

WHAT SHOULD Menlo Park
do about child care? Page 5

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Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Wave of movement

More than 250 students participated in a yoga lesson, led on a recent day by Sheryl Nonnenberg, in Conway Court at Sacred Heart Preparatory School in Atherton.

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On the cover

Bella Kuba, 5, peeks inside a playhouse named Coyote Creek Outpost, donated by Barbara Butler Artist Builder Inc. and being showcased at Stanford Shopping Center. A total of 15 playhouses will be auctioned off June 6 in a benefit for Rebuilding Together Peninsula. Photo by Michelle Le. See story, **Section 2**.

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EYE CARE NEWS

Presented by **Mark Schmidt**
Licensed Optician

PROPER USE AND CARE OF CONTACTS

During the 1990's, daily disposable lenses and silicone hydrogel "soft" contacts were introduced in an effort to help reduce the risk of lens users developing an infection called microbial keratitis (MK). This painful infection of the cornea (the clear front covering of the eye that helps to focus light and needs oxygen to remain healthy) can cause vision loss. While the newer contact lenses were designed with improved oxygen permeability in mind, the latest research shows

that neither the silicone hydrogel "soft" lenses nor the daily disposables reduced the risk of MK for wearers. More importantly, research showed that the strongest risk factor for MK-related vision loss is overnight wear of any contact lens, including "extended use" types.

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P.S. Research shows that smoking is also a factor for vision loss related to microbial keratitis (MK) among contact lens wearers.

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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Local News

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What should city do about child care?

■ City's management of child care program is causing headaches, but opinions diverge on what should be done.

By Sean Howell
Almanac Staff Writer

As Menlo Park works to cut its subsidy of the city-run child care center in the Civic Center complex, it's become clear to everyone involved that the program's management could be more efficient.

What that should mean for the program's future is now being hotly debated.

While parents and council members disagree on whether the preschool child care program is among the services the city should subsidize, both groups have pointed to sloppy management as the source of much of the consternation over the program.

Parents and city staff members argue that by making a few operational changes, the city could dramatically cut its subsidy of the preschool program. But several council members say they have lost faith in the city's ability to run the program.

Mismanaged?

Is the program mismanaged? That's the case several parents made at a May 5 City Council

meeting, protesting an increase in child care fees. Councilwoman Kelly Fergusson, the lone council member to voice support for a continued hefty city subsidy of the program, said she had noticed the deterioration of the center's management firsthand. (Ms. Fergusson's children are enrolled in the city's after-school child care program, a fact that City Attorney Bill McClure says does not present a legal conflict of interest.)

"I think the benefit of this whole discussion is that there is a spotlight shining now on the management of the children's center, and, boy, we're gonna get to the bottom of this," she said. "But we're not to the bottom of it right now."

Parents pointed to the fact that, over the past three years, revenue taken in by the program has dwindled while fees have increased. They alleged that the program is undersubscribed, despite a waiting list of 67 children, and that the city has been lax in collecting fees.

Carol Augustine, the city's finance director, said that revenue at the preschool program has indeed decreased slightly: from \$606,000 in the 2006-07 fiscal



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Teacher Meridian Maumasi dismisses children one at a time to play outside after they review numbers and colors at the Children's Center.

year, to a projected \$574,000 in 2008-09. She blames stagnant revenue in part on the fact that, after a fee increase at the beginning of the 2006-07 fiscal year, the city held off on raising prices until January 2009, as it analyzed fees for city services.

Ms. George blames some of the program's "inefficiencies" on the departure of longtime director Adela Alvarado in late

2007, and the unexpected departure of Ms. Alvarado's successor in spring 2008.

In working to fill the 56 toddler, preschool, and early preschool slots, Natalya Jones, the program's current director, apparently didn't know that she should enroll full-time students who were on the waiting list before accepting lower-paying part-timers, Ms. George said.

In an interview, Ms. George attributed some of the confusion to the quick turnover in directors. She said she shared some of the responsibility, because she didn't realize that Ms. Jones didn't know she should accept full-timers first.

But even with only full-timers, the program as currently config-

See **CHILD CARE**, page 8

Saving a life, all in a day's work for Evan Carlton

By Megan Rawlins
Special to the Almanac

The story could have ended in so many different ways, few of them good. But as it stands, the life of a grandfather was saved and Evan Carlton, a senior at Mid-Peninsula High School in Menlo Park, can add "hero" to his resume.

The event, as Evan has told it countless times, occurred after a Sharks game in the middle of March.

"I'm a huge Sharks fan," says Evan, a resident of Menlo Park. "My girlfriend was out for spring break, so we went to a game. It was crazy; I was standing cheering, swinging my shirt above my head. It was a great game."

When it ended, Evan and his girlfriend funneled out of the stadium with the crowds and crossed the street to the San Jose train station, where Evan

says they waited for the last train of the evening.

On the platform, he exchanged some small talk with an older man, Paul Hoekenga of Redwood City, who was accompanied by his young grandson. When he turned back to his girlfriend, Evan

says, the older man, without notice or warning, collapsed to the ground and appeared unconscious.

"I thought it was narcolepsy," he says. "He was making this strange, snoring sound in his throat. A couple of us tried to slap him awake, but after 30 to 40 seconds, we knew something was really wrong."

Evan is a lifeguard at the Menlo Swim and Sport pool at Burgess and a lifelong athlete, both of which he says have conditioned him to react quickly. He began mouth-to-mouth resuscitation while another bystander

'I'm not a hero; I'm just a high school senior. Anyone would have done it. If you know CPR and someone needs help, you just do it. I mean, that's how it works.'

EVAN CARLTON

and a lifelong athlete, both of which he says have conditioned him to react quickly. He began mouth-to-mouth resuscitation while another bystander

See **CARLTON**, page 8

MP district hires new Hillview School principal

Mike Melton, principal of a middle school in Rocklin, California, has been named the new principal of Hillview Middle School, the Menlo Park City School District announced on May 19.

He will start July 1, and succeeds Mike Moore, who is retiring in June. Mr. Moore has headed the grades 6-8 school in Menlo Park for the past 23 years.

Mr. Melton, who has been an administrator for 20 years, is a leader in the California Alliance for Middle Schools, an organization that investigates best educational practices for middle school education, said Ken Ranella, superintendent of the Menlo Park district.

The Association of California School Administrators recently named Mr. Melton "Placer

County Administrator of the Year" and Northern California's Administrator of the Year, Mr. Ranella said in an e-mail.

It will be a busy first year at Hillview for Mr. Melton. The district is preparing for major construction on the Hillview campus that will replace existing classrooms with new two-story buildings, as well as a new performing arts center and administration building. The enrollment at Hillview is expected to climb from the current 670 students to an estimated 974 students in 2016.

The environmental study for the Hillview project is set to go before the school board at its Tuesday, June 9, meeting. At that meeting, the board is expected to vote to accept the

See **HILLVIEW**, page 8

Jensen Hauser

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With state budget measures defeated at ballot box May 19, what's next?

■ Voters send legislators back to the drawing board.

By **Andrea Gemmet**

Almanac Staff Writer

And now we wait. The special May 19 election is over, with five of the six propositions defeated. Now that California officials can't count on the \$6 billion in revenue the propositions would have generated, it's just a matter of time before the other shoe drops.

The state now faces a \$21 billion revenue gap, according to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, speaking at a May 18 town hall meeting. The repercussions are sure to be felt throughout California, affecting the funding of everything from public health to public schools, freeways to firefighters.

"The people have spoken. They didn't like the solution presented to them, and we need to go back to the table to find a different and better solution," Assemblyman Ira Ruskin, D-Redwood City, told the *The Almanac*.

Proposition 1F, the only ballot measure that passed, won't have any significant impact on the state's bottom line. That proposition freezes the salaries of top state officials when California is running a budget deficit.

The rest of the package of propositions would have changed the state's already complicated budgeting system, and extended temporary increases in sales tax, vehicle license fees and income tax.

"There are areas I would like to see protected, like education and health care, but we're going to have to take a hard look and make some choices," Assemblyman Ruskin said. "At this point it's premature to say where the cuts will come from. We have to see where the revenue opportunities are."

California's revenues are down across the board — personal income tax, corporate income tax and property tax, Mr. Ruskin said. The downward reassessment of properties is taking place all over the state, and is having a major impact, he said.

"We balanced the budget a couple of months ago, but revenue continued to decline because

the recession hasn't bottomed out yet," Mr. Ruskin said. "The answers are going to be hard answers. We're looking for additional revenue, but we're going to be looking at serious cuts."

For an election that is sure to have wide-reaching impacts, affecting the funding of cities, school districts and streets, the overwhelming reaction from voters appears to have been indifference.

"By all indications, this will be the lowest turnout for a statewide election ever," said Warren Slocum, chief elections officer for San Mateo County.

The county's polling places were

The slate of propositions represented 'a total abrogation of responsibility by our elected officials.'

SUSAN GEORGE, TOWN MANAGER AND FINANCE DIRECTOR, WOODSIDE

eerily quiet on Election Day, Mr. Slocum said in a press release. Voter turnout in San Mateo County for May 19 was a little under 25 percent, he said. In the past 40 years, the lowest turnout for a statewide election was a little over 36 percent, back in 1993, Mr. Slocum said.

Gov. Schwarzenegger said in a written statement that he believes the election results are a sign of voters' frustration with the state's dysfunctional budget system.

"The most pervasive message, according to be the polling, said that the people of the state do not want to be involved in the budget process. They want the Legislature to handle it," Assemblyman Ruskin said.

The slate of propositions represented "a total abrogation of responsibility by our elected officials," said Susan George, Woodside's town manager and finance director.

"I'm not concerned for the town. I have a lot of concern for the future of the state and what that means for all of us," Ms. George told *The Almanac*.

It's "very frustrating" to have worked so hard to get the town's finances in such good shape — the town has a 100 percent reserve, she said — to then see the state budget in such a dilemma. "We can operate for a whole year and not take in a single dime or make any cuts," she said.

Menlo Park officials say that, while they don't know which funds might be affected, they do expect the state go after city revenues.

"We need to be prepared for the state to dip into revenues that are traditionally ear-marked for local communities," City Manager Glen Rojas wrote in a recent update on city finances.

A Sacramento Superior Court judge recently blocked an attempt by the state to seize funds from redevelopment agencies, ear-marked for improving blighted areas, such as Menlo Park's Belle Haven neighborhood and the surrounding area.

Following the ruling, the state's finance director proposed that the state seek to borrow property tax revenues from cities, counties and special districts — a plan the state estimates would net just over \$2 billion. Chris McKenzie, executive director of the League of California Cities, opposed the idea, saying that borrowing funds would only worsen the state's structural deficit, and would hurt jurisdictions with small general fund reserves.

"It certainly spreads the problem out to local agencies to deal with, and I think that's unfortunate," said Atherton Mayor Jerry Carlson.

Cities and towns with a healthy reserve, including Atherton, Portola Valley, Menlo Park and Woodside, won't be hit as hard by the state's borrowing plan, Menlo Park Finance Director Carol Augustine said in an interview. ■

Almanac staff writers Dave Boyce and Sean Howell contributed to this story.

Should library funds help build Atherton town hall?

By **Andrea Gemmet**

Almanac Staff Writer

Atherton needs money for a new city hall. Atherton's library has a healthy bankroll of reserve funds that could be used to expand the library. Is there a mutual benefit here?

Depending upon whom you

ask, the answer is a hopeful "maybe" or an adamant "no!"

Atherton Councilman Charles Marsala has been spearheading efforts to replace the town's aging administrative offices and police station with a larger facility by using a mix of donated money and town funds. He's on the Atherton Blue Ribbon Task Force, a group

charged with community outreach and planning for a new town hall that has been kicking around the idea of using so-called donor city funds from the library.

The Atherton branch library is one of three in San Mateo County that receives more income from

See **LIBRARY**, page 10

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OBITUARIES

David Michael Cleary*Longtime Portola Valley resident*

A memorial service to celebrate the life of David Michael Cleary will be held at noon Friday, May 29, at the Ladera Recreation Center, 150 Andeta Way in Ladera. Mr. Cleary died in his sleep on April 9 in Ukiah. He was 23.

Born March 13, 1986, at Stanford Medical Center, Mr. Cleary was raised in Portola Valley and attended La Entrada Middle School and Menlo-Atherton High School. He played on local soccer teams and was a member of the water polo team at Menlo-Atherton High School. He had recently moved to Ukiah.

Mr. Cleary suffered a debilitating spinal cord injury at the age of 19 and the last few years of his life presented many challenges, but he never despaired, say family members. He was known for his generosity, loyal friendships, and boundless energy, they say.

His father, Michael Cleary, recalls many trips to the library, browsing for books, and reading them aloud to his son. He also notes his son was proud of his Irish ancestry.

Surviving Mr. Cleary are his parents, Michael and Robin Cleary of Portola Valley; sister Colleen, brother Sean; grandparents Frank and Anna Lee Cleary; and girlfriend Jessica Bailey.

Memorials in David Cleary's name may be made to the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation, 636 Morris Turnpike, Suite 3A, Short Hills, N.J. 07078.

Richard K. Arnold*Veteran public relations executive*

Richard K. "Dick" Arnold of Portola Valley, a long-time figure in public relations, advertising, and politics, died May 17 at Sequoia Hospital following a short illness. He was 85.

A member of the Bohemian Club, Mr. Arnold was a playwright and lyricist for several of the club's musicals. Two of his idols, writer John O'Hara and pianist Bobby Short, joined him for one of his shows at the club's Bohemian Grove.

Mr. Arnold was born in San Francisco. He lived in several cities before attending Stanford University. After serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he returned to Stanford to graduate.

After his marriage to classmate Mary Louise Blair, the couple moved to Gloucester, Massachusetts, where he helped his father run a resort hotel.

Three years later, Mr. Arnold returned to Palo Alto to work in public relations in San Francisco. He interrupted his career to join his brother, Maxwell Arnold, in Washington, D.C., to work on John F. Kennedy's presidential campaign of 1960.

After President Kennedy's victory, he returned to San Francisco, where he founded his own firm, Arnold, Palmer & Noble, representing major clients, such as PG&E, Embarcadero Center and Golden Gate Transit.

Through most of his life Mr. Arnold devoted himself to four loves: literature, jazz, musical comedy, and Major League Baseball, say family members. At Stanford he was a member of Wallace Stegner's creative writing center, where his short stories gained awards and publication.

In the world of jazz, his heroes were Duke Ellington, Johnny Hodges and Cootie Williams, say family members. In baseball it was Ted Williams and Willie Mays. He was also a reader of fiction, history and poetry, they say. In 1975 he edited and published "The Adams-Jefferson Papers."

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Mary Louise "Maggie" Arnold of Portola Valley; son William Arnold

of Menlo Park; and brother Maxwell Arnold of Portola Valley.

Nancy Campbell Cator*Community volunteer and artist*

Nancy Campbell Cator, who lived in Portola Valley for more than 50 years, died May 18 in Belmont from complications due to Alzheimer's disease. She was 82.

Ms. Cator was born in Portland, Oregon, where she graduated from Lincoln High School. She graduated from Stanford University in 1948 with a bachelor's degree.

While working in San Francisco, she met her future husband, George Cator. They were married on Sept. 17, 1949, and began a life together on the Peninsula.

A woman of many interests, Ms. Cator was an accomplished painter, using both oils and watercolors, say family members. She enjoyed sewing and crewel embroidery, making clothes, pillows, and wall hangings for her family.

She played golf as a member of the Nine Hole Group at Stanford Golf Course. She loved to hike, trekking the countryside in Europe and the United States, say family members. She accompanied her husband on trips to Asia, Europe, Africa, South America and Australia.

Ms. Cator was a volunteer at Stanford Medical Center and at Allied Arts Guild in Menlo Park.

Surviving family members are her husband, George; children Thomas, David, Mark, Sara and Carol; and eight grandchildren.

Private services will be held. Donation in her memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 2065 W. El Camino Real, Mountain View, CA 94043; or a favorite charity.

Beverly Sue Sorensen*Community volunteer*

Beverly Sue Sorensen died May 4 at her Menlo Park home, surrounded by her family.

Ms. Sorensen was born in 1929 in San Francisco and grew up in Corte Madera. As a young girl, she studied dancing, sang in the church choir, and played the organ.

She attended the College of Marin and San Jose State University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in psychology. She was employed as a social worker for San Mateo County before marrying her husband, Jack.

As the mother of four children, Ms. Sorensen wanted her children to have a variety of experiences, whether it was Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Campfire Girls, sports, or the arts, say family members.

Later in life, she was devoted to spending as much time as possible with her grandchildren. She loved her Menlo Park home and was an avid gardener, they say. She was also a frequent movie-goer.

Ms. Sorensen traveled to many countries, including China and Russia. While in Taiwan, she met a young Taiwanese girl she had been sponsoring through a charitable organization for several years. She also met many people in the small village who welcomed her with open arms, says the family.

Ms. Sorensen considered herself a "professional volunteer," say family members. She worked to increase awareness of social issues and environmental concerns. Later in life, she became a teacher of the Enneagram Personality Typing System, a psychological system designed to provide insight into human behavior and help people better understand themselves and others.

Surviving Ms. Sorensen are her husband of 57 years, Jack; children Sue, Nancy, David, and John; sister Barbara Mayhood; brother Ed Vocke; and six grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be sent to the hospice foundation of the donor's choice.



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REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Lender Volume

Q: It seems it is taking longer to get loan approval these days than in the past. Why is it taking so long?

A: Lenders are overwhelmed: first with refinances, and now, in many areas, with purchases. In addition they are navigating through an array of new rules and guidelines being issued and these can cause delays and frustration as well. The best approach is to ask your lender for a reasonable estimate of how much

time it will take for your loan to be approved. If you are purchasing a property it is best to be realistic in this estimate so that your offer will have a time frame that is easily met.

If you are refinancing, you are probably don't have strict timeframes to meet but you still want to conclude the process in a reasonably short time. Be patient, submit all of your paperwork in a timely manner and you will succeed in getting a loan.

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

All in a day's work

CARLTON

continued from page 5

began chest compressions.

"While I was still thinking it was narcolepsy ... I began going over the steps of CPR in my head," he says, "but once you start, you just do it; you don't think about it."

A call to the paramedics and eight broken ribs later (from chest compressions), Mr. Hoekenga,

was loaded into an ambulance, and Evan and his girlfriend were carried by the tide of Sharks fans into the northbound train.

"I was pretty sure he'd died," Evan says. "It just didn't look good."

Evan came home and went on with his life: going to school, working at the pool, volunteering at a homeless shelter. The incident bothered him for a week or so, he says, but "people die all the time."

Over a month elapsed, but one

morning there was a piece in the San Jose Mercury News, an open letter by one Paul Hoekenga looking for the young man he said saved his life.

Evan responded and he and Mr. Hoekenga met at Jeffrey's Hamburgers in Menlo Park.

"He's a really great guy," Evan says. "By all accounts he should have died. Apparently the CPR kept him going just long enough."

Evan maintains he's not a hero, and he's visibly uncomfortable with the moniker. He's tired of talking about it and would much rather talk about football or finishing high school.

"I'm not a hero; I'm just a high school senior," he says. "Anyone would have done it. If you know CPR and someone needs help, you just do it. I mean, that's how it works."

Mr. Hoekenga disagrees; Evan says he's insisted on helping him pay for college.

Many who know the story are piling onto the "hero" bandwagon. Evan makes a crack about becoming something of a golden



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

High school senior Evan Carlton, left, saved the life of Paul Hoekenga after a Sharks hockey game.

boy at church and says his manager sent a letter about the incident to people who use the pool.

"A woman came up to me at the pool the other day," Evan says. "She says, 'I know you. You saved that man's life.'"

Evan says he smiled and went back to his job, watching the swimmers. ■

■ INFORMATION

CPR and first aid training is available locally through All Care Plus, located in Palo Alto. Classes are Wednesday evenings and require registration through the Web site www.allcareplus.org or by phone at 424-0204.

What's to be done with child care?

CHILD CARE

continued from page 5

ured would still be filled only to 83 percent of capacity, up from its current 76 percent, according to a city analysis. That's because the city has to hold spots open to accommodate children as they graduate into upper age levels in the program.

Eliminating the costly toddler program and grouping 2-year-olds with pre-school children would allow the program to reach 91 percent of capacity, Ms. George said — a goal she maintains is within reach. Under that scenario, the community services department would recover all the internal costs of the program in the

2009-10 fiscal year, though the city would still be shelling out \$160,000 to cover "extra-departmental," or overhead, costs. Included in overhead costs are charges for using and maintaining the facilities, and portions of salaries of staff members in other departments who devote time to the program, such as public works employees and city management.

According to the most recent estimates, the city's general operating fund will cover \$384,000 of the program's cost in the current fiscal year, which includes the overhead costs.

Ms. George dismissed allegations that the city has been careless in collecting payment, saying it has gone after parents who don't pay on time, and that no parent has skated through without paying.

What's the answer?

While the city's "inefficient" management has led parents

to argue that the program can thrive with a few adjustments, some council members see it differently.

Councilmen John Boyle and Rich Cline, members of a committee that in 2006 examined the issue of whether the city should continue to operate the center, noted that the city still hasn't solved the issues raised during that study.

"I'm starting to get tired," Mr. Cline said at the May 5 meeting.

"I'm starting to feel like we can't solve the problem."

Mayor Heyward Robinson said he shared parents' frustration, but came to a different conclusion.

"The thing that kept going off in my head (when hearing parents' comments) is:

All the more

reason the city should not be in this business," he said at the May 5 meeting. "Run this like a business.' That's what I heard tonight. ... I totally agree."

At that point in the meeting, a collective groan went up from parents in the council chambers. One of the parents who spoke at the meeting told The Almanac that parents felt they had been rhetorically trapped.

But some council members have said parents are trying to have it both ways — lauding the program while castigating the management, opposing fee hikes while insisting that teachers' jobs remain unionized.

In June, a city commission is scheduled to make a recommendation to the council on whether the city should continue to run the program, or seek a private operator — a search that bore no fruit in the 2006 drive to privatize the center. ■

'There is a spotlight shining now on the management of the children's center, and, boy, we're gonna get to the bottom of this. But we're not to the bottom of it right now.'

MENLO PARK COUNCILWOMAN
KELLY FERGUSSON

City adopts climate action plan

By Sean Howell

Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park has a new plan to address the issue of climate change.

How aggressive the city will be in pursuing some of the measures outlined in its "climate action plan" — and how some of those measures might get funded — is yet to be determined.

Among the proposals: installing solar panels and reflective roofing on city buildings, giving residents loans to make energy-efficient home improvements, and expanding the city's shuttle service.

The City Council approved the plan in a unanimous vote at its May 19 meeting. Prepared by a consultant that specializes in creating climate strategies for local jurisdictions and revised by city staff members, the plan expands upon and fleshes out a dense list of recommendations prepared by the volunteer Green Ribbon Citizens' Committee in late 2007, council members say.

They acknowledge, however, that it's incomplete. The city exhausted the \$38,000 it expects to receive in grant money to prepare the plan before it had a chance to fully revise the document, and council members look poised to allow a city commission to work on the plan — possibly in consultation with the Green Ribbon committee.

Much of the discussion at the May 19 meeting centered on

how the city could quantify its efforts to rein in the amount of greenhouse gases emitted into the Earth's atmosphere. In an impassioned speech to the council, Mitch Slomiak, head of the Green Ribbon committee, urged the city to set measurable goals in reducing emissions, and to treat its "carbon budget" in the same way it regards its general operating fund budget.

But council members struggled with how to make the issue tangible. Unlike most of the line items in the city's budget, a decreased carbon output won't provide a direct benefit to the city.

"One might almost conclude that anything we do here is basically symbolic, and setting an example," said Councilman Andy Cohen.

Council members agree that the city should think seriously about the issue, but it remains to be seen how the plan will affect the city's operation. The council has tentatively approved spending \$28,000 from the city's general operating fund to flesh out the plan, and to seek fund-

ing that would provide for a city climate coordinator position.

Gail Slocum, a former councilwoman and a member of the Green Ribbon committee, said the city would do well to invest early in curbing greenhouse gas emissions.

"The key to my mind is that Menlo Park establish a paradigm for how a city can keep in mind its budget, and also the carbon metric, in a way that marries the two," Ms. Slocum said at the May 19 meeting.

Councilman John Boyle said he was struggling with the idea of how the plan would fit in with the city's budget. He noted that even actions that would pay for themselves, such as installing solar panels on city buildings, often take decades to recoup their costs.

The plan leaves much to be desired, but council members say that approving it is an important gesture — and that its existence may help the city in competing for grants, especially through the federal stimulus bill.

To view the plan, visit tinyurl.com/mp-clim. ■

HILLVIEW

continued from page 5

environmental impact report (EIR), paving the way for the construction to go forward.

Before his two-decade career as a school administrator, Mr. Melton spent several years as a

drama, band and choral music teacher, Mr. Ranella said.

He is principal of Granite Oaks Middle School in the Sunset-Whitney area of the Rocklin Unified School District. The school has the highest Academic Performance Index score (in the 900s) among middle schools in Placer County. ■

Everest raises stakes in looming court battle with high school district

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Officials from Everest Public (charter) High School are readying a leased office building in Redwood City for its first freshman class, while the Sequoia Union High School District — its offer of facilities in East Palo Alto having been rejected by Everest — reports that it is proceeding anyway to prepare the East Palo Alto site as a future home for charter schools.

There is deep disagreement between the two sides on the legality of the East Palo Alto offer. Both have said they expect to meet in court and prevail, but Everest recently raised the stakes for the Sequoia district.

In a May 12 letter to district Superintendent Patrick Gemma, Everest asserts a claim for payment of \$2.3 million, basically \$939,000 to cover a three-year lease and about \$1.4 million in expenses associated with converting an 18,000-square-foot office building at 955 Charter St. in Redwood City into a school.

Everest attorney Paul Minney said in an e-mail that if the district loses in court, its payout would rise to \$2.5 million because it would have to reimburse Everest for about \$200,000 in attorney's fees.

The district has 45 days to respond, at which point, Mr. Minney said, Everest could begin lawsuit proceedings in San Mateo

County Superior Court.

John Beiers, attorney for the Sequoia district, said in an interview that "taxpayers should be outraged that Everest Charter School is threatening to sue the school district for \$2.5 million during this time of fiscal crisis."

Asked in early May if Everest officials had gauged a lawsuit's impact on taxpayers, school founder Diane Tavenner replied, "Oh my God, absolutely." She added that one board member was "really opposed" to it. Any money awarded would go "straight back to students," perhaps as scholarships, she said.

Everest offered to settle in March, asking the district to spend \$2.3 million on the Charter Street site instead of \$4 million in East Palo Alto. The district declined, citing city staff findings of soil and groundwater pollution. Everest acknowledged the contaminants, but said they will be safely removed.

Mr. Beiers questioned why Everest would want locate at a site with toxic waste issues instead of a "perfectly acceptable" starter-school in East Palo Alto.

Competing claims

This is the second time Mr. Minney is involved in legal action against the Sequoia district. In 2003, he won a judgment against the district when district officials contended, in part, that Aurora (charter) High School did not have enough students to warrant

the district's providing facilities.

In his May 12 letter, he repeats allegations of illegality made earlier. The offer of portable classroom buildings in East Palo Alto, with options to go off-campus for activities that need specialized facilities, is unreasonable, he said. The portables would be too far from where Everest wanted to locate, and the facilities as a whole unreasonably spread out and discriminatory against Everest students compared with what their counterparts have in Menlo-Atherton and Sequoia high schools, he said.

The offer at 763 Green St. in East Palo Alto was made in good faith, said district Assistant Superintendent James Lianides in a May 7 letter to Everest founder Diane Tavenner.

The walk to gym facilities at a nearby YMCA is equivalent in distance to a walk across the campus of Sequoia High School, Mr. Lianides said. Additional facilities — such as art and science rooms and drama facilities — would be available at M-A, a distance of about 4 miles.

The East Palo Alto campus would have more classroom space than requested and is "conducive to a small-learning environment that is aligned with the design of charter schools," he added.

The site is about 5 miles from Everest's sister school, Summit Preparatory Charter High School in Redwood City, and is "in fact, reasonably near where Everest asked to be located," Mr. Lianides said. ■

Top sales tax producer folds

By Sean Howell
Almanac Staff Writer

As the city of Menlo Park worries about the potential departure of Sun Microsystems, another of the city's top sales tax producers has announced that it's folding.

XTENT, a medical device company that produces drug-emitting stents for the treatment of coronary artery disease, announced May 15 that its board of directors had approved a plan to dissolve the company. The plan will require approval from stockholders, the company said in a press release.

Located in the city's light industrial sector east of U.S. 101, XTENT had been among the city's top 25 producers of sales tax as recently as late 2008, according to information provided by city Finance Director Carol Augustine.

City Council members have touted medical device companies as part of a wave of new industries that they believe the city should try to accommodate. Does the closure of

■ MENLO WATCH

such a prominent company represent a bad omen for the city's efforts to retain businesses in its industrial sector, and develop new ones?

"As far as I know, this seems to be pretty isolated," said Mayor Heyward Robinson, adding that the city has known about the impending closure since January. When it comes to innovative start-up companies, there's bound to be some turnover, he said.

City officials recently met with representatives of OfficeMax, which has a regional distribution center in Menlo Park. The company "assured us it's not going anywhere," Mr. Robinson said, though he acknowledged that a business like that "can be pretty sensitive to (changes in) the economy."

City extends water contract

Menlo Park will continue to get its water through the San Francisco regional water system until at least 2034.

The City Council voted unanimously at its May 19 meeting to extend the contract with San Francisco. All of the water delivered to the city originates in the Hetch Hetchy Valley of Yosemite National Park.

The contract does not represent a significant change from the current agreement, according to city staff. The agreement does not set water rates, though it does lay out criteria for establishing those rates.

Donate to library

The Menlo Park Library wants to remind everyone that it's always happy to take donations, in the form of books, magazines, DVDs, CDs, or reading glasses.

The library accepts donations from 9 a.m. to noon every day but Tuesday and Sunday. You can place donations on the book cart outside the staff entrance to the library on Alma Street, at the corner of Ravenswood Avenue.

Once donated, items may be added to the library's collection, or sold to benefit the library — in the Friends of the Library bookstore, at the annual book fair, or on Amazon.com. ■



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LIBRARY

continued from page 6

property tax revenue than it costs to operate. The excess money goes into a dedicated fund for library improvements.

That fund is expected to grow to more than \$4 million by December 2010, according to Mr. Marsala.

The thinking is that if Atherton builds a new town hall, that facility could house not only offices for town staff and the police department, it could include new council chambers. The library could then expand into the vacant council chambers in exchange for cash that could go toward building the new town hall.

The idea would have to have the blessing of the county-wide joint powers authority that governs the library before it could go ahead, as well as legal opinion saying it's permissible.

"We need clarification so we

could move forward," said Mr. Marsala at the May 19 City Council meeting. "I'm not saying that we would do this."

On the agenda was a request for City Council permission to approach the library JPA with the

agenda without notice to the council, and misrepresented the town's position to the JPA.

Ms. McKeithen read a written statement lambasting Mr. Marsala for what she called "an egregious violation of trans-

agenda of the library JPA meeting in September, he said.

"I feel it's been very transparent," Mr. Marsala said.

He is just trying to find out if the JPA is on board with the idea before pursuing it further, Mr. Marsala said.

"If we don't get clarification on this, it affects our recommendation," said John Davey, member of the task force. "Is it money we can possibly consider to be used for building the town center, or not? If we don't ask for it, we're not going to get it."

Martin Gomez, the director of library services, said that if a request for the library to buy the old council chambers came before the JPA board, "I'd recommend that this is not a valid use of library funds." Building a new library or seismically retrofitting the existing library would be a valid use of the funds, he said.

The council voted 3-2, with Ms. McKeithen and Jim Dobbie

opposed, to have Atherton's city attorney and city manager work with the JPA to explore possible use of donor city funds. ■

Councilman Marsala's effort is 'a thinly disguised attempt to fund the town center by robbing the library.'

COUNCILWOMAN KATHY MCKEITHEN

idea, but the council discussion devolved into conflict over who knew what, and when.

Position misrepresented?

"When I saw this on the agenda, I was very upset by it, as upset as I've ever been," said Councilwoman Kathy McKeithen, who has been the council's liaison to the JPA. She said Mr. Marsala put the item on the

agenda without notice to the council, and misrepresented the town's position to the JPA. Ms. McKeithen read a written statement lambasting Mr. Marsala for what she called "an egregious violation of trans-

parency and public trust," and accusing him of putting forward "a thinly disguised attempt to fund the town center by robbing the library." Mr. Marsala said he was perplexed by accusations of lack of transparency. The topic made headlines in a local newspaper several months ago, it's been discussed for about a year at task force meetings, and it was on the

Atherton meeting focuses on impacts of high-speed rail

If it's a hot topic in town, chances are that the Atherton Civic Interest League is working on it. The group's annual meeting, at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 28, will feature a panel of experts discussing high-speed rail.

The meeting is open to the public, and will be held at the Jennings Pavilion in Holbrook-Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Ave. in Atherton.

Atherton officials, and many of the town's residents, have grave worries about the local effects of the state plan to run high-speed trains along the Caltrain corridor that bisects the town. If the high-speed rail line can't be rerouted to avoid the town, Atherton officials would rather have the train run through a trench or tunnel, instead of on an elevated berm.

The scheduled speakers at the meeting are: Mike Garvey and John Litvinger, public outreach consultants working for the California High Speed Rail Authority; John Townsend, executive vice president of Hatch Mott Macdonald, a leading tunnel-engineering and construction firm; Duncan Jones, Atherton's public works director; Gary Patton, attorney and former director of the Planning and Conservation League; and Jim McFall, who will present a digital model of elevated high-speed rail tracks going through Palo Alto.

The meeting kicks off with a roll call and election of new ACIL officers, followed by presentations from the speakers and a half-hour Q&A with the audience.

The Atherton Civic Interest League, open to all residents, is a nonprofit organization that aims to improve the quality of life in Atherton and assure effective town governance. It was founded in 1946.

Correction

We received this e-mail from Katelyn Wiseman, of Ms. Strohmair's fourth-grade class:

"Thank you for putting the article 'Are you smarter than a fourth-grader?' in the May 20 Almanac. I am the girl on the cover of Section 2, the first girl on the left, and Olivia Tai is on the right. You made two errors, one in the article and one in the writing under the picture. You made a mistake by calling me Madelyn instead of Katelyn and in the picture it is me (Katelyn), Madeline, then Olivia." Our apologies, Katelyn.

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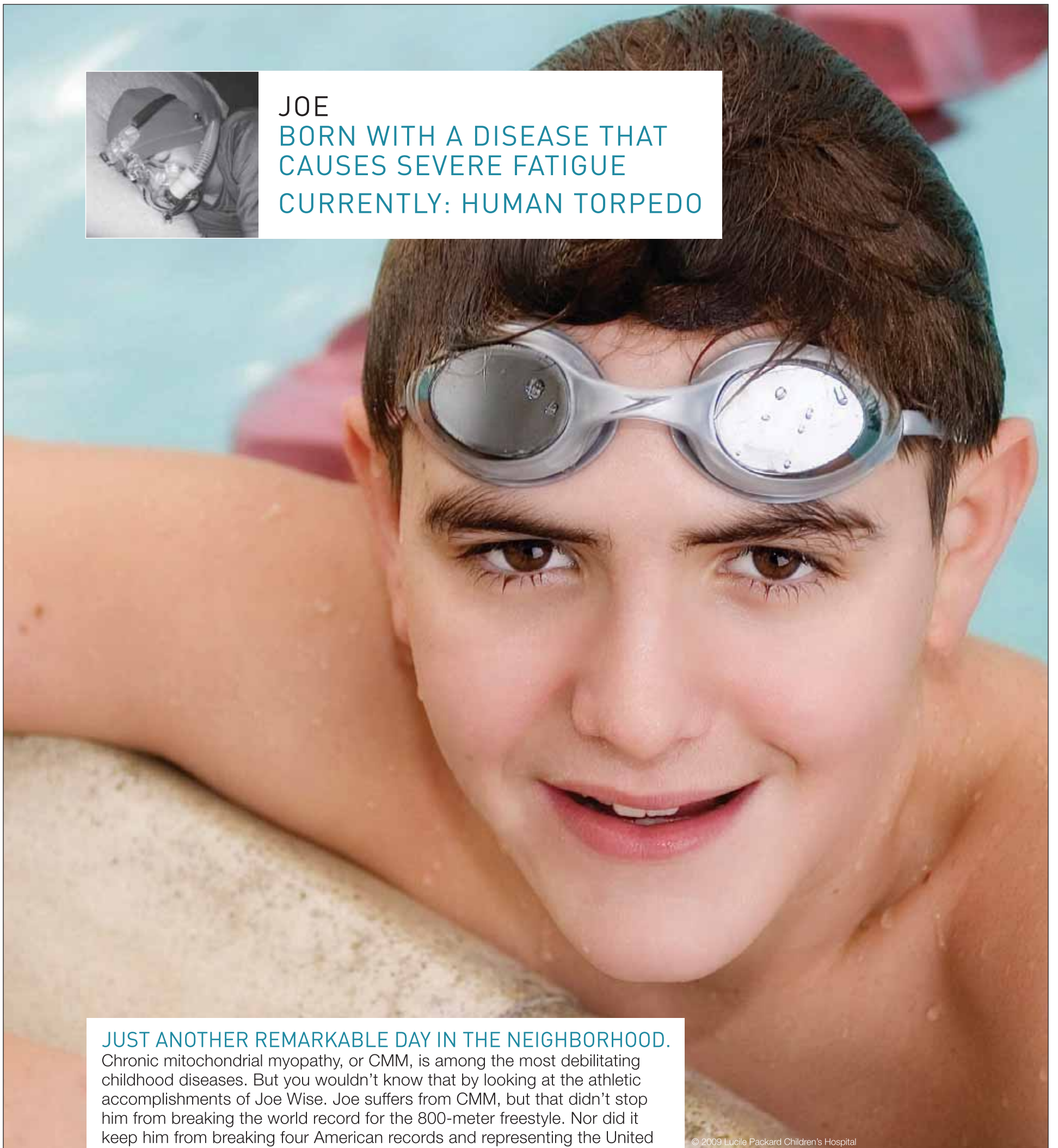
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Oregon jury convicts M-A grad in rape case

■ Greg Sako gets eight years in state prison and must register as sex offender.

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Gregory Sako, a graduate of Hillview Middle School and Menlo-Atherton High School, was sentenced Tuesday, May 19, in Benton County, Oregon, to eight years and four months in state prison after a jury trial in which he was convicted of first-degree rape, according to the prosecutor in the case.

Mr. Sako, 20 and a sophomore at Oregon State University, faces 11 years of parole after he gets out of prison, as well as registration as a sex offender in Oregon and submission of a DNA sample to Oregon's criminal database, said Chief Deputy District Attorney Christian Stringer via e-mail.

"Under Oregon's violent-felony provision, he has to serve every day" of his sentence, Mr. Stringer said in an interview. "He doesn't get any time off for good behavior, boot camp or any other early release program."

Oregon laws prohibit prosecutors from talking about plea bargains, Mr. Stringer said, but he did say that an offer was made to Mr. Sako.

Stephen Ensor, the attorney for Mr. Sako, did not respond to an Almanac request for comment.

Almanac graduation records show that Mr. Sako graduated from Hillview Middle School in 2003 and from M-A in 2007.

The rape occurred on Oct. 31, 2008, at Oregon State at an off-campus Halloween fraternity party at which Mr. Sako was dressed as a beer bottle, Mr. Stringer said, and the victim, a 21-year-old college student from

Portland, was dressed as Tinkerbell.

Both the victim and Mr. Sako admitted to drinking at the party, Mr. Stringer said.

The victim, whose identity is being protected, reported the incident to the Corvallis Police Department after visiting the hospital with a friend, Mr. Stringer said. Police arrested and jailed Mr. Sako on Nov. 1 and he was released on \$250,000 bail on Nov. 5. He had been out of jail since then, Mr. Stringer said.

State's evidence included the victim's blood-soaked costume, photographs of blood-stained underwear from both the victim and Mr. Sako, medical testimony as to vaginal tearing, and a transcript of an interview Mr. Sako had with detectives in which he denied having sex and said he could not remember parts of the evening, Mr. Stringer said.

DNA found in Mr. Sako's underwear was given one chance in 10 billion of not belonging to the victim, Mr. Stringer said.

The jury returned a guilty verdict after a four-day trial in which the prosecution presented 17 witnesses, including experts on medical examination, sex-abuse trauma and alcoholic blackout, Mr. Stringer said.

The defense, he said, included two experts on medical examination and sex-abuse trauma, several members of Mr. Sako's fraternity, Phi Kappa Psi, and a witness from California who testified as to Mr. Sako's nonviolent and lawful character.

Mr. Sako did not testify on his own behalf, but prosecutors played

See RAPE, page 13

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Forum on teen depression set for June in Menlo Park

■ Nonprofit raises \$164,000 at charity event.

With the recent suicide of a student at Gunn High School in Palo Alto, and with one in five people reporting experiencing depression during their teen years, a new push is on to raise community awareness of the availability of counseling for teens.

A pair of two-hour community forums, called "Breaking the Stigma: Adolescent Depression," is set for 7 p.m. on two Thursdays: June 4 at Palo Alto's Cubberley Theater at 4000 Middlefield Road, and June 18 at the Menlo Park City Council Chambers at 701 Laurel St.

The forums' host, the Palo Alto-based nonprofit Adolescent Counseling Services (ACS), provides free on-campus psychological counseling at eight area schools, including Menlo-Atherton High School and La Entrada Middle School.

The forums are opportunities to air questions and concerns to a panel of experts. For more information on ACS, including summer programs and tips on talking with teens, go to www.acs-teens.org, or call 424-0852.

ACS Executive Director Philippe Rey spoke about the

issue of teen mental health to more than 240 guests at a May 16 fundraiser at the Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club in Menlo Park, where the nonprofit raised \$164,000 in donations, according to a statement that included Mr. Rey's remarks.

"It's the rare person among us who hasn't suffered from (depression) at some point, but statistics show that teens are especially susceptible to it," Mr. Rey said.

Psychotherapy does help teens and there are numbers to prove it, Mr. Rey said. A 2007 ACS survey showed that 50 percent of teens being treated in schools were clinically depressed, and that 79 percent of them showed remission after five counseling sessions, he said.

"We must do even more to let teenagers know that we are there," he added. "So, we've decided to start a new campaign to let students know who we are, what we do, where we are located, and how to contact us."

Along with the June forums, the nonprofit plans to distribute fliers to teens as they return to school in the fall.

Talks in PV on greening a home and deconstruction

Making a home environmentally sustainable and taking a home apart in a conscientious way are the topics for the May 26 evening event in Portola Valley's Green Speaker series.

Speakers are David Edwards, the founder and owner of Santa Clara-based Earth Bound Homes, and Ted Reiff, the founder of The Re-use People in Oakland and president of The Reuse People of America.

The two-hour event begins at 7 p.m. in the community hall at 765 Portola Road in Portola Valley. For more information, go to tinyurl.com/PV-green-5-26.

Mr. Edwards is certified with several green-building organizations and is authorized to assign

a green-point rating to a building, according to an online biography. He will talk about the "five defining elements" of green building: sustainability, durability, resource conservation, energy efficiency and indoor air quality. His presentation will include a discussion on proper materials and methods.

Mr. Reiff, a former investment banker, is a licensed demolition contractor and consults in the private and public sectors on demolition and waste diversion projects. He will discuss the many kinds of materials that are salvageable by carefully dismantling a building, how to arrange for their reuse, and how such actions benefit the environment and the economy.

RAPE

continued from page 12

his interview with the detectives for the jury, Mr. Stringer said.

Asked to describe the trial, Mr. Stringer complimented the defense attorney, Mr. Ensor. There were no personal attacks and both sides

conducted themselves professionally, he said, adding: "He fought really hard but he fought within the rules."

The jury deliberated about five hours before reaching the verdict. Mr. Stringer would not say if the decision was unanimous, only that Oregon law requires the agreement of 10 out of 12 jurors. ■

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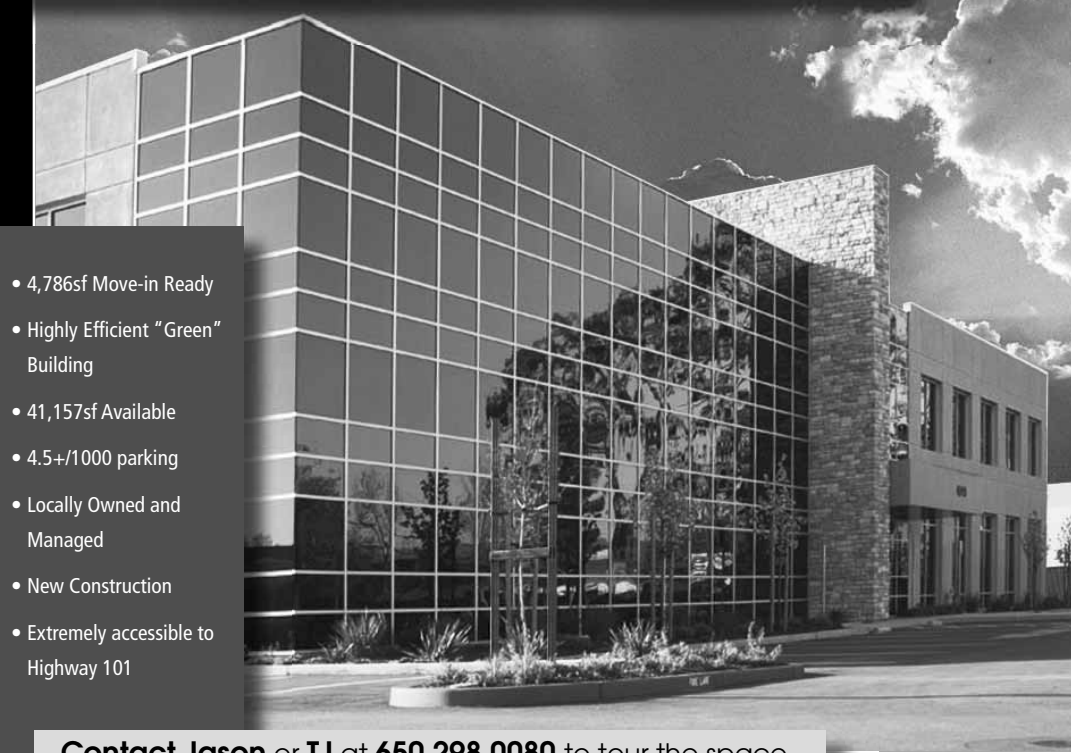
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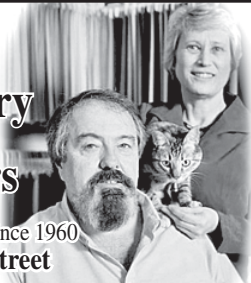
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Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



Todd Wright portrays Sir John Falstaff in Shakespeare's "The Merry Wives of Windsor."

Festival spotlights Shakespeare, Kipling classics under the stars

Festival Theatre Ensemble is gearing up to launch its 11th annual Midpeninsula Shakespeare Festival, which will feature two works by the Bard and a stage adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's "The Jungle Book."

Performed under the stars at Mid-Peninsula High School in Menlo Park, the plays will be staged in repertory: "The Merry Wives of Windsor," opening Saturday, June 6; "A Midsummer Night's Dream," opening Friday, June 12; and "The Jungle Book," opening June 19.

Performances will be at 8 p.m.

Friday, Saturday and Sundays through June 28.

Admission is free, though donations are "cheerfully accepted" by the nonprofit theater troupe, according to a press release.

"The Merry Wives of Windsor," the comic tale of the infamous Sir John Falstaff, will be directed by Bruce De Les Dernier, Festival Theatre Ensemble's artistic director. In addition to its opening night, it will be performed June 7, 14 and 28.

Mr. De Les Dernier also will direct the magical romantic comedy, "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

Additional performances are set for June 13, 21 and 26.

Troy Johnson will direct Will Huddleston's adaptation of "The Jungle Book." Additional performances are set for June 20 and 27.

Mid-Peninsula High School is at 1340 Willow Road. The outdoor stage is off the parking lot west of the school. Seating is provided, and wheelchair seating is available.

Play-goers are advised to dress warmly, as evenings are chilly even if the day is warm.

For more information, call 408-996-0635.

Screening, discussion to honor filmmaker

By Sean Howell
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park filmmaker Dorothy Fadiman has produced over 20 documentaries in her 30-year career, tackling topical subjects such as HIV/AIDS in Africa and alleged voting fraud in the 2004 election. She has also covered stories closer to home, such as a Menlo Park resident's struggle to recover from a severe spinal cord injury.

The Palo Alto-based Mid-Peninsula Community Media Center will honor Ms. Fadiman's work — and her 70th birthday — with champagne and cake Saturday, June 6, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. The free event will include a screening of clips of Ms. Fadiman's films, and a panel

discussion moderated by Danny McGuire, a former executive producer for PBS.

The event will kick off a month-long screening of Ms. Fadiman's films on Media Center's Channel 27. It coincides with the filmmaker's decision to donate her oeuvre to the center.

In a press release, Media Center representatives praised Ms. Fadiman's longtime commitment to public television, noting that several of her documentaries take for their subjects events in the surrounding community. One of her films follows a Palo Alto City Council meeting the night the council passed a resolution for nuclear non-proliferation. Another profiles Menlo Park's Peninsula School.

Many of Ms. Fadiman's films have premiered in Menlo Park and Palo Alto. They often focus on issues related to human rights and social justice.

■ INFORMATION

In celebration of the films of Menlo Park resident Dorothy Fadiman, the Midpeninsula Media Center will hold a screening of her films and a panel discussion June 6, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. The event is free. RSVP by e-mailing kadams@midpenmedia.org. The Media Center will broadcast Ms. Fadiman's films on Channel 27 on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays throughout June. For scheduling information, visit the Media Center's Web site: www.midpenmedia.org.

Woodside eighth-graders stage 'Beauty and the Beast'

By Jane Knoerle

Almanac Lifestyles Editor

It's a rite of passage. On June 3 to 6, Woodside School's eighth-grade class will present Disney musical "Beauty and the Beast" in the school's George Sellman Auditorium, continuing a beloved tradition begun 51 years ago.

Every one of the 52 members of the graduating class will be on stage, whether it's as the Beast (Cole Dooley) or the Doormat (Spencer Hanley).

"It's the culmination of their eight years at school," says parent Mary Pinkus. And even if they aren't "American Idol" material, the kids come together to put on a show.

"Every year the kids who are most reluctant to take part end up appreciating the experience. It's pretty magical to see the relationship they build," says parent Liz Dressel, who is co-producer with Ashley Waters, Marina Marguet, and Cate Hanley.

The production opens with a twilight show on June 3 at 5 p.m. On that night only, parents will be selling a pizza and salad dinner beforehand. The June 4 performance begins at 6 p.m. and the June 5 and 6 shows open at 7 p.m.

Leading roles are played by Mikaela Waters (Belle), Cole Dooley (Beast), and Miles McCann Robinson (Gaston). Prominent roles are also taken by Michael Marguet, Christian Kurtela, Caro-

line Glazer, Leigh Thomas, Kes Rushing, Spencer Hanley, Maya Norman, Christina York, Christine Flock and Dominic Tehin.

Once again, music director Ruthanne Rose Smith joins director Elena Mori to stage the operetta. Patti Michelsen, assisted by Yvette Phillips, is choreographer.

Longtime teacher honored

This year's production will be dedicated to Karen Arimoto-Peterson. Ms. Peterson is a longtime teacher at Woodside Elementary, the eighth-grade adviser, and coordinator of student services. "Karen shows up for rehearsals every day," says Ms. Dressel.

Taking part in the operetta is often "all in the family." Mikaela

Waters' sister, Lindsey, now a student at Sacred Heart Prep, played the lead in her eighth-grade production of "Hello Dolly." Christina York's father, Frank, Paisley Gilbert's mother, Meridyth, Emily Degnan's father, Jeff, and Michael Degnan's dad, Mark, all appeared in eighth-grade operettas.

"Beauty and the Beast" will be presented in the George Sellman Auditorium, named for the late Woodside School superintendent,

who directed the operetta for nearly 40 years. The first show directed by Mr. Sellman was "Mountain Music" in 1958. He ended his run with the 1995 production of "Bye Bye Birdie."

Tickets for "Beauty and the Beast" are \$12 for adults and \$10 for children. Tickets are on sale at Woodside School, located at 3195 Woodside Road. For more information, call the school at 851-1571.

Photography exhibit offers new perspectives on Rodin sculptures

Photographs by Alan M. McGee of Portola Valley will be featured through June in "Rodin Redux — Realization and Revelation," at the Portola Art Gallery in Menlo Park.

The exhibit, which opens Monday, June 1, is the culmination of a 10-year project that began with a series of photographic studies of the Rodin sculpture collection at Stanford University, according to a press release from the gallery.

An artist's reception is set for Saturday, June 13, from 1 to 4 p.m.

The Portola Art Gallery is located on the grounds of the historic Allied Arts Guild, 75 Arbor Road in Menlo Park. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

For more information, visit portolaartgallery.com.



"Eustache de Saint-Pierre (Burghers of Calais detail)" is among the photographs by Alan M. McGee in a new exhibit.

Pie contest a highlight of Portola Valley picnic

The town picnic in Portola Valley, set for Saturday, June 6, at the Portola Valley Town Center, includes a run, a car show, carnival games sponsored by the Cub Scouts, picnic food sponsored by the Boy Scouts, and some pie eating — for a select few.

The pie bake-off contest, the second annual, will feature pies from bakers of all ages, according to a flier prepared by the Community Events and the Parks and Recreation committees.

Judging pie quality will be the responsibility of Mayor Ann Wengert; Mark Goodman-Morris, the head pastor of Valley Presbyterian Church; Chris Bradley, the director of tennis at the Alpine Hills Tennis & Swimming Club;

and three local restaurateurs: Park Side Grille owner Bill Petkopoulos, Konditorei owner Patty Cullen, and Buck's of Woodside owner Jamis MacNiven.

Registration for the run opens at 9:15 a.m. at the Alpine Inn (formerly Rossotti's) at 3915 Alpine Road; the run starts from there at 10:15 a.m. and ends 2.2 miles later at the Portola Town Center at 765 Portola Road. The \$10 entry fee includes a T-shirt, a race bib and a ribbon.

Race participants of all ages are free to run, walk, bike or scooter to the finish line, and are encouraged to bring water in a bottle that is not harmful to the environment when disposed of.

Corte Madera Middle School

students Jacyn Schmidt and Natasha Badger designed the winning race T-shirt in a design competition organized by the school's art teacher, Brigid Corboy.

The picnic itself begins at 10:30 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m., with rock music by the Highly Strung Band. Kids activities will include a slide, a jumping room, a climbing wall and a dunk tank, plus snacks like snow cones and cotton candy.

A car show will set up in the parking lot in front of the Historic Schoolhouse. Among those invited to show off and talk about their vehicles are owners of vintage race cars, hot rods, motorcycles and exotics.

To raise funds for the library, the Friends of the Portola Valley Library will be selling juice and "gently used" books. The town's many volunteer committees will be advertising their current and future activities.



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY

ARCHITECTURAL AND SITE CONTROL COMMISSION RECRUITMENT

The Town Council is seeking an individual to serve on the Town's Architectural and Site Control Commission (ASCC). The ASCC is responsible for review of all proposals for significant new development in Portola Valley, including new homes, major residential additions and changes to commercial and other non-residential uses. The ASCC, with staff support, administers the Town's design plans and guidelines, for the purposes of promoting the visual character of the community, minimizing disturbance to the natural setting and ensuring that improvements are properly related to their site and adjacent uses.

The ASCC consists of five (5) members appointed by the Town Council. Regular meetings are held at 8:00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. Since most of the ASCC work is property specific, often on the Monday meeting dates special late afternoon field sessions are conducted to fully consider site and area conditions. The ASCC process involves significant interaction with existing and new Town residents, architects, landscape architects, and contractors.

If you are interested in serving on the ASCC, please submit a letter of interest to the Town Council by Friday, June 5, 2009.



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Three arrested on burglary charges after freeway chase

After a car chase along U.S. 101, San Mateo County sheriff's deputies arrested three men Sunday, May 17, in Palo Alto in connection with a series of early morning commercial burglaries in Menlo Park and Redwood City.

In San Mateo County jail on three counts each of burglary, larceny and malicious mischief are Manuel Medina-Pantoja, 35, of Hughson, California, and Antonio Andrade Martinez, 43, and Jonathan Vega, 24, both out of Modesto, said Chief Deputy District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe in a report.

They were booked in connection with burglaries of a car stereo installer in Redwood City, an office supply store in Menlo Park, and an equipment rental outfit in unincorporated Redwood City.

The defendants were arraigned Tuesday, May 19, and all pleaded not guilty, Mr. Wagstaffe said, adding that bail had been set at \$25,000 but all three men were still in custody. A preliminary hearing for the three men before Commissioner Stephanie Garratt in Redwood City Felony Court is set for June 1 at 2 p.m.

The following account of the chase and capture is taken from reports by Mr. Wagstaffe, the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office and the Menlo Park Police Department.

At around 6:10 a.m., deputies

were called about an incident at A-A-A Rental at 82 5th Ave. in unincorporated Redwood City. The caller reported seeing two Hispanic men going in and out of the business, then leaving in an easterly direction in a red four-door sedan.

Deputies, after encountering a car matching that description on Main Street and heading toward Veterans Boulevard, turned on the squad car's rooftop lights and siren, but the red car sped away toward the southbound freeway. During the chase, the car reached speeds as high as 110 mph.

The fleeing suspects left the freeway at Embarcadero Road in Palo Alto, drove to the eastern end of the Embarcadero near the marshes, abandoned the car and hid, but were found and detained in short order, authorities said.

In the car, deputies found property later verified to have been stolen from Monney Car Stereo in Redwood City and the Staples office supply store at 700 El Camino Real in Menlo Park, from which a computer monitor and desktop printer had been stolen, police said.

The tool rental shop had had its door pried open and was ransacked, with the loss of power tools. Deputies said they found evidence of that burglary in the car.

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■ 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

Residential burglary report: Home owner reported gate open and rolled up rugs outside of vacant house, 100 block of Atherton Ave., May 17.

Auto burglary report: Window smashed and laptop computer stolen, Polhemus Ave., May 20.

MENLO PARK

Commercial burglary report: Arrest of Tarek Mejri, 31, in connection with stolen groceries valued at \$300, Safeway Food & Drug at 525 El Camino Real, May 19.

Auto burglary report: Window smashed and laptop computer and gym bag stolen, 1800 block of El Camino Real, May 20.

Grand theft report: Bicycles stolen from garage, 900 block of Arbor Road, May 17.

Fraud reports:

■ Bad check for \$6,200, Bank of America at 625 Santa Cruz Ave., May 15.

■ Fraudulent purchase from Craigslist with loss valued at \$500, first block of Reyna Place, May 18.

Spousal abuse report: 1100 block of Bieber Ave., May 16.

Child Protective Services report: Main police station at 701 Laurel St., May 18.

WOODSIDE

Theft report: Wallet and camera stolen from unlocked vehicle, 700 block of West California Way, May 13.

Fraud report: False registration tabs on license plate, Woodside High School at 199 Churchill Road, May 18.

PV set to finalize fire safety changes to building code

A second vote on Portola Valley building code changes meant to lower the vulnerability of homes to wildfire is ahead for the Town Council at its Wednesday, May 27, meeting at 8 p.m. in the Historic Schoolhouse.

On May 13, the council unanimously agreed to import the state's regulations on the use of ignition-resistant building materials and methods, known as Chapter 7A, for all new buildings in town, and all replacement roofs, windows, decks and siding.

A "second reading" of the ordinance is necessary to formally adopt it, and it becomes law 30 days after the council's second vote.

The ordinance includes a

revised definition of when a remodel, addition or repair is substantial enough to be considered a new building and thus fall under the Chapter 7A rules.

Any addition that affects 50 percent or more of the exterior wall-plane surface or floor area would qualify as a new building, which is lower than the current 75 percent threshold.

The same wall-plane and floor-area formula would apply for requirements to install interior automatic sprinkler systems.

The council will also consider spending no more than \$25,000 on a basic Toyota Prius for the deputy building official.

DAVID EUGENE BOHANNON

David Eugene Bohannon, 75, passed away peacefully at his home in Eugene, Oregon on May 5.

Born in San Mateo July 4, 1933, "Dave" grew up in Woodside, in the Woodside Hills area, graduating from Sequoia High School and attending San Jose State University. As a boy he had horses, and rode the trails in Woodside before Highway 280 was built. He spent his early career working for the David D. Bohannon Organization, the real estate company founded by his father. In 1969 he moved to Sacramento, establishing his own home building company. His home building company was responsible for significant housing projects in several communities in California and Nevada. He was a 'scratch' golfer and fierce competitor, placing 2nd in the California State Amateur in the early 1950's and winning several club championships at local golf courses. He loved Lake Tahoe where he and his family enjoyed many years of snow skiing, water skiing, and boating, including sailing. He won the Trans-Tahoe sail boat race in 1977. He was also a skilled pilot, and had his instrument rating. Dave was an accomplished photographer and enjoyed photographing family events. He was also an avid sportsman, and had many hunting and fishing adventures during his life, including African Safaris and Alaskan fly-fishing trips.

In 2005, he moved to Eugene, Oregon, with his wife Susan, where he lived until his death.

He is survived by his wife, Susan Bohannon; his children, David Bohannon of Menlo Park, Lisa Bohannon of Menlo Park, Scott Bohannon of Woodside, Jeremiah Bohannon of Redwood City, Ophelia Bohannon of Eugene, Oregon, Robert Bohannon of Eugene, Oregon; and his sister Frances Nelson of Woodside. He was predeceased by his sister Barbara Carleton.

Private memorial arrangements have been made. The family suggests those who wish to make donations, do so with the charitable organization of their choice.

PAID OBITUARY

KEPLER'S FEATURED AUTHORS IN JUNE

Linda Himmelstein

The King of Vodka: The Story of Pyotr Smirnov and the Upheaval of an Empire
Tuesday, June 2, 7:30 p.m.

The story of vodka scion Pyotr Smirnov - a humble serf who rose to create one of the most celebrated business empires the world has ever known.



Glen David Gold

Sunnyside
Wednesday, June 3, 7:30 p.m.

Author of the best seller *Carter Beats the Devil*, now gives us grand entertainment with Charlie Chaplin at its center.



Mahbod Seraji

Roofops of Tehran: A Novel
Thursday, June 4, 7:30 p.m.

This poignant, funny, eye-opening and emotionally vivid novel lays bare the beauty and brutality of the centuries-old Persian culture.



Special Luncheon Event with Deborah Madison.

Singles: \$67; Couples: \$105

What We Eat When We Eat Alone: Stories and 100 Recipes

Friday, June 5, 12:00 p.m.

Location: Oak City Bar & Grill, 1029 El Camino Real, Menlo Park

Join the founding chef of Green's Restaurant and award-winning cookbook author for conversation and lunch.



Ayelet Waldman

Bad Mother: A Chronicle of Maternal Crimes, Minor Calamities, and Occasional Moments of Grace

Monday, June 8, 7:30 p.m.

Covering topics as diverse as the hysteria of competitive parenting and balancing the work-family dynamic, *Bad Mother* illuminates the anxieties that riddle motherhood today.



Lisa See

Shanghai Girls: A Novel

Tuesday, June 9, 7:30 p.m.

A book about survival and just how much a person will endure for the people they love, and a captivating history lesson about the difficulties faced by our immigrant population.



Luis Alberto Urrea

Into the Beautiful North: A Novel

Wednesday, June 10, 12:30 p.m.

From the acclaimed author of *The Hummingbird's Daughter* and *The Devil's Highway* comes the story of an irresistible young woman's quest to find herself.

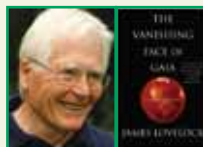


James Lovelock

The Vanishing Face of Gaia: A Final Warning

Tuesday, June 16, 7:30 p.m.

Eminent scientist James Lovelock argues that the earth is lurching ever closer to a permanent "hot state" - and much more quickly than most specialists think.



Stan Goldberg

Lessons for the Living: Stories of Forgiveness, Gratitude and Courage at the End of Life

Wednesday, June 17, 7:30 p.m.

When Stan Goldberg was diagnosed with cancer, he chose to face his fear by helping others in the process of dying. His experiences changed his view of death—and life—forever.



Marc Fitten:

Valeria's Last Stand

Laleh Khadivi:

The Age of Orphans

Thursday, June 18, 7:30 p.m.

Fitten's debut novel is a comic romp celebrating late-flowering love in a Hungarian village. Khadivi's debut novel follows a Kurdish boy who is tragically and violently conscripted into the shah's army.



Sister Marilyn Lacey

This Flowing Toward Me: A Story of God Arriving in Strangers

Tuesday, June 23, 7:30 p.m.

In vivid prose, Sister Lacey narrates her twenty-five year spiritual journey of work with those displaced by conflict and disaster.



Don J. Goewey

Mystic Cool

Wednesday, June 24, 7:30 p.m.

A proven approach to transcend stress, achieve optimal brain function, and maximize your creative intelligence.



Geoff Nunberg

The Years of Talking Dangerously

Thursday, June 25, 7:30 p.m.

As advertisers and marketers know, our mistrust of words doesn't inoculate us against them. Nunberg is a linguist who teaches at UC Berkeley's School of Information and is the former chair of the American Heritage Dictionary's Usage Panel.



Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

The Thing Around Your Neck

Tuesday, June 30, 7:30 p.m.

Twelve dazzling stories that explore the ties that bind men and women, parents and children, Africa and the United States.



Special Youth Event!

Ally Carter

Don't Judge a Girl By Her Cover

Monday, June 8, 5:30 p.m.

The Gallagher Girls are back - and when you go to the world's best school (for spies), "exciting" and "deadly" are never far apart.



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

June 7th -

Story Time with Sally Mallam
Dende Maro: The Golden Prince

The prehistoric rock art of Africa inspired this story, which unfolds over a thousand million years.



June 21st -

Father's Day Story Time
Me with You
Bertie: Just Like Daddy

We are a pair beyond compare, a rare and special two, in all the ways that I am me and you are completely you.



June 14th -

Story Time with Maria Van Lieshout
Peep!: A Little Book about Taking a Leap

PEEP is out for a walk with his mother and sisters. When they hop off a curb, PEEP freezes. It's too high! He just can't do it...but with a little encouragement, PEEP decides to take a leap.



June 28th -

Story Time with Betsy Franco and Michael Wertz
A Curious Collection of Cats

Pond Circle

The vibrantly illustrated poems in *A Curious Collection of Cats* were actually inspired by local author Betsy's cats. Betsy will be joined by illustrator Michael Wertz.



Our event program is updated often. Please visit keplers.com for current information. All events are free at Kepler's unless otherwise noted.



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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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Editor at the Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

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Should Menlo Park continue to operate child care center?

Given the heat of the current divisive debate, it is time for the Menlo Park City Council to make a decision on whether to continue to operate the child care center in the Civic Center complex.

Until that happens, dissension will continue to roil the community, which seems deeply torn about the city's role in providing a daycare program for toddlers and preschool children, a service that is not otherwise readily available in a central location in downtown Menlo Park.

Much of the current turmoil has been brought on by the city's poor management of the program. For the fiscal year ending June 30, the city expects to subsidize an estimated \$384,000 of the center's cost, including overhead, even after significant rate increases. Barbara George, head of the city's community services

department, says the rapid turnover of managers who were not familiar with all parts of the operation has been a major factor in the city's inability to reduce its subsidy of the program.

For Mayor Heyward Robinson and council members John Boyle and Rich Cline, as well as many Menlo Park residents, this explanation falls woefully short. And we agree. Ms. George herself should be in the trenches if her managers are falling down on the job. And councilmen Cline and Boyle note that the problems raised in a 2006 study of whether the city should continue to operate the center still haven't been solved.

"I'm starting to get tired. I'm starting to feel like we can't solve this problem," Mr. Cline said at a recent meeting on the subject.

Oddly, there are few complaints about the services provided at the center. Instead, the major problem is simply poor use of space.

To be most efficient, the center needs to fill as close to 100 percent of its 56 slots as possible every working day. But on average, only

three-quarters of the slots are filled, even though the center is fully staffed. Costs of the full-time staff continue whether slots are filled or not, and recently, the new or interim managers have not been able to get the program close to full capacity.

Ms. George says better management of the wait list could push seats filled from 76 percent to as high as 91 percent, if all slots were open to any family ready to fill them, and the costly toddler program were eliminated.

These and other reforms could bring the program to break-even, Ms. George says, not including the \$178,000 charge for city overhead. But unfortunately, Ms. George may have lost credibility with council members who are frustrated with the department's inability to fix the problem.

Several weeks ago in this space, we voiced support for city-run child care and recommended adopting tighter management of the wait list, higher fees and other reforms to bring the center close to break-even, not including the overhead charge. At the time, it seemed a realistic plan.

But given that a majority of council members lack confidence in the city's management of the program, and given the state of the current subsidy, it is time to consider putting the childcare contract out to bid. If there is enough interest, at least the city would get a realistic look at whether its operation and costs are in line with private providers, who should be charged to use the city's site, and should continue to provide all the services available at the center today.

We continue to believe that with proper oversight, the city could operate the child care center at "break even," discounting overhead charges. But unless better managers can be found, we have to agree that it is time to at least consider a change. In today's economy, when the entire country is hunkering down, the city can no longer afford to subsidize six-figure losses in its child care program.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS

Our readers write

Lack of transparency at Atherton council meeting

Editor:

Transparency is a popular word in the political arena all across the country. I cannot speak for the entire U.S.A., but I know it was absent from the May 20 Town Council meeting on Item 30.

Council members Charles Marsala and Elizabeth Lewis want a new Town Center. They want the seed money to flow out of the town's Library Fund.

This issue was placed on the agenda for this meeting without notifying other council members, without submitting a draft of this proposition to the council, and without notifying the Blue Ribbon Task Force investigating the issue or the Library Board members who are vitally interested. That is what is called a true lack of transparency.

The council ruled, at the insistence of council members Marsala and Lewis, that this important issue be tossed over to the city manager, the lawyer and staff to investigate ways and means of using the library funds in building a new town



Our Regional Heritage

Portola Valley Archives

This faded photo shows the gathering of people on the last day of school in the village of Searsville in June 1893. The Spring Valley Water Works bought out the residents so the agency could construct the Searsville Dam, and the children moved to a school on Portola Road. The photo was made by W.N. Collom of San Francisco.

center. I think this is a conflict of interest. Some upgrades are always beneficial. New offices and a palatial lobby will not lead to "a lean and mean grilling machine," so expansion must be considered.

Do Atherton residents want or need this expansion? How many Athertonians know that this is

even being considered? Portola Valley's new creation went over budget and ended up costing around \$18 million. This might not be a prudent time to push this project and approval of the residents is definitely necessary before advancing.

Jean Schaaf
Stockbridge Avenue, Atherton

Council should oppose huge Cargill project

Editor:

News of Cargill's development plans for 12,000 homes and 30,000 new residents on the Redwood City baylands should attract the attention of Menlo

See **LETTERS**, next page

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

Park's City Council.

This proposal will require scrutiny of the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) and other regional agencies. The state Department of Water Resources will surely be interested in how much of our most precious and scarce resource

will be consumed by an Arizona developer's grandiose project.

Sadly, this development and its negative impacts are exacerbated by another Redwood City-approved development for 800 residential units and 10,000 square feet of retail at Pete's Harbor requiring five acres of bay fill.

Our City Council, in keeping with its green focus, must take a stand for protecting the Bay and against damaging sprawl

development on our border and on the Peninsula. The council should immediately draft a resolution opposing this project, with copies of the resolution sent to every agency whose review and approval of Cargill's plans might be required.

Last year, then-mayor Andy Cohen endorsed Redwood City's Measure W, which would have required voter approval of development on the baylands. Thanks

to multi-million dollar contributions as well as misleading and deceptive claims from Cargill and other development interests, Measure W failed.

It's now up to Menlo Park and other neighboring cities to follow

Mr. Cohen's wise initiative and to take decisive action against what distinguished environmental leader Ralph Nobles described as an "anachronistic" proposal.

Steve Schmidt, former mayor Central Avenue, Menlo Park

Here's what they're saying on Town Square

Conflict on the bridge

Posted by Editor, The Almanac Online

Menlo Park firefighters and police are being cited for driving through FasTrak toll plazas without paying — even though they are on emergency calls.

Comment posted by VetDoc, a resident of Menlo Park

This is crazy! The toll people should be charged with hindering the timely response of our police and firefighters. I would like to know if the toll companies are fighting this proposed fix in Sacramento. If so, they should be fired.

Posted by Ken, a resident of Menlo Park

Another example of why it's a bad idea to allow a for-profit entity to take over a function of a government service.

Posted by Confused, a resident of Menlo Park

So let me get this straight. Emergency service vehicles, which are paid for by taxes, are getting tickets from the bridge, which is paid for by taxes. How are they not exempt? Seriously, one government agency is citing and fining another for bridge tolls? Are they that desperate for money? This state is a mess.

Frustration rises over child care program

Posted by Editor, The Almanac Online

With fingers pointing every which way over the alleged mismanagement of Menlo Park's Burgess preschool child care program, the City Council voted 4-1 at its May 5 meeting to raise fees by 6 percent at the Menlo Children's Center in the Civic Center.

TownSquare

Join the conversation on www.TheAlmanacOnline.com. Click on links under the TownSquare banner.

Posted by Hank Lawrence, a resident of Menlo Park

All the child care programs west of Highway 101 should not be subsidized at all. I attended a City Council meeting where one mother complained that

after completing her expensive home remodel she could not afford to pay more for child care. So people living in town homes, condos, and apartments should be subsidizing people who live in \$2 million-plus homes? I don't think so.

Posted by MCC Parent, a resident of Menlo Park

I want everyone to know that we are actually paying a LOT of money? And why do we "deserve" to have "taxpayers footing part of the bill"? Well, the answer is simple: we are taxpayers too and help to pay with our taxes for many other services for which we are also not the direct users. I believe that living in a community means that we should look out for each other and think about what's best for the community as a whole and not only what serves our immediate personal interests.

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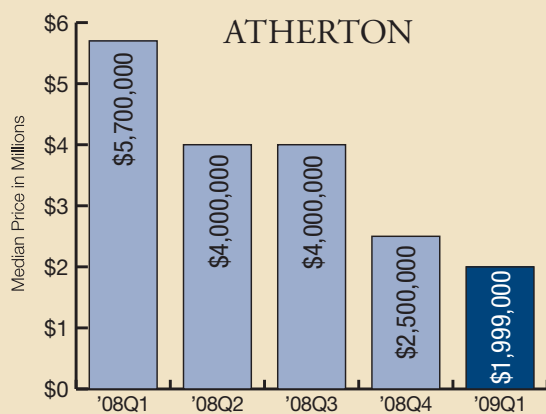
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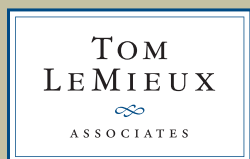
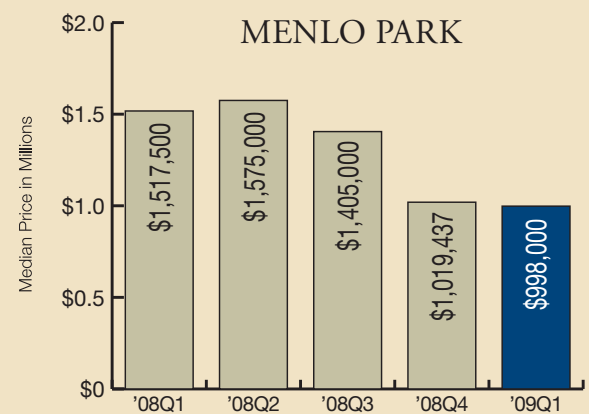
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