

**CLEORA REUSCHER FLEGEL**, co-founder of Flegels furniture store, dies at age 90. Page 9

# The Almanac

THE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER FOR MENLO PARK, ATHERTON,

PORTOLA VALLEY AND WOODSIDE

APRIL 22, 2009

[www.TheAlmanacOnline.com](http://www.TheAlmanacOnline.com) | VOL. 44 NO. 34



Inside:  
2009  
Spring  
Real  
Estate



## GREEN AT HOME

A nonprofit group is trying to slow the warming of the planet, one home at a time.

SEE PAGE 25

REDEFINING QUALITY SINCE 1990

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



### PALO ALTO

Exceptional and timeless remodeled beauty features flawless design and stunning quality. Owner and designer customized every detail from the stunning cabinetry, to flooring materials, to hardware down to the hinges. Home offers 3bd/3.5ba, dramatic living room, beautiful dining room, a cook's kitchen, and comfortable family room.

**\$3,695,000**



### LOS ALTOS HILLS

Modern 3bd/3.5ba architectural masterpiece on 1.4+/- acres showcases lofty ceilings, hardwood floors, marble framed fireplaces, and walls of windows. Floorplan includes formal living and dining rooms, chef's kitchen, expansive deck, and lower-level 1bd/1ba apartment. Palo Alto schools.

**\$2,495,000**



### WOODSIDE

Charming Craftsman-style 4bd/4.5ba home set on a 1.15+/- acre lot features 3 fireplaces, vaulted ceilings, living room with Bay view, library alcove, office, and 3 car garage. Also includes 1bd/1ba guest house with kitchen and walk-in-closet. Pool and spa. Portola Valley schools.

**\$2,245,000**

apr.com | **MENLO PARK OFFICE** 1550 EL CAMINO REAL, SUITE 100 650.462.1111

apr.com | **WOODSIDE OFFICE** 2930 WOODSIDE ROAD 650.529.1111

**APR COUNTIES** | Santa Clara | San Mateo | San Francisco | Alameda | Contra Costa | Monterey | Santa Cruz



# Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

## FIRST SHOT



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

### A good cause

Nicole Tsikounas of the Woodside shop Emily Joubert Home & Garden rings up a purchase during a Friday, April 17, fundraiser to benefit the families of the four Oakland police officers who were recently killed in action. Sponsors included Draeger's Supermarket, Roberts markets, Buck's of Woodside, FullBloom Baking Company, based in Newark, and San Francisco-based leather goods retailer 49 Square Miles.

## Atherton

■ Council member blasts grand jury report. **Page 5**

## Menlo Park

■ Council not likely to revisit pedestrian bridge decision. **Page 5**

■ Embezzler avoids prison through good-faith effort to repay. **Page 11**

## Portola Valley

■ Council to hold public hearing on new noise ordinance. **Page 8**

## Schools

■ Corte Madera P.E. teacher earns rare certification. **Page 7**

## Spring Real Estate 2009

■ Sitting on the fence: Both buyers and sellers await the perfect moment. See *Spring Real Estate* publication inside this issue.

## Community

■ Earthquake drill ahead in Portola Valley, Woodside. **Page 10**

## Election

■ League gives pros, cons on May ballot measures. **Page 6**

## Sports

■ Redwood Hoosiers take basketball title. **Page 17**

## Also Inside

Calendar .....	28
Letters .....	22
Obituaries .....	19, 21
Police Calls .....	21
Viewpoint .....	22

## On the cover

Joel Davidson, a volunteer with the nonprofit group Acterra, removes an overhead lamp in Cindi Hunter's Menlo Park residence to install a fluorescent bulb. Through the "Green@Home" program, volunteers help residents to reduce their energy use. Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac. See **Page 25**.

## CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

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

For Classified ads, call **854-0858**

For all other calls, phone **854-2626**

News: **Ext. 213**

Display advertising: **Ext. 233**

Fax: **854-0677**

■ E-mail news, information and obituaries to (no photos please): **editor@AlmanacNews.com**

■ E-mail news photos with captions to: **AlmanacNews@gmail.com**

■ E-mail letters to the editor to: **letters@AlmanacNews.com**

**THE ALMANAC** (ISSN 1097-3095 and USPS 459370) is published every Wednesday by Embarcadero Publishing Co., 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-4455. Periodicals Postage Paid at Menlo Park, CA and at additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation for San Mateo County, the Almanac is delivered free to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside. Voluntary subscriptions for \$30 per year or \$50 per 2 years are welcome from residents of the above circulation area. Subscription rates for businesses and for residents of other communities is \$50 per year and \$80 for two years. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Almanac, P.O. Box 7008, Menlo Park, CA 94026-7008. Copyright ©2009 by Embarcadero Publishing Co., All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

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

**RJ's  
Upholstery  
and  
Slipcovers**

A Better Choice Since 1960  
1064 Cherry Street

**A Fabric  
Store**  
Chair Seat Special  
**\$1/yard**  
on selected fabrics

650-591-0220 San Carlos

# BOWMAN

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



**The Bowman program builds confidence, creativity and academic excellence.**



◆ Lower School - Grades K - 5

◆ Middle School - Grades 6 - 8



◆ Individualized, self-directed program

◆ Rich international and cultural studies

◆ Proven, Montessori approach



◆ State-of-the-art facility

◆ Low student-teacher ratio

**www.bowmanschool.org**

4000 Terman Drive • Palo Alto, CA • Tel: 650-813-9131

*Alex Sepkus Jewels*

*New and exciting rings, necklaces, earrings and bracelets with beautiful, bright colors and Alex's signature detailing will fill our display cases for these two days.*

*Friday, May 1st  
12pm to 6pm*

*Saturday, May 2nd  
11am to 4pm*

*Please join us.*



**ALEX SEPKUS®**  
NEW YORK

**DARREN McCLUNG**  
**PRECIOUS JEWELRY**  
The Stanford Barn  
700 Welch Road, Palo Alto  
650.321.5994

A TOWN MARKET PLACE

# ROBERTS MARKET

SINCE 1889

3015 Woodside Road Woodside, 650-851-1511  
 4420 Alpine Road Portola Valley, 650-851-1711  
 Open 6:30AM - 8PM

**10% Wine Discount**  
 on 6 Bottles

Effective immediately, Roberts is offering a 10% discount on the purchase of 6, or more, bottles of regularly priced wines. Red tag sale prices excluded.

Sale Dates: April 22, 23, 24, 25 [www.robertsmarket.com](http://www.robertsmarket.com)

Fresh  
**PRODUCE**



**CALIFORNIA STRAWBERRIES**

**\$1.29**  
 a pint

Jet Fresh  
**WHOLE PINEAPPLE**

**79¢** lb

California  
**ORGANIC RED LEAF LETTUCE**

**\$1.29** ea.

Local, Loose  
**BABY SPINACH AND ARUGULA**

**\$3.99** ea

Special this week at Roberts

**MEAT**



**VEAL SCALLOPINI**

**\$19.98**  
 lb

**BABY BACK RIBS**

**\$5.49** lb

**SEA SCALLOPS**

**\$19.98** lb

**WILD BAY SHRIMP**

**\$8.98** lb

On Sale

**GROCERY**



**PEET'S FRESH ROASTED COFFEE BEANS**

12 oz. - Also Ground

**\$7.29**

**CLOVER ORGANIC POMEGRANATE STRAWBERRY KEFIR** **\$2.69**  
 32 oz. - Also Blueberry - Mango - Traditional - Plus Calif. Redeem Value

**PEPPERIDGE FARM APPLE TURNOVERS** **\$2.49**  
 12 oz. - Also Raspberry

**COLAVITA AGED BALSAMIC VINEGAR** **\$2.99**  
 17 oz.

**RICE - A - RONI - CHICKEN** **\$1.39**  
 6 oz. - Also Beef - Spanish Rice

**NATURAL DIRECTIONS EARTH FRIENDLY PAPER TOWELS** **\$2.49**  
 2 Roll Pack

*Spirits Sale*

Jim Beam Kentucky Straight Bourbon

1.75L Reg. \$26.99 SALE **\$23.99**

Jose Cuervo Especial Gold Tequila

1.75L Reg. \$28.99 SALE **\$24.99**

Absolut Vodka 80°

1.75L Reg. \$35.99 SALE **\$29.99**

Bombay Sapphire Gin

1.75L Reg. \$39.99 SALE **\$31.99**

*New Wine*

2006 Atalayas, Ribera del Duero

Reg. \$19.99 SALE **\$17.99**

*This Tempranillo based red offers serious quality at an affordable price. Bright, firm and juicy the wine finishes with a smooth, spicyness. Outstanding value.*



**DELI**

*Roberts Market Deli*

*From our Roberts Kitchen we offer you a variety of Breakfast Items:*

**Scrambled Eggs**

~or~

**Denver Eggs**

*with Potatoes  
 Bacon or Sausage*

**English Muffins**

*with Bacon,  
 Eggs and Cheese*

~or~

**English Muffins**

*with Sausage,  
 Eggs and Cheese*

**Breakfast Burritos**

&

**Assorted Muffins,  
 Pastries and Scones**



**ROBERTS HARDWARE**

3044 Woodside Road • 851-1084  
 Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7:30-6:00, Sat. 8:00-6:00, Sun. 9:00-5:00

**SIMPLY THE BEST LOPPERS IN THE WORLD**



**\$49.99**  
 Reg. \$89.99

20 inch Lopper  
 with interchangeable  
 aluminum handles



**\$69.99**  
 Reg. \$109.99

24 inch Lopper  
 with interchangeable  
 carbon fiber handles



### Good job, now get back to work

During a presentation to honor police dispatchers at the April 14 Menlo Park City Council meeting, attendees got an object demonstration of just how urgent dispatch work can be.

As you may recall, April 14 was the windy day when trees fell onto power lines, causing power to flicker out across the grid. City officials moved the presentation to the beginning of the meeting so the dispatchers could field calls about power outages, with phones ringing off the hook back at the station.

“We’re going to try to hastily go through this so we can get the dispatchers back to work,” Police Chief Goitia said. When he finished, several dispatchers in the audience stood and quickly filed out of the council chambers to return to the police station, where they were sure to be greeted by ringing phones.

### Sunday is Kite Day at Bedwell Bayfront Park

Before kite-flying festivities at Bedwell Bayfront Park on Sunday, April 26, a ceremony will be held to honor former city manager Mike Bedwell, for whom the park was recently renamed.

The ceremony will begin at noon. It will precede Kite Day, a popular city-sponsored event.

The city named the park after Mr. Bedwell shortly after his death in March 2008. Mr. Bedwell, the city manager from 1964 to 1991, was the driving force behind the creation of the park, built atop a capped landfill near the intersection of Marsh Road and Bayfront Expressway.

Mr. Bedwell’s family will be on hand for the ceremony. Storyboards detailing the park’s transformation from a landfill into a popular spot for walking, kite-flying and bird-watching will be installed this summer, according to city staff.

Kite Day will last until 3 p.m. You can buy a kite, hot dog and soda for \$5.

## Council not likely to revisit bridge decision

By Sean Howell  
Almanac Staff Writer

### ■ MENLO PARK

In the wake of an outcry from residents over plans to rebuild a bicycle/pedestrian bridge, Menlo Park council members say they don’t plan to revisit the issue of whether or not the bridge should be rebuilt.

Residents on both sides of the freeway — and on both sides of the issue — turned out en masse to the City Council’s Tuesday, April 14 meeting, to make their case. Residents of the Flood Triangle neighborhood asked the council to reconsider a December 2007 recommendation to Caltrans that the bridge be rebuilt, while bridge users and residents of the Belle Haven neighborhood lobbied the council to continue to support plans for

a new bridge. Caltrans expects to replace the bridge, which has been in place for over 50 years, after it tears it down to allow for additional freeway lanes.

Residents of the Flood Triangle neighborhood, who have previously said that the bridge provides would-be criminals easy access to and from their community, focused on concerns over the bridge’s potential design at the meeting, and over what they see as the city’s failure to inform them of rebuilding plans. The ramps leading to the bridge will need to be lengthened in order to comply with the American with Disabilities Act, a fact that they say will have deleterious effects on property values.

But cyclists, joggers, Menlo-Atherton stu-

dents and others who use the bridge say it’s a key artery through the city, arguing that it’s dangerous to cross the freeway at nearby Marsh and Willow roads. Failing to rebuild it would further isolate the Belle Haven community from the west side of the city, residents say.

Council members heard nearly an hour of comments. They said they might want to discuss Caltrans’ design plans at a future meeting, and that the city should provide an accounting of the notice it gave for two recent meetings on the bridge’s design.

But they are not suggesting the city should reconsider its stance on whether the bridge should be rebuilt, they said.

Residents on both sides of the issue presented the council with petitions, each with more than 250 signatures. ■

## Councilman blasts report by grand jury

By Andrea Gemmet  
Almanac Staff Writer

There’s been no official response from Atherton to the April 6 San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury report advising the town to butt out of a dispute between high school neighbors and a local youth football league. That didn’t stop Councilman Jim Dobbie from airing his opinion of the report.

“I am disgusted with the grand jury report,” Mr. Dobbie said at the end of the April 15 meeting, during the agenda item for council member reports. “The (report) is biased in every possible way.”

In 2006, the Atherton City Council passed a broad ordinance regulating events within the town, from weddings and

See **JURY**, page 8



Photo by Joanne Kurz, Woodside building inspector

### Drive-in banking

Woodside’s Wells Fargo bank was not built with a drive-up window, but the driver of a black Mercedes Benz on Tuesday, April 14, rather ungracefully created a crude semblance of one when she lost control of her vehicle and drove it up over a curb and through the front wall of the bank. There were no reported injuries.

## City to rely on video for detailed record of meetings

By Sean Howell  
Almanac Staff Writer

After trying out an abbreviated form of meeting minutes for several months, Menlo Park will now use the shorter style permanently — though some people fear that the switch will make it more difficult for residents, journalists, and city commissioners to research City Council decisions and the history of city policies.

The council approved the briefer

style of minutes at its meeting Tuesday, April 14, in a 4-1 vote, with Councilman Andy Cohen opposed.

Council members have said that the video record of meetings is more precise than the previously used “summary” minutes, which are far more detailed than the abbreviated “action” minutes the city will now use. The council members maintain that new methods of indexing will make videos easier to access than they

have been in the past.

The city would still prepare more detailed minutes for issues involving an appeal, and at the request of at least two council members for any item.

The briefer style of minutes simply reports the outcome of council votes. It does not summarize discussion on the dais, as did the form of minutes previously kept by the city. “Action” minutes also list announcements and topics addressed by public speakers in

brief, Twitter-like bursts.

### Who uses minutes?

The question of whether more detailed minutes are an important record may hinge on whom and what they’re intended for.

“Action” minutes are sufficient for the legislative record, according to City Clerk Margaret Roberts. And while council members acknowledge that the

See **MINUTES**, page 8

## League gives pros, cons on ballot measures

The pros and cons of six state-wide measures on the May 19 ballot will be discussed at a League of Women Voters program in Portola Valley on Wednesday, April 22.

The public is invited to the free program, which starts at 7 p.m. in Hanson Hall at The Sequoias retirement community at 501 Portola Road.

As a result of recent budget compromises worked out in Sacramento to deal with a \$42 billion budget shortfall,

California voters are facing decisions on the six finance-related proposals by the state Legislature.

The outcome of the May 19 election could mean several significant changes, including to the funding formula for K-12 public schools, the use of state lottery profits, the size of the "rainy day" reserve meant to cushion state finances during eco-



nomie hard times, and whether, during such hard times,

legislators and statewide elected officers can have their pay raised.

For more information, go to the state Web site, [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov), and click on the links under the "My Vote" logo. Information is also available on the League of Women Voters' site, [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org).

**Livingscapes**  
**Masonry**  
**Woodwork**  
**Lighting**  
**Water Conservation**

**metrofolia**  
 LANDSCAPING, INC.  
 DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION  
 650.726.1950  
[www.metrofolia.com](http://www.metrofolia.com)  
*Livingscapes for any budget.*  
 LICENSE #520106

**Judy's**  
**Pet Care**  
 Services

- Vacation Care
- Pet Transportation:
- Vet Appointments
- Groomer
- Plant Care
- House Sitting

**Judy Gossard • 650-868-2378 • e-mail: JaGoss8288@aol.com**

## County board opposes state grab of preschool funding

Don't hit up the state's preschoolers in order to shore up California's budget, says the San Mateo County Board of Education. Board members voted to endorse two of the propositions on the ballot of the special May 19 election, but voted to oppose Proposition 1D.

Proposition 1D would divert money from early childhood initiatives funded by tobacco taxes, such as the county's Preschool

for All program, according to board of education members. At the April 15 meeting, the board voted unanimously to oppose Proposition 1D.

Board members voted to support Proposition 1A, which would impose a spending cap and extend the length of taxes approved by the state Legislature, and Proposition 1B, which would change state law to allow for supplemental education pay-

ments to local school districts.

Investing in preschool education saves money in the long run, because children who have attended a quality preschool program do better in school, are more likely to attend college and are less likely to enter the juvenile justice system than their peers who have not attended preschool, according to board Vice President Susan Alvaro.

**KITE DAY**

**\$5 for a Kite, Hot Dog, & Soda**

CITY OF MENLO PARK  
 Kite Day

**Sunday, April 26, 2009**  
**Bedwell-Bayfront Park**  
 (End of Marsh Road at 101)  
**12 noon - 3 P.M.**

For more information, please call 650.330.2200 or visit [www.menlopark.org](http://www.menlopark.org).

*"We create Community through People, Parks & Programs."*

**THE VILLAGE DOCTOR**  
 Wellness Studio

<b>Pilates</b>	<b>Acupuncture</b>
<b>Yoga</b>	<b>Massage Therapy</b>
<b>Body Contour</b>	<b>Nutrition Counseling</b>
<b>Class or Private</b>	<b>Physical Therapy</b>

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
 2920 Woodside Rd. Woodside, CA 94062  
[www.villagedoctor.com/wellnessstudio](http://www.villagedoctor.com/wellnessstudio)

# Rare achievement for PE teacher

Corte Madera's Kate Cox earns national board certification

By Marjorie Mader

Special to The Almanac

Kate Cox, a physical education teacher at Portola Valley's Corte Madera School for the past six years, says she's "so lucky to get up mornings and teach at Corte Madera."

Parents feel lucky, too. "Kate brings a wonderful level of energy, support and commitment to class each day," says parent Sandy Lee:

Ms. Cox impresses upon students that they don't have to be star athletes to stay in shape; they just need to find an activity they enjoy.

So, she encourages students in grades 4-8 to try a variety of activities, from capture the flag and step aerobics to dancing.

Recently, her teaching skills were affirmed when she attained certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. She is one of only nine PE teachers in California to achieve this certification since the program started 21 years ago.

Certification is intended to "recognize and reward great teachers — and make them better," says Joseph Aguerreber, president of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

In one year, she completed the rigorous assessment process that typically takes up to three years. It's the equivalent of earning a master's degree, she says.

Ms. Cox developed four portfolios for the certification, including videos of her teaching and managing a classroom. The final requirement: Passing a written test that assessed her knowledge, ranging from principles of fitness and biomechanics to working with students with disabilities, and integrating technology in the curriculum.

In gaining certification, she relied on support from the California Physical Education-Health Project. As part of the first cadre of candidates sponsored by the project, Ms. Cox attended three weekend-long support sessions in Ontario, California. She found the program so helpful that she signed up to be a support provider for the 2009 National Board candidates in PE and health.

The credentialing experience, she says, caused her to shift her philosophy "from what I'm



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Kate Cox leads fifth-graders in a warm-up exercise in the school gym.

teaching to how the students are learning."

She also plays a "pivotal role" in Corte Madera's character education program, says Anne Campbell, superintendent of the Portola Valley School District. She offers "inspiration and commitment to making sure students embody the core values of respect, responsibility and service," Ms. Campbell says.

### Life-long learning

Ms. Cox says she sees each student as an individual with

teaching position after graduating from UC Davis, where she played small forward on the women's varsity basketball team and majored in exercise science, a route to pre-med and physical science opportunities.

Growing up in Concord, she "always loved sports," she says, and played sports year-round.

A turning point for her was one summer when she had an internship with a physical therapy group and also taught swimming to kids in the East Bay. She discovered she loved teaching swimming but not physical therapy.

She decided to get a teaching credential at Sacramento State after graduating from Davis and before coming to Corte Madera.

At Corte Madera, she integrated dance into the comprehensive PE program, developed by Dan Flahavan, who was recruited 15 years ago as Corte Madera's PE teacher.

Both are co-athletic directors of the school's after-school sports program that offers tennis, soccer, and track and field in the spring; cross country, flag football and volleyball in the fall; and basketball in the winter.

About 80 percent of Corte Madera's 374 students participate in at least one after-school sport, said Mr. Flahavan.

Ms. Cox also has launched a leadership class at Corte Madera, involving seventh- and eighth-graders who will be leading a school-wide service project later this spring.

Last year, the leadership class spearheaded the school's "Spring Cleaning Drive" that collected more than two tons of used clothing and \$4,077 in "Cash for Change" to support Trust for Education projects in war-torn Afghanistan. ■

**Kate Cox impresses upon students that they don't have to be star athletes to stay in shape.**



Photo by Marjorie Mader

different skills, both social and physical. Designing lessons that engage each of the kids takes a lot of planning, much more than "take out the balls and play," she says.

Her goal is to teach skills and knowledge that enable students to be competent life-long learners who discover "learning is fun," she says.

Physical education at Corte Madera has changed dramatically during the past 15 years from the "rigid, unforgiving and competitive program" that was great for kids who were well-coordinated and athletic, but hard on those who were not, say parents of former students.

Ms. Cox, then Kate Hennessy, was hired in 2002 when the Portola Valley school board decided to hold PE classes for seventh- and eighth-graders every day instead of every other day.

Corte Madera was her first

## Weekly Pilates Mat Classes

at the beautiful Portola Valley Town Center

Taught by Mary Lachapelle, Certified Pilates Instructor

Pre-registration is required.

Call PV Town Center at: 851-1700 ex. 200 or go online @ [www.portolavalley.net](http://www.portolavalley.net)

Weekly Class schedule.

Starts 4/20	Monday	9:30 - 10:30 am
Starts 5/1	Friday	noon - 1:00 pm
Starts 5/6	Wednesday	9:30 - 10:30 am
		1:00 - 2:00 pm
		6:00 - 7:00 pm

Registration still open for all classes. All levels welcome.

## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Gloria Darke



### Terms or Location

Which Is More Important When Buying Real Estate?

Dear Gloria,

We are buying our first house. Can you tell us which is more important, location or good terms?C.P.

Dear C.P.,

Location has always been the key to selecting real estate. The higher the demand for a particular location, the higher the prices and the greater opportunity for maximum appreciation. Some of the factors that determine a location's value include: general appearance of existing properties, quality of school system, shopping convenience, access to employment, plus the caliber of community services and amenities.

For first-time buyers or for budget-

conscious investors, buying with favorable terms can be almost as important as the location. Low down payment options, favorable financing aided by seller financing, and flexible terms can make these properties very desirable. With a little fixing up, some less desirably located properties can turn into real winners.

Renters buying a starter property, with attractive terms, can provide an excellent start at building equity.

With both prices and interest rates down, it is an excellent time to begin building your estate, including "sweat equity" instead of paying your landlords mortgage

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

## IF IT'S NOT IN THIS VAULT, IT'S NOT SAFE.



### LOS ALTOS VAULT & SAFE DEPOSIT CO.

A private depository  
Safe deposit boxes of all sizes  
Strict and total confidentiality  
Secured and ample parking  
For your own sake we should have your business.  
Visit our facilities and judge for yourself.  
Data bank for important and confidential records.

**WE ARE #1!**  
**There Is No #2**  
**BELIEVE IT!**

### SAFE FROM STATE & FEDERAL INTRUSION

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR HACKERS TO PENETRATE OUR COMPUTER SYSTEM. REASON — WE HAVE NO COMPUTERS. WE DO BUSINESS THE OLD FASHIONED WAY.

121 First Street, Los Altos, CA 94022  
Tel: 650-949-5891 [www.losaltosvault.com](http://www.losaltosvault.com)

## PV holds public hearing on new noise ordinance

The public is invited to comment on proposed revisions to the Portola Valley noise ordinance when the Town Council holds a public hearing Wednesday, April 22. The council may vote on the changes that night.

Major proposed changes are:

- Using noise-level standards to measure offending sounds.

- Prohibiting residential construction on holidays, as well as the use of power garden tools such as leaf blowers, weed whackers and lawn mowers.

- No commercial use of such tools on Saturdays.

Construction and power-tool

gardening would be restricted to the hours of 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends.

The council's meeting starts at 7 p.m. in the Historic Schoolhouse at 765 Portola Road.

The meeting will begin with recognition of Stacie Nerdahl, the town's webmaster, for her work in remaking the town's Web site (PortolaValley.net).

Following that, the town's Emergency Preparedness Committee will give a presentation on the town's readiness for disasters such as earthquakes, wildfires and landslides, plus "major air crash, civil unrest and national security emergency (nuclear)," according to the committee's report.

### MINUTES

continued from page 5

videos could be better indexed, they say most residents don't want a blow-by-blow accounting of a council meeting. Those who do should watch the video, rather than rely on the city clerk's interpretation, they say.

But detailed minutes can be a critical source for people researching a council decision, according to Renee Batti, The Almanac's news editor.

Ms. Batti wrote an Almanac cover story that ran March 15, 2006 — titled "How public is the process?" — that investigated the amount of public discussion around a series of decisions made by the council majority of Mickie Winkler, Lee Duboc, and Nicholas Jellins. It would have been impossible to do the level of research the story required without the aid of detailed minutes, Ms. Batti said.

Journalists shouldn't use the more thorough form of minutes as a source, because it isn't precise, Councilman John Boyle said at the meeting.

But Ms. Batti argues that it's impractical to ask journalists and other researchers to wade through hours of video as they search for background information. And council members are able to make changes to minutes when they feel their comments haven't been adequately represented.

The decision might also impact another group: city commissioners. John Kadvan, a member of the city's Planning Commission, wrote in an e-mail that the commission refers to the minutes on

occasion when trying to understand direction given by the council.

"The minutes do seem a bit clumsy, are time-consuming to create, and often are never used," Mr. Kadvan wrote. "But I'm unsure they are dispensable, at least when they are a means of communication by Council and the most accessible historical record."

### Less transparent?

Does the city's reliance on video for the permanent record of council meetings mean a less transparent governmental process?

That's what Councilman Cohen and resident Morris Brown have argued, saying that the briefer form of minutes doesn't provide enough context, and that videos are more difficult to negotiate.

"I've heard noting but inadequate justifications for a system that will, I think, ultimately prove totally inadequate," Mr. Cohen said at the meeting, arguing that the video technology used by the city is unreliable. Ms. Roberts and council members admit that the indexing system isn't what it could be, but say they're confident the technology will improve.

Councilman Rich Cline said Mr. Cohen was trying to portray himself as a martyr for the cause of open government, and to paint other council members into a corner.

"Everybody shares the same concerns" about open government, he said, arguing that video technology isn't necessarily more difficult to access than a written record. "This is not an open government issue. It's a process issue." ■



**Wind toppled** trees atop three cars parked in a driveway in the 3000 block of Alameda de las Pulgas.

Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

## High winds down trees, power lines

By Andrea Gemmet

Almanac Staff Writer

Signs of the unusually blustery weather that knocked down trees and power lines on April 14 can still be seen around the Midpeninsula, as residents clean up the mess left by the strong gusts of wind.

By early evening on April 14, more than 25,000 Pacific Gas & Electric Co. customers in the Bay Area were without power, thanks to high winds that knocked out hundreds of wires. Power was restored to nearly everyone by 5 p.m. the next day, said PG&E spokesman Joe Molica.

In Atherton, the public works crew worked all night to clear

five large trees that blew over, said Duncan Jones, the town's public works director. The trees — one on Valparaiso Avenue, one on El Camino Real and three in the Lindenwood neighborhood — took more than an hour each to cut up and clear from the roadway, Mr. Jones said.

Along Skyline Boulevard, a number of trees blew down, taking power lines with them, said Battalion Chief Dan Ghiroso of the Woodside Fire Protection District. Only one fallen tree blocked a road; it was on undeveloped fire district-owned property in the Skywoods/Skylonda neighborhood, he said.

In Menlo Park, reports of

fallen tree limbs and dangling power lines started coming in around 4 p.m. and tapered off around 9 p.m., said police spokeswoman Nicole Acker. Several traffic signals went out, and at 4:45 p.m. the signal arms at the Caltrain tracks were reportedly malfunctioning, she said.

On Alameda de las Pulgas in West Menlo Park, large tree limbs crashed onto three cars parked in a driveway; no one was hurt in the incident.

Most of the power outages that plagued the Bay Area started at about 4 p.m. Tuesday, PG&E spokesman J.D. Guidi said.

Bay City News Service  
contributed to this report

### JURY

continued from page 5

fundraisers to youth sports practices, partly in response to Lindenwood neighborhood complaints about Pop Warner football practices and games held at Menlo-Atherton High School.

In trying to regulate private, non-school-related events on public school campuses, the town overreached, according to the grand jury.

Mayor Jerry Carlson has said that the neighbors and Pop Warner officials are close to reaching a compromise. He said he was disappointed in the grand jury for taking up the issue, and declined to comment further.

Mr. Dobbie said the report mischaracterizes an incident where a neighbor confronted a Pop Warner team about a late-running practice, an event that Mr. Dobbie himself witnessed. "There wasn't even a piece of truth to it," he said of the grand jury's account.

According to the report, a

Lindenwood resident who also serves on the town's Planning Commission came onto the field and "confronted coaches in an agitated manner."

Councilman Dobbie also said that Atherton is rife with rumors that a member of the City Council brought the issue to the grand jury in the first place. "If it's true, he or she should be ashamed of themselves," Mr. Dobbie said.

Councilman Charles Marsala, who has opposed the special events ordinance and spoken in favor of Pop Warner's right to use the field, said that he had nothing to do with the grand jury report.

After the meeting, Mr. Marsala told The Almanac that he was interviewed by the grand jury, but that he did not instigate the investigation.

"I've been an opponent of the special event guidelines, and whoever is starting the rumor stands to gain by keeping the ordinance in place," he said.

Councilwoman Kathy McKeeithen said she agreed with

Mr. Dobbie's assessment of the report.

"What the grand jury did was participate in a legal issue and I don't think that's within its jurisdictional purview," she said at the meeting.

The town of Atherton shouldn't impose restrictions on school groups using facilities at Menlo-Atherton High School, the report said. Difficulties and differences should be settled directly between the impacted parties whenever possible, said the report.

The grand jury also admonished Atherton for having a planning commission that "does not appear to be broadly representative of the town."

The report advises the Sequoia Union High School District to exempt itself from the town's zoning ordinance, an option available to public school districts, if Atherton continues to include public school facilities in its regulations governing special events. ■

## Cleora Flegel dies Friday at age 90

Cleora (Reuscher) Flegel, who with her husband Arthur Flegel opened Flegels furniture store in downtown Menlo Park some 55 years ago, died Friday night, April 17, at her home in Menlo Park, surrounded by her family. She was 90.

A celebration of her life is set for 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 29, at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, 950 Santa Cruz Ave. in Menlo Park, with Pastor Frank VanderZwan officiating.

Cleora was born in Ramona, Kansas, on June 5, 1918, to Emanuel and Mary (Schnell) Reuscher. In 1920, the family moved to Lodi, California, where she graduated from Lodi High School in 1936.

She met Arthur and they were married in Lodi on April 27, 1940. On April 27, they would have celebrated their 69th anniversary.

Settling in Menlo Park in March 1954 for the purpose of opening

Flegels Home Furnishings, now under control of their son, Mark, they have been members of the Menlo Park Presbyterian Church for 55 years.

They purchased their current home in Menlo Park in 1965 and lived there 44 years.

Cleora, more commonly known as Cleo, was blessed with a warm and winsome personality and easily made many friends in the MPPC Presbyterian Women's organization, along with a small group, which she especially enjoyed called "The Birthday Girls," family members said.

Among her talents, Cleo's primary hobby, still-life oil painting, was a gift that will long keep her in the memory of her



Cleora Flegel

appreciative family, they said.

With Arthur, she enjoyed membership in the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia. As a result of several research trips to Germany and Russia, she was able to trace her ancestry back many generations to its places of origin.

Beginning in the 1960s, Cleo and Arthur enjoyed numerous educational experiences in trips all over the U.S. and Canada, Western and Eastern Europe, Siberia, Asia Minor, the Holy Land, North Africa, Japan, South America, New Zealand, Australia and the South Pacific.

She is survived by her husband, Arthur; three sons: Robert, Mark and John; nine grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; three sisters; and one brother.

In addition to the flagship Menlo Park store, there are Flegels stores in San Rafael and San Ramon.

## Pedestrian injuries 'minor' in downtown accident

A 35-year-old Menlo Park woman in a crosswalk near the corner of Santa Cruz Avenue and Curtis Street was taken to Stanford Hospital on Saturday, April 18, for abrasions and a "complaint of pain" after being struck by a 2009 silver Kia Spec-

tra heading east on Santa Cruz at about 4:40 p.m., police said.

A preliminary report does not mention injuries to the driver, a 66-year-old woman from Ames, Iowa, said Menlo Park Police Department spokeswoman Nicole Acker. A sergeant involved with the

case described the pedestrian's injuries as "minor," Ms. Acker said.

Police are not releasing any names, in keeping with department policy for accidents in which there are, as yet, no criminal charges, Ms. Acker said. Charges do not appear likely, she added.

## How should city spend redevelopment funds?

By Sean Howell

Almanac Staff Writer

### ■ MENLO WATCH

In a series of community meetings over the next few weeks, residents, property owners and business owners in Menlo Park's redevelopment district will have a chance to weigh in on how the city should spend redevelopment funds in the area.

The district encompasses the Belle Haven neighborhood east of U.S. 101, as well as part of the city's "light industrial" zone. Redevelopment funds come from a portion of the property tax paid within the redevelopment district that is set aside under state law to improve blighted areas.

Since Menlo Park began receiving funding through the program in 1981, over \$31 million has been spent on housing, infrastructure, community facilities, and other projects, according to city staff.

The city is soliciting input as part of its redevelopment implementation plan, updated every five years. For more information, call Business Development Specialist Alex Andrade at 330-6615, or e-mail him at [AAndrade@menlopark.org](mailto:AAndrade@menlopark.org).

Meetings are as follows:

■ **Business/commercial property owners:** Wednesday, April 29, 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at PGP Corporation, 200 Jefferson Drive.

■ **Belle Haven residents** (English session): Wednesday, April 29, 7

p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Menlo Park Senior Center, 100 Terminal Ave.

■ **Belle Haven residents** (Spanish session): Wednesday, May 6, 6:30 p.m. at Belle Haven School, 415 Ivy Drive.

■ **Review of draft plan:** Wednesday, May 13, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Menlo Park Senior Center, 100 Terminal Ave.

### Residents begin downtown planning effort

About 80 Menlo Park residents turned out for the first of three consultant-led workshops on planning in the city's downtown area, and along El Camino Real.

Residents shuttled between four stations where they discussed issues relating to character, vibrancy, traffic, and open space. Among other issues, they provided feedback on what kinds of activities the downtown area should accommodate, on whether they would support taller buildings and parking structures if it meant more open space, and on whether they would accept increased traffic in exchange for wider sidewalks.

They debated the need for more housing units downtown and pushed for more outdoor dining areas, and for better connectivity across the Caltrain right-of-

way and El Camino Real. One resident called for a human-scale chessboard downtown; another said he'd like to see a brewpub.

Through the process, the city hopes to hammer out a parcel-by-parcel zoning plan. It follows on a "visioning" effort, during which residents formed general guidelines for downtown development.

At the final two meetings, scheduled for June 18 and Sept. 17, residents will discuss the trade-offs inherent in a variety of issues, and set a course of action. The city expects to finalize the plan in the fall of 2010.

For more information, call Associate Planner Thomas Rogers at 330-6722, or visit [www.menlopark.org/specificplan](http://www.menlopark.org/specificplan). ■

### ■ CORRECTION

In a story in the April 15 issue of The Almanac about a proposed development for 1300 El Camino Real, Henry Riggs of the Menlo Park planning commission was cited as saying that users of the office and retail facilities could share parking spaces at the site, justifying the developer's request to create fewer spaces than the city requires. In fact, Mr. Riggs had said that it would be easier to justify creating fewer spaces if the project included housing, because residents and office users could share spots.

*Dragonflies & Co.*  
Purveyors of Fine Italian Lighting  
Wall Scones | Table & Floor Lamps  
Ceiling Mounts | Chandeliers | Pendants

**Moving Sale!**  
Open to the public  
April 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>  
10 a.m. Sharp!!  
Up to 50% off!

Visit our website to view all our collections.  
Over 100 handcrafted items to choose from.

(650) 464-5051  
1669 Industrial Rd., San Carlos, Ca. [WWW.DragonfliesCo.com](http://WWW.DragonfliesCo.com)

**25% off**  
ALL CUSTOM WORK

Shutters  
Draperies  
Blinds  
Bedding  
Small Upholstery

660 El Camino Real  
San Carlos  
591-7131  
[www.customcreationsbayarea.com](http://www.customcreationsbayarea.com)

**CUSTOM CREATIONS**  
Serving the Bay Area since 1972

**Create A New Smile!**

- Comprehensive Dental Care
- Restorations
- TMJ
- Implants
- Veneers
- Emergency Services Available

Dr. Richard S. Durando, DDS is available for all your family's cosmetic and dental needs.  
Contact us today for a consultation.

**650.323.8328**

**Dr. Richard S. Durando, DDS**  
625 Menlo Avenue • Menlo Park  
[www.menloparkdentalcare.com](http://www.menloparkdentalcare.com)

Yes seniors *can* live at home, with the best trained caregivers in North America.



HomeCare Assistance  
1-866-4-LiveIn™

Call toll-free: 1-866-462-2899  
www.HomeCareAssistance.com

## Speed limit lowered after death of cyclist

The death of a Menlo Park schoolteacher has prompted a lower speed limit on westbound Woodside Road at the intersection with Interstate 280. Woodside bicyclists say the lower speed limit, from 40 to 35 miles per hour, will make the area safer for cyclists.

In July 2007, the Woodside

Town Council voted to request Caltrans to decrease the speed limit following the October 2005 death of Michelle Mazzei, an Oak Knoll School teacher who was struck by a car while riding her bike on Woodside Road.

After 21 months of lobbying by Woodside officials, Caltrans workers installed new

speed limit signs on April 8, according to Bob Page of the Woodside Bicycle Committee.

Bicyclists heading westbound on Woodside Road must cross the path of motorists merging onto the on-ramp for northbound I-280, creating a hazardous condition, according to Mr. Page.

## Judge rejects defense argument in pornography case

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

The judge in the case of former newspaper editor Brian Bothun, who is facing charges of felony possession of child pornography, has rejected defense attorneys' arguments that the prosecution could not prove the people in the photos were children, according to a deputy district attorney.

Mr. Bothun, 47 and an Atherton resident, was a reporter for the Daily Post and editor of the Palo Alto Daily News. He was in San Mateo County Superior Court in Redwood City on April 15 at a preliminary hearing in connection with a March 2008 arrest.

The arrest occurred when his partner called Atherton police to report domestic violence, then, while angry, told police about pornographic material on Mr. Bothun's computer, Chief Deputy District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe said in a report.

Mr. Bothun was also charged at the time with possession of a glass pipe, which is considered drug paraphernalia. He has been out of jail on \$100,000 bail, but

### ■ CORRECTION

In the April 15 issue, The Almanac incorrectly reported that Brian Bothun was arrested in Palo Alto. In fact, he was arrested in Santa Clara.

has been arrested twice since on drug-related charges: once in July 2008 in Menlo Park, and again on April 5, in Santa Clara.

At the April 15 hearing, Superior Court Judge Stephen Hall heard testimony from three witnesses for the prosecution, Mr. Wagstaffe said. Testifying were Atherton police Sgt. Kristen Nichols, the investigating officer in the case; Atherton police Detective Sherman Hall, a computer expert; and Diana Emerson, a child abuse expert.

The computer expert was there to show the judge how prosecutors came into possession of the photos, of which there were 50, Mr. Wagstaffe said in an interview.

Mr. Bothun is protected by the Fourth Amendment, which outlaws unreasonable search and seizure. Although police were called on a domestic violence matter,

they took his computer because Mr. Bothun's partner had been angry when making the allegation about the pornographic images, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

"It shows motivation," he added. "The police department has a right to rely on that."

After hearing arguments from both sides on determining the age of someone in a pornographic picture, Judge Hall called a recess to read appellate court cases, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

The defense had argued that proof of age requires someone who knows the person pictured, Mr. Wagstaffe said. After studying the matter, the judge concluded that "it is permissible for the court to form an opinion simply by looking at the photos," Mr. Wagstaffe said.

Mr. Bothun's defense attorneys are Thomas Nolan and Daniel Barton of the Palo Alto firm Nolan, Armstrong & Barton. The defense did not return Almanac calls and e-mail requesting comment.

Mr. Bothun's next scheduled court appearance is an arraignment at 8:30 a.m. Friday, May 1, in Redwood City. ■

Attention Peninsula women golfers!

Finally, a store just for you!

From Tee to Green Inc.

After serving the Monterey Peninsula for five years, we are now open in Town & Country Village

Specializing in Women's

Apparel  
Shoes  
Equipment  
Accessories

#102 Town & Country Village  
(Located between La Belle Salon and Douce France)

El Camino Real at Embarcadero Road in Palo Alto

650-323-7500  
www.fteetogreen.com

## Earthquake drill ahead in Portola Valley, Woodside

As demonstrated once again, this time in central Italy on April 6, earthquakes are unpredictable and very dangerous.

Here along the San Andreas fault, residents of Portola Valley, Woodside and the nearby unincorporated areas can participate in a two-hour neighborhood drill set to begin at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 1, in local neighborhoods. The drill's sponsor is the Citizens Emergency Response Preparedness Program, or CERPP.

The evening will include disaster scenarios, with signs meant to simulate damage and injuries along

the streets. There will be exercises in first-aid, the use of two-way radios, and communicating with town staff and the Woodside Fire Protection District, according to a CERPP bulletin.

"Managing the exercise at night will be fun, assuming nothing untoward happens, and adds a level of complexity to the drill," CERPP member Jeanne Schapp said in an e-mail.

Estimates from the U.S. Geological Survey's Web site show a 62 percent chance of a strong quake in the Bay Area over the next 30 years, one that would kill

a minimum of 5,800 people if it struck during working hours, according to a damage-estimate model from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The FEMA model shows such a quake leaving at least 16,000 Bay Area homes uninhabitable. The Association of Bay Area Governments raises that to 150,000 homes in a repeat of the magnitude 7.9 quake in 1906.

For more information on CERPP and this drill, go to www.cerpp.org or send an e-mail to Bill Tagg at billtagg@sbcglobal.net.

THE ALMANAC ONLINE DELIVERS

24/7.

CHECK COMMUNITY CALENDAR FOR SPECIAL EVENTS and much more @  
TheAlmanacOnline.com

## Doctor sentenced for Internet prescription

■ His patient was Menlo Park resident and Stanford student John McKay, who committed suicide.

A Colorado doctor accused of illegally prescribing anti-depressants to a Menlo Park resident who later committed suicide was sentenced Friday in San Mateo County Superior Court to nine months in county jail for practicing medicine without a California medical license.

Christian Hageseth, 68, prescribed the medication to 19-year-old Stanford student John McKay over the Internet in June 2005. Mr. McKay committed suicide two months later in his Menlo Park home.

San Mateo County Chief Deputy District Attorney Steve

Wagstaffe said the district attorney's office was pleased with the outcome. "From the beginning we knew we were embarking on uncharted waters and we've been successful at having convicted him and giving him a lengthy sentence," he said.

Mr. Wagstaffe said Mr. Hageseth, who was additionally sentenced to three years' probation, is allowed to serve his nine-month jail term in Colorado if the probation department there agrees to the proposition.

Mr. Hageseth pleaded no contest to the felony charge in February. At the plea entry, his attorney Carleton Briggs said

that it was initially argued that the anti-depressants, which he described as fluoxetine hydrochloride, or a generic form of Prozac, caused Mr. McKay to commit suicide. He said, however, that is not the case and that the drugs were not found to be related to the suicide.

Mr. Briggs said his client had recent heart surgery and pleaded no contest for health reasons, in order to resolve the litigation.

At the core of the case was the question of whether Mr. Hageseth broke the law by prescribing drugs to a patient in California, a state where he was not licensed to practice medicine. He did have a license in Colorado but surrendered it in 2005 after Mr. McKay's death, Mr. Briggs said.

Mr. Briggs said the case explored uncharted territory in terms of the regulation of online prescriptions to out-of-state patients.

Mr. Wagstaffe said the outcome was satisfactory for the McKay family. "The father is very pleased with the outcome and feels that justice has been served," he said.

— Bay City News Service

## Embezzler avoids prison through good-faith effort to repay

By Dave Boyce

Almanac staff writer

Henry Wardell Gray III, a former Menlo Park employee of Acclarent Corp. who pleaded "no contest" in December to embezzlement, was sentenced April 12 to significant fines and restrictions and a year in county jail, though he may have weekdays free, according to his defense attorney.

He avoided a term in state prison because of his good-faith effort to repay, his attorney said.

Mr. Gray, who was authorized to buy cell phones for Acclarent employees, exploited that authority between March 2007 and May 2008 by buying phones with Acclarent funds then selling them to the public, with phone-activation fees paid for by Acclarent, according to the San Mateo County Chief Deputy District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe.

Mr. Gray "admitted responsibility from the beginning" and has, since his May 2008 arrest, been saving money out of his salary to pay his fines, his defense attorney, Jeffrey Jackson, told The Almanac in an interview. Indeed, Mr. Gray saved \$25,000 to pay off his fine to Acclarent, Mr. Jackson said.

Superior Court Judge Clifford Cretan also sentenced Mr. Gray to pay \$85,595 to Sprint-Nextel Corp.; serve three years of probation at a cost of \$75 per month; pay \$240 in other fines; use the Internet only with probation department clearance; refrain from possessing a post office box, weapons and identifying information of any person other than himself; submit to search

and seizure as a consequence of losing his Fourth Amendment rights; submit a DNA sample; and undergo counseling, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

Deputy District Attorney Shin-Mee Chang prosecuted the case and wanted Mr. Gray to spend two years in prison, Mr. Jackson said. The District Attorney's office did not reply to an Almanac request for comment.

Mr. Gray's good faith in paying the Acclarent fine "is basically why he got the sentence that he got," Mr. Jackson said, adding that Mr. Gray may continue at his job if the Sheriff's Office accepts his application for the work-furlough program, as recommended by the judge. Work-furlough inmates spend their days at work and check back into jail in the evenings.

Acclarent is privately held and makes medical devices for ear, nose and throat patients, according to its Web site. Mr. Gray was fired after his manager noticed the company's excessive costs for cell phones and learned what was going on, Mr. Jackson said.

The DA's office estimated the losses from the theft at \$135,000, including \$96,000 in hardware costs, though Mr. Jackson said those figures were in dispute.

Mr. Gray, a resident of Union City, has a bachelor's degree in computer science and works at a Mountain View company as a technician, Mr. Jackson said.

"If he had just been sent to state prison or jail, he would not have had the opportunity to work" and pay his remaining fine, Mr. Jackson said. "Most people who commit this type of felony can't

See EMBEZZLE, page 14

Family is why  
**WE DO IT ALL.**



We all feel the same commitment to care for our families. As your good neighbor agent, I can help you meet your insurance needs. Call me today.

**John W. McAfee** CLU ChFC CPCU, Agent  
Insurance Lic. #: 0E37462  
884 Portola Rd, Ste B1  
Portola Valley, CA 94028  
Bus: 650-851-3276

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR



STATE FARM IS THERE.®

P02640

State Farm Insurance Companies • Home Offices: Bloomington, Illinois

11/04



It's not just a ring.  
It's our journey.

*Gleim*  
the Jeweler  
SINCE 1931

Love • Commitment • Achievement

PALO ALTO (650) 323-1331 • LOS ALTOS (650) 949-1122  
STANFORD SHOPPING CENTER (650) 325-3533  
GLEIMJEWELERS.COM

## HunterDouglas



**\$50-\$300 REBATE\***  
**PER WINDOW (10 MAX)**

DUETTE® HONEYCOMB SHADES  
(SELECT FABRICS AND STYLES)

**TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR ENERGY BILL.**

Distinguished by a crisp, clean style and available in single, double and triple honeycomb designs, Duette shades are highly energy efficient. Their innovative honeycomb construction insulates your windows and helps keep heat in during the winter months and out during the summer months. A soft, beautiful look combines with durability, light control and superior performance, while helping you save on heating and cooling costs. **OFFER VALID FEB. 1 – APR. 30**

\* Duette Honeycomb Shades rebate offers are not combinable. Manufacturer's rebate. Limits and restrictions apply. ©2009 Hunter Douglas Inc. ® and TM are trademarks of Hunter Douglas Inc.

HunterDouglas Gallery Custom Soft Treatments – Shutters - Shades - Blinds

*Peninsula*  
Window Fashions Gallery  
PeninsulaGallery.net



1047 El Camino Real, Menlo Park • 650-853-9000

Design • Sales • Installations • Repairs

# Stanford Hospital Health Notes

A community health education series from Stanford Hospital & Clinics

## Saving Your Skin—And Your Life

Fair-skinned, fair-haired Robert Mansell grew up in Australia, where sunshine is plentiful. He spent much of his youth outside, for as many hours as there was daylight. That's what kids like him did in the ranching and farming community where he was raised. There was work to be done.

Clad in shorts, boots, and a hat, but often shirtless, Mansell didn't ignore the idea of protecting his skin. He did coat his nose with a goopy white zinc-based sunblock. But even that heavy-duty barrier was no match for the 100-degree heat. And the moist sunblock would attract so much dust, Mansell's skin would quickly become a cakey mess.

Finally, in 1988, Mansell's work in information technology began to keep him more inside than out, so much so he didn't think much

about protecting his skin. Five years later, Mansell's wife, Wendy, a keen-eyed daughter of a nurse, spotted something on her husband's back that did not look right.

*"I was a textbook case."*

— Robert Mansell, treated for skin cancer at Stanford Hospital & Clinics

Mansell, who has lived in Half Moon Bay for the last several years, is now a regular patient at Stanford Hospital & Clinics Department of Dermatology. His doctor is Hayes Gladstone, MD, a specialist in one of the most effective treatments for basal cell carcinoma, the kind of skin cancer that has emerged many times on Mansell's body in the last 15 years.

### Preserving a delicate barrier

Think of the skin as delicate wrapping paper for the body and it is easy to see its vulnerability. At any given time, one out of every three people in the U.S. suffers from a skin disease. More than 3,000 varieties of skin disease have been identified, from common conditions like herpes simplex and contact dermatitis to the more uncommon, and very serious, melanoma and blistering diseases. Skin cancer is the second most diagnosed condition.

Stanford Hospital & Clinics dermatology department was an early



Robert Mansell, fair-skinned and fair-haired, grew up in a ranching community in Australia. Dermatology surgeons have now removed several cancers from his skin and Mansell maintains a close watch on his exposure to sunlight.

adopter of innovative treatments for skin cancers, including an approach called a Mohs micrographic procedure. Named after its creator, the Mohs is a tissue-saving surgery, very precisely removing just cancerous skin and tissue. Previously, surgeons did not have the microscopic support now available to accurately chart a skin cancer's depth and width. They had no choice but to take more skin and tissue. The scars could be quite disfiguring.

Gladstone, who has performed more than 20,000 Mohs procedures, also specializes in any reconstructive surgery needed afterwards to restore the skin in the affected area as naturally as possible.

What alarms dermatologists and dermatologic surgeons is the number of patients they see who come in with late-stage skin cancer—especially men, and especially on their backs.

### Vigilance rewarded

Wendy Mansell was particularly aware of skin cancer's appearance. She'd been the one to notice a suspicious mole, later diagnosed as cancer, on her 18-year-old brother's back. She also grew up in Australia, and, like her husband, wishes that Americans would take skin

cancer a bit more seriously. The Australian government takes it so seriously that it passed legislation several years ago requiring schoolchildren without hats to stay inside at recess.

*"You just need to be aware, and you need to go to a doctor who knows the difference."*

— Wendy Mansell, Robert Mansell's wife

Gladstone knows that Americans are more aware that sun can cause skin cancer, but he would be happier if people insisted their doctors start doing skin checks from an early age. "Sun damage starts at an early age," he said. He recently treated a young woman who grew up in Southern California and now, at 21, has had her first skin cancer removed.

Catching skin cancer early, and preventing its recurrence, is an important part of the clinical care at Stanford. Within the department are special clinics and services focused on different types of skin cancer, unusual skin diseases and scar reduction. The department is also a partner in a national awareness campaign focused on the most lethal type of skin cancer, melanoma. The message repeated by these dermatologists is simple. Most skin cancers

## What you need to know about sunscreens

- **Use an SPF of at least 30**, but be aware that number only reflects how well UVB rays are screened. There is no effective way to measure a sunscreen's protection against UVA rays, equally as dangerous as UVB.
- **Look for sunblocks with titanium dioxide or zinc oxide.** These substances act as actual barriers against the sun. Two ingredients are musts for a sunscreen to be effective against UVA rays: aveobenzene (also known as parsol 1789) and, to keep it from breaking down in the sun, Mexoryl.

## How to protect your skin

- **Apply sunscreen or sunblock 30 minutes before going out.** Use enough: two tablespoons, a palm-full, for full body coverage. Reapply at least every two hours. If your scalp is not fully covered by hair, try a spray-on sunscreen.
- **Wear a hat that covers your ears and the back of your neck.**
- **What else you wear counts, too.** Cover as much of your skin as you can. A tightly-woven fabric can protect skin better than inadequately-applied sunscreen. For extra protection, look for clothing rated for its UVA-protection.
- **Avoid the 10am-3pm sun, unless fully protected.** Seek shade when available.

### Free lecture

Hayes Gladstone, MD, and Susan Swetter, MD, will give a free talk about skin cancer, skin protection and skin rejuvenation at 6:30 pm, May 13, at the Frances C. Arrillaga Alumni Center, 326 Galvez St., near Campus Drive on the Stanford University campus. For more information, phone 650.725.0455.

### Free screening

Stanford Hospital & Clinics hosts its annual free skin check clinic from 9 am to noon, May 16 at the new Stanford Medicine Outpatient Center, 450 Broadway, Redwood City. For more information call 650.723.6316.

are treatable with great success, if removed before they grow large or spread to other parts of the body. And doctors know that if one skin carcinoma has appeared, there's a 50 percent chance of another emerging.

The Mansells have been quite vigilant about protecting their children's skin from the time they were babies. Adam, 9, and Tegan, 5, are both very fair, like their parents. "They are both very good about hats and covering," Wendy said. Once or twice, they've gone outside without protection on the kind of foggy day that's part of life on the coast. "They got a little bit of a sunburn and they didn't like it."

She goes one step farther and sends them for annual checks to a pediatric dermatologist. "You just need to be aware, and you need to go to a doctor who knows the difference," she said.

*"We're at a new frontier in skin medicine."*

— Hayes Gladstone, MD, Director, Division of Dermatologic Surgery, Stanford Hospital & Clinics

One of the first things Stanford physicians did to check for cancers on Mansell was take a very close look at his face, after chemical peel. "I was a textbook case," he said. "They could see very small but very numerous skin cancers."

### New ways to see

Gladstone is looking forward to the arrival at Stanford of a brand-new diagnostic tool, a confocal microscope. It uses a probe to send light through the skin. Cancer cells respond to that light differently and make it possible to map a cancer without an invasive biopsy. Other non-invasive treatments in development at Stanford include the use of non-toxic substances that would chemically deter skin cancer growth.

And, Stanford bioengineers are working with Stanford physicians to create computer software that could build a 3-D image of a skin cancer, again without the pain of surgery. "In an ideal world there will be no more cutting to treat skin cancer," Gladstone said. "We might have to inject something or use a topical treatment, but we're at a new frontier in skin medicine. We are definitely getting there."

Robert Mansell still goes to the beach, bikes with his kids and enjoys outdoor life, but he does so with scrupulous care of his skin. Whenever the opportunity arises, he also does his best to be an advocate of skin protection and skin



A technician prepares a five micron-thin frozen sample for Gladstone's microscopic examination.



Hayes Gladstone, MD, determining the type of skin cancer he's seeing.

checks. He's not always effective. "If they're not doing it, with all the media coverage and the information that's out there, they won't listen to me. I just back off and shake my head."

Wendy Mansell is eager to share what she has learned about sunscreens "They have a shelf-life, although the date isn't stamped on the tube," she said. "So I throw out the unused tubes every season and buy new. For what you're playing with, and the odds of getting it, it's not worth taking the risk."

Gladstone talks about sunscreen to patients who tell him, "I never go out in the sun." His response? "We live in California, so it's impossible not to."



Robert Mansell and his wife, Wendy, and their children: Adam, 9, and Tegan, 5. The Mansells protect their kids' skin with sunblock—and with clothing.



Hats are a must when the family goes outside, although a windy day can be a challenge for keeping them on.

Stanford Hospital & Clinics is known worldwide for advanced treatment of complex disorders in areas such as cardiovascular care, cancer treatment, neurosciences, surgery, and organ transplants. Consistently ranked among the top institutions in the U.S. News & World Report annual list of "America's Best Hospitals," Stanford Hospital & Clinics is internationally recognized for translating medical breakthroughs into the care of patients. It is part of the Stanford University Medical Center, along with the Stanford University School of Medicine and Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. For more information, visit <http://stanfordmedicine.org>.



Stanford University Medical Center

Join us for the 21st annual  
**Filoli Flower Show**  
 May 7 - May 10, 2009

**A Kaleidoscope of Flowers**  
 Teas, Brunches and More!

**Opening Night Reception**  
 May 7, 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm  
 Advance purchase required.

**Flower Show**  
**General Admission**  
 Friday, May 8 - Sunday, May 10  
 10:00 am - 3:30 pm  
 Advance purchase recommended.

For details visit [www.filoli.org](http://www.filoli.org)  
 or call 650 364-8300, ext. 508.

NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**FILOLI**

86 Cañada Road, Woodside, CA 94062 [www.filoli.org](http://www.filoli.org)

*TICKETS ON SALE NOW!*

*So Close, Yet So Far Away...*

**Parkside Grille**

**FAMILY NIGHT MENU**

**1st COURSE**  
 Cup of Soup  
 - or -  
 Organic Greens or Caesar Salad

**2nd COURSE**  
 Asian Marinated Natural Skirt Steak  
 Basmati Rice, Grilled Broccoli  
 - or -  
 Chardonnay Poached Salmon  
 Citrus Buerre Blanc, Garlic Whipped Potatoes, Spring Asparagus  
 - or -  
 Oven Roasted 1/2 Organic Chicken  
 Smoked Gouda & Bacon Mash Potatoes,

Wild Mushroom Cream Sauce,  
 Blue Lake String Beans  
 - or -  
 Penne Ala Forno  
 Wood Oven Baked with  
 Chunky Meat Tomato Sauce and Melted Mozzarella

**3rd COURSE**  
 Vanilla or Chocolate Gelato With Housemade Biscotti

Pre Fix  
**\$35 Per Person**

Open 7 Days a Week 884 Portola Road, Portola Valley  
**650.529.9007**  
[www.parksidegrille.com](http://www.parksidegrille.com)

## Volunteers out in force on April 25

Dozens of homes and community facilities in San Mateo and northern Santa Clara counties will be spiffed up or renovated by teams of nearly 3,000 volunteers on Saturday, April 25, as part of the annual Rebuilding Together Peninsula goodwill project.

Rebuilding Together Peninsula (RTP), formerly called Christmas in April, will send out volunteers to work on 49 homes and 21 community facilities from Pacifica to Sunnyvale, with a number of projects scheduled for the Midpeninsula.

Nonprofit organizations, churches, local businesses and major corporations will participate by providing both labor and supplies for the projects.

RTP-organized efforts have benefited more than 1,200 homes and facilities, mostly housing and serving low-income and disabled people, over the last 20 years. The services are provided at no charge to the beneficiaries.

"RTP helps people to stay in their homes and revitalizes distressed neighborhoods," Seana O'Shaughnessey, the organization's executive director, said in a press release. "With the core of the current economic crisis stemming from a struggling housing sector, helping people remain in their homes not only helps the individual, but restores the community as well."

### EMBEZZLE

continued from page 11

pay it all back ever."

Mr. Gray can delay his entry into jail until June 13, 2009, and will receive credit for four days already served, Mr. Wagstaffe said. He had been out of jail on \$25,000 bail. ■

**The LARGEST Selection of Wines in the Bay Area!**  
**Compare Our Pricing!**

**SPRING SALE!**  
 SAVINGS | SELECTION | SERVICE

TENUTA SANT ANTONIO 'SCAIA' ROSSO DEL VENETO ITALY 2007 \$9.99	LA CREMA 'SONOMA COAST' CHARDONNAY 2007 \$14.99	PERRIN 'RESERVE' COTES DU RHONE 2007 \$7.99	CHALONE 'ESTATE' CHARDONNAY 2006 \$18.99	DONA PAULA 'LOS CARDOS' ARGENTINA MALBEC 2007 \$7.99	J. LOHR 'RIVERSTONE' CHARDONNAY 2007 \$9.99

BOMBAY SAPPHIRE GIN 1.75 L \$24.99 750 mL \$16.99	SMIRNOFF VODKA 80 PROOF 1.75 L \$17.99 750 mL \$9.99	REPOSADO 750 mL \$37.99	SILVER 750 mL \$35.99	PATRON ANEJO 750 mL \$39.99	JOSE CUERVO TRADICIONAL TEQUILA 750 mL \$19.99

**STORE HOURS:**  
**MON-FRI** 10am to 7:30pm  
**SATURDAY** 9:30am to 7:30pm  
**SUNDAY** 10:00am to 6:30pm

\*Offer valid thru 5/15/09 and while supplies last.  
 \*Not responsible for typographical errors.

**BELTRAMO'S**  
 WINES AND SPIRITS  
 1-1/2 miles north of the Stanford Shopping Center  
 1540 El Camino Real, Menlo Park • 650.325.2806



Get local news updates  
 in your e-mail inbox  
 twice weekly.

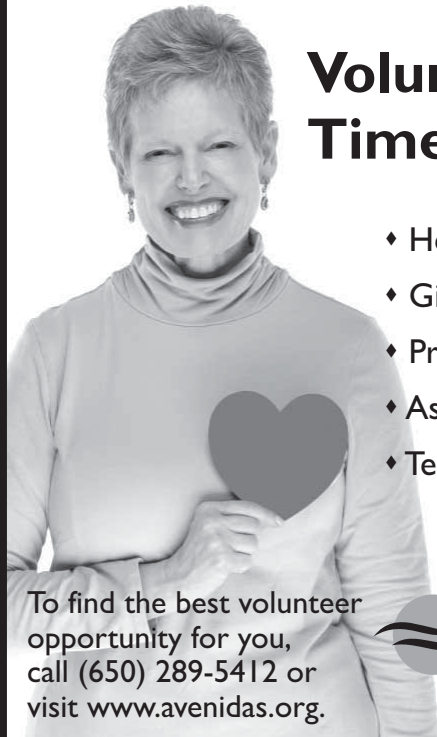
**FREE.**

Sign up today at—

[TheAlmanacOnline.com](http://TheAlmanacOnline.com)



# Get Involved!



## Volunteer Your Time & Talents

- ◆ Help a child read
- ◆ Give a senior a ride
- ◆ Provide office support
- ◆ Assist with activities
- ◆ Teach a class

To find the best volunteer opportunity for you, call (650) 289-5412 or visit [www.avenidas.org](http://www.avenidas.org).

**Avenidas**  
Aging Well for 40 Years

CREATIVE TODAY  
CLASSIC TOMORROW

# STYLE 2009

PALO ALTO ART CENTER



Palo Alto  
**ARTCenter**

1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto

For information call 650.329.2366  
or visit [www.paacf.org/style](http://www.paacf.org/style)

This space donated as a community service  
by the Palo Alto Weekly.



*A magical art-for-wear trunk show & sale of extraordinary contemporary clothing, jewelry, & accessories*

**Saturday, April 25, 2009**

Open to the public, 10am – 5pm

Admission: \$10 donation  
(fully tax deductible)

Free to PAACF Members

Sponsored by the Palo Alto Art Center  
Foundation and Patty McGuigan.

Artists: Top: Emiko-o; Bottom: Ellen Hauptli

## Wild Crush benefits EVs

Environmental Volunteers presents Wild Crush 2009, a gala honoring 37 years of environmental education in Silicon Valley, on Saturday, April 25, in Menlo Park.

The event — with dinner, wine by local vintners, live jazz, and an auction — will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Quadrus Center, 2400 Sand Hill Road in Menlo Park.

Tickets are \$175. For more information, call (650) 961-0545 or go to [www.evols.org](http://www.evols.org).

## Benefit dinner for tennis, tutoring program

The East Palo Alto Tennis and Tutoring Program is hosting a fundraising dinner at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 29, at the Menlo Circus Club in Atherton.

The 21 year-old organization has just become a nonprofit. It serves 112 students from the east side of Menlo Park and East Palo Alto, offering one-on-one tutoring from Stanford students and community volunteers, as well as group tennis instruction. Over 98 percent of participants graduate from local high schools, according to the executive director Dave Higaki.

Tickets to the dinner are \$300 for adults, \$100 for children. Reservations are required by Friday, April 24; contact Anne Gould at [tennisgould@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tennisgould@sbcglobal.net) or 650-854-6656.

## Nancy Redd on 'Body Drama'

Nancy Redd, a former Miss Virginia and a Harvard graduate, will give a talk in Atherton on Wednesday, April 22, about how the media undermines and distorts girls' and women's self-image. The free program will start at 7 p.m. at Menlo School, 50 Valparaiso Ave.

Ms. Redd is the author of "Body Drama: Real Girls, Real Bodies, Real Issues, Real Answers."

## Atherlons to hold fashion show

The Atherlons are holding a fundraising fashion show and luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, April 23, benefiting a local domestic violence nonprofit. Tickets for non-members cost \$60, with proceeds benefiting Redwood City-based CORA (Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse). The event will be held at the University Club in Palo Alto.

Local members will model fashions, including items from a vintage clothing collection belonging to Irene Schwab of Atherton.

The models include Menlo Park residents Eunice Fey, Peggy Ogren, Ramona Gaunt and Eileen Duvall; Atherton residents Jeanne Wangness and Janet Erickson; and Portola Valley resident Sue Thomas.

Call Dona Dodson at 366-2220 for tickets.

NEW  
HOMES



## Menlo Park — Elegance Among the Heritage Trees

# Lane Woods

**SUMMERHILL HOMES™**  
COMMUNITIES OF DISTINCTION

Exquisite single-family homes from the mid \$1,000,000s.

Welcome to Lane Woods, a distinctive collection of finely crafted homes in an incomparable Menlo Park setting. Located next to the scenic Sunset magazine campus, these homes boast beautiful surroundings with heritage trees and a neighborhood park. The homes are extraordinary with a range of luxurious amenities and expansive living space. Add Menlo Park's highly regarded schools and central Peninsula locale, and you have the ideal backdrop for a classically beautiful lifestyle. Only a few homes left!

(866) 644-7935

[YourNewPeninsulaHome.com](http://YourNewPeninsulaHome.com)



Pricing effective as of publication deadline. SummerHill Brokerage Inc DRE #01301389

# Community

NEWS OF LOCAL PEOPLE AND EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY



**Redwood champs**, are, from left, Jennifer Lucian (Portola Valley), Ellie Shannon (Hillsborough), Lauren Lete (East Palo Alto), Shelbi Aimonetti (San Carlos), Lauren Rally (Hillsborough), Angelina Mapa (East Palo Alto). Not pictured: Cammie Merten (Woodside).

## Redwood Hoosiers take basketball title

By Patrick Shannon

Coach, Redwood Hoosiers

### SPORTS

A scrappy band of seven players from the Redwood Hoosiers eighth-grade girls All-Net team claimed the National Junior Basketball championship on March 29 with a two-point win over Anaheim, 39-37, in a tournament down in Irvine, California.

The victory clinched a back-to-back championship run for the girls, who beat Hayward last year in the finals of the annual classic.

The players reside in Portola Valley, Woodside and other nearby towns.

Seeded No. 1 in the tournament, the Hoosiers ran off five straight victories over two days to capture the crown.

In the Final Four, Redwood prevailed over cross-bay rival Hayward, 33-29, and claimed the championship by holding off a surging Anaheim team, 39-37, when Anaheim's desperation 3-pointer at the buzzer rimmed out.

Redwood was paced by high-scorer Lauren Rally, who averaged 17 points in the tournament. But Rally was sidelined early in the third quarter of the cham-

pionship game with a broken rib sustained in a fierce collision while driving to the basket.

The six remaining players, two of whom — point guard Lauren Lete and shooting guard Shelbi Aimonetti — were playing on taped-up sprained ankles, kept Anaheim at bay with a spread four-corners offense. Center Angelina Mapa averaged 10 rebounds a game and forward Ellie Shannon chipped in 6 points and 8 rebounds per game.

Reserves Jennifer Lucian and Cammie Merten locked down on the defensive end, helping Redwood limit its opponents to an average of 31 points per game, while Redwood average 45 points per game.

In both contests in the Final Four, the score was tied in the fourth quarter, but Redwood managed to out-distance their opponents each time. In the semifinal against Hayward, Lete hit a driving layup in traffic to put the Hoosiers up for good with 1:30 to go in the game. In the final, Lete hit two free throws with 35 seconds remaining to give Redwood the margin of victory.

This is the third championship in the last five years for the Redwood team, coached by Hillsborough resident Patrick Shannon.

## Art-for-Wear trunk show benefits art education

The work of more than 35 textile clothing, accessory and jewelry designers will be for sale at Style 2009, an art-for-wear trunk show to be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 25, at the Palo Alto Art Center.

The event is a fundraiser for the Palo Alto Art Center Foundation and benefits children's art education programs at the center.

Local artists taking part include jewelry designer Davide Bigazzi of Menlo Park and textile artist Karin Moggridge of Woodside.

The event is free for members of the Palo Alto Art Center Foundation and costs \$10 at the door for others.

The Palo Alto Art Center is located at 1313 Newell Road in Palo Alto. For more information, call 329-2366.

### Benefit concert at Nativity church

John Angotti, an inspirational singer and composer, will perform a benefit concert for the Nativity parish at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 25, at the Church of the Nativity in Menlo Park.

Choirs from Menlo Park, under the direction of Margaret Sullivan Durando, will sing back-up for Mr. Angotti, whose music "touches the spirit and life of all people, no matter the age, and is very popular,

especially in the Contemporary Christian Music market," according to CatholicMusicNetwork.com.

Tickets are \$10, and will be sold at the door. The church is at 210 Oak Grove Ave.

### Open house at Midpeninsula High

Midpeninsula High School in Menlo Park is holding an open house from 10:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 25.

The private school, located at 1340 Willow Road, is accepting applications for the 2008-09 and 2009-10 school years, said Rachel Packer, director of development for the school.

For more information, go to [www.mid-pen.com](http://www.mid-pen.com),

### Gay men's chorus to perform at church

The Ladera Community Church will celebrate on Sunday, April 26, more than 10 years of being a "welcoming (open and affirming) congregation, said Linda Thomas, spokeswoman for the church.

The 50-voice Silicon Valley Gay Men's Chorus will perform. A reception follows the concert.

The church is at 3300 Alpine Road in Ladera. The Web site is [www.ladera.org](http://www.ladera.org).

## Menlo-Atherton Little League forms new Challenger Division

By Doug Kaufman

The Menlo-Atherton Little League's newly formed Challenger team played its first home game on April 5 at Burgess Park in Menlo Park. It was full of hits and runs and applause like any other game, but what was different was that all players batted, no outs were recorded and no score was kept.

Those are the relaxed rules for Little League's Challenger Division, a program for mentally and physically challenged youth, helping them to enjoy the full benefits of Little League in an athletic environment structured to their abilities.

Playing with the same equipment on the same fields, Challenger Division participants have the opportunity to experience the joys of pulling together as a team, being cheered, and earning awards for their achievements.

**About the author:** Doug Kaufman is a Menlo Park resident and is on the Menlo-Atherton Little League board. His son, Joe, 9, has Down syndrome and plays for the Menlo-Atherton Red Sox.

The Menlo-Atherton "Red Sox" are made up of 12 local boys and girls, ages 6-13.

A unique aspect of Challenger baseball is the participation of "buddies." On the Red Sox, each player has one or more buddies. Buddies are kids in middle and high schools, all of whom played Little League themselves, who volunteer every Sunday to come out and help the players during the games.

The Red Sox are coached and organized by Bob Crowe and his son Scott.

Home games are played on Harrison Field at Burgess Park on Sunday afternoons. Remaining home games are on May 3, May 31 and June 7, all at 1:30 p.m. ■

STANFORD  
MEDICINE  
Outpatient Center • Redwood City

STANFORD

DERMATOLOGY CENTER

NEW LOCATION & EXTENDED HOURS

Stanford Dermatology Center Provides State-of-the-Art Care and Management for the Common to Complex Problems of Adult Skin.

We offer a full range of medical and surgical dermatology services in a new patient friendly environment.

Stanford Dermatology Center new location & hours are designed to fit your schedule.

8:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Friday

Extended center hours:  
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays

8:00 am - Noon on Saturdays

A physician is on call 24 hours a day.

For more information, or to make a dermatology appointment

Call: 650-723-6316.

Stanford Dermatology Center  
450 Broadway Street  
Redwood City, CA 94063

[www.stanfordhospital.com](http://www.stanfordhospital.com)

# Annual 'Breakfast of Champions' set for May 1

A celebratory and celebrity breakfast is set for the morning of Friday, May 1, in a Santa Clara hotel to recognize graduates of

JobTrain, a Menlo Park-based nonprofit that includes among its offerings vocational training, GED preparation and English language

training.

Scheduled to speak at the 25th Breakfast of Champions are San Francisco 49ers coach and Pro

Football Hall of Fame member Mike Singletary, and Jeff Henderson, known as Chef Jeff, a celebrity caterer who grew up on the tough streets of South Central Los Angeles and spent 10 years in prison on

charges of selling cocaine.

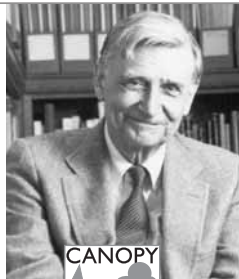
The breakfast is held annually to recognize JobTrain students, hear testimonials on how their lives have changed as a result of their involvement with JobTrain, and witness awards for graduates and community leaders.

Unannounced "mystery" celebrities are a regular feature of this event and this year will be no exception, said JobTrain spokeswoman Kail Lubarsky.

The two-hour breakfast begins at 7:30 at the Hyatt Regency Santa Clara at 5101 Great America Parkway in Santa Clara. For directions, go to [tinyurl.com/cl8go8](http://tinyurl.com/cl8go8).

The event has many corporate sponsors at whose tables guests will be seated. JobTrain is the former Opportunities Industrialization Center West, or OICW.

Tickets are \$60 and will be available up to the day before the event, Ms. Lubarsky said. For tickets, call her at 330-6569 or write to [klubarsky@jobtrainworks.org](mailto:klubarsky@jobtrainworks.org).



"We will save the natural world in order to save ourselves."  
—E.O. Wilson

CANOPY



## E.O. Wilson

Biodiversity and Our Future  
Healing Mother Earth

A Mother's Day Benefit Lecture for Canopy

Event Chair: Donald Kennedy, President Emeritus of Stanford U.  
Emcee: Michael Krasny, Host of KQED's Forum

Sunday, May 10, 2009 at 4:00 PM  
Spangenberg Theater, Palo Alto

Tickets \$35 and up at [www.canopy.org](http://www.canopy.org) or 650.964.6110

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati  
FOUNDATION

BASIS  
FOUNDATION

Sponsored by

Kepler's

Sempervirens  
Fund

This space donated as a community service by the Palo Alto Weekly.

CREATIVE TODAY  
CLASSIC TOMORROW

STYLE  
2009

PALO ALTO ART CENTER



Palo Alto  
ARTCenter

1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto

For information call 650.329.2366  
or visit [www.paacf.org/style](http://www.paacf.org/style)

This space donated as a community service  
by the Palo Alto Weekly.



A magical art-for-wear  
trunk show & sale  
of extraordinary  
contemporary clothing,  
jewelry, & accessories

Saturday, April 25, 2009

Open to the public, 10am – 5pm

Admission: \$10 donation  
(fully tax deductible)

Free to PAACF Members

Sponsored by the Palo Alto Art Center  
Foundation and Patty McGuigan.

Artists: Top: Emiko-o; Bottom: Ellen Hauptli

express

Get local news updates in your  
e-mail inbox twice weekly. FREE.  
Sign up today at —

[TheAlmanacOnline.com](http://TheAlmanacOnline.com)

early summer savings event

BROWN JORDAN



Please join us for the Early Summer Savings Event and enjoy  
EXTRA SAVINGS on all BROWN JORDAN collections.  
NOW THROUGH JULY 7.

Flegel's  
Fine Furniture & Interior Design

870 Santa Cruz Ave.  
Menlo Park  
M-Sat: 10-6  
650-326-9661

1654 2nd Street  
San Rafael  
T-Sat: 10-6  
415-454-0502

**Barbara Lotz (Schneiderman)**

Produced community theatrical productions

Barbara Lotz (Schneiderman), a creative force in the Portola Valley community from the 1980s to the early 1990s, died April 3 in a Monterey hospital with her children and friends at her side. She was 65.

Sixteen years ago, she moved to Carmel Valley after her divorce from attorney Art Schneiderman of Woodside and resumed her maiden name of Lotz.

She is remembered in Portola Valley as the impresario who initiated six Portola Valley theatrical productions, involving community members on stage and behind the scenes, to raise funds for the public schools. She is a founder of the district fundraising committee that later became the nonprofit Portola Valley Schools Foundation, which has raised millions for the schools.

When Portola Valley celebrated its 25th anniversary on June 17, 1989, Barbara was chairman of the "Silver Anniversary" event. She teamed up with pianist Chris Jeffers and Ruth Ann Wrucke to produce "Valley of Dreams," a historical musical pageant, in the multi-use room of the Town Center. Singing were the "Silver Throats," a group of Portola Valley residents who had been practicing for months.

"Barbara was an incredibly talented, creative and innovative person who was able to bring out the talent of our small town," said former Mayor Sue Crane. "For the short time that Barbara was producing community productions, she brought out a great community feeling within our town."

The Schneiderman children remember their mother's involvement with her "You, Me and Us" group — an organization dedicated to the rights of and education

■ OBITUARIES

about "differently-abled children." The program took place in the Las Lomas and Portola Valley school districts.

She also was involved in women's issues at home and abroad. She established a women's business exchange and a support group for breast cancer survivors in Russia.

"Barb was quick to make her indomitable spirit and bright smile known in Carmel Valley," her children write. She was involved with the Carmel Angels Project and the Rippling River Center, helping people with disabilities and age-issues; and the Carmel Valley Community Chapel.

Barbara Jeanne Lotz, was born April 30, 1943, to Warren Robert and Adell Jeanne Lotz and grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, with her sisters and brothers, Bonnie, Bob, Betsy and Brian.

She graduated from Beloit College and continued her education at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and later at San Jose State University, where she earned a master's degree in special education. She arrived on the Peninsula in 1966 and later settled in Portola Valley.

She is survived by her five Schneiderman children: Jeff of Woodside, Jonathan of San Francisco, Jason of Portola Valley, Jenny of Portland, and Julie of Santa Barbara; six grandchildren; mother Jeanne Lotz; and a sister and two brothers.

A celebration of her life was held April 19 at the Hidden Valley Institute of the Arts in Carmel Valley.

The family prefers friends consider memorial gifts to these organizations that were her favorites: Monterey SPCA, Girls Inc. Central Coast, or the Hidden Valley Institute of the Arts.

**Memorial for Barry Rosen in May**

A memorial for Woodside resident and addiction-specialist Dr. Barry Rosen is set for 2 p.m. Monday, May 3, at The Mountain Terrace at 17285 Skyline Blvd. in Skyllonda (across the road from Alice's Restaurant at the junction of highways 35 and 84).

After a long illness, Dr. Rosen died on March 20 at the age of 62.

He was in private practice at the Behavioral Medicine Clinic of the Peninsula and was the medical director of the Sequoia Alcohol and Drug Recovery Center. The two facilities are co-located in Redwood City.

To read Dr. Rosen's obituary in The Almanac, go to [tinyurl.com/BRosen](http://tinyurl.com/BRosen).



Barbara Lotz

**KEPLER'S FEATURED AUTHORS IN MAY**

Rick Riordan  
*The Last Olympian*

Saturday, May 9, 5:00 p.m.

The momentous final book in the *New York Times* best-selling *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series.



Laurie R. King  
*The Language of Bees*

Tuesday, May 12, 7:30 p.m.

Mary Russell must help reverse the greatest failure of her legendary husband's storied past.



**Don't miss these other exciting author events!**

**Bharati Mukherjee, Susan Griffin and Barbara Graham**

*Eye of My Heart*

Sunday, May 3, 2:00 p.m.

Writers reveal the hidden pleasures and perils of being a grandmother in this groundbreaking collection.



**Shawna Yang Ryan**

*Water Ghosts: A Novel*

Tuesday, May 5, 7:30 p.m.

Mesmerizing story of Chinese immigrants in a small California town in 1928.



**Seth Harwood**

*Jack Wakes Up*

Wednesday, May 6, 7:30 p.m.

Blends brass-knuckled voice of Raymond Chandler with slick plot twists of Jeffery Deaver.



**Mark Arax**

*West of the West: Dreamers, Believers, Builders, and Killers in the Golden State*

Wednesday, May 13, 7:30 p.m.

A stunning panorama of California, and America, in a new century.



**Andreas Ramos & Stephanie Cota**

*Search Engine Marketing*

Thursday, May 14, 7:30 p.m.

How to leverage today's Internet marketing strategies to reach customers and increase sales.



**Reif Larsen**

*The Selected Works of T.S. Spivet*

Tuesday, May 19, 7:30 p.m.

A brilliant debut novel tracing 12-year-old genius mapmaker's attempts to understand the ways of the world.



**Tamim Ansary**

*Destiny Disrupted: A History of the World Through Islamic Eyes*

Wednesday, May 20, 7:30 p.m.

Sweeping narrative history by acclaimed author of *West of Kabul, East of New York*.



**T.J. Stiles**

*The First Tycoon*

*The Epic Life of Cornelius Vanderbilt*

Thursday, May 21, 7:30 p.m.

Gripping biography of the combative man whose genius and force of will created modern capitalism.



**Rev. Scotty McLennan**

*Jesus Was a Liberal: Reclaiming Christianity for All*

Tuesday, May 26, 7:30 p.m.

For all those who identify as liberal Christians from Stanford Dean for Religious Life.

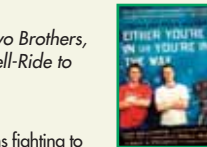


**Logan Miller & Noah Miller**

*Either You're In or You're In the Way: Two Brothers, Twelve Months, and One Filmmaking Hell-Ride to Keep a Promise to Their Father*

Wednesday, May 27, 7:30 p.m.

The story of the desperate struggle of two sons fighting to keep a vow to their father.



**Tom Killion**

*Tamalpais Walking: Poetry, History, and Prints*

Thursday, May 28, 7:30 p.m.

A new collaboration by the authors of the bestselling *The High Sierra of California*, Killion and Gary Snyder, features the unique mountain overlooking San Francisco Bay.



**Special Youth and Family Events!**

**Book Signing with Richelle Mead**

Wednesday, May 6, 4:00 p.m.

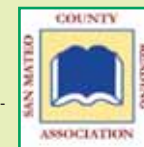
Scorpio Richelle Mead is the *New York Times* Bestselling author of the *Vampire Academy* series for teens. **NOTE: MEET AND CHAT SIGNING ONLY.**



**What's New in Books**

Monday, May 18, 6:00 p.m.

Kepler's and The San Mateo County Reading Association present the newest and best in both fiction and non-fiction books for youth and children.



**Story Times**

Kepler's Story Time every Sunday at 11:30 a.m.

May 3rd -

Story Time with Amy Krause Rosenthal

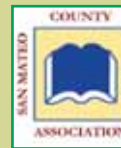
*New York Times* bestselling author debuts two fun new picture books.



May 10th -

Storyteller Spree! and Benefit Day for San Mateo County Reading Association

Join beloved local storytellers as they present their favorite read-aloud titles.



May 17th -

Story Time with Bob Barner

A fascinating look at the history of butterflies, and how their lives intersected with the dinosaurs millions of years ago. Stay for Bob's collage workshop.



**D.J. MacHale**

*Pendragon Book Ten: The Soldiers of Halla*

Thursday, May 21, 7:00 p.m.

Location: Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St.

The wait is over. The ultimate battle in the showdown between Bobby Pendragon and Saint Dane is here!



May 24th -

Story Time with Stephanie Trelogan and Katharine Armstrong

Lyrical text combines poetry with interesting facts about animals to inspire all readers as they learn and play. Be ready to decorate your own colorful mask!



May 31st -

Story Time with Susan Heller

Join local author Susan Heller as she shares the story of *Mup the Pup*, a delightful tale based on Susan's own pet Havanese, Mup.



**express**  
Get local news updates in your e-mail inbox twice weekly. **FREE**.  
Sign up today at —  
[TheAlmanacOnline.com](http://TheAlmanacOnline.com)

**Kepler's** BOOKS MAGAZINES  
Follow me to Kepler's. It's our bookstore.  
1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park • 650-324-4321 • Learn more at [Keplers.com](http://Keplers.com)

# A TASTE OF THE PENINSULA

A cornucopia of restaurants and cafes providing the finest dining from brunch to dessert.

## Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

### Celia's Mexican Restaurant

3740 El Camino, Palo Alto (650) 843-0643  
1850 El Camino, Menlo Park (650) 321-8227  
www.celiasrestaurants.com

Full Bar - Happy Hour Specials; Catering

### Vive Sol-Cocina Mexicana

2020 W. El Camino Real, Mtn. View  
(650) 938-2020.

Specializing in the Cuisine of Puebla.  
Open daily for lunch and dinner.

## Coffee & Tea

### Connoisseur Coffee Co.

2801 Middlefield Road, Redwood City  
(650) 369-5250 9am-5:30pm Mon. - Sat.

Coffee roasting & fine teas,  
espresso bar, retail & wholesale.



To Advertise in "A Taste of the Peninsula" call The Almanac 650-854-2626.

## jZCool restaurant closes after 10 years

After 10 years in business, jZ Cool Eatery and Wine Bar on Santa Cruz Avenue in downtown Menlo Park has closed.

Owner Jesse Cool announced the closure in an April 16 press release, saying that she plans to open a lunch cafe in the city's business park area, east of U.S. 101, in June. Meanwhile, Ms. Cool's catering company is moving into a larger venue in the business park, she said.

In addition to her catering business, Ms. Cool also operates the Flea St. Cafe on Alameda de las Pulgas in Menlo Park, and a cafe in Stanford's Cantor Arts Center. She advocates the use of organic ingredients from local farms.

"I want to personally thank the community for dining at one of our tables throughout the years," Ms. Cool said in the press release.

LUCILE PACKARD

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



## Your Child's Health University

Lucile Packard Children's Hospital offers classes, seminars and resources designed to foster good health and enhance the lives of parents and children.

### \* SIBLING PREPARATION CLASSES

Designed for children two years of age and older, this class prepares siblings for the emotional and physical realities of the arrival of a newborn.

- Saturday, May 9

### \* PEDIATRIC WEIGHT CONTROL PROGRAM OPEN HOUSE

This family-based, behavioral and educational weight management program promotes healthy eating and exercise habits for overweight children and their families. More than 80% of children achieve long-term weight loss through this program – and parents lose weight too! Call (650) 725-4424 for information.

- Monday, May 11

### \* MOTHERS OF SONS: THE JOYS AND CHALLENGES OF GUIDING YOUR SON THROUGH ADOLESCENCE

Robert Lehman, MD, co-creator of the "Heart to Heart" program will be joined by family counselor Nancy Sanchez in an evening just for mothers of adolescent sons. Emphasis will be on understanding and encouraging open communication between parents and children.

- Wednesday, May 20

### \* HEART TO HEART SEMINAR ON GROWING UP

Informative, humorous and lively discussions between parents and their pre-teens on puberty, the opposite sex and growing up. Girls attend these two-part sessions with their moms and boys attend with their dads.

- For Boys: Thursdays, May 21 & 28  
- For Girls: Fridays, May 22 & 29

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



CALL TODAY TO SIGN UP FOR CLASSES (650) 723-4600

## PEDRO BOREGAARD JEWELRY CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF DESIGN

Join us for a special showing  
at Darren McClung

Estate & Precious

Jewelry on

Friday, April 24,

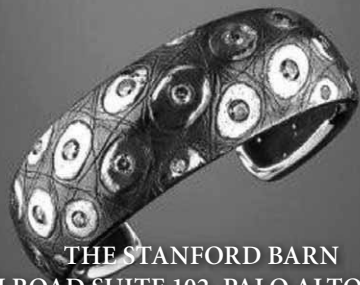
12pm - 6pm and

Saturday, April 25

11am - 4pm



DARREN McCLUNG  
ESTATE & PRECIOUS JEWELRY



THE STANFORD BARN  
700 WELCH ROAD SUITE 102, PALO ALTO (650) 321-5994  
Open: 11-6 Tue-Fri, Sat: 11-4:30

**Elayne F. Dougherty**

Former Woodside resident loved the town

Scolding Stellar jays and sourgrass, newts and wild roses. Such were the natural wonders that gave Elayne F. Dougherty joy during morning walks in Woodside where, relatives said, she lived for 30 years and raised a family.

"Woodside will always be the place we think of as our Mom and Dad's home. They loved everything about it," Ms. Dougherty's daughter Robin Modlin of Palo Alto said.

Ms. Dougherty died peacefully in Redwood City surrounded by her family on April 11, at the age of 85 after a traumatic hip fracture and a year of ill health, relatives said.

Elaine Flower, a native of Chicago, lived in San Francisco off and on early in life and was a graduate of Lowell High School. (She changed the spelling of her first name to Elayne when she was a teenager, her daughter said.)

She married William G. Dougherty, now deceased, during World War II and the couple lived in San Francisco, Burlingame and Woodside, which was appealing for its rural setting that included room for horses. Mr. Dougherty learned sculpture at Canada College and crafted a creche for the Woodside Village Church, Ms. Modlin said.

■ **OBITUARIES**

Along with her love of nature, Ms. Dougherty liked to garden, enjoyed poetry and reading, and was committed to liberal politics, social justice and world peace, her daughter said, adding that she was "a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and friend."

Ms. Dougherty was "very active" in the Woodside library and she worked in the office of The Almanac in the late 1970s, her daughter said.

Ms. Dougherty is also survived by her sons Michael J. Dougherty of San Francisco and Gregory L. Dougherty of Aptos; daughter Sue A. Dougherty of Bend, Oregon; and brother, Kenneth Flower of Sausalito.

A private memorial is scheduled for May. Donations in memory of Elayne Dougherty may be sent to Cystic Fibrosis Research, Inc., 2672 Bayshore Parkway, Suite 520, Mountain View, CA 94043, or to The World Wildlife Fund.



Elayne Dougherty

## Matched Care Givers

"There's no place like home."

Redwood City - San Mateo - San Jose 650 839-2273

**When you, or someone you care about, needs assistance...**

**you can count on us to be there.**

**Call now (650) 839-2273**  
[www.matchedcaregivers.com](http://www.matchedcaregivers.com)

**Thank You Almanac Readers For Increasing Fuel Sales by 50%!**

Servicing most European and domestic vehicles with the most qualified ASE certified technicians using factory diagnostic and programming equipment.

**SPECIAL OFFER**

**PURCHASE 4 TIRES & RECEIVE FREE ALIGNMENT ✓**

Valid through May 30, 2009

For Quality & Performance

**Ron Ramies Automotive Inc.**

**SINCE 1981**

Auto Repair & Fabrication

**650-851-6789**

115 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028

WILLIAM "BILL" CUNHA

William "Bill" Cunha passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on Easter Sunday, April 12th. A man with quiet sensibilities, he enjoyed outdoor activities including golf, biking and running. His folksy compassion and dry sense of humor delighted his family and friends throughout his lifetime. Born in South Dartmouth, Mass, in 1920, he served in the US Navy and Merchant Marines before marrying his wife, Mary of 60 years, and moving "out west" to become a longtime resident and firefighter of Menlo Park. He is survived by his wife, Mary, brother Frank, sister Eve, daughters, Susan, Cathy, Cindy and six grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St Jude's Children's Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee. [www.spanglermortuary.com](http://www.spanglermortuary.com)

PAID OBITUARY

■ **POLICE CALLS**

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

**ATHERTON**

**Fraud reports:**

- Internet/e-mail scam resulted in loss of \$15,000, San Benito Ave., April 16.
- Resident suspects unauthorized access, perhaps by sister, to his mother's account, Middlefield Road, April 16.

**MENLO PARK**

**Robbery reports:**

- Money taken by force, 1300 block of Willow Road, April 10.

- Cash and bus pass taken, Pierce Road and Newbridge St., April 12.

**Indecent exposure report:** Occupant of white Dodge Neon exposed himself as victim jogged by, Hamilton Ave. and Willow Road, April 15.

**Fraud reports:**

- Contracting company performed unlicensed work and submitted bill for \$57,000, 1200 block of San Mateo Drive, April 10.
- Unauthorized use of credit card, 300 block of Waverley St., April 11.

**Child Protective Services report:** 200 block of Terminal Ave., April 16.

**WOODSIDE**

**Stolen vehicle report:** 1988 Honda Civic, 3000 block of Woodside Road,

# A Retreat of Local Flavors

## Madera

Rooted in Culinary Innovation. Steeped in Western Tradition... Introducing Madera™, the signature restaurant at Menlo Park's newest hotel, Rosewood Sand Hill. Madera offers comfortably elegant, picturesque dining that is inspired by indigenous ingredients and rustic wood-burning flavors of the Western Slope.

Restaurant reservations, please call 650.561.1540 or visit [maderasandhill.com](http://maderasandhill.com)

2825 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025

April 22, 2009 ■ The Almanac ■ 21

**Editor & Publisher**

Tom Gibboney

**Editorial**

**Managing Editor** Richard Hine

**News Editor** Renee Batti

**Lifestyles Editor** Jane Knoerle

**Senior Correspondents**

Marion Softky, Marjorie Mader

**Staff Writers** Andrea Gemmet,

David Boyce, Sean Howell

**Contributors** Barbara Wood,

Kate Daly, Bill Rayburn, Miles

McMullin, Katie Blankenberg

**Special Sections Editors**

Carol Blitzer, Sue Dremann

**Photographer** Michelle Le

**Design & Production**

**Design Director** Raul Perez

**Designers** Linda Atilano,

Laura Don, Gary Vennarucci

**Advertising**

**Advertising Manager** Neal Fine

**Display Advertising Sales**

Ella Fleishman

**Real Estate Account**

**Advertising Assistant**

**Coordinator** Diane Martin

**Advertising Services**

**Receptionist** Renee Meil

**Circulation, Classified,**

**& Legal Advertising** Bill Rayburn

Published every Wednesday at  
3525 Alameda de las Pulgas,  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

(650) 854-2626

FAX (650) 854-0677

e-mail news (no photos please) to:

editor@AlmanacNews.com

e-mail photos with captions to:

photo@AlmanacNews.com

e-mail letters to:

letters@AlmanacNews.com

The Almanac, established in September, 1965, is delivered each week to residents of Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside and adjacent unincorporated areas of southern San Mateo County. The Almanac is qualified by decree of the Superior Court of San Mateo County to publish public notices of a governmental and legal nature, as stated in Decree No. 147530, issued November 9, 1969.

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.

## City should stay in child care business

Should the city of Menlo Park stay in the child care business for toddlers and preschool children as well as those who need a place after school?

We believe the answer is yes, although the City Council should do everything it can to reduce the subsidy that now goes to its preschool and toddler child care program. According to figures released last week, the city will pay \$206,421 from its general fund in the current fiscal year to cover the gap between the cost to run the center, and fees received from parents. Including overhead, the city says the final cost is \$337,111 — a hefty subsidy, but one that could shrink considerably if parents pay more and the city reduces expenses. It would

be much more palatable if fees could pay for 85 to 90 percent of the program's costs (not including overhead). Community Services Director Barbara George maintains it will be possible to get there through increased efficiency and several cost-cutting measures, though council members are skeptical.

Currently, only the Burgess preschool child care program, which serves 56 children, is running a deficit. The popular after-school programs are paying their own way, and thus are not a drag on city finances. But it won't be easy for the city to come close to break-even for the child care program, especially if that would require a steep rate hike for parents who say they are paying enough already. Some told The Almanac that they believe the city should be willing to pay a share of childcare costs in order to keep young families in the city. Higher fee increases could force them to leave, one mother said.

City staff is proposing a six percent fee increase for the school year beginning in the fall, which would follow a five percent jump last

January. The increase would help, and if added to other measures like making sure all classes are filled to capacity, could make a sizeable dent in costs.

Another possibility suggested by council members would be to implement a sliding scale to assess fees on a more equitable basis. But any decision on where to set the bar is sure to be met with controversy, and city officials say such a system would be complicated to implement. Virtually all Menlo Park families that use the Burgess center would not qualify under the county's sliding scale system that is used in Belle Haven, where many families pay a reduced rate.

According to a staff report compiled for a recent council meeting, the Menlo Children's Center rate for full-time preschool care is \$1,189 per month, slightly lower than the \$1,256 average of fees charged at six other centers in San Carlos and Palo Alto. Although the staff report does not say if care in the other cities is subsidized, it does indicate that Menlo Park's rates have room to increase about 5 to 6 percent to equal the average of the six other centers. (Care for the six toddlers in the Menlo Park children's center have room to increase by about 10 to 11 percent, according to the staff report.)

With a rate increase of eight or nine percent, the city could bring the toddler and preschool program closer to break-even. And if city staff can make the center more efficient and find ways to cut costs, as they claim, that might be enough to enable the program to continue with a small subsidy from the city.

Many nearby communities have other systems in place to provide child care that is not funded by the city. Menlo Park has taken a different path, but for many years, it has helped hundreds of young families be able to live and work in Menlo Park, and to raise their children here. It would be a shame for this supportive program to end now, especially if ways can be found to improve its financial footing. ■

**EDITORIAL**

*The opinion of The Almanac*

**LETTERS**

*Our readers write*

**Why should city subsidize childcare?**

*Editor:*

I agree with the Menlo Park City Council members who say "that they can't justify funding child care with taxpayer money."

Why should a city government, or any government, be subsidizing the results of the decision made between two people? Having and raising a child is very expensive in many ways, and needs to be prepared for well in advance.

**Jackie Leonard-Dimmick**  
Walnut Avenue, Atherton

**Bridge to Belle Haven: helpful in many ways**

*Editor:*

Students from Belle Haven use the pedestrian bridge over U.S. 101 to get to Menlo-Atherton High School.

Swimmers like myself use the bridge to get to our Belle Haven swimming pool. The bridge allows friends on both sides of the highway to connect with each other and helps keep Menlo Park from becoming further



Portola Valley Archives

### Our Regional Heritage

Teacher Nathalie Cooper poses with her young students at the side of the historic schoolhouse in Portola Valley in 1950. Fifty-nine years later, the students are surely retired or thinking seriously about it. Teacher Cooper, looking fashionable in her saddle shoes, remains a resident of Portola Valley.

fragmented.

When Caltrans widens the highway and demolishes the present bridge, they have the responsibility to provide a new one to take its place.

Yet some residents are petitioning our City Council to block the bridge. I ask them to see the larger picture. I add my voice to those who are asking our council to affirm that Menlo Park is,

after all, one city: keep us connected with a new bridge.

**John B. Butcher**  
Hedge Road, Menlo Park

See **LETTERS**, next page

# Who is running the city of Menlo Park?

By Morris Brown

Last week's decision by the Menlo Park City Council to continue with abbreviated, "action" minutes of its own meetings is very disappointing.

It clearly tells us that in spite of the promised virtues of changing to "action" minutes four months ago in a trial period, the results of which have been disappointing, the council continued to support the city's staff and refused to go back to the time-honored summary minutes.

Only council member Andy Cohen was willing to stand up to staff and say no, as he argued that using abbreviated minutes was a non-working system, that the rationale for the switch was based on false economies, and that the decision was a move away from open, inclusive government.

The city's Transportation Commission had voted unanimously against action minutes and supported full minutes

for their commission, and for the City Council. The commission said very clearly that action minutes were a terrible idea for both organizations. Curiously, this action was not noted in the staff report on the agenda last Tuesday. I learned of this vote only two days after the council meeting.



Indexing videotapes of each meeting, which is cited as more efficient by supporters of action minutes, often fails miserably. Action minutes were promised to be on site within 48 hours, yet two or more months of waiting has been the norm.

The Almanac, in two separate editorials, has requested a return to summary min-

utes to more accurately inform the public on council proceedings. All of this was ignored by city staff and approved again by four council members last week.

What is going on with Menlo Park administration lately? Our city manager is unwilling to even consider staff cuts in an effort to return to a balanced budget. Mayor Heyward Robinson seems to be set on raising the utility users tax to help balance the budget.

All expenditures that could impact the budget should be on the table, including the ongoing, dragged out, El Camino Real "visioning" study, which has a price tag of \$1 million. I now see major problems with this process.

The "visioning" is starting to look like another Smart Growth disaster. Stanford has thus far refused to disclose any of its plans for the parcels they own along El Camino, such as the Stanford Park Hotel and the Tesla dealership. There is just too much land involved here to adequately proceed on this study without Stanford's

cooperation. Working groups never approved the three- and four-story buildings envisioned in the current state of development. How did they suddenly appear? Apparently the consultant just added them.

It would be better to kill off this expensive process right now and save at least \$500,000. Maybe then, the council would be willing to at least provide the public with a decent set of minutes for their council meetings.

Finally, in a real show of incompetence, somehow the city failed to send the letter dated September of 2007 to the High Speed Rail Authority, expressing the city comments about the program-level environmental impact report. I requested an investigation of how this could happen and who in the city was responsible. No response came from our council. City staff members seem to have the council under their control. Nobody on the staff wants or is willing to be embarrassed.

**Morris Brown lives on Stone Pine Lane in Menlo Park.**

## LETTERS

Continued from previous page

### Earth Day: good day to change old habits

Editor:

This Wednesday's Earth Day observance should encourage every one of us to leave adequate natural resources for our children and grandchildren by making needed changes in our driving, our shopping, our recycling, and our diet.

Yes, our diet. A 2006 report by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization blamed meat production for 18 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming. That's more than automobiles.

Carbon dioxide, the chief greenhouse gas, is emitted by burning forests to create animal pastures and by combustion of fossil fuels to operate farm machinery, trucks, refrigeration equipment, factory farms, and slaughterhouses. The much more damaging methane and nitrous oxide are released from digestive tracts of cattle and from animal waste cesspools, respectively.

Moreover, meat and dairy production dumps more animal waste, crop debris, fertilizers, pesticides, and other pollutants into our waterways than all other human activities combined. It is the driving force in world-wide deforestation and wildlife habitat destruction.

This Wednesday and every day, let's celebrate Earth Day by replacing meat and other animal products in our diet with a healthful, eco-friendly spread of vegetables, fresh fruits, and whole grains. More information, including recipes, is available at [www.greenyourdiet.org](http://www.greenyourdiet.org).

Malcolm Davidson  
Encinal Avenue, Menlo Park

# NEW HOMES – PALO ALTO FROM THE HIGH \$600,000s



## LIVE AT ECHELON.

These contemporary condominium homes offer up to approximately 1,629 square feet. The address puts you close to good times of every description. The eateries and boutiques of University Avenue and downtown Mountain View. World-class shopping at Stanford Shopping Center. A football game or live performance at the University. Top-performing schools and a great commute location too. Come see the fun side of upscale — at Echelon.

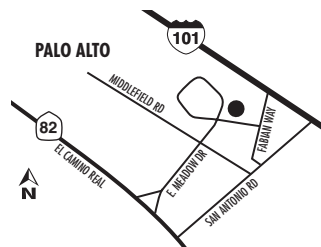
## MODELS OPEN

**(877) 890-3414**

**SUMMERHILL HOMES™**  
COMMUNITIES OF DISTINCTION



Pricing effective as of publication deadline. Map not to scale.  
SummerHill Brokerage Inc. DRE #01301389

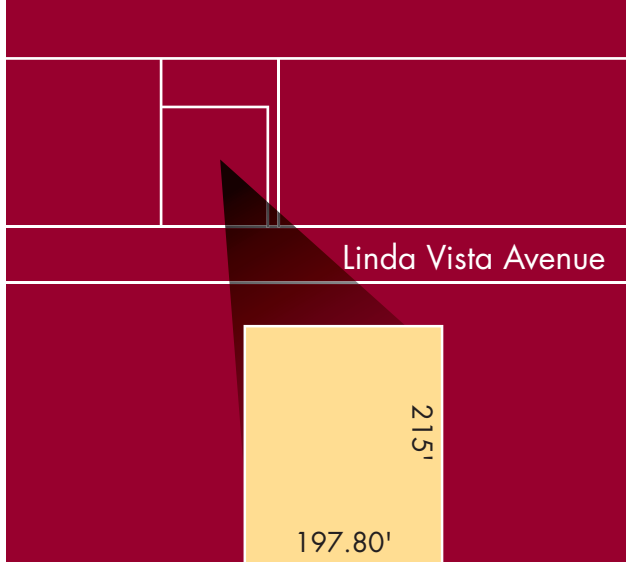


**EchelonPaloAlto.com**

# The Heart of Atherton



58 LINDA VISTA AVENUE ■ ATHERTON



Atherton Avenue

Linda Vista Avenue

215'

197.80'

Located on one of the most desirable streets in West Atherton, the beauty of this flat, rectangular parcel of approximately one acre is enhanced by mature perimeter trees. Plans for a magnificent, two-story, approximately 9,500-square foot residence, custom-designed by Pacific Peninsula Architecture, are included in the purchase price. Top-rated Menlo Park schools.

Offered at \$3,995,000



## HUGH CORNISH

*#1 Individual Agent,  
2008 SF-Peninsula*

*#8 Individual Agent, Nationally*

**650-566-5353**

**hcornish@cbtnorcal.com**



This information was supplied by Seller and/or other sources. Broker believes this information to be correct but has not verified this information and assumes no legal responsibility for its accuracy. Buyers should investigate these issues to their own satisfaction. Information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed.

For more information on this property and others,  
please visit my Web site at:

**WWW.HUGHCORNISH.COM**