the first arts to be created at the Guild. There will be several demonstrations of the skill. Potter Joy Imai will make her Japanese wish boxes. Dan Dermer will show

how he creates his containers on his potter's wheel. The Paint Your Own Pottery Studio from Los Altos will allow visitors to paint and work with clay.

Five painters from the Portola Valley Art Gallery will be demonstrating their skills in oil, acrylic and watercolor.

All the mini-workshops and demonstrations are free and open to the public. Breakfast and lunch are available in the Guild's new restaurant, The Red Currant. Call 322-2626 for reservations.

Creative Arts Day is sponsored by the Friends of Allied Arts. The event raises funds for the Guild gardens and benefits Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford.

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Ex-Atherton cop ordered to pay for selling stolen golf clubs

A former Atherton police officer who pleaded no contest to charges that he sold stolen golf clubs to a golf store last year was ordered Aug. 28 in San Mateo County Superior Court to pay the owner of the clubs nearly \$800 in restitution, a chief deputy district attorney said.

Clark Yee, 29, was an officer in Atherton for several years before the robbery occurred in November 2007, Chief Deputy District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe said.

An Atherton resident who had left specialized golf clubs in the back of his unlocked car reported on Nov. 19 that the clubs were stolen from his driveway, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

Officers, including Mr. Yee, responded and filed a report, according to Mr. Wagstaffe.

The victim later went to The Golf Mart in South San Francisco to purchase replacement clubs and spotted 14 of his specialty clubs, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

The man contacted police, who viewed security footage from the business and witnessed Mr. Yee selling the clubs to the store, according to Mr. Wagstaffe.

Investigators with the district attorney's office questioned Mr. Yee, who said he had bought

ATHERTON

the clubs over the Internet, according to Mr. Wagstaffe.

Mr. Yee said he purchased the clubs from someone named "Omar." Mr. Yee told investigators he decided he did not want the clubs so he sold them to The Golf Mart, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

Investigators seized Mr. Yee's two computers to look for communication between Mr. Yee and "Omar," but found none, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

He pleaded no contest in June to one felony count of filing a false police report and one misdemeanor burglary count for entering The Golf Mart with intent to sell stolen goods, said Mr. Wagstaffe.

He was sentenced to three years' probation and 50 days in county jail.

Mr. Yee lost his job at the Atherton Police Department and will not be allowed to work as an officer again due to his felony conviction.

In court on Aug. 28, Judge Clifford Cretan ruled that Mr. Yee is to pay the victim \$770 in restitution as well as restitution to The Golf Mart in an amount to be determined by the probation department, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

— Bay City News Service

West Nile virus found in Atherton

A dead bird found in Atherton on Aug. 15 tested positive for West Nile virus, according to San Mateo County health officials. It's the third animal in the county to test positive for the disease since May.

West Nile virus is spread via mosquito bites. Birds, humans, horses and other animals can become infected if bitten, and crows are particularly susceptible, according to the San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector

Control District.

The county is focusing its efforts on controlling mosquitoes, and asking for the public's help in reporting dead birds to 1-877-WNV-BIRD (877-968-2473) for collection and testing.

"Mosquito control technicians are in the field every day finding and treating catch basins, backyard fish ponds, and other breeding sites in the county," said Dr. Chindi Peavey, a district vector ecologist, in a press release.

West Nile virus is a potentially serious illness that can cause high fevers, convulsions, muscle weakness and paralysis in a small percentage of the population, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. About 80 percent of people who are infected with West Nile virus show no symptoms at all. People over age 50 have a higher risk of developing serious symptoms, the CDC says.

their driving privileges affected, Sgt. Sheridan said.

"One of the main goals of the program is to keep juveniles in school to increase their chances for academic success, with the final outcome being a high school diploma," Menlo Park Police Department spokesperson Nicole Acker said.

For more information, send an e-mail message to Menlo Park police Officer Mary Ferguson at mnferguson@menlopark.org or call 330-6300.

the streets, kids can make "poor decisions," including getting mixed up with gangs, he added. "I don't want them getting into trouble."

If students need counseling, they will get it, he said. If they're being bullied in school and actually feel safer on the street, that, too, will be addressed.

Repeat offenders can be sent to juvenile traffic court, where they could be fined and have

Law enforcement looks out for truants

Truants beware. The law enforcement community in San Mateo County, including police in Atherton and Menlo Park, are looking for you.

A six-week effort began recently to step up enforcement of truancy laws. The goal: to find truant students, get them back in class, and work with them and their families to raise their awareness of school's importance and the availability of assistance, said Sgt. Joseph Sheridan, the school resources officer at the county Sheriff's Office.

"If they're not in school, they're not going to learn. Our goal is to get them into school," Sgt. Sheridan said in a phone interview.

When they're out wandering

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Goodbye party set for MiMe's Cafe on Sept. 10

MiMe's Cafe, in the old See's candy store at 2050 Broadway in Redwood City, will be closing its doors for good after lunch on Friday, Sept. 12, a victim of hard economic times.

For 13 years, since 1995, patrons have enjoyed MiMe's zippy California specialties prepared with passion by culinary students of JobTrain, the job-training center in Menlo Park; and served with equal enthusiasm by clients of Youth and Family Enrichment Services, an agency serving troubled youth.

Friends of MiMe's Cafe are invited to a farewell open house on Wednesday, Sept. 10, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"It is very hard to say goodbye," wrote Sharon Williams, executive director of JobTrain (formerly OICW) in the July newsletter. She cited reasons of "high food and

fuel prices, a faltering economy, and decreased availability of government funding for job training."

The popular cafe was made possible by Charles Huggins of Woodside, who donated the former See's candy store on Broadway as a

The closing is related to 'high food and fuel prices, a faltering economy, and decreased availability of government funding for job training,' said Sharon Williams, executive director of JobTrain.

nonprofit training restaurant. He is a former CEO of See's. The cafe was named after his late wife, MiMe.

Closing MiMe's does not mean the end of JobTrain's Culinary Arts Program. Chefs-in-training will continue to learn the art of making sauces, salads and pizza at the JobTrain headquarters in Menlo Park, which already has an industrial kitchen, said spokeswoman Kate Bryan.

Students there will be free of the limits of a set menu and pressures of serving in a real restaurant, Ms. Bryan noted. "We can expand the menu so the students can learn a more extensive set of



Photo by Marjan Sadoughi/Palo Alto Weekly

Sunset idea house

A view to the master bedroom of the Sunset idea house, which was open for public view through August at the SummerHill Homes' Lane Woods development on Willow Road in Menlo Park.

cooking skills."

For reservations to the open house, call 330-6450 by Thursday, Sept. 4. For more information on JobTrain, go to jobtrain-works.org.

Man pleads guilty to 20 bank robberies

A Napa resident, dubbed the Highway 101 Bandit, pleaded guilty Monday to 20 charges in connection with the robbery of 20 banks throughout California and Utah — including a credit union in Menlo Park — the U.S. Department of Justice has announced.

U.S. Attorney Joseph Rusioniello said Arthur Eki Cheney pleaded guilty as part of a plea agreement to the July 7 charges stemming from bank robberies between June 18, 2007, and Dec. 12, 2007.

Mr. Cheney became known as the Highway 101 Bandit because most of the banks and credit unions that he struck were along U.S. 101, including in Corte Madera, Petaluma, Burlingame, Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Campbell and San Jose. He also robbed banks not along U.S. 101, including in Vacaville and Fairfield.

The Menlo Park robbery occurred around 1:35 p.m. Monday, Dec. 10, 2007, at the Provident Credit Union branch on downtown Santa Cruz Avenue. Police said a man handed a teller a note demanding money, and escaped with an undisclosed sum of cash.

Mr. Cheney has admitted to getting away with \$46,040 without ever brandishing a weapon. During the robberies, however, he did threaten to use a pistol in at least seven of the robberies, the Department of Justice said.

Mr. Cheney remains in the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service and is scheduled to be sentenced before Judge Marilyn Hall Patel in San Francisco on Oct. 20. He faces up to 20 years in custody and \$250,000 plus restitution for each charge.

— Bay City News Service

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Correction

In a recent story on the Menlo-Atherton High School "Sixth Man" fan club, a quote from the club's leader, Andy Creighton, was incorrectly interpreted.

On the club's Web site, Mr. Creighton said, "... legally, I cannot say we are affiliated with MA high school what-

soever ... thanks to the big man up at the front office." The reporter concluded that Mr. Creighton was referring to M-A principal Matthew Zito, but according to Mr. Creighton, he was actually referring to Menlo-Atherton dean of students Fred Kesler.

The Almanac regrets the error.

Following big fuss, Atherton couple gets their driveway

■ Council avoids lawsuit by not acting on appeal.

By Rory Brown

Almanac Staff Writer

The Atherton City Council has gotten the town wrapped up in hundreds of thousands of dollars of legal costs in recent years, but it looks as if council members actually avoided a new lawsuit at their Aug. 20 meeting.

A majority of sitting council members were unwilling to support an appeal by neighbors to stop construction of a new driveway that connects to Madrone Road, so the project will move forward as planned.

With the project moving ahead, homeowners Thom Bryant and Susan Gellen won't be suing the town — something they said they would do if the appeal against the city-issued permits for their driveway was upheld.

Mr. Bryant and Ms. Gellen obtained an encroachment permit in June to build a driveway for their newly constructed home at 99 De Bell Drive. They need the permit to build a driveway that cuts through the back of the property to Madrone Road — a cul-de-sac off Oak Grove Avenue that Atherton controls, but is privately maintained by the handful of homeowners who live on the street.

Mr. Bryant said the couple needs a longer, wider driveway

that connects to Madrone Road so they can tow either a boat or classic race car into the garage.

But Madrone Road neighbors, led by appellants David and Leigh White, said the new driveway would increase traffic, lower nearby property values, and hurt the rural feeling of the sparsely traveled street. They noted that other De Bell Drive homes could follow suit, creating safety issues for the neighborhood.

"You start adding driveways with back access with little visibility, and that's a safety issue," Ms. White told the council.

Council vote

Council member Kathy McKiethen, who previously spoke in favor of the appeal, lives near 99 De Bell Drive, and was unable to vote on the matter due to a potential conflict of interest.

That left four council members on the dais, with three of them having to support the appeal to halt the construction of the driveway — numbers that weren't there.

"We're talking about [a driveway for] one house, we're not talking about an apartment building here, people," said Mayor Jim Janz, questioning Madrone Road neighbors' claims that the impacts of the driveway could lower surrounding property values by as much

ATHERTON

as \$500,000 a home.

Mayor Janz and Councilman Charles Marsala voted to deny the appeal, while councilmen Jerry Carlson and Jim Dobbie voted to support it. Mr. Marsala said the prospect of a potential lawsuit — litigation he wasn't convinced the city would win — figured into his decision.

"We've been in litigation way


too much over the last two years," he said.

Councilman Carlson had a different take on the matter. "[The driveway] definitely changes the look and feel of the neighborhood," he said. "It's out of the norm."

Mr. Carlson said both the homeowners and city staff should have reached out to neighbors earlier in the planning process, which could have prevented the conflict.

In a separate vote, councilmen Marsala and Janz voted to deny the appeal, but that vote also resulted in a tie, with councilmen Carlson and Dobbie opposed.

In the end, the council took no action on the appeal. This allows the driveway project to proceed as planned. The council did approve a measure on a 4-0 vote that requires Mr. Bryant and Ms. Gellen to pay toward the maintenance of Madrone Road. ▀



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Dr. Robert Lehman, adolescent medicine specialist, explores the challenges that moms face in raising adolescent boys and offers ideas on how to strengthen the relationship between mothers and their sons as they transition from childhood to adulthood. **To register, call (650) 724-3783.**
- Tuesday, October 14

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

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Ormondale School photo

'The Cat' comes to Ormondale

The "Cat in the Hat," known as Ormondale Principal Jennifer Warren, reads a Dr. Seuss favorite "Horton Hears A Who" to students at the K-3 school in Portola Valley during "Read Across America" last spring. Children, and teachers too, came to school in pajamas. They spent the entire day listening to mystery readers, completing Seussical activities and reading books with partners in their buddy classes.

Back to school

It's the start of a new school year, and the signs are unmistakable: new lunchboxes, big backpacks, heavy school books and butterflies in the stomach. For local schools, not all of the new faces will be in the classrooms. Corte Madera, Woodside elementary and Woodside High School all have new principals this year. There are new offerings in the classroom, lots of campus construction in the Menlo Park district, surging kindergarten enrollment and the prospect of parcel tax elections. Spanish classes are suspended at Woodside elementary this year, as Menlo Park rolls out Spanish classes for upper grades and launches an ambitious bilingual immersion program. Another charter high school may be on the way, and new faces will be joining several school boards. The Almanac's report on each of the five local school districts will keep you in the know as year gets under way.

Big changes accompany new kindergartners in Menlo Park district

By **ANDREA GEMMET** | Almanac Staff Writer

Rarely does a new crop of kindergartners provoke so much interest, but Encinal's youngest students have almost mini-celebrity status at the Menlo Park City School District's elementary school.

"A lot of the bigger kids were glued to the fence at lunch, looking at the little kids," said Encinal Principal Allison Liner.

Up until this year, Encinal in Atherton has been home to the district's third- through fifth-graders who live east of El Camino Real. All that changed on Aug. 25 when about 100 youngsters started their first day of school in the campus' spanking new kindergarten wing. As this kindergarten class advances through the grades, Encinal will become a K-5 school.

The older students are so enthusiastic about having kindergartners on campus, the school is planning to offer them a variety of volunteer opportunities to work with the kindergartners, Ms. Liner said.

"We're so happy to have kindergartners at Encinal," she said. "Little kids are so curious, so excited about learning, it really brings a new warmth to our school."

Another first for the entire Menlo Park district is happening in two of Encinal's five kindergarten classrooms — the launch of a bilingual Spanish immersion program. Students of Maestra Maria and Señorita Barerra were asked, in Spanish, to bid "adios" to their anxiously hovering parents on the first day of school.

The teachers speak only Spanish to their

students, amounting to about 90 percent of the total instruction in the kindergarten year. That percentage will slip downward as students progress through the program, leveling out at 50 percent English and 50

MENLO PARK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent: Kenneth Ranella | Call 321-7140 | www.mpcsd.org

Enrollment: 2,418.

■ **Laurel** (K-2), 95 Edge Road, Atherton | Principal: Nancy Hendry | Call 324-0186.

■ **Oak Knoll** (K-5), 1895 Oak Knoll Lane, Menlo Park | Principal: David Ackerman | Call 854-4433

■ **Encinal** (K, 3-5), 195 Encinal Ave., Atherton | Principal: Allison Liner | Call 326-5164

■ **Hillview** (6-8), 1100 Elder Ave., Menlo Park | Principal: Michael Moore | Call 326-4341

percent Spanish spoken in the classroom by fifth grade, when district officials say children should be fluent and literate in both languages.

"The kids seem to be adapting very well," Principal Liner said. "I'm happy to say nobody was crying and everybody was playing nicely."

Kids in the immersion class won't be the only ones learning Spanish at school this year. The district's world language initia-

tive is making Spanish instruction part of the curriculum for grades 3-5 at all three elementary schools, with plans to expand it to sixth grade and primary grades, said Superintendent Ken Ranella.

Other curriculum changes are in the offing, as district officials assess new mathematics textbooks and figure out how to prepare students for a state mandate to teach algebra to every eighth grader, Mr. Ranella said. Currently, about 60 percent of the district's eighth-graders take algebra, he said. The district is collaborating with the Silicon Valley Mathematics Initiative on professional development, studies and strategies, he said.

With district enrollment climbing, getting all those kids to school is a big issue. Primary grade students can take the district's new school bus to Laurel and Encinal in the mornings at a cost of \$250 for the year. After school, the bus is used to take children to the Newton after-school child care program on the Menlo Park Presbyterian Church campus. Other options include SamTrans routes geared toward older students, carpool message boards set up on school Web sites, and shuttles to ferry kids from Encinal to Laurel, providing one-stop pick-ups for families with siblings at both schools.

This year's big push to reduce the number of cars bringing kids to school seems to be a big hit. Mr. Ranella said that Oak Knoll needs more racks to handle the unexpectedly large numbers of bicycles, and that there's been a good deal of interest in the school bus. Construction projects starting this fall on the Encinal and Oak Knoll



Aleyda Barrera gives kindergartners in her bilingual Spanish class a lesson on listening on the first day of school at Encinal in Atherton.

Photo by Veronica Weber, The Almanac

campuses are expected to exacerbate traffic and parking problems.

"I think the parent(s) here are supporting our initiative of getting cars off the roads and away from campuses, not only because of the construction, but from a general ethic about being green," Mr. Ranella said.

Future construction at Hillview Middle School on Santa Cruz Avenue is bound to be another big topic this year, as the district prepares for the public review of the project's environmental impact report this fall. Enrollment at the middle school is expected to jump 25 percent in the next few years, triggering a major reconfiguration of the campus.

The district is also facing some changes at the top. Two veteran school board members, Terry Thygesen and board President Bruce Ives, are departing after eight years. Two candidates have filed to fill their seats, Maria Hilton and Mark Box. Both are past chairs of the Menlo Park-

Atherton School Foundation.

Among many other topics, the school board will be weighing whether to have a laptop computer for each student at the middle-school level, Mr. Ranella said. This year is the first that all classrooms are equipped with Smart Boards, a type of interactive whiteboard that links to computers or projectors.

"All the staff has had initial training on it," Mr. Ranella said. "I was gratified to walk into a kindergarten class at Laurel, and see the children all sitting on the rug and the teacher was putting up stuff on the Smart Board."

All in all, it looks to be another busy year in the Menlo Park school district.

"The mantra here is: 'continuous improvement,'" said Mr. Ranella. "From the board to the administration, the teachers and staff, we know we're going to continuously improve in all areas, especially in curriculum, but also in operations." ■

New arts center, charter school top news in high school district

Woodside High's new principal would transform after-school hours for low performers

By **DAVE BOYCE** | Almanac Staff Writer

The school year has begun and at Menlo-Atherton High School, the only news of note, according to Principal Matthew Zito, is the upcoming open house and public walk-through at the partially completed

performing arts center.

The estimated \$32 million, 32,000-square-foot theater, still a year away from completion, is going up in dramatic style at the intersection of Ravenswood Avenue and Middlefield Road. Tours are scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 21, between 3 and 5 p.m.

On the charter school front, the Sequoia Union High School District has received a petition for Everest, a four-year charter school planned to open in September 2009 and modeled on Summit Preparatory Charter High School in Redwood City.

About a third of Summit's 400 students are from The Almanac's circulation area. The Sequoia district's Board of Trustees is scheduled to rule on the petition on Wednesday, Sept. 17.

Everest petitioners argue that another charter high school is needed, given that three eighth-graders apply for every freshman seat at Summit. More than 90 percent of Summit graduates have been admitted to four-year colleges, school officials say.

At a recent public hearing, where the petitioners had a minimal presence and said they were relying on Summit's record to speak for itself, some residents said that charters tacitly discourage students

with lower academic skills and that the district has enough charter schools.

Meanwhile at Woodside High, new Principal David Reilly is, at 35, perhaps the youngest head of a high school in the Sequoia district's history.

A primary concern of Mr. Reilly's over the next few years will be to look at what's happening to kids who don't take to studying. What are they doing after the final classroom bell, and can the school help them make better use of that time?

New programs
For some Woodside High students who are not performing well academically, the end of the school day means hanging around along the Alameda de las Pulgas or wandering home,

sometimes stopping for fast food or snacks, Mr. Reilly said in a recent interview.

These behaviors need to change, he says, and he hopes to bring that about by developing a new set of after-school programs — if he can find the grants to pay for them — that could mix tutoring with intramural sports, opportunities for artistic expression, and maybe social functions.

Getting these students off the street and into tutoring is the goal, he says; the other activities are the means to that end. "We have to couple the medicine with the sugar."

See **HIGH SCHOOLS**, page 18



David Reilly, the new principal at Woodside High School, strolls through the campus and greets students at lunchtime on Monday, Aug. 25.

Photo by Veronica Weber, The Almanac

Kindergarten 'boomlet' at Las Lomitas; will it continue next year?

By **MARJORIE MADER** | Almanac Staff Writer

Yellow school buses wending their way through the Los Lomitas School District, from Alpine Road to Woodside Road, are a sure sign that summer's over and school has started.

Those buses will be bringing more students this year to Las Lomitas, the district's K-3 school in Atherton, and La Entrada, the grade 4-8 school in Menlo Park.

The district has gained 49 students, bringing enrollment to a peak of 1,191 after years of relatively little growth. Las Lomitas has 572 students and La Entrada, 619.

The district has eight kindergarten classes this year, all at 20 students per class, said Superintendent Eric Hartwig. He noted this increase is within the range the district predicted.

"It's definitely a boomlet," the superintendent said. The big question is whether the kindergarten bubble will continue next year.

"If it continues, we have one set of facility questions

to address in coming years," said the superintendent. "If not, we're looking at slower growth leveling off."

The district has hired Tom Williams, an enrollment projection consultant, to conduct a new demographic study.

An increasing number of students are coming to the district from the Sharon Heights area, and fewer students are leaving La Entrada for a private middle school, said Superintendent Hartwig.

The district, which has completed extensive bond-funded building and renovation programs at both schools, added two portable classrooms to the Las Lomitas campus this summer to house a third-grade

class and an occupational therapist.

A major change will take place in the district when De Modderman, business manager associated with Las Lomitas for 30 years, retires Dec. 30. Trustees accepted the "sad news" at their Aug. 13 meeting.

"De has no peer when it comes to fiscal insight and accuracy, and she is beloved by all who've worked with her,"

LAS LOMITAS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent: Eric Hartwig | Call 854-2880 | www.llesd.k12.ca.us

Enrollment: 1,191.

■ **Las Lomitas Elementary** (K-3), 299 Alameda de las Pulgas, Atherton | Principal: Gerald Traynor | Call 854-5900

■ **La Entrada Middle** (4-8), 2200 Sharon Road, Menlo Park | Principal: Larry Thomas | Call 854-3962

said Superintendent Hartwig. "Her reputation extends far beyond our relatively small district, and if we're lucky that will help us attract the best possible replacement."

The district is moving ahead in implementing its strategic plan, which includes unifying the visual and performing arts program from kindergarten through eighth-grade. That effort has support from teachers and



De Modderman

financial backing from the Las Lomitas Education Foundation, the PTAs and some state arts funding.

New this year, La Entrada is offering geometry as an elective to some motivated eighth-graders who are taking algebra. Behind this decision, said Superintendent Hartwig, is possibly developing a new math sequence that would have students take algebra in seventh grade and geometry in eighth grade.

La Entrada is offering this year support classes in language arts and math at each grade level. Fourth- and fifth-graders are offered reading support classes.

La Entrada is offering a wide range of electives including Spanish, French, Latin, symphonic band, photography, multimedia production, art, math games and puzzles.

There won't be a school board election on Nov. 4. Two candidates — Maria Mascaro Doktorczyk of Menlo Park, an attorney, and John Macdonald of Woodside, an entrepreneur — were unopposed and declared elected to a four-year term on the Las Lomitas district board. Both parents with children in district schools will be seated on the board in early December. Leaving the board will be trustees Lee Anderson and Steve Sowiski. ■



Photo by Veronica Weber/The Almanac

New principal Carol Piraino says she looks forward to her first year at Corte Madera and getting to know students, teachers and staff.

Challenges ahead for Portola Valley district; budget concerns top the list

By **MARJORIE MADER** | Almanac Staff Writer

Challenges with a capital C are ahead for the Portola Valley School District this year, says Superintendent Anne Campbell.

"The nuts and bolts issue of the budget is huge, a continuing challenge," the superintendent said.

Budget advisory subcommittees are looking closely at how to run schools more efficiently and at less cost, and also at ways to increase revenue

to help continue the quality of education that the community expects.

A possible parcel-tax election may be in the wings to provide additional funding because the district's \$290 parcel tax — expected to raise \$645,000 this year — expires in 2013. A two-thirds majority vote is required to pass a parcel tax.

New faces at Woodside elementary

By **ANDREA GEMMET** | Almanac Staff Writer

Woodside Elementary School's new principal, Diana Abbati, enjoys the school's "peaceful and lovely" environs, but the native New Yorker who makes her home in San Francisco is still adjusting to a few things in her new surroundings.

"Leaving here at 11 p.m. one night, I couldn't believe how dark it was," she said, admitting that she's a little scared of running into raccoons or skunks.

Otherwise, she's enthusiastic about leading the one-school district that serves kids from kindergarten through eighth grade on a freshly renovated campus in the heart of the town of Woodside.

By the end of the last school year, an administrative restructuring plan and the retirement of Dan Vinson, the superintendent/principal, left Woodside's top offices empty. While the school board searches for a new superintendent this year, the school will be led by Ms. Abbati and her second in command, filling the new — and probably temporary

— role of dean, Amy Rettberg.

Tim Hanretty, the assistant superintendent who divides his time between the Woodside and Portola Valley districts, is serving as the interim superintendent.

Ms. Abbati said she's enjoyed a warm welcome from faculty, staff and parents, and was pleasantly surprised at how smoothly the first day of school went.

Top issues to tackle in the new school year include evaluating the math curriculum, deciding the future of the Spanish program that's currently on hold, asking voters to pass a parcel tax and creating professional development goals.

Ms. Abbati started her career in the world of business and finance, but changed focus after experiencing a series of personal losses while in her 30s, she said.

"At 35, I had my master's in business, and I decided I wanted to be with kids, so I gave myself permission to go back to school,"

WOODSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Interim Superintendent: Tim Hanretty | Call 851-1571 | www.woodside.k12.ca.us

Enrollment: 522.

■ **Woodside** (K-8), 3195 Woodside Road, Woodside | Principal: Diana Abbati | Call 851-1571

See **PORTOLA VALLEY**, page 18

See **WOODSIDE**, page 18

Menlo Park's open-air Book Fair Sept. 13-14

It's a book lovers' bonanza. A tradition since 1953, the Friends of Menlo Park Library's annual Book Fair takes place Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 13 and 14, outdoors at the Menlo Park Civic Center.

More than 30,000 books in 32 categories will be for sale on more than 100 tables.

The books will be available at bargain-basement prices, usually \$1. Multiple copies of many classics, from Shakespeare to Confucius, will be available at these prices, according to Tim Goode, Book Fair spokesman.

The Book Fair opens both days at 9:30 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m. Saturday and 1:30 p.m. Sunday. There will be a half-price sale Sunday morning and, beginning at 11:30 a.m., all remaining items that shoppers can fit into a shopping bag will be sold for \$2 a bag. Patrons may buy as many bags as they wish. Volunteers will help carry purchases to shoppers' car.

Written bids on a long list of "collectible" books will be taken all day Saturday, and until 11:30 a.m. Sunday, in the council chambers. An oral auction follows at 2 p.m. Sunday and officially closes Book Fair 2008 at 4 p.m.

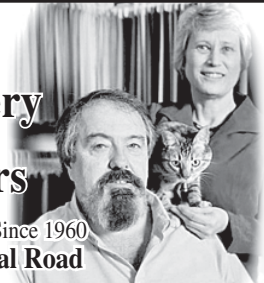
Youth art contest

Students in grades K-6 are invited to enter a drawing depicting their favorite book in a contest sponsored by the Friends of the Menlo Park Library. The drawing should be on 8.5-by-11-inch paper. Winners will receive a certificate for the purchase of books at the Book Fair. Mr. Goode predicts there will be hundreds of winners.

The drawing should be submitted to the student's school office by noon Wednesday, Sept. 3. Winners will receive their certificates at school on Friday.

Selected works will be displayed at the main library and at Kepler's Books with the artists awarded books for their work.

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Opera insights at Little House

■ AROUND TOWN

Ken Smith, author of "Fate! Luck! Chance! The Making of the Bonesetter's Daughter," will share his insights about Stewart Wallace and Amy Tan's new opera, "The Bonesetter's Daughter," at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9, at Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park.

The opera preview is sponsored by the South Peninsula chapter of the San Francisco Opera Guild. Tickets at the door are \$8 for members and \$10 for others. For more information, call Karen Prak at 329-1374.

learn how to recall long-forgotten but important incidents and put them down on paper." She also teaches "reflective techniques" to help participants better understand their life experiences, she said.

The fee is \$150. Registration is limited.

Ladera Community Church is at 3300 Alpine Road. For more information, call Ms. Dunec at 565-8087.

Life Stories course in Portola Valley

A new session of the popular Life Stories writing course that has helped guide many local residents in recording their personal and family histories will begin Sept. 18 at Ladera Community Church in Portola Valley.

Taught by Foothill College instructor Sheila Dunec, the 10-week Life Stories course teaches adults creative methods to write about their family history and specific events in their lives.

Two sessions are offered: Thursdays, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Sept. 18 through Nov. 20; and Fridays, from 9:45 to 11:45 a.m., Sept. 19 through Nov. 21.

Ms. Dunec said students "will

Dickens House design tour

Before Dickens House — the annual show house and holiday boutique fundraiser for St. Matthew's Episcopal Day School in San Mateo — opens Oct. 18, visitors will have a chance to take a "sneak peek" at the Hillsborough mansion that will be the setting for the event.

Design tours of the mansion, with the show house designers present, will be held Sept. 11-15 and Sept. 18-22 at 333 Uplands Drive in Hillsborough. Tickets are \$40. For hours and ticket information, call 324-6668 or go to www.dickenshouse.org.

This year's Dickens House holiday boutique and show house will be held Oct. 18 to Nov. 2.

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At Kepler's

Menlo Park resident Kimberly Ford, author of "Hump: True Tales of Sex after Kids," will discuss and sign this new book at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 9, at Kepler's bookstore, 1010 El Camino Real in Menlo Park.

Carriage driving event at Woodside Horse Park

Kathrin Dancer and her daughter, Nicole Dancer, of Woodside will be among the competitors in the combined driving event to be held Sept. 5 through 7 at the Horse Park in Woodside.

Run in memory of Dr. Henry Boyd, a veterinarian who pioneered combined driving on the West Coast, the event is organized by Ellie Ferrari and Gerald Fisher and is sponsored by the members of the Peninsula Carriage Driving Club.

The competition consists of three parts: dressage, a marathon or cross-country, and the cones or obstacle course.

Dressage on Friday takes place in a arena with drivers dressed in formal attire as the horses

perform elegant maneuvers.

The Saturday marathon takes place on a timed cross-country course with many obstacles, gates, and water crossings. Each driver takes along an extra person called a navigator. Drivers, navigators, horses and carriages end up wet and dirty, says club spokesman Christina Ferrari.

On Sunday, riders don formal attire once again to negotiate a timed course of cones in a arena.

The public is invited to attend the free carriage driving event, which takes place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Sept. 5 and 6, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 7. The Horse Park is located on Sand Hill Road, just west of Interstate 280.

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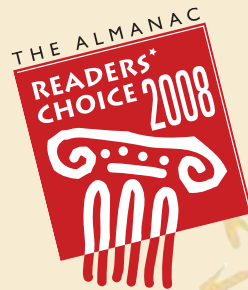
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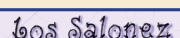
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PORTOLA VALLEY

continued from page 14

Trustees hired Godbe Research of San Mateo to survey district voters last July to determine support for a possible parcel tax election. The board will discuss the survey at its meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 3, starting at 7 p.m. in Room 1001 of Corte Madera School, located at 4575 Alpine Road in Portola Valley.

This year's \$11.5-million budget was balanced by a combination of measures to avoid short-term cuts in the educational program. These measures included: drawing \$330,000 from the district reserves, reducing expenses by \$500,000, and receiving almost \$1 million from the Portola Valley Schools Foundation and a \$200,000 grant for technology from an anonymous donor.

Enrollment has grown to 741 students this year from 711 last year after being stable in recent years. A fifth kindergarten class has been added at Ormondale to accommodate a record crop of 98 students. Also, new students have entered the district at various grades as families have moved into the district and some students return to public school from private schools. Ormondale has 353 students in grades K-3; Corte Madera has 389 in grades 4-8.

Corte Madera's new principal, Carol Piraino, started work last July after serving as principal for the past nine years at Palo Alto's Walter Hayes,

a K-5 school. She succeeds Principal Joel Willen, who retired after four years at Corte Madera and after a 42-year career in education.

Ms. Piraino brings to Portola Valley expertise in working with students of a wide variety of ages and backgrounds, and leadership in both language arts and math, said Superintendent Campbell. Earlier Ms. Piraino taught and was a vice principal in the Ravenswood City Elementary School District, where one main responsibility was to create a middle school within the K-8 Cesar Chavez Academy.

Challenges also are ahead on the education front.

Superintendent Campbell said the district is "striving to find the balance" between the traditional, teacher-directed model and the "investigative learning" approach, developed over the past three years at Ormondale School.

In the investigative-learning model, teachers are used as a resource to design learning experiences that encourage

students to identify topics for study, set goals, ask questions, discover answers, and be more responsible for their learning. These skills, according to the Ormondale teachers, become increasingly important for students in dealing with complexities of the 21st century.

Another challenge, said Superintendent Campbell, is to come up with an assessment system that employs wider use of technology and allows teachers to better monitor students' progress as they move through the grades. ■

PORTOLA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent: Anne Campbell | Call 851-1777 | www.pvsd.net

Enrollment: 741.

■ **Ormondale** (K-3), 200 Shawnee Pass, Portola Valley | Principal: Jennifer Warren | Call 851-1777

■ **Corte Madera** (4-8), 4575 Alpine Road, Portola Valley | Principal: Carol Piraino | Call 851-1777

HIGH SCHOOLS

continued from page 13

Support from the broader community would be important. "We need to put some minds together to see what's possible," he said. "What I'm really concerned about is (student) engagement after school. I'm very, very, very alarmed about the obesity rates of students."

Under the current system, a Woodside student cannot play organized sports without meeting requirements that include a grade point average of at least 2.0, generally good behavior, and a significant course load.

The intramural sports that Mr. Reilly has in mind would not have eligibility requirements. Some students have shown interest in intramural basketball and rugby, he said.

Right place, right time

Woodside High has been Mr. Reilly's place of work for all but a few of his 13 years in education.

With a bachelor's degree in English literature from the University of California at Los Angeles, he came to Woodside as a substitute teacher in 1995, earned a teaching credential

from San Francisco State University in the spring of 1997, and began full-time at Woodside. He taught journalism and advanced-placement English.

Teaching's professionalism and intellectual aspects drew him, as did the Woodside teachers who made teaching "very attractive to me," he said.

In 2003, he led Woodside's reaccreditation effort, which gave him an out-of-the-classroom a view of the school as an active organization.

He was appointed administrative vice principal at Sequoia High School in Redwood City in 2005, and returned to Woodside in January 2008 as interim principal when Linda Common left to take over special education for the district.

"If you'd have told me 10 years ago that I'd be a principal, I'd have laughed," he said. "I was very, very fortunate in being in the right place at the right time."

He says he has come to appreciate school administration as a way to entertain ideas on how to improve education. "When I was assured that I could still have an impact from outside the school classroom, that won it for me," he said. ■

WOODSIDE

continued from page 14


she said.

She got her teaching credential, and then a master's in administration, and is currently working on her doctorate at U.C. Berkeley. She was working as the principal and direc-

tor of special education at the K-8 Ross Elementary School in Marin County before coming to Woodside in August.

Her passion for what she does energizes her and sometimes keeps her working around the clock, Ms. Abbati said.

"I don't sleep much at night," she said. ■



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September 2008

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Meg Durbin, M.D., PAMF Family Medicine

Join us to hear a review of menopause and how to deal with it gracefully, safely, and without hype. The presentation will cover the physical and psychosocial issues common to "the Change" including an "evidence-based" of what works and what doesn't.

Hearst Center for Health Education, Level 3, Jamplis Building, Palo Alto Medical Foundation, 795 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. RSVP to 650-853-4873.

Peripheral Vascular Disease
Tuesday, September 23, 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Erik Price, M.D., PAMF Cardiology

Dr. Price will discuss vascular problems that occur outside of the heart and brain. He will talk about how to recognize vascular problems, how to treat peripheral disease including novel therapies and how to prevent the development of vascular disease.

Classes

Taking Charge of Your Body, Mondays, September 15 – October 20, 6 – 8 p.m.
A six-week course focusing on healthy living and managing your lifestyle through exercise and healthful eating.

Managing Your High Blood Pressure, Tuesday, September 23, 3 – 5 p.m.
This class provides information on causes, risks and treatment of high blood pressure, and approaches to successful reduction, such as exercise and medication.

Supermarket Wise, Monday, September 29, 2 – 4 p.m.
Learn techniques for making healthier food choices in a local supermarket with dietitian Karen Ross, M.S., R.D.

Support Groups

Cancer (1st & 3rd Tuesdays) • **Diabetes** (1st Wednesday) • **Multiple Sclerosis** (2nd & 4th Mondays) • **Sleep Apnea** (1st Thursday) • **Alcohol and Drug Education** (Every Tuesday) • **Healing Imagery for Cancer Patients** (September 3 & 17)

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Ladera couple raises guide dog for blind

By Jane Knoerle
Almanac Lifestyles Editor

Linda Atkinson and Bob Barrett were proud attendants at a graduation ceremony earlier this year. All that time and effort had finally paid off. Their puppy, Pasta, was graduating.

Pasta, a black lab retriever, graduated as a guide in a formal ceremony at the Guide Dog campus in San Rafael. She was presented to Megan Miller, a senior at Cal State Long Beach.

Ms. Atkinson is sure the two will get along fine. She says Pasta is sort of a princess. "She is on a campus. Now she will get all the attention she will ever need," she says.

The couple, who live in Ladera, acquired Pasta when she was 8 weeks old. "I was expecting a cute little puppy, but she was big," says Ms. Atkinson. She adds that raising Pasta "was interesting, a challenge."

Puppies are born at the Guide Dog kennels and placed in the homes of volunteer puppy raisers when they are about 2 months old. The adoptive family helps the pups by house-breaking them and introducing



Linda Atkinson, left, and Bob Barrett are shown with black lab, Pasta, and her owner Megan Miller.

them to new experiences.

The pups are returned to Guide Dogs for formal guide-work training when they are 14 to 18 months old. After their training is completed, the dogs are matched with blind students enrolled in the school. The new person-dog team completes an intensive in-residence course,

culminating with the graduation ceremony.

The Ladera couple belonged to the MidPeninsula Puppy Raisers, who meet twice a month in the multi-purpose room at Addison School in Palo Alto. The club, which is led by Susan Bosse and Jane Henner, has 10 members.

"Jane was a great help to me in raising Pasta," says Ms. Atkinson, who notes the lab already had its unusual name before coming to live with them.

Ms. Atkinson and Mr. Barrett are not undergoing separation anxiety now that Pasta has graduated. They have a new pet. This one is called Picasso. Picasso is a yellow lab who has had a "career change," (a p.c. term for having flunked Guide Dog training). "Sometimes a dog just wants to be a dog," says Ms. Atkinson. "He's a good boy, but a little unfocused," she adds.

The couple has raised two Guide Dogs for the Blind. "I enjoyed raising the dogs and, maybe, giving something back to the community," says Ms. Atkinson.

To find out more about Guide Dogs for the Blind, call 800-295-4050 or go to www.guidedogs.com. ■



New exhibit

"The Bull," an oil painting by Karen Barone, is part of her new exhibit, "Barnyard Portraits," at the Portola Art Gallery at Allied Arts, 75 Arbor Road in Menlo Park. An artist's reception is set for Saturday, Sept. 6, from 1 to 4 p.m. The exhibit runs through Sept. 30; the gallery is open from 10 to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For information, call 321-0220.

Vote **Elizabeth LEWIS**

ATHERTON COUNCIL

Visit www.elizabeth.com to become a Neighbor for Elizabeth

Dear Atherton Neighbor,

On November 4th you will make a critical decision about who is elected to the Atherton Town Council. We are writing this letter to urge you to vote for **Elizabeth Lewis on November 4.**

We know Elizabeth to be moderate in her approach to issues; open-minded to hearing all points of view; solutions-focused and always looking for the common ground for the greatest good.

As a Councilmember Elizabeth will work with community leaders to craft a **Vision and Strategy** in planning for the future of Atherton. She knows the importance of **Leadership** at the Council level and that micro-management of the day-to-day business of the Town wastes precious staff time and financial resources.

Elizabeth's commitments are to preserve Atherton's beautiful rural neighborhoods and heritage; make streets and intersections safer, implement green building and energy conservation technologies such as solar, insure transparency and openness in the Town's government proceedings, and hold its public servants accountable for actions and fiscal responsibility.

Elizabeth has surveyed the Town and the results were revealing: Only 18% of residents feel that Atherton has been on the right track - 67% of the residents have had a negative experience dealing with Town government - and 83% of the residents have concerns about traffic safety, building regulations and fiscal responsibility.

With over 20 years of business and community service, Elizabeth is well-qualified to serve as our Councilmember.

On **November 4th we will Vote for Elizabeth Lewis for Atherton Town Council** - we hope you will join us.

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John Shenk Jane Carpenter John Fischer Danielle Flynn Rosati
Debbie Thiebault Carolyn Teamster Sheri Shenk Susan Grindley
Didi Fischer John Thiebault

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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.

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

Stolen vehicle report: Green 1997 Chevrolet Suburban, staff parking lot of Menlo-Atherton High School at 555 Middlefield Road, Aug. 25.

MENLO PARK

Grand theft reports:

■ Half ton of river rock stolen from residence front yard and Jennifer Holiday, 61, of Menlo Park charged and arrested, 1000 block of College Ave., Aug. 26.

■ Apple iPhone and iPod stolen from office, 1400 block of Adams Drive, Aug. 22.

■ Catalytic converters stolen from vehicles, 200 block of Middlefield Road and 300 block of Claremont Way,

Aug. 23 and 24.

■ Wheelchair stolen, Draeger's market at 1010 University Drive, Aug. 26.

■ Bicycle stolen and arrests of Roberto Torres, 28, and Schnee Bedford, 21, both of Menlo Park, 500 block of University Drive, Aug. 27.

Auto burglary report: Navigation system and computer stolen, 1100 block of Crane St., Aug. 23.

Residential burglary report: Electronic equipment stolen, 200 block of O'Keefe St., Aug. 27.

Stolen vehicle report: Red 1996 Jaguar Vanden, 300 block of Gloria Circle, Aug. 24.

Fraud reports:

■ Construction work for multiple homeowners paid for but not done, 1000 block of Siskiyou Drive, Aug. 22.

■ Unauthorized use of credit card, 1200 block of Hamilton Court, Aug. 25.

■ Forged checks cashed, 1300 block of Windermere Ave., Aug. 26.

Adult protective services report: 3600 block of Haven Ave., Aug. 26.

Realtors help seniors with tasks

Realtors and affiliates on the Peninsula and in the South Bay visited 432 homes earlier this year to help seniors with household tasks the residents couldn't do on their own, says Rose Meily, a spokesperson for the Silicon Valley Association of Realtors, a sponsor of the program.

In Menlo Park and Atherton, 31 volunteers worked in 30 homes as part of the Realtor Service Volunteer Program, which

has grown since its start in 2001 to encompass homes from Daly City to Santa Cruz, she says.




The volunteers provide a number of free services, including washing windows, installing smoke detectors and flipping mattresses.

Eileen Giorgi chairs the program for the Silicon Valley Association of Realtors. Members of the San Mateo County Association of Realtors became involved in 2003.



WOODSIDE COMMUNITY RECREATION PROGRAM FALL SCHEDULE 2008



CLASS	DAY	TIME	INSTRUCTOR	LOCATION	FEE	STARTING DATE
YOGA FOR EVERYONE 14 Weeks Bring exercise mat and wear comfortable clothing	 Wed	6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Carla Germano	Wdse. Village Church Guild Hall	\$224	Sept 8
ALL OTHER CLASSES FULL						
LOW IMPACT AEROBICS & JOYFLEX BODY TONING 11 Weeks Healthy Back, Cardio, Inner-Core Strengthening	 Mon. Fri.	7:45 AM - 9:00 AM 7:45 AM - 9:00 AM	Joy Lopez	Independence Hall Independence Hall	\$414 \$23 drop in	Oct 6 Oct 3
MUSIC TOGETHER 10 Weeks Ages 0-4 Years Creative Classes For Children	 Tues. Tues. Tues. Fri. Fri.	8:30 AM - 9:15 AM 9:15 AM - 10:00 AM 10:15 AM - 11:00 PM 1:00 PM - 1:45 PM 2:00 PM - 2:45 PM	Sean Mendelson	Wdse. Library Wdse. Library Wdse. Library Independence Hall Independence Hall	\$140 \$140 \$140 \$140 \$140	Sept 16 Sept 16 Sept 16 Sept 12 Sept 12
						\$50 material fee

Financial assistance available for children. Visit our Web Site at: www.woodsiderec.com

* To Register or Fax: (650) 851-3534 *

OBITUARIES

Jim D'Arcy

Postal Service employee

James D'Arcy, a longtime resident of Menlo Park, died peacefully at home on Aug. 14 after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease. He was 92.

Mr. D'Arcy was a native San Franciscan, born and raised in the Mission District. He often spoke of his days at St. Peter's School with the Sisters of Mercy and the Christian Brothers, and of his Jesuit education at St. Ignatius High School.

He served in the U.S. Merchant Marine in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Mediterranean/Middle East war zones during World War II.

He was station superintendent and supervisor in the U.S. Postal Service in San Francisco for 42 years, and served the Postal Service in various management capacities, retiring in 1983.

Mr. D'Arcy was an active member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Toastmasters of Redwood City, and SIRS of San Mateo. He was precinct inspector at the Little House polling place during every election for 10 years, his family said.

Mr. D'Arcy and his wife, Bernice, enjoyed traveling, often with postal groups to Reno, and to the Holy Land, Europe and Ireland, where they visited relatives. An avid reader of history, he would tell his daughters historical bedtime stories, his family said. He will be remembered for his gentleness, kindness and wit, said family members.

Surviving family members are his wife of 51 years, Bernice; daughters Anne and Maureen; three grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

Donations in Mr. D'Arcy's memory may be made to St. Vincent de Paul Conference of St. Raymond Church, 1100 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025; or St. Patrick's Seminary, 320 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025; or to a favorite charity.

Obituaries are based on information provided by mortuaries and family members.



Martin Maloney

Martin Maloney

IBM executive

Martin Michael Maloney, a former Atherton resident, died Aug. 23 at Emerson Hospital in Concord, Massachusetts. He was 83.

Mr. Maloney was born in Philadelphia, one of seven children. He attended Stevens Institute of Technology, then was appointed to attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. At West Point he served as cadet company commander of the A-1 Company and was recognized as the senior Catholic cadet.

After West Point, his military career was short-lived, and in 1954 he went to work for IBM in sales. In 1965 Mr. Maloney was promoted to a director of the company and served in nine director-level positions until he retired in 1987.

During his business career, the family moved five times, spending seven years in Atherton.

Mr. Maloney served as a volunteer for Catholic Youth Organizations, YMCA, the United Way, the Hunger Project, Habitat for Humanity and Hospice of Naples, Florida.

Mr. Maloney is survived by his children, Martin M. Maloney Jr. of Sandy Springs, Georgia, David A. Maloney of Sonora, John T. Maloney of San Francisco, Marianne Maloney of Concord, Massachusetts, and Thomas H. Maloney of San Luis Obispo; sisters Patricia Walsh of Massachusetts and Jane Stanton of New Jersey; and two grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Marguerite "Mocky," and son Charles "Sandy" Maloney.

Contributions in his name may be made to Concord Children's Center, 1300 Main St., Concord, MA 01742.

Memorial service for Hewitt Crane

A memorial service for Hewitt Crane, SRI visionary and inventor, will be held Friday, Sept. 12, at 4 p.m. in the SRI International Building in Menlo Park, where he spent almost 50 years of his career.

Friends and colleagues attending the service are advised to park in the SRI lot at the corner of Ravenswood Avenue and Middlefield Road, across the street from Menlo-Atherton High School. Signs will direct attendees from the parking lot to the building.

Mr. Crane died June 17 at his Portola Valley home, where he had lived for 40 years.

He received his doctoral degree in electrical engineering from Stanford University. Recruited

by SRI in 1956, his work there led to more than 85 patents in the sensory sciences, including in the fields of vision, speech, hearing and writing.

Mr. Crane was co-founder of Ridge Winery on Monte Bello Ridge in Santa Clara County.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Sue; their three sons, Russ of Santa Barbara, Doug of Palo Alto and Dan of Saratoga; and five grandchildren.

(An obituary on Mr. Crane was published in the June 25 issue of The Almanac and is available online at TheAlmanacOnline.com. In the search box at the top of the home page, enter "Hewitt Crane," select "The Almanac" and then click on Search.)

Talk on physics for future presidents

Physics Professor Richard Muller of UC Berkeley will give a talk Tuesday, Sept. 8, in Menlo Park on the physics — from nukes to global warming — that future presidents will need to understand.

The talk, part of the Cafe Scientifique forum series, will start at 7:30 p.m. at the SRI International dining room in the International Center off Middlefield Road at Ringwood Avenue.

"Physics for Future Presidents" will cover the physics of terrorism, energy, nuclear weapons, space and global warming.

Dr. Muller, who has won a MacArthur "genius" prize, has taught a course in "Physics for Future Presidents" that was recently voted the "Best Class at Berkeley" by undergraduates. He will sign his book of the same name at the Cafe Scientifique event.

GRADUATES

■ **Sarah Barenekow**, daughter of Mark Barnekow and Cora Yang of Woodside, graduated from Choate Rosemary Hall in Wallingford, Connecticut. She plans to attend the University of California at Berkeley.

■ **David Andrew Light** has received a bachelor's degree in history from Colorado College. He is the son of Donald and Jane Light of Menlo Park.

BIRTHS

Emerald Hills

■ Erica and Jeffrey Vairora, a son, Aug. 6, at Sequoia Hospital.

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The Almanac

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Obituary policy

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

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WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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

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

What to do about charter schools

Before local high school officials and parents get too worked up about a recent petition for a new charter high school, they should take a look at the performance and financial acumen of Summit Preparatory Charter High School, a highly successful Redwood City charter school in its sixth year of operation. About one third of its 400 students reside in the Almanac's circulation area.

At a recent hearing before the board of the Sequoia Union High School District, which includes Woodside and M-A high schools, district parents questioned the need for and the cost of Everest, the proposed charter high school that would be modeled after Summit Prep.

Parents suggested that Summit Prep's record of getting more than 90 percent of its graduates accepted to four-year colleges smacks of exclusivity and elitism, especially when charter proponents compare these admission rates with those of a 2,000-student comprehensive high school such as Woodside or M-A. And, the parents said, test score comparisons are unfair because the comprehensive schools have far more students who are struggling academically.

And then there is the money issue. The Sequoia district paid Summit \$2.5 million last year, about \$7,400 per student. With a little help from its foundation, Summit spent less than \$8,000 for each student, far less than the district for its four comprehensive high schools. If the Everest application is approved, it will likely cost the district the same as Summit, about another \$3 million a year.

At the Sequoia district, with a \$92 million budget for 8,900 students, the average cost was \$10,300 per student last year. Of course Sequoia offers many more curriculum courses, a full lineup of athletic teams, playing fields, tennis courts and first-class swimming pools at its major campuses.

Sequoia district voters have also approved \$323 million in construction bond measures since 2001 under state Proposition 39, which allows passage by a 55 percent majority instead of the usual two-thirds but requires bond funds to be shared with charter schools. The district is using \$29.5 million of that money to build a new 500-seat performing arts center at Menlo-Atherton.

Sequoia board members have not made up their minds yet, but here are some facts and ideas they should consider:

■ Everest's and Summit's potential 800 students would make up less than 9 percent of the district's total student body, and funding would amount to just 6.5 percent of its annual \$92 million budget.

■ Under Diane Tavenner, Summit Prep's former executive director, 96 percent of Summit's 2007 graduates were accepted at four-year colleges;

■ Summit is in such demand that admission is by lottery, a legal requirement when there are more applicants than space. In the 2007-08 school year, there were 3.25 applicants for every freshman seat.

■ Summit's student body is diverse, with a mix of 30 to 40 percent Hispanic students in most classes, similar to the breakdown in the Sequoia district. For 2008-09, 52 percent of the freshman class is Hispanic and 34 percent are white. About one-third of Summit's students live in the Almanac's circulation area, and the rest in Redwood City or communities north of the school.

■ Summit spends less per student than Sequoia district schools, but attains a higher graduation and four-year college-admittance rate.

As a comprehensive high school district, Sequoia is charged with educating all who come, whether brilliant and affluent, or academically challenged with few resources at home. Charter schools, on the other hand, will not settle for less-than-high student motivation and active parent participation. The missions are as different as apples and oranges, and the community's interest in another charter school is evident.

The petition from Everest, which will be patterned closely after Summit, should be given every consideration by Sequoia district board members. Since its inception, Summit has pulled off something of a miracle — instilling a great work ethic in all of its students, who consistently score highly on standardized tests and who excel on other college application tests.

Rather than giving Everest the cold shoulder, the Sequoia district should set up collaborative programs for its own teachers to see and understand Summit's techniques. Not all charter schools are in the same league as Summit. This is an experimental school that is hitting home runs. Sequoia should acknowledge Everest as a new sibling, and give it the space, and funding, that it needs and deserves.

EDITORIAL
The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS
Our readers write

Residentialist goals contrary to good planning

Editor:

The guest opinion of Menlo Park residentialist Martin Engel in the Aug. 20 Almanac is important, because it clearly states a land-use philosophy embraced by most of the City Council.

Mr. Engel is part of the political group Menlo Park Tomorrow, used by the council to privately negotiate the reduction of the Derry housing project on Oak Grove Avenue near El Camino Real. He believes we should have no population growth, even as California grows dramatically.

He also claims that higher-density housing development "on or near El Camino" is a "good example of a bad idea." Engel himself lives in one of

See **LETTERS**, next page



Woodside Library Collection

Our Regional Heritage

The Williamson Brothers store as it looked in the early 1900s near what today is Whiskey Hill Road in Woodside. The store replaced one established by William Haaker in 1880 near the same site.

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

these developments on Stone Pine Lane.

Every one of the guest planners speaking on the subject in the council chambers this year advocates higher-density housing and development along El Camino. One even said the amount of housing and commercial development allowed by our zoning ordinance is "ridiculously low" compared with other, similar cities.

Don Weden, the environmental planner addressing the Menlo Park-Atherton green ribbon group in the council chambers, made the irrefutable point that the most effective way to reduce our carbon footprint is to shorten the commute of our children, seniors and workers with new, walk-able housing close to town.

The residentialist influence is overwhelming on the council now. Even after a majority of participants expressed a desire for new, higher-density buildings on El Camino Real, the number one goal of the El Camino visioning document produced by the planning group hired by the council is to "maintain our village character," meaning no growth. This ongoing effort to severely limit new building is why El Camino Real in Menlo Park looks depressed like Flint, Mich. It can be so much better.

Sam Sinnott

Rose Avenue, Menlo Park

Better service needed on garbage contract

Editor:

We have just written to the West Bay Sanitary District regarding the selection of the next garbage collector. Here's what we wrote:

We live at the end of a long private lane in Stanford Weekend Acres that cannot accommodate a typical, large garbage truck. Thankfully Allied Waste, our current provider, does send one of its people down the lane on foot with a large, wheeled container to pick up the refuse at four or five addresses. But when it comes to recyclables, we have to haul them up to the top of the lane.

Los Altos Garbage, which was two service providers ago, had this solved because it deployed a small pick-up truck that could make it down the lane and turn around.

We are hoping that whoever gets the next garbage contract will have a couple of small pickup trucks that can do the same thing. There must be many small, long lanes in the area like ours, so why not make it a condition of awarding the next contract that the next contrac-

More than chutzpah in recent letter

By Morris Brown

Chutzpah — (Yiddish) brazen impudence, gall.

The recent letter titled Railroad Chutzpah from Mickie Winkler deserves comment. I am amazed that Chutzpah's Queen Bee, who served a single term on Menlo Park's City Council before voters sent her on a train out of town, would post such a rant. However it is election time again and she's back.

Here is a former mayor who constantly stifled debate with pre-typed motions. She engineered a lease at zero cost to a private group of our new pool, without competitive bids, to accommodate friends. She accommodated developers by amending the general plan four times in one year, the legal limit. She wanted the entire Planning Commission to resign to bring in her appointees.

Her popularity was so under-whelming

that two years ago, even as a council incumbent, she got by far the fewest votes of any candidate.

Now she accuses the city of not correctly disclosing the nature of a City Council meeting. Not so, says our city attorney.

Setting the record straight, I knew nothing about what was to be discussed at the Aug. 5 meeting. I had no idea the city would consider joining a lawsuit. I had nothing to do with the session being called.

She accuses "a shadow government" of killing the Derry Project. The Derry Project has been revised so that the city, if the project is approved, will receive \$2 million in public benefit, while reducing overall density and adding more commercial space. The revised project is by all accounts a much better project.

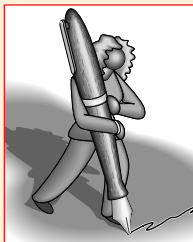
She says we are hobbling the Bohannon

project. I think she means that by going to early planning sessions, giving public input and seeking to have a huge project fairly evaluated, we are hobbling it. Yet when we objected to the Derry Project, her cry was "why are you coming to the table so late." We just can't do anything right in her eyes — too late or too early, depending on her politics.

Some years ago when I discussed rail issues with her, she said she would never approve of four-rail tracks running through our city. Well this high-speed rail project demands four tracks. I guess she has flipped on the issue.

Change, especially involving land use in a settled area like Menlo Park, is always a compromise. We as residents all face quality-of-life issues, such as traffic and economic concerns. All of us involved in these issues are working toward making Menlo Park a better place to live and work.

Morris Brown lives on Stone Pine Lane in Menlo Park



GUEST OPINION

tor have a fleet of small trucks to perform this service?

Ted Bache and

Margo Sensenbrenner

Happy Hollow Lane, Menlo Park

Haste and waste in downtown planning

Editor:

Before he criticizes the pace of Menlo Park City Council action on the El Camino Real visioning effort, Rick Ciardella should pay heed to the well-established maxim that haste makes waste.

This is particularly true, as Mickie Winkler should have learned from her City Council service, when the council marches forward autocratically instead of involving the citizenry like the present council.

The Derry Project, for example, would not have required a referendum and mediation if the council on which she served had responded to the concerns of residents instead of insisting upon approval of an excessively dense development.

James R. Madison

Holly Avenue, Menlo Park

Council on right track with lawsuit

Editor:

Unlike Mickie Winkler, I applaud the "high-speed rail chutzpah" of the Menlo Park and Atherton councils for joining a lawsuit against the High Speed Rail Authority, as noted in last week's letters.

We local folks have been given scant meaningful input into the decisions to thrust a high-speed railroad through our midst. Bravo to the Davids who will stand up to Goliath (or the Terminator?).

The proposed rail system would do little or nothing to improve our lives, yet would impose a 100-yard-wide wasteland (often dauntingly elevated) down the center of the peninsula, tearing a swath through each community along the line. And this is to say nothing about environmental damage. I encourage voters to take a close look at the proposition submitted for the ballot in November. I'll vote "no," and thus say "bravo" to our local elected officials who have taken a stand against the juggernaut of the High Speed Rail Authority.

Nancy Barnby

Spruce Avenue, Menlo Park

Big yellow bus is welcome addition

Editor:

I'm so impressed with the Menlo Park City School District taking action on several meaningful items this year that truly benefit everyone in our community.

First, the start of the yellow school bus on Day One has been a great step in easing not only traffic at Laurel and Encinal, it has also greatly reduced the stress families feel in the morning rush getting their kids off to these schools.

It has been an excellent start to the school year for this reason

alone at our house. But that's not all. The district has launched a Spanish immersion class and options for full-day kindergarten at Encinal, added new technology such as smart boards to many of the classrooms to help teachers and students alike, and is in the process of improving buildings and grounds. I'm sure there is more going on that I don't even know about yet, but I wanted to send out a huge thank-you to the Menlo Park City School District board and administration for these improvements that are now in place and helping families like mine today.

Katie Ferrick

Bay Road, Menlo Park

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