

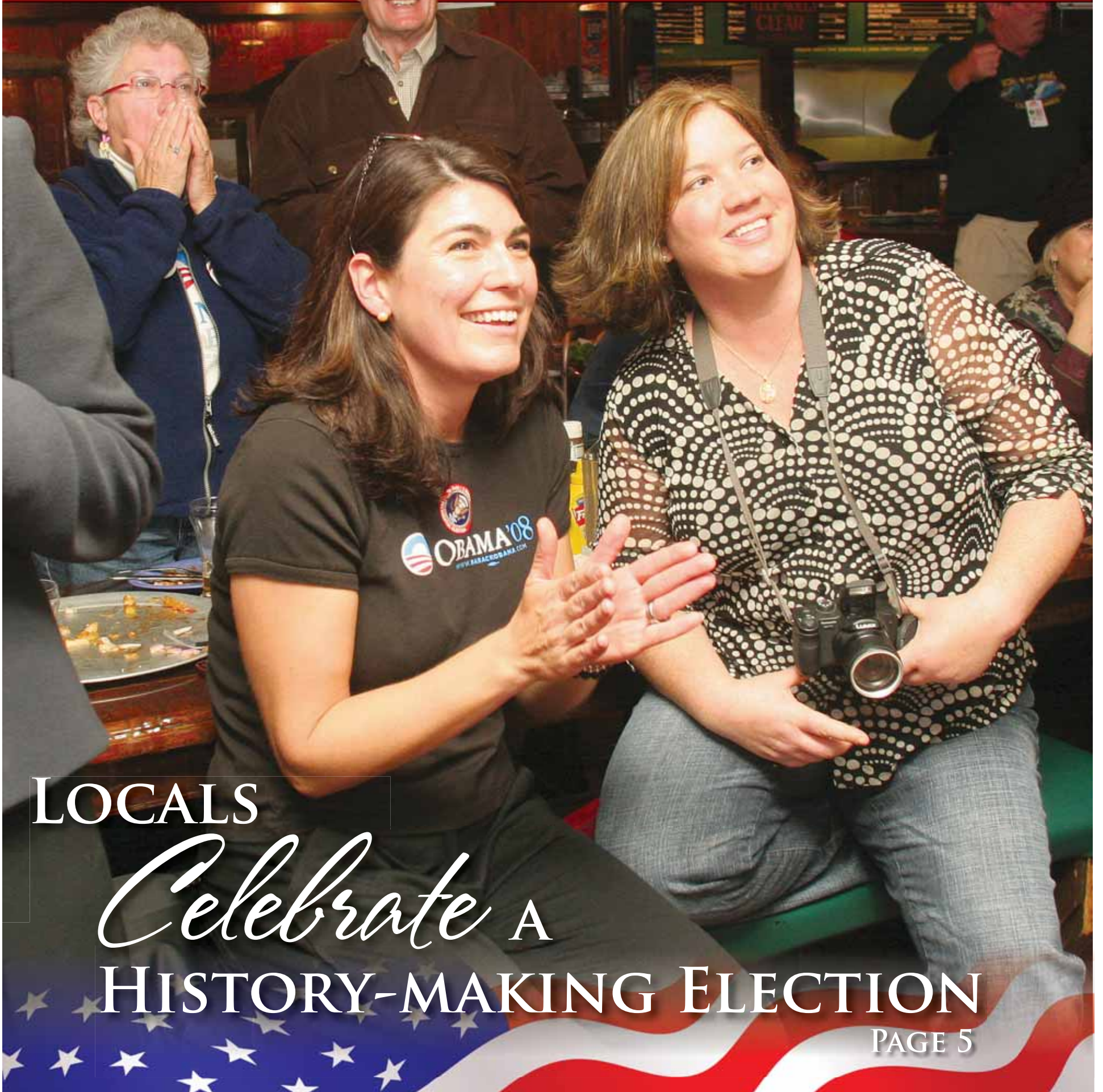
COUNTY SUPERVISORS seek probe of investment pool losses. Page 10

The Almanac

THE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER MENLO PARK, ERETON, PORTOLA VALLEY AND WOODSIDE

NOVEMBER 12, 2008

www.TheAlmanacOnline.com | VOL. 44 NO. 11



LOCALS

Celebrate A

HISTORY-MAKING ELECTION

PAGE 5



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MENLO PARK – Located in the desirable Allied Arts this 5BR/3.5BA home is surrounded by cottage-style gardens. The flrpln offers formal LR & DR w/hrdwd flrs & an updated kitchen w/window-lined eating area. A spacious, light-filled, FR w/FP, plantation shutters & French drs opens to a delightful patio & rear grounds.

Doyle Rundell \$3,249,000



MENLO PARK – Prime W. Menlo on Atherton border. Large home with space for in-law unit or au pair quarters all rooms are large with plenty of closets. Family room has pot belly brick fireplace. Living room is oversized. Floor plan is terrific for a large bustling family.

Maureen Love \$1,995,000



MENLO PARK – This classic 4BR/3BA ranch-style home is located on one of the nicest streets in central Menlo Park. The open floor plan includes; hardwood floors, updated BA's, breakfast nook, formal DR & LR.

Steve Gray & Tim Kerns \$1,850,000

ATHERTON

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Elizabeth Daschbach \$4,350,000

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Tim Kerns \$2,695,000

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Steve Gray \$2,595,000

MENLO PARK

Set on a private lane near the Atherton border w/4BR, 3BA, + an office or possible 5th BR.

Jami Arami \$2,250,000

MOUNTAIN VIEW

Charming 3BR/2BA home blocks away from Castro St! Located on a quiet street across from a park.

Kristin Cashin \$925,000

REDWOOD CITY

Lrg 3BR/2.5BA Mediterranean styled townhome with large fenced patio area. Quiet location.

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Newly Remodeled 3BR, 2-1/2 BA, Tile & Hwd Floors, New Landscaping.

Vivian Vella \$549,000

Perfectly maintained, this 2BR/1BA condo is ready to move into!

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PALO ALTO – Desirably located on a storybook street in Mid-town PA is a completely remodeled, 4BR/2.5BA home brimming w/exuberant light that gently filters through its lavish windows. Generously set back from the main thoroughfare.

Tim Kerns \$1,749,000



PALO ALTO – This charming 3BR/1BA Sterling Gardens home is located on a desirable, tree lined street, near Midtown, w/great neighborhood schools. Possibilities abound for the entry level buyer, or for those looking for a remodeling opportunity, w/a lot that allows for expansion.

Leon Leong \$899,000



REDWOOD CITY – Live in the Country! This 3BR/2.5 home is located next to Handley Rock Park and is peaceful and tranquil. With two accessory structures that can be used for an office or studio. Possible pool site.

Dana Cappiello \$1,288,888



WOODSIDE – This beautifully remodeled, 3BR/2BA home is situated on a lushly landscaped lot near downtown Woodside. The master suite has lrg closets & an updated BA. The sun-lit LR w/a wood-burning FP is warm & inviting. The sep DR is light & spacious w/easy access to the chef's kitchen.

Ken & Carol Reeves \$1,999,000



WOODSIDE – Beautiful 4 yr new Home 1BR/1BA + bonus room ideal for office or wine cellar. High end appliances. Bamboo hardwood floors, spa-tub separate. Laundry room and huge wrap around deck.

Tony Fregoso \$1,295,000

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Dana Cappiello \$2,195,000

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Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT



Photo by Dave Boyce/The Almanac

Tracking the election

Portola Valley resident Grace Enright, 8, updates the U.S. map showing election results on Tuesday night, Nov. 4, during an election night party at the home of Linda Yates and Paul Holland. Each state has small squares initialed to denote the Republican (red) and Democratic (blue) victors in the primary elections. A large square of either red or blue indicates the victor in the general election.

Atherton

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Menlo Park

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Health & Fitness

■ Local surgeon's quilt project celebrates breast cancer patients' hope and determination. **Cover, Section 2**

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On the cover

At the Oasis restaurant in Menlo Park on election night, Barack Obama supporters react to the news that he won the presidency. Photo by Veronica Weber/The Almanac. **See Page 5.**

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\$6.00 per pint \$11.75 per qt.
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With apples and candied walnuts
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Local News

MENLO PARK | ATHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Many locals excited about historic election

By **Andrea Gemmet**

Almanac Staff Writer

The words “President-elect Barack Obama” must be sounding pretty good to a majority of local voters. The Midpeninsula, like the rest of San Mateo County, voted overwhelmingly to send Mr. Obama to the White House.

Schoolchildren cast ballots in mock elections, locals dug deep into their pocket books to contribute to campaigns, and it seemed like there were more signs for presidential candidates than for local candidates in Menlo Park.

In San Mateo County, 74 percent of voters cast their ballots for Mr. Obama, with 25 percent voting for John McCain. In Menlo Park, the vote was 8,754 votes for Mr. Obama to 2,493 for Mr. McCain; in Atherton, 1,948 votes to 1,412; in Portola Valley, 1,592 to 649; and in Woodside, 1,611 to 887.

All the drama on the national political stage made it a little difficult to focus on local elections — even for some of the candidates.

Atherton City Council candidate David Henig called it “a great night,” despite the fact that he lost his own election.

He spent election night with his family at Santa Clara County Democratic headquarters, and was able to see the election called for Mr. Obama before he had to return home to put his kids to bed.

“It was very exciting,” he said. Kelly Fergusson and Andy Cohen, candidates for two City Council seats in Menlo Park, gathered with supporters at The Oasis restaurant as the election results poured in. They shuttled between the main room, where a television broadcast national results, and an enclosed booth, where they tracked early results in the City Council race on a laptop.

Ms. Fergusson leapt to her feet and shouted along with the pro-Obama crowd when MSNBC called the race for Mr. Obama shortly after 8 p.m., when California polls closed. Mr. Cohen slipped outside to call his brother, who lives in Ohio.

Both candidates learned later in the evening that they had been re-elected.

Ms. Fergusson called the day — and the fact that she won a council seat in the same election that swept Mr. Obama into office — a “once in a lifetime” experience.

But sharing a ballot with Mr. Obama also had its drawbacks,



Photo by Veronica Weber/The Almanac

Candidate Barack Obama speaks to Google employees in November 2007.

she said.

“It was a real challenge to campaign in a presidential (election) year. The attention is really focused at the top of the ticket.”

Atherton Councilman Charles Marsala, a member of the county Republican Central Committee, was even able to generate some enthusiasm for the victorious Democratic candidate.

Presidential race: local vote

	Obama	McCain
Atherton	1,948	1,412
Menlo Park	8,754	2,493
Portola Valley	1,592	649
Woodside	1,611	887
San Mateo County	166,334	56,100

San Mateo County Elections Office, Nov. 10, 2008.

“Being from the South and talking to some people there, I’m very impressed with the enthusiasm that his campaign brought to a lot of the people there. He really inspired a lot of people,” said Mr. Marsala, a Louisiana native.

Mr. Marsala, who works on a number of green causes, said he felt an Obama presidency could be positive for the nation’s environmental concerns.

A poignant moment

The election of an African American to the nation’s highest office was particularly poignant for Menlo Park resident Henry Organ.

“As an alumnus of the Civil Rights Movement, I have always felt going to the voting booth (as opposed to mailing in a ballot) to be a spiritual pilgrimage,” he wrote to The Almanac. “I was so overwhelmed on this occasion.”

He credited Mr. Obama’s influence for motivating the young poll workers of diverse ethnicities that he saw at his polling place, he said.

Over lunch on Thursday, Nov. 6, at Menlo Park’s Senior Center in the Belle Haven neighborhood, James McAdoo expressed guarded optimism about the prospect of an Obama presidency.

“Of course it makes me feel

See **OBAMA**, page 8

Voters chose McKeithen, Lewis for City Council

By **Andrea Gemmet**

Almanac Staff Writer

In Kathy McKeithen and Elizabeth Lewis, Atherton voters chose a seasoned, two-term incumbent and a challenger who wants to take the town in a new direction.

Ms. McKeithen won the most votes — 1,507 — in a four-way race for two seats. Ms. Lewis, who co-owns a commercial property management company with her husband, won the second seat with 1,410 votes.

Challengers David Henig, an architect and recent resident of Atherton, and Richard “Dick” Moore, Atherton’s former police chief and city manager, tied for third. The latest count, as of Nov. 7, showed Mr. Henig and Mr. Moore with 1,066 votes each. Also on the ballot was Sam Goodman,

Atherton City Council

✓ Kathy McKeithen	1,507
✓ Elizabeth Lewis	1,410
David Henig	1,066
Richard “Dick” Moore	1,066
Sam Goodman had dropped out of the race.	
✓ = winner	

who dropped out of the race, but still received 374 votes.

While candidates didn’t team up to run as a slate, all three challengers were critical of the council and Ms. McKeithen during the campaign.

However, once the campaigning was over, both winners struck a conciliatory tone.

“I think that was just campaigning. All of that you have to put

See **ATHERTON** page 8

Is incumbents’ win a mandate?

By **Sean Howell**

Almanac Staff Writer

In their bids for re-election, Menlo Park City Council members Andy Cohen and Kelly Fergusson asked voters to give them four more years to realize their vision for the city.

Now that they have their wish, residents will get to see how that vision plays out.

“I see this as an endorsement by the voters of the direction the council has taken, and of our priorities,” Ms. Fergusson said the morning after the election. “We’ll see when the final vote totals come in, but this is a very strong result. It’s hard not to see this as a mandate.”

The vote count as of Monday shows Ms. Fergusson with 6,648 votes; Mr. Cohen with 5,552; and Mr. Ciardella with 4,443.

Ms. Fergusson and Mr. Cohen have both stressed patience in the

Menlo Park City Council

✓ Kelly Fergusson	6,648
✓ Andy Cohen	5,552
Richard Ciardella	4,443

Source: San Mateo County Elections Office

✓ = winner



Kelly Fergusson Andy Cohen

city’s planning efforts, especially when it comes to developing the downtown and industrial areas. Voters apparently agreed with their assessment that it’s necessary to build consensus about what residents want to see in the city’s downtown area, along El Camino Real, and in the industrial area east of U.S. 101 — even if that means it will take some time before changes are apparent.

Rick Ciardella, challenging for one of the two council seats, had criticized the council for delaying potential develop-

ment projects. He argued that the council’s predilection for long-term studies — especially the costly “re-visioning” project along El Camino Real, which is not expected to be completed until late 2010 — was unfair to developers, and deprived the city of sales-tax revenue. He called for more “fill-in” projects on El Camino Real and criticized the council for not acting more quickly

See **MENLO PARK**, page 8

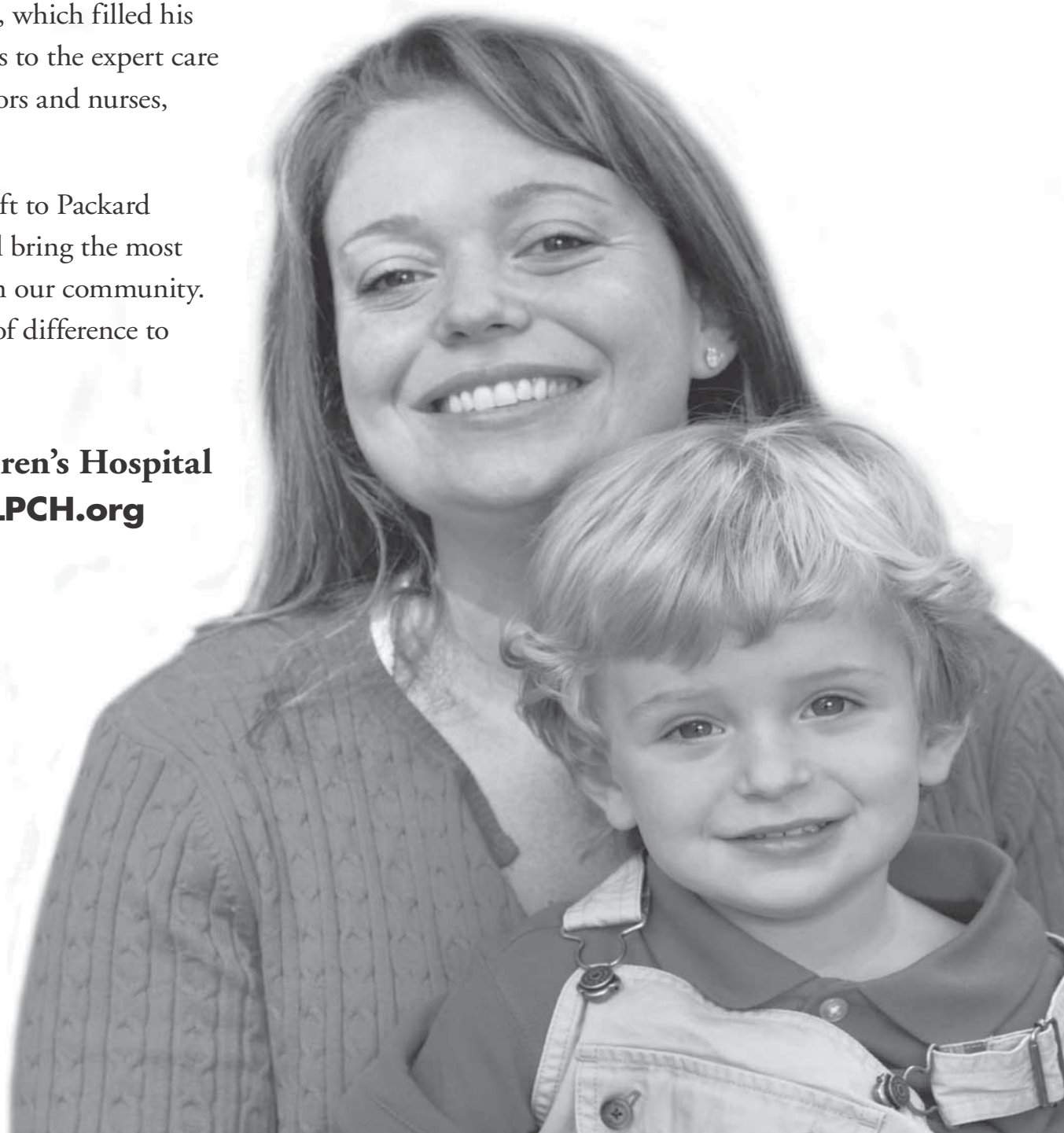
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David Boesch named county manager

Former Menlo Park city manager David S. Boesch Jr. will become county manager of San Mateo County, succeeding longtime manager John L. Matbie when he retires Dec. 30, the Board of Supervisors announced Nov. 6.

Mr. Boesch was city manager of Menlo Park from 2000 until February 2007, when he was appointed assistant county manager. He lives in Menlo Park with his wife, Carrie, and their teenage son, Alexander.

The five members of the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously for Mr. Boesch.

"All of us on the Board have been impressed with Dave's ability to deliver results and his ideas for more efficiently deliv-

ering services," board president Adrienne Tissier said in a press release.

In a written statement, Mr. Boesch said that, although he believes the county government is run efficiently and delivers services effectively, "there's no question we're facing challenging economic times.

"This presents us with an opportunity to engage residents, companies and partners in new and creative ways to pursue our shared vision and build on our common values."

Since joining the county staff, Mr. Boesch has focused on areas including the redesign of the health-care system to increase the public's access to services and insurance, according to the

press release. He also has worked on plans to replace the Women's Correctional Center.

Mr. Boesch grew up in Washington, D.C., graduated in 1979 from the University of Utah with a bachelor's degree in urban planning, and received a master's degree in public administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

He was director of community development for the city of Nashua, New Hampshire, and in 1996 moved West to become director of community development for the city of Sunnyvale.

The Board of Supervisors plans to vote on a contract and compensation package for Mr. Boesch on Nov. 18.

Sam Perry of MP is Oprah's 'Mystery Man'

The man who lent his shoulder to a teary-eyed Oprah Winfrey during Barack Obama's victory rally in Chicago on the night of Nov. 4? That would be Sam Perry of Menlo Park.

Mr. Perry, a start-up consultant, had worked as a volunteer in the Silicon Valley for Obama office.

"It's your typical 15 minutes of fame," he told the Mercury News. "But the key thing that

I'm fascinated with is how these images going around the world kind of resonate with people."

The day after the election, Ms. Winfrey thanked Mr. Perry on her show for letting her lean on his shoulder, calling him only "Mr. Man" because she didn't know his name. Mr. Perry told the Mercury News that his wife called shortly thereafter to say that news crews had staked out

their house on Hobart Street.

Mr. Perry appeared on Ms. Winfrey's show on Friday, wearing the same jacket he had worn to the rally — to show her that she had not, in fact, stained it with mascara.

Mr. Perry can be spotted around town walking his golden retriever, and sometimes pushing his son's stroller, according to neighbor Jim Schott.

Charter school petitioners get hearing

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Petitioners seeking to open Everest Charter High School in September 2009 continued their quest for a charter, and Everest's opponents continued their quest to deny it as both sides made brief presentations to the San Mateo County Board of Education on Wednesday, Nov. 5.

From a packed audience, about 35 speakers opposed the charter and 25 spoke for it. About half of the opponents were unionized teachers from the Sequoia Union High School District, which includes Menlo-Atherton and Woodside high schools.

The board listened but did not act. A staff report is due Nov. 21 and will be available at www.smcoe.k12.ca.us. A vote on the charter is scheduled for Dec. 8, board spokesman Porter Sexton said.

Everest would be modeled on Summit Preparatory Charter High School, a six-year-old Redwood City public school. School officials tout Summit's ethnic diversity, small classes, economy — Summit spends about \$2,000 less per year per student than the Sequoia district — and

admission rates of over 95 percent to four-year colleges.

Admission to Summit is by lottery, as required when there are more applicants than space. For 2007-08, there were 3.25 applicants for each of the 100 freshman seats, school officials say.

Opponents branded Summit's college admission and testing statistics as evidence of exclusivity. Charters are unnecessary in a district that sends equivalent percentages to college, including two-year schools, and they drain resources for low-achieving students, they said.

Special-needs students, they said, though not rejected at Summit, are locked out because the four-year-college focus includes many advanced-placement classes. Everest, too, would be exclusive, they said, noting as an example the requirement that all students study Mandarin.

"Please don't take away from the many to give to the few," said Valerie Gibbs, an art teacher at Redwood Continuation High School, a school for students who need more time to earn diplomas.

"When we lose these resources, we lose our ability to get every student to take the path

that they need to go on," Sequoia High School teacher Kate Sheehan said.

For every 100 students attending a charter, the district pays the charter about \$800,000, but the district saves \$400,000 in overhead costs such as for teachers, former interim assistant superintendent Don Gielow has said.

Everest backers noted their own or their children's learning difficulties and bad attitudes and how charters did or would meet their needs.

One couple, Marilyn and Tom, said they've toured comprehensive schools and Summit Prep to find a place for their eighth-grade daughter who has a high IQ but also learning problems, including attention deficit disorder.

She needs a small school like Everest, Marilyn said. "My hope is that people have the opportunity to choose (based on) what a student needs."

Michael, a Summit senior spoke of his poor grades and bad attitude as an eighth-grader and how things have changed.

"Now I'm going to be going to college," he said. "I'm going to be

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



New 2009 Conforming Loan Limits

Q: Is the current conforming loan limit going to be extended through 2009?

A: No; the amount will be lower. The Federal Housing Finance Agency just announced that the Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac conforming loan limits for 2009, i.e., the limit on the size of a mortgage which Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac will purchase and/or guarantee, will be lower than the current level of \$729,750. In Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties the 2009 conforming loan limit will be \$625,500. Most of the country will have loan limits of \$417,000. The San Francisco Bay Area is classified as a High Cost Area and therefore higher limits are allowed.

With the continuing turmoil in the financial markets and the tight lending climate, mortgage interest rates have been more or less holding firm. A 30 year fixed-Conforming loan is in the range of 6.30% and a 15 year fixed-Conforming loan is in the range of 5.85%. A 30 year Jumbo loan is in the range of 6.95%. This is higher than it has been in the recent past but still relatively low when viewed historically.

Many adjustable-rate mortgage loans that were originated in 2004 are going to reset in 2009. If you have such a loan you should contact your lender to find out what the new adjusted rate is likely to be. Pre-planning is key to riding out this bumpy economic time.

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

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1968 demo participants **Don Andrews**,
Bill English, **Bill Paxton** (UCSB),
Jeff Rulifson (Sun Microsystems)

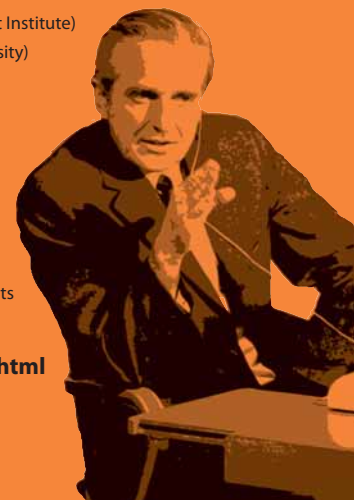
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See EVEREST, page 9

OBAMA

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good,” said Mr. McAdoo, who said he served for 18 years on the Las Pulgas Committee, which advises the city on commercial development as well as activities and programs in Belle Haven. “Maybe this country has a chance to heal itself.”

Mr. McAdoo, 83, said that Mr. Obama’s election represents a step in the right direction for race relations in America. But he also said that he was careful not to expect too much.

“We have come a long way, but we have come a long way under a cloud,” Mr. McAdoo said. “Segregation used to be blatant. That’s not true anymore, but it still exists.”

Mr. McAdoo did, however, see the potential for the kind of change that Mr. Obama has championed.

“This could be a turning point, if America is listening,” he said.

Several Hispanic seniors sitting around another table at the center were less guarded.

“We’re going to take this country back,” Maria Ramirez said, adding that her entire family voted for Mr. Obama. Ms. Ramirez said she hopes Mr. Obama will narrow the divide between rich and poor.

“It’s too late for me, but this election gives me great hope for my children,” Margarita Vargas said.

Jose Alcarras said that six of his sons had lost their houses in the mortgage crisis, and that he hopes Mr. Obama will stop the foreclosures and put Americans back in their homes.

Children weigh in

David Laurance, the principal of Beechwood private school in Menlo Park’s Belle Haven neighborhood, said the election had his students’ parents more enthusiastic and engaged than he’s seen in his 15 years with the school. The school has been encouraging parents to discuss the election with their kids, he said.

Many schools held mock elections for students. Beechwood opted for the simple strategy of using photos of Mr. McCain and Mr. Obama, so even the kindergartners could participate, said Mr. Laurance. For eighth graders at Hillview Middle School in Menlo Park, election day was more sophisticated. Different classes represented swing states, and the outcome of their mock elections earned Electoral College votes for their candidates, said Principal Mike Moore.

Portola Valley views

Two Portola Valley residents had some kind words for Mr. Obama, but voted for Repub-

lican candidate Mr. McCain despite some misgivings.

Bernie Bayuk questioned Mr. McCain’s judgment in picking Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin for his vice president, given the list of crises facing the country, but called her “a delightful lady.”

While he was impressed by Mr. Obama — “a man that you seldom see who can articulate convincingly and believably” — Mr. Bayuk voted for Mr. McCain, in large part in response to Mr. Obama’s comment to “Joe the Plumber” about spreading the wealth.

“I’m afraid of the concept of someone, even a great man, deciding who has too much and who has too little and then deciding to take from that person who, in his opinion, has too much and give it to a person who, in his opinion, has too little,” he said.

Bill Lane, ambassador to Australia during Ronald Reagan’s first term and a self-described moderate Republican who has worked for and supported Democrats, said he voted for Mr. McCain in light of his years of experience and his potential to revitalize the U.S. image abroad and end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“To his credit, I think he’ll work awfully hard,” Mr. Lane said of Mr. Obama. “I think he’ll lean over backwards to try to be accommodating to the Republicans. He took several Republican states, but those states may have turned over for this election (only). I think he’s going to be mindful of that politically. He doesn’t have a huge margin in Congress.”

Portola Valley resident Ed Wells said he never looked back after deciding on Mr. Obama. “From the beginning, it was really evident that he could pick good people to organize his campaign (and) that he would change the perception of the United States internationally,” he said. “I think that he’s young and vigorous and has got a lot of smarts.”

Ruth Wilcox, also of Portola Valley, voted for Mr. Obama. His rhetorical skills will be key to advancing his domestic and international agendas, she said.

Asked if there is a role for Republicans in Mr. Obama’s plans, she replied: “I think there has to be. I think that was the reason that so many Republicans voted for Obama. Sen. McCain says ‘Country first,’ but his party has been acting as ‘Party first’. ... We need the Republicans working with the Democrats to get things going.”

Almanac staff writers Sean Howell and Dave Boyce contributed to the report. ■

MP election season eerily quiet

Members of previous council majority say they weren’t involved.

By Sean Howell

Almanac Staff Writer

The relative ease with which Kelly Fergusson and Andy Cohen won re-election on Nov. 4, preserving the Menlo Park City Council’s 4-1 “majority,” begs the question: What has become of the Jellins-Duboc-Winkler coalition that controlled the council from 2002 to 2006?

Many viewed this election as a chance for supporters of the former council members to put up two candidates to challenge Mr. Cohen and Ms. Fergusson for the two open seats, potentially joining John Boyle to form a new council majority.

But only one candidate, Rick Ciardella, emerged. In campaign mailers and on his Web site, Mr. Ciardella maintained that the current council had acted too slowly to bring development

to Menlo Park, and challenged the council’s spending patterns as unsustainable — allegations that former councilwoman Lee Duboc has also made, in a series of e-mails.

Councilman John Boyle, who ran on a slate with Ms. Duboc and former councilwoman Mickie Winkler in 2006, endorsed Mr. Ciardella and donated to his campaign, but both Ms. Duboc and Ms. Winkler said that they had not been involved. They did not publicly endorse Mr. Ciardella, though both said they thought he would make a good council member.

“I don’t know who’s supporting Rick,” Ms. Duboc said.

While Mr. Ciardella’s defeat could be interpreted as a sign that the views held by the former majority — widely thought to be pro-business and pro-development — don’t have as

much political currency in the city as they used to, it can also be viewed more as a reflection of the candidates themselves than of their political philosophies. Ms. Fergusson’s and Mr. Cohen’s status as incumbents seemed to play in their favor, and Ms. Fergusson in particular ran a tenacious campaign.

Mr. Ciardella, meanwhile, seemed to have trouble conveying a consistent message. He was reticent with the press, and he said during a candidates’ forum that he approved of several decisions by the current council that he had earlier derided.

Ms. Duboc said she had approached several residents to see if they might be interested in running for a council seat, but that she was unable to find anyone who was willing to run.

“It’s hard to get anybody interested,” Ms. Duboc said. “I don’t blame them. It’s a lot of work, and some people really get attacked.” ■

MENLO PARK

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to find tenants for the blighted string of abandoned auto dealerships along the thoroughfare.

His message apparently did not resonate with enough voters, as he finished a distant third to Ms. Fergusson and Mr. Cohen.

Judging by the election results, Mr. Cohen’s and Ms. Fergusson’s pledge to represent the entire community, rather than just their supporters, appeared to hit a chord with voters. Though Rich Cline and Heyward Robinson joined them in 2006 to form what is widely viewed as a four-person majority, voters apparently did not see a need to balance the council by electing Mr. Ciardella, who had the support of council “minority” member John Boyle.

The morning after the elec-

tion, Ms. Fergusson stressed that the council would maintain an “inclusive, civil tone in our civic debate.”

And Mr. Cohen said he did not view his re-election as an excuse to dismiss the issues raised by Mr. Ciardella and his supporters.

“I plan to reach out once again to Rick Ciardella and tell him I have heard what he said,” Mr. Cohen said. “I don’t have immediate solutions to the problems he points out, but I’m willing to search for them.”

“After an election, there are always some disappointed people,” Mr. Cohen added. “It’s up to us to represent everybody on this council. Those are the thoughts I’ve been having since last night.”

On Wednesday afternoon, Mr. Ciardella said that he had indeed spoken to Mr. Cohen, though he declined to elaborate.

“It has been a great experience,

and I appreciate those voters who supported the campaign,” Mr. Ciardella said. “Over the last few months, I especially enjoyed meeting new people on the campaign trail and reconnecting with old friends.”

Ms. Fergusson and Mr. Cohen spent part of election night with supporters at The Oasis restaurant on El Camino Real and Cambridge Avenue, splitting their attention between the presidential election and the City Council race. They celebrated when the major news networks called the election for Mr. Obama, shortly after California polls closed at 8 p.m. Later, they retreated to a booth to check the early results of the council race on a laptop.

“Is this where I get my blood pressure checked?” Mr. Cohen cracked as he stepped into the booth, after being summoned by supporters. ■

ATHERTON

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aside,” Ms. McKeithen said.

Ms. McKeithen said she respected the will of voters that placed both her and challenger Ms. Lewis on the council. “She certainly seems to be a hard worker, and I hope we can work together for the common good,” Ms. McKeithen said of Ms. Lewis.

Ms. Lewis said she was looking forward to working with Ms. McKeithen on the council. “She’s been a dedicated public servant,” Ms. Lewis said. “I’m honored to

serve the citizens of Atherton. As I’ve said all along, I will work to find the common ground for the greatest good.”

As she starts her third term, Ms. McKeithen becomes the most senior member of the five-person City Council. Charles Marsala has served six years, and Jerry Carlson for nearly three years. Rounding out the council is Jim Dobbie, who beat Ms. Lewis in a vigorously contested special election held in June.

There is any number of tough issues facing Atherton in the coming year. The City Council has vehemently opposed the Califor-

nia high-speed rail plan to send trains through the Peninsula along the Caltrain corridor that bisects the town. Voters approved a state bond measure to begin funding the massive project that will build a high-speed rail line from San Francisco to Los Angeles.

There are the perennial issues of road repairs and drainage problems, and big questions on how — and whether — to replace the five-year parcel tax that funds infrastructure projects. Atherton officials are also trying to drum up public support for a sorely needed replacement for the town hall and police station. ■

High-speed rail measure passes, to dismay of local opponents

By Sean Howell
Almanac Staff Writer

Some local residents were unhappy to learn that California Proposition 1A, the \$9.95-billion bond measure to provide the first wave of funding to run high-speed, all-electric trains between San Francisco and Los Angeles, passed on Election Day. The latest statewide count shows that it was approved by 52 percent of voters.

Under the proposed plan, trains would shoot up the Caltrain corridor to San Francisco — right through Menlo Park and Atherton. Some residents are concerned about the impact of the project, which would require the state to dig a trench or build a berm through the heart of those cities to accommodate grade separations.

Despite concerns about local impacts, 57.6 percent of Menlo Park voters voted in favor of the proposition, according to the San Mateo County Elections Office.

High-speed rail measure

	YES	NO
San Mateo County	61.1%	38.9%
Menlo Park	6,322	4,654
Atherton	1,532	1,749

Source: San Mateo County Elections Office

Only 46.7 percent Atherton voters approved it.

Menlo Park resident Martin Engel, a longtime opponent of the proposition, wrote in an e-mail to supporters that he was dismayed to learn that the bond measure had passed, though not entirely surprised.

“Most of those who favored this bond issue voted for something that they did not understand and substituted a wishful fantasy for reality,” Mr. Engel wrote in an e-mail to fellow opponents of the proposition. “It promises to be, in my mind, a calamity of as yet unrealized dimension.”

Both the Atherton and Menlo Park city councils had passed resolutions against the measure, and both have joined a lawsuit to oppose it on environmental grounds.

Atherton Councilwoman Kathy McKeithen, who just won re-election to a third term, said that it’s in Atherton’s best interests to continue with the suit. “It means they have to listen to us,” she said.

Menlo Park Councilman Heyward Robinson said that Menlo Park would continue with the suit, as well. But he also said that the city would work with the state if and when the project gets under way.

Menlo Park Councilman John Boyle — the only member of either city’s council to publicly support the proposition — said that he was pleased it see it pass. “Now comes the hard part: making sure that it gets done, and that it gets done right,” Mr. Boyle said. ■

Challenger wins health board seat

Incumbent Malcolm MacNaughton of Woodside has lost his seat on the Sequoia Healthcare District board to Kim Griffin, a Menlo Park nurse, according to semi-official results posted by the county on Nov. 7.

Incumbent Kathleen “Katie” Kane will retain her seat.

The race for the two four-year seats had an unusual aspect to it with the candidacy of Jack Hickey, who already sits on the board and has two years left to his term. Mr. Hickey, a Libertarian, advocates abolishing the district — part of his platform

from the beginning. He had hoped to unseat an incumbent and demonstrate that voters support his idea to dismantle the district, he said during the campaign. He had planned to resign from the seat he now holds had he won last week.

Although he failed in his bid, he came close, with just 667 votes separating him and Ms. Griffin.

The semi-official vote tally is: Ms. Kane, 27,334 (28.21 percent); Ms. Griffin, 24,045 (24.82 percent); Mr. Hickey, 23,378 (24.13 percent); and Mr. MacNaughton, 22,127 (22.84 percent).

Proposition 8 (local vote)

	YES	NO
San Mateo County	84,706	139,927
Atherton	1,321	2,042
Menlo Park	3,101	8,247
Portola Valley	616	1,639
Woodside	874	1,658

This proposition amends the state constitution to specify that only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California. Source: San Mateo County Elections Office, Nov. 10, 2008

EVEREST

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a success because of Summit.”

“My grades rose tons,” he added. “(Now) I want to be someone. I want to be a member of society and I want to contribute.”

Better learning does happen in smaller classes, Sequoia High School foreign language teacher Molly Nixon said, and charter schools are attractive for that reason. The issue, she said, is how public funds are spent.

“Summit does not serve an academically diverse population of students,” she said.

Laurie Stapleton, a graduate student at Stanford University’s teacher education program, challenged that assertion. A curriculum based on Summit practices is in use at Stanford-

run East Palo Alto Academy High School, she said.

Most Summit teachers studied at Stanford. “Stanford student teachers are specifically trained to serve students who are vastly diverse,” Ms. Stapleton said.

If the county board approves Everest’s charter, the Sequoia district will have to fund its operating budget and offer facilities. ■

Incumbents win school board race

County voters returned incumbents to the two open San Mateo County Board of Education seats.

Guillermo (Memo) Morantes of Menlo Park defeated Noria Zasslow in the run for the Area 7 seat, which includes Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside. The semi-

Meeting on Habitat project

Habitat for Humanity will hold a meeting Thursday night, Nov. 13, to solicit feedback from local residents about a proposed development on Terminal Avenue.

The proposal details plans for 22 affordable three-bedroom houses, according to a press release.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in the Menlo Park Senior Center on 110 Terminal Ave.

official results posted Nov. 7 give Mr. Morantes 103,555 votes (65.16 percent) to Ms. Zasslow’s 55,380 votes (34.84 percent).

Rod Hsiao retained his Area 4 seat with 111,022 votes (67.55 percent), with A. Angeles registering 53,334 votes (32.45 percent) in the semi-official tally.



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Supes seek probe of investment pool losses

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

With local school districts and other agencies in the county having lost a total of \$155 million from the recent collapse of Lehman Brothers investment bank, the Board of Supervisors is seeking an outside analysis of decisions made in the county treasurer's office and of the policies and practices for the county's investment pool.

The five-member board gave its unanimous approval on Tuesday, Nov. 4, to a resolution that authorizes the county manager to solicit proposals from financial advisers for "an independent perspective" on the treasurer's office decisions in the months leading up to the Sept. 15 Lehman bankruptcy.

The board voted after hearing from and questioning Treasurer Lee Buffington. Responding to criticism that school districts had been unaware of the pool's stake in Lehman securities, Mr. Buffington acknowledged not having kept them in the loop. "I'll take full responsibility for that," he said.

As for Lehman, it was "a perfect storm," he added. "It just doesn't happen. We've been doing this for 23 years. Nobody's lost any money prior to this point. ... The situation with Lehman was such a surprise to everybody. The big guys are in the same boat we were."

Some school districts lost millions. The Sequoia Union High School District took a \$6.5 million hit, about 7 percent of its \$92 million annual budget. The Menlo Park City School District lost \$3.5 million, or 14 percent. Other local districts lost between 1.3 and 2.3 percent.

The schools had been cutting back and boosting reserves in anticipation of a bad budget year, County Superintendent of Schools Jean Holbrook told the board. "Those funds and more have now been eroded," she said.

"Taxpayers in San Mateo County have generously supported bonds to finance building and renovation that are sorely needed," she added. "The projects promised to citizens will now need to be scaled back and in some cases eliminated. Taxpayers will be making payments on millions of bond dol-

lars for the next 25 years with nothing to show for it."

The county Office of Education has hired its own counsel and forensic accountant to investigate the treasurer's handling of Lehman securities, Ms. Holbrook said. A report is due before the end of the year.

Some fraction of the losses could be recovered. The county is a participating creditor in Lehman's bankruptcy proceedings. Lehman creditors may recoup something from the government bailout of the financial services industry. And the county is suing Lehman officers and directors for misleading investors.

An avoidable mess?

In an office responsible for a \$2.7 billion portfolio, the tools at hand seem appropriate. The office subscribes to Bloomberg Professional, a service used by "central banks, investment institutions, commercial banks, government offices and agencies, law firms, corporations and news organizations in over 150 countries," according to the Bloomberg Web site.

Other sources include the Wall Street Journal, the New York

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30701	India/Sultanabad	8.10 x 11.8	Black/Ivory	5,125	2,675
30609	India/Sultanabad	9 x 11.10	Ivory/Black	5,325	2,675
30710	India/Agra	8.11 x 11.11	Plum/Ivory	6,895	2,500
33971	Pakistan/Khyber	9.2 x 12.1	Green/Ivory	8,300	3,500
33142	Pakistan/Ghazani	11.5 x 12	Beige/Beige	8,905	2,500
2194	Pakistan/Mahal	9.3 x 12.4	Black/Gold	14,265	5,750
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Times, Barron's, and CNBC economists, who appear several times a day, Mr. Buffington told the board. "It's (also) not unusual for us to pick up the phone and ask somebody that we respect what the situation is," he added.

The office monitors ratings reports for the pool's securities, consults with three economists twice a year, and re-prices the portfolio daily, a process called mark-to-market.

Given the rescues of investment bank Bear Stearns and mortgage banker Countrywide Financial earlier this year, Lehman was a concern, but Mr. Buffington said he drew some comfort from its rejection of a possible takeover by the Korean Development Bank shortly before the Sept. 15 bankruptcy.

Selling Lehman at that time would have cost the pool about \$30 million, he said. He didn't, he said, thinking of Lehman as too big to fail, that Bank of America would take it over and that, in any case, the U.S. Treasury would make note holders whole. "There was a good chance that we would not have had any loss at all," he said.

But BofA bought Merrill Lynch instead, and Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson denied Lehman a rescue.

Supervisor Jerry Hill asked Mr. Buffington repeatedly about the first of three objectives for managing public funds, set by law and in order of priority: safeguard the principal, satisfy the liquidity needs of depositors, and achieve a return.

"Looking for some type of rescue, is that consistent with preservation of capital," Mr. Hill asked.

"Yes, I think so," Mr. Buffington replied. "The Lehman bonds themselves were pretty steady."

Now what?

The supervisors' resolution includes amendments by Supervisor Mark Church to include testing the value of the portfolio in simulated stressful markets, and a considering the idea of multiple portfolio managers.

Mr. Church asked about diversifying the pool away from financial sector securities.

The problem with that approach, Mr. Buffington said, is that the county needs cash to pay bills year round and financial sector debt is about four times more available than the more desirable industrial sector debt.

"We would love to be able to get more industrial stuff if we could," he said. "They just don't come to market that often and we have a continuous need."

Also unhelpful: the number of firms offering debt that meets state quality requirements is dwindling rapidly, he said. ■



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Specifications may be obtained at the Town of Atherton Public Works Department, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton CA 94027, for a non-refundable fee of \$10.00. Additional important information is contained in Town of Atherton Standard Specifications, which are available for an additional \$20.00. If shipping is requested, there will be an additional charge of \$10.00.

Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of cash, a cashier's or certified check or bid bond for not less than ten percent (10%) of the amount of the bid, as a guarantee that the bidder, if awarded the Contract, will fulfill the terms of the bid. The Town of Atherton reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and/or to waive any irregularities therein.

Bidders are hereby notified that, pursuant to California Civil Code Sections 3247 and 3248 and Standard Specifications Section 3.02, the successful bidder will be required to provide payment and performance bonds in the amounts stated in Section 3.02 of the Standard Specifications.

Bidders are hereby notified that provisions of California Labor Code regarding prevailing wages are applicable to the work to be performed under this contract. Pursuant to Section 1773 et seq. the general prevailing wage rates have been determined by the Director of the California Department of Industrial Relations and appear in the California Prevailing Wage Rates. Copies are on file at the office of the City Engineer and are available to interested parties upon request. The successful bidder shall post a copy of the wage rates at the job site.

The Contractor may elect to receive 100 percent of payments due under the contract, without retention of any portion of the payment by the Town of Atherton, by depositing securities of equivalent value to the retention amount in accordance with the provisions of Section 22300 of the California Public Contracts Code.

The successful bidder must be licensed under the provisions of Chapter 9, Division 3, of the California Business and Professions Code to do the type of work contemplated in the project at the time the contract is awarded and shall be skilled and regularly engaged in the general class or type of work called for under the Contract. Failure of the bidder to obtain proper and adequate licensing for an award of the contract shall constitute a failure to execute the contract and result in the forfeiture of the bidder's bid security.

Each bidder shall submit with this bid a statement setting forth his/her/its experience and qualifications. The statement shall be made on the forms provided by the Town and must accompany each bid. The three lowest bidders will be required to submit subcontractor's experience and qualifications statements within 48 hours of the bid opening, on forms provided by the Town.

By submitting a bid in response to this advertisement for bids, the bidder shall be conclusively deemed to have read, understood and agreed with all of the information and materials contained in the bid documents, including but not limited to the construction contract, the standard specifications, the special provisions, the required nature and amount of insurance and the documentation evidencing said insurance.

Any questions regarding the project should be directed to the City Engineer, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, CA 94027, telephone (650) 752-0532, preferably no later than five days before bid opening. Requests for Information may be faxed to (650) 688-6539. Plan holder's lists may be obtained by calling (650) 752-0570.

By: _____
 Duncan L. Jones, P.E., City Engineer

Date: _____

Published in THE ALMANAC on November 5, 12, 2008

Residents preview plans for major water pipeline

Residents of Menlo Park and North Fair Oaks got a preview on Oct. 29 of plans by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) to build a new pipeline under Bay Road.

The project is part of a \$4.4 billion upgrade to the Bay Area's water system that was approved on Thursday, Oct. 30, by San Francisco's planning and public utilities commissions. SFPUC representatives fielded questions about the project from 30 or so residents at the Oct. 29 meeting at Home of Christ Church on 71 Bay Road.

The pipeline is designed to supplement two aging pipes that bring drinking water from the Sierra under San Francisco Bay to customers on the Peninsula. The new pipeline will allow the SFPUC to temporarily shut down the older pipes in order

to gird them for an earthquake, and will allow the system to continue to function in the event of an earthquake that might knock one or both of the older pipes out of commission. An increase in carrying capacity is not the primary goal.

Construction along Bay Road will begin in the winter of 2010 or 2011, according to Project Manager Joe Ortiz. Bay Road would be impacted for approximately 10 weeks, and Flood Park might be unavailable for three to six months. The contractor would only operate during off-peak hours, and the entirety of Bay Road would be open at night and during rush hour, according to Mr. Ortiz.

Trees in the SFPUC right of way will not be affected by the project, according to Mr. Ortiz.

Library hosts Francisco Jimenez reading

The Menlo Park Library will host a reading by author Francisco Jimenez at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14.

Mr. Jimenez — a professor in the Ethnic Studies Department at Santa Clara University — will introduce his latest release, "Reaching Out," a semi-autobiographical novel about a young man who leaves the migrant community he grew up in and heads to college. The novel follows up on two previous efforts by Mr. Jimenez, "The Circuit" and

"Breaking Through."

Prior to the reading, an adults-only reception for Mr. Jimenez will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the Burgess Recreation Center to raise money for the Peninsula College Fund, which provides scholarships for minority students on the Midpeninsula.

The library is located in the Civic Center, near the intersection of Alma Street and Melke Drive. The recreation center is situated in nearby Burgess Park.

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Cecily Harris defeats veteran incumbent

Cecily Harris, a former San Carlos parks commissioner, was elected to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's Board of Directors on Nov. 4, receiving 59.4 percent of the vote, defeating veteran incumbent Kenneth C. Nitz, who received 40.6 percent of the vote for the Ward 7 seat.

Mr. Nitz was elected to the seat in 1996 and served three consecutive terms, running unopposed in 2000 and 2004.

Ward 7 includes San Carlos, Redwood City, the northern fringe of Woodside past Skyline Boulevard, and the central Coastside south to Lobitos creek.

The district has seven geographic wards, each represented by a board member elected to a four-year term.

Ms. Harris, a San Carlos resident, was the first to challenge

Mr. Nitz for the seat. A financial services manager with the San Mateo County Parks Department, she served nine years as a San Carlos parks and recreation commissioner.

Among issues she is interested in are single- and multiple-use trails, interpretive programs, and natural resource protection.

Mr. Nitz, a Redwood City resident, is a software engineer and has been an avid environmentalist for more than three decades, according to the district.

As a board member, "he worked to expand areas for dogs, remove non-native plants, and emphasize the district's role as a steward of the land," the district said in a press release. He also served on the district's budget committee.

Two incumbent board members were unopposed and were

automatically elected to another term: Jed Cyr, who has represented Ward 3 (Sunnyvale) since 1996, and Curt Riffle, who has represented Ward 4 (Los Altos and Mountain View) since 2006.

District seeks feedback on transit plan

The San Mateo County Transit District, which operates the SamTrans bus service as well as shuttles to BART and Caltrain stations, is seeking comment on its five-year strategic plan. Interested parties can review the plan on SamTrans's Web site, samtrans.com, and respond via e-mail to strategicplan@samtrans.com.



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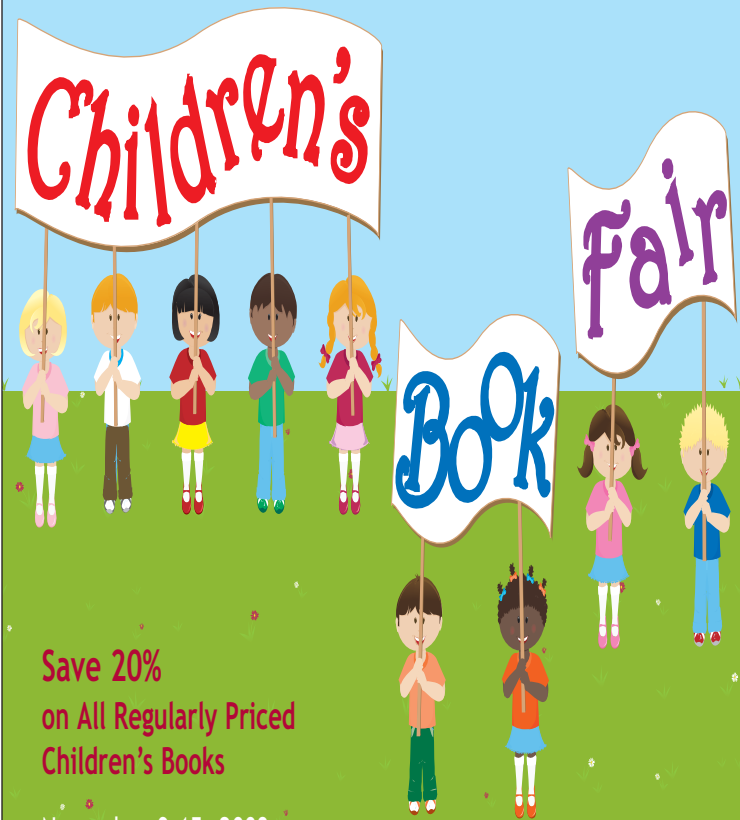
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11:00 a.m.	Christy Hale, illustrator, <i>Sky Dancers & Elizabeth's Doll</i>
11:30 a.m.	Story time with Curious George
12 noon	Lisa Shulman, author, <i>The Moon Might Be Milk & The Matzo Ball Boy</i>
12:30 p.m.	Costume Contest Judging
1:00 p.m.	Story time with Biscuit
1:30 p.m.	Auntie Dori reads <i>Skippy Jon Jones</i>
2:00 p.m.	Story time with Pat the Bunny
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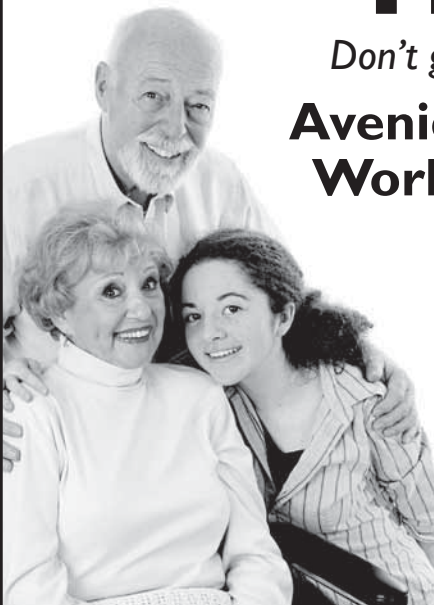
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Voting goes smoothly, for the most part

By Sean Howell

Almanac Staff Writer

Though voter turnout across the country might have been the highest in any presidential election since Kennedy-Nixon, polling places in towns within The Almanac's circulation area were relatively placid on Election Day.

Many of the polling stations were inundated with voters early in the morning, but turnout slowed after that — consistent with patterns across the county, according to San Mateo County Elections Manager David Tom.

"I think that means people were very eager to vote," Mr. Tom said. "They got voting out of the way by coming [to the polls] early, voting by mail, or coming to our office."

Nearly 47 percent of registered voters in the county had signed up to vote by mail as of Oct. 27,

according to the elections office. That represented a 28 percent increase over the number of absentee voters in the 2004 presidential election, according to Warren Slocum, chief elections officer.

It would seem that the county did not, however, see much of an increase in turnout over 2004 Presidential Election levels, if any. Mr. Tom said that when all the votes have been tallied, he expects turnout in the county to approach or barely exceed the 78 percent of registered voters that cast ballots in 2004.

The elections office is not investigating any reports of polling fraud, and the machines, for the most part, worked. When they didn't, they were repaired in short order, according to Mr. Tom.

Local incident

Though local polling stations seemed to be running smoothly, Election Day was not without incident.

Parents of pre-schoolers at Bethany Lutheran Church lodged complaints about an opponent of Proposition 8 who had been handing out fliers in the church's parking lot. Pastor Jon Coyne asked the woman to leave the property, but she refused.

Mr. Coyne said he was concerned that the woman was violating election law by demonstrating within 100 feet of the building where voters were casting their ballots, but he was told by an election official that the law actually stipulates no demonstrating within 100 feet of the front door,

not the building. The parking lot where the woman was handing out fliers is situated at the opposite end of the property from the building's entrance.

The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office was reluctant to eject the woman from the property, Mr. Coyne said, over concerns that it would violate her civil rights. But Mr. Tom, the elections manager, said that private property laws supersede the site's role as a polling place, as far as the Elections Office is concerned.

"We're asking their permission to use the site to conduct the vote, but it doesn't mean we can override the property rights of the owner," Mr. Tom said.

A poll worker at the location said that election volunteers did not complain about the woman's presence or ask her to leave, and that there was no question of an election law violation, as far as she could tell.

Mr. Coyne said his stance that the woman should move back to the sidewalk was a matter of civics, not politics. Proposition 8 would amend the state's constitution to ban marriage between couples of the same sex.

"We provide this space for everyone in the community to get away from all the electioneering and the hoopla," he said. "That's all we're asking for. This has nothing to do with the proposition, and everything to do with giving people the physical space to do their civic duty."

"[The demonstrator] told me I was an unloving person. I said, 'I'm just trying to let people vote.'" ■

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Witness aids in capture of suspects

An alert observer helped police capture two men suspected of armed robbery in unincorporated Menlo Park on Thursday, Nov. 6.

Officers from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office and Redwood City Police Department arrested and booked Redwood City residents Edgar Mauricio Franco, 20, and Manuel Jose Gonzalez, 19, on suspicion of attempted armed robbery of a Valero gas station at 743 Marsh Road.

Dispatchers received a 911 call at about 9:25 p.m. from the gas station attendant, who reported that a Hispanic man with a revolver had entered the mini-mart, demanded money, then fled to a waiting vehicle when the attendant was unable to open the cash register.

A witness outside the station provided a vehicle description and license plate number to police, who put out an all-points bulletin. Deputy Lisandro Lopez stopped the suspect vehicle near Bay Road and 6th Avenue in Redwood City and, after waiting for reinforcements, took the two men and the gun into custody.

Anyone with information about the incident or the suspects should call Sheriff's Office detectives Gary Ramos at 363-4064 or Hector Acosta at 363-7823.

Noise workshop

A second weekend workshop on noise in Portola Valley is set for Sunday, Nov. 16, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Historic Schoolhouse at 765 Portola Road. The first workshop was held Saturday, Nov. 1.


The Town Council is seeking public comment ahead of possible noise-related ordinances and amendments to the town's general plan.

Officials ask residents planning to attend to read the materials available at www.portolavalley.net. Click on the links under the topic, "Are you concerned about noise?"

For more information, call Town Clerk Sharon Hanlon at 851-1700, ext. 210, or write to her at shanlon@portolavalley.net.

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with Steamed Kale and Pino Grigio Beurre Blanc and Corn & Yukon Gold Potato Cakes

DESSERTS
(Choice of)
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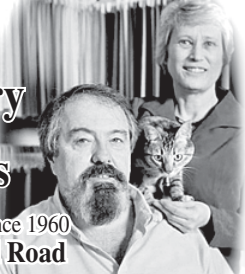


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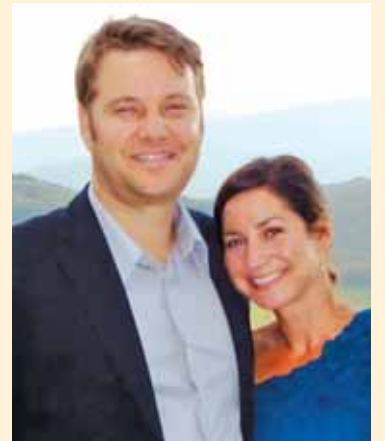
Julia Rogoway and David Dobbs were married Aug. 8 at the National Elk Refuge in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

The bride is the daughter of Melba and Bill Rogoway of Portola Valley. A graduate of Menlo-Atherton High School and Colby College in Waterville, Maine, the bride

is a corporate event planner, based in San Francisco.

The bridegroom is the son of Claire and Dick Dobbs of Tavares, Florida. A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, he is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis and director of engineering for an Internet company in San Francisco.

After a wedding trip through Wyoming and Montana, the couple is living in San Francisco.



Julia Rogoway and David Dobbs

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Deputy Stephanie Josephson, of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, answers questions about law enforcement.

Send questions to: editor@AlmanacNews.com; call 854-2626, ext. 213; or mail to: Ask the Deputy, The Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025.



BRIEFS

■ On Sunday, Caltrain unloaded the first of 12 shipments of ballast, or railroad rock, near Chilco Street in Menlo Park. It will be stored there and used for ongoing maintenance and future construction projects, according to a press release. The 40 cars that transport the ballast will be temporarily stored on a siding near Marsh Road. Caltrain anticipates making similar deliveries every two weeks for the next six months.

■ The Nov. 11 meeting of the Menlo Park City Council has been cancelled. The next meeting will be held Nov. 18.



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Robert S. Reis

DataSafe founder

Robert Stanley Reis, a longtime resident of Atherton and Menlo Park before moving to the Hyatt Classic Residence, died Oct. 22 in Palo Alto. He was 91.

Mr. Reis was born in Cincinnati, Ohio. As a youth, he played in national amateur golf tournaments, as well as national inter-collegiate tournaments, serving as captain of the University of Cincinnati golf team.

He earned a bachelor's degree and a MBA from Stanford University. During World War II, he earned an advanced degree in meteorology from New York University and served as a staff weather officer in the Army Air Force. He married Kato Mendelssohn in the Stanford University chapel in 1946.

In 1946, he and fellow Stanford Graduate School of Business alumnus, Robert Bush, purchased City Transfer and Storage Co. in San Francisco. After Mr. Bush moved on to other business pursuits, Mr. Reis began a partnership with Richie Smith, which lasted many years, say family members. City Transfer, a member of Allied Van Lines network, pioneered off-site storage of office records in the Bay Area. In the 1970s, Mr. Reis became chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Allied Van Lines.

In 1980, he and his sons, Tom and John, and, later, Ron, refocused the company from transportation to records management and storage, changing the name

OBITUARIES

to DataSafe.

During his career, Mr. Reis was president of the National Furniture Warehousemen's Association (1962), president of the San Francisco Better Business Bureau (1972), and on the boards of many civic organizations, including the Guardsmen, Rotary Club of San Francisco, the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco, the Lassen Park Foundation and the Sequoia Foundation.

He was a member of the Family Club of San Francisco, the Bohemian Club, for which he served as chairman of the Grove Committee, the Menlo Circus Club, and the Menlo Country Club.

He was an expert bridge player, attaining the rank of Life Master, and an avid domino player, winning many championships, say family members. He also enjoyed spending time with his family at "Echo Springs," the family retreat in Northern California.

He is survived by his wife, Kato of Palo Alto; sons, Ron, Tom, Brian and John; 10 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

A private family memorial was held. Donations in his name may be made to a favorite charity.

Barbara K. Teige

Civic volunteer

A memorial celebration of the life of Barbara Teige of Menlo Park will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 16, at St. Bede's Episcopal Church, 2650 Sand Hill Road, in Menlo Park. Ms. Teige, the mother of

six children, died Nov. 4 with her family at her side. She was 89.

Born and raised in Madison, Wisconsin, Ms. Teige graduated with a degree in sociology from the University of Wisconsin. After marrying her college sweetheart, Peter Teige, she lived in Madison while he was serving in World War II. After the war they moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts, where Mr. Teige attended Harvard Law School. The family later moved to the Bay Area, where she spent most of her adult life.

Ms. Teige was a volunteer in several organizations, including the Woodside-Atherton Auxiliary to Stanford Children's Hospital, the Stanford Hospital Auxiliary, and the Altar Guild at St. Bede's Church in Menlo Park.

She had a special flair for gardening, say family members. Her gardens were always large and well-tended. Her love of plants and flowers led to her interest in flower arranging. Together, with her late husband, they had a passion for the arts, nature and an interest in world affairs and politics, say family members.

She is survived by her children, Susan Teige of Denver, Colorado, Peter Teige of El Granada, Ellen Gardner of Redwood City, Mary Heney of San Jose, Ann Glatt of Santa Rose, and Nancy Hobson of Menlo Park; 10 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Her husband of 42 years, Peter N. Teige, died in 1984.

Donations may be made to Pathways Hospice Foundation, 585 N. Mary Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94085.

of Roble Ave and 200 block of Oak Court, Nov 2 and 6.

Fraud reports

■ Identity theft and wire fraud, 200 block of Gilbert Ave., Nov. 4.

■ Unauthorized use of accounts, first block of Lorelei Lane and 100 block of Gloria Circle and 1400 block of Plumas Ave., Nov. 5 and 6.

Child protective services report: 400 block of Sherwood Way, Nov. 5.

WOODSIDE

Accident report: Driver lost control of vehicle and plunged down steep embankment but was not injured, Highway 84 at Portola Road, Nov. 1.

POLICE CALLS

ATHERTON

Auto-burglary report: Window smashed on red Volvo and stereo stolen, Menlo-Atherton High School at 555 Middlefield Road, Nov. 5.

MENLO PARK

Residential burglary reports:

■ Jewelry valued at \$4,000 stolen, 2200 block of Sharon Road, Oct. 31.

■ Bicycle stolen, 1900 block of Menalto Ave., Nov. 4.

■ Flat screen TV, laptop computer and digital camera stolen, 300 block of O'Connor St., Nov. 6.

Commercial burglary report: Saw, carpenter's level, grinder, propane heater and extension cord stolen from construction site, 2800 block of Sand Hill Road, Nov. 2.

Auto-burglary reports:

■ Stereo faceplate stolen, 1000 block of Hollyburne Ave., Nov. 2.

■ Maurice Brown, 34, of East Palo Alto arrested and booked on charges that include burglary, 1100 block of Willow Road, Nov. 5.

Attempted robbery report: Pedestrian and two suspects, Sevier Ave. and Newbridge St., Nov. 1.

Grand theft reports: Bicycles stolen, 900 block of Fremont St. and 800 block



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11/04

BETTY DOSTAL WHITE



Services will be held at 11 A.M. Friday, November 21, at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church for Betty Dostal White of Menlo Park, who died peacefully on October 30th at the age of 94.

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Mrs. White grew up in Evanston, Illinois. She attended Nutrier High School and was a member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority at Northwestern University.

After moving to Atherton in 1945, Mrs. White

became a member of the Peninsula Volunteers and the Children's Auxiliary to the Stanford Convalescent Hospital. She was a gifted painter. She was a member of the Menlo Circus Club and the Menlo Country Club, where she enjoyed playing bridge. She attended Menlo Park Presbyterian Church for over 50 years and enjoyed giving generously to charitable causes.

She is survived by her daughter, Mimi McDowell of Portola Valley; seven grandchildren; and seventeen great-grandchildren. Her husband, Howard White Jr., as well as her daughter, Susan Dove, and her son, Howard White III, preceded her in death.

Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to Prison Fellowship Ministries, P.O. Box 1550, Merrifield, Virginia, 22116-1550.

PAID OBITUARY

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



WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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

TOWN SQUARE FORUM

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

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your views to: letters@almanacnews.com and note this it is a letter to the editor in the subject line.

MAIL

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

CALL

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

Conflicted on high-speed rail

Now that voters have approved the nearly \$10 billion bond issue for the California High Speed Rail project, Menlo Park has some soul-searching to do.

First, despite the Menlo Park City Council's decision to join Atherton in a lawsuit demanding a more strenuous environmental review of the project, nearly 58 percent of Menlo Park residents voted yes on Proposition 1A. This action came despite the council's action and the strong opposition campaign mounted by local resident Martin Engel, who claims the high-speed trains will wreak havoc in downtown areas up and down the Peninsula, and especially in Menlo Park.

But the decision made by voters — in Menlo Park and around the state — last Tuesday was not about details; it was not about the \$10 billion down payment on a project that is projected to cost \$40 billion but very likely will wind up in the \$60 billion-plus range. It was not about the governor's call for a special legislative session to address the state's immediate

need to find \$11 billion in either new taxes or cost cuts, which ironically dominated the headlines just two days after the election results showed that the rail project was a winner.

These mere details were not in the minds of the millions of voters who said yes on Proposition 1A. They apparently believe that regardless of the financial picture, the state needs to stake its future on a project that would reduce green house gases with a rail system that would run on electricity at 220 mph down the Central Valley. Who could object to the ease of simply boarding a train in San Francisco and reaching Los Angeles in three hours or less, at a cost of about \$50?

Certainly the project had its detractors, including Mr. Engel and the Atherton and Menlo Park councils, who focused on the huge impact the trains will make on communities up and down the Peninsula, as well as elsewhere. Every train crossing will have to be

separated at great cost — \$60 million or more apiece. There will be enormous impacts along the highly developed Caltrain rail corridor that will take squads of expensive lawyers to resolve.

At this writing, it is not known when the High Speed Rail Commission will begin dispatching its staff up and down the projected route to begin the huge planning process. Ultimately, decisions will be made on where to place the two additional tracks for the new trains, and the over- or under-crossings that will need to be built. Unless streets that cross the tracks at grade now are converted to dead ends, Ravenswood, Oak Grove, Glenwood and Encinal avenues in Menlo Park will need to be crossed, along with Watkins and Fair Oaks in Atherton. Even grade crossings that are in place now will need to be completely rebuilt to accommodate the four-track system

Local city council members have said they joined the lawsuit after the rail authority gave unsatisfactory answers or no answers at all when questioned about the project's impact here. Now that the deal is apparently "on track," local officials will need to become experts in the enabling legislation for high-speed rail and make sure that everything possible is done to ease the fallout from this huge development project that will bisect our community.

When the first Southern Pacific tracks were laid back in the mid-1800s, residents welcomed the speedy connection between Peninsula towns and San Francisco, the commercial hub of the region. Could that feeling emerge again despite the size and complexity of the high-speed rail project?

We hope so, but we also hope the Menlo Park supporters of high-speed rail aren't the ones who yell and scream when their downtown is ripped apart by this project as construction begins in the next few years. When completed, the high-speed rail line will be the biggest public infrastructure project ever built in the state. It will create thousands of jobs between here and Los Angeles and, if current predictions are correct, offer a fast trip to the Southland as a very reasonable price. That part is OK. It is the journey we must take to make that trip a reality that worries us.

EDITORIAL
The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS
Our readers write

Confused by opposition to charter school

Editor:

I've been following the saga of Everest Charter School in the Almanac and have never understood why the Sequoia high school district refused to support Summit Prep charter and now is working to put the kibosh on the recently proposed Everest Charter School.

Summit Prep has proven to be a great public school alternative for students who thrive better in a small school setting. And Everest has the potential to do the same for students, integrating Mandarin into the curriculum.

As a parent of a Woodside High student, I am extremely pleased with the education he is receiving at the large high school. That does not mean that all students can thrive in that kind of setting.

When I opened up a recent

See **LETTERS**, next page



Atherton Heritage Association

Our Regional Heritage

The Atherton Town Hall was built in 1928, five years after incorporation in 1923. Atherton celebrates its 85th birthday this year. This photo was taken in 1992 by longtime Almanac photographer Carol Ivie, who died in 2005.

Valley looks to add efficiency to homes

By Steve Toben

For more than 40 years, the character of Portola Valley has been defined by a single organizing idea, which is that development should be subordinated to the natural landscape. This fundamental principle was foremost in the minds of the town's founders, and it is woven throughout the general plan, town ordinances and design guidelines.

The result today is that wherever you are in Portola Valley, you're never out of touch with nature, whether it's the view of Windy Hill, the vista along Alpine Road, or the heritage oaks that grace the town everywhere you turn. All of this stems from this original organizing idea, that Portola Valley would never become simply a collection of estate homes, but a community defined by its natural setting.

The time has come to add a second organizing idea to mark the next chapter of the town's history. What is this new organizing idea? It's that in the face of the global climate crisis and the future depletion of oil and gas, advanced resource efficiency and the sustainable use of materials

should guide building practices in Portola Valley from this point forward.

The town has committed to meet the greenhouse gas reduction targets set out in AB-32, the Global Warming Solutions Act, signed by Gov. Schwarzenegger in 2006. This law calls for a statewide 25 percent reduction in green house gas emissions below 1990 levels by 2020 and an 80 percent reduction by 2050. These are breathtaking goals,

but they reflect the scientific community's assessment of what is required to avert the collapse of natural systems.

In order to do our part in meeting these goals, the Town Council has begun to consider a new sustainability element for the general plan. Half the greenhouse gas emissions in town come from our housing stock, and the proposed sustainability element focuses heavily on community outreach to support voluntary "green-ups" of existing

homes. Ideas include discounted energy audits and group buys of energy efficient windows, appliances and insulation. In coming months we will also consider minimal standards for new home construction that incorporate state-of-the-art resource efficiency practices.

If we put in place this new organizing idea around resource efficiency, what will it look like in practice?

It means that the first question asked by a property owner contemplating a remodel might be: "What sort of home will comfortably meet the needs of my family while maximizing energy and water efficiency and minimizing the use of materials, especially non-renewable resources?"

Other questions might include:

- How can we design our home to completely eliminate the need for heating and air conditioning systems?

- How can we capture winter rainwater for summer irrigation?

- What landscaping plan will cool my home in the summer and warm it the winter?

- What orientation of my home to the sun will optimize energy efficiency throughout the year?

- How much of the material that we take out of the old house can be reused in the remodel?

As the Town Council considers this new organizing principle around resource efficiency, we will advance four propositions:

First, green home practices are highly cost-effective for homeowners. Initial capital expenses (often lessened by tax incentives) are offset by reduced operating costs, especially for residents who intend to stay in their homes for many years.

Second, green design produces esthetically beautiful results (as Exhibit A, see the new Town Center project, which has been built to the highest standards of green design for the post-petroleum age).

Third, new standards for environmental design will be packaged in a rich menu of options that will give property owners abundant choices for customizing their homes to achieve high resource efficiency.

And finally, we believe that in coming years green design will increase property values through evolving norms of what defines a desirable home.

We look forward to community dialogue on a new resource efficiency principle for Portola Valley.

Steve Toben is a member of the Portola Valley Town Council.



GUEST OPINION

Advance notice of Barack Obama

By Henry Organ

Early in this decade, I attended a political function at the home of Rep. Anna Eshoo where the guest of honor was Sen. Barbara Boxer. Toward the end of the event, Sen. Boxer told the gathering that there was a young man on the horizon whose star would be rising. She spoke enthusiastically about him, and what she foresaw. She said he had an unusual name: Barack Obama.

At the time, her prophetic assessment did not register with me, but I am grateful that my senator had been astute enough to bring such promising public servants to the attention of this gathering. It is this element of his election that registers significantly with me.

The last eight years have demonstrated to me more acutely than ever the importance of public service, and the equal importance of electing to office those of competence, ethics, and an appreciation and respect for this "constitutional experiment." This appreciation and respect has been shamefully lacking in George W. Bush and Richard Cheney.

Yet, blame need not be placed on these individuals alone. One of the requirements of this kind of government is an informed

and compassionate voting population. Often, this is not demonstrated at the ballot box. This election, in my opinion, was a referendum on whether the nation believed in meritocracy — as is often boasted — or mediocrity, tainted with a bit of racism. Apparently, meritocracy prevailed. (I am reserving my incremental celebration until after the president-elect is sworn into office.)

Finally, as an alumnus of the civil rights movement, I have always felt going to the voting booth (as opposed to mailing in a ballot) to be a spiritual pilgrimage. I was even more overwhelmed on this occasion. An added reward on Nov. 4 was the presence of several young people of diverse ethnicity working at the polls. But for Barack Obama, this would not have been the case.

These are the early dividends of the election of a new public servant who has prepared himself to serve the people, and restore integrity to the presidency and retrieve respect from around the world.

No more shock and awe.

Henry Organ lives on Euclid Avenue in Menlo Park and is an occasional contributor to this page.



GUEST OPINION

Her vote was no conflict of interest

By Kelly Fergusson

The Almanac's Nov. 5 editorial erroneously stated that I voted "to give the city's non-benefited workers... an additional 2 percent increase in addition to the standard raise recommended by the union." That's not right. Only one raise was given, a one-time cost-of-living-increase, negotiated by staff, not me or any other City Council member. It was given only to temporary employees who otherwise had received increases of 0 percent in 2006, 1 percent in 2007, and 2 percent in 2008. The overall cost of the 2 percent raise was less than \$25,000.

Hiring temporary workers saves the city money because they receive far less than full-salaried, full-benefited employees. These workers include library and park maintenance staff, leaders of recreation classes, and janitors. They are among our lowest-paid employees and receive no pension or other benefits upon retirement.

The practice of using temporary positions rather than full-benefited positions is not supported by unions, whose objections become pointed when temporary positions persist for years. Worse, temporary worker pay rates have not even kept up with the cost of living in recent years.

I supported increasing the pay of these positions out of a sense of fairness and concern for employee morale. Paying these workers a fair wage is a strong personal value for me, and one of which I'm proud. I'm willing to employ long-term, temporary workers, to save the city money, even when it's opposed by unions, but I am not willing to exploit the temporary status to pay loyal, long-term workers unfairly low wages.

My decision was not influenced by any campaign contribution I received from the SEIU union, though I acknowledge it

might appear that way. Council approved the resolution by a vote of 4-1, including Andy Cohen and others, who did not accept campaign contributions from SEIU. If council members who did and did not accept SEIU contributions supported this action, it is logical to infer that the contribution was relevant to the vote?

The Almanac is correct to scrutinize negotiating positions of council members who receive contributions from unions, but by choosing this case, it distracted attention from the pressing issue of fairness. I feel that long-term, temporary workers, more than any other group of employees deserve a wage adjustment. The Almanac's attention would be better focused on those who are unwilling to grant this raise continue to underpay these workers.

Kelly Fergusson is a member of the Menlo Park City Council.



GUEST OPINION

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

e-mail from Woodside High's PTSA, I was disturbed to learn that the PTSA is taking an active role in discouraging educational opportunities for students living in the district and telling members that they need to oppose Everest's charter or else Wood-

side will "lose additional funding from our district as it is forced to house an additional facility."

Why do Sequoia and the Woodside PTSA feel so threatened by the possibility of successful charter schools? The accusations leveled against these local charter schools by the school district and the PTSA have been unfair and misleading, and do nothing to help elevate the quality of education in the community.

Again, choice is a good thing, and so is a little healthy competition. Especially when it comes to public education.

Nancy Wagner Skyline Boulevard, Woodside

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3 1350 HILLVIEW DRIVE, MENLO PARK:
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