

STEVE JOBS tries, once again, to get permission to tear down mansion. Page 5

The Almanac

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

APRIL 29, 2009 | VOL. 44 NO. 35

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FAR AWAY PLACES

DR. SUSAN ANDERSON of Woodside has visited more than 150 countries on seven continents as a physician accompanying premium tours. She took this picture at Angkor Wat in Cambodia.

{SEE DESTINATIONS, SECTION 2}





CASHIN COMPANY

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 PALO ALTO (650) 853-7100 ■ SAN CARLOS (650) 598-4900 ■ SAN MATEO (650) 343-3700 ■ BURLINGAME (650) 340-9688



ATHERTON – Destined to be one of the finest homes in Atherton. This magnificent 6+ BR/4+BR new home is crafted with extraordinary attention to detail. Wide rounded corners & richly stained wood moldings typify the developer's attention to detail. Towering ceilings & windows provide stunning light & volume, along w/ the finest millwork to behold that unfolds to create warmth & ambiance.

Kristin Cashin/Mark Kaprielian \$9,950,000
 (650) 614-3500



ATHERTON – Beautiful French Country style estate home on a quiet 1.32 acre lot on one of West Atherton's most desirable streets. The main house features 6BD/5.5BA with grand living & dining rooms & a gourmet kitchen opening to a spacious family room. 1BR/1BA guest house, sparkling pool, expansive lawns & gorgeous gardens. Outstanding Menlo Park School District.

Liz Daschbach \$8,995,000
 (650) 614-3500



ATHERTON – This impressive two-story Colonial Style 4BR/3.5BA home is located in one of the most desired neighborhoods. Beautifully landscaped, level grounds w/fenced backyard & room for potential pool/tennis court.

Tony Fregoso \$3,495,000
 (650) 529-2900



EMERALD HILLS – Nicely located with quality materials & great floor plan. Three year new 2-level custom home located on a private 1 acre parcel. Phenomenal view, spacious 5BR/5.5BA, study or den & playroom. Beautiful chef's kitchen, a LR that opens to a lg deck for entertaining, formal DR & Mstr Ste w/bonus room.

Tata Vahdatpour \$2,645,000
 (650) 614-3500



LOS ALTOS HILLS – Walk through the front door of this sophisticated Ranch-Style home to find a tasteful interior offering views of the backyard w/ a peaceful pool & waterfall leading to a guesthouse. Full basement w/ 6+BR/4+BA & a separate great room, possible wine cellar & more. A spacious Mstr BR, kitchen, FR & LR provide a view of the pool. Also features 4 fireplaces & 3-car garage. Los Altos Schools.

Camille Eder \$4,350,000
 (650) 614-3500

ATHERTON

Elegant, custom traditional home nestled on a gorgeous private acre in sought after W. Atherton neighborhood. 5BD/4.5BA; tastefully remodeled throughout by the designer/owner with uncompromising attention to quality & detail. Lush mature garden, expansive lawns, salt water pool & spa.

Elizabeth Daschbach \$6,295,000
 (650) 614-3500

4BR/4+BA Casual & formal living spaces flowing over 2 levels featuring oak hardwood flooring, boxed & wood-beamed ceilings, crown moldings, wood trims & built-ins. Backyard w/ lap pool & spa, patio & lawn area. Lg Mstr & Granite Kitchen.

Tim Kerns \$2,475,000
 (650) 614-3500

EAST PALO ALTO

3BR/2BA single story home featuring a family room with a dining area, eat-in kitchen & hardwood floors. Attached garage w/ an electric door opener. Gas heater, laundry area in the garage & a shingle exterior with a composition roof.

John Marshall \$321,000
 (650) 614-3500

1BR/1BA Bright corner unit featuring double paned windows & sliding doors. Freshly painted inside & out, hardwood floors in dining area, tile in entry & hallway. Spacious living area with redone balcony & mirrored closet doors in hallway & bedroom. Lg Walk-In Closet. Located on west side of the freeway.

Gordana Wolfman \$219,000
 (650) 614-3500

EMERALD HILLS

Remodeled 4 BD/4+ BA home with gourmet kitchen that features custom cabinetry & top-grade appliances. A master retreat with elegant bath & a sun deck that overlooks an indoor pool.

Doyle Rundell \$2,150,000
 (650) 614-3500

3BR/2.5 home situated on a large lot next to Handley Rock Park. Features a large updated kitchen that flows to the family room, which is surrounded by outdoor decks. The living room has a woodburning fireplace & there is also a separate dining room.

Dana Cappiello \$1,050,000
 (650) 529-1000

FOSTER CITY

A Sailors Dream!!! Dock, Deck & Home all on the water in Foster City. This 4BR/2.5BA home has a newly redone kitchen & is waiting for you. Also features a formal entry, hardwood & tile flooring, wall-to-wall carpeting & a waterfront lot. Other amenities include ceiling fan(s), double paned windows & an eat-in kitchen.

John Marshall \$1,169,000
 (650) 614-3500

HALF MOON BAY

Situated on the 1st Fairway of the "HMB Golf Links" located close to the Ritz Carlton & Walking Trails. Easy commute to Silicon Valley or San Francisco. Picturesque view must be seen to be believed. 4th room for den or office/guest.

Judy Chow \$1,630,000
 (650) 614-3500

Spectacular views from this lot!!! Complete with Plans & Permits. Planned "Green" home with separate/permitted unit over an additional 2 car carport.

Katherine Clark \$589,000
 (650) 614-3500

LOS ALTOS

Newly constructed lovely Capecod crafted with mastery! 5BR/4BA+2(5BA), one master suite, state of the art kitchen w/breakfast nook, 2 fireplaces, separate study & family room. A Must See!

Oak Lo \$2,495,000
 (650) 948-8050

Look no further! This charming updated Ranch style home has all the modern comforts you are looking for & much more! Private backyard with park like setting & serene cul-de-sac location. New paint & carpet. Ready for the new owners!

Victor Platonoff \$1,495,000
 (650) 948-8050

Rarely available ground floor unit with large landscaped patio. 2BR/2BA, new carpet & paint, fireplace in living room & close to downtown. A must see!

Victor Platonoff \$599,000
 (650) 948-8050

LOS ALTOS HILLS

Dramatic new construction is ideally located in Los Altos Hills. Living area incl: 6BR, incl a sep. guest ste or Ofc. 5BA + (2). 5BA, LR & DR, 2 FR & Grnt kitch. Amenities incl: a media Rm, a recreation Rm, wine tasting/DR & much more!

Farideh Zamani \$9,800,000
 (650) 948-8050

5BR/5.5BA home situated on a cul-de-sac. Hardwood floors & crown molding. Kitchen w/ granite counter tops, top of the line appliances & Butler's Pantry.

Susan Furstman \$5,395,000
 (650) 529-2900

MENLO PARK

Exceptional 5BD/4.5BA remodeled home on desirable cul-de-sac. Incredible gourmet kitchen: 2 FR's-1 upstairs, 1 downstairs; elegant living & dining rooms; luxurious Mstr Suite; lg separate guest/au-pair suite w/kitchenette; large sunny lot; Las Lomas Schools.

Elizabeth Daschbach \$2,695,000
 (650) 614-3500

4BR/4+BA Executive home w/Architectural details. Cathedral ceilings & Gourmet Kitchen w/inviting family room. Las Lomas School District.

Kristin Cashin \$1,995,000
 (650) 614-3500

2+BR/2.5 BA desirable end unit townhome with magnificent sf-views.

Kristin Cashin \$1,875,000
 (650) 614-3500

Light filled craftsman featuring 4BD/3.5BA with full basement, hardwood floors & dual paned windows. Nice neighborhood & Menlo Park Schools.

Camille Eder \$1,800,000
 (650) 614-3500

3BR/2.5BA gorgeous current remodeled home. Best Sharon Heights value. Professionally landscaped. Hot Tub, flat lawn area & beautiful decks perfect for entertaining. Very private yard. Wonderful family home.

Suzanne Scott \$1,789,000
 (650) 614-3500

Charming 3BR/2BA West Menlo Park home located on a quiet cul-de-sac. Award winning Las Lomas School District. Large Lot. Extra Mongolian Yurt to use as office or play room. New roof, hardwood floors & lovely garden.

Monica Young Arima \$1,299,000
 (650) 614-3500

MENLO PARK

3BD/1BA charming bungalow on a large lot. Granite kitchen with a wonderfully large backyard. Many upgrades, including newer windows, as well as bathroom plumbing & electrical. Additional features include hardwood floors, a laundry room & an eat-in kitchen to make this a special home. There is room to grow!!!

Kristin Cashin \$839,000
 (650) 614-3500

Sophisticated remodeled 2BR/2BA one-level condo in prime location. Abundant natural light, hardwood floors, recessed lighting & fireplace. Convenient to Stanford & Hwy 280.

Mary Jo McCarthy \$775,000
 (650) 614-3500

2BR/1.5BA spacious townhome featuring an open living area w/FP & sliding doors to a private patio. Large bedrooms w/ upstairs laundry. New paint inside. Located at the back of the complex. Has a pool & 1 assigned space in garage. Security gate.

Linda Samaha \$375,000
 (650) 614-3500

PALO ALTO

A Prime West Palo Alto Property featuring 3BR/4+BA in the main house with its own charming garden & detached 2-car garage. It also features an updated kitchen and bath, but needs a little TLC. There are 2 additional charming cottages at the rear of the property. Wonderful investment opportunity!

Camille Eder \$1,900,000
 (650) 614-3500

4-Plex available in Prime Professorville location.

Camille Eder \$1,650,000
 (650) 614-3500

PORTOLA VALLEY

Prime, close in 2.5 acre Westridge view lot, 1/2 mile from Alpine Rd. Spectacular views to Bay, Mt Diablo & Southeast mountains. Site & Architectural plans approved by Town for 4 BD/4BA home. Minutes to Ladera shopping & Hwy 280. Sewer is at the lot line.

Elizabeth Daschbach \$3,300,000
 (650) 614-3500

REDWOOD SHORES

Beautiful 3BR/3BA with large deck and hot tub. New paint, stove & microwave. Must see to appreciate!

Joann Bedrossian \$980,000
 (650) 614-3500

Light & bright spacious 3BR/2.5BA private end unit. LR w/high ceilings, recessed lights & views of the water. Mstr BR features Walk-In Closet, soaking tub & dual sinks. Steps away from boat dock.

Lilly Chow \$699,000
 (650) 614-3500

SAN CARLOS

A superb layout goes with this 4BR/2BA Mediterranean offering a bay view enhanced by mtn vistas. Desirable amenities include patio, family room & deck. Two-car garage. Enjoy the move-up & magic of this lovely home.

Michael S. Teymour \$1,198,000
 (650) 948-8050

Stunning remodeled Marbella plan at La Ventana complex in San Carlos Hills features a unique open floor plan. The well-lit end unit offers executive living with two bedrooms plus office/den & large loft area. Newly Remodeled "Tuscan" kitchen and more!!!!

Brendan Royer \$874,950
 (650) 614-3500

SAN JOSE

Wonderful Almaden Valley 4BR/3.5BA home. Lots of space for entertaining & huge eat-in kitchen. Expansive Master Suite w/dual walk-in closets. Also features a library, dual paned windows, hardwood floors, tile & 2-car garage.

Geoff Hoffman \$897,000
 (650) 464-3022

SAN MATEO

Charming 2-story Aragon home is move-in ready. 3BR, plus bonus office & sitting area, as well as 2 Full BA's. Remodeled Kitchen & Baths with Granite counters, recessed lighting & French doors leading to a spacious deck/backyard. Bonus multi-use garden cottage. Don't want to miss this one!

Meegan Ferrari \$1,299,000
 (650) 614-3500

One level 2BR/2BA spacious penthouse located on the top floor of a 4-story building. Close to downtown shops & transportation.

Enayal Boroumand \$700,000
 (650) 529-2900

One of the largest 2BR/2BA units at Woodlake! This condo has new carpet, new paint, & is clean & bright. Additional features include a Walk-In Pantry & Walk-In Closets. Contemporary style, with a Dining L, Breakfast Bar & extra storage.

John Marshall \$485,000
 (650) 614-3500

SANTA CLARA

3BR/2.5BA Mediterranean Townhome. High ceilings, light & bright interior. Kitchen w/Granite & stainless steel appliances. Attached 2-car garage & AC. "El Camino to Lincoln to Clay"

Paul Shrabo \$785,000
 650-529-2900

SANTA CRUZ

Excellent opportunity to build the estate of your dreams.

Susan Furstman \$1,195,000
 650-529-2900

SARATOGA

All of the best elements of a genteel life style are realized in this wonderful 2BR/2BA townhome. Chef's kitchen, dramatic ceilings, private courtyard & 2 car garage. Close to town, shopping & freeway access.

Victor Platonoff \$598,888
 (650) 948-8050

SUNNYVALE

Desirable, Upgraded End-Unit. Spacious & bright 2 BR/ 2.5 BA home w/ two master suites. Granite counters in kitchen & real hardwood floors on ground floor. Attached two-car garage w/plenty of storage space.

Roberta C Jan \$495,000
 (650) 948-8050

WOODSIDE

A Serene Sylvan Setting is waiting for you. In the heart of Woodside, this 4BR/3.5BA home is nestled on 4+ Acres. A secluded Guest house with 2BR/2BA & full kitchen awaits your guests. A 2 stall barn, tack & feedroom near the riding ring. A black bottom pool/spa & putting green complete this resort lifestyle at home. Lush landscaping & paths make this a one-of-a-kind property.

John Marshall \$6,249,000
 (650) 614-3500



MENLO PARK – An excellent opportunity in Linfield Oaks. 3BR/2BA home w/large backyard & a garage-converted play-room. The home is move-in ready & offers room to expand.

Nino Gaetano \$1,295,000
 (650) 529-2900



PALO ALTO – Beautifully new constructed Mediterranean style home w/contemporary flair. Featuring 4BD/3BA & very spacious & open. Gourmet kitchen, family room w/entertainment center, fireplace & double French doors that open to a large private backyard w/ a slate patio. Perfect for entertaining.

Robin Mello \$2,875,000
 (650) 614-3500



PALO ALTO – 3BR/2BA single family Palo Alto charmer! Living room features cathedral ceilings & wood burning fireplace. Great neighborhood, close to parks, schools, shopping & restaurants.

Meryle Sussman Offered at \$895,850
 (650) 948-8050



PALO ALTO – Great opportunity to live in downtown PA! Beautiful & bright 2BR/ 2.5BA end unit townhouse in quiet complex. Close to University Ave w/restaurants, shops, etc. New granite counters, new carpet, freshly painted & 2-car attached garage. Great PA schools.

Mar Andres Keehn \$749,000
 (650) 948-8050



PORTOLA VALLEY – Newly constructed in 2001. 3BR/2.5BA craftsman designed home features quality finished & beautiful appointments, including a European styled gourmet kitchen, hardwood floors & an office alcove. There is also a large media entertainment room & a great floor plan. A natural setting landscape offering beautifully crafted stonewalls & patios.

Steve Gray \$1,595,000
 (650) 529-1000

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Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT



Photo by Eric Lawson

Helping hands

Fourteen-year-old Sasha Bovorwicz, right, of Menlo Park, and fellow members of the Menlo-Atherton High School Kiwanis Club finish painting the doorframe and hallway of a Ralmar Avenue home in East Palo Alto on April 25. The project was part of the Rebuilding Together Peninsula effort that sent out nearly 3,000 volunteers that day to renovate dozens of homes and community facilities in San Mateo and northern Santa Clara counties, free of charge to the beneficiaries. The M-A Kiwanis project was sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Menlo Park and the Menlo Park Firefighters Association.

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On the cover

This photo of the temple at Angkor Wat in Cambodia was taken by Dr. Susan Anderson of Woodside, a physician and travel medicine specialist. See **Section 2**.

Weekly Pilates Mat Classes

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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

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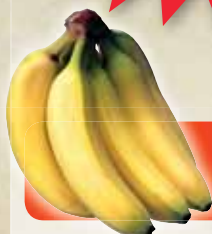
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*Paso Robles Cabernets
 and
 Cabernets Blends*

Paso Robles is renowned for producing rich, opulent reds at reasonable prices. For years, most of these wines lacked finesse, but made up for it on concentration and flavor. More recently, vintners have tried to master the issues of quality, balance and refinement. Here then are a handful of Cabernets, and Cabernet blends, that demonstrate the huge strides forward wines have recently made in Paso Robles.

2006 Martellotto Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve -

A low alcohol Cab (13.5%) from the cool southwest corner of Paso. Reg. \$24.99 SALE \$21.99

2005 Kiamie Cabernet Sauvignon -

Beautiful, fresh varietal character with some Cab Franc for finesse. Reg. \$33.99 SALE \$29.99

2004 Ch. Margene Cabernet Sauvignon -

As the name suggests, an attempt to mimic Bordeaux in Paso. Reg. \$34.99 SALE \$30.99

2005 Kiamie "Kuvée," Blend -

A seirous effort with both structure and nuance. Outstanding! Reg. \$45.99 SALE \$39.99

2006 LAventure "Optimus," Cab/Syrah -

91 pts - Wine Advocate #177. A bold, juicy, mouth-watering red. Reg. \$47.99 SALE \$41.99



2006 Justin "Isosceles" -

Isosceles needs no introduction. Easily Paso's most famous and decorated wine.

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**Hillview bids 'aloha'****to Principal Moore**

Principal Mike Moore, who has headed Hillview Middle School in Menlo Park for the past 23 years, is getting a Hawaiian-themed send-off on May 15, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The community is invited to join the farewell picnic at the school's field with music, entertainment and a barbecue catered by Lutticken's deli.

The school is collecting letters for Mr. Moore: send them to terioneel@yahoo.com or cindiewhite@hotmail.com or drop them off in the school office, 1100 Elder Ave. Orders for the barbecue dinner must be placed in advance; forms are available at the office.

Sunny days ahead

Solar power could be coming to every school in the Menlo Park City School District. District officials are seeking proposals for photovoltaic systems to be installed on all four campuses, according to Ahmad Sheikholeslami, the director of facility planning and construction.

There's still a lot of money to be made

The investors may have been wiped out in the collapse of Lehman Brothers, but the lawyers seem to be making out OK. The Wall Street Journal is reporting that bankruptcy attorneys for Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. have requested a \$55.1 million payment from a federal bankruptcy judge in New York.

It would be the biggest quarterly fee request for bankruptcy representation, and would put the law firm, New York-based Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, on track to earn more than \$200 million in fees by the end of the case, a source told the Wall Street Journal. Of course, Lehman Brothers is also the largest company to date to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

As the Wall Street Journal points out, in bankruptcy liquidation cases such as this, the lawyers get paid before the creditors.

The same law firm got paid \$159 million for representing Enron during its bankruptcy case.

Menlo Park resident takes on PG&E over 'Smart' meters

■ Power company threatens to cut his service.

By Sean Howell

Almanac Staff Writer

Science fiction writers and communication theorists will tell you that technology moves faster than our ability to understand or regulate it. We build the smokestacks and bombs first, and worry about the consequences later. We conduct our commerce on the Web, and hope hackers don't find a way to penetrate the security system.

A new program by Pacific Gas & Electric to retrofit its energy meters so that they can be read remotely wouldn't appear to be too far ahead of its time. Some people may be surprised to learn that PG&E doesn't already have such a system in place; it still sends employees into its customers' yards and basements to read the meters.

But one Menlo Park resident who balked at the "Smart Meter" plan is finding out the hard way that when it comes to the flow of information about his energy use, he may not have much of a choice.

Mark Williams, who lives on White Oak Drive in Menlo Park, turned away a PG&E employee he found trying to install new meters in early

February, and has struggled to prevent the company from making the switch since then. "I just don't like the idea of having extra information floating around out there," he says. Among other security concerns, he maintains that the information could be used to determine whether or not a resident is at home at any given time.

In the new system, a meter would transmit information via radio frequency through a series of relay stations to an encryption device, which would send the data to PG&E through a cellular network, according to the company's Web site.

The system is two-way, meaning that PG&E could control the meter remotely. Customers would be able to view detailed information about their energy use through PG&E's Web site.

When Mr. Williams expressed



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Menlo Park resident Mark Williams says PG&E hasn't convinced him that its online security system is adequate.

reluctance to make the switch, the power company harassed him with phone calls and letters, he says, eventually threatening to cut off service if he didn't agree to let them retrofit the meter.

Mr. Williams' experience with PG&E raises questions about the company's notification process — and touches on broader issues about how much control we have

over the digitization of personal information, such as medical records, bank statements, credit card numbers, and a host of other sensitive documents.

When Mr. Williams told PG&E he didn't want his meter read remotely, the company said, essentially: tough luck.

"We try to work with (custom-

See **METER**, page 8

Jobs tries to tear down mansion, again

By Andrea Gemmet

Almanac Staff Writer

Steve Jobs is not a quitter. He's trying once again to get permission to tear down the historic Jackling house in Woodside. The Apple founder's request for a demolition permit will go back before the Woodside Town Council on Tuesday, April 28, with new information about his plans to replace the rambling Spanish colonial-style mansion on Mountain Home Road with more-modern digs.

Mr. Job's last attempt to tear down the 17,000-plus-square-foot house was undone by a historic preservation group that

took the town and Mr. Jobs to court and won, despite several rounds of appeals.

This time, representatives of Mr. Jobs have provided the additional information that the courts said were lacking when the town voted to grant the demolition permit in 2004. The house has been abandoned for the past decade, and Mr. Jobs has been seeking to level it since 2001.

Designed by noted architect George Washington Smith and built for copper industry magnate Daniel C. Jackling in 1925, the house is considered a historic resource under the California Environmental Quality Act.

When the town granted the permit, they took the unusual step of requiring Mr. Jobs to try and find someone willing to relocate and restore the house. Mr. Jobs' attorney has said that there have been no reasonable offers to take the house. The preservation group, called Uphold Our Heritage, say that's not the case, and point to two serious offers that have been rebuffed.

The Woodside Town Council is not expected to take action at Tuesday's meeting, and Uphold Our Heritage is asking for a continuance. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. in Independence Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, Woodside. ■

Big changes ahead in classrooms

By Andrea Gemmet

Almanac Staff Writer

In most schools, the lessons taught in fourth grade don't vary much from classroom to classroom. Next year, fourth- and fifth-grade students at Corte Madera School in Portola Valley are likely to have some very different experiences from their classmates down the hall.

The grades 4-8 school is about to embark on a "re-imagining" of how fourth and fifth grade is taught, with four different pro-

See **EARLY**, page 8



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School district needs to win over city on Hillview EIR

By **Andrea Gemmet**

Almanac Staff Writer

Are school district officials going to have a hard time getting Menlo Park's support for the Hillview Middle School project?

The Menlo Park City School District plans to build new two-story classroom buildings, an auditorium, parking lots and other facilities to accommodate an anticipated jump in enrollment, from the current 670 students to an estimated 974 students in 2016.

But before construction can start, the environmental impact report for the project has to be approved by the school board. Any outside challenges to the report, also called an EIR, could greatly delay the start of construction.

So the school district is working hard to make sure all of the city of Menlo Park's concerns are addressed before the final EIR is released sometime in May, said Ahmad Sheikholeslami, the district's director of facility planning and construction.

"We want to make sure that the city (of Menlo Park) is satisfied with the EIR so they do not challenge it," he said at the school board's April 21 meeting.

Traffic is clearly the big issue. While the draft EIR states that traffic would be even worse if the project isn't built, it predicts that transporting the growing number of students will impact a number of intersections on

Santa Cruz Avenue and surrounding streets.

One council member, Andy Cohen, is already on the record saying the city hasn't taken a tough enough stance on the project. When the council discussed its response to the draft EIR on March 31, Mr. Cohen said council members and city staff have been "too forgiving of the district, and the way they treat the issues they are required to deal with under the law." He voted against the comment letter.

"As far as I'm concerned, this city has let the residents down on this one," Mr. Cohen said.

The council's official comments asked for more intersections and more options for mitigation measures to be included in the environmental review. The city also wants the district to pay to install traffic signals or any other mitigation measures.

Finding money for traffic mitigations could be tough. The district lost nearly \$4 million last fall, most of it school construction bond money, after the San Mateo County investment pool that held the money invested it in Lehman Brothers debt instruments.

School board members have already come up with a list of cost-saving cuts to the Hillview plans as a result of having less money than budgeted for the project.

"What you spend on traffic problems, you're not spending on the school," Mr. Sheikholeslami said. ■

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New hearing set on Lehman losses

San Mateo County officials are heading to Washington, D.C., in their quest to get federal bailout money to cover the losses from the collapse of Lehman Brothers. A hearing before the House Financial Services Committee is set for 10 a.m. Tuesday, May 5, according to Deputy County Manager Mary McMillan.

A local field hearing in San Mateo County had been planned for this month but it got canceled when Rep. Barney Frank decided to have the matter heard by the full committee. Rep. Frank is the chair of the House Financial Services Committee.

Ms. McMillan said on April

27 that the local delegation will spend Monday, May 4, attempting to meet with every member of the committee.

The county treasury lost \$150 million in investments when Lehman Brothers went bankrupt last fall. Among the members of the county investment pool that were affected are the Menlo Park City School District, the Sequoia Union High School District, and the town of Atherton.

County officials want the federal government to use Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) funds to cover the losses from the Lehman bankruptcy.

Hannah Locke Carter, member of first U.S. women's Olympic ski team, dies at 94

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Thursday, May 21, at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Menlo Park, for Hannah Locke Carter, a member of the first U.S. women's Olympic ski team in 1936. Ms. Carter, a resident of Menlo Park since 2005 and a former resident of Atherton, died April 20 at the age of 94.

Ms. Carter, who was born in Morristown, New Jersey, planned to become a pianist, but her real love soon became winter sports, say family members. A promising figure skater, she was encouraged to develop her talents as a skier. She was one of Alice Wolfe's "Red Stockings," a group of American women who pioneered skiing for the United States in Europe in the late 1930s, racing the top women skiers of that time.

She was involved with the Federation International de Ski and the National Ski Association for many years. In 1973 she was inducted into the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame. In addition, she was an official at the 1960 Squaw Valley Winter Olympics, a delegate to the 1984 Winter Olympics in Sarajevo, and on the organizing committee for the 1984 Los Angeles Summer Olympics.

Ms. Carter served as Averell Harriman's private secretary for the grand opening of his new ski resort in Sun Valley in 1936. She skied at Sun Valley well into her 80s, say family members.

OBITUARY



Hannah Locke Carter was one of Alice Wolfe's "Red Stockings," a group of American women who pioneered skiing for the United States in Europe in the late 1930s, racing the top women skiers of that time.

In 1939 she married Emott Caldwell and in 1950 the Caldwells moved to Atherton. Mr. Caldwell owned and operated Caldwell's General Store in Woodside from 1950 to 1960. She was divorced from Mr. Caldwell in 1958 and continued living in Atherton until

1963.

In 1963 she married Edward W. Carter, president of Carter, Hawley Hale, a worldwide retail chain. They lived in Bel Air and became prominent members of the Los Angeles cultural community.

In the 1970s they developed an interest in 17th century Dutch paintings and amassed one of the world's most important private collections of that period, say family members.

Ms. Carter was a member of the board of the John Douglas French Alzheimer's Foundation, as well as a benefactor of the San Francisco Opera, Los Angeles Music Center, and the Garden Club of America. She was a member of the Town & Country Club of San Francisco, Filoli, the Burlingame Country Club, and the Los Angeles Country Club.

A lifelong athlete, she played tennis well into her 70s and skated at the Culver City Ice Arena until she was 87.

Ms. Carter is survived by her five children, Hannah C. Sowerwine of Menlo Park, James E. Caldwell Jr. of Woodside, Julie C. Tave of Saint Germain en Laye, France, Anne Caldwell of Eugene, Oregon, and Jonathan A. Caldwell of Stratham, New Hampshire; stepson William Carter; nine grandchildren; five step-grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and seven step-great-grandchildren.

The family prefers donations be made to a favorite charity.

M-A senior wins \$50,000 scholarship for calcium study

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

The teen years are decades removed from the onset of osteoporosis, so who would think that teens should consider their body's daily need for calcium? Menlo-Atherton senior Amrita Sehgal of Woodside did and she's been rewarded for her curiosity and skill.

Ms. Sehgal, 18, shared top honors by winning one of two \$50,000 scholarships in the annual Young Epidemiology Scholars competition, according to the College Board.

This past winter, Ms. Sehgal surveyed 198 M-A students in grades 9-12 and found that just 38 percent of the students took enough calcium to meet daily requirements. The survey group was made up of 55 percent boys

and 45 percent girls, with 20 percent of the girls meeting the calcium requirement and 52 percent of the boys, she said.

Calcium intake drops as the teen years go by, Ms. Sehgal said in an interview. By 18, "barely anybody takes enough calcium," she said.

Women, she said, are four times more likely than men to develop osteoporosis because of lower female bone mass generally and drops in estrogen levels after menopause.

Adequate calcium intake as a teen is a big deal. "It's, like, crucial to take that calcium during adolescence," she said, adding

that in her survey, 85 percent of the students also knew that to be true.

Why does calcium intake drop off? Ms. Sehgal didn't have an answer, but guessed that teens are learning to make their own decisions and may be giving less credence to the views of their parents.

Ms. Sehgal's father is a research physician at Stanford University hospital, she said, while her mother is a retired physician.

The contest was sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and administered by the College Board.

Local students have been well represented in this annual contest lately. In 2008, Maya Mathur of Woodside won a \$35,000 scholarship, and in 2007, M-A grad Mio Frisk won a \$15,000 scholarship. ■



Amrita Sehgal



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

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by Monica Corman

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amount of coverage, provided the underlying primary insurance policies are in place. You also want to be sure that you have adequate coverage if the pool is damaged and needs to be substantially repaired or replaced. If it is damaged in an earthquake, you will probably not be covered unless you have earthquake insurance. In any insurance issues I rely on the insurance broker or company for guidelines and recommendations. Call your insurance representative to be sure that you are adequately covered.

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Enrollment rises, revenues expected to decline in Menlo Park school district

By Andrea Gemmet
Almanac Staff Writer

Where are all the kids coming from? The bumper crop of new kindergarteners flooding into the Menlo Park City School District shows no signs of abating. Superintendent Ken Ranella said that enrollment for the fall is up 5.1 percent while projected revenues are decreasing by 1.1 percent.

As a result, class sizes are increasing next year, and the district's per student expenditures will drop by nearly \$500, from \$11,704 per pupil to \$11,234, Mr. Ranella said at the school board's April 21 meeting.

Menlo Park is trying to weather the storm without laying off any teachers. "The scenario for staff is: work harder with larger class sizes, fewer resources and no compensation increases," he said.

More than 360 children have

enrolled for kindergarten so far, requiring 16 classrooms instead of the 15 district officials had planned. The problem, of course, is finding room for them while construction is under way at all three elementary school campuses next year.

Housing the district's new bilingual Spanish immersion program is proving problematic for district officials, who said they would prefer to keep the group of two kindergartens and two first grades together on one campus.

However, no campus in the district can accommodate that many kids without forcing other students to transfer out of their neighborhood school, said Mr. Ranella. School board members discussed the problem at length, without coming to any conclusions about how to split up the immersion program, which launched this year. ■



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Silhouettes at play

Kids in Mrs. Martinez's kindergarten class at Ormondale School in Portola Valley play a Dominican Republic version of baseball — with paper balls and wooden and plastic homemade bats. The game was part of the school's "Viajando en Español" or "Travel in Spanish" program on April 16. Children at each grade level traveled to different classrooms that represented Spanish-speaking countries. The students learned about geography, food, history, literature and culture.

Classroom changes ahead

EARLY
continued from page 5

grams designed to play upon teachers' strengths and improve students' learning, according to Principal Carol Piraino.

While the basic curriculum will remain the same, the lens through which it is viewed will vary, she told the Portola Valley School District's board.

Students in the visual and performing arts classroom might learn about the California Gold Rush by performing a play. Students in the math and technology-focused class might use multimedia projects in their "gadget-friendly" classroom, according to preliminary class descriptions. The humanities-focused classroom will combine both grades and be the most similar to a traditional classroom. The interdisciplinary classroom will approach lessons from a theme based, integrated approach.

Teachers are "excited and enthusiastic" at the prospect, Ms. Piraino said.

Parents will be asked to fill out a "decision-making matrix," gauging their child's interests, strengths and weaknesses in choosing among the four types of classes. Principal Piraino said she would do her best to make sure students are placed according to their top two choices, as teachers try to create balanced classes.

"It's important we be responsive to the kids and not the other way around," she said at the board's April 22 meeting. "We need to look at their needs and interests."

The most controversial thing about the plan could be the proposal to have an early dismissal on Wednesdays, in order to give teachers time to plan lessons. Additional time for teachers to collaborate and prepare is essential, said Ms. Piraino.

The result will be a reduction in instructional hours in fourth and fifth grades, although the hours will still exceed the state mandate, district officials said.

"Philosophically, I'm not that hung up on instructional hours, I'm hung up on results," said board member Steven Humphreys. "It's incredible how little planning time teachers have."

The board voted 5-0 to approve a parent survey to gauge opinions on a 12:15 p.m. dismissal every Wednesday. Parents will also be asked whether they need after-school care in order to make the early schedule work.

The board also voted 5-0 to find funding for essential start-up costs for the new program. The essential items include \$9,600 for three days of curriculum planning before school starts, and \$15,000 for an independent outside evaluator to assess the program. ■

Menlo Park resident takes on PG&E

METER
continued from page 5

ers) to help them understand the benefit" of the program, said PG&E spokesman Paul Moreno. But PG&E, not the customer, owns the meters. "Ultimately, it comes down to giving us access to our facilities. If the customer is not providing access, then they force us to (cut off service). We have made repeated efforts to work with customers, and this is not how we want to do it, either.

"The best way to put it is: At the end of the day, we are required to change the meters out in order to provide continuous service."

PG&E representatives are not allowed to talk about specific customers for privacy reasons, but when Mr. Williams' case was described to him, Mr. Moreno said: "I don't know that he was aware of the benefits."

Threats and letters

Mr. Williams says he doesn't see much benefit to customers. It's the power company that really stands to gain, he insists, because the new system will spare it the hassle and expense of going from home to home to read meters.

But PG&E officials contend that the new system will allow savvy customers to track their energy use on the Web, and find ways to cut their costs.

Mr. Williams says he received a letter from PG&E on March 5, warning that his electricity and gas would be cut off in five days if he didn't consent to the meter change. In the letter, a PG&E representative wrote that termination and reconnection fees could be "very costly," but did not cite a legal rationale for interrupting service.

"I do not believe it to be legal for you to cut off service within such a short time period, if at all," Mr. Williams wrote in a letter he fired back that

day, outlining his complaints and threatening legal action if PG&E cut his power.

Mr. Moreno, the PG&E spokesman, said he didn't know what the legal justification for cutting off Mr. Williams' power would be. He did say, however, that the letter Mr. Williams received is in line with the company's usual procedure when it encounters unwilling customers.

Since Mr. Williams sent his letter, his service has not been cut off, and his meters have not been replaced.

Is it secure?

Mr. Moreno struggled to understand Mr. Williams' concerns.

"The information is made available to customers so that they will have it," he said. "PG&E only uses it for billing customers ... we really don't concern ourselves with how much energy our five million customers are using at any particular moment.

"If anything, this will help customers preserve the privacy of their information, because we're not out there once a month."

But Mr. Williams, who doesn't bank online and tries to avoid making online purchases when he can, says the company hasn't convinced him that its online security system is adequate. He's concerned that a hacker, or even a PG&E employee, might be able to tell whether he's at home by a quick check of his online account. If someone can see that he hasn't used energy for a few days, or that he's not using heat on a winter night, it's a pretty good bet that no one is home.

"I don't know what kind of security they're going to have, but I assume it's not going to be more secure than a hospital," he said. "And all kinds of people get access to hospital information." (Mr. Williams works in the medical device sector.)

He says he doesn't know how his dispute with PG&E will shake out, but he'll face a slog if he wants to prevent the switch. The power company hopes to retrofit all its Midpeninsula meters by March 2010; by 2012, it expects that all of its 10 million meters statewide will be "Smart." ■

Hearing set for new gym, gymnastics center

By Sean Howell
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park has completed its initial environmental review of a proposal to tear down the Burgess Gymnasium and replace it with a new gym, and a new gymnastics center.

The city will hold a public hearing Monday, May 4, to solicit comments on a draft of a report on the project's potential environmental impacts. The hearing will take place at a meeting of the Planning Commission, tentatively scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. in the council chambers in the Civic Center complex, between Laurel and Alma streets.

The proposal calls for replacing the existing 17,400-square-foot gym and gymnastics center with a 25,700-square-foot gymnasium, and a 23,900-square-foot gymnastics center.

The gymnastics center would be built on the site where the gymnasium stands now, adjacent to the Burgess Aquatics Center on Laurel Street. The new gymnasium would be situated between the Burgess Recreation Center and Alma Street.

According to the city's most recent cost estimate, the gymnastics building would cost \$11.5 million. Palo Alto billionaire and major Stanford donor John Arrillaga has offered to cover any costs over \$6.2 million for the construction of the new gymnasium; the facility's price tag is estimated at \$14.2 million.

The new gym is one of several projects the city intends to build with Measure T funds; voters passed the \$38 million bond measure in 2001.

The gym would include two full-length basketball courts, at Mr. Arrillaga's request.

The environmental impact report, and more information about the gym, can be found at www.menlopark.org/gym.

Council reviews foreclosure plan

A city plan to keep low-income residents in their homes and a potential fee increase at Menlo Children's Center are among the issues the City Council expects to take up at its meeting Tuesday, May 5.

The council is set to discuss plans to buy an equity stake in some homes in the Belle Haven

neighborhood, and to buy foreclosed homes and sell them to low-income residents. It is not expected to act on the plans.

The council will also consider a fee hike for the Burgess child care program that would go into effect at the beginning of the upcoming school year. City staff members have said they will propose a 6 percent rate increase.

No council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28.

The goats are back

Hundreds of goats will return to Sharon Heights in early May, chomping through weeds and grasses on city property so that new growth doesn't become a fire hazard.

As in years past, visitors can catch a glimpse of the goats at Sharon Hills Park off Valparaiso Avenue, just west of Alameda de las Pulgas. After two to three weeks, they are scheduled to move to the undeveloped section of Sharon Park at Sharon Park and Monte Rosa drives.

The city uses the goats, brought by a company based in Davis, in lieu of mechanical equipment. The goats will be corralled by shepherds and their trained dogs, and an electric fence will surround the area where they're working.

Visitors are welcome, but are asked to keep their dogs in control and on a leash.

City releases activity guide

Block parties, concerts, camps, and summer job opportunities are among the activities detailed in the summer activity guide recently released by the city of Menlo Park.

The city's free summer concert series is set to run each Wednesday from June 24 through Aug. 12, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., at Fremont Park at Santa Cruz Avenue and University Drive. Downtown block parties will be held on the first and last concert dates.

Registration for summer camps and other programs began April 20.

The guide was mailed to Menlo Park residents, and is also available for pick-up at most city facilities. For registration information, visit www.menlopark.org/registration ■

■ MENLO WATCH

City revises zoning ordinance on gross floor area

By Sean Howell
Almanac Staff Writer

In a move that City Council members say will make it easier for developers and city staff to interpret the city's zoning ordinance, Menlo Park has revised the definition of how it calculates a project's gross floor area.

The change applies to commercial, industrial and most multi-unit residential developments.

Broadly defined, gross floor area is the amount of floor space in a building, measured in square feet. Historically, the city has calculated it by totaling the floor space on each floor of a building, exempting certain portions for various reasons.

The city's zoning code sets

limits on the amount of floor area a building can contain.

The council decided to revise the ordinance in spring 2007, when confusion arose over how gross floor area was calculated. The ordinance was vague on the issue, with its interpretation left to the discretion of the planning department, according to City Attorney Bill McClure.

The Planning Commission drafted the new ordinance in 10 public hearings over nearly two years. In a 3-2 vote, with councilmen Andy Cohen and John Boyle dissenting, the council adopted the new ordinance with significant changes to the commission's draft — a move that rankled commissioners, including chair Henry Riggs, who argued that the council

was running afoul of public process.

Mr. Cohen contended that the commission had run afoul of the council's direction, saying its proposal was too lenient on developers. Mr. Boyle wanted to approve the commission's recommendation without changes.

Under the new ordinance, up to 1 percent of a building's floor area may be exempted for machinery stored indoors, with up to 3 percent exempted for being deemed "non-usable."

In a unanimous (7-0) vote, the commission had recommended up to a 5 percent exemption for "non-useable" space, and suggested that elevators and stairwells be counted on only one floor — language the council deleted from the final draft. ■

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Council agrees: Commercial gardeners can blow leaves on Saturdays

■ New noise ordinance would include measurable loudness standards.

By **Dave Boyce**
Almanac Staff Writer

An updated noise ordinance for Portola Valley had been set for a vote on April 22, but it was delayed by the Town Council's unanimous decision to remove a proposal that would have banned commercial gardening services such as leaf-blowing on Saturdays. Councilwoman Maryann Moise Derwin was absent for the meeting but is expected for the May 13 meeting, when this ordinance is due to get another public hearing before a council vote.

Of the major proposed changes, the updated ordinance would set loudness standards — a first

for Portola Valley — and bring consistency to hours allowed for construction and the use of gardening tools such as leaf blowers, weed whackers and lawn mowers.

Construction and commercial gardening would be allowed between 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Saturdays. On Sundays, residents could work on construction and use garden tools from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Another significant change: quiet holidays, with no construction or use of power garden tools allowed.

Measuring loudness

The proposed ordinance lists

■ PORTOLA VALLEY

acceptable loudness (decibel) levels according to time of day, whether the person making the noise complaint is inside or outside a building, and what kind of building it is.

Acceptable noises are those related to construction, deliveries, garbage collection and emergency generators. Unacceptable noises include persistent dog barking and rooster crowing. Leaf blowers louder than 65 decibels would be prohibited.

The town's general plan includes a chapter on noise that lists examples of noise levels. A "quiet office environment" registers about 40 decibels.

In the proposed ordinance, a noise heard from inside a home

should not exceed 40 decibels during the day; after 10 p.m., it should drop to 30 decibels, the sound of a "quiet bedroom at night."

The draft noise ordinance is posted at tinyurl.com/dz8ljs, and the noise element at tinyurl.com/ceyjk9.

Noise measurements would have to be professionally done and paid for by the complainant. In the case of a conditional use permit, the permit holder would pay, Planning Manager Leslie Lambert said in an interview.

For barking dogs, the town will acquire a voice-activated recorder to verify the barking either at the home of the complainant or that of the dog owner. Some dog owners are reportedly unaware of their dog's behavior when it's alone

in the yard.

The council is strongly recommending that neighbors talk with each other and try to settle things amicably before resorting to the measurement of noises.

Being neighborly

The council reviewed a report by Ms. Lambert on advice for residents on how to gracefully contact each other over issues such as barking dogs.

The report includes sections on the rewards of being a good neighbor; the dog's perspective, as imagined by Ms. Lambert; and the perspectives of a barking dog's owner and its neighbors, plus sample letters.

In reviewing Ms. Lambert's draft, the council recommended setting up a Web page for noise complaints, and encouraging neighborly conversation as a warmer alternative to letter writing.

Rural or not?

Community discussions in Portola Valley occasionally focus on the town's "rural character." It was a talking point during a 2003 ballot initiative that, by a slim majority, reversed an ordinance that would have allowed condominiums to be built in town.

Rural character came up again in the discussion of the commercial gardening ban on Saturdays. Councilmen Ted Driscoll and Richard Merk both said they preferred the ban.

"There's a core philosophical issue here: we like to consider ourselves as country," Mr. Driscoll said. Yards free of leaf-litter, he said, is "consistent with a well-maintained suburb. I'm just basically trying to get at what my image of this town is. What did the world do before leaf blowers were invented?"

Mr. Merk wanted peaceful Saturdays. "It's really hard to sit out there at lunch time and all you hear is blowers," he said.

Both men relented after Councilman Steve Toben reiterated that a majority of the participants in recent community workshops preferred Saturday as a work day. He expressed "energetic" support for busy residents who want to be there to supervise their gardeners.

"(Rural) is a term that people interpret in a variety of ways," he said in an interview.

Mayor Ann Wengert proposed a leaf-blower-specific ban on Saturdays but reconsidered, thinking it may not be enforceable. ■

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Fluorescent tubes also contain mercury. To recycle tubes, please call San Mateo County's Household Hazardous Waste Program for recycling options at 650-372-6200. View drop-off locations online, or make an appointment to dispose of other household hazardous waste at: www.smhealth.org/hhw.

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Truck destroys fire hydrant, telephone junction box

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

An AT&T repair crew was at work the evening of April 22, making continuity and dial-tone checks on some 2,800 pairs of wires at the telephone junction box on the roadside in front of the Alpine Hills Tennis & Swimming Club on Alpine Road in Portola Valley.

A tractor-trailer truck demolished the junction box and decapitated a fire hydrant at the entrance to the club at 4139 Alpine Road around 5:45 p.m. on Monday, April 20.

A "handful" of AT&T customers were affected.

An Almanac reporter happened on the scene Monday evening while Woodside Fire Protection District firefighters, awaiting the arrival of

the phone company, watched over the flattened remnants of the junction box and a hole in the ground where the hydrant used to be.

The 50-foot tractor-trailer had made a delivery at the club, said club General Manager Pam Stroud.

As the driver was leaving, he made a U-turn but forgot that his tailgate was down, according to Sgt. Linda Gibbons of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office. The tailgate hit the junction box and hydrant.

With the fire hydrant sheared off, the expected result is a roadside geyser, which would have filled up nearby open convertibles, Capt. Marshall Hird of the fire district said. That did not happen thanks to a new check valve in the water main, he said. ■

Parade, carnival to celebrate May Day

Woodside celebrates Mardi Gras a couple of months late this year, and May Day 24 hours late, but if history is any indication, the community is going to have a grand and lively party anyway as it participates in its 87th annual May Day parade and carnival on Saturday, May 2.

The parade theme is "Mardi Gras," and participants are urged to dress accordingly — with masks, beads and colorful clothing.

The parade and carnival are sponsored by the Woodside School PTA. Preceding them are a "Fun Run" beginning at 7:30 a.m., sponsored by the Woodside Recreation Committee; and a pancake breakfast from 8 to 10 a.m., sponsored by the Rotary Club and held at Woodside Village Church.

The parade begins at 10 a.m., with registration opening at 9 a.m. Parade participants wishing to drive a vehicle are strongly encouraged to pre-register by picking up a form at Woodside Elementary School or by e-mailing kassia@decorvm.com.

The parade will be followed by a traditional May Pole dance and presentation of the Citizen of the Year award in the Woodside school

WOODSIDE

amphitheater.

A carnival and barbecue lunch are next on the agenda. Tickets for the barbecue — \$5 to \$7 per person — and the carnival may be purchased in advance at the school, or at the event.

Woodside Road between Woodside school and Canada Road will be closed off at 9:30 a.m. Organizers urge people attending the event in cars to arrive around 8:30 p.m.

Grand marshal, royal court

Bettina Pike, a school board

member for eight years, will be grand marshal of the parade. She was chosen in recognition of "her years of hard work, willingness to jump right in and help where needed, and her dedication to the school and community," according to a press release from the PTA Community Events committee.

Six students were chosen through a drawing to serve on the traditional May Day Kindergarten Court. They are: Wyatt Stenson, king; Charlotte Bourne, queen; Tommy Ashworth, prince; Ava Bouthillette, princess; Alexander Yonehiro, prince; and Kate McCauley, princess.

Memorial for Barry Rosen on Sunday

A memorial for Woodside resident and addiction-specialist Dr. Barry Rosen is set for 2 p.m. Sunday, 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.

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Mothers' Day festivities set for Filoli in Woodside

Filoli's house and gardens in Woodside will contain a "Kaleidoscope of Flowers" during Mother's Day weekend, Thursday, May 7 through Sunday, May 10.

More than 40 professional and 30 amateur designers will create table settings, floral bouquets and arrangements, horticultural displays and exhibits. Two children's classes will be offered in the show, which has become a Mother's Day tradition.

The event begins with an opening night reception on Thursday, May 7, with the Friends of Filoli's executive board members modeling vintage jewelry. Guests will stroll the gardens at twilight, see previews of floral arrangements, chat with the designers, and enjoy musical entertainment. Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Cost is \$75 for members and \$85 for others.

Filoli has teas, box lunches and a Mother's Day cham-

pagne brunch scheduled for the weekend. The teas will be held Friday and Saturday, May 8 and 9, at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$55 for members, \$65 for non-members, and \$35 for children. At the time of publication, the Saturday 1:30 p.m. tea was sold out.

The champagne brunch takes place Sunday, May 10, at 10:30 a.m., noon, and 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$75 for members, \$85 for non-members and \$40 for children. The noon seating has already sold out.

Box lunches, which must be ordered in advance, will be available Friday through Sunday and are \$25 for adults, and \$15 for children.

During flower show weekend, the Filoli greenhouse will be open for touring and "flower chats" will be held at 1:30 p.m. each day on the dining room terrace. Musical entertainment will take place in the house and on the tennis court.

Kathie Shaw of Menlo Park



Photo by Barbara Braun

Table setting before the fireplace in Filoli's dining room.

and Florence Bell of Los Gatos are co-chairs of the Mother's Day festivities.

General admission is \$20 for

members, \$25 for non-members, and \$10 for children. During the flower show there is no room for strollers in the

house or at tea.

To purchase tickets, go to www.filoli.org or call 364-8300, ext. 508.



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Palo Alto

Palo Alto Center – 795 El Camino Real

“Living Well with Osteoarthritis”

Tuesday, May 12, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Andrew Rozelle, M.D., Ph.D., PAMF
Rheumatology

RSVP: 650-853-2960

Hearing Health Fair

Wednesday, May 27, 3 to 5 p.m.

Various presentations by PAMF
audiologists and other experts;
screenings & informational tables

RSVP: 650-853-4873

Santa Cruz

Sutter Maternity & Surgery Center – 2900 Chanticleer Ave.

Senior Health Fair

Saturday, May 2, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Health screenings, lectures &
informational tables

“Maintaining Your Independence”

9 a.m. – Wendi Knapp, M.D.,
PAMF hospitalist

“Aging and Problems with Movement”

10 a.m. – Paul Ware, M.D., PAMF
Physical Medicine and
Rehabilitation

“He Snores, She Snores: Obstructive Sleep Apnea”

11 a.m. – William Hart, M.D., PAMF
Sleep Medicine and
Pulmonary Disease

RSVP: 831-479-6620

Dublin

Dublin Center – 4050 Dublin Blvd.

“Stress Management in Troubled Times”

Wednesday, May 6, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Tracy Thompson, M.D., PAMF Internal
Medicine, and Betty Runnels, M.A, MFT,
private practice

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Fremont

Fremont Center – 3200 Kearney Street

“Heartburn and Reflux: When is it Dangerous?”

Wednesday, May 20, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Khae V. Saephanh, D.O., PAMF Family
Medicine

RSVP: 510-498-2891

Sunnyvale

Sunnyvale Library – 655 W. Olive Ave.

“Prescription for Health Care Reform”

Tuesday, May 5, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Hal Luft, Ph.D., Director,
PAMF Research Institute

RSVP: 650-934-7380

Sunnyvale City Council Chambers – 456 W. Olive Ave.

“Surviving Spring: How to Manage Allergies”

Wednesday, May 27, 7 to 8 p.m.

Steve Rubinstein, M.D., PAMF Allergy

RSVP: 408-523-3295

Project Read tutor training starts May 6

Registration is under way for Project Read-Menlo Park’s tutor training sessions set to begin on Wednesday, May 6.

The nonprofit program trains volunteers to help local adults learn how to read, or improve their reading, and attain their personal educational and vocational goals. Project Read always has a long waiting list of would-be students eager to learn, and the program welcomes new volunteer tutors.

Training sessions are held at the Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St.

The May 6 session is from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., and is followed by a Saturday, May 9, session from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

A final session is a follow-up meeting for tutors who have started meeting with their students, giving them a chance to compare notes and seek advice on specific issues they may have encountered. That session is set for Wednesday, June 17, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Those interested in being a tutor but who can’t attend the next scheduled sessions can receive videotaped or DVD training and resource material through the Project Read office at the Menlo Park Library.

Tutoring takes place at the Menlo Park and Belle Haven branch libraries, the Menlo Park Senior Center, the Burgess Recreation Center, or at a location mutually agreeable to the tutor and learner.

For more information or to register for the tutor training sessions, call 330-2525. Project Read’s Web site is menloparklibrary.org/pread.html.

Finding space in nature

Want to spend time in the great outdoors, but you’re not sure where to go? The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District just upgraded the “Preserve Finder” function on its Web site (www.openspace.org).

Directions, boundaries, topography and satellite images are all available now, thanks to a custom interface using Google Maps, according to Vicky Gou, the district’s Web coordinator.



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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, JobTrain spokeswoman Kail Lubarsky said in a brief interview.

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.

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.

Run to benefit M-A athletic programs on Sunday

The annual 3.1-mile run/walk road race to raise money for athletic activities at Menlo-Atherton High School takes place at 9 a.m. Sunday, May 3. Free "Big Bear Run" hats will be offered to the first 50 M-A graduates who register.

The M-A Athletic Boosters club hopes to raise \$60,000, a goal that was achieved last year, a club spokeswoman said. The money goes toward essentials such as uniforms and equip-

ment for the 900 members of M-A's 52 sports teams.

Registration is \$25 for adults and \$15 for students 18 or younger. The run, open to all ages, begins at the school at 555 Middlefield Road in Atherton. From the Ringwood Avenue side of the school, runners and walkers weave through the Lindenwood neighborhood of Atherton and back to the football field.

To register, go to www.active.com, enter "Big Bear Run" in the

search box, and click the "Register Now" button. Or download a form at www.m-aboosters.org or register on the day of the race after 8 a.m. on Ringwood Avenue.

The lead sponsor is Demand-Tec, a San Carlos-based company that offers services to retailers and their manufacturers. Other sponsors include local businesses that provide the awards and refreshments.



Thank you, Draeger's

Mark Severi, the store director of Draeger's in Menlo Park, gets a certificate of appreciation from Kim Guthrie and Shari Conrad, co-presidents of the Menlo Park-Atherton Education Foundation. By participating in the eScrip program, Draeger's donated over \$9,600 last year to the foundation, which supports school in the Menlo Park City School District.

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**Woodsider is
robotics champ**

Sierra Lincoln, a Woodside resident and eighth-grader at Harker School in San Jose, came away with three awards in a recent international robotics competition.

In the middle-school category of the VEX Robotics Championship of the Americas held April 2-4 in Omaha, Sierra — a “one-person team” — won the top award for programming skills, the top award for robot skills, and a finalist award as a partner with a team from Omaha, according to an e-mail from her mother, Raymonde Guindon, and the tournament’s Web site.

As with many robotics contests, this one tests the robot working alone under remote control, autonomously and as part of a team.

“It was nerve-wracking, it’s really nervous, it was a lot of fun,” Sierra said in a TV interview, according to her mother, who attended the Omaha event with her husband Patrick Lincoln, who works at SRI in Menlo Park.

**Seniors awarded
scholarships**

Two local high school students have been named winners of individual \$2,500 scholarships from the National Merit Scholarship Corp., a privately funded nonprofit based in Illinois.

Menlo School senior David J. Andresen of Menlo Park, and Castilleja School senior Ericka P. Von Kaepler of Portola Valley were among 700 African American finalists chosen for National Achievement scholarships, according to National Merit statement on April 8.

Mr. Andresen and Ms. Von Kaepler are likely to pursue careers in medicine, the statement said.

The scholarships recognize students’ “consistently high academic performance” and a record of accomplishments that bodes well for academic success in college. About 150,000 African American students nationwide competed for the recognition.

The program has awarded more than \$93 million in undergraduate scholarships to African American students since 1964. Partial funding for the \$2.6 million being awarded this year also comes from some 40 corporate sponsors and professional associations.

Devi Yoga thrives despite economy

In fact, economic stress may be attracting more practitioners to Menlo Park yoga studio

By Sheryl Nonnenberg

You have probably seen them walking along Ravenswood Avenue or in the parking lot behind Walgreens: men and women carrying yoga mats, looking fit and relaxed.

They have, no doubt, just emerged from Devi Yoga, a Menlo Park studio located between Applewood Pizza and Depot Laundry on El Camino Real.

In operation for seven years, Devi Yoga has remained a thriving endeavor, despite the downturn in the economy. A visit to this quiet oasis of calm reveals just why Devi has beat the odds that usually doom a small business, especially in adverse times.

Devi Yoga opened in the fall of 2002 in the 800 block of Santa



Photo by Eric Lawson
Manthi Nguyen

Cruz Avenue, in a small two-room suite. Nicole Perkins, a yoga instructor who had studied and traveled in India, started the studio with the intention

of offering a nurturing, supportive place where beginners and long-time "yogis" could practice.

In 2005, the studio moved to its current location, which provided more space for both classes and the boutique, where yoga clothing and accessories are sold.

In 2007, Ms. Perkins sold the business to Manthi Nguyen, who is also the owner of the Pilates Zone in Menlo Park. Ms. Nguyen says she saw it as an opportunity to build a premier yoga studio in the area, and to promote healthful living.

Starting May 1, the business will operate under the umbrella of Bhakti Blessings LLC, a partnership of Ms. Nguyen and John Berg, she announced by e-mail on April 22.

National statistics demonstrate the popularity of yoga. A recent survey in Yoga Journal magazine reports that some 15 million people practice yoga in the United States. They also spent about \$5 billion on classes, yoga clothing, CDs and DVDs.

Yoga aficionados will tell you that a regular (three times a week) yoga practice can help tone and strengthen muscles, correct alignment issues, help keep the spine supple, and quiet and calm the mind.

The discipline of yoga, practiced

■ BUSINESS

About the author: Sheryl Nonnenberg, who has practiced at the Devi Yoga studio since its inception, is a long-time yoga practitioner, an art researcher and writer, and a resident of Menlo Park.

for more than 5,000 years, is considered a lifestyle, rather than a religion (although there is much in common with Eastern religious traditions).

The physical poses (or asanas) were originally meant to allow the

Devi Yoga patrons meditate during a Sunday morning class.

Photo by Eric Lawson



yoga student to remain seated in meditation for longer periods of time.

Devi Yoga offers a well-rounded list of classes. Many feature the

Vinyasa style of yoga, in which one pose flows into another, in almost a dance-like fashion. There are several other recognized yoga disciplines: Iyengar, Anusara, Jivamukti

and Yin.

Classes are scheduled during the day and evening. Often there are

See DEVI, page 18



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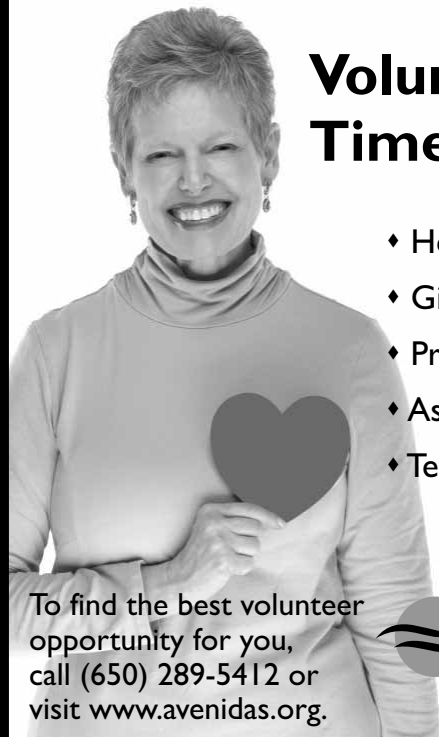


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ASK THE DEPUTY

Deputy Stephanie Josephson, who patrols locally for the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, answers your questions about law enforcement. Submit questions to editor@AlmanacNews.com; or call 854-2626 and leave a message on ext. 213; or mail questions to: Ask the Deputy, The Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025.



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Please visit www.smcalert.info to sign up for this free service. If you need more information or have difficulties, call Deputy DJ Wozniak at 599-1297. Don't forget to add the phone numbers of your significant other or children.

The second system has the ability to notify residents via their home phone, including unlisted numbers, if there is any danger posed to them, such as if they should stay within their homes or evacuate. This system is already in place and you don't need to do anything to be included in it as long as you are

using traditional home phone service.

We also encourage you to visit www.smcready.org to get more information on being prepared for any emergency.

If you have urgent information or are calling to report an in-progress incident, call "911." If you would like to add anonymous information to an ongoing investigation, call 1-800-547-2700 in San Mateo County jurisdictions and 650-330-6395 in Menlo Park.

Each department has a designated officer who provides information to the public and press. Check the Web sites of the jurisdiction in which you reside for information regarding press releases and relevant contact information.

Please understand that during an incident, an officer on scene may not be able to provide you with extended information due to the constraints of an ongoing investigation, but you will be advised of any relevant safety concerns. In all situations, exercise all normal precautions.

A heartfelt story.

My open-heart surgery changed my life.

I'm grateful for the way I was treated by the staff and nurses at Sequoia.

In fact, my nurses were so attentive it was if they were taking care of their own child.

My thanks go to Sequoia, too, for their dedication in building an award-winning heart program.

How can I pay everyone back? I'm starting by giving each of my nurses a big box of chocolates.

If you ask me, the heart program at Sequoia is top notch. No wonder people come from far away to be treated here.

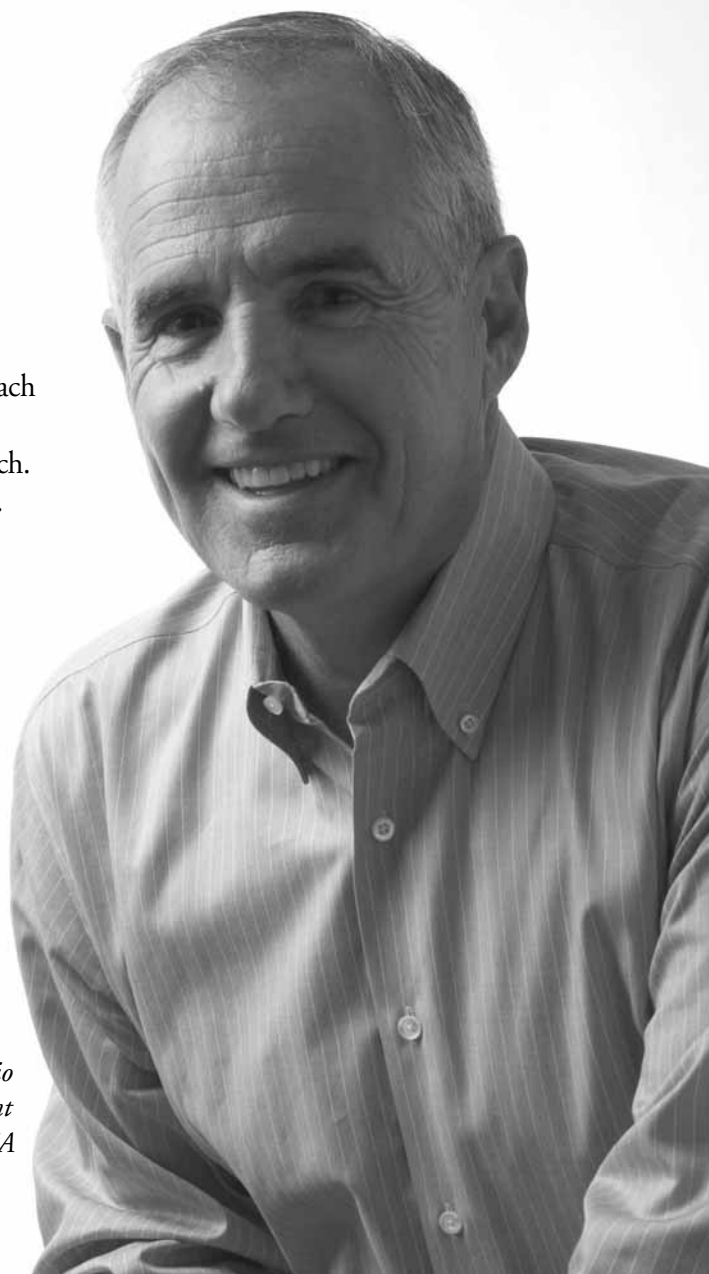
Sequoia Hospital invites you to learn more at www.sequoiahospital.org.



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Parenting workshops in Portola Valley

Two free one-hour workshops on effective parenting are coming in the first week in May: in Portola Valley on how to raise responsible and independent teens by learning to set limits and enforce rules, and in Woodside on how to build positive relationships with children and encourage them to behave cooperatively.

The Parent's Place, a program of the regional Jewish Family and Children Services, will conduct the workshops.

The Portola Valley event is scheduled for 5 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 4, at the town library at 765 Portola Road.

The Woodside event is set for 7 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, May 7, at the library at 3140 Woodside Road.

DEVI

continued from page 17

weekend workshops with noted teachers. Ms. Nguyen says she looks for teachers (all of whom have 200 hour certifications) who are a "good match of style, energy and personality."

One of her goals is to offer more classes for children, so that they can "start on the path of mindful fitness that can become an integral part of their lives."

In these challenging times, she says, "Yoga offers an inner space to reflect and, from that, to renew."

"Devi" is the Sanskrit word for goddess, and usually refers to the female aspects of the divine, i.e., warmth, sensitivity and nurturing. Many of her clients confirm that is just what they find there.

For more information about Devi Yoga, go to www.devi-yoga.com. ■

Corte Madera teams bring home trophies

By Ruby Seidl

March was the culminating month for many local middle school basketball leagues. After months of practices, hard-fought games, and playoff anxieties, only a few could boast championship wins.

Corte Madera School (Portola Valley), home of the Panthers, brought home three gleaming trophies for its eighth-grade boys, eighth-grade girls, and sixth-grade boys teams.

Eighth-grade girls

In the Mid-Peninsula Middle School League, Corte Madera eighth-grade girls Team 6, coached by Jack Troedson and Karen Jordan, claimed victory, 22-21, in a sudden-death, double-overtime conclusion against Hillview Team 2.

The girls had a 2-0 playoff record, and 7-1 in regular season, losing only to the same team they beat in the final game. In the second overtime, the team won the tip to Valerie Giordano, who was fouled going to the hoop, and made her first free throw to win the game.

Coaches Troedson and Jordan have coached both Corte Made-

About the author: Ruby Seidl is a Portola Valley resident, whose children attend Ormondale and Corte Madera Schools.

ra girls' teams, in different team combinations, since sixth grade. In fact, to get to the championship game, both teams squared off against each other in the playoffs.

"The girls really came through against a very good, and previously undefeated Hillview team, which beat us by 20 points during the season," said Coach Troedson. "Our zone defense was tenacious and all 10 of our girls contributed to the effort."

Commenting on the girls' achievements, Coach Jordan said: "I've had the pleasure of coaching the girls since sixth grade, and some of them since first grade. They have helped each other build their skill level and knowledge of the game and I've enjoyed watching them grow into wonderful young ladies."

Eighth-grade boys

The Corte Madera eighth-grade boys Team 10, coached by Charbel Semaan and Carl Baier, had an undefeated season: 8-0



Coaches and players on the Corte Madera eighth-grade girls Team 6 are, from left, Coach Jack Troedson, Jennifer Lucian, Valerie Giordano, Maddy Kohlberg, Emma Wiszowaty, Maggie Troedson, Jenna Ebert, Bianca Lupercio, Lauren Hennesfarth, Jenna Scandalios, Charlotte Kohlberg. Not in picture: Coach Karen Jordan.

in the regular season and 2-0 in the playoffs. They won their final game, 46-32 against La Entrada Team 4.

Their road to triumph had been bittersweet. Coaches Semaan and Baier coached both Corte Madera eighth-grade boys teams, totaling 21 players.

The relationship between both teams was one of camaraderie and family. They shared the same practice times twice a week, and quite often, players from one team would attend the other team's game to cheer them on.

Both teams had a superb regular season and ended up competing against each other in the semi-final round, leaving one to win and the other to be eliminated.

They have shared significant experiences together since sixth-grade, such as numerous victories and the grief of a teammate. Last year, when the boys were in seventh grade, one of their coaches, Brad Blocker, who had also coached one of the teams when they were in the sixth grade, died in a skiing accident mid-season. His team, which included his son Ryan, went on to finish an undefeated season with a championship win.

"These young men, on these two teams, have shown great perseverance and strength of character over the years," Coach Baier said.

Coach Semaan adds, "The past three years with this cohort was amazing. As a coach, I'll never be able to duplicate this unique experience."

The winning team includes Christian Bourgeois, Jack Chilton, Andy Dolezalek, John Howard, Connor Jordan, Griffin Koontz, Rohan Notaney, Brian Omandi, Richie Sarwal and David Veal.

The Mid-Peninsula Middle School League included eighth-grade teams from Corte Madera, Hillview, La Entrada, Woodside, Ceasar Chavez, Peninsula, Waldorf, St. Elizabeth Seton, and Selby Lane Schools.

boys Team 6, coached by Byron Lee and John Selling, earned a place in the final round of the Menlo Park Burgess League with a 2-0 playoff record, beating the No. 1 seed, Hillview Team 5 (7-1 record).

The finish was a heart-stopping 39-38 finale. The boys trailed by 8 points, with 15 minutes remaining. Exceptional defense, rebounds and steals pulled them ahead. Chris Perez hit a huge 3-pointer with less than two minutes left.

During the season, the team went up against strong teams with much taller players. While their regular season record of 4-3 was not so impressive, what mattered in the end were a few critical winning strategies.

"Outstanding defense is the key ingredient to any successful team, and our pressure defense caused much chaos for our opponents," says Coach Lee.

Coach Selling adds: "Each kid had assignments that promoted team glory, not individual glory. Each player contributed something valuable and, ultimately, each one realized that they had."

The Menlo Park Burgess League, under the Menlo Park City Parks and Recreation department, included multiple sixth-grade teams from Corte Madera, Hillview, La Entrada and Woodside schools. ■



Photo by Paul Koontz.

Corte Madera eighth-grade boys. Winning Team 10 (in white jerseys), from left, Christian Bourgeois, Jack Chilton, Andy Dolezalek, John Howard, Connor Jordan, Griffin Koontz, Rohan Notaney, Brian Omandi, Richie Sarwal and David Veal (black shirt). Coaches Charbel Semaan and Carl Baier. Team 2 (in blue jerseys), from left, Domenic Andrightetto, Ryan Blocker, Craig Brandman, Kellan Draeger, Cameron Fast, Danny Falore, John Howard, Tyler Horwood, Derek Hunter, Colin Lockareff and Jonathan Zdasiuk.



Photo by Mostafa Pournajat.

Coaches and players with Corte Madera sixth-grade boys Team 6: Back row, Coaches Byron Lee and John Selling. From left, Austin Traver, Sohail Notaney, Chris Perez, Cameron Bonora, Ricardo Pena, Nicholas Seidl, Nathan Lee, Colin Kloezeman, Nariman Pournajat. Not in picture: Kyle Calado.

Sixth-grade boys

Corte Madera sixth-grade

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Champs

The M-A frosh/soph girls basketball team finished the season with a 19-4 record, winning the Lynbrook Tournament and the Bears Classic. They were co-champs in the Peninsula Athletic League with a 7-1 record. Back row, from left, Katie Coyne, team manager; Tennyson Jellins, Patricia Kuehn, Sarah Watson, Sarah Mitchell and Coach Dan Mori. Kneeling, from left, Natalie McMahon, Alex Flowers, Courtney Roache, Lauren Diller and Upu Lautalo. Sitting: Mariah Gutierrez, left, and Sienna Roat-Shumway.



M-A boys tennis teams wins PAL division title

The Menlo-Atherton boys varsity tennis team won its first Peninsula Athletic League Bay Division title since 1998 with a record of 14-0.

M-A swept its last four matches of the regular season by the score of 7-0, beating Woodside, Half Moon Bay, Mills and Aragon. The Bears earlier beat Burlingame in two close encounters, 4-3.

SPORTS

Check TheAlmanacOnline.com for more sports news.

The Bears were led by senior George Horowitz, junior Alex Haley (undefeated), junior Alden Mitchell, and sophomore Jonathan Friedman.

The No. 1 doubles team was

made up of junior Avinash Shah and senior Takai Tuionetoa. The Fantastic Four Freshmen (all undefeated) were No. 2 doubles twins Jesse Perkins and Christian Perkins, and No. 3 doubles players Matt Giordano and Zeke Brown. M-A is coached by Carlos Aguilar and Tom Sorenson.

— By Tarny Perkins, parent of two players.

OBITUARIES

Muriel Hubka

Phi Beta Kappa member

Services have been held in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, for Muriel Stuart Hubka of Menlo Park and Glen Ellyn. Ms. Hubka died April 10 in Menlo Park at the age of 84.

A native of Oak Park, Illinois, she graduated from Stephens College in Missouri and the University of Illinois, where

she was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She was a co-founder of Press Relations in Glen Ellyn.

Ms. Hubka is survived by her daughter, Sue Hubka-Young of Menlo Park; brother Robert Stuart; and two grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her son, John Stuart Hubka, and husband, Emil F. Hubka.

Memorials may be made to the World Wildlife Fund, 1250 24th St. NW, Washington, DC 20037.

Breast cancer benefit in Woodside

A lunch that includes presentations in support of finding a cure for breast cancer is set for Friday, May 1, in a Woodside home.

Portola Valley resident JoAnn Loulan, a breast cancer survivor and a watchdog over the use of pink ribbons by corporations, arranged the affair. The speakers include breast cancer survivor, activist and author Joyce Bichler; Pauli Ojea, who will talk about the "Think Before You Pink" campaign; and Barbara Brenner, executive director of Breast Cancer Action.

Tickets are \$60. For more information, contact Ms. Loulan at 851-5778 or joannloulan@yahoo.com, or call Sarah Harding at 415-243-9301.

More federal recovery funds for county

Nearly \$204,000 in federal

BRIEFS

funds from the \$787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will be coming to San Mateo County to help residents in "non-disaster-related emergencies" pay for food, shelter and utilities, according to a statement from the office of Rep. Anna Eshoo, (D-Palo Alto).

The funding is part of a \$914,000 allocation to the 14th Congressional District. About \$589,000 goes to Santa Clara County, and \$121,000 to Santa Cruz County, the statement said.

"This money will bring immediate relief to communities in our area that are already stretched to their limits trying to address the increasing demands on shelters, soup kitchens, and food banks," Ms. Eshoo said. "These are vital services helping people to get back on their feet during the economic downturn."

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

Auto burglary report: GPS navigation device, video game system, calculator and backpack stolen from locked vehicle, 100 block of Selby Lane, April 19.

Residential burglary reports:

■ Tools stolen from locked trailer, Oak Grove Ave., April 23.

■ Construction materials stolen, Oak Grove Ave., April 23.

MENLO PARK

Auto burglary reports:

■ Window broken and GPS system stolen, 200 block of O'Keefe St., April 17.

■ Vehicle broken into and purse stolen, 800 block of Middle Ave., April 18.

■ Vehicle broken into and GPS system and purse stolen, 1600 block of Marsh Road, April 19.

■ Window smashed and Apple iPod and workout clothes stolen, 100 block of Constitution Ave., April 22.

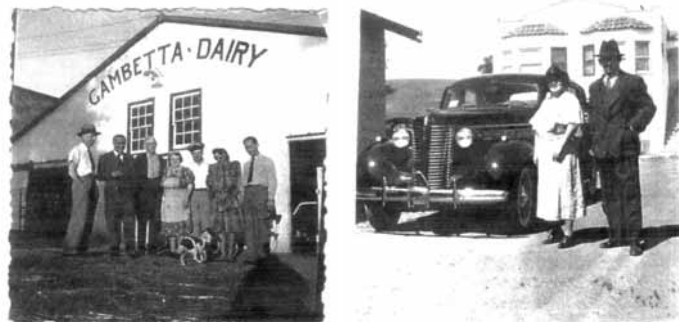
Child Protective Services report: 1300 block of Henderson Ave., April 17.

WOODSIDE

Accident report: Brown Toyota Camry reported stolen and found, abandoned, facing south in north-bound lane after hitting tree, 700 block of Kings Mountain Road, April 18.

WEST MENLO PARK

Fraud report: About \$7,000 stolen from bank account apparently through theft of victim's ATM number, 2000 block of Oakley Ave., April 20.



Gambetta Ranch
The Benedictine Fathers
Woodside Priory School

ON FILE AT TOWN HALL

WILL OF CAROLINA GAMBETTA
GAMBETTA GYMNASIUM DONATION AGREEMENT
BENEDICTINE FATHERS' LAWSUIT
AGAINST GAMBETTA FAMILY
FINAL SETTLEMENT OF GAMBETTA PROPERTIES
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210 PORTOLA ROAD, PORTOLA VALLEY, CA.

gambettaranch@gmail.com

Judith Rutherford

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LETTERS

Continued from page 23

of the hospital to Stanford in 1968 — perhaps as an indicator of the difficulties of reconciling the needs of the medical center and the city.

Having served as both the executive director of the medical center and as a Palo Alto planning commissioner, I had the privilege of seeing this relationship close up from both sides. Now, this relationship has run its course.

The medical center needs and wants to grow and Palo Alto wishes to remain as it is without either the benefits or the pains of the medical center's growth. The medical center has already established a superb outpatient facility in Redwood City, where it was welcomed with open arms.

The medical center should take the next step and relocate all of the school, the remaining clinics and the hospital to Redwood City. The Stanford Children's Hospital is a separate entity and it will need to make its own decision, but I would see little value to it remaining in Palo Alto alone without an emergency room or the Stanford Hospital's superb laboratory facilities.

The medical center would probably be able to work with Redwood City to create a redevelopment

agency to create and help fund the new medical campus. A new medical campus planned and built from scratch would be a huge improvement over the existing separate and poorly integrated buildings.

The land that the medical center leaves behind should be de-annexed from Palo Alto and turned over to other academic uses.

These freed-up facilities will meet Stanford's non-medical expansion needs for decades to come. Stanford and Palo Alto could then abandon their perpetual posturing and extortion exercises.

Palo Alto residents seeking emergency medical care could either

travel to Redwood City or Mountain View, just as they now do for those other messy things like automobile repairs and gas stations.

And if moving the medical center works well, then perhaps Stanford might consider doing the same with the shopping center. Palo Alto could then slip back into that wonderful time when everything was so grand — but wasn't that before there was a Stanford University?

Oh well, just imagine Palo Alto as a northern Gilroy, without the garlic.

Peter Carpenter
Larch Drive, Atherton

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WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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

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

Endorsement

Propositions offer terrible choices

The confluence of California's budget stalemate and the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression meet head-on at the May 19 election, when voters will be asked to approve legislation that would never survive in better times.

EDITORIAL
The opinion of The Almanac

We don't think there has ever been an election, special or otherwise, with such a uniformly unpalatable set of choices. All six special propositions on the ballot are the result of a deeply flawed Sacramento budget and policy-making process, caused in part by term limits, the two-thirds super-majority requirement, the distorted initiative

process, insulated legislative districts and an ineffective governor.

These forces and Republican legislators who refused to accept any tax increases — despite the fact that no reasonable solution was possible without them — combined to produce a weeks-long stalemate to begin 2009. The deadlock continued as the state's budget deficit crept beyond \$40 billion. The impasse was barely bridged by a few Republicans in each house who broke ranks to support the compromise that included budget cuts and these measures. Here's a short summary of each proposition:

■ **1A.** Sends a portion of state revenues to a "rainy day" fund for use in lean years. The percentage set aside for economic downturns increases from 5 to 12.5 percent of the state's general fund. Spending is capped at a 10-year average of state revenue, adjusted for population growth and inflation. Revenue above that average goes into reserves, requiring the state in most years to put a projected 3 percent of its general fund revenues in the reserve fund, which could only be used for budget shortfalls, bond repayments and emergencies such as natural disasters or if the governor declares a fiscal emergency. Extends one percent state sales tax increase for one year, and extends vehicle license fee increase and top income bracket increase for two years, generating some \$16 billion in revenue. This measure also authorizes the governor to make midyear spending reductions if the budget falls out of balance.

■ **1B.** Beginning in 2011-2012 requires additional payments to local school districts and community colleges to offset recent budget cuts. Payments come from the rainy day fund established in 1A and con-

tinue until total amount is repaid.

■ **1C.** Makes changes to improve performance of state lottery and increase payouts and proceeds. Allows state to borrow \$5 billion to address current budget deficit against projected additional lottery proceeds.

■ **1D.** Temporarily redirects \$600 million in funds from California Children and Families Act (1998's Proposition 10) to general fund for support of health and human services children's programs. Additional diversion of \$268 million in years 2010-11 to 2013-14. Early childhood development programs funded by the act would be cut.

■ **1E.** Redirects \$230 million from Mental Health Services Act funds (2004's Proposition 63) for two years to existing health programs. Community mental health programs would be cut.

■ **1F.** Prohibits legislators and state constitutional officers from receiving pay raises when the state is running a deficit.

THE ALMANAC RECOMMENDS:

| | | |
|----------------|---|----------|
| Proposition 1A | — | Vote Yes |
| Proposition 1B | — | Vote Yes |
| Proposition 1C | — | Vote Yes |
| Proposition 1D | — | Vote No |
| Proposition 1E | — | Vote No |
| Proposition 1F | — | Vote Yes |

There are plenty of reasons for anyone from any part of the political spectrum to oppose these measures. 1A is the only proposition of the six that contains long-term structural reform of the budget process in an attempt to limit the wild revenue swings we have recently experienced. Opponents say it will deprive the state of revenue needed for important programs, while some anti-tax groups oppose it because of its built-

in taxes and perceived loopholes.

On the other side are educators, who fear the scramble for revenue if Propositions 1A and 1B fail. They see an interim period as a possible free-for-all in Sacramento as the Legislature and governor duke it out again over revenue and tax policy. Sending the whole mess back to Sacramento, where legislators are already likely facing a multi-billion dollar additional shortfall they must deal with, is scary to most of those concerned about funding for local schools and community colleges.

If these measures are defeated, we doubt if there would be a better resolution in round two. We recommend a yes vote on at least propositions 1A, 1B and 1C, which we believe are necessary to keep the state finances afloat.

Proposition 1D, which takes money away from children and families, and 1E, which cuts mental health services for two years, seem draconian to us. We recommend voting no on these propositions.

Finally, we strongly support Proposition 1F, which restricts the pay of legislators and constitutional officers when the state is running a deficit, and predict it will receive the highest approval rating. ■

LETTERS

Our readers write

To influence visioning process, you need to show up

Editor:

Menlo Park's El Camino/Downtown Visioning Plan is an ongoing dialogue about the future of our downtown and El Camino corridor.

A series of community workshops in Phase 1 produced the Vision Statement, which is the framework for our current Phase 2 community discussions, now focusing on alternatives and trade-offs that will lead us to the final community

See **LETTERS**, next page



Our Regional Heritage

A heavily-loaded wagon passes by the structure known as the Tole House in 1885 on what is now Kings Mountain Road in Woodside. The women in the photograph are Mrs. Henry Bottger, left, and Lucy Bottger Hallett, both early residents of Woodside.

Woodside Library Collection

Council needs to trust the process

By Henry Riggs

Menlo Park City Council members have repeatedly promised to respect the El Camino/Downtown Visioning community process, however it comes out. Or have they? There was a test case of commitment to public process recently, and it's worth a look.

Two weeks ago, the council made a late-night review of an esoteric item, the city code definition of "floor area" for commercial buildings. Note: this is about basic definitions, not a building size ordinance as opponents represent — that's in the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) for each building use. It's an issue because Menlo Park has been "interpreting" missing parts of the definitions and builders and neighbors aren't sure what they'll get.

In essence, the Planning Commission and staff had been working on these definitions for more than 18 months — you can call that taking an assignment seriously. In that time, the commission held 10 public hearings, debated nearly every word of these definitions. They listened to the many voices of businesses and residents and had multiple votes culminating in a series of unanimous resolutions from the seven diverse commissions.

During those 18 months, the commission coordinated directly with two mayors. Our chairperson also worked directly with Kelly Fergusson to write a two-page summary of our proposed ordinance (as requested, for those on council who don't like details. Honest.)

This February, council member Andy Cohen and Mayor Heyward Robinson committed to respect the commission's extensive process. And at a chance encounter with Rich Cline, he volunteered to me that council had to stop doing on-the-spot major revisions to months of careful public process.

Ah, but it all falls away when the usual "constituency" of four well-known Menlo Park residents disagree (one of whom wrote a fantastically ironic "Who's in charge?" guest opinion in The Almanac last week). Of the six key goals of the definition revisions, three were reversed or significantly changed by council that night at their request. After 10 public hearings, 18 months, and emphatic commission unanimity, how is it that these few get a last-minute veto over that consensus?

I relate this, not out of despair or even surprise, but to make a point for our future — it's about trust and public process. The City Council needs enough confidence in the process it has designated not to duck when last-minute influence shows up.

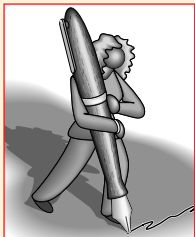
Our commissions and staff work together to do the drudge work that the council assigns, put in the hours, get into boring detail and wrestle with why each thing matters. This cannot be re-done in 90 minutes from the podium with summary-level understanding. The volunteer Planning Commissioners were hand-selected by council, trained by staff and vetted by experience on just this stuff. If key new information emerged (and it didn't), why wouldn't council return the issue to staff and commission for inclusive review?

There will be imperfect or even conflicted recommendations from our commissions — the council should not "rubber stamp" recommendations; they need to ask questions both before meeting on the recommendation and at the meeting. But the test of good process is honoring good work (in the floor-area case, with unassailable process) with which parties don't agree. The decision to amend three of the six floor-area definitions was that test — and it did not go well.

Now to the bottom line: The city isn't going to revitalize downtown by voting it so. We need others to make it happen. I spoke with a local developer recently at the community workshop. He and others aren't enthusiastic because, in this town, good process too often gets the end-run by politics, and they aren't eager to steer hard-to-find investment money here; he notes investors consider Menlo Park a crap shoot. I've heard this before, and this is a real problem.

If council really is behind revitalizing downtown and El Camino, they're going to have to start working on the trust issue right now. If they don't, the El Camino/downtown specific plan will just be another stack of paper. ■

Henry Riggs is chairman of the Menlo Park Planning Commission.



GUEST OPINION

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

workshop in September.

All residents, business and property owners are welcome to attend the community workshops, where a diversity of opinions, ideas and discussions are encouraged. Workshops participants include residents who accept buildings taller than three stories and those who don't.

Had Morris Brown, author of last week's guest opinion questioning the process, attended our community workshop on April 16, he would have seen and heard the many residents speaking up for higher density, taller buildings. This idea didn't leap from the consultants' imaginations; it sprang from fellow residents who want something different for Menlo Park. The many residents who favor taller buildings have as much of a voice

in the future of our city as does Mr. Brown, who led the Derry referendum and subsequent lawsuit.

As for Stanford University's plans for its properties along El Camino, I suspect that they, like other property owners in the targeted area, are waiting for the visioning process to be completed before making their development decisions. How else could they be sensitive to community desires unless they know what the community wants?

Menlo Park's future deserves the time, care and attention this planning process is providing. The next community workshop is June 18. I encourage residents to attend and bring their ideas and suggestions to our deliberations. Help us create the vibrant and healthy community we envision!

Elizabeth Lasensky
Fremont Street, Menlo Park
(The author is a member of the steering committee for the Downtown Visioning project.)

Stanford should look to Redwood City

Editor:

Stanford's decision to cancel its expansion plans for the Stanford Shopping Center underscores the difficulty the university has in finding common ground with the city of Palo Alto.

That difficulty bodes poorly for the proposed hospital replacement and expansion program. A wonderful relationship began when the Stanford Medical School moved from San Francisco to the Stanford campus in the 1959. Stanford and Palo Alto jointly built a new hospital and the land on which the medical school, clinics and hospital stood was annexed to Palo Alto.

For a half century this relationship has had its ups and downs, but it has generally been mutually beneficial. Palo Alto sold its share

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