

JACQUES LITTLEFIELD, Portola Valley's military tank collector
and open-space advocate, dies. Page 7

The Almanac

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

JANUARY 14, 2009

www.TheAlmanacOnline.com

| VOL. 44 NO. 20



Dry bones

ARE FOSSILS
SECRETING INFORMATION
ABOUT SOFT TISSUE?

WILL X-RAYS REVEAL IT?

[PAGE 15]

REDEFINING QUALITY SINCE 1990

Reading between the emotional line makes the difference between finding a house and a home.



ATHERTON

This charming 4bd/3ba Craftsman-style home was built in 1936 and is located on a quiet street in West Atherton. Approximate lot size: 40,000+/-sf (125 x 320). Backyard has incredible oak trees and dozens of roses.

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\$1,995,000



Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Scenes of winter?

While most of the rest of the country shivers, Peninsula birds are singing, boys are playing, and balls are flying through hoops. The weather was so warm on Jan. 10 — and all the days since — that Blake Olsen, 14, left, and his brother Clay, 11, were able to dress in summer clothing when they practiced their game in front of their West Menlo Park home. The boys play for the La Entrada Middle School basketball team.

Menlo Park

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Schools

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Regional

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Artscene

- Young singer discovers the magic of opera. **Page 12**

On the cover

The exquisite delicacy of this fossilized archaeopteryx did not visibly degrade during its ordeal under an X-ray beam at a Stanford Linear Accelerator Center laboratory, though the 145-million-year-old fossil may have been a few electrons lighter as it headed back to its museum in Wyoming. Scientists scanned it with a high-intensity beam in a search for data on soft tissue. Photo courtesy of SLAC. Story begins on **Page 15**.

CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

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Value Wines

Here's an electric group of wines I believe offers exceptional value at very reasonable prices.



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An Open Invitation

Wine openers make great gifts (even to oneself). Combining unique form and useful function. Many of the more clever designs even hold an attraction to those who love gadgets. The most basic design, of course, is the waiter's corkscrew, with its foldout arm.

Or those who lack the confidence and dexterity needed to make this corkscrew work, there is the basic T-shaped corkscrew (which requires some muscle), as well as the derivative wing corkscrew, which has wings that rise with the turn of the screw. The continuous turning corkscrew sends the screw down into the cork and up again. There are also electric models and air-injection designs. Some are so intriguing that many wine drinkers have collections of wine openers.

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Hint: The pronged corkscrew is an improbable design that utilizes two prongs that one inserts between cork and bottle to remove the cork.

DELI

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

A dubious record

At a recent workshop, Menlo Park City Council members were asked to write a retrospective headline about the council's achievements.

Among several run-on paeans to the council's foresight and judgment was this nugget from Councilman Rich Cline, a former journalist: "Years of record-long meetings pay off."

Mr. Cline drew chuckles when his headline was read at the start of a follow-up goal-setting meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 6 — a meeting that, fittingly, ran behind schedule; four hours of deliberation failed to produce a concrete list of goals.

"It's all about managing the agenda," Mr. Cline said in an interview. "If you ask council members to free-form, you're going to get a huge list." He suggested that the city establish three or four broad, semi-permanent goals, so the council isn't forced to debate the relative importance of topics such as public safety and environmental stewardship every year.

Mr. Cline, who maintains that council meetings shouldn't last for more than three hours, should get his chance to "manage the agenda" next year; he's slated to take the gavel as mayor in early December.

Secrets of the rich

So how do the fabulously wealthy accumulate all that cash? Journalist Ryan D'Agostino attempted to find out by knocking on doors in wealthy communities and asking the occupants. The result is the recently released book "Rich Like Them."

When he arrived in Atherton in 2006, he got a helping hand from Councilman Charles Marsala, then the mayor. Mr. Marsala said he set up interviews with four of his well-to-do friends and neighbors for Mr. D'Agostino, and squired him around town. Apparently, Mr. Marsala's photos documenting his many backyard parties left quite an impression on Mr. D'Agostino, who included a mention of the pictures in his book.

From Woodside hills to welcoming Bay

■ Woodside man's yacht was temporarily docked at Sand Hill Road on trip to harbor.

By **Dave Boyce**
Almanac Staff Writer

In 1977, Jimmy Carter took over as president, the Toronto Blue Jays played their first game of baseball, the first Star Wars film came to movie theaters, and Woodside resident Jerry Ellis began work on a 73-foot wood and fiberglass sailing yacht of his own design.

At about 10 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, after 32 years of not infrequently interrupted effort, Little Bear began its journey seaward to a port in Redwood City, the finished hull gleaming and pristine, its interior rooms paneled in walnut. The California Highway Patrol led the way.

Because the vessel weighs 70 tons and is as big as a house — it sleeps eight and has three bathrooms, or heads — and there being no convenient waterway between Dry Creek Lane off Canada Road and the Redwood City harbor, it had to be towed over the roads as a wide load. Therein lay the challenge.

Mr. Ellis, 71, faced an implacable deadline: a once-a-year high tide deep enough to accommodate the launching of his craft. He had found just one mover, Montgomery Contractors Corp. of Sacramento, agreeable to hauling his vessel from Wood-

side to the Bay, and he had an eight-hour window — 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. — to use the roads.

The hours ticked by as the crew tried to maneuver the towing package out of Dry Creek Lane. Beams from flashlights held by friends and neighbors, their breath condensing in the cold night air, punctuated the

darkness. Overhead utility wires got in the way of the hull and had to be pushed up with homemade poles. The eight-wheel dollies up front seemed uncooperative in rounding the turn on to Olive Hill Lane, and the electric motor used to slue the wheels around sparked and fizzled. Tight chain lashings held the vessel in place on the trailer, and its movements elicited ominous groans and pops of metal under stress.

Forward progress settled in at

around 2:50 a.m. after the towing crew swapped out the two front dollies for a single one. They made it as far as the dirt triangle at Whiskey Hill and Sand Hill roads in Woodside.

After a day's rest, the overland journey at 3 to 5 mph resumed Friday night and ended Saturday morning, Jan. 10, at Docktown Marina in Redwood City. In

See **YACHT**, page 6



Photo by Dave Boyce/The Almanac

The gradual evolution of Little Bear, a 73-foot yacht built over 32 years on the Dry Creek Lane property of Woodside resident Jerry Ellis, continued its deliberate pace the night of Jan. 8 as the 70-ton vessel made its passage over two nights to a dock in Redwood City.

Menlo sergeants: 30 percent pay raise over 30-month period

■ Residents send e-mails raising concerns about size of increase.

By **Sean Howell**
Almanac Staff Writer

Sergeants in the Menlo Park Police Department are set to get a 30 percent raise over the next two and a half years.

The city and the negotiators representing the department's seven sergeants have agreed in principle to a 30-month con-

tract that would elevate base salaries for sergeants from \$107,086 to \$131,452 by 2011, according to Glen Kramer, the city's personnel director.

The new contract appears to have the approval of the City Council, which negotiated it in closed session and is slated to vote on it at its meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 13.

The contract follows a pay

hike for the city's 39 line-level officer positions that went into effect in July, bumping those officers' pay 25 percent by 2011. That raise was designed to staunch a flow of officers out of Menlo Park — 30 officers had left the department in the three years prior to the raise, 17 of those to join other departments.

"It's a generous raise," Mayor Heyward Robinson said, though he added that he expects "eyebrows to be raised."

Residents have sent a flood

of missives to the City Council, questioning the decision to increase pay in the midst of a severe economic downturn. Many of those e-mails allude to a letter sent out by former councilwoman Lee Duboc, in which Ms. Duboc argued against the pay increase.

Elevating sergeants' salaries a significant amount over those of the officers they supervise seems to have been a major consideration in adopting the new pay scale. The initial pay hike of 6.9 percent, effective retroactively Jan. 4, will be the steepest of the five raises scheduled

See **PAY RAISE**, page 6

From hills to Bay

YACHT

continued from page 5

need of deeper water, the vessel was then towed to the city's municipal marina.

Crying wolf

The best laid plans, etc., etc. Asked at around 2:40 a.m. Friday morning for his impressions of the night's activity and with his vessel still sitting in Olive Hill Lane, Mr. Ellis replied: "I just hope we get there in two or three days. This isn't quite what I expected. I expected to be at Roberts (market at Woodside and Canada roads) at midnight."

Jim Thompson, his friend and protege, said he worked on the vessel as a gofer for five years in the late 1970s. "I was kind of the 'do it all' guy and wanted to learn a lot and I was lucky to meet Jerry," he said.

Mr. Ellis is "very determined and very smart (and) one of

the best builders in the whole area," Mr. Thompson said, and added that he attributes his decision to go to college and pursue civil engineering in large part to being inspired and mentored by Mr. Ellis.

'It's like he's been pregnant for 32 years.'

KRISTIN MOSELY, OF HER FATHER'S DECADES-LONG PROJECT BUILDING HIS YACHT.

The vessel's departure "is something I never thought would happen," he said. "I thought that boat would be there forever."

Mr. Ellis' daughter, Kristin Mosely, 42, said her father began work on Little Bear when she was 10. She recalled many optimistic predictions of the vessel's completion. But as in the story of the boy who

cried wolf, dashed expectations became routine, she said.

"It's like he's been pregnant for 32 years," she said. When he called her at her home in Colorado this time, "my heart just dropped," she said. "Is this really it?"

The long view seemed a habit for Mr. Ellis. Over the decades, he let Atherton homeowners with walnut trees know of his interest in their wood if the trees needed felling, said friend and Portola Valley resident Scott Petry. From those trees, he planed the walnut into boards, kiln-dried it, and used it to panel the vessel's interior, Mr. Petry said.

The help of friends can be a boon if your backyard yacht project takes 32 years, and Mr. Ellis' generosity has earned him many, Mr. Petry said. "He's so willing to share his knowledge," he said. "He spends 50 percent of his time working on other people's projects," whether a home remodel or a broken down truck. "He's got a lot of grace." ■

Thirty percent raise

PAY RAISE

continued from page 5

over the course of the contract; it is intended to maintain a 20 percent buffer between the salaries of sergeants and officers, according to the staff report.

Mayor Robinson called the raise the "other piece of the puzzle" in "fixing the problem with our police department," saying that it would help to maintain morale within the department.

Mr. Kramer said that sergeants' pay in Menlo Park now ranks 10th when compared with 11 other local cities and towns. By 2011, he estimates that the city's base pay for sergeants will rank third or fourth among the 12 agencies.

Over the past three years, one sergeant has left Menlo Park for another department, while three have retired, according to Mr. Kramer.

The raise will cost the city an additional \$489,000 over the course of the contract.

Transparency questioned

Peter Carpenter, a member of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District board and an advocate of earlier public disclosure of tentative labor agreements, is questioning the way in which the public was notified of the city's tentative agreement with the union that represents the sergeants.

Mr. Carpenter — who spearheaded a decision by the fire board last month to require tentative labor agreements to be made available to the public at

least 15 calendar days before ratification — took issue with the fact that the city didn't provide notice of the new contract until Thursday, Jan. 8, with the release of the council meeting's agenda.

The city of Menlo Park does not seem to "believe in giving the public adequate time to review proposed labor agreements before acting on them," Mr. Carpenter wrote in an e-mail that The Almanac received a copy of.

Mayor Robinson said he was open to having a conversation about public notice of closed session negotiations, but that until the council takes up the issue, the city would stick to its current policy of adhering to the 72-hour notice required by state law. He seemed leery, however, of providing the 15 days' notice suggested by Mr. Carpenter.

"If you just announced it two weeks earlier, that gives people two weeks to send nasty e-mails, get a hot and heavy debate going, et cetera, et cetera," Mr. Robinson said. "If we throw it out a couple weeks early, we'd create a huge amount of excitement over it."

He said he was concerned that such a debate would overwhelm the nuanced considerations council members had made in negotiating the contract.

"If we were to do it early — and I'm not saying that's a bad idea — I think we'd want to have a forum, or an opportunity to present the council's thinking, and be able to answer questions on that," he said, adding: "That's what we're doing tomorrow night (at the council meeting)." ■

Council to consider parking plaza design

At its meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 13, the Menlo Park City Council is slated to consider whether to approve preliminary plans to renovate a parking plaza in the downtown area, between Crane and Chestnut streets at Oak Grove Avenue.

The proposed plan includes

the installation of light poles, the insertion of benches along entrances to the plaza, and the planting of 25 trees, as well as the removal of the five now there. It will also add three handicapped parking stalls.

This is the fourth in a series of parking plaza renovations

the city has undertaken since deciding to repair and redesign the cracked, under-lit lots in 1995. The renovation of this plaza will cost the city an estimated \$570,000, money that was allocated in the budget for the 2006-07 fiscal year.

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'Visioning' committee deadline approaching

The city of Menlo Park is seeking applications from people who want to serve on a committee charged with overseeing the second stage of the El Camino Real/downtown area "visioning" process.

Applications must arrive by Thursday, Jan. 15. The City Council will make any appointments to the committee during a council meeting in late January.

During "phase two" of the process, the city will hammer out a detailed parcel-by-parcel plan for El Camino Real and downtown Menlo Park. Committee members are charged with ensuring that residents are aware of, and included in, the planning process, and with providing input to the consultant hired to create the final plan.

Applications can be obtained at <http://tinyurl.com/ecr-app> or at City Hall. For more information, e-mail Associate Planner Thomas Rogers at throggers@menlopark.org or call 330-6722.



Jacques Littlefield with part of his collection of armored vehicles.

Collector Jacques Littlefield loses long battle with cancer

Longtime Portola Valley resident, armored warfare historian, a champion of open space

Jacques Mequet Littlefield, who assembled one of the largest private collections of military vehicles in the world and championed open space in the mid-Peninsula, died Jan. 7 in Portola Valley. Mr. Littlefield was 59 and had battled cancer for the past decade.

Mr. Littlefield's fascination with armored vehicles began in his childhood when he started building plastic models of tanks. While in college, he built his first scale model, radio-controlled tank. He acquired his first full-sized vehicle in 1975.

In 1998 he set up the Military Vehicle Technology Foundation to manage his collection of more than 150 vehicles and restore new additions. The collection ranges from a World War II-era U.S. Army M3A1 wheeled scout car, his first acquisition, to a Soviet-era Scud missile launcher. It includes famous tanks such as the U.S. Sherman and Patton class; the U.K. Centurion, Conqueror and Chieftain; German World War II vehicles, including a Panther; and Soviet-era Russian tanks.

He was considered a scholar and expert on the history of armored warfare, and the foundation helps serve the interests of authors, historians, educators, the defense industry, veterans groups, model makers and the entertainment industry, say family members.

Mr. Littlefield's collection is housed at Pony Tracks Ranch in the hills above Portola Valley. Pony Tracks was the country estate of former San Francisco mayor and California governor James "Sunny Jim" Rolph Jr. Over the years, Mr. Littlefield restored many of the old buildings on the ranch, helping maintain open space in the hills above Portola Valley.

The son of the late Edmund Wattis Littlefield and Jeannik Mequet Littlefield, he was born in San Francisco in 1949. His father was CEO of Utah International. His mother is a strong supporter of the arts and a member of the Chairman's Council of the San Francisco Opera.

Growing up in Burlingame, Mr. Littlefield attended Cate School in Carpinteria before studying at Stanford University, where he received his bachelor's degree in 1971 and an MBA two years later. He worked for Hewlett Packard as a manufacturing engineer before focusing solely on building his museum and restoration facility.

A man of many interests, Mr. Littlefield was an organist who studied under Stanford University organist Professor Herbert Nanney. A large (45-stop) Fisk organ is housed in a custom-built hall attached to the Littlefield home.

He was also a steam railroad fan, and had rail lines for a large-scale model railroad installed at his 470-acre ranch.

Mr. Littlefield served on the boards of the George S. Patton Museum in Fort Knox, Kentucky, Cate School, Coyote Point Museum for Environmental Education, the Hoover Institution, California Academy of Sciences, and Filoli Center. He was a member of the Bohemian Club and captain of the Sempervirens Camp.

Surviving Mr. Littlefield are his wife, Sandy Montenegro Littlefield; his five children, David, Scott, Allison, Jacques Jr. and Jeannik; his mother, Jeannik Mequet Littlefield; brother Edmund Littlefield Jr. and sister Denise Littlefield Sobel; and one grandson.

A public memorial service will be scheduled for the near future. Memorials may be made to one of the organizations Mr. Littlefield supported: The Patton Museum, Cate School, Coyote Point Museum for Environmental Education, California Academy of Sciences, the Hoover Institution, or the Filoli Center.

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Gloria Darke



Buy or Refinance?

Q: Is this a good time to buy or refinance? by seizing the opportunity to buy a new home. When done at the right time, refinancing has the potential

A: Recent headlines have brought even more attention to the changes in the real estate market. But what stories have not always focused on are the potential opportunities possible with low interest rates. Mortgage rates are still relatively low from a historical perspective. In fact, interest rates are quite low when compared to just eight years ago when the 30-year fixed-rate went above 8 percent. In the 1990's buyers had to deal with rates higher than 10 percent. You may be able to take advantage of low interest rates by refinancing your current loan or

to save you a significant amount of money over the life of your loan. Or, if you choose to purchase a new home, you can lock in rates that may be more advantageous over the life of your new mortgage. In either case, a clear understanding of today's and history's interest rates can be beneficial. If you're interested in learning more about the current interest rate environment, contact a local home mortgage consultant. They are a reliable source of information and are committed to helping customers find financing that's right for them.

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

TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON A NEW SUSTAINABILITY ELEMENT OF THE TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY GENERAL PLAN AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD OF PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR ADOPTION OF THESE MATTERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley will hold a public hearing on the proposed new Sustainability Element of the Town of Portola Valley General Plan on Wednesday, January 28, 2009 at 8:00 p.m., in the Town Council Chambers (Historic Schoolhouse), 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, California. The Town Council will consider all evidence, written and oral communications pertaining to the proposed Element. All interested persons are invited to appear before the Town Council to be heard at the time and place herein above mentioned,

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a proposed Negative Declaration regarding the above mentioned Sustainability Element has been prepared and is available for review. The Town Council will consider the proposed Negative Declaration at its meeting of January 28, 2009 at 8:00 p.m., in the Town Council Chambers (Historic Schoolhouse), 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, California. Comments may be submitted in writing prior to the Town Council meeting or presented at the meeting. All interested persons are invited to appear before the Town Council at the time and place herein above mentioned at the time and place which will be noticed. Copies of the proposed Negative Declaration are available at Portola Valley Town Hall, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, California.

Dated: January 8, 2009

Signed: _____
Leslie A. Lambert, Planning Manager

Published in the Almanac on January 14, 21, 2009



Menlo Park resident

Barbara Franklin, photographed on the balcony of her condominium on Sand Hill Circle, advocates a ban on smoking in multi-unit residences.

Photo by Michelle Le/
The Almanac

Menlo Park resident pushes for ban on smoking in condos, apartments

By Sean Howell
Almanac Staff Writer

Barbara Franklin has become a regular presence at Menlo Park City Council meetings, delivering her insistent message to council members at each of the last three meetings about the hazards of secondhand smoke.

And she doesn't plan to stop any time soon.

Ms. Franklin, who lives in a condominium on Sand Hill Circle, wants the city to pass an ordinance banning smoking in multi-unit residences, such as apartments and condominiums. She has cited a precedent in the city of Belmont, which adopted a similar ordinance in November 2007. The ordinance went into effect Friday, Jan. 9.

So far, she has been "very pleased" by the council's response, she said. Council members have expressed interest in her idea, but have yet to consider whether the city should draft an ordinance.

Secondhand smoke

The issue of secondhand smoke became an immediate concern for Ms. Franklin a little over a year ago, when a new tenant moved into the unit below hers. Soon, the smell of tobacco smoke started wafting up into her apartment.

Not many Californians smoke

compared with the nationwide average, Ms. Franklin said, but "when it affects you, it affects you."

She started researching the effects of secondhand smoke, and presenting her findings to the condominium association. She said she attended 10 of the 12 meetings the association held last year, finally convincing it to ban smoking in common areas — including the balcony the man below her would use to smoke.

The ordinance she hopes the council will enact would be

'I don't know where it goes from here, but I'm not going away.'

BARBARA FRANKLIN

even more far-reaching, banning smoking in private rooms as well as common areas.

She openly acknowledges that she has been motivated primarily by self-interest in her quest, but says that she also wants to "try and get something done for people who just can't, for one reason or another, or don't, do it for themselves."

Advocacy experience

Ms. Franklin, who spent her career training teachers in how to work with deaf children, has some experience with advocacy. By her

count, she's driven to Sacramento dozens of times to speak before the state Legislature on issues related to special education.

She has seen things from the other side of the bench, as well, having sat on the state board that licenses teachers of children with hearing deficiencies.

The most important principle to advocacy, according to Ms. Franklin, is persistence.

"I don't know where it goes from here, but I'm not going away," she said, adding that she plans to speak at one or two council meetings a month until the city takes action.

Even if Menlo Park does pass an ordinance, enforcement is a different matter, she said. "Individuals feel there's no legal repercussions," because smoking bans tend to be implemented on an ad-hoc, agency-by-agency basis. After the condominium association passed its ban, the man below her didn't stop smoking on his balcony until Ms. Franklin installed a meter to measure smoke wafting up to her own balcony, she said.

For those who might view her as an annoyance, she said it's not as if she relishes the prospect of becoming a continued presence before the council.

"This is not the way I wanted to spend my retirement," she said with a chuckle. "I don't get too many kicks out of it." ▀

Universitat, Mr. Sexton said.

Her experience growing up speaking German in this country and English in Germany gave her a unique perspective, she said in the statement. "... I feel that my biggest contribution as a teacher is genuinely understanding students who do not fit a profile. I give them the encouragement they need to do their best," she said.

2007-08, said county Office of Education spokesman Porter Sexton in a statement.

Ms. Paepcke has bachelor's degrees in English and physical education from Johannes Gutenberg Universitat and a master's degree in secondary education from Albert Ludwigs

Environmental review of high-speed rail begins

By Sean Howell
Almanac Staff Writer

Residents concerned about the impact of the California high-speed rail project on local towns will have an opportunity to voice those concerns to rail officials over the next two months, as the High Speed Rail Authority solicits feedback on which issues it should consider during its environmental review of the project.

Written comments about potential effects of the project on the "physical, human, and natural environment" must be submitted to the authority by March 6. San Mateo County residents are also invited to provide feedback at a "scoping meeting" in San Carlos on Thursday, Jan. 22.

California voters approved the first wave of funding for the project through a \$9.95 billion bond measure in the Nov. 4 election. The rail would connect Los Angeles and San Francisco with electric trains that will reach up to 220 miles per hour.

The stretch of land from San Jose to San Francisco is the first span in the route for which the authority will carry out an environmental review. Menlo Park Councilwoman Kelly Ferguson suggested at a recent City Council meeting that Menlo Park and Atherton's participation in a lawsuit against the authority before the Nov. 4 vote may have influenced the authority's decision to review the Peninsula span first. The lawsuit challenges the project on broad environmental grounds.

Local response

The main concern locally is that the rail would require grade separations — overpasses or underpasses to separate the tracks from the roadway at six local intersections — that could result in years-long construction impacts for homes and businesses near the Caltrain tracks.

Local advocates favor a tunnel, because it would minimize impacts on the ground level. But that would likely be a more costly solution.

Menlo Park resident and longtime high-speed rail critic Martin Engel, a member of the city's Transportation Commission, has urged Menlo Park and Atherton to draft a joint resolution with other local cities by the March 6 deadline for comments.

"The more cities join as signa-

tories to such resolutions the better," Mr. Engel wrote in a letter to the City Council.

In an interview, Menlo Park Councilman Rich Cline said he agreed with Mr. Engel that local jurisdictions should band together in some form, though the city has not yet planned any coordinated action. Atherton Mayor Jerry Carlson said he has spoken with council members in local cities about the rail, but that he's not sure if Atherton will reach out to local agencies in an official capacity.

Mr. Carlson anticipates that the town's rail committee will draft a letter with its feedback on the environmental review process

'I think we're a little unorganized, and that's a big goal we need to get on, fast.'

COUNCILMAN RICH CLINE

in time for the City Council to review it at its next meeting, on Wednesday, Jan. 21. The Menlo Park City Council is slated to consider how the city should go about submitting its feedback at its meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 13.

However Menlo Park decides to approach the high-speed rail project, it needs to come up with a plan soon, Councilman Cline said at a Jan. 6 goal-setting meeting.

"I think we're a little unorganized, and that's a big goal we need to get on, fast," he said.

High-speed rail could have a major effect on a project that has been a high priority for the Menlo Park council: hammering out a detailed parcel-by-parcel plan for El Camino Real and the downtown area, a two-year process for which the council recently allocated nearly \$1 million. High-speed trains would run along the nearby Caltrain corridor, and there are questions about how construction might affect land within the study area.

"We've got to find a way to align those (projects)," Menlo Park Councilman John Boyle said. "Otherwise, we might end up wasting a lot of money." ▀

■ INFORMATION

■ A "scoping meeting" to determine which factors the High Speed Rail Authority should consider in its environmental review process will be held in the Sam Trans Auditorium at 1250 San Carlos Ave. on Thursday, Jan. 22 from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

■ Residents can submit written feedback via e-mail to comments@hsr.ca.gov, with the subject line "San Francisco to San Jose HST." For more information on the environmental review process, visit <http://tinyurl.com/fedhsr>.

M-A teacher honored

Menlo-Atherton High School's Inez Paepcke, who teaches computer applications and advanced German language, is the San Mateo County teacher of the year for 2009.

The Jan. 8 announcement follows her being named M-A's most innovative teacher for

Laurel School principal announces June retirement after 19 years at helm

By Andrea Gemmet

Almanac Staff Writer

Laurel Principal Nancy Hendry announced her impending retirement in festive style, filling the room with blue and white balloons on Jan. 5 when she told her staff that when school lets out for summer, she'll be leaving too.

"It's traditional at Laurel that if anyone has an announcement to make, you put brownies out on the table so everyone knows to come in at recess and find out what the announcement is," Ms. Hendry said. "It's quite festive, and that's exactly the way I wanted it."

Ms. Hendry, who has led the Menlo Park City School District's K-2 school for the past 19 years, said it's hard to leave.

"I never see myself as leaving Laurel, but it has to happen some day, and this is the time when it benefits my family and the programs here," she said.

Laurel, on Edge Road in Atherton, is on the cusp of adding third-graders to its campus, and it may become the second district campus to house the bilingual Spanish immersion program next year, Ms. Hendry said. The school board is expected to decide at its Jan. 13 meeting whether to split the program between the Encinal and Laurel campuses.

"It's a great time for someone to come in and own it, rather than for me to develop it and then leave," she said. "It's not in my heart to step away, but my head says it's time."

She'll figure out what will come next after she retires, she said.

Superintendent Ken Ranella

sent out a letter praising Ms. Hendry's unwavering commitment and her leadership of the school during a period of increasing enrollment and curriculum changes. He also noted that Laurel won the state's Distinguished School Award in 2007.

"If I ever had a problem talking to a parent, or with a child, it always felt so comforting to go to (Ms. Hendry) and tell her what was going on."

TEACHER ROBIN ALLEN

"Her belief in students and their potential has been the cornerstone of her success," he said.

Robin Allen, a retired Laurel kindergarten teacher, called Ms. Hendry a foreword-thinking leader who offers unwavering support to her staff.

"If I ever had a problem talking to a parent, or with a child, it always felt so comforting to go to her and tell her what was going on," Ms. Allen said. "If she didn't have the answers right then, she'd continue to think on it and come back the next day with an idea, a solution, a step to take. She didn't leave you hanging out there."

Ms. Allen said she was thrilled that Ms. Hendry saw Laurel named a distinguished school. "I told her, 'I'm grateful you have the paper in hand and the seal on the school building, but Nancy, we've always been a distinguished school in my mind.'"



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Nancy Hendry is retiring in June after 19 years as the principal of Laurel School.

Ms. Hendry's 40-year career in education began in the Redwood City School District. She earned her administrative credential in 1974, and later left for Laurel School because it gave her an opportunity to continue to focus on primary-grade curriculum, she said.

"This is about the kids. That's what's making it hard for me to walk away," she said.

"Yesterday a little one came up and put her arms around my leg and said, 'Are you really leaving?' It put me in a tailspin, and I thought, this is what it's really about." ■

Construction is set to begin in the winter of 2010 or 2011.

The hearing will take place at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Belle Haven Community School at 415 Ivy Drive.

Comments from the public on the environmental document will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 5. For more information, visit tinyurl.com/baypipe.

Public hearing Jan 20. on Bay Road pipeline project

On Tuesday, Jan. 20, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission will hold a public hearing in Menlo Park on a project to build a new pipeline under Bay Road.

At the hearing, residents will have a chance to comment on a

draft environmental review of the project, which would tear up Bay Road to install part of a new pipeline to bring drinking water from the Sierra under the San Francisco Bay to customers on the Peninsula.

Environmental group seeks volunteers

Acterra, a Palo Alto-based environmental group, is seeking volunteers to distribute fliers that advertise a "house call" program enabling residents to sign up for free sessions to

learn about energy-saving techniques.

Volunteers are asked to meet to pick up materials on Saturday, Jan. 24, between 1:30 and 4:30 p.m., in the parish of the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, on the corner of Ravenswood Avenue and Laurel Street.

The volunteers will walk in

Menlo Park neighborhoods for one or two hours and distribute the fliers. Groups are welcome.

For more information, go to acterra.org/greenathome or call Twana Karney at 962-9876, ext. 316. To schedule a "house call," e-mail greenathome@acterra.org or call Liz Muir at 962-9876, ext. 350.



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Saturday, Nov. 15 & Jan. 10, 10:00-11:30 a.m. Children welcome.

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Oct. 9, 16, Nov. 6, 20, Dec. 4, Jan. 8 and 15. Parents only, please.

For an appointment, please call 650.325.1584, ext. 5.

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WOODSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT Woodside Preschool Registration

You are invited to attend a Woodside Preschool parent visitation morning on Friday, February 6th from 8:45 to 10:00 a.m. (parents only).

From February 2nd through February 13th, 2009, Woodside School District will be accepting applications for the

FALL 2009 PRESCHOOL.

The Woodside Preschool is a half-day, fee-based program running from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Your children must be at least 2 years, 9 months old as of September 2, 2009 to apply.

Preschool students are placed in either the 2-day, 3-day or 5-day program based on age. Priority is given to students who live within the Woodside School District boundaries. Interested families may pick up an application at the school office beginning February 1st.

For more information about the preschool program,

call **Cathy at 851-1571 x294.**

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Woodside woman sells 'Toto Ranch' property to POST for open space

Woodside resident Kathleen Scutchfield ensured that a large swath of coastal land in her possession would remain untouched by developers when she sold it at a bargain rate to the Peninsula Open Space Trust on Dec. 24.

The nonprofit purchased the 952-acre property, known as "Toto Ranch," from Ms. Scutchfield for \$3 million — far less than its

appraised value of over \$7 million, according to the open space trust.

"It is remarkable to find a large, intact property like this on the coast side with easy access to paved roads that has not been 'parcelized' or disturbed by any kind of building," said Walter Moore, a spokesman for the trust, in a press release.

The property, previously used for grazing, is located along the east side of the Pacific Coast Highway just north of San Gregorio. It is inhabited by a variety of animal species, including

bobcats, coyotes, peregrine falcons and golden eagles.

The trust also purchased two other properties in the waning days of 2008: Thirty-two acres in the hills above Half Moon Bay, already surrounded by a large tract of protected land; and 17 acres of coastal bluff near Moss Beach at Pillar Point.

The trust has "been responsible for saving 60,000 acres as permanent open space and parkland" since its inception in 1977, according to spokeswoman Nina Nowak.



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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

TOWN OF ATHERTON STATE OF CALIFORNIA HOLBROOK-PALMER PARK PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE AT ATHERTON CHANNEL PROJECT NO. 08-004

Notice is hereby given that SEALED BIDS will be received at the office of the City Clerk, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, California 94027, until 3:00 p.m. FEBRUARY 5, 2009, at which time they will be publicly opened and read, for performing the following work:

Construct foundations and purchase and install prefabricated pedestrian bridge from Watkins Avenue into Holbrook-Palmer Park, including asphalt walking path connections, retaining wall and fence along Watkins Avenue and within the park

Bids must be for the entire work, and shall be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked: "Bid of (Contractor) for HOLBROOK-PALMER PARK PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE AT ATHERTON CHANNEL, Project No. 08-004", along with date and time of bid opening.

Plans and specifications may be obtained at the Town of Atherton Public Works Department, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton CA 94027, for a non-refundable fee of \$30.00. 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 \$20.00.

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 January 14, 21, 2009.

SF Mayor Newsom speaks

San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom will speak at the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 13.

Mr. Newsom — who is considering running for governor of California in 2010, according to the San Francisco Chronicle — will speak about the challenges facing the state, he said in a press release. In the news release, he called for change in California politics, citing "political gridlock in Sacramento."

The Hiller museum is located at 601 Skyway Road, alongside U.S. 101 in San Carlos. To RSVP, e-mail conversation@gavinnewsom.com or call 415-516-1252.

Volunteers needed for insurance counseling

The Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy (HICAP) of San Mateo is looking for volunteer counselors. The volunteers are trained to understand Medicare and coordination of benefits with insurance companies, plus learning about low-income programs to assist Medicare beneficiaries.

Training, on Tuesdays and Thursdays for four weeks, begins Jan. 20. Volunteers must be available eight to 10 hours a month to see clients and to attend a once-a-month in-service meeting.

For more information, call Jennifer Tam at the HICAP office, 627-9330.

NEWS BRIEFS

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Photo by Ron Parsons
Cypripedium kentuckiense, rare in cultivation, grown by Leo Kusber of Woodside.

Annual orchid show, sale

Acres of orchids, from tiny plants with flowers so small you need a magnifying glass, to large plants with flower scapes several feet in length, will be on display at the annual Peninsula Orchid Society show and sale from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 17 and 18. The event takes place at the Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt Ave. in Redwood City.

The show will offer hourly seminars by experts on the care, feeding, and transplanting of different groups of orchids, and information on pests and diseases. Commercial vendors and society members will have plants for sale. Books on orchids will also be for sale.

Admission is \$5 for adults, and \$3 for seniors, disabled persons and children ages 12-16.

Chase the blues away

Jim Balderston of Portola Valley will present "Chase the Wall Street Blues Away for an Hour with James Thurber: American Humorist" at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 21, in the downstairs meeting room at the Menlo Park Library.

Mr. Balderston will read excerpts from several Thurber stories, including "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty." He will also show many of the author's drawings, and comment on the themes running through them. He has presented previous programs on Emily Dickinson, Ernest Hem-



Jim Balderston

AROUND TOWN

ingway, and Walt Whitman.

The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call 330-2512 or e-mail rlrth@menlopark.org. The Menlo Park Library is located at 800 Alma St. in Menlo Park.

Filoli volunteer open house

An open house for prospective volunteers at Filoli will be held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 24, at the Filoli Visitor and Education Center, 86 Canada Road in Woodside.

Registration takes place at 9:30 a.m., with an introduction to volunteering at Filoli at 10 a.m. There are volunteer opportunities seven days a week, whether in the cafe or garden shop, service on the art committee, or helping with nature education, garden or member services. RSVP by e-mail to: volunteer@filoli.org or by calling 364-8300, ext. 300.

Asian art lecture

Docent Sally Kirby of the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco will give an illustrated talk on "Floral symbolism in Chinese art" from 2 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, in the auditorium of Little House, 800 Middle Ave. in Menlo Park. The fee is \$3 for Little House members, and \$5 for non-members.

January Tuesday teas at Little House will be held at 2 p.m. Jan. 20, with an "America the Beautiful" video; and at 2 p.m. Jan. 27, when former Menlo Park mayor Calvin Jones talks about the history of the San Francisco Bay Area.

For more information, call 326-2025.



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Hours: Thursday and Friday 5-7pm, Saturday 2-5pm
No RSVP necessary. A nominal Fee is charged for each taste

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Thursday, 1/15 Red Burgundy
Friday, 1/16 White Burgundy
Saturday, 1/17 Italian Favorites
Thursday, 1/22 Wines of Spain
Friday, 1/23 Germany and Alsace
Saturday, 1/24 Southern Hemisphere Wines

Blackhawk Store:

Thursday, 1/15 Red & White Burgundy
Friday, 1/16 Italian Favorites
Saturday, 1/17 Bordeaux Blow-Out
Thursday, 1/22 Wines of Spain
Friday, 1/23 Germany and Alsace
Saturday, 1/24 Southern Hemisphere

Bordeaux Blow-Out Tasting

We will open 40 red and white Bordeaux to taste on Saturday, January 17, 1:00-4:00P.M. at Draeger's Blackhawk Cooking School. A nominal fee is charged for each taste, no RSVP necessary

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Young singer discovers the magic of opera

Peninsula Teen Opera performances this weekend at Canada College

By Emily Mosbacher
Special to *The Almanac*

For the past two years, my participation in Peninsula Teen Opera has shown me two things: first, how magical opera can be, both as a performer and an audience member; and second, how many kids share my passion.

Peninsula Teen Opera, or PTO, is an organization that offers professional theatrical training for teens. Founded in 1999, the organization runs under the following mission statement: Peninsula Teen Opera is a non-profit organization dedicated to first-class opera training for young people and to sharing their performances with their peers in the community: "Teens Performing Opera for Teens."

PTO members will be sharing their passion for opera this weekend in the Canada College Main Theater, with performances of two abridged operatic works, along with a range of opera and operetta scenes — from Mozart to Gilbert & Sullivan.

Performances are at 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18. We will perform condensed versions of the comic operetta, "Orpheus in the Underworld," by Offenbach, and the dramatic opera, "Orpheus

About the author: Emily Mosbacher is a freshman at Castilleja School in Palo Alto and a Woodside resident. She plays piano and guitar, and has studied voice with Allen Cathcart for four years. She's also an accomplished soccer player, and was recently chosen for the state Olympic Development Program pool, which includes the top 30 players in her age group.

and Eurydice" by Gluck.

Peninsula Teen Opera founders Hiltrud Eisele-Cathcart and Allen Cathcart have a rich history of opera experience, with 35 years of performing throughout North America, Europe and Australia.

Also, the many music coaches and stage directors at PTO are active with San Francisco Opera, other international opera companies, Opera San Jose, and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. One example is Hadley McCarroll, who collaborates with San Francisco Opera and San Francisco Opera Center, Opera San Jose, West Bay Opera, Berkeley Opera, and BASOTI — the Bay Area Summer Opera Theater Institute.

This faculty of opera professionals chooses to work with teen performers because of an abiding passion for teaching opera, and a desire to keep it alive.



Photo by Lyn Healy

Caroline Geenen of Portola Valley, Glenn Healy of Los Altos, and Andrai Bratkovski of Mountain View are among the young singers participating in PTO's upcoming performances.

Before joining PTO, I had participated only in my elementary school's Christmas pageants. My brother had for several years performed numerous leading roles with PTO, so last year I began performing with the company as a chorus member in Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro."

After the little taste of PTO I experienced for an hour at the end of the Saturday chorus rehearsals, I could see why my brother had participated for so many years: The camaraderie among a group of people sharing a similar and unique interest is almost addictive.

Since then, I have learned and experienced so many things, including the fundamentals of being in a show, the sheer amount of time it takes to prepare, and the joy of making new friends. Above all, it's been an

experience that I will never forget. I love rehearsing my songs and blocking/staging until I can do them in my sleep; I love being at a dress rehearsal until 11 p.m.; and most of all, I love showing an audience what I can do.

The unique PTO schedule that the Cathcarts have devised allows performers to be involved in other activities throughout the rehearsal process. With rehearsals only on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., I was able to play competitive soccer while I prepared for our winter show.

And I am not alone in my range of interests: It seems as if all of the kids are doing two or three things at once, engaged in a dazzling array of activities outside of theater. However, for many Saturdays we come together to do something unique, interesting, and grip-

ping. I think members agree that PTO is a truly admirable mission.

Please come and see for yourself on Saturday and Sunday.

■ INFORMATION

Peninsula Teen Opera performs condensed versions of Offenbach's "Orpheus in the Underworld" and Gluck's "Orpheus and Eurydice," and several other musical scenes, at 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17; and 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18. Performances are in the Main Theater at Canada College, 4200 Farm Hill Blvd. in Redwood City. Tickets are \$15, adults; \$10, students and seniors. To order tickets, call 408-842-0994, or e-mail teenoperatickets@yahoo.com. For more information, call 400-4923, or e-mail ptopera@gmail.com.



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2009/10 Admission Dates

January 16, 2009: Application deadline for both ECP and Elementary

Lower Campus Tours:

8:30 - 10:00am

January 21

February 4 and 25

March 11

Upper Campus Tours:

8:20 - 10:00am

January 14 and 28

February 11

March 4 and 11

Please RSVP at admission@trinity-mp.org or 650-854-0288 x100



Schools begin kindergarten registration for fall classes

Several local schools are urging parents to register their children for fall kindergarten classes sooner rather than later, opening the registration period this month and in early February.

Ormondale

The kindergarten registration period at Ormondale School in Portola Valley opens this week.

Parents of children who will be 5 years old on or before Dec. 2 may come into the school office to pick up registration forms beginning Tuesday, Jan. 13.

The school, part of the Portola Valley School District, is at 200 Shawnee Pass. For more information, call 851-1777, ext. 1151.

Las Lomas

Kindergarten registration for Las Lomas School in Atherton begins Monday, Jan. 26. Parents of children who will be 5 years old on or before Dec. 2 may sign up in the school office between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

A birth certificate or passport and proof of residence — original PG&E and telephone bills — must be presented to register.

The school also requires proof of immunizations, and an oral health assessment from the child's dentist.

School tours for parents of incoming kindergarteners are set for 9:45 to 11 a.m. Feb. 3, 12 and 25; March 12, 18 and 24; and April 15. A tour for parents of incoming new first- through third-grade students is set for 9:40 to 10:35

a.m. April 21. The tours are for adults only.

For more information, or to schedule a tour, call the school at 854-5900. Las Lomas is at 299 Alameda de las Pulgas in Atherton.

Menlo Park school district

Priority registration for Menlo Park City School District kindergarten programs is set to open Feb. 2 and run through Feb. 27. A birth certificate and proof of residence and immunizations are required and should be brought to the school office. Children must be 5 years old by Dec. 2, 2009 to enroll.

Kindergarten orientation meetings for Encinal School, located at 195 Encinal Ave. in Atherton, are set for Jan. 14, 21 and 28; call 326-5164 to register. Oak Knoll's orientation meeting starts at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 22, in the school library, 1895 Oak Knoll Lane, Menlo Park. The orientation meeting for Laurel School, 95 Edge Road in Atherton, will be held later in the spring.

February is also the time to apply for the magnet bilingual Spanish immersion program or request intra-district transfers to schools within the district.

Families who are interested in the Kindergarten 2009 Spanish Immersion Program must attend one of two information meetings, scheduled for 7-8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29, and Wednesday, Feb. 25. Call 321-7140, extension 5601, for information.

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TOWN OF WOODSIDE INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR COMMITTEES

BICYCLE COMMITTEE

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

The Committee advises and recommends to the Town Council on the policies for planning, developing, maintaining, and usage of Town's bikeways system.

CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

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

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

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL CONTROL COMMITTEE

Meets fourth Wednesday of each month; 5:30 p.m.; appointed for two year term.

The Committee advises the Planning Director on applications for commercial stable permits, dog kennel permits, and exception requests to the private stable regulations.

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Meets fourth Thursday of each month, 5:00 p.m.; appointed for two year term.

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

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Meets on call of Chair; appointed for two year term.

The Committee advises the Town Council and staff on issues of community public safety, including police and fire services provided within the Town.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Meets first Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m.; appointed for three year term.

The Committee guides the activities of the community recreation programs.

TRAILS COMMITTEE

Meets second Thursday of each month, 3:00 p.m.; appointed for two year term.

The Committee reviews land divisions, subdivisions and conditional use permits for locations for equestrian, pedestrian and bicycle trails and makes recommendations to the staff and to the Planning Commission.

WOODSIDE HISTORY COMMITTEE

Meets first Thursday of each month, 9:30 a.m.; appointed for two year term.

The Committee advises the Town Council and staff regarding actions, policies and plans relating to historic preservation.

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

Interested residents may request information and applications Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon and 1 – 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, or telephone (650) 851-6790, or through the Town's web site at www.woodsidetown.org. Deadline for applications is Friday, January 16, 2009, 5:00 p.m.

Published in THE ALMANAC on
December 24, 31, 2008 and January 7, 14 2009.



Holiday Fund

FOR THE 16TH YEAR, THE ALMANAC OFFERS READERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO MULTIPLY THEIR CHARITY DOLLARS BY GIVING THROUGH THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY FUND.

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**TOTALS: As of Jan. 9, 2009,
 a total of 215 donors have
 given \$145,130 to the
 Almanac's Holiday Fund.**

* The asterisk designates that
 the donor did not want to publish
 the amount of the gift.

Dry bones

“Dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones.”

If fossil collecting had a theme song, what better than this spiritual? Among vertebrate animals, as the fossil record shows, the thigh bone *is* connected to the hip bone; the back bone *is* connected to the neck bone, so to speak.

Paleontologists know about ancient bones. What they don't know about is the soft tissue — the cartilage, the tendons, the muscles — that connected the bones so they could do their work.

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Since soft tissue does not fossilize, paleontologists are in the dark about its evolution. “We have no idea. It's like a fishing expedition,” Bill Sellers, a biologist at the University of Manchester, said during a recent visit to the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC) in Menlo Park.

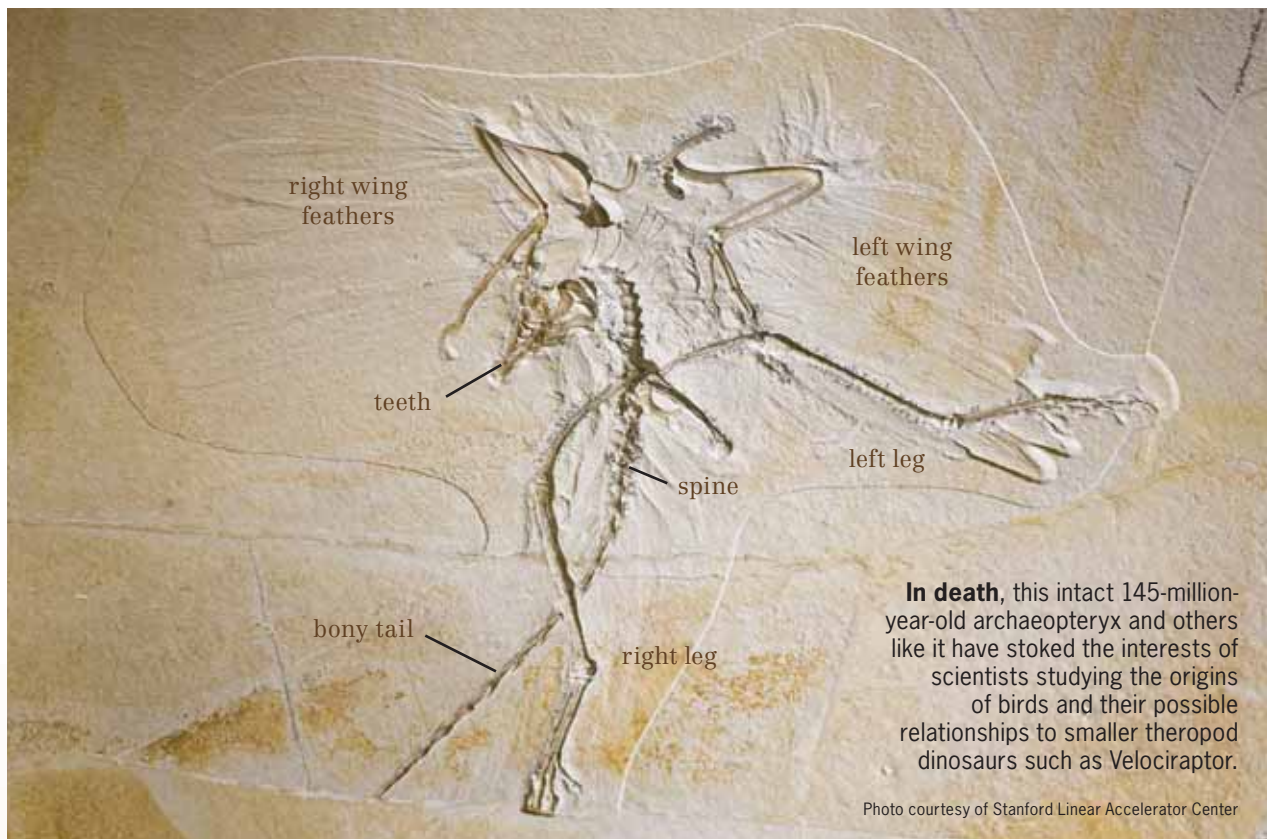
Mr. Sellers was in town to test a hypothesis: Do fossils have something to say about soft tissue? It might be that an organ or muscle, given a chance to deteriorate in place, leaves trace elements that might show up under X-ray bombardment.

A team of scientists, including Mr. Sellers, gathered for five days in Menlo Park in mid-December at the Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Lightsource at SLAC. They were there to beam X-rays at a fossilized archaeopteryx, a rare fossil of a 145-million-year-old feathered creature widely thought to be a transition species between dinosaurs and birds.

Like the other nine known archaeopteryx fossils, this one, valued at \$6 million, was found in a quarry near Solnhofen in southern Germany. It is normally on display at the Wyoming Dinosaur Center in Thermopolis, Wyoming.

The remains of the Thermopolis archaeopteryx are captured spread-eagled in a rectangle of tan limestone 22 inches wide, 20 inches tall and a little more than half an inch deep. It's a complete specimen showing spine, teeth, leg and wing bones, bony tail and the outlines of wing and tail feathers as they settled into the soft mud.

The X-ray beam scanned the limestone with an



In death, this intact 145-million-year-old archaeopteryx and others like it have stoked the interests of scientists studying the origins of birds and their possible relationships to smaller theropod dinosaurs such as Velociraptor.

Photo courtesy of Stanford Linear Accelerator Center

Are fossils secreting information about soft tissue? Will x-rays reveal it?

intense beam the diameter of a human hair. Starting at the top front edge of the vertically mounted fossil, the beam traveled horizontally across it, dropped down by a tiny increment, also about the diameter of a hair, and traveled back the other way.

The scientists divided the fossil's surface into a grid of 20 million points, or pixels. The beam paused above each pixel for three thousands of a second, and each pixel emitted its own bit of information based on the reaction to the X-ray beam by any elements present.

A complete scan — there were three done over four and a half days — took 20 hours. The project's intensity led some scientists to stay on the job for 20 hours and snack, University of Manchester paleontologist Phil Manning said.

Beam time, at about \$24,000 a day, is a precious commodity, he said. The device sends X-rays around a circular chamber at the speed of light. At the 30 lab stations located around the chamber's perimeter,

all of which have waiting lists, scientists sign up to tap into the beam's energy for experiments.

Mr. Manning paid his own passage to and from Menlo Park, as did many of his colleagues, he said. They boarded in a hostel on the Stanford campus.

X-ray vision

An ideal result of this experiment would be an image showing never-before-seen shadows among the bones, such as the routes of blood vessels or the location of a kidney or stomach.

The scientists weren't counting on it. “If we're very, very lucky, we'll get information about the organism itself,” said Roy Wogelius, a University of Manchester geochemist who is on sabbatical at Stanford University as a visiting professor.

“The most fun about being a geochemist is being surprised,” Mr. Wogelius said. What's more likely, he said, are insights into the relationship of various trace elements to fossilized bone, and/or more information about how bones become fossils.

“We're learning as we're going,” he said. “Each image teaches us something new that we've never known before. ... For me, it's like a miniature chemistry experiment somebody put in place 150 million years ago.”

Indeed, the scientists don't know exactly which elements of the periodic table they should be looking for, and so they meet to talk about it, he said. “It's quite exciting. It's fun. It's a great step into the unknown. We have an analytical problem that involves the whole periodic table,” he said.

Experiment leader Uwe Bergmann agreed that a breakthrough about archaeopteryx itself would be an “ambitious” result.

“The funniest thing about science: The simplest questions are the hardest,” he said. What, for example, did archaeopteryx eat? he asked. “That's an incredibly difficult question to answer. The real

‘We're learning as we're going. Each image teaches us something new that we've never known before. ... For me, it's like a miniature chemistry experiment somebody put in place 150 million years ago.’

GEOCHEMIST ROY WOGELIUS

Patience is a virtue for Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Laboratory physicist Uwe Bergmann, right, University of Manchester geochemist Roy Wogelius, center, and laboratory manager Hector Prado. A scientific team gathered in December in the Menlo Park lab to use an X-ray beam to scan in minute detail a 145-million-year-old fossil in search of data on ancient soft tissue.

Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac



Continued on next page

TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON AN AMENDMENT TO THE NOISE ELEMENT OF THE TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY GENERAL PLAN AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD OF PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR ADOPTION OF THESE MATTERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the Town of Portola Valley will hold a public hearing on the proposed amendment to the Noise Element of the Town of Portola Valley General Plan on Wednesday, January 21, 2009 at 8:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers (Historic Schoolhouse), 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, California. The Planning Commission will consider all evidence, written and oral communications pertaining to the proposed Element. All interested persons are Invited to appear before the Planning Commission to be heard at the time and place herein above mentioned.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a proposed Negative Declaration regarding the above mentioned Noise Element has been prepared and is available for review. The Planning Commission will consider the proposed Negative Declaration at its meeting of January 21, 2009 at 8:00 p.m., in the Town Council Chambers (Historic Schoolhouse), 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, California. Comments may be submitted in writing prior to the Planning Commission meeting or presented at the meeting. All interested persons are invited to appear before the Planning Commission at the time and place herein above mentioned at the time and place which will be noticed. Copies of the proposed Negative Declaration are available at Portola Valley Town Hall, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, California.

Dated: January 7, 2009

Signed: _____
Leslie A. Lambert, Planning Manager

Published in THE ALMANAC on January 14, 21, 2009.

Dry bones

Continued from previous page

world of science is that your progress is in much tinier steps. Generally, you always find some kind of surprise.”

Just as astronomers spend years poring over data acquired from extra-terrestrial probes, so will paleontologists pore over the data from this experiment, Mr. Manning, the paleontologist, said.

The maps, so far, were “far from disappointing,” he said. Indeed, they were “utterly gobsmacking, the most insight I could have wished for.”

The idea that soft tissue may have left behind a heretofore hidden story is “poetry,” he said. Without this X-ray beam, it’s locked away and “we need the benefit of X-ray vision.”

Asked to comment on his passion for paleontology, Mr. Manning said it’s based in his interest in the changes in ecosystems and biodiversity through time, and how biodiversity relates to living organisms.

“We’re living in a time of catastrophic environmental change,” he said. “Everybody is turning to the scientific community and saying, ‘What do we do?’ How can we understand the present if we can’t understand the past? That’s where paleontology fits into the natural world.”

This experiment is somewhat timely in that the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin’s birth is in February, and the 150th anniversary of “The Origin of Species” is in October. “This is Darwin’s bird,” Mr. Manning said, “The archaeopteryx is the most important fossil in the world.”

Dinosaurs and birds

The Natural History Museum in London invites Web visitors to “Explore the evidence that helped scientists prove birds are living dinosaurs.”

A key exhibit is archaeopteryx, called by staff paleontologist Angela Milner a “halfway house between what we traditionally think of as small theropod dinosaurs and birds.”

Theropod dinosaurs were meat eaters and included the

monstrous Tyrannosaurus rex and the smaller Velociraptor and other dromaeosaurs, or “raptors.” Are birds descended from such small theropod dinosaurs?

“There’s absolutely no question that birds evolved from predatory dinosaurs. End of story. The evidence is there now,” Mr. Manning told The Almanac.

Mr. Sellers agreed, citing as evidence the similarities in wrist bones and in the genes expressed in the development of a bird’s wing and that of a theropod dinosaur’s “hand.”

Human hands “express” five fingers, or digits. Birds suppress two digits and express three in creating the bone architecture for their wings. Theropod dinosaurs also express three digits and suppress two. Scientists disagree

over which digits are suppressed in the two creatures.

Mr. Manning said that genetic studies show both bird and theropod phyla — their categories in the hierarchy of life — using digits 1, 2 and 3.

That genetic connection was rebutted, said

Dr. Alan Feduccia, an evolutionary biologist at the University of North Carolina, and the author of two books on the origins of birds and an upcoming third book.

Mr. Feduccia said in an e-mail message that he does not dispute the notion that birds and theropods have a close affinity, but he does question the confident assertion that birds are descended from a highly specialized group of late-occurring smaller theropods.

Archaeopteryx is essentially a modern bird and pre-dates by some 25 million years the theropod fossils that are supposedly ancestral to birds, he said. Bird-as-theropod advocates rely on physical similarities and ignore this timing problem, he added.

Mr. Feduccia said he would accept that birds evolved from theropods if the science was there to prove it, which, so far, it has not been. “The consensus is that birds are dinosaurs. I would argue that whenever you see the word consensus, you’re out of (the realm of) science.”

‘How can we understand the present if we can’t understand the past? That’s where paleontology fits into the natural world.’

PALEONTOLOGIST
PHIL MANNING

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OBITUARIES

Georg Treichel

Professor and world traveler

A celebration of the life of Georg Treichel, a longtime Portola Valley resident, was held Dec. 14 at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco. He died Sept. 22 at age 77 following an accident.

Despite a lifelong struggle with polio, he traveled to 138 countries, including most of the countries in Africa, family members said.

At the time of his death Mr. Treichel was professor emeritus of geography and environmental studies at San Francisco State University.

From 1964 to 1966, Mr. Tre-



Georg Treichel

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

ichel produced for KQED-TV a series of ecologically oriented resource and conservation programs, entitled "The Nature of Conservation."

Born in Wisconsin, Mr. Treichel studied at the University of Wisconsin before moving to attend UC Berkeley. His studies were interrupted by service in the U.S. Army, where he served in intelligence at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

In 1955 he married Jeanie Nieri, and, receiving a grant to study natural resource and environmental problems in Africa for the Conservation Foundation, he set off on an expedition to Africa that included field work in 77 national parks and reserves.

Mr. Treichel became the staff ecologist for the International

Union for the Conservation of Nature and National Resources in Switzerland, Kenya, and Tanganyika, where he helped establish the International Commission on National Parks and the World Wildlife Fund. He also did field work in Latin America, the Caribbean islands, the USSR, India, Malaysia and other countries.

He led many San Francisco State University travel-study field trips in California, the West and the Pacific, specializing in rail field trips. He received many outstanding lecturer awards from organizations, including the Commonwealth Club of California, San Diego Zoo, and the Pacific Area Travel Association.

Mr. Treichel served on the boards and advisory committees of 13 environmental organizations, including the California Commission on Marine and Coast Resources, the Committee for Green Foothills, Save San Francisco Bay Association,

Sierra Club, Nature Conservancy, Zero Population Growth, and the San Francisco Zoological Society.

He had many serious interests including music, travel, bird watching and opera, say family members. They recall that he often said, "I don't know of anyone who had a better life than me."

Surviving Mr. Treichel are his wife, Jeanie Nieri Treichel of Portola Valley; and his son, Carl Treichel.

Donations in his name may be made to the Committee for Green Foothills, the Conservation Foundation, Nature Conservancy, Save San Francisco Bay Association, or the Sierra Club.

Jean Bone

Longtime Menlo Park resident

A Mass of Christian burial was held Jan. 9 at St. Raymond Catholic Church in Menlo Park for Jean Bone. Ms. Bone died Jan. 6

at Canyon House in Menlo Park following a long illness.

A complete obituary for Ms. Bone, who was well known locally through her long association with the Menlo Park Historical Association, will appear in a future issue of The Almanac.

Burial was at Santa Clara Mission Cemetery.

Charles McCaffrey

Longtime Menlo Park resident

Charles McCaffrey, who resided in Menlo Park for most of his life, died Jan. 2 in Menlo Park. Mr. McCaffrey was born in Kansas and moved to California as a teenager.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Ruth McCaffrey; and children Kim, Robin and Wendy.

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

Police search for two men who robbed Le Boulanger

Menlo Park police are searching for two men in their late teens or early 20s, one armed with a knife, who robbed the Le Boulanger restaurant in downtown Menlo Park on Sunday night and injured an employee during a struggle.

Police say the two men entered the restaurant at 720 Santa Cruz Ave. at around 7:20 p.m., after it had closed, and confronted the only employee working in the

back office.

Despite being threatened and assaulted by the men, the employee fled the restaurant and summoned passing motorists for help, said Acting Sgt. Kevin Paugh in a statement.

The suspects removed money from the safe and fled, he said. They were last seen heading east on Oak Grove Avenue near Chestnut Street in a silver or

gray, 1990s full-sized, four-door sedan, Sgt. Paugh said. Police are not disclosing the amount of money taken.

The suspects were described as wearing black pants, black hooded sweatshirts with the hoods pulled over their heads, and dark face masks.

The victim received minor injuries, and was treated at the scene by paramedics and released.

Police ask anyone with information to call Detective Brackett or Detective Powell at (650) 330-6300 or the anonymous tip line, (650) 330-6395.

Truck driver succumbs in Ladera

Bouquets placed in crushed greenery marks the site where a man driving a truck died on Dec. 31 in a one-vehicle accident in which his vehicle came to rest after hitting a chain link fence behind shrubbery on La Mesa Drive near the intersection with Alpine Road, Lt. Ray

Lunny of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office said.

The San Mateo County coroner's office identified the driver as Jose Avolos, 60, of San Jose, and confirmed that he died of natural causes. The coroner is investigating the specific cause of his death, a spokeswoman said.

POLICE CALLS

ATHERTON

Grand theft report: laptop computer stolen, Menlo School at 50 Valparaiso Ave., Jan. 8.

Fraud report: Unauthorized use of credit card, Mesa Court, Jan. 8.

MENLO PARK

Residential burglary reports:

■ Computers and accessories valued at \$4,350 stolen, 900 block of O'Brien Drive, Jan. 3.

■ Jewelry valued at \$600 stolen, 900 block of Laurel Ave., Jan. 5.

■ Landscaping equipment valued at

\$1,000 stolen, Bay Road, Jan. 6.

Auto burglary report: Window smashed and purse stolen, 300 block of O'Connor St., Jan. 6.

Grand theft reports:

■ Laptop computer and other property totaling \$1,700 stolen from unlocked vehicle, 1100 block of Chestnut St., Jan. 8.

■ Checks totaling \$25,000 illegally cashed, Glenwood Management, 3000 Sand Hill Road, Jan. 7.

Robbery report: Menlo Park male pedestrian, 40, robbed of \$5 in cash and

cell phone, 6:40 p.m. at Ivy Drive and Madera Ave., Jan. 8.

Spousal abuse report: 200 block of Terminal Ave., Jan. 5.

Assault with deadly weapon report: Arrest and booking of San Jose man, 19, on charges that include spousal abuse, 700 block of El Camino Real, Jan. 8.

WOODSIDE

Theft report: Wallet with credit cards and \$40 in cash stolen from unlocked vehicle, 16000 block of Skyline Boulevard, Dec. 31.

BONES

continued from page 16

The evidence is more compelling that birds and theropods derived from a common ancestor, he said, adding that he expects fossils to be discovered that prove it.

As for the argument over which digits are expressed in the "hands," the "overwhelming evidence" shows birds suppressing digits 1 and 5 and expressing digits 2, 3 and 4, he said, and he has a 2002 photo of a 14-day-old ostrich embryo to prove it.

The idea that birds at some point

shifted to the theropod model of digits 1, 2 and 3 is "really a stretch of credulity, frankly," he said in a telephone interview. "Such a fundamental characteristic like the digits of the hand doesn't seem like a thing that would be jumping all over the place."

When asked about Mr. Feduccia, Mr. Manning described him as more or less alone in his dissent.

The Almanac asked Mr. Feduccia about support in the scientific community for his views. He replied that he could spend 10 minutes naming scholars who agree with him. ■

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Calendar

MEETINGS, MUSIC, THEATER, FAMILY ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Submitting items for the Calendar

Submit information online. Go to TheAlmanacOnline.com and on the green navigation bar on the left, click on "Calendar Event." That will take you to the Palo Alto Online Master Community Calendar page with a form to enter your information. If the event is of interest to a large number of people, also e-mail a press release to Editor@AlmanacNews.com.

On Stage

"Twentieth Century." "Broadway bal-lyhoo meets Hollywood hustle aboard the legendary locomotive in this madcap battle of the sexes that's a send up of screwball comedy at its screwiest best," TheatreWorks says. Jan. 14-Feb. 8, Tue.-Wed. at 7:30 p.m., Thu.-Sat. at 8 p.m., Sun. at 2 and 7 p.m. \$21-64. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. theatreworks.org

Peninsula Teen Opera performances. Peninsula Teen Opera performs the comic operetta "Orpheus in the Underworld" by Jacques Offenbach and Christoph Willibald Gluck's opera "Orpheus and Eurydice," with scenes from others. Sat., Jan. 17, 7 p.m.; and Sun., Jan. 18, 3 p.m. \$15 adults / \$10 seniors and students. Canada College (Main Theater), 4200 Farm Hill Blvd., Redwood City. Call 408-842-0994. www.teenopera.org

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? Palo Alto Players, in its 78th continuous season in Palo Alto, presents Edward Albee's "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" This multiple award-winning and darkly comic play examines relationships and fears through the alcohol-soaked medium of verbal barbs in a stalled marriage. Jan. 23-Feb. 8, 8 p.m. \$20-\$31. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. www.paplayers.org

Special Events

2009 A. J. Horn Lecture: Fueling the Future. A panel of Stanford experts will discuss some of the issues and challenges we must address on the way to a new energy future. Tue., Jan. 20, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. Kresge Auditorium, Stanford Campus. Call 650-725-4395. eslectures.stanford.edu

Talks/Authors

Asian Art Lecture. Docent Sally Kirby from the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco will discuss "Floral Symbolism in Chinese Art" in the auditorium. Thu., Jan. 15, 2-3 p.m. \$3 members, \$5 non-members. PV Inc Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-326-2025.

Australian Innovation - A Shoot Out. At the annual Innovation Shoot Out, witness six Australian state finalists compete in company innovation. Thu., Jan. 15, 8:30-11:30 a.m. No cost for this event, but RSVP. Quadrus Conference Centre, 2400 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. <http://www.sdforum.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Calendar.eventDetail&eventID=13291>

Brenda Webster reading. Author Brenda Webster reads from her new novel Vienna Triangle, an exploration of the loves and rivalries among Sigmund Freud's inner circle that led to the unexplained death of Viktor Tausk, Freud's most devoted disciple. Tue. Jan. 20, 2009, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Stanford Bookstore, 519 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. Call 650-329-1217 ext. 323.

Dominique Renda and Brooks Anderson discuss "Strings of Light." Dominique Renda and Brooks Anderson partner words and images infused with understanding in this collection of poetry and photographic art. Ms. Renda is a Menlo Park poet, photographer, parent and life coach. Thu., Jan. 15, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com

Janet Y.K. Lee book signing. Janet Y.K. Lee will discuss and sign her book, "The Piano Teacher," a tale of love and betrayal set in war-torn Hong Kong. Wed. Jan. 21, 2009, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com

Jayne Anne Phillips book signing. The author will discuss and sign "Lark and Termite." Set during the 1950s in West Virginia and Korea, it's a story of the power of loss and love, war and family and the unseen bonds that unite people. 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com

Quality as a Strategic Lever. Talk on how Graniterock's strategy for improved

quality resulted in increased customer and employee satisfaction as well as higher market valuations. Thu., Jan. 15, 7:30-10:30 a.m. \$25 members, students, affiliates, \$35 all others, \$40 at door. by the nonprofit Association for Strategic Planning. SRI-Stanford Research Institute, 333 Ravenswood Ave., Menlo Park. Call 408-209-5679. <http://www.strategyplus.org/chapters/NorthernCalifornia.php>

SDForum Emerging Tech Event: Emerging Technologies in Physical Retail. Speaker: Albert Wong, IT Architect, IBM, and ACM. Wed., Jan. 14, 6:30-9 p.m. Free to SDForum & ACM members, \$15 for non-members. Pillsbury Winthrop, 2475 Hanover St., Palo Alto. <http://www.sdforum.org>

SDForum Quarterly Venture Breakfast with PWC. The Quarterly Venture Breakfast Series in collaboration with PWC, discussing the "Scorecard for 2008." Tue., Jan. 20, 8-10 a.m. \$20 members, \$30 non-members. Pillsbury Winthrop, 2475 Hanover St., Palo Alto. <http://www.sdforum.org>

Stanford Breakfast Briefings: Billion Dollar Lessons. Presents: Chunka Mui, Author (Killer App) and Fellow, Diamond Consultants. In this lecture, author and consultant Chunka Mui explains that learning only from success stories won't protect companies from repeating avoidable mistakes that have led to failure again and again. Wed., Jan. 14, 7:30-9 a.m. \$60. Stanford Faculty Club, 439 Lagunita Drive, Stanford. Call 650-725-3330. <http://breakfastbriefings.stanford.edu/>

Steven B. Johnson book signing. Author discusses and signs "The Invention of Air: A Story of Science, Faith, Revolution, and the Birth of America," which Kepler's calls "a book of world-changing ideas wrapped around a compelling narrative." Friday, Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com

The Powers of the Universe. Featuring Brian Swimme The 11-part series will give insight for effective ways to interpret one's life, the present day life of the planet, and the future of humanity. Wed. Jan. 14 to Mar. 25, 2009, 7-9 p.m. \$100 for the series, or \$10/ evening (\$50 for the series, or \$5/evening for Conexions members). Conexions Center, 1023 Corporation Way, Palo Alto. Call 650-938-9300 ext. 16. www.exploringsenseofplace.org

Art Galleries

California Oils. Allegro Framing and Art presents a group showing for 10 fine artists with diverse concepts but with California as the central theme. Bev Iverson, Caroline Robbins, Claudia Marshall, Jim Caldwell, Joanna Baciocco, Kit Colman, Nancy Meze, Pam Naeve, Peggy Brennan and Teresa Ruzzo. Through January, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Allegro Framing and Art, 3056 Woodside Road, Woodside. Call 650-529-1800. allegroframingandart.com

New artists, new work. Portola Art Gallery introduces eight new artists to the gallery in January. Meet the artists and view their diverse styles and mediums Jan. 10, from 1-4 p.m. Gallery hours 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Portola Art Gallery, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park. www.portolaartgallery.com

Very Close to Far Away. The Department of Art & Art History presents "Very Close to Far Away" through Feb. 22, 2009, with a reception on January 16, from 6-8 p.m. This exhibition that introduces four first year MFA graduate students in Art Practice to the Stanford, Bay Area and art communities. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Thomas Welton Stanford Art Gallery, 419 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. Call 650-723-3404. <http://art.stanford.edu>

Classes/Workshops

Bridge Instruction. Here's your chance to learn Bridge. This 8-week series includes responses to one no trump, take-out doubles, the stayman convention, cue bids, opening leads, and slam bidding. One hour instruction, 30-minutes play, plus time

to discuss hands students may bring in. Wed. Jan. 14 to Mar. 4, 2009, 2-4 p.m. \$80 members/\$90 non-members. Avenidas, 450 Bryant St., Palo Alto. Call 650-289-5436. www.avenidas.org

Lip Reading /Managing Hearing Loss. These classes help hard-of-hearing people with or without hearing aids improve lip reading and gain other skills to ease hearing/communication problems. Friends and family members are welcome. Taught by CA licensed audiologist. 3 class times to choose from. Mon. Jan. 5 to Wed. Mar. 25, 2009, 1:30-2:45 p.m. Foothill college tuition and fees. varied sites off campus, Mt. View, Palo Alto and Menlo Park. Call 650-949-7999 ext.4379.

Making Lavender Gifts. Heritage Arts Workshop at the Museum of American Heritage, students ages 8 to 12 will learn to make lavender gifts with a Valentine's Day theme. Workshop includes making soap and crafting a greeting card. Sat., Jan. 17, 1-4 p.m. \$30. Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-321-1004. www.moah.org

Making Whiteness Visible. For people of all races who want to challenge racism together and build a more equitable society. Guided by the DVD "Mirrors of Privilege," we'll explore White identity development and privilege. Please attend both sessions. Thu. Jan. 22 and 29, 2009, 7-9 p.m. Free. Unitarian Universalist Church, 505 E. Charleston Rd., Palo Alto. Call 650-494-0541. www.uucpa.org

Clubs/Meetings

Monday Night OUT. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender group with supporters and friends. Discussion, social events, education and spiritual development. Mondays, 7-8 p.m. Unity Palo Alto, 3391 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-849-1109. www.UnityPaloAlto.org

Community Events

Information Evening at GAIS. The German-American International School in Menlo Park invites the public to attend its Program Information Evening on Jan. 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. German-American International School, 275 Elliott Drive, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-8617. germanamericanschool.org

MLK Jr. & Presidential Commemorative Benefit. Gardenkits Projects is sponsoring its Safe-Day-Campaign benefit fundraiser at the Free-At-Last Business Plaza. The fundraiser runs for three consecutive weeks ending inauguration day, Jan. 20, 1798 Bay Road, East Palo Alto. Call 650-949-4744 or 650-630-1985.

Exhibits

Durer to Picasso. Cantor Arts Center at Stanford: This exhibition, of European and American art, features collection highlights, a selection of the most noteworthy works acquired over the past 10 years. Through Feb. 15, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Cantor Art Center at Stanford University, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu

FantastiKritters at Konditorei. Colorful graphic prints of dogs, cats, exotic animals and other wildlife by designer/illustrator Karen Olsen will be on exhibit through Feb. 28, Konditorei, Ladera Country Shopper, 3130 Alpine Road #284, Portola Valley. Call 650-575-9411 or 650-854-8616.

Hendrick Goltzius: Promised Gifts from the Kirk Long Collection. This exhibition features many of the artist's most famous and influential images. Including: "Marriage of Psyche and Cupid," "Hercules and Cacus," and "The Body of Christ." 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Thu. until 8 p.m. Free. Cantor Art Center at Stanford University, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu

Introducing the Cantor Arts Center. These docent-led tours feature a sampling of

At Kepler's

Poet Dominique Renda in photo, and photographer Brooks Anderson will discuss their book, "String of Lights," a collection of poetry and photographic art, at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, at Kepler's bookstore in Menlo Park. The new book is the second published by Ms. Renda and Mr. Anderson; their first collaboration was "Swimming in Open Water." Kepler's is at 1010 El Camino Real. For information, call 324-4321.



objects from various eras and cultures. Every tour is different. Saturdays and Sundays. Meet in the main lobby. 1-2 p.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu

Music To One's Ears. New exhibit at the Museum of American Heritage, "Music to One's Ears: Musical Instruments in the home, band and orchestra." Explore the basic principles of music making, technology and technique over the ages, from the hollow log to the electronic harmony. Through Jan. 18, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-321-1004. www.moah.org

Polish Heroes: Those Who Rescued Jews. An exhibition of photographs by Chris Schwarz that tell the stories of Poles who saved Jews from the Nazis during the Holocaust. Through Feb. 2, Koret Pavilion, 565 Mayfield Ave., Stanford.

Family and Kids

Atherton Library Gaming Night. Gaming night for the whole family: Wii, Gamecube, board games and snacks. Fri., Jan. 16, 7-9 p.m. Free. Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 650-328-2422. www.smcl.org

Bell System Music Group. The Bell System, a music performance group for children in grades 3-8, teaches the basics of music and bell technique. The group participates in community outreach concerts at nearby senior centers and on Santa Cruz Avenue, as well as in annual Christmas and Spring concerts. Thursdays, ongoing. 3:45-5 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Pres., 950 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park. mppc.org

Dad and Me at the Library. Dads, bring your children to experience a fun puppet show together! Thu. Jan. 22, 2009, 7-7:45 p.m. Free. Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside. Call 650-851-0147. www.smcl.org

Educational Series on Autism. The LPHC Center for Autism and Related Disorders offers parents of young children (1-5 years) diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder a 10 part, ongoing educational series designed to provide information about ASD diagnosis, treatment and services. Thu. Jan. 15 to Mar. 19, 5:30-7 p.m. \$5 per session. Conference Room 2209, 401 Quarry Road, Stanford. Call 650-721-6327. <http://childpsychiatry.stanford.edu>

Good to Great Dads. Good to Great Dads is a monthly, on-going fellowship for fathers to explore how Christian faith can shape their family priorities and offer fulfillment and balance in a busy world. Fri. Jan. 16, 2009, 7-8:30 a.m. Free. Menlo Park Presbyterian Church Garden Court, 950 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park. www.mppc.org

Infant Musical Storytime. Rhymes, songs and lap-sit activities for parents and infants. For ages newborn to 2 years old. Wed. Jan. 21 to Feb. 25, 2009, 10-10:30 a.m. Free. Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside. Call 650-851-0147. www.smcl.org

Preschool Storytime at Atherton Library. Picture book stories for children ages 3 to 6 at the Atherton Library, Tuesday afternoons through May 12. 3:30-4 p.m. Free. Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 650-328-2422. www.smcl.org

Toddler Musical Storytime. Finger plays, stories, songs and fun! For ages 18 months to 3 years old. Wed. Jan. 21 to Feb. 25, 2009, 11-11:30 a.m. Free. Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside. Call 650-851-0147. www.smcl.org

Toddler Storytime at Atherton Library. Songs, finger plays, flannel boards and stories for children 18-36 months. Tuesdays, 10:30-11 a.m. Free. Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 650-328-2422. www.smcl.org

Health

Issues with food? Obsessed with food? Food Addicts In Recovery Anonymous is a program for individuals recovering from addictive eating and anorexia based on the 12 steps of AA. No dues/no fees/no weigh-ins. Sundays, 7-8:30 p.m. Free. 600 Colorado Ave., Palo Alto. Call 415-248-9347.

Live Music

Music for Viola da Gamba and Harpsichord. John Dornenburg, viola da gamba, and Yuko Tanaka, harpsichord, perform. Wed., Jan. 21, 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Memorial Church Chapel, Stanford Campus, Stanford. Call 650-723-2720. <http://music.stanford.edu/Events/calendar.html>

Reactions to the Record. "Reactions to the Record II: Early Recordings, Musical Style, and the Future of Performance." Wed., Jan. 14, 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. Stanford Memorial Church, Stanford Campus, Stanford. Call 650-723-2720. <http://music.stanford.edu/Events/calendar.html>

Reactions to the Record II, Concert 2. David Milsom, violin, Kumaran Arul, piano, Will Crutchfield, piano, and Rebecca Plack, soprano, perform Brahms' "Violin Sonata No. 2 in A Major, Op.100." Thu., Jan. 15, 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. Campbell Recital Hall, Braun Music Center, 541 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. Call 650-723-2720. <http://music.stanford.edu/Events/calendar.html>

Reactions to the Record II, Concert 3. Charles Rosen, distinguished pianist and scholar, presents a solo recital. As a virtuoso pianist Rosen has appeared in

numerous recitals and orchestral engagements around the world. Fri., Jan. 16, 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. Campbell Recital Hall, Braun Music Center, 541 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. Call 650-723-2720. <http://music.stanford.edu/Events/calendar.html>

Reactions to the Record II, Concert 4. Performances from Rex Lawson, pianola; Genadi Zagor, piano; Frederick Weldy, piano; and George Barth, piano. Sat., Jan. 17, 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. Campbell Recital Hall, Braun Music Center, 541 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. Call 650-723-2720. <http://music.stanford.edu/Events/calendar.html>

Stanford Jazz Workshop CoHo Jazz Jams. Jazz Jam session, CoHo Coffeehouse, Stanford campus. Open to jazz musicians of intermediate to advanced skill level, led by Stanford Jazz faculty members. Musicians need not necessarily be alumni of SJW's programs to participate. Drums, amps and a piano will be provided. Mondays through Feb. 23, 8-10 p.m. Free. Stanford Coffeehouse, 459 Lagunita, No. 1, Stanford. Call 650 736 0324. www.stanfordjazz.org

Stanford Woodwind Quintet. A program of French and Hungarian music. Sun., Jan. 18, 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Dinkelspiel Auditorium, Lagunita Drive, adjacent to Braun Music Center, Stanford. Call 650-723-2720. <http://music.stanford.edu/Events/calendar.html>

Volunteers

Junior Museum & Zoo. Office volunteers are needed to help with fundraising, community relations and special events. Data input, mailings, internet research, etc. 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Free. Junior Museum & Zoo, 1451 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-326-6338. www.friendsjzm.org

Volunteer for The American Cancer Society. Become a Volunteer representative for Daffodil Days, a fundraising event for the American Cancer Society. A campaign kit assists you in promotion, taking orders and incentives for bouquets delivered to donors and cancer patients the week of March. Thu. Jan. 1 to Sat. Jan. 18, 2009, Your Workplace, Silicon Valley. Call 408-871-1062 (Option 3, ext. 250). www.cancer.org/daffodilsonline

Workday Wednesday at the Palo Alto Baylands. Plant native seedlings such as California poppy and white yarrow. No experience necessary. Wed., Jan. 14, 1-3 p.m. Free. Palo Alto Baylands Nature Preserve, Palo Alto. Call 510-452-9261 ext. 119. www.savesfbay.org/bayevents



MENLO PARK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

2008-09 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority kindergarten registration for fall 2009 will be accepted beginning February 2, 2009, through February 27, 2009, at Laurel School (95 Edge Road, Atherton), Encinal School (195 Encinal Avenue, Menlo Park) and Oak Knoll School (1895 Oak Knoll Lane, Menlo Park). During this time all applications for student enrollment will be considered equally if submitted prior to February 27, 2009. Parents are asked to go directly to their home school to enroll their children.

Children who will be age 5 by December 2, 2009, are eligible for kindergarten. Before a registration packet is issued, parents must present (1) a birth certificate (or other legal proof of age), (2) proof of residence – the most recent P.G. & E bill (new residents may present a deed, lease or rental agreement, to be followed up with the P.G. & E. bill in their name as soon as possible), and (3) proof of immunization for: DTP, Polio, Hepatitis B (must have completed series which takes up to six months), MMR and Varicella (or a doctor's signature that the child has had chickenpox).

Parents whose children will be beginning kindergarten in the fall are invited to attend orientation meetings at their designated school. Oak Knoll will host a Kindergarten Information Night on January 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the Oak Knoll Library. Encinal School is offering three Informational Sessions on January 14, 21 and 28. Please contact Encinal School to register for one of the sessions, 650/326-5164. Parent information for Laurel parents will be scheduled in the spring. Parents may reserve a space at the time of registration for one of these meetings.

Parents are asked to register their children as soon as possible to assist the District with its class planning for the 2009-10 school year. For more information, please call the District Office at 321-7140, Ext. 5603, the individual school site, or visit the District website @ www.mpcsd.org.

The District's Spanish Immersion Program is also accepting kindergarten applications for the 2009-10 school year. The goal of this unique program is to provide an opportunity for children at an early age to develop proficiency and fluency in Spanish and orient children to a world of increasing globalization and multiculturalism. Interested parents will be required to attend a mandatory parent information night on either January 29 or February 25 from 7:00 to 8:00 P.M. in the District Office Board Room, 181 Encinal Avenue, Atherton. For questions, please contact Tami Girsky, Program Administrator at 650/321-7140, extension 5601.

Published in THE ALMANAC on January 14, 2009.

Ready to start a new exercise program?



Jackie Ballinger, CEO

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PLANNING COMMISSION January 21, 2009 7:30 PM

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

2. Bear Gulch Creek Partners LLP CUP#2008-002

3411 Woodside Road
Review of a request to upgrade the existing utility services by installing new underground electric, gas, water, and communication lines beneath Bear Gulch Creek at a depth of approximately 15 feet below the creek bed at 3411 Woodside Road. The property is located in a Special Conservation Planning-5 Zoning District. The directional boring would occur in the northern portion of the site parallel to the existing driveway and bridge, and would not daylight within the riparian corridor or creek bed. Currently the service lines are attached to the entry bridge. A Notice of Exemption from CEQA has been made under Section 15302.

3. Mike & Janey Gabitass MERG2008-003

340 Hillside Drive
Review of a request to merge 5 lots into a single 1.14 acre, or 49,658 square foot, lot in R-1 zoning where the minimum lot size is 30,000 square feet.

4. Mike & Janey Gabitass XMR#2008-005

340 Hillside Drive
Review of a request for a maximum residence size exception in order to construct a 3,768.8 square foot new main residence on a 1.14 acre, or 49,658 square foot, property located in R-1 zoning. In accordance with Woodside Municipal Code Section 153.047.E., the Planning Commission is empowered to approve up to a 4,000 square foot main residence for properties over 30,000 square feet in R-1 zoning.

All application materials are available for public review at the Woodside Planning and Building Counter, Woodside Town Hall, weekdays from 8:00 - 10:00 AM and 1:00 - 3:00 PM, or by appointment. For more information, contact the Woodside Planning and Building Department at (650) 851-6790.

Published in THE ALMANAC on January 14, 2009.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY



PHOTO: DAVID SHANKBONE

The Stein Visiting Writer
Mary Gordon
will be reading from her work

Monday, Jan. 21 at 8:00 p.m.
in **Cubberley Auditorium**
on the Stanford Campus

Free and open to the public

Sponsored by the Stanford Creative Writing Program
For more information, call (650) 723-0011 or visit
<http://creativewriting.stanford.edu>

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



WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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

TOWN SQUARE FORUM

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

EMAIL

your views to: letters@almanacnews.com 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.

Rail project seeks early comment

Planning for the freshly approved high-speed rail link between northern and southern California is rapidly accelerating and forcing Menlo Park, Atherton and other Peninsula cities to quickly evaluate the impact the 200-mph-plus trains will have on their communities.

Just two weeks ago the high-speed rail authority announced that the first environmental assessments will focus on the densely-populated corridor between San Francisco and San Jose, with comments from cities and residents due by March 6.

Menlo Park and Atherton have moved the issue to their agendas this week, when they will begin to discuss how to respond. Both cities will have the difficult task of assessing how the addition of two new sets of tracks, carrying trains approaching 200 mph, will fit into their community.

The even larger question is how construction of up to six grade separations (over- or under-passes) at the strategic east-west hub of each community can be done without bringing travel between those areas to a screeching halt.

High-speed rail critic Martin Engel, in a letter to the Menlo Park council, suggested that the city should join Atherton in drafting a resolution about the project and seek out other signatories as well. At the meeting it was not clear if such action could be taken,

although it may be more important for all the cities to simply focus on meeting the fast-approaching deadline for comments.

Another major concern for Menlo Park is high-speed rail's possible impact on a top priority: the downtown visioning process — a nearly \$1 million study that will include a parcel-by-parcel examination of the properties along the El Camino Real corridor that runs from north to south through the city. The Caltrain corridor often abuts properties with El Camino frontage, so the impact of construction and of high-speed trains on possible development of housing projects could be huge.

The first formal "scoping" meeting to examine which factors the rail authority should consider in its environmental review process will be held on Jan. 22 in the SamTrans Auditorium at 1250 San Carlos Ave. in San Carlos.

Whatever feelings Menlo Park and Atherton might harbor about high-speed rail, we expect the project will be built, although there could be a delay in selling the \$9.95 billion in bonds authorized by passage of Proposition 1A last Nov. 6. In most areas along the proposed route, the project is viewed as a major economic boost that will create jobs as it offers a more environmentally friendly and comfortable option for traveling between northern and southern California. And now it appears that some of that comfort is going to come at the expense of the Peninsula communities that must make room for the high-speed trains to operate.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS

Our readers write

City should not be in the housing business

Editor:

It's bad enough that the city is losing money in the child care business, but now former Mayor Andy Cohen and the Almanac are pushing the city to become a large-scale landlord by purchasing and refurbishing distressed properties in Belle Haven.

In these tough economic times, the city should not be taking on additional responsibilities such as leaky roofs and repairing termite damage. Yes, the city should have more below-market housing, but developers of large-scale projects will provide them without the city having to handle the day-to-day repair and maintenance, or take on the risk of housing prices dropping even further.

The city should stay out of the landlord business and let the free market do its job, of returning sanity to over-inflated housing prices. Once sellers are cured of their unreasonable expectations for a high sales price, these distressed houses will sell, and the buyers will refurbish them, at no cost and no hassle to the city. Let the free market run its course.

Sue Kayton
Doris Drive, Menlo Park



Portola Valley Archives

Our Regional Heritage

The 4th of July, 1898, was celebrated at the Summit Saloon by flying two U.S. flags, as clearly shown in the photograph. What is not clear for historians is the saloon's location, which could be at the top of Old La Honda Road or Kings Mountain Road. Several of those in the photo have been identified: Larry Kelly and Albert Eikerenkotter stand at the left, and "Nosey" Rapp is at the far right. If you have any information about the saloon's location, e-mail letters@almanacnews.com

BMR funds are reasonable option for Belle Haven

Editor:

I have just read that it may be possible for the city to purchase some foreclosed properties in the Belle Haven area to use eventually as belowmarket-rate housing.

I know that there may be a

number of hurdles in order to accomplish this. However, this seems to be an excellent use of redevelopment funds and an efficient answer to some of the chronic lower-cost housing problems in Menlo Park, now exacerbated by the financial morass.

I spent eight years on the Menlo Park Housing Commission and we were always looking

for the most productive use of these and other funds available to us. (Incidentally, the Habitat for Humanity Terminal Avenue project was discussed in 1999, when I was on the commission.)

The place to start fixing any problem is in your own backyard. Until your own house is

See **LETTERS**, next page

The rail corridor future lies ahead

By Martin Engel

It's hard to judge just how concerned residents and business owners of Menlo Park are about future developments on the Caltrain corridor, but that process is now under way. The clock has started.

The staff of the cities of Atherton and Menlo Park met on Jan. 7 with key players from Parsons Brinckerhoff and HNTB, who are responsible for the engineering design and project-level environmental reviews for the expansion of the rail corridor to accommodate the high-speed train.

The engineers have no plans for the alignment in hand as yet, but did provide a schedule that covers design and environmental documentation work through 2011, with construction to commence in 2012, lasting, they say, for five years. And that's a best-case scenario.

What they could not (or would not) tell us about was

their thinking regarding construction easements, eminent domain takings, or track elevation by way of berm, retaining walls or viaduct. The question of trenching and tunneling did come up in the conversation.

A formal launch — scoping meeting — of the design process will be held Jan. 22 at the San Carlos headquarters of the Caltrain/Joint Powers Board/SamTrans. Here is the link to the Federal Register Web site that spells this out:



GUEST OPINION

<http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getpage.cgi>

There are opportunities for all of us to write comments or present them orally at the meeting.

It is my considered opinion that most residents still don't have a clue about the impact that rail corridor construction will create in Menlo Park. Very few of us are authentic hermits.

All the rest will feel — some more than others — the severity of the impact of the protracted construction process and the dramatically altered rail corridor and its sharply increased train traffic.

It is not yet clear whether the rail people will listen to our concerns, and if they do, whether they will respond positively. But, more important, it is not clear whether people living more than, say, a mile to the east or west of the rail corridor, even care one way or the other about any of this.

But this much should be clear: The heart of our city, the downtown area, will be changed forever, and therefore the essential character of Menlo Park, and its quality of life, will be changed forever. Whether such changes are for the better or not won't be known until it is too late to do anything about it. I'm not optimistic.

Martin Engel lives on Stone Pine Lane in Menlo Park

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

fixed, you cannot help anyone else. Let these trillions of dollars of "stimulus" packages rain over the larger landscape and sometimes help the right people. Right now, let's start from the ground up and be sure to help the right

people — our neighbors.

**Wendy McPherson
Maywood Lane, Menlo Park**

Seasoned nanny may be best bet for child care

Editor:

Children deserve the very best quality child care. Absolutely nothing I read in the recent discussion on the Almanac's Town Square Web site relates to that

pertinent fact.

A child suffers if he or she is not exquisitely cared for. A town opens itself to tremendous liability issues when it gets into the child care "business" and no one comes out a winner.

If you want quality child care, hire a seasoned nanny. As a 25-year veteran, I should know.

**Mary Perkins
Mountain Home Road,
Woodside**



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- **Majors** (ages 9-12): REGISTRATION OPEN
- **Minors** (ages 9-12): REGISTRATION OPEN
- **Majors and Minors Players:** Deadline to register online is January 15, 2009. Tryouts required.
- **Juniors/Seniors/Big** (ages 13-18): REGISTRATION OPEN

Pitching Machine (8): Registration opens Jan. 2, 2009
Coach Pitch (7): Registration opens Jan. 2, 2009
T-Ball (ages 5-6): Registration opens Jan. 2, 2009

Registration questions? Contact Karen Lucian, karenlucian@sbcglobal.net
(Please contact division commissioners with all non-registration related questions.)

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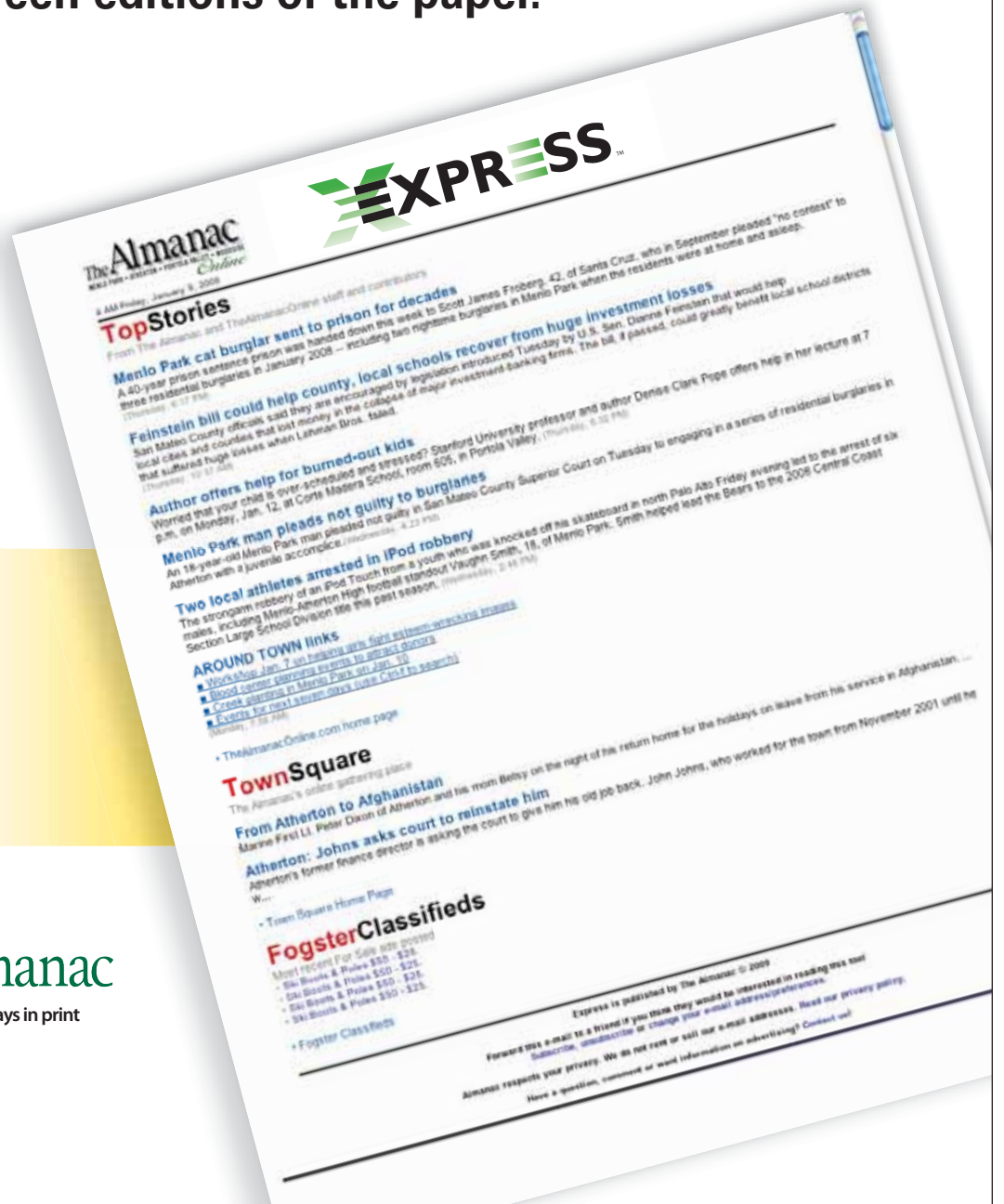
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ATHERTON – Gorgeous traditional brick estate home in desirable W. Atherton, on quiet cul-de-sac. 6 BD/5.5 BA main hse w/new gourmet kit, luxurious master ste. Sep 1BD/1BA gst hse features LR w/fplace, full kit. Private landscaped acre. Pool, spa. Virtual tour at www.plansandtours.com/3879
Elizabeth Daschbach \$4,695,000



ATHERTON – W. Atherton remodel or build new opportunity on large park-like setting.
Steve Gray \$2,495,000



MENLO PARK – Contemporary two story home featuring 4BD/3.5BA with full basement, hardwood floors and dual paned windows. Nice neighborhood and Menlo Park Schools.
Camille Eder \$1,975,000



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



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 \$1,850,000

BELMONT

Excellent location on cul de sac. Unbelievable views of the Bay. Expand or build.

Brendan Royer \$829,950

EAST PALO ALTO

Bright corner unit, new double paned windows, freshly painted inside & out.

Gordana Wolfman \$268,888

HALF MOON BAY

Spectacular views from this large lot! Complete with plans and permits.

Katherine Clark \$639,000

HAYWARD

2 separate homes on a large lot. Front unit is 3BR/3BA. Rear unit is 2BR/2BA.

Gordana Wolfman \$575,000

LA HONDA

Great value in La Honda! Close to WS & 280. Charming cottage w/a lrg level rear garden.

Cristina Harper \$399,500

LOS ALTOS

Rare opportunity! 3 Newly construction town homes in the hear of LA Village! Frml dining, hardwood floors, gourmet kit w/grnt counters open to lovely patio. Ea. Has washer/dryer.

Bella Awdisho \$1,149,000

LOS ALTOS HILLS

Tremendous opportunity & value for this Hacienda w/old world craftsmanship & all the modern accoutrements. This estate is situated on the flat creek side lot w/exceptional MFA & MDA and a truly serene park setting. A Must See!

Victor Platonoff \$3,175,000

Price Reduction! Lovely 4BR/3BA property on designated scenic route adjacent to Hidden Villa.

Clarke Team/Nadine Matityahu
\$1,499,500

MENLO PARK

Gorgeous tastefully remodeled light and bright 2BR/2BA condo with garage. Additional space could be made into office or gym. One level, looks out onto lawns, complex has a pool. Wonderful west Menlo Park location. Las Lomitas Schools.

Suzanne Scott \$758,000

MOUNTAIN VIEW

Beautiful new construction with luxurious finishes! 5BR/3.5BA, Hdwd flrs, 8 ft drs, Marble entry & stairs, Granite counters, high ceil, snd sys, cable, satellite & CATS wiring, landscaping, lrg lot w/mature trees.

Dory Marhamat \$2,199,000

Duplex in desirable area, close to Sylvan Park. 3BR/2BA beautifully remodeled.

Marta Hayes \$1,130,000

Tuscany awaits! 3BR/2BA, new roof, Wndws, kitch, Bas plum, patio, driveway & more. Excel W El Camino Loc in MV. Beaut travertine tile Frplc. Dsgnr paint colors. Huge rebuilt kitch w/wine fridge & lrg Cstm bar area. Must see!

Denise Watkins Smith \$1,099,000

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

Kristin Cashin \$899,000

3BR/2BA home in Santiago Villa, open flr plan, brkfst bar, island kitchen.

Cristina Page \$155,750

REDWOOD CITY

Light bright & spacious 3BR/2.5BA private end unit. Steps away from boat dock.

Lilly Chow \$749,000

Inviting 3BR/1.5BA home located on a peaceful tree-lined street. Hrdwd flrs, new paint.

Jennifer Whelan \$649,000

Remodeled 3 Bedroom, 2-1/2 Bath, Tile & Hardwood Floors, New Landscaping.

Vivian Vella \$549,000

This spacious 3BR/2BA Condo has newer double pane windows, sliding doors & kitchen appliances.

Brendan Royer \$449,000



MENLO PARK – Menlo Park-Stylish Townhouse. 3BR/2.5 BA. Beautifully new kitchen with family/sitting room. Formal Dining Room. Light & spacious. In excellent condition. Close to downtown.
Carol Bartlett/Marty Barelli \$1,249,500



SUNNYVALE – This exquisite 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with high end finishes features an oversized master suite, completely remodeled kitchen, 2 car garage, and beautifully manicured yard. Menlo Park Schools.
Tim Kerns \$1,095,000



PALO ALTO – Beautiful Contemp home in PA neighborhood! 4BR/2BA+Office, Kitch w/soaring ceil, new granite, Hdwd Flrs. LR w/vaulted wood ceil, new marble frplc surround, Hdwd flrs, sliding glass doors lead to lrg backyd w/deck & more!
Carol Christie \$1,025,000



REDWOOD SHORES – Beautiful 3BR/3BA with large deck and hot tub. New paint, stove and microwave. Must see to appreciate!
Joann Bedrossian \$1,088,000



SUNNYVALE – Great corner lot location in this Cherry Chase neighborhood. This beautiful 4BR/3BA home is ready to move into, but still has tons of potential. Added bonus is a huge second living unit with 2 additional BR's, Living Rm and Kitchenette.
Dana Cappiello \$1,150,000

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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 230384

The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, Communication Technologies International, 1115 Altschul Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025; Christoph Pfister, 1115 Altschul Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025 This business is being conducted by an individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 11/12/2002. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on 12/2/08. (Almanac Dec. 24, 31, 2008, Jan. 7, 14, 2009)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 230477

The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, Thermae, 103 Gilbert Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025; Kings Road International, Inc., 405 El Camino Real, #327, Menlo Park, CA 94025 This busi-

ness is being conducted by an individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 12/01/08. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on 12/8/08. (Almanac Dec. 24, 31, 2008, Jan. 7, 14, 2009)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 230716

The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, 1) Flegler Communications; 2) Speedy Rekey; 3) Club Maoz, 24 Santa Elena Ave., Daly City, CA 94015; Aleksandra Flegler, 24 Santa Elena Ave., Daly City, CA 94015; Robert Flegler, 24 Santa Elena Ave., Daly City, CA 94015 This business is being conducted by husband & wife. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on n/a. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on 12/23/08. (Almanac Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2009)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 230541

The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, Ravenswood Mobile Health Clinic, 1796 Bay Road, East Palo Alto, CA 94303; South County Community Health center, Inc., 1798-A Bay Road, East Palo Alto, CA 94303 This business is being conducted by a Corporation. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 5/15/07. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on 12/11/08. (Almanac Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2009)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 230545

The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, Ravenswood Family Health Center at Belle Haven, 100 Terminal Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025; South County Community Health Center, Inc., 1798-A Bay Road, East Palo Alto, CA 94303 This business is being conducted by a Corporation. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 10/27/07. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on 12/11/08. (Almanac Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2009)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 230593

The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, 1) The Astera Group; 2) David Petrovay Associates, 601 Leahy St., #107, Redwood City, CA 94061; David William Petrovay, 601 Leahy St., #107, Redwood City, CA 94061 This business is being conducted by an individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 1/1/2008. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on 1/7/2009. (Almanac Jan. 14, 21, 28, Feb. 4, 2009)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 230444

The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, Willow Road Pharmacy, 900 Willow Road, Suite B, Menlo Park, CA 94025; Willow Business Enterprise, LLC, CA, Menlo Park, 94025 This business is being conducted by a Limited Liability Company. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on n/a. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on 12/5/08. (Almanac Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2009)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 230865

The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, The Charles Pierce Collection of Fine Art Photography,

2995 Woodside Road, #400, Woodside, CA 94062; Gary and Audrey Billerbeck, 2995 Woodside Road, #400, Woodside, CA 94062 This business is being conducted by Husband & Wife. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on 1/1/2008. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on 1/7/2009. (Almanac Jan. 14, 21, 28, Feb. 4, 2009)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 230794

The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, Caring Helping Hands, 770 Schembri Lane, East Palo Alto, CA 94303; Mele Tautuu Similai, 770 Schembri Lane, East Palo Alto, CA 94303 This business is being conducted by an individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on n/a. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on 12/31/2008. (Almanac Jan. 14, 21, 28, Feb. 4, 2009)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 230798

The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, A1 Affordable Limo, 804 Arnold Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025; Jeff Goldman, 804 Arnold Way, Menlo Park, CA 94025; Jorge Amaro, 2155 Alma St., #3, Palo Alto, CA 94301 This business is being conducted by a General Partnership. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on n/a. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on 12/31/2008. (Almanac Jan. 14, 21, 28, Feb. 4, 2009)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 230786

The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, Loma Alta Farm, 3300 Stable Ln., Santa Cruz, CA 95065; Northern Run, LLC, 2995 Woodside Road, Ste. 400, #278, Woodside, CA 94062 This business is being conducted by a Limited Liability Company. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on n/a. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on 12/30/2008. (Almanac Jan. 14, 21, 28, Feb. 4, 2009)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 230748

The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, Gorgon Interactive, 910 Folkstone Ave., San Mateo, CA 94402; Eric J. Sexton, 910 Folkstone Ave., San Mateo, CA 94402 This business is being conducted by an individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on n/a. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on 12/29/2008. (Almanac Jan. 14, 21, 28, Feb. 4, 2009)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 230589

The following individual(s) is (are) doing business as, Map Video, 101 Victoria Road, Burlingame, CA 94010; Frank Colino, 101 Victoria Road, Burlingame, CA 94010 This business is being conducted by an individual. Registrant began transacting business under the fictitious business name(s) listed herein on n/a. This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on 12/15/2008. (Almanac Jan. 14, 21, 28, Feb. 4, 2009)

997 All Other Legals

T.S.#CR8-1383 Order: 1001606-05 File: CR8-1383 JP A.P. Number 080-073-110 Notice of Trustee's Sale under Deed Of Trust YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED February 27, 2007, UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. Notice is hereby given that County Records Research, Trustee Division as Trustee, or Successor Trustee, Or Substituted Trustee pursuant to the Deed Of Trust executed by Hector Flamenco and Diana Flamenco, husband and wife Recorded on 03/01/2007 as Instrument No. 2007-032087 in Book Page of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of San Mateo County, California, and pursuant to the Notice Of Default and Election to Sell thereunder recorded 9/2/2008 in Book , Page , as Instrument No. 08-099496 of said Official Records, will sell on 1/21/2009 at At the Marshall St. entrance to the Hall of Justice and Records, 400 County Center, Redwood

Public Notices continued on Page 27

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- Cozy, casual family room adjoining the kitchen
- Private, large master suite with plush carpet, highly functional "his and hers" walk-thru closet with extensive built-ins; lavish bath with tumbled-tile vanity and oversized shower; and French doors that lead to private deck
- Exterior features slate front porch, level lawn areas, manicured hedges and cascading flower beds
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Let's Ask Ann . . .

Dear Readers, Priced low, Sold high...

Rumors of the demise of the local real estate market have been greatly exaggerated. Since the beginning of the year, low inventory and high buyer demand has resulted in brisk sales in Palo Alto & Menlo Park. The majority of homes listed for \$1.5 million have sold for over the list price. Two keys for successfully selling your home: 1) Properly prepare your home 2) Price your home correctly. If you are considering selling your home, now is the perfect time. My professional staff is ready to assist you in preparing and selling your home. I look forward to adding your name to my list of very satisfied clients.

All the best,
Ann Griffiths

Questions or comments?

Contact Ann at: 650-322-6666

or email: Ann.Griffiths@CBNorCal.com

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Bulletin Board

115 Announcements

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by all religions will soon speak to everyone. He'll inspire sharing, justice, & peace on Earth. www.Share-International.org 800-870-6108 (AAN CAN)

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Considering Adoption? Talk with caring agency specializing in matching Birthmothers with Families nationwide. Living Expenses Paid. Call 24/7 Abby's One True Gift Adoptions. 1-866-459-3369. (Cal-SCAN)

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Talk with caring agency specializing in matching Birthmothers with Families nationwide. LIVING EXPENSES PAID. Call 24/7 Abby's One True Gift Adoptions 866-413-6293 (AAN CAN)

WRITERS WANTED
The Academy for Alternative Journalism, established by papers like this one to promote diversity in the alternative press, seeks talented journalists and students (college seniors and up) for a paid summer writing program at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. The eight-week program (June 21 - Aug. 16, 2009) aims to recruit talented candidates from diverse backgrounds and train them in alt-weekly style feature writing. Ten participants will be chosen and paid \$3,000 plus housing and travel allowances. For information and an application visit <http://altjournalism.org>. You may also email us at altacademy@northwestern.edu. Applications must be postmarked by Feb. 13, 2009. Northwestern University is an equal opportunity educator & employer. (AAN CAN)

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Competitive Class 1 U14 girls team seeking a few impact players, including a keeper. Girls born after July 31st, 1994. If interested, please contact team manager at stevezuckerman@mpstrikers.com with a brief background of your soccer experience, or go to <http://www.mpstrikersfc.com/> for more information about our club and our team (94G White).

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235 Wanted to Buy

Antique dolls

240 Furnishings/ Household items

1 antique dining chair - \$100

3 antique dining chairs - \$300

4 antique dining chairs - \$400

Lidded Jar, Blue Stoneware - \$40

Teapot, Handmade, Stoneware - \$40

Sofa bed - \$free

Used Lawnmower - \$100

245 Miscellaneous

2 Altamesa plots, - \$5000 ea

A New Slant on Life - \$15.00

Auto creeper - \$200.00

Espon color printer 740 for sale - \$50

New clothes ladies' size 2-4 for - \$40+ Good

Nice new horse blanket - \$35

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William Sonoma Gift Card - \$ 500value

260 Sports & Exercise Equipment

Cross Country Skis, poles, boots - \$50

GOLF EQUIPMENT - \$125/Set

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Ski Boots & Poles - \$50 - \$25.

Skis - Rossignol 7X - \$100

Skis: Dynastar Speed SX - \$100

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Dream Nanny Available

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Nanny

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Evening Child Care Needed

Nanny Househelp Needed
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Real Estate

801 Apartments/Condos/Studios

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Menlo Park, 1 BR/1 BA - \$1595/mon

Menlo Park, 1 BR/1 BA
Nice 4-plex; walking distance to downtown Palo Alto, Stanford, Burgess Park; 650-776-1703

Menlo Park, 1 BR/1 BA - \$1325

Menlo Park, 1 BR/1 BA
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Menlo Park, 1 BR/1 BA - \$1595/mon

Menlo Park, 2 BR/1.5 BA - \$1995.00

Menlo Park, 2 BR/2 BA - \$2150.00

Mountain View, 1 BR/1 BA - \$1200/mont

Mountain View, 1 BR/1 BA
Single story condo, patio, extra storage, laundry, pool. Please call 650-430-8088 or 650-963-9648.



Mountain View, 1 BR/1 BA
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1 apartment with balcony.
Tel 650 625-1596 or 650 996-4490

Mountain View, 2 BR/1 BA - \$1395/mont

Mountain View, 2 BR/1 BA - \$1550/mon.

Mountain View, 2 BR/1 BA - \$1600.00

Mountain View, Studio - 995.00

Mountain View, Studio - \$1010

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MV: 1BR/1BA
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PA: 1BR/1BA
Patio, pool, laundry, covered parking, \$1200 mo. Also 2BR/2BA avail. Info, 650/796-7096

Palo Alto, 2 BR/1 BA - \$2,300/mon

Palo Alto, 2 BR/2.5 BA - \$2600

Sunnyvale, 1 BR/1 BA - \$1195

803 Duplex
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East Palo Alto, 3 BR/2 BA - \$1990.00/m

Los Altos, 5+ BR/4+ BA - \$5700

Menlo Park, 2 BR/1 BA - \$2,575

Menlo Park, 2 BR/1 BA - \$2400/mo.

Menlo Park, 2 BR/1 BA
Menlo Park 2br/1ba \$2075/month
Avail Jan 1st 650-364-2086

Menlo Park, 2 BR/1 BA - \$2400

Mountain View, 3 BR/2.5 BA - \$2850

MP: 3BR/2BA
Fully renovated. Dbl. gar. Jacuzzi. N/S. \$5000 mo. 650/856-1111

PA: 3BR/2BA
FR, 2-car, refrig. Remodeled. Near Gunn. No pet. Yr lease. Avail now. \$4200. gwu@apr.com

PA: 4BR/3BA
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Palo Alto, 2 BR/1 BA - \$2,500

Palo Alto, 2 BR/1 BA - \$2,300

Palo Alto, 2 BR/2 BA - \$1,850/mon

Palo Alto, 3 BR/1 BA - \$2750

Palo Alto, 3 BR/1 BA - \$2700.00

Palo Alto, 3 BR/2 BA - \$3500/mon

Palo Alto, 4 BR/2 BA - \$3500.00/m

Palo Alto, 5+ BR/3 BA
Newer, Big, CuDac/5668038/\$8150

Palo Alto, 5+ BR/4+ BA
NEW 9BD*6.5BA/\$9800*5668038

Portola Valley, 5+ BR/4+ BA - \$ 16,500

Redwood City, 3 BR/2 BA - \$2900

Redwood City, 3 BR/2 BA - \$3,500.00

Redwood City, 3 BR/2 BA - \$2,700/mo

Redwood City, 3 BR/2 BA - \$2900

San Carlos, 2 BR/2 BA - \$1,800.

Woodside, 1 BR/2 BA
Skyline, gorgeous, private, views, decks, fpic, 2 car garage, ns, \$3200/month, 650-851-3876 evenings

Woodside, 4 BR/3.5 BA - \$9,000

Woodside, 4 BR/4+ BA
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809 Shared Housing/Rooms

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Mtn View, 2 BR/1 BA - \$850

Palo Alto, 1 BR/1 BA - \$1150

Palo Alto, 1 BR/1 BA - \$800/per m

Redwood City, 2 BR/2 BA - \$790.00

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East Palo Alto, 2 BR/1 BA - \$268000

Los Altos Hills, 4 BR/3.5 BA - \$2,495,000

Mountain View, 3 BR/2 BA
\$132,500 Mobile home in Mtn View, built 2001. 1100 sf, large kitchen, lots of windows. Near downtown. Low space rent of \$577/month. For info: Peter Lee, Keller Williams Palo Alto, at 650-454-8518.

Mountain View, 3 BR/2 BA - \$155,750

Palo Alto, 3 BR/1 BA - \$929000

Redwood City, 3 BR/2 BA - \$788,000



Redwood City, 4 BR/2.5 BA
Gorgeous Remodel: Open Sun 1-4 232 OuterCircle/232outercircle.com

Redwood City, 5+ BR/4+ BA - \$2999500

Redwood Shores, 5+ BR/4+ BA - \$1,285,000

San Carlos, 3 BR/2 BA - \$849,000

San Carlos, 3 BR/2 BA - 958,000

San Carlos, 3 BR/2.5 BA - \$1195000

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Public Notices

Public Notices
continued from Page 24

City, CA at 12:30 PM at public auction to the highest bidder for cash (payable at the time of sale in lawful money of the United States), all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed Of Trust in the property situated in said County and State hereinafter described: As more fully described in said Deed of Trust. The property address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 135 Los Trancos Cir. Portola Valley, CA 94028 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$1,644,968.36. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a State or National Bank, a check drawn by a State or Federal Credit Union or a check drawn by a State or Federal Savings and Loan Association, Savings Association or Savings Bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this State. In the event tender other than cash is accepted the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed, advances there-

under, with interest as provided therein, and the unpaid principal balance of the note secured by said Deed with interest thereon as provided in said note, fees, charges and expenses of the trustee and the trusts created by said Deed Of Trust. Dated: 12/19/2008 County Records Research, as said Trustee Trustee Division 4952 Warner Avenue #105 Huntington Beach, CA, 92649 Trustee's Sale Line (714) 573-1965 Fax Number (714) 846-8720 Sales Website: www.priorityposting.com Phone number (714) 846-6634 By: John C. Holmberg County Records Research, Trustee Div. P510921 12/31, 1/7, 01/14/2009 (Published in the Almanac 12/31/08, 1/7, 14, 2009)

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No.: 20080187406473 Title Order No.: 32062143515 FHA/VA/PMI No.: NONE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 02/19/02. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. NDEx West, LLC, as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded on 02/26/02, as Instrument No. 20022034465 of official records in the office of the County Recorder of SAN MATEO County, State of California. EXECUTED BY: DOLLY B ADAMS, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK/CASH EQUIVALENT or other form of payment authorized by 2924(h), (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States) DATE OF SALE: February 3, 2009 TIME OF SALE: 12:30 PM PLACE OF SALE: AT THE MARSHALL STREET ENTRANCE

TO THE HALL OF JUSTICE AT 400 COUNTY CENTER, REDWOOD CITY, CA. STREET ADDRESS and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 1234 HOOVER STREET, MENLO PARK, CA 94025. APN# 0717103200?3 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is \$439,800.09. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. FOR TRUSTEE SALE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: NATIONWIDE POSTING & PUBLICATION, INC. 3350 COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE, SUITE 202, CAMERON PARK, CA 95682 (530) 672-3033, www.nationwideposting.com NDEx West L.L.C. MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. NDEx West, L.L.C. as Authorized

Agent, BY: Ric Juarez Dated: 01/09/09 NPP0132548 01/14/09, 01/21/09, 01/28 (Published in the Almanac 1/14, 21, 28, 2009)

PROTECT YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS

If it has been 5 years since you filed your Fictitious Business Name Statement (your D.B.A.), you must file again to protect your legal rights. Check your records now to see if your D.B.A. expires this year. Then call the Almanac, 854-2626, for assistance in refiling. It's inexpensive and easy.

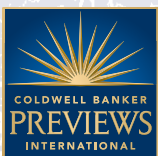
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