

**HIGH SCHOOLS:** District eyes staff pay cuts,  
shorter school year to slash budget. | PAGE 5

# The Almanac

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

JULY 8, 2009 | VOL. 44 NO. 45



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See Second Section

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# Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

## FIRST SHOT



Photo by James Tensuan/Special to The Almanac

### Summer camp in the city

Shayna Maille, left, and Julia Montgomery hang out during a lunch break at the recent Menlo Madness Summer Camp held at the Burgess Recreation Center.

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## On the cover

Speech therapist Raji Srirangarajan congratulates AchieveKids student Sebastian for successfully negotiating the crosswalk near the school campus. Special needs students from San Mateo County school districts can opt to go to AchieveKids, a non-public school with a campus in Palo Alto, where there's a move toward assistive technology to give students better tools for learning and life. Photo by Michelle Le. Story begins on cover of **Section 2**.

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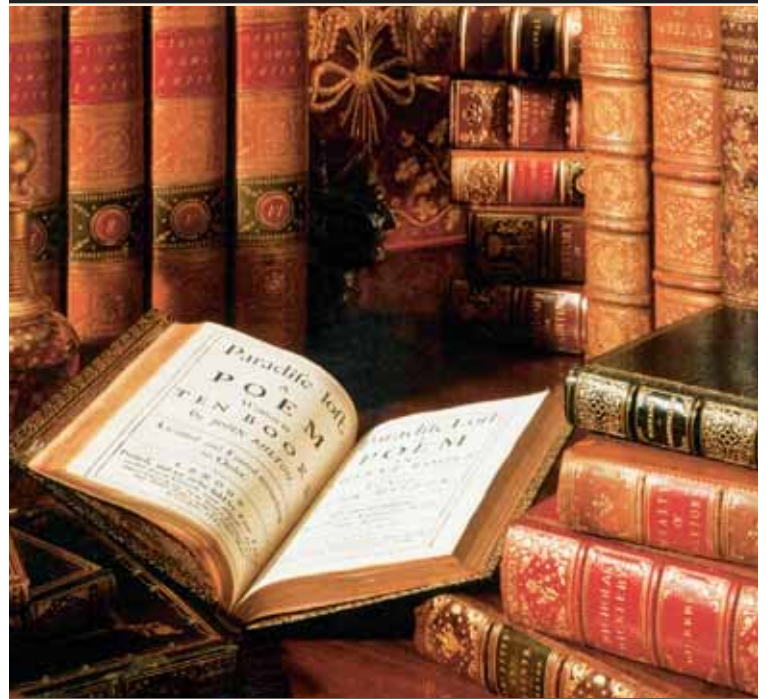
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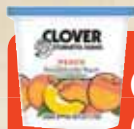
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# Local News

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## High school district eyes staff pay cuts

■ Additional \$3 million in budget cuts could lead to shorter school year, staff furloughs.

By **Dave Boyce**  
Almanac Staff Writer

The budget pains just keep on coming.

After having planned \$2.5 million in cuts for the 12-month period that began July 1, management staff of the Sequoia Union High School District — which

includes Menlo-Atherton and Woodside high schools — have asked the board to identify \$3 million more in cuts from its \$100 million budget.

The first round of cuts avoided the classroom, and this round will too, district Superintendent Pat Gemma said in an interview. The target, he said, will be where 80 percent to 85 percent of the district's expenses lie: compensation for teachers and staff.

With the state budget in dire straits, the California School Board Association recommended that public school districts put compensation packages on the table, Mr.

Gemma said.

Greg Gruszynski, president of the Sequoia district teachers union, did not respond to a request for comment by press time, but Sequoia Trustee Gordon Lewin said Mr. Gruszynski had informed him that he “understood” the need to look at teacher compensation.

Furloughs, temporary salary cuts and higher insurance co-pays are among the ideas to be negotiated with teachers in the fall, plus a “judicial use of our reserves,” Mr. Gemma said. Furloughs, another way of saying unpaid vacations, would mean fewer

school days and a shorter school year.

The fiscal year that starts in July 2010 will probably see cuts of another \$2.5 million, and that's assuming no mid-year corrections in Sacramento between now and then, Mr. Gemma said.

By keeping cuts away from the classroom, layoffs have not touched teachers so far, and aren't likely to for this budget year, Mr. Lewin noted.

“Having done that, there's not much more you can do. You have to look at teacher payroll. Everyone has to help out a little bit to avoid (teacher) layoffs,” he said. ■

## New gym project clears divided commission

■ Commission requires city to implement parking plan, makes several recommendations to City Council.

By **Sean Howell**  
Almanac Staff Writer

A project to build a new city gymnasium in Menlo Park's Civic Center complex has cleared another hurdle, and now faces a vote of the City Council before construction can begin.

A divided Planning Commission voted at its June 29 meeting to approve architectural plans for the gymnasium, with a number of conditions and recommendations, including a set-aside of parking spaces designated for library patrons.

The 4-3 vote opened the door for the council to give the final stamp of approval at its July 21 meeting, when it's scheduled to review the project.

Funded jointly through a bond measure and by donor John Arrilaga, the gym would front on

Alma Street, and would be nestled between the recreation center, the skate park, and the parking lot adjacent to the library.

After construction is complete, the existing gymnasium, which faces Laurel Street, would be razed and replaced with a new gymnasium center.

City officials, however, are quick to point out that the city hasn't yet committed funds to that facility.

### Plans incomplete?

Over the past month, the city has been accused of failing to think through the gym's placement and design. Members of the Planning Commission and the library community have criticized what they see as the city's failure to consider the impact the gym will have on library users, and on others who park in the adjacent lot.

The commission approved



Courtesy, city of Menlo Park

Architect's rendering of proposed gymnasium, as seen from Alma Street. The City Council is scheduled to vote on whether to approve the project at its July 21 meeting.

architectural plans for the gymnasium. The action, subject to City Council approval, requires the city to address the parking situation before the gym opens for use.

Under the commission's requirements, the city would have to set aside designated parking areas for library patrons. Parking would be provided elsewhere for city employees. The city would also

have to institute time restrictions on parking spots, and to coordinate major events on the Civic Center campus.

In addition, the city would remove existing landscaping in the lot nearest the library, to allow for more parking spaces.

The requirements weren't enough for the three commissioners who voted against the

plan: Melody Pagee, Vince Bressler, and John Kadvanly. Ms. Pagee and Mr. Kadvanly also took issue with the architectural plans for the gym itself.

The plan for parking and traffic circulation is “simply incomplete,” Mr. Kadvanly said in an interview. “Everybody wants to see the proj-

See **MENLO PARK GYM**, page 8

## Jury: public works supervisor not guilty of assault

By **Andrea Gemmet**  
Almanac Staff Writer

A jury on July 2 returned verdicts of “not guilty” on misdemeanor counts of assault and battery against Atherton public works supervisor Troy Henderson.

Mr. Henderson, a 33-year employee of the town, was accused of lunging at and grabbing Atherton police officer Pilar Ortiz-Buckley in an incident caught on the police station's surveillance video.

Mr. Henderson's attorney, Jaime Harley, said her client suffered a lot

during the trial. “I was relieved and happy, and so was he,” she told The Almanac about Mr. Henderson's reaction to the not-guilty verdict. “He cried a lot today.”

Mr. Henderson is planning to retire soon, she said.

“His reputation was riding on it more than anything else, and I think his career probably hinged on an acquittal,” Ms. Harley said. “He thought he would lose his job if he was convicted.”

Prosecutor Sharon Lee of the San Mateo County District Attorney's

### ATHERTON

Office described Ms. Ortiz-Buckley as the unwitting victim of a man who engaged in habitual sexual harassment of his female coworkers in closing arguments July 1.

Ms. Harley had a very different take on the assault and battery charges against her client: Ms. Ortiz-Buckley set up Mr. Henderson with an eye towards cashing in later.

“We're disappointed. We felt he

did commit these offenses and we wish the jury saw it the way we did,” Chief Deputy District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe told The Almanac.

The pattern of alleged sexual harassment described by Ms. Ortiz-Buckley and two other female town employees may have been acceptable 30 or 40 years ago, but not anymore, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

“I hope the defendant did not get the message, ‘What I've been doing is OK.’ It is unacceptable in today's world,” Mr. Wagstaffe said. “Women should not be subject to

lewd language, improper touching and improper behavior — but that's not what he was on trial for.”

Jury deliberations began the afternoon of July 1 in San Mateo County Superior Court in Redwood City. The verdict was returned around 11 a.m. the following morning.

The assault and battery charges stem from a June 3, 2008, incident, when then-Officer Ortiz-Buckley was sitting in the police station staff room and Mr. Henderson lunged at

See **HENDERSON**, page 6

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## Not guilty verdict

**HENDERSON**

continued from page 5

her and grabbed her, according to Mr. Wagstaffe. Ms. Ortiz-Buckley has since retired as an officer,

Ms. Ortiz-Buckley was lambasted as a lying opportunist who is interested only in money by defense attorney Harley in her closing argument.

Ms. Harley speculated that Ms. Ortiz-Buckley lured Mr. Henderson into the staff room with the express purpose of creating a video that she could later use in an attempt to wring money out of the town. There is no audio, so there's no telling what was being said, Ms. Harley said. "She could have been saying, 'Come here, big boy,'" Ms. Harley said.

Because Mr. Henderson had previous complaints about sexual harassment made against him, she knew that he would be a vulnerable target, Ms. Harley said

"Everything is about money, every lie she told," Ms. Harley told the jury. "She's thinking about the big payday at the end."

Mr. Henderson, 58, is old, in ill-health and confused by the strange incident, his attorney said.

"I hope you gave your eyes a good rub, because you just had sand thrown in them," said Deputy District Attorney Lee. "This defense is trying to re-victimize this victim at every opportunity.

Ms. Lee said Mr. Henderson lied repeatedly on the witness stand, and stared intently at his attorney as he tried to come up with the right responses when he was being cross-examined. She pointed out that Mr. Henderson testified that he was "shocked" by Ms. Ortiz-Buckley's behavior and wanted to forget it, and he also testified that he couldn't really remember the incident.

Ms. Lee also questioned how Ms. Ortiz-Buckley could have possibly manipulated Mr. Henderson as the defense alleged.

"Where are the puppet strings that made him lunge into her and grab her?" Ms. Lee asked the jury rhetorically.

"To say she's doing this as a diabolical plan to get big money? That is absurd," she said.

Ms. Lee also brought up the 16 sexual-harassment complaints filed against Mr. Henderson by Atherton town staff members.

Atherton Sgt. Kristin Nichols and former town employee Lois English testified June 30 to numerous alleged incidents of sexual harassment by Mr. Henderson.

Ms. English said she filed many complaints about the almost daily pattern of sexual comments from Mr. Henderson during the 16 years she worked for the town.

"His demeanor suggested he meant it (the comments) as sexu-

al," she testified. "He would stick out his tongue and flick it in a sexual way."

She said Mr. Henderson once came up behind her and put his hands down her shirt, into the top of her bra. The behavior stopped only after she cut him off and refused to talk to him, she said.

Sgt. Nichols testified she was standing in front of the police station in 2002 when Mr. Henderson pulled up. "He said he wanted to shake me up and show me how to feel good. He told me he'd be keeping his eye on me," Sgt. Nichols testified Tuesday. She filed a formal complaint about the incident.

Now-retired officer Ortiz-Buckley testified Monday that she "was standing up to a bully" when she shoved Mr. Henderson away during the videotaped incident. She didn't immediately report it or ask for help because she didn't want to appear weak, she said.

She testified that she had always ignored sexual comments Mr. Henderson directed at her because she considered him a friend, but on that day, his demeanor and posture were different. She said she was shocked by the incident, and that Mr. Henderson threatened her after she warned him not to take her on.

Mr. Henderson testified on Tuesday that he didn't even remember the incident until he was later questioned about it and shown the surveillance camera footage. He never touched her and only stepped close to her, not because he was threatening her but because her voice had dropped and he couldn't hear her, he said.

Mr. Henderson testified that he never made any sexual comments toward Ms. Ortiz-Buckley, and wasn't seeking a relationship with her. "That's disrespectful to say to anyone," he said. He said he might talk about sex with his male co-workers but not the female ones. "I would never do anything to hurt Ms. Ortiz or disrespect her," he testified.

Ms. Ortiz-Buckley's ex-husband John Buckley was called to the stand as a character witness. He said Ms. Ortiz-Buckley had lied on many occasions, and he claimed that she frequently worked her side job of conducting background checks while on-duty as a police officer. He conceded that the divorce was not amicable and that there had been a custody dispute over their young son.

His testimony was countered by former Atherton police chief Bob Brennan, who was asked his opinion of Ms. Ortiz-Buckley's honesty. "I have the opinion that she is an honest and truthful person," he testified. Sgt. Nichols also testified to Ms. Ortiz-Buckley's honesty.

Mr. Henderson and the town of Atherton are named in a civil lawsuit Ms. Ortiz-Buckley filed this spring, alleging ongoing

See **HENDERSON**, page 13



**Star-gazers** enjoyed the privilege of close-up views of the moon around sunset, and later of Saturn and various other bright objects in the universe at a star party on the soccer field at Portola Valley Town Center on June 26.

Photo by Dave Boyce/The Almanac

## Fans of the night sky behold views of the universe at star-gazing party

**By Dave Boyce**  
Almanac Staff Writer

**S**ilicon Valley lights are bright — bright enough to wash out the blackness of the night sky and reduce the panorama of stars and other celestial objects to an underwhelming ceiling of various shades of gray punctuated here and there by white dots. The Big Dipper is visible. Big deal.

For fans of the night sky, Portola Valley is the closest thing to a refuge this side of the Coast Range. The town regulates residential and commercial lighting so as to preserve the night's blackness. Periodically, local astronomers from the Peninsula Astronomical Society bring their telescopes out to the soccer field at Town Center to look out at the universe.

The most recent event occurred Friday, June 26, with six or seven telescopes arrayed around the field and as many as 50 people as the night wore on, according to Yvonne Tryce, chair of the Nature and Science Committee, which was the event's sponsor.

The night began officially at 8 p.m. but didn't really get rolling until after the sun set, around 8:30. An Almanac reporter stayed until about 10, talking with visitors and occasionally looking through the telescope of Portola Valley resident Jim McClure, who also volunteers as a fifth-grade astronomy teacher at Corte Mad-

era Middle School.

The moon was Mr. McClure's first target. Star-gazing parties tend to be scheduled for when the moon is but a sliver and its craters deeply shadowed and easy to pick out, he said. A sliver moon allows astronomers to keep visitors engaged while the sky darkens, and the moon's minimal exposure doesn't overwhelm the softer starlight.

With the darkness deepening, Mr. McClure trained his 14-inch telescope on a tiny orange dot above and to the left of the moon, no more than a freckle on the face of the night.

Through the eyepiece, in the remote blackness of space, Saturn hovered, ringed and glowing in the sun's rays. Trapped in orbit around it was its largest moon, Titan. Cold and unforgiving worlds and yet orderly, a sampling of the universe, a neighbor in our solar system.

As is Jupiter. Though not visible on this night, it is deserving of special recognition, given its role in the early eons of the solar system, according to Mr. McClure.

When the solar system was young and overpopulated with comets and other dangerous projectiles, Jupiter's mass and gravity pulled them in and incinerated them, thereby cleaning up the neighborhood and making the Earth safe for evolution, Mr.

McClure said.

The 1994 impact of comet Schumacher-Levy on Jupiter, with each immolated piece leaving behind a dark Earth-sized smudge in Jupiter's atmosphere, makes his point.

Had Jupiter not cleansed the solar system, Mr. McClure said, the number of large objects hitting the Earth would have caused far more mass extinction events and our highest life form today would probably be plants.

The telescopes later trained on star clusters, nebulae, galaxies and double stars, which are more common in the universe than single stars like our sun.

A single star for a sun: it didn't have to be that way. We could have had our own double-star system if Jupiter had had more mass, Mr. McClure said (not that he was complaining). Jupiter is considered a failed star, massive but not massive enough to generate the pressure and heat to start the self-sustaining ignition of a star, he said.

Back on this planet, Portola Valley will host other star parties, with the next one probably coming in the fall, Ms. Tryce said. Check the calendar at the town's Web site at [www.portolavalley.net](http://www.portolavalley.net), or sign up there for an e-mailed bulletin by going to the eNotice Sign Up page and checking the box for the Nature and Science Committee. ■

*Jensen Hauser*



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## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



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## New gym project

### MENLO PARK GYM

continued from page 5

ect go through, but the difficulty is that there still seem to be some significant unanswered questions about how this is going to operate, when it comes to circulation and parking. ... It would be prudent to figure this out now, rather than create insoluble problems later."

Mr. Kadvany said he thinks the gym is too large for the site, and that he isn't in favor of removing the landscaping from the library lot.

He was also the only commissioner to dissent in the vote to certify the environmental impact report, saying he believes it doesn't address the real issues in play.

Responding to concerns from Mr. Kadvany and others that the gym had been "shoehorned" into the proposed site, commission chair Henry Riggs argued that the gym would have the least impact on the rest of the campus at the proposed location than at any of the sites considered by the city.

"I would like to say, at least from my point of view, that the architecture fits the site," he said during the meeting. "They are attractive buildings — I realize not everyone agrees. I also think the scale is appropriate on Alma Street."

### Recommendations

The commission recommended that the City Council consider building underground parking beneath the gym. Mr. Bressler made the motion.

"I just think it would be very nice to do underground parking here, and to do this right," he said. "And I don't know whether the donor would like to do this right, or not."

## County sponsors seminar for potential candidates

People interested in running for local public office this fall are invited to a two-hour "how to run" seminar at 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 8, in San Mateo. There are 26 seats up for election on local town councils, school boards, and special district boards.

The seminar, conducted by the San Mateo County Elections Office, will be held at the elections office at 40 Tower Road in San Mateo. Potential candidates will learn about the rules, deadlines, and procedures involved in running for public office, according to Warren Slocum, the county's chief elections officer.

A second seminar is set for July 30 at 10 a.m.

Up for election on the Nov. 3 ballot are three of five seats on the Portola Valley Town Council and three of seven seats on the Woodside Town Council (in districts 2, 4 and 6).

Among school boards, there are

.... Somebody needs to ask the question, not just accept that there's no other option."

City staff members have said that if the city wants to implement underground parking, the city — not Mr. Arrillaga — would have to pay for it.

The commission made several other recommendations to the City Council:

- Address left-turn safety from Laurel Street onto Ravenswood Avenue, possibly by adding a turn signal.

- Adjust the signal timing to make it easier to turn left from Middlefield Road onto Ravenswood Avenue.

- Instruct the architect to maximize natural ventilation, and to consider methods that would minimize energy use.

- Consider going through the environment-oriented LEED certification process.

- Consider adding a second entrance to the gym. In current plans, the only entrance would face the parking lot adjacent to the library. Adding a second entrance might require paving over the skate park and outdoor basketball court, adjacent to the southern end of the proposed gym site, to create a drop-off area.

Another motion, for the City Council to re-examine the gym's architecture — adding windows, revamping the entrance, and breaking up the "boxy" design — failed in a 3-3 vote, with Commissioner John O'Malley absent after leaving before the vote. Ms. Pagee, Mr. Kadvany, and Kirsten Keith voted in favor, with Mr. Riggs, Mr. Bressler, and Katie Ferrick dissenting. ■

two of five seats up for election in the Sequoia Union High School District, and three of five in the Portola Valley Elementary School District and the Woodside Elementary School District.

Three of five seats are up for election on the boards of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, the Ladera Recreation District, and the Los Trancos County Water District. Two of five will be open on the board of the West Bay Sanitary District, and one of three on the board of the Woodside Fire Protection District.

To RSVP for either seminar, contact elections officer Lupe Sanchez at 312-5293, or e-mail her at lsanchez@smcare.org. Include your name, the office you are interested in, and the number of people you plan to bring to the seminar.

A 70-page candidates' guide is available on the election office's Web site, [www.shapethefuture.org](http://www.shapethefuture.org).



Courtesy, VA Palo Alto Health Care System

Dr. Daniel McNay, a radiologist for the VA Palo Alto Health Care System, reviews x-rays at a VA teleradiology center, currently housed in San Bruno. A permanent teleradiology center is scheduled to open at the VA's Menlo Park campus by the end of the year.

## Construction, renovation projects under way at Menlo Park VA

■ New nursing home, radiology center expected to open by 2010.

By Sean Howell

Almanac Staff Writer

The Menlo Park VA expects to complete several construction and renovation projects by the end of the year, aimed at expanding the campus' services, and meeting standards for seismic safety.

The two biggest projects are: a new, \$33 million nursing home, and the conversion of a building into a teleradiology center, allowing specialists to read diagnostic images from veterans' hospitals across the country.

The nursing home project is part of a long-term plan to replace buildings on the campus that don't meet standards for seismic safety, according to Facility Planner Katelin Haver. The facility, which the VA officially refers to as a "community living center," will replicate the functions of the building that now houses elderly patients with dementia and Alzheimer's disease, Ms. Haver said.

The new nursing home, contained in several buildings, will go in at the northeast corner of the VA campus, off Willow Road, just south of U.S. 101. In designing the facility, the VA worked to give it a residential feel, in contrast to the more "institutional" existing struc-

ture, according to Ms. Haver. Residents will have greater access to outdoor space, and more privacy, she said.

The building that currently houses elderly patients with dementia and Alzheimer's disease will be temporarily converted to offices for some of the administrators displaced by construction at the VA's Palo Alto campus, according to spokeswoman Kerri Childress.

### Teleradiology center

The VA is renovating another building on the campus to serve as the teleradiology center.

The program is currently housed in a facility in San Bruno. In 2008, technicians "reviewed and interpreted more than 17,000 cases from VA hospitals all over the country," Ms. Childress said. Consolidating the radiology program in a single location makes for a more efficient system, she said.

The building will house equipment and scan reading rooms, as well as administrative offices. The renovation will also entail the creation of new parking, and the "reconfiguration" of a road, according to Ms. Haver.

### Demolishing shelter

The VA is also planning to demolish a building that now serves as two homeless shelters: InnVision's Clara Mateo shelter, and a privately run shelter for homeless veterans.

Ms. Childress said the VA will work to find new facilities for the shelter for veterans, because it complements the services offered by the VA, such as drug rehabilitation programs.

InnVision, however, will have to find a new location for the Clara Mateo shelter elsewhere. The nonprofit announced that the shelter was facing closure as of late 2008 due to the slackening pace of donations, but has continued to operate the shelter at reduced capacity.

In addition to the new nursing home, the VA also expects to complete work in the fall on two structures that will support the campus' infrastructure: an engineering building, and a warehouse that will support "emergency management preparedness," Ms. Haver said.

Because funding is allocated to each VA campus on a project-by-project basis, she said, the VA does not have a time frame for prospective construction projects. A new outpatient mental health facility is a priority, but that facility is "several years out" from receiving funding, she said. ■

# Everest high school facilities plan's environmental review in progress

■ Sequoia district amends facilities offer; charter school pushing ahead to open in fall.

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

With the clock ticking on preparations for the first day of school at the new Everest (Charter) Public High School — set for Aug. 24 — the investigation continues into the viability of the school's proposed home in Redwood City in an 18,000-square-foot former office building at 955 Charter St.

Consultants working for the city Planning Department are aware of toxic residues under pavement at the proposed school site and at the property next door, and they are looking into whether they could be harmful to humans, said Michelle Tanguan, an associate planner with the city.

Everest officials plan to spend \$2.3 million on improvements and a three-year lease for the Charter Street site, and need a conditional use permit from the city.

Meanwhile, officials from the Sequoia Union High School District, who have opposed Everest's obtaining a charter and question the safety of the Charter Street site, are planning to amend their required offer of facilities to the school.

Sequoia's offer to locate in East Palo Alto for the first two years still stands, though Everest has already rejected that offer. The district's revised offer, to be made soon, would move Everest temporarily to Redwood City after two years, Sequoia Superintendent Pat Gemma said in an interview.

Under that proposal, Everest would be moved back to East Palo Alto after the district completes construction of a multi-charter school campus there.

## Environmental review

Everest's planned location on Charter Street in Redwood City was once a truck depot with underground fuel storage.

According to an official from the Environmental Health Division of San Mateo County, the site was cleaned up years ago and the

case is now closed.

As for the site next door, while there are PCBs buried under the pavement, there are also plans to remove them in the summer of 2010. In the meantime, they are not a danger, officials from the Regional Water Quality Board have said.

Such reassurances notwithstanding, Redwood City's analysis will not be rushed, Ms. Tanguan, the planner, said. "I know that (Everest officials) want to open in the fall and we're trying to work with that," she said. "We want to be sure we have all our ducks in a row."

The department will present its analysis for public comment, followed by a public hearing before a zoning administrator, she said.

from the county and regional agencies involved with these particular sites as to their toxicity.

When asked to comment on those agencies having given these sites clean bills of health, Mr. Gemma replied, "So maybe the city is going to talk to those people as well."

Will the district attend the public hearing on Everest's use permit and/or challenge the issuance of a permit? Mr. Gemma said he didn't know, adding, "I think if you read the letter, we're just asking the city to do its due diligence."

## Another site planned

When the state Board of Education granted a charter to Everest in March, the district was required to offer facilities to the school and had picked a site on Green Street in East Palo Alto, which Everest has rejected. Everest had requested facilities on the Sequoia High School campus or elsewhere in Redwood City — a request the district has denied.

Everest officials have called the East Palo Alto site unworkable because it is too far from the school's desired location and the facilities are unreasonably spread out. Everest has also threatened to sue to recover the \$2.3 million in costs for setting up operations at 955 Charter St.

The district's amended offer would move Everest after two years from the Green Street site to a "newly constructed adult school" on Fifth Avenue in Redwood City. The district has long planned a cross-town move for the adult school now on Middlefield Road in Redwood City, but would allow Everest to be there until a charter school facility is ready in East Palo Alto.

"Hopefully, (Everest officials) will reconsider their current plans, and they would be able to go there temporarily, at least," Sequoia Trustee Olivia Martinez said in an interview.

The Fifth Avenue site now houses a former Baptist church, which would have to be torn down. Asked if the site had toxicity issues, Mr. Gemma said the top 6 inches of topsoil have pesticide contamination, and needed "very minor remediation." ▴

*'I know that (Everest officials) want to open in the fall and we're trying to work with that. We want to be sure we have all our ducks in a row.'*

MICHELLE TANGUNAN  
REDWOOD CITY ASSOCIATE PLANNER

No dates have been set.

The district's concerns about the Charter Street site are a reaction to two paragraphs in an April 21 nine-page review of Everest's plans from the Redwood City Planning Department, Mr. Gemma said.

The paragraphs call attention to hydrocarbon and PCB contamination as a "potential environmental concern" and note that the information and remediation plans, already public, were prepared by the property owner, Tyco Thermal Controls.

In a June 11 letter to the planners, Mr. Gemma wrote of concerns about a "possible health and safety impact on students at the site with such documented (and unknown) environmental issues, not to mention the potential long term liability issues facing the city, Everest and the district (if forced to pay for such a site)."

Superintendent Gemma said that, to his knowledge, district officials have not sought opinions

## Correction

In the July 1 article, "Documentary salutes Pete McCloskey," Congressman Jerry McNerney's last name was misspelled.

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## PUBLIC HEARINGS:

3. Plamen Koev \_\_\_\_\_ SDES#2009-0004  
999 Godetia Drive

Review of a new 3,138 square foot one story single family residence on a vacant parcel. The property is located in the SR zoning district. Site improvements include the paving of an existing dirt driveway and patios. The proposed building exterior is stone with some stucco lintels. The colors will be a blend of tans and browns for both the stone and the stucco.

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

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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

### CITY OF MENLO PARK CITY COUNCIL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Menlo Park, California is scheduled to review the following item:

#### **Architectural Control, Heritage Tree Removal, Right-of-Way Abandonment, and Environmental Review/City of Menlo Park/501 Laurel Street and 600 Alma Street:**

Proposal to demolish the existing 17,400-square-foot gymnasium and gymnastics building and construct (a) a new 22,500-square-foot gymnastics facility (plus a 1,400-square-foot locker room expansion) at the location of the existing gymnasium and gymnastics building, (b) a new 24,100-square-foot gymnasium in an area between the existing Recreation Center and Alma Street, and (c) associated site improvements located at the Civic Center Complex in the P-F (Public Facilities) zoning district. As a result of this proposal, three heritage trees would need to be removed, and Mielke Drive and a portion of Alma Street right-of-way between Ravenswood Avenue and Burgess Drive would need to be abandoned to accommodate the proposed gymnasium. The City Council will act on the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR), architectural control for the proposed Burgess Gymnasium design, the three heritage tree removals, and the proposed right-of-way abandonments.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the City Council will hold a public hearing on this item in the Council Chambers of the City of Menlo Park, located at 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, on **Tuesday, July 21, 2009, 7:00 p.m.** or as near as possible thereafter, at which time and place interested persons may appear and be heard thereon. If you challenge this item in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Menlo Park at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Documents related to these items may be inspected by the public on weekdays between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, with alternate Fridays closed, at the Community Development Department, 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park. Please call Megan Fisher, Associate Planner, if there are any questions or comments on this item. She may be reached at 650-330-6737 or by email at [mefisher@menlopark.org](mailto:mefisher@menlopark.org). Up-to-date information on the project can be found on the project webpage: <http://www.menlopark.org/departments/pwk/cip/gym/index.html>

Si usted necesita más información sobre este proyecto, por favor llame al 650-330-6702, y pregunte por un asistente que hable español.

DATED: July 2, 2009 Margaret Roberts  
City Clerk

PUBLISHED: July 8, 2009

If there are any questions, please call the Planning Division at (650) 330-6702.

## Two days of ticketing targets stop sign, cell phone scofflaws

■ Woodside and PV blanketed to reinforce rules of the road.

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Deputies from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office and nearby police departments visited Portola Valley and Woodside on two recent days and cracked down on bicyclists riding through stop signs and drivers talking on cell phones without hands-free devices.

Officers issued 90 tickets — 48 on Saturday, June 27, and 42 on Wednesday, July 1 — at several intersections, including Alpine and Portola roads, Canada Road and Jefferson and Glenwood avenues, and Portola Road at Sand Hill Road, Sgt. Craig Denton of the Sheriff's Office said in an interview.

The deputies had help on July 1 from police departments in Menlo Park and Redwood City,

which contributed two and four motorcycle officers, respectively, Sgt. Denton said. There were more cell phone citations on July 1 because it was a weekday with fewer cyclists out there, he said.

The community had been warned. On Saturday, June 13, Sgt. Denton and three other deputies spent the day informing cyclists and drivers of the rules of the road, warning them of upcoming enforcement days, and asking them to participate in a local campaign to "honor" the stop sign.

"Our primary goal is the safe and courteous use of the roads by everyone," he said. "The inattention, the multi-tasking in the vehicles, is when bicyclists get hit."

"It's extremely important that we get people in vehicles doing less and paying attention to what they're doing," he added. "At the same time, it's dangerous to ride (a bicycle) around people who are multi-tasking."

The year-old honor-the-stop

campaign is the work of cyclist, triathlon coach and Daly City resident Marc Evans, who urges cyclists, drivers, equestrians, pedestrians, joggers, and motorcyclists to obey all traffic laws and symbolize that commitment by wearing a red and black wristband.

Go to [www.honorthestop.org](http://www.honorthestop.org) for more information.

Not many cyclists honored the stop sign at Portola and Sand Hill roads, Sgt. Denton said. He said he'd be ticketing one rider and 20 more would breeze by without stopping.

"It was just epidemic," he said. "Nobody stopped."

Some cyclists who were stopped weren't carrying identification, so their thumbprints were taken, a standard procedure, Sgt. Denton said.

Others tried to hide their identity by giving phony names, including one cyclist who asked what would happen if he gave a false name. "I just looked at him and wondered if he was serious," Sgt. Denton said.

More such enforcement days could be ahead, he said. ■

## Arrested man tied to multiple crimes

Menlo Park police responding to a report of an auto burglary in progress on Thursday, July 2, in the 200 block of Willow Road arrived on the scene shortly after 7:15 p.m., set up a perimeter and observed a man attempting to hide in the bushes, police said.

The man, Luis Cabrera, 28, of East Palo Alto, matched a description given to police, and was

arrested near Middlefield Road at Santa Margarita Avenue and booked into San Mateo County jail, said Acting Sgt. Kevin Paugh of the Menlo Park Police Department in a statement.

The charges against Mr. Cabrera include burglary, theft, possession of stolen property and possession of burglary tools, police said, adding that items in his possession matched property reportedly stolen in recent auto burglaries in Menlo Park, Palo

Alto and Redwood City.

The allegedly stolen property in his possession included several cell phones and vehicle navigation devices, with more allegedly stolen items found at his residence, police said.

Police are asking possible victims and anyone with information related to this or other related incidents to contact Detective Brackett at 330-6345, Detective Keegan at 330-6360, or the anonymous tip line at 330-6395.

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After his surgery, a cast and a splint, and several weeks of rehabilitation, he's back in full force. Alexandre and his doctors agree, a speedy recovery like this deserves two thumbs up.

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# Another top staffer says she will leave city post

By Sean Howell  
Almanac Staff Writer

## ■ MENLO PARK

Days after the resignation of a Menlo Park department manager, the city has confirmed that another key staffer is leaving her post.

Dianne Dryer, the city's environmental programs coordinator, has announced her retirement. Personnel Director Glen Kramer said, he didn't know when her last day would be. Ms. Dryer is on vacation and could not be reached for comment.

The city has not yet decided whether it will hire a replacement for Ms. Dryer, or whether existing staff members will take on her duties, Mr. Kramer said.

He said he did not know whether a recent 35 percent boost in pension benefits for city employees was a factor in the decision of the two staffers. He did acknowledge that some employees had probably delayed their retirements until the new benefits kicked in.

Mr. Kramer said he wasn't aware of other impending retirements or resignations.

Ms. Dryer has been with the city 11 years, according to Mr. Kramer. As the environmental programs coordinator, she has managed the city's recycling and garbage services, promoted sustainable environmental practices, and served as liaison to the Environmental Quality Commission. Recently, she helped guide the development of the city's plan to address the issue of climate change.

Her retirement follows the resignation of Barbara Santos George, head of the community services department, whose last day was July 2.

In an interview, Ms. George said she was stepping down primarily because she wanted to pursue new opportunities, such as leading sessions to train government employees.

Ms. Dryer's annual salary is \$99,343.50, and Ms. George's was \$138,840, according to Mr. Kramer.

Given a dour long-term bud-

get forecast, the city has said it will look into the possibility of restructuring through attrition, rather than replacing employees.

Increased pension benefits went into effect in March, allowing non-emergency staff members to retire at age 55, with a pension equal to 2.7 percent of their highest annual salary, multiplied by each year of service. For example, an employee with 30 years of service could retire at age 55, and receive an annual pension of 81 percent (30 years x 2.7 percent) of his or her highest salary for life.

Previously, 55-year-old employees would receive 2 percent of their highest annual salary for each year of service. ■

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## HENDERSON

continued from page 6

sexual harassment by Mr. Henderson. In her April 22 complaint, Ms. Ortiz-Buckley said that once she reported the incident, she faced retaliation and disability discrimination related to an injury she suffered in the incident, as well as a prior back injury she suffered during a 2007 training exercise. ■

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## Chili's closing this week in Menlo Park

The Chili's restaurant in Menlo Park is closing this week, a spokeswoman has confirmed.

The restaurant, at the intersection of El Camino Real and Roble Avenue, has operated in Menlo Park for 26 years, according to Alex Andrade, the city's business development specialist.

It will close on Wednesday, July 8, according to Stacey Sullivan, a spokeswoman for Brinker International, the company that owns the Chili's chain.

Ms. Sullivan responded to an Almanac inquiry with an e-mail. She wrote: "We constantly review the performance of our restaurants and from time to time will make the tough decision to close a restaurant based on evaluative criteria, including sales figures, lease agreements and other factors.

"We are very grateful to the loyal guests who have visited this location over the years and encourage them to continue enjoying their favorite spiced up flavors at our 24 other Chili's locations in the greater San Francisco area."

Ms. Sullivan did not say how many people the restaurant employs. A Brinker International representative did not respond to a request for more information.

The Chili's restaurant nearest the Menlo Park location is in Mountain View, according to the company's Web site.

## Simitian holds 'office hours' at July 12 market

Local residents will have an opportunity to chat with state Sen. Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, when he holds "sidewalk office hours" at the Menlo Park farmers' market Sunday, July 12.

Sen. Simitian will be at the farmers' market — on Chestnut Street, between Santa Cruz and Menlo avenues — from 10 to 11:30 a.m. "All questions are welcome," and no appointment is necessary, his office said in a press release.

He will also answer questions at the Redwood City farmers' market on Saturday, July 11, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. That market takes place in a parking lot at the corner of Winslow and Hamilton streets, in downtown Redwood City.

For more information, visit [www.senatorsimitian.com](http://www.senatorsimitian.com), or call Sen. Simitian's Palo Alto office at 688-6384.

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World Soul Music

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**July 22 The Soca Steelband**  
Caribbean & Reggae

**July 29 Scion**  
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## Bareilles in spotlight at benefit concert, event

An evening of music, food and wine at an Atherton estate will benefit the music education program Music for Minors and the West Coast Songwriters on Saturday, July 11.

Sara Bareilles, Eoin Harrington, and the two-sister act Karmina will perform at the event, sponsored by Heart of Silicon Valley. Sara Bareilles was a 2009 Grammy Award nominee for Song of the Year ("Love Song") and Best Female Vocal Performance.

The fundraiser, at the home of Heidi Roizen and David Mohler, begins at 5 p.m. with a reception. The concert and an auction will take place from 6:30 to 8:30. "VIP ticket" holders will be treated to an artist reception and performance, set to begin at 8:30.

Music for Minors, which serves elementary schools in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, is a nonprofit founded as public school music programs began to decline and disappear in the wake of the 1978 passage of state Proposition 13. Through the efforts of volunteers in the classroom, it aims to fill the gap for schools that can't afford their own music programs, accord-

ing to Mona Williams of Menlo Park, who was appointed the organization's executive director last November.

"Early music education helps build students' abilities in areas from reading to science to math proficiency," Ms. Williams says.

Recent studies have shown that people exposed to music education "are more likely to be engaged citizens, go on to higher education, have higher paying jobs and strive more for personal excellence," according to a press release from Music for Minors.

Whereas Music for Minors serves young children, West Coast Songwriters offers education and support to older kids and adults who are exploring a career in music or who have already established a presence in the music industry.

Tickets for the July 11 event, which includes both live and silent auctions, are \$125 for general seating, and \$300 for VIP seating and benefits. For tickets, visit [www.hosv.org](http://www.hosv.org).

For information on the benefiting organizations, visit [www.mfm.org](http://www.mfm.org) and [www.westcoast songwriters.org](http://www.westcoast songwriters.org).



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- 8 or 9 a.m. start at Menlo-Atherton High School

### Support local kids

- All proceeds from ride go to Rotary tutoring and scholarships for kids
- Plenty of opportunity to learn more about Rotary. Ask any ride worker for details.



The Almanac

## Creek funding clears House subcommittee

A House of Representatives subcommittee has voted for legislation that contains nearly \$10 million for projects in the 14th Congressional District, which includes Menlo Park, Atherton, Woodside and Portola Valley.

The Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act would fund four projects in the district, including providing \$300,000 for a study of flood protection measures for San Francisquito Creek, said Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Menlo Park.

Before the legislation is enacted, it must be approved by the House and Senate, and be signed by the president.

Other local projects in the legislation:

■ Dredging of a navigation channel in the port of Redwood City: \$6.745 million.

■ Study of a project to provide flood protection for Silicon Valley: \$2.8 million.

■ Bay Area regional water recycling program: \$100,000.

"As the budget crisis in California worsens, it's essential that projects critical to protecting our major routes of transportation, water systems, and homes not be neglected," Ms. Eshoo said in a June 26 press release.

## Trails closed

Would-be hikers won't be able to use the trails in the northern area of the Ravenswood Open Space Preserve, abutting the Dumbarton Bridge, until late 2010.

That's because the trails have been closed to allow for restoration work on a nearby salt pond, according to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

Work on the Ravenswood Salt Pond, part of a multi-agency project aimed at restoring 15,100 acres of commercial salt ponds at the south end of San Francisco Bay, got under way in March. Through the project, the agencies plan to turn the salt ponds into a mix of tidal marsh, mudflat, and other wetland habitats.

The project will also open the Ravenswood pond to visitors, through the installation of trails and viewing platforms.



Morgan Stanley  
Roger & Betty Toguchi



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**Nathan Tucker**, left, is Dionysus, and B. Warden Lawlor is Xanthias in Aristophanes' "The Frogs."

Photo by Karen Offereins

## Theatre in the Woods goes Greek: 'The Frogs' headed for the forest

By **Renee Batti**  
Almanac News Editor

Is ancient Greek theater too challenging for modern audiences? Director Stuart Bousel doesn't think so, particularly when the play in question is "wrapped in a flashy package of sex jokes, physical humor, and low-brow antics that make the philosophical musings and cultural critique easier to swallow. ..."

That play would be Aristophanes' "The Frogs," which Mr. Bousel will direct in the forested hills above Woodside in this summer's Theatre in the Woods production. The play will run Saturdays and Sundays from Aug. 1 through Sept. 6.

Performances begin at 1 p.m.,

and playgoers are invited to picnic on the private grounds before the play from noon on. Then, audience members will hike along several trails to get to the various stages set up in the woods.

The Greek comedy, first performed in 405 B.C., was adapted for the modern stage by Mr. Bousel. It tells of the journey of Dionysus — god of wine, revelry and theater — to the Underworld, where he hoped to retrieve the playwright Euripides and return him to Athens.

But once there, Dionysus finds himself asked to judge a contest between Euripides and Aeschylus, forcing him to reconsider which playwright he will take back with him to the world of the living.

The overriding theme, "the

death of 'high art' at the hands of popular entertainment, has hardly ceased to be a hot topic of debate," Mr. Bousel says in his director's statement.

"Watching 'The Frogs' now," he says, "one can't help but wonder what Aristophanes would have thought of the current celebrity craze, reality television and general society's continued preference for that which panders to them over that which challenges them."

Tickets are \$20, general; \$15 for seniors, students and members; and \$10 for the Aug. 1 preview performance. They can be purchased through the theater company's Web site, [atmostheatre.com](http://atmostheatre.com).

Theatre in the Woods is at 2170 Bear Gulch Road in Woodside. ▀






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### PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

**Fees Due for Garbage, Recycling Material and, Plant Material Collection for Fiscal Year 2009-2010**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Menlo Park, California, will hold a Public Hearing to consider the report of the City Manager to place unpaid fees due for garbage, recycling material, and plant material collection services for Fiscal Year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, on the San Mateo County property tax rolls, pursuant to Sections 7.06.040 and 7.06.050 of the Menlo Park Municipal Code.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that said City Council will hold the aforementioned Public Hearing to consider this report in the Council Chambers of the City of Menlo Park, Civic Center - 701 Laurel Street, at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, the 14th day of July, 2009, or as near as possible thereafter, at which time and place interested persons may appear and be heard thereon.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that "If you challenge this matter in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Menlo Park at, or prior to, the Hearing".

Dated: June 23, 2009

/s/

MARGARET S. ROBERTS, MMC, City Clerk

Published in THE ALMANAC on July 1, 2009 and July 8, 2009.

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**Photography entries sought**

Entries are now being accepted for the 2009 amateur coastal photography contest sponsored by the California Coastal Commission and Fairmont Hotels & Resorts.

Contestants may submit photos of the scenic coast, coastal wildlife, or ways people use the coast. They may also submit photos of any of the above subjects in a new category for humorous photos.

The plants and animals should be native species in their natural setting. Photos must be taken from a public place and be in

color. Photos of marine mammals must be taken from 50 or more yards away.

The grand prize winner will receive a two-night stay at a Fairmont Hotel in Sonoma, Newport Beach or San Francisco. The winner in the humor category will win two tickets for a yacht cruise from Hornblower Cruises & Events.

All entries must be postmarked by July 15. For an entry form, call 800-262-7848 or e-mail coast4u@coastal.ca.gov.

**Junior League open houses**

Women who are interested in learning more about the Junior League of Palo Alto/Mid Peninsula are invited to attend two open houses for prospective members.

The Saturday, July 18, open house will be held from 9:30 to

11:30 a.m. at The Gatehouse, 555 Ravenswood Ave. in Menlo Park. The Thursday, Aug. 27, open house will take place from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., also at The Gatehouse.

To register online, or for more information, e-mail: openhouses@thejuniorleague.org.



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## 'Sunset Way' lecture series explores magazine's influence

"California Design: the Sunset Way" is the theme of a three-part lecture series at the Museum of American Heritage, offered in conjunction with the museum's current exhibition, "California Living the Sunset Way, 1929-1961."

All the talks start at 7 p.m. at the museum, located at 351 Homer Ave. in Palo Alto.

The first lecture, "Ranch Houses and the Influence of Sunset Magazine," will be presented by Alan Hess on Thursday, July 9. An architect and architectural preservation advocate, Mr. Hess has been the architecture critic for the San Jose Mercury News

since 1986.

"Patio to Park: Sunset Magazine and the Postwar California Landscape" is the topic for the second lecture on Tuesday, July 21. J.C. Miller, principal with J.C. Miller Studio Landscape Architecture, will speak.

On Oct. 8, Montgomery Anderson and Christopher Wasney, principals with Cody Anderson Wasney Architects, will talk on "Sunset Magazine and its Influence on Local Architecture."

Admission to the lectures is free to museum members and costs \$5 for others. For more information, call 321-1004.

## Opera at Little Store restaurant

The 29th evening of opera at the Little Store restaurant in Woodside will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. Sunday, July 12.

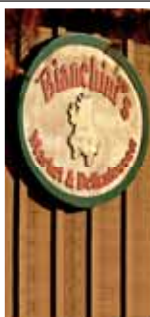
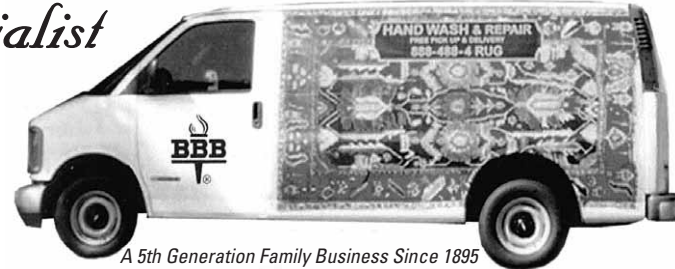
The evening will include a full-course dinner with champagne at \$75 per person. Soprano Heather Clemens,

flutist Isabelle Chapuis, and pianist Mark Anderson, all of Opera San Jose, will perform.

Little Store restaurant is located at 3340 Woodside Road. For more information and to make reservations, call the Little Store at 851-8110.

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Menlo-Atherton High School PTA	\$17,575	St. Raymond's School	\$7,403
Sacred Heart Preparatory	\$12,529	Woodside High School PTSA	\$6,147
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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
CITY OF MENLO PARK  
CITY COUNCIL**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Menlo Park, California is scheduled to review the following item:

**Public Hearing on the Adoption of a Resolution to Abandon Portions of Public Rights of Way Along Alma Street and Mielke Drive for Future Construction of the Burgess Gymnasium.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Menlo Park, California, will hold a Public Hearing on the Adoption of a Resolution to Abandon Portions of Public Rights of Way Along Alma Street and Mielke Drive for Future Construction of the Burgess Gymnasium.

The Public Hearing will be continued to July 21, 2009 (originally scheduled for July 14, 2009). Testimony for the Public Hearing on this matter will be held in the Council Chambers of the City of Menlo Park at 7:00 p.m., or as near as possible thereafter, on Tuesday, the 21st day of July, 2009, at which time and place interested persons may appear and be heard thereon.

If you challenge this matter in court, you may be limited to raise only those issues you or someone else raised at the Public Hearing conducted for this project, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Menlo Park at, or prior to, the Public Hearing.

Visit our Web site for City Council, public hearing, agenda, and staff report information: [www.menlopark.org](http://www.menlopark.org)

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## Former doctor sentenced in McKay case

A former Colorado doctor who illegally prescribed anti-depressants to a Menlo Park resident and Stanford student who later committed suicide was sentenced July 1 in San Mateo County Superior Court to house arrest at his Colorado home.

The sentence for Christian Hageseth, 68, was lighter than the nine months in San Mateo County jail he could have received for pleading no contest in February to illegally practicing medicine without a California license, according to Chief Deputy District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe.

Mr. Hageseth prescribed the medicine over the Internet for 19-year-old Stanford student and Menlo Park resident John McKay in June 2005. Mr. McKay committed suicide two months later.

Mr. Hageseth was sentenced before Judge James Ellis to spend nine months under house arrest, with an electronic home monitoring device, at his home in Larimer County, Colorado, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

With credit for time served — Mr. Hageseth spent 49 days in jail before posting \$100,000 bail — he will likely be under house arrest for about seven-and-a-half months.

Mr. McKay, the son of David and Sheila McKay of Menlo Park, was a 2004 graduate of Menlo-Atherton High School.

He was a founding member and served four years as president of the Menlo-Atherton Debate Team. In 1999, the Almanac carried a feature story about a young John McKay, then 13 and an eighth-grader at Hillview Middle School, making an impressive pitch before the Menlo Park City Council, urging it to allow two-wheeled electric scooters on the road.

— Bay City News Service

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JULY 13  
*Iphigenia*  
Cacoyannis, 1979

Discussant, Ciara Murphy,  
Stanford Ph.D. Candidate in Drama

JULY 20  
*Electra*  
Cacoyannis, 1962

Discussant, Al Duncan,  
Stanford Ph.D. Candidate in Classics

JULY 27  
*Elektra*  
Friedrich, 1982

Discussant, Paul Robinson,  
Richard Lyman Professor of the Humanities, Emeritus;  
author of *Opera and Ideas: from Mozart to Strauss*

AUGUST 3  
*Vaghe Stelle dell'Orsa*  
Visconti, 1965

Discussant, Kristine Samuelson,  
Director of Film and Media Studies;  
Chair, Stanford Department of Art and Art History

AUGUST 10  
*Die bleierne Zeit*  
von Trotta, 1983

Discussant, Adrian Daub,  
Assistant Professor of German Studies



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## Two men sentenced in commercial burglary cases

A San Mateo County judge has handed out prison terms to two of the three Central Valley men who pleaded no contest to accusations of burglary and larceny in connection with a May 17 series of commercial burglaries in Redwood City and Menlo Park, according to the District Attorney's office.

Superior Court Judge John Runde sentenced Manuel Medina-Pantoja, 35, of Hughson, California, and Jonathan Vega, 24, of Modesto, to 16 months in state prison, said Chief Deputy District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe in a report.

Both men will also have to pay restitution, but will receive credit for 60 days served in jail, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

The third suspect, Antonio Andrade Martinez, 43, of

Modesto, is scheduled for a presentencing report and sentence at 8:30 a.m. on July 22, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

The men were arrested after an early morning car chase that included a stretch of U.S. 101 between Redwood City and Palo Alto, and at speeds as high as 110 mph, sheriff's deputies said.

The alleged commercial burglaries included a car stereo installer in Redwood City, an office supply store in Menlo Park, and an equipment rental outfit in unincorporated Redwood City.

In the car, abandoned in Palo Alto after the chase, deputies found property later verified to have been stolen.

Defense attorneys for Mr. Medina-Pantoja and Mr. Vega said they had no comment on the sentences or the judicial process.

## Ruth Ann Jordan service

The place of the memorial service for Ruth Ann Jordan has been changed to Valley Presbyterian Church, 945 Portola Road, in Portola Valley. The service will be held at 10 a.m.

Friday, July 17.

Ms. Jordan, a Menlo Park resident, died June 22 at the age of 74.

A complete obituary was published in the July 1 issue of The Almanac.

### ■ 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.*

#### MENLO PARK

##### Auto burglary reports:

- Vehicle broken into and purse stolen, first block of Scott Drive, June 27.
- Lock forced and CDs and insurance paperwork stolen, 2200 block of Sharon Road, June 27.
- Car stereo, Apple iPod and camera stolen, 1300 block of Henderson Ave., June 30.
- Laptop computer, documents, wallet and backpack stolen, first block of Willow Road, June 30.
- Window broken, 400 block of Hamilton Ave., June 30.

##### Grand theft reports:

- Road bicycle stolen, 600 block of Middle Ave., June 28.
- Men's mountain bike stolen, 900 block of Crane St., June 28.

##### Fraud reports:

- Use of fraudulent checks, 1000 block of Windermere Ave., June 29.
- Fraudulent travelers checks received in mail, 1300 block of Mills St., June 29.
- Unauthorized charges on credit card, 1000 block of Hamilton Court, June 30.

**Spousal abuse report:** 1100 block of Willow Road, June 28.

**Stolen vehicle report:** 2200 block of Eastridge Ave., July 2.

#### WEST MENLO PARK

**Fraud report:** Identity theft used to open accounts for several unauthorized credit cards, 100 block of Hillside Ave., June 24.

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## JOSEPH CANNON HOUGHTELING

Joseph Cannon Houghteling, a Democratic activist, died at home June 23 in San Francisco after a short illness. Houghteling, an Atherton resident for many years, was 84.

In the 1950s, 60s, and 70s, Houghteling and his partners published community newspapers that at various times included The Sunnyvale Standard, The Mountain View Register-Leader, The Gilroy Dispatch, The Los Gatos Times-Observer, and The Pleasanton Times. He founded Diablo Press, which published "The Sinking of the Lollipop" by Rodney G. Minott, about the congressional campaign of Pete McCloskey and Shirley Temple Black.

Houghteling was a California delegate to the Democratic Conventions of 1956 and 1960. He was Northern California treasurer to the 1960 Kennedy presidential campaign. He actively participated in many other political campaigns, including those of Pat and Jerry Brown, John Tunney, John Garamendi, Alquist, Dianne Feinstein, Barbara Boxer, and Pete McCloskey.

Houghteling served on the boards of Stanford Hospital, Peninsula School in Menlo Park, California Tomorrow, the Planning and Conservation League Foundation, the Coro Foundation, and the California Newspaper Publishers Association.

Houghteling served on the State Park Commission and the State Highway Commission. He served on the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, for many years as chairman. Houghteling was also a member of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. He was president of the National Maritime Museum Association in San Francisco from 1992 to 1994.

Born in San Francisco in 1924, Houghteling attended Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass. He served aboard the USS Ocklawaha in 1945-46 with the forces occupying Japan. He graduated from Yale in 1947.

Houghteling lived in Palo Alto, Los Gatos and for more than 20 years in Atherton. After returning to San Francisco in 1978, he kept a home in Portola Valley for many years.

Houghteling is survived by his wife, Signa Judith Irwin Houghteling, of San Francisco; three daughters with the late Frances Fisher Houghteling, Anne of Palo Alto, Elizabeth of Cambridge, Mass., and Mary of Berkeley; a grandson; and three nieces and a nephew. A memorial gathering is planned July 16 at 4 p.m. aboard the historic ship Balcultha in San Francisco. Donations in Houghteling's memory may be made to Save the Bay or the San Francisco Maritime National Park Association.

PAID OBITUARY

## VIRDA J. STEVENS



A celebration of the life of Virda J. Stevens will be held at 1:00 pm, Saturday, July 11, at Woodside High School Performing Arts Center. Virda was battling cancer, and died peacefully, surrounded by family, at her home in Atherton, on June 23rd at the age of 74.

Virda was the daughter of Fred and Lena Walker, and was born in Pea Ridge, Arkansas in 1935. The family moved to San Francisco in 1942. Virda excelled academically, held various leadership roles throughout her education, was president of the California Scholarship Federation, graduated from Jefferson Union High School in 1953, and attended San Francisco State. In 1955 she married William W. Stevens, a young U.S. Navy electronics technician, and embarked on a wonderful marriage that lasted 54 years.

In 1959, she and her husband moved to Atherton, where they raised 4 children, and have lived for the past 50 years. Virda loved children and had a passion for teaching, and in 1971, she founded Redwood Preschool, a free, volunteer based organization, at the Redwood Church. Virda directed the organization for 38 years, and watched the school flourish, and positively impact many lives. In 1972, her husband founded Triad Systems Corporation, where she acted as a bookkeeper and early

advisor, before it went public in 1979. Virda and Bill traveled the world, and fell in love with the country of Kenya. In 1989 they sponsored and pioneered KCITI, the first non-profit, computer technology training college in East Africa. The college's mission is to provide and equip the poorest of Kenyan people, with vital computer technology training. The school still thrives today, and has benefitted thousands of Kenyans.

Virda was an active member of Redwood Church, where she also taught Sunday School, and led several adult classes, and ministries. She was a member of BSF, associated Women of Pepperdine, and a sponsor of countless charitable organizations. She was a sports and fitness enthusiast, and played on various softball teams throughout the bay area, for many years. A devoted mother, and grandmother; she enjoyed every moment with family and friends, and believed that one should "seize the day!" A gifted cook, and baker, she enjoyed preparing and sharing meals with lots of company. She was generous, and hospitable in all her ways, and had a knack for finding and drawing out the "good" in everyone. Her zest and passion for life was contagious. Her presence will be sorely missed.

She is survived by her husband, Bill Stevens, of Atherton; her brother Ken Walker of Livermore; her children Mark, Gary, Leonard, and Jean, and her ten grandchildren; and one great grandchild. Memorials can be made to Redwood Church Preschool, 901 Madison Ave. Redwood City, CA, 94061.

PAID OBITUARY

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**WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?**

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## Solution in sight for Jackling House

So far, preservationists have not indicated how they feel about a proposal that appears to rescue certain parts of Apple co-founder Steve Jobs' crumbling historic house in Woodside, but the deal might be the best they can get in the eight-year tug-of-war to save from demolition the mansion known as the Jackling house.

The savior in this saga could be Palo Alto venture capitalist Gordon Smythe, who told the Woodside Town Council on June 23 that he wants to save some

**EDITORIAL**

*The opinion of The Almanac*

features of the home. Although Mr. Smythe has not said what items he would save, a Woodside staff report list includes roof tiles, an organ, a copper mailbox, a flag-pole and decorative tile and woodwork. In prior discussions, Mr. Smythe has said he would like to retain some sections of the house.

Mr. Smythe told the Woodside council that he is looking to spend between \$4 million and \$6 million to build a new home that would incorporate the material saved. No site has been identified, but Mr. Smythe said he would consider locations outside the Bay Area. He added that Mr. Jobs would contribute just over \$600,000 to the demolition effort, which was authorized to proceed by the Woodside council on a 5-2 vote, provided the two men sign an agreement.

If they sign, and if there is no lawsuit from Uphold Our Heritage, the preservation group that successfully challenged the original demolition permit, there is much work to be done, including the ticklish job of carefully taking apart the nearly 100-year-old home in

a way that would be acceptable to the Uphold group. Uphold is expected to send a representative to a meeting July 10 where Mr. Jobs' attorney, Howard Ellman, hopes to forge an agreement acceptable to all parties.

In the past, the preservation group has not supported partial or piecemeal restoration. In commenting on Mr. Smythe's proposal, the group's attorney told The Almanac their response would depend on the details, such as whether "it would involve reconstructing the house as opposed to simply saving parts of it. Obviously, Uphold Our Heritage wants to see the architectural heritage preserved."

The Jackling house case illustrates how difficult it can be to preserve a historic structure without strong support from the owner and local government. Someone like Mr. Jobs, who was willing and able to fund a long-running legal battle, is a formidable opponent for a preservation group made up of volunteers who often do not have the resources to keep fighting.

The location of the house, hidden away where no one can see it, didn't help matters. And suppose it were a local showplace for the work of architect George Washington Smith. In that case, it would not be an unoccupied monument, but a family home periodically invaded by tourists.

At this stage, it is time for all parties in the Jackling house dispute to finally come to an agreement. That is what the Town Council hopes, as well as Mr. Jobs and Mr. Smythe. The key will be Uphold Our Heritage, which will have to decide if its cause will be advanced by attempting to save a rapidly deteriorating historic asset.



Menlo Park Historical Association

### Our Regional Heritage

In the 1930s the price of gas in downtown Menlo Park was 31 cents a gallon. Other bargains of the day included ice cream cones for a nickel and large loaves of bread for a dime.

**LETTERS**

*Our readers write*

**Concert noise can be dangerous**

*Editor:*

Some parents may not be aware that loud noise can cause hearing loss, especially in children whose ears are unprotected.

After attending the band concert honoring Santana last Wednesday evening, I would strongly recommend that parents read information available on noise-induced hearing deficits.

**Tom Forrest, MD.**  
Bay Laurel Drive, Menlo Park

**More benefits of clothesline drying**

*Editor:*

I enjoyed the June 24 article "Channeling Clotheslines" by Dave Boyce.

I have not used a clothes dryer in over 23 years — and have no

complaints. Dryers can be noisy. Clothes hung out on lines are quiet. This is another reason to keep trees under control so the sun can shine into the yards of those who do hang their clothes out to dry, and save energy for everyone.

Drying clothes in the house via a quiet fan blowing on them, on a hot day, is a good way to keep a room in one's house cool and comfortable without using a loud energy- and money-consuming air conditioner.

There are many benefits, for all, to hanging one's clothes out to dry, instead of using a dryer, whenever possible.

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

**Some rules of the road for cyclists**

*Editor:*

As one who has biked on busy roads and rides on Alpine Road almost every day, I must say that although there are many

good bikers, many do not ride defensively. At college in the UK the police used to regularly cite bikers for riding on the sidewalk and riding without lights.

I would consider passing a town ordinance that mandates single-file riding on all Portola Valley roads and installing Bike Single File signs on Alpine Road, then citing people who ride two abreast or talk when they ride or ride with headphones.

I would also ask the sheriff to cite bikers for any violation of the California Code (<http://www.dmv.ca.gov/pubs/vctop/vc/tocd11c1a4.htm>) or breaking the speed limit, unless they have a permit.

I would consider exemptions for pelotons or competitive cyclists (we need our Olympic medals) if they have a permit (could be issued for a year) and they have a car or bike in front with flashing lights just as one would have for a wide load. One could consider having a car behind, but I don't think this is

necessary as there are already rules for crossing the double yellow line if cars try to overtake a crowd.

This is what I mean by defensive cycling:

1. Stop at all stop signs.
2. Signal before you turn.
3. Always ride as if your bike is a vehicle, not a recreational, toy and obey the California Code.
4. Always be aware of sounds like a sneaky Prius that may be in electric mode and come close without you hearing it.
5. Ride with a rearview mirror or be prepared to look behind so that you are always aware of what is behind you. A fast bike that comes too close may be as bad as a car.
6. Don't swerve or stop for squirrels.
7. Expect cars to cut you off and don't try to beat them.
8. If cycling past a parked car look for people inside it, look for reversing lights or indicator lights, and make sure you have room if a door opens.
9. Navigate the cracks — there are some near Ford Field on Alpine Road — and if you have skinny wheels know how to cross a crack or avoid it entirely.
10. Keep your bike well-main-

tained with good tires, properly inflated, check for loose nuts and bolts, make sure gear wires and brake wires are anchored properly.

11. Wear bright colors with noticeable patterns so drivers can easily see you on the road.
12. Wear appropriate gear, including a helmet, and don't let shoe laces or trousers get caught in the chain, etc.
13. Never go so fast that if a deer jumps out at you you can't stop. I've had deer jump off the path opposite Roberts from high up and come out just below Ford Field. They are worst in October when they rut.
14. Beware of dogs on long leashes, children playing with balls, skateboards, scooters and pedestrians who may come in front of you. Always think where you would go if they did.
15. At every driveway listen and look for cars coming out.

This list may seem pedantic, but it comes with over 40 years of experience biking on roads. Have fun and safe cycling.

**Angela Hey**  
Alpine Road, Portola Valley

**Former mayor's take on Smart Growth**

By Paul Collacchi

The Almanac's retelling of Smart Growth contains some factual errors (for example, Dena Belzer of Strategic Economics, not Marcia McNally, was the lead consultant), but the most nuanced falsehood to refute is the claim made by some that Smart Growth failed because the community didn't like the consultant's recommendation.

Maybe some didn't, but the council-approved Smart Growth contracts never called for a consultant recommendation.

They called for the consultant to educate the community and facilitate the creation of three alternative development scenarios for Menlo Park, each of which would then be analyzed for traffic impacts. The contract deliverables were outreach (McNally), education and future land-use scenarios (Belzer), a mobility study and a traffic analysis of the scenarios (Dowling Associates).

Without notifying council, the then-city manager approved and the then-planning director signed, change orders that effectively killed the community-driven alternatives and replaced them with a single consultant recommendation. The community voice was silenced in favor of the consultant's recommendation. In a nutshell, that is the story of Smart Growth.

As soon as I knew, I requested a full program audit to ensure contract compliance (where were the scenarios?) and to assess the integrity of the consultant recommendation. But I got stonewalled by McNally and staff, so, as mayor, I made a formal public record act request against my own city for all Smart Growth records. Legally, the city had to process my request, and once the city attorney confirmed there really were no contractually or legally confidential documents, the stonewalling ended, McNally self-destructed, sensationally, and the change orders were dis-

covered. Six months later, the city manager announced her decision to leave.

The Smart Growth process did continue under the obscure name, "LUCS," an acronym for Land-Use and Circulation Study. Contrary to Ms. Belzer's recommendation, LUCS confirmed that replacing existing and future offices with medium-density housing was an equally effective way to rebalance the jobs-housing imbalance and one that generates less future traffic than simply adding housing, particularly high-density housing.

LUCS fizzled when a majority of council wavered over rezoning from office to medium density residential downtown and in Linfield Oaks. The market eventually did what council lacked the courage to do. Several years later, those same Linfield parcels were rezoned from office to housing at the developer's request at densities consistent with and informed by the LUCS findings.

The real failure of Smart Growth was that it failed to fulfill its promise to let the community define its own vision for itself.

**Paul Collacchi, a former mayor of Menlo Park, lives in Redwood City.**



*Editor's note:* In the June 17 article Mr. Collacchi refers to, "The best-laid plans..." we reported that some people believed "Smart Growth" failed because City Council members didn't like the consultant's findings. This was reported as the opinion of some — not of the reporter who wrote the article. We did report that Mr. Collacchi, Morris Brown, and others were concerned that the consultant's findings did not represent the will of the community.

In the article, Ms. McNally is never identified as the lead consultant, as Mr. Collacchi states. In the interest of simplicity, however, we did not note that she was one of several consultants. ■



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