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Info Menlo 2009-10, your resource guide to Atherton, Menlo Park, Portola Valley and Woodside

The Almanac

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

SEPTEMBER 9, 2009 | VOL. 45 NO. 2



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Inside

This week's news, features and community events.

FIRST SHOT



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Giant oak falls at M-A High

A large oak tree in the Menlo-Atherton High School parking lot collapsed over a wall, landing on the sidewalk and covering half of Middlefield Road between Ringwood and Ravenswood avenues around 3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 2. The downed tree temporarily blocked traffic on Middlefield. Atherton police report that the tree brushed a construction worker when it fell, and a beekeeper was called to collect the bees, apparently from a hive in the tree. There were no reports of injuries.

Menlo Park

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On the cover

A new book, "Under the Oaks," spins tales from 200 years of Atherton history in words and pictures, including that of inventor Leon Douglass and his family, photographed outside Victoria Manor, now Stent Hall at Menlo School. Local authors Pamela Gullard and Nancy Lund spent six years researching the book, being published this month. See **Section 2**.

CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

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

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Whistle volume back to normal, Caltrain reports

By Sean Howell
Almanac Staff Writer

Over a month after local residents started complaining about the greatly increased volume of Caltrain horns, the rail agency has lowered the volume of the whistles on all the trains back to their pre-increase decibel levels.

A spokesperson announced Sept. 1 that the project to install regulator valves on the horns of all its trains had been completed.

That doesn't mean those close to the tracks won't notice a difference between the sound the horns made when they were underneath the train, and the sound they make now, the spokesperson said.

Because the horns are now on the top of the trains, the sound will be dispersed over a wider area. And engineers will blow several sequential blasts, instead

of the continuous one that people are used to hearing.

The volume increase came when Caltrain moved all the horns from the underside to the top of its locomotives and cabs, in order to comply with federal regulations that require a particular sequence of sounds to be produced. Caltrain is trying to figure out a way to return the horns to their previous position underneath the train, while still allowing them to produce the proper sound, according to the spokesperson.

Engineers are required to sound the horn a quarter-mile before each grade crossing, where a street crosses the tracks, or if they see someone on the tracks, according to the spokesperson.

There are six local grade crossings: at Ravenswood, Oak Grove, Glenwood and Encinal avenues in Menlo Park, and Watkins Avenue and Fair Oaks Lane in Atherton. ■

Express bus service to city could shrink while fares grow

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

It's looking like bare-bones bus service for the county if the governing board of San Mateo County Transit adopts proposed rate and schedule changes to address a \$28.4 million revenue shortfall for the fiscal year that began July 1.

Of the two express lines to San Francisco that serve The Almanac's circulation area, the weekday RX line that passes through Menlo Park and Atherton between 6:30

and 7 a.m. and returns about 12 hours later would be eliminated on Dec. 20.

The day-long KX express to the San Francisco airport and the city would continue, but on an hourly rather than a 30-minute schedule. Likewise, the 390 weekend line that connects Menlo Park to the Daly City BART station would run on the hour rather than the half-hour.

Adult fares would go up 25

cents for local routes and 50 cents for express routes on Feb. 1, and youth fares would rise 25 cents, with corresponding increases to passes and discount fares.

Fares for Paratransit services would also rise starting in July 2010.

The board meets at 2 p.m.

SamTrans spokeswoman Christine Dunn says the proposed changes are 'the most drastic in the agency's 33-year history.'

Wednesday, Sept. 9, in the second-floor auditorium at 1250 San Carlos Ave. in San Carlos.

In a statement, SamTrans spokeswoman Christine Dunn said the

proposed changes have been influenced by more than 800 comments from the public and are "the most drastic in the agency's 33-year history."

The schedule changes would reduce service by about 7.5 percent and save more than \$6.3 million annually, but affect less than 3 percent of the weekday riders, Ms. Dunn said. The fare increases would generate about \$1 million annually. ■

Passionate boos, cheers mark Eshoo meeting on health care

■ Congresswoman holds health care Town Hall Wednesday night at Gunn High School to explain her bill, answer questions.

By Barbara Wood
Special to The Almanac

A vocal crowd of nearly 1,000 people turned out for a town hall meeting on national health care issues, hosted by Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Menlo Park, on Sept. 2 at Gunn High School in Palo Alto.

Rep. Eshoo, who represents the 14th Congressional District, helped write one of the health care bills currently under consideration. Congress will reconvene this week to continue the debate on overhauling the health care system.

Outside the 950-seat Spangenberg Theater before the meeting, a long line of people patiently

waited to enter. Opponents of Democratic proposals to change the health care system held aloft placards and American flags — as did proponents.

"Don't Mess With Our Health Care — Vote No on Obamacare" read one sign.

"M.D.'s will have to take the Hypocrite Oath with Obamacare," read another.

At the other end of the spectrum were the Raging Grannies. "Grannies love Social Security — A Government Program" read one of their signs.

The Grannies accompanied their placards with song, including: "My Eyes Have Seen the Wonders of a Single Payer Plan" to the tune of "My Eyes Have Seen the Glory."

Protesters were required to leave large signs outside the auditorium.

As is her custom, Rep. Eshoo answered written questions submitted by the audience. When boos and jeers greeted some of her statements, other audience members attempted to drown them out with applause. But Rep. Eshoo did not lose her cool, despite shouts and interruptions.

"You are all — every one, whether you booed or cheered — you are all welcome," she said.

The intense interest in the topic was clear in the number of questions submitted. Rep. Eshoo estimated she did not get to at least 175 questions that had been submitted, despite going at least 20 minutes past the stated ending time of 8:30 p.m.

"I understand first hand the pas-

See ESHOO, page 8



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Carolee Hazard, right, and Jeni Ware load Ms. Hazard's minivan with donated goods from Trader Joe's market in downtown Menlo Park.

Social networking feeds food bank

By Jane Knoerle
Almanac Lifestyle Editor

It began as a generous gesture at Trader Joe's in Menlo Park. As of last week, Carolee Hazard's kind-

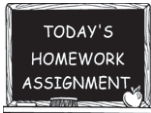
ness to a stranger had netted \$10,000 to feed the hungry, with the number of donations to Second Harvest Food Bank growing every day.

The good-feeling phenomenon began Aug. 11. When

Jeni Ware of Redwood City reached the checkout counter at Trader Joe's, she discovered her wallet was gone and she had no way to pay for \$207

See HAZARD, page 8

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With dreams of an acting career, M-A grad creates Web series

By Sean Howell

Almanac Staff Writer

It's a peculiar kind of purgatory, the life of an actor trying to make it in Hollywood. Waiting in lobbies to audition, sitting through workshops with casting directors, hanging around the craft service table as an extra. Some give up the dream early, unable to take the long days of waiting around for a call; others stick it out, chasing down every lead, hoping to catch a break.

Kimberly Legg, a Menlo-Atherton High alum who grew up in Ladera, is shining a satirical light in a fictional Web series on the ever-hopeful, often humiliating lives of aspiring screen actors — a group in which she counts herself as a proud member. The series, with a new episode posted to workshoptheseries.com each Monday (the first was Aug. 10), follows six young actors trying to sidle up to casting directors and agents, make an impression in auditions, and keep their spirits up in the face of daunting odds.

"What we figure is, we were spending all this money on casting director (workshops) anyways, we might as well do something and have something to show for ourselves," said Ms. Legg, who met co-producer Nate Golon at a workshop held by a casting director. The workshops were pretty much a waste of money, Ms. Legg said, but they provided material for the show.

Producing and writing is "a completely new experience for me," she said. "I just wanted to act. We (made the show) because we wanted the exposure. Everyone in L.A. is trying to act. We're trying to do something

to separate ourselves."

In the show, Ms. Legg plays the most unfortunate of all types of actors: a nervous one. In one scene, she sprints on stage, late for an audition, slips, falls, gets up, and starts apologizing profusely. The scene expands on an experience she had auditioning for a play at M-A, when she arrived late after sprinting to the auditorium from cross-country practice.

"I tripped and fell on the stage, the director was just staring at me," she said. "I was like, 'I don't have a monologue, oh my gosh, I don't have a monologue.' It was really awful. I didn't audition for anything ever again, but that was mostly because I was involved in music and sports."

Ms. Legg graduated from UCLA in the winter, with a major in music history. She hasn't been acting for long, but she has already gathered a fair amount of material for the show. At a shoot for a Verizon commercial in which she served as an extra, another actor followed her around, sharing bizarre personal details. She had met him before, on another set; he had given her his card, featuring shots of him in various costumes.

"We get to the Verizon set at 5:30 in the morning. We're all sitting around in the dark, trying to sleep. When the sun comes up, I see this guy sitting across from me. He says, 'Hey, Kimberley, you never called me.' And from there on he didn't stop. For a 14-hour day."

Is it at moments like that when she thinks, "maybe this isn't for me"?

"It inspired me to go out and do something better than extra work," she said. ■

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CHRIS AYERS PHOTO



"What we figure is, we were spending all this money on casting director (workshops) anyways, we might as well do something and have something to show for ourselves," says Kimberly Legg.

High school board's big thinker is retiring

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

It can be lonely on the road less traveled, a well-trodden path for Trustee Sarah D. "Sally" Stewart, who is wrapping up 26 years on the governing board of the Sequoia Union High School District.

Ms. Stewart is a fan of the long view, systems thinking and perspectives that come out of group-conversation venues such as Future Search and Appreciative Inquiry and Conversation Cafes, colloquies that imagine new ways to address stubborn problems.

"I've always called myself a divergent thinker," she said. "If you don't have all the voices in the room, you don't have reality."

Ms. Stewart, who served 12 years on Portola Valley's school board and as an executive in county- and state-wide education organizations, is retiring in December. Asked why, she said her energy level isn't what it used to be and that she doesn't care for the trends. Education's focus is too much on future employment and not enough on understanding civic life, she said in an interview.

Standardized tests don't help, she added. Test taking is a skill that improves with experience, then plateaus, she said, adding: "I always took them as fast as I could because if I started to think, I'd get (the answers) wrong."

Though no longer a pressing issue, and under questioning, Ms. Stewart acknowledged a stubborn little issue of her own: she hasn't been elected board president since the mid-1990s. The president sets the agenda, and the year-long position normally passes from one trustee to another.

"I think they felt they couldn't trust me," she said. Indeed, she said three trustees — Olivia Martinez, Don Gibson and Gordon Lewin — told her they didn't trust her when she asked about being president.

Asked if the trustees had explained themselves, Ms. Stewart replied: "That's all they said."

Asked to comment, Mr. Lewin stressed that trust has never been an issue. The issue, he said, was stylistic in that "Sally liked more of a discussion format and other board members liked a tighter run meeting. ... Even in heated disagreements, no one ever questioned Sally's integrity."

Ms. Martinez said she would not comment. Mr. Gibson could not be reached for comment.

Another seemingly lonely cause has been budget transparency. For five years, Ms. Stewart said, she's asked for a district budget that itemizes each school's programs and costs in a form ordinary people can understand, and for five years she's gone unsatisfied.



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

"I've always called myself a divergent thinker," says Sally Stewart. "If you don't have all the voices in the room, you don't have reality."

A program budget can help determine whether a program is working or not, she said.

"Everybody says it's too complicated" to provide such a budget, she said. So she's voted against the budget repeatedly, always on a 4-1 tally, she said.

Sequoia district finance officer James Lianides said in an e-mail that he's promised Ms. Stewart a program view of the general-fund budget in November, and added that he's preparing a format for the lay audience for the district's Web site.

Ms. Stewart recently received a standing ovation from faculty and staff in a district meeting, Mr. Lewin said, and was one of 20 officials noted last year in a thank-you message from state Superintendent of Schools

Jack O'Connell.

Listening to the community

Decisions affecting the operation of comprehensive high schools like M-A and Woodside tend to come out of shared-decision-making councils that include school parents, students, teachers and administrators.

There was once a district-wide central committee that represented those same communities and met monthly, Ms. Stewart said. "It was a good way of keeping contact," she said. "I've seen all those things kind of retrench and I don't think that's good."

The board should hold town hall meetings, she said. "You know, you have to have a lot of conversations to make changes," she added. "I don't think anyone in Silicon Valley likes to have conversations. It's so much 'Ready, shoot, aim.' Isn't that what they say?"

Ms. Stewart said she's pleased that the district has hired someone to handle public relations.

The election

Asked if she's conversed with the eight candidates vying for her seat, Ms. Stewart said she's talked with five. Her major concern is a candidate's willingness to listen to different points of view. She said she probably will not endorse anyone.

Ms. Stewart did not endorse Everest (charter) Public High School, which opened in August, when she voted a year ago to deny it a charter from the district. The problem, she said, is that,

See STEWART, page 10

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Gloria Darke



How to choose

Dear Gloria,

My husband and I have a difference of opinion on which realtor to use. We have interviewed three; there was one who gave us a price quite a bit higher than the other two. Naturally, the price is enticing but also a bit questionable. The other two have been in business longer and have more sales but also more listings. How do we know we will get the time and attention. What is really the most important quality?

- A.J. Portola Valley

Dear A.J.

You ask a couple of really good questions. And I commend you on your perspicacity in seeing through the high price appraisal. This is definitely not the market to be testing a high price which is not based on comparable sales. Obviously

you need to look at the track record of the realtor and then follow up on references for recent sales. If a realtor has too many listings, there is a good chance that phone calls may not be followed up, the house may not be held open as often as you would like and your property may be lost in a big ad featuring all of the listings of the busy agent. Another quality to look for in the realtor is how he or she works with their peers. We had an experience a week ago where we showed a listing of a particular agent, only to find out that the agent then called our client to let them know of another house that "only he knew of." Needless to say, I will never show a house with this agent again. So there are issues of integrity and character as well as who will do the best job for you. Check references carefully and know the reputation of the realtor you choose to work with.

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Photo by Shawn Fender

Rep. Anna Eshoo addresses nearly 1,000 people in Spangenberg Theatre on the Gunn High School campus.

Passionate boos, cheers mark Rep. Anna Eshoo's meeting on health care

ESHOO

continued from page 5

sions that the issue of health care brings," she said. "It touches all of us, every single one of us."

She said there are three essential features of the legislation she helped write, House of Representatives bill HR3200.

"No. 1 that it be universal," she said. Proposed regulations would require that everyone have some form of health insurance or face a fine.

Two, the changes must be "fully paid for," she said, "not paid with

the national credit card."

Private insurance must also be regulated, she said.

"No longer will insurance companies be able to discriminate against anyone" with pre-existing conditions, for gender, or because they are ill, she said.

"If someone loses their job — you still get to keep your health insurance," she said. Lifetime caps on insurance payouts, which currently affect many with catastrophic illness, would not be allowed, she added.

Some in the audience questioned the need for any changes

to how health care works in the country. "Why destroy the best health care system in this world for this?" asked one.

"This is not about destroying the system," Rep. Eshoo said. "It's about bringing (the uninsured) in."

Several questions focused on the costs of reform. How, one person asked, can 46.5 million currently uninsured people be added to the health care system while cutting costs?

Rep. Eshoo argued that the cost of private health insurance is already a financial burden for many, including small business

owners who can't afford to insure their employees.

Eliminating inefficiencies and bringing the uninsured into a system that offers preventative care instead of much more costly emergency room care will save money, she said. Premiums will pay for the public insurance, she said.

Another questioned why the changes are being considered during a severe economic downturn. "I think that is one of the main reasons we need to do it," Rep. Eshoo said. "We will not have a full recovery in this country" without reducing the costs of health care.

Rep. Eshoo promised to respond by e-mail to every question in the 6-inch-stack that remained unanswered at the end of the meeting.

The issue, she said, is far from settled.

"We have a long journey ahead of us because this is enormously complex," she said. "This bill is not set in concrete."

Palo Alto Police Department spokesman Sgt. Dan Ryan said three officers were assigned to the meeting but reported no problems, unlike at other town hall meetings convened by representatives around the country. ■

Social networking feeds food bank

HAZARD

continued from page 5

worth of groceries.

Carolee Hazard of Menlo Park, standing behind her in line, impulsively offered to pay for the groceries with her own credit card. "Send me a check when you find your wallet," she said.

After discovering the lost wallet at Draeger's, Ms. Ware not only sent Ms. Hazard a check to cover the grocery bill the next day, but included an extra \$93,

suggesting she do something nice for herself, like a massage.

Not feeling right about accepting the extra money, Ms. Hazard asked her Facebook friends what to do. The answer was: Give the money to charity.

"Since this happened in a grocery store, the suggestion to donate the money to Second Harvest Food Bank seemed right," says Ms. Hazard.

Within three hours of sharing her story, Ms. Hazard had received \$600 in checks and

pledges from Facebook friends. Amounts from \$93 to 93 cents (from neighbor Maddie Campbell, age 8) continue to pour in.

With Facebook posting the story on its Facebook for Good page (facebook.com/facebookforgood/), people from all over the world have responded, says Ms. Hazard. "It's amazing how many are following this story. It's been really exciting."

A special Facebook page has been established for the 93 Dollar Club (tinyurl.com/93dollar).

According to Second Harvest Food Bank representative

Lynn Crocker, \$10,000 in cash donations, and a donation of 75 pounds of food from Trader Joe's, means more than 20,000 meals will be provided to those in need.

Random acts of kindness are nothing new to Carolee Hazard. She sometimes pays strangers' bridge tolls. "Someone did that for me 20 years ago. It put a smile on my face for the rest of the day. It made my day for a dollar (the toll at that time)."

Ms. Hazard also regularly donates blood at the Stanford Blood Center with a group of

friends. "We get together, give blood, then go out to dinner."

Ms. Hazard plays down her role as a Good Samaritan, but does give credit to her parents, Ginger and Douglas Levick of Atherton. "I was raised to be a responsible member of the community," she says.

■ INFORMATION

Online donations may be made through Second Harvest Food Bank's virtual food drive portal (tinyurl.com/VirtualHarvest) and Carolee Hazard 93 Club (tinyurl.com/93dollar)



New Green Academy

Woodside High School Green Academy teacher Josh Rubin, left, and senior Mac Hart, an academy teaching assistant, plant a crookneck squash in one of nine raised beds in the new garden/classroom that is being built in stages on the hill behind the school. Donations of gardening tools and seedlings are welcome.

Photo by Dave Boyce/The Almanac

El Camino development nears approval

By Sean Howell

Almanac Staff Writer

A development project that would replace one of the abandoned car dealerships along El Camino Real in Menlo Park could see approval from the City Council in October.

The Planning Commission voted 6-1 at its Aug. 31 meeting to recommend that the city rezone the site of the former Cadillac dealership at 1300 El Camino Real to allow for a 40-foot-high, 110,000-square-foot building. It would include about 51,000 feet of retail space, and about 59,000 square feet of office space.

First proposed nearly four years ago, the project has taken a circuitous route through the city's bureaucracy, as developers found themselves in the middle of a major debate over land-use issues within the Menlo Park community.

In its initial conception, the project would have included 134 apartments and 81,000 feet of commercial space, about twice the size of the current proposal. But Sand Hill Property Co., which owns the site, pulled that application after a group of citizens led a successful referendum drive to repeal the council's approval of the similarly sized Derry project, which would have occupied an adjacent parcel.

Earlier plans for Whole Foods to occupy the retail space have stalled, but a grocery store is still a possibility, according to developer Jeff Warmoth. A health and fitness club could also be a major tenant, along with other retail or restaurant operations.

No housing

The new, smaller proposal falls within the city's general plan limitations and density allowances. But it does not include any housing units, as the previous proposal did, though many see the site as an ideal location for housing.

The City Council had asked Sand Hill to investigate the possibility of including housing units. But at the Planning Commission's meeting, Mr. Warmoth said that, given the city's limitations on development density, it wouldn't be possible to achieve the "critical mass" of housing units necessary to create a neighborhood feel. Any units Sand Hill could add at this point would be an "add-on, an afterthought," he said, adding that the parking situation, with commercial and residential tenants sharing spaces, would be a "nightmare."

Jack O'Malley was the lone dissenter in the Planning Commission's decision, saying that the city is lacking in housing units, and that the Cadillac site's proximity to the Caltrain station would bolster use of public transit. Mr. Warmoth made a similar argument about the planned office space.

"This (project) will continue the urban sprawl we're trying to do away with, and that's certainly not good for the environment," Mr. O'Malley said at the meeting.

A majority of commission members said they would prefer housing to be included in the project, but didn't view its absence as a deal-breaker.

"I would like to see housing included, but I would also like to see this project go forward," said Commissioner Kirsten Keith.

In an interview, Mayor Heyward Robinson said he shared that sentiment. He noted that the council has committed to processing building applications during the comprehensive city planning process currently underway, though land use guidelines along El Camino could change through that process.

"I could be convinced otherwise, but my inclination is to move this along," Mr. Robinson said. "I certainly expect that what they're doing there will be complementary to what we end up with in our downtown plan, I don't think it'll be real adverse."

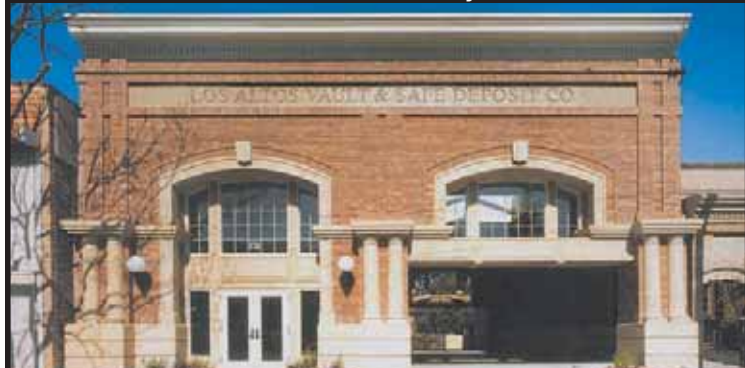
Complications

Though the project could win city approval in October, Menlo Park residents who cringe at the sight of the city's abandoned auto dealerships shouldn't hold their breath.

Several elements that had been proposed as part of both the Sand Hill project and the Derry project, such as extending a street through the Derry property, will be more complicated to negotiate, now that the Derry project is on hold. As a result, it would take a year or more before Sand Hill can submit an application for a building permit, according to Mr. Warmoth.

Under city guidelines, the development company would be required to submit the application within two years from the date of approval by the council, and could have up to four years, according to Megan Fisher of the planning department. Ms. Fisher noted that Sand Hill has an incentive to start building sooner, however, because it owns the land. ■

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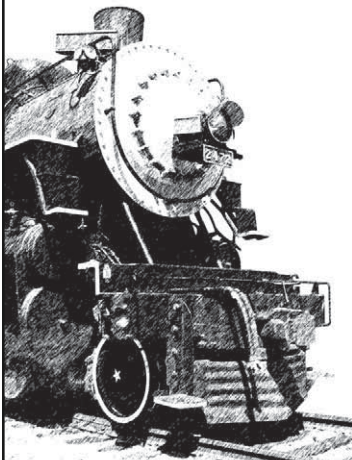
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Menlo Park man accused of having sex with child

A Menlo Park man and two other American men accused of traveling to Cambodia to have sex with children will face federal charges in the United States.

Ronald Boyajian, 49, of Menlo Park, has been accused of having sex with a 10-year-old Vietnamese girl, according to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a branch of the Department of Homeland Security.

He had previously been convicted of sex offenses in the United States, officials said. An Almanac search of both the

national and state sex offender registry did not turn up his name.

Child sex tourism is an ongoing issue in Cambodia, a poor nation where some families sell their children as sexual objects to pay for food or health care, according to the Washington Post. U.S. officials said the arrests demonstrate America's commitment to protect children from sexual exploitation abroad.

The men will be the first to be prosecuted under an operation called "Twisted Traveler," targeting American "sex tour-

ists" in Cambodia. They were expected to appear in federal court in Los Angeles last week after being arrested by Cambodian police.

The men — all current or former California residents — are charged under an act that went into effect in 2003, strengthening laws related to predatory crimes committed abroad by Americans.

If convicted, Mr. Boyajian and the two other men would face sentences of up to 30 years in federal prison.

STEWART

continued from page 7

in the long term, charter schools will create two systems of public schools.

Ms. Stewart would not elabo-

rate, saying that her views "will not be very well represented" in The Almanac, but in an animated exchange with a reporter, she said the district is doing "its best."

Asked to comment on the per-

formance of Superintendent Pat Gemma, whom she voted to hire in 2002, Ms. Stewart paused for about 7 seconds, then said she would "rate him highly." Why? Because he attends to trustee's concerns, is available when

needed, and mediates conflicts.

"If you want to bring people together, you need the capability of understanding" conflict mediation, she said. "I think he does that on an individual level very well." ■

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Dr. Henry Mayer, a founder of Sequoia Hospital, dies

A memorial gathering for Dr. Henry Mayer will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 20, at Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club in Menlo Park.

Dr. Mayer, a 60-year resident of Woodside, died peacefully at home of cancer Aug. 17. He was 95.

Dr. Mayer practiced internal medicine in Redwood City until shortly before his death, becoming the oldest practicing physician in San Mateo County, say family members. He was one of seven doctors who founded Sequoia Hospital in 1951 and remained part of the Sequoia community until his retirement a month before his death.

Born in New York City, he attended the Peddie School in New Jersey and graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Princeton University. He obtained his medical degree from the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University.

While on a hiking vacation in Colorado, he met Olive Hendricks from Maplewood, New Jersey. They married in December 1941, three weeks after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Dr. Mayer served as a medical officer in the U.S. Navy for five years during World War II, obtaining the rank of lieutenant commander.

After the war, the Mayers settled in Woodside and Dr. Mayer started his medical practice in Redwood City.

In 1967 Dr. Mayer went to Vietnam for the Committee for Responsibility to Save War-

OBITUARY

Burned and War-Injured Vietnamese Children. He also served as a director of Californians for Population Stabilization.

His wife, Ollie, was a leader in the environmental conservation movement, most notably with the Sierra Club with a focus on the protection of the San Mateo County coast. Dr. Mayer enthusiastically participated with his wife in those efforts, say family members.

Dr. Mayer's love of photography began at Princeton and he became an accomplished nature and landscape photographer. He produced and filmed nine documentaries, based on his travels abroad, dealing with population growth and conservation. Many of his films won national awards.

He was most proud of films resulting from a year-long trip around the world in 1968, when he studied medical systems and population growth, say family members.

Dr. Mayer is survived by his wife of 67 years, Ollie; children Bob Mayer of San Francisco and Judy O'Brien of Menlo Park; and four grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Californians for Population Stabilization (www.capsweb.org), Planned Parenthood (www.plannedparenthood.org), and Sequoia Hospital Foundation (www.sequoiahospitalfoundation.org).

School board candidate withdraws

Elianne Frenkel-Popell, a member of the Woodside Elementary School board who filed for re-election in July, has withdrawn her candidacy, leaving four people in the running for the three open seats.

Ms. Frenkel-Popell, who is serving out her first term, announced her decision on Aug. 31, saying in a letter to The Almanac, "Given the high caliber of the other candidates, I am sure the school will be well served."

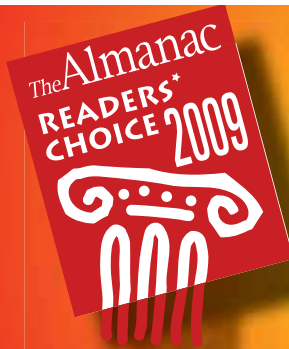
Saying she will gladly engage in community service in the future, she added, "... for the next

few years, I want to spend more time directly supporting my two children's many endeavors."

She said she will work to get the word out about her decision because it's too late for her name to be removed from the ballot.

Ms. Frenkel-Popell said she doesn't plan to endorse candidates — at least not yet. "All four candidates are very reasonable and intelligent, and I know they'll keep their eye on the ball."

The remaining candidates are incumbent Bettina Pike, and challengers Wendy Warren Crandall, Marc Tarpenning, and Millo Fenzi.



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Woodside entrepreneur survives elephant attack

Woodside resident and entrepreneur Tom Siebel is at home recovering from injuries to his legs and ribs after a wild elephant charged him and his guide while on safari on Aug. 1 in Tanzania, according to a Sept. 2 story in the San Jose Mercury News.

Mr. Siebel, 56 and the founder of Siebel Systems, sustained several broken ribs, a crushed right leg and a gored left leg and spent a total of 18 days in hospitals, the newspaper reported.

With reconstructive surgery and physical therapy, he is expected to make a full recovery.

Mr. Siebel and his guide had been on the ground observing elephants at a watering hole from a “respectful” distance of 200 yards, when one of them turned and charged them. They radioed for help after the elephant attacked and lost interest in them, but it was three hours before medics arrived, the newspaper reported.

Trial date set for man accused of ringing doorbells while naked

Peter Allen Steele, a 38-year-old Union City man accused of ringing residential doorbells near Woodside High School while naked, pleaded not guilty at an Aug. 11 arraignment, according to a report from San Mateo County Chief Deputy District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe.

Superior Court Judge Susan Etezadi set Monday, Sept. 21, for a jury trial for Mr. Steele, who faces charges of vandalism, indecent exposure, driving under the influence, trespassing and resisting arrest, Mr. Wagstaffe said. Mr. Steele is in county jail with bail set at \$60,000.

Mr. Steele's arrest early on Saturday morning, July 11, came after a seven-mile vehicle pur-

suit through Atherton and Menlo Park by sheriff's deputies, according to an account from the county Sheriff's Office. Mr. Steele's blue Dodge pickup had blown tires by the time it came to a stop on the northbound ramp at Interstate 280 and Sand Hill Road, deputies said.

Mr. Steele, who is 6 feet 7 inches tall and weighs 250 pounds, allegedly ran from his truck to an occupied house in the 500 block of Sand Hill Circle, where he kicked in the door and then attempted to hide in the bushes, deputies said.

Deputies used a Taser and shots from a bean-bag gun to subdue Mr. Steele, whose pulse at the time of his capture was 220, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

Homeless facility wins silver rating from green building council

The nonprofit Saint Francis Center in Redwood City, a refuge for the homeless and a recipient of funding from The Almanac's annual Holiday Fund, can now claim green bona fides.

The new 10,400-square-foot, three-story, Spanish-style building, called La Casa and designed by Ratcliff Architecture out of Emeryville, received a silver rating from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), according to a statement from the nonprofit.

The building contains a recycling station, signs identifying sustainable features, a swale for rainwater runoff, a water-conscious garden, and smart mechanical systems. Of its materials, 35 percent were manufactured in the region, the statement said.

The building is multipurpose. The first floor includes laundry and shower facilities for the

homeless as well as storage of clothing and food donations; the second includes schools for K-5 and adults; and on the third are three low-income apartments.

For the school, there are green-oriented lesson plans to “help students discover and nurture an environmental ethic and stewardship for natural resources,” the statement said.

Silver is the third highest rating available from USGBC's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, program.

“There is a temptation for nonprofits with capital projects to avoid the LEED rating system because it can be complex and expensive,” said Executive Director Sr. Christina Heltsley. “If a small social services organization like (ours) can do it, any nonprofit can. If nonprofits don't lead the way for the environment, who will?”



Photo by Ed Smith

Proud graduates

Woodside resident and puppy raiser for Guide Dogs for the Blind, Susan Bosse-Atwell, sits with "Thunder," the certified guide dog she raised, and graduating student Don Orr. Ms. Bosse-Atwell, who watched her dog graduate from the training program during a formal ceremony July 25, is a member of the local guide dog puppy raising club, Mid-Peninsula Puppy Guides. For more information, go to midpeninsulapuppyguides.org/.

High-speed rail "teach-in"

The city of Palo Alto will host a six-hour workshop on the California high-speed rail project Saturday, Sept. 12, designed to teach Peninsula residents about the design process for the \$40 billion project, and about high-speed rail systems in general.

The "teach-in" is scheduled to run from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Palo Alto's City Hall at 250 Hamilton Ave. The event is sponsored by a consortium of five Peninsula cities, including Atherton and Menlo Park, with the cooperation of Caltrain and the High-Speed Rail Authority.

The event is free, but people are asked to register at the consortium's Web site: peninsula.rail.com.

Talk on twins as a key to nature's secrets

Which is more influential to a child: her biological heritage or the environment in which she lives and grows? The question is perennial and one that scientists have attempted to understand through the study of twins.

■ BRIEFS

It's matter of particular interest to Gary Swan, the director of SRI's Center for Health Sciences, who will give a talk called "Twins: Unlocking the Secrets of Nature-Nurture Interactions" at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 8.

This free event takes place at Cafe Scientifique, a monthly talk for the general public at the headquarters of SRI International at Middlefield Road and Ringwood Ave. in Menlo Park.

For more than 20 years, Mr. Swan has studied twins for insights on conditions such as nicotine addiction, obesity and blood pressure. The studies have "improved our understanding" of the environmental and genetic factors associated with coronary heart disease, cancer susceptibility, addiction and memory in aging, he said in an interview.

Mr. Swan also leads SRI's Center for Research on Independent Aging.

For more information, go to cafescientifique.org.

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Jensen Hauser



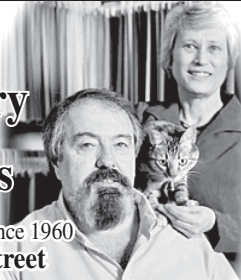
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City offers parents a brief break

For \$10, parents can drop their children (ages 8 to 13 only) at Menlo Park's recreation center while the parents enjoy an evening out, at least a short one, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11.

The program is a new one offered by the city of Menlo

■ BRIEFS

Park. The city plans to provide the service on the second Friday of every month, with a different themed event to entertain children each time. This month's theme: "movie night."

Registration is encouraged, but not required. Register by calling 330-2200, or by e-mailing Noreen Bickel at nsbickel@menlopark.org.

The recreation center is located in the in the Civic Center complex, between Laurel and Alma streets.

Sequoia Hospital goes smoke-free

Don't bother stepping outside to light up if you're at Sequoia Hospital in Redwood City. Hospital officials announced that the entire campus is a smoke-free area as of Sept. 1.

No smoking is allowed in all areas of the main hospital campus, including the grounds, the parking lots and garages, the Health & Wellness Center, and the Physical Therapy Center on Veterans Boulevard, according to hospital spokeswoman Jennifer Gainza.

Sequoia, a not-for-profit community hospital, will provide smoking cessation information to any patient who is a smoker.

Consumer bill on subscriptions

It's important to be careful with a credit card when starting a subscription or receiving a free product: the fine print can sometimes rope you into a long-term agreement.

If SB 340, authored by state Sen. Leland Yee, D-San Francisco, is signed by the governor, language referring to automatic renewals will have to be clear and conspicuous and require a customer's affirmative consent at the time of purchase.

An easy cancellation policy would also be required.

The bill reflects an investigation into the practices of Time magazine, which recently agreed to pay \$4.3 million in refunds to subscribers in 23 states, the statement said.

September 2009



Shaping Our Future Together

El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan

September 17 Community Workshop *Where the Plan Takes Shape*

What: Specific Plan Workshop #3

When: Sept. 17 – 7:00 p.m. (preview at 6:30 p.m.)

Where: 700B Santa Cruz Ave. (enter from rear parking plaza, behind Ace Hardware)

Development of the El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan is entering a decisive phase for community input. Refined concepts and a preferred alternative—based on input from the previous community meetings—will be presented and discussed during the third and final community workshop on September 17th. The results of this workshop will set the foundation for the draft version of the Specific Plan. Because the Specific Plan will guide the direction for downtown and El Camino Real over the next 30 years, **you are strongly encouraged to participate in this workshop.** Join us September 17th to help decide what the heart and soul of our town will be like for future generations.

For more information—including past workshop presentations, materials, and summary notes—or to sign up for project e-mails, please visit www.menlopark.org/specificplan or contact Thomas Rogers at (650) 330-6722 or THRogers@menlopark.org



You will have a chance to weigh in on proposed public improvements, including expanded public spaces, wider sidewalks on Santa Cruz Avenue, and enhanced crossings of El Camino Real. You will also have an opportunity to consider a preferred direction for the use, size, and character of private development, with its associated traffic and fiscal implications and potential public benefits. This is your chance to make your voice heard and transform our community's exciting vision into an enduring reality.





Dramatic combination

This watercolor, called "Rosé Pedal," is by Terri Hill, who will demonstrate how to paint liquids, reflections and shadows during a Menlo Art League program, open free to the public, at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 9, at the Menlo Park Recreation Center, 700 Alma St. This painting, she says, is the first in a series combining two of her favorite subjects, in this case, biking and fine wine. For more information on Terri Hill, go to designerhill.com.

Two-for-one adoption special on kittens at PHS

Cat-lovers can adopt two kittens for the price of one from the Peninsula Humane Society from now until the end of October. There are 43 kittens under 6 months old awaiting adoption, a spokesperson said.

The adoption fee for kittens is \$80, and includes spay or neuter

surgery, vaccines, a microchip, medical and behavior evaluations, a post-adoption vet visit, and an optional, post-adoption behavior consultation.

The shelter, located at 12 Airport Blvd. in San Mateo, is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 11 a.m. to

6 p.m. on weekends. Adopters should arrive at least an hour before closing time to complete an adoption.

For more information, or to view photos of kittens and cats available for adoption, go to PHS-SPCA.org.

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Today's news, sports & hot picks

Fresh news delivered daily

Swinging festivities at Holbrook-Palmer Park

By Jane Knoerle
Lifestyles Editor, The Almanac

Potato sack and spoon and egg races will be among the family activities at "Swing in the Park" from 2 to 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 13, at Holbrook-Palmer Park in Atherton. The annual fundraiser for the park is sponsored by the Atherton Dames and the Holbrook-Palmer Park Foundation.

The festivities will include live music by the Dream Posse band, a catered barbecue, wine, and live and silent auctions. There will be a parrot show, clowns, and a bounce house, as well as field games.

Funds raised will be used toward completion of two park projects; a pedestrian bridge and the Water Town garden.

Tickets are \$75 for adults, \$15 for children 2-12, and free for children under 2. For reservations, call 234-8447.

Benefit for My New Red Shoes

Thirty local students will model back-to-school fashions from Old Navy at the Clothing for Confidence fashion show and silent auction to be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 13, at the Menlo Circus Club in Atherton. The afternoon is a benefit for My New Red Shoes, which provides new clothing and shoes for homeless children for their first day of school.

AROUND TOWN

Each youngster taking part in the show is raising \$75 to pay for a gift bag filled with a new outfit and shoes for a homeless student.

Becky Berry of Atherton and Lori Corley of Woodside are co-chairs of the organization's first benefit. Their committee includes Atherton residents Melissa Badger, Lulu Frye, GraceAnn Graumann, Jennifer Jeffries, Sarah Lucas, Debbie Rosenberg, Heather Rosenkranz, Lisa Schatz, Elizabeth Still, and Sara Vetter. Lisa Goldman and Marianne Walters, both of Atherton, are honorary co-chairs.

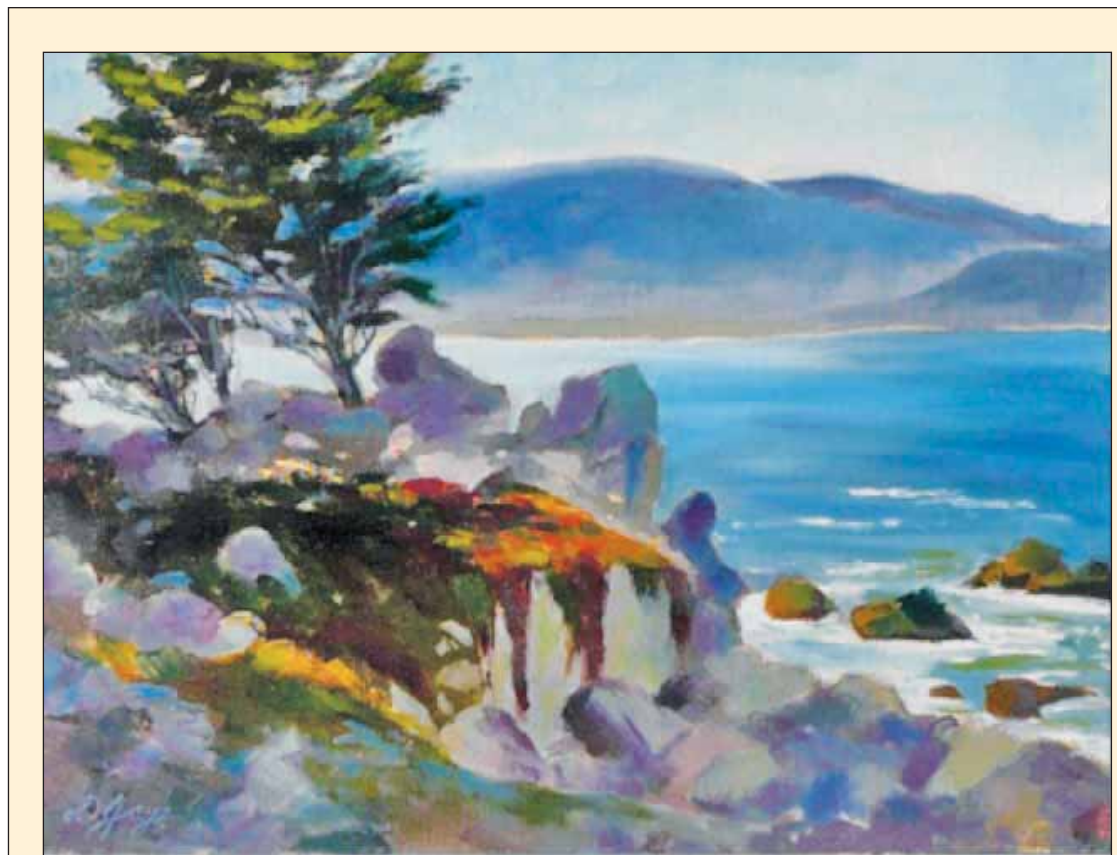
Tickets are \$75 for adults and \$50 for students. For more information, contact Becky Berry at rberry1661@aol.com or Caron Tabb, executive director of My New Red Shoes, at 558-4868.

Rotary Club presents 'Taste of Woodside'

The Rotary Club of Woodside/Portola Valley is sponsoring its annual Taste of Woodside event from 3 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 20, in the courtyard of the Woodside Village Church. Guests will sample wine and food pairings and take part in live and silent auctions.

Providing food for the event are Encore Performance Catering, the Mountain House, the Woodside Bakery, Buck's restaurant, the Little Store, and Amigos restaurant.

Wines will be provided by Wood-



Diana Jaye oils

This oil painting by Diana Jaye of Menlo Park, entitled "17-Mile Drive - Pescadero Pt.," is part of her "Primary + White" exhibit at Viewpoints Gallery in Los Altos. The exhibit, running from Sept. 8 through Oct. 2, features 16 of her plein air oil landscape paintings, using "a minimal palette of magenta, phthalo blue, yellow and white," she says. The gallery is at 315 State St. The gallery is open 11-5 Monday through Friday and 11-3 on Sunday. She will be at the gallery on Sept. 12, 25 and 30.

side Vineyards, Sterling Albert Winery, Sol Rouge Winery, Bartholomew Park, Ridge Vineyards, Bonny Doon, Amigos for tequila tasting, Martella Wines, and Thomas Fogarty Winery.

Tickets are \$150 per guest. For more information, go to tasteof-woodside.com.

Mendelssohn concert at Menlo College

The Saint Michael Trio, artists in residence at Menlo College, will present the first of two concerts celebrating the bicentennial anniversary of composer Felix Mendelssohn at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, in the Florence Moore

Auditorium at Menlo College.

The concerts will also feature commentary, audience participation, and demonstrations. The free concert is limited to the first 225 people to respond via e-mail (boxoffice@saintmichaeltrio.com)

Continued on next page

WOODSIDE COMMUNITY RECREATION PROGRAM

FALL SCHEDULE 2009

CLASS	DAY	TIME	INSTRUCTOR	LOCATION	FEE	STARTING DATE
YOGA FOR EVERYONE						
13 Weeks	Mon.	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM		Independence Hall	\$221	Sept 14
13 Weeks - Bring exercise mat and wear comfortable clothing	Tues.	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Carla Germano	Wdse. Village Church Guild Hall	\$221	Sept 15
	Wed.	6:00 PM - 7:00 PM		Wdse. Village Church Guild Hall	\$221	Sept 16
	Thurs.	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM		Wdse. Village Church Guild Hall	\$221	Sept 17
	Fri.	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM		Independence Hall	\$221	Sept 18
LOW IMPACT AEROBICS & JOYFLEX BODY TONING						
12 Weeks	Mon.	7:45 AM - 9:00 AM	Joy Lopez	Independence Hall	\$414	Oct 5
Healthy Back, Cardio, Inner-Core Strengthening	Fri.	7:45 AM - 9:00 AM		Independence Hall	\$25 drop in	Oct 2
MUSIC TOGETHER						
10 Weeks	Tues.	8:30 AM - 9:15 AM	Sean Mendelson	Wdse. Library	\$145	Sept 15
Ages 0-5 Years	Tues.	9:15 AM - 10:00 AM		Wdse. Library	\$145	Sept 15
Creative Classes	Tues.	10:15 AM - 11:00 AM		Wdse. Library	\$145	Sept 15
For Children	Fri.	1:00 PM - 1:45 PM		Independence Hall	\$145	Sept 18
	Fri.	2:00 PM - 2:45 PM		Independence Hall	\$145	Sept 18
					\$50 mat. fee	

Financial assistance available for children. Visit our Web Site at: www.woodsiderec.com

*** To Register or Fax: (650) 851-3534 ***

Continued from previous page

or through the event Web site (<http://event.pingg.com/stmichaeltrio912>). The second concert will be held on Nov. 20.

Wine & Roses benefit for St. Francis Center

The second annual Wine and Roses benefit for St. Francis Center in Redwood City will be held from 3 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, at the Burns estate in Atherton.

Premium wines and specimen roses will be featured in a silent auction, along with gourmet dining certificates. Local restaurants will provide appetizers to accompany wine tasting. There will also be a champagne raffle.

The fundraiser is sponsored by the St. Francis Auxiliary. Tickets are \$75 each. For more information, call Lynda Connolly at 592-7714.

Winners Breakfast honors students

The Family Service Agency of San Mateo County and Oracle invite the public to the 14th annual Winners Breakfast to be held from 7 to 9 a.m. Friday, Sept. 18, at the Crowne Plaza Cabana Hotel in Palo Alto.

The event honors high school students and adults from the Pen-

insula who have triumphed over adversity. Television personalities Sydnie Kohara and Don Sanchez will present \$1,000 awards to honorees at the event. Comedian and radio personality Brian Copeland will be the guest speaker.

Tickets are \$50 for general admission and \$25 for students and seniors. For tickets, call Maria Chavez at 403-4300, ext. 4401.

Warehouse artists open their doors

Twelve artists who share studio space at a warehouse in Redwood City will open their doors to the public from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 13.

The warehouse is at 275-B Linden St., across from the Target shopping center on El Camino Real in Redwood City. The Shriners' trolley will transport visitors to and from the warehouse and the downtown Redwood City Art Walk.

The artists will show their work and invite visitors to tour their studios. Many of the artists had studios at the former Portola Valley Town Center, says spokeswoman Marianne Lettieri.

Local warehouse artists include: Francis Freyberg, Marianne Lettieri and Joyce Savre of Menlo Park; Kalani Engles and Bonnie Novesky

of Portola Valley; and Sean McGinn Smith of Woodside.

Also exhibiting are Maryalice Bowie, Nanette Wylde, Lia Schnipper, Kent Manske, Jamie Watson and Barbara Mortkowitz.

Mexican fiesta in Menlo Park

A Mexican fiesta will be held at noon Thursday, Sept. 17, at the Menlo Park Senior Center, 110 Terminal Ave. in Menlo Park. Guests are invited to wear festive outfits and join their friends for a festive lunch. There will be live mariachi music. The cost is \$5. For more information, call 330-2283.

Breakfast benefit for Planned Parenthood

Planned Parenthood Golden Gate will hold a benefit breakfast from 9 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 16, at the Menlo Circus Club, 190 Park Lane in Atherton.

Guest speaker will be David Magnus, director of the Stanford Center for Biomedical Ethics and professor of pediatrics, medicine and philosophy at Stanford University. His topic is "Who Owns Life?"

Individual tickets are \$175. Responses must be made by Sept. 9. For more information, visit www.ppgg.org.

Raising funds for Habitat for Humanity

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage sales associates are hoping to sell raffle tickets at \$2 each to raise \$341,400 for the company's 11th annual "Habitat

for Humanity" fundraising campaign.

Last year's drive raised \$167,000 to help build 77 homes for low-income families, according to

a company press release. The raffle runs through Sept. 25 at all 61 Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage offices in Northern California.



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In wake of deaths, safety tips from Caltrain

This story was submitted by Christine Dunn, public information officer for Caltrain.

In light of a number of suicides, the public is asked to please keep in mind the following information when you are near, or need to cross, train tracks.

A Caltrain train is almost two stories tall, weighs close to one million pounds, has flashing lights and takes more than a half-mile to stop. Please stay out of its way.

In addition to the 98 trains on weekdays, 32 on Saturday and 28 on Sunday, Caltrain operates extra trains for Giants baseball games and other special events. Union Pacific Railroad runs freight trains along the Caltrain line. So, you can expect to see a train at any time on any track.

Only cross Caltrain tracks at designated crossings and when it is safe to do so. While it might not be the quickest route, it will be the safest.

■ Know that if you are on foot and not using a designated crossing — marked by a sign or gate — then you are trespassing and are subject to a citation and fine.

■ Even though a train might look as if it's moving rather slowly, Caltrain reaches a top speed of 79 miles per hour. At that speed, the train cover the length of a football field in less than three seconds.

■ Watch out for a second train. Between San Francisco

and San Jose, Caltrain operates on two tracks, with four tracks in select locations. When you see the last car of a passing train, don't cross until you're sure that no other trains are coming on either track.

■ A train will be through a crossing in less than a minute. It is better to lose one minute in life than your life in one minute.

■ Be aware that Caltrain operates in "push-pull mode." The locomotive usually pulls southbound trains. However, on northbound trains, the train is "pushed" from behind by the locomotive with a passenger car leading the train. Trains can travel in either direction on either track.

■ Despite their size, trains can be difficult to hear, especially in the "push" mode.

■ When you're at the station with children, keep them close to you at all times.

■ When waiting at a station, be aware that approaching trains may not be stopping at the station and can pass near you at

79 miles per hour.

■ When waiting to board a train, stand behind the yellow safety line at stations and don't cross to the center platform until the train stops.

■ Don't sit on the edge of the platform. All trains overhang the rails and require that space to operate.

■ Never drive onto a railroad crossing until you are sure the traffic ahead has left enough space to drive across without boxing you in. Do not shift gears while driving across the tracks. If your vehicle stalls on the crossing get everyone out and get off the tracks. Call 911 or (877) 723-7245 to report the situation.

■ Transit Watch: You can help keep the rails safe by reporting dangerous situations, such as children playing on the tracks or people hanging out along the rail right of way. Call (877) 723-7245 to report dangerous situations.

■ School and transit buses carrying passengers, as well as trucks carrying hazardous materials, are required to stop at all rail crossings. Be prepared to stop if you are following one of these vehicles.

DR. HENRY MAYER

Henry Mayer, a physician, photographer, life-long advocate for justice, racial equality, and conservation, and sixty-year resident of Woodside, passed peacefully of cancer at age ninety-five on August 17, 2009 at his home,



surrounded by family and dedicated caregivers.

Hank was born in 1914 in New York City, attended The Peddie School in New Jersey, graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Princeton University, and obtained his medical degree

from the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University. While on a hiking vacation in Colorado, he met Olive Hendricks from Maplewood, New Jersey. After their return to the East Coast, their relationship developed around many interests they had in common, particularly a love of the outdoors and travel. They married three weeks after the attack on Pearl Harbor in December, 1941. Hank served as a medical officer in the United States Navy for five years during World War II, attaining the rank of lieutenant commander. This service brought him and Ollie to California. At the war's end, they settled in Woodside and Hank started his medical practice in Redwood City, where he practiced with Vic Sborov until shortly before his death, becoming the oldest practicing physician in San Mateo County.

Hank was first and foremost a doctor. He loved people and practicing internal medicine. He was one of seven doctors who founded Sequoia Hospital in 1951, and remained part of the Sequoia community until his retirement one month before his death. The medical staff, nurses, and patients loved him not only for his diagnostic skill, but also for his sensitivity, generosity, and kindness.

Hank believed that all that is necessary for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing. In the 1930s, he smuggled money out of Germany for relatives his family brought to America to escape the Nazis. After the war, he provided free medical treatment for concentration camp victims. In the 1950s and '60s, he opposed McCarthyism, provided support to victims of blacklisting, and actively worked in the desegregation movement. Hank was a vocal opponent of the

war in Vietnam; he went to Vietnam in 1967 for the Committee for Responsibility to Save War-Burned and War-Injured Vietnamese Children to establish reliable casualty estimates and report on medical treatment of civilian war casualties. Hank was an early and consistent proponent of a woman's right to choose and a life long advocate for world peace and international understanding. His devotion to civic affairs took many forms over many years, including his service as a director of Californians for Population Stabilization. His wife Ollie was a leader in the environmental conservation movement, most notably with the Sierra Club with focus on the protection of the San Mateo County coast, and Hank actively and enthusiastically participated with Ollie in all those efforts.

Hank's love of photography began at Princeton with his work for the student newspaper. He became an accomplished nature and landscape photographer, whose pictures graced the walls of the homes of friends and family as well as those of Sequoia Hospital. He produced and filmed nine documentaries based on his travels abroad dealing with population growth and conservation; many of his films won national awards. He was most proud of the films that resulted from a year long trip around the world in 1968, where he studied medical systems and population growth while Ollie studied city planning. He enjoyed all aspects of photography, including working in his darkroom and with his beloved color printer.

Hank is survived by his wife of 67 years, Ollie, and their two children, Bob Mayer (Lisa) of San Francisco, and Judy O'Brien (Brad) of Menlo Park, along with his four grandchildren, Connor and Lauren O'Brien, and Reid and Drew Mayer.

Hank's was a life well lived. He enjoyed hiking in the mountains, traveling abroad with Ollie, spending time with his children and grandchildren, telling jokes over coffee at the hospital or at the dinner table, and making everyone pose for photos. He fought the good fight throughout his adult life, often when it was very unpopular to do so. A hero to his patients, friends, and family, Hank will be sorely missed.

A memorial gathering for friends and family is being planned for September 20, 2009 at 11:00 AM at the Sharon Heights Country Club in Menlo Park. Memorial contributions may be made to Californians for Population Stabilization (www.capsweb.org), Planned Parenthood (www.plannedparenthood.org), and Sequoia Hospital Foundation (www.sequoiahospitalfoundation.org).

PAID OBITUARY

JOIN THE CONVERSATION AT TOWN SQUARE
TheAlmanacOnline.com

JOHN DICKINSON MILBURN, III, M.D.

John, "Jack", Milburn passed away August 12, 2009 at the San Francisco Towers at the age of 88.

Dr. Milburn was born in East Hampton, Connecticut, son of John Dickinson Milburn and Laura May Hutton Milburn. His father was a general practitioner there.

He attended Colorado College and graduated from Dartmouth College. Following completion of medical school at Hahneman Medical School in Philadelphia, PA, Dr. Milburn served in the U.S. Navy. He moved to San Francisco after the Navy to complete Stanford University Medical School's residency in obstetrics and gynecology. He then opened a solo practice in Palo Alto where he remained for thirty years, retiring in 1987.

He delivered two generations of babies, and was noted for his careful attention to detail and his polite, respectful approach to the care of women. He was ahead of his time in his approach to the prevention of osteoporosis and heart disease in women. He was a member of the clinical faculty at Stanford and helped to train many residents in the field of ob/gyn.

Jack was a longtime resident of Woodside and was a familiar sight driving his white convertible with his Dalmatian, Courage, at his side. His home featured the "silver dollar saloon" where his friends and colleagues enjoyed good times with Jack who was a generous host. He was previously married to Myra Moss, of San Marino. Jack moved to the San Francisco Towers in 1998 where he continued to make many new friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents; brother, Robert Arthur Milburn, and sister, Jeanne Hutton Neakrans. He is survived by close friends, Loren and Erica Walden of Portola Valley, and Nancy Mason, MD of Palo Alto.

A memorial will be held at The San Francisco Towers, 1661 Pine Street, SF on Thursday, September 10 at 3 pm.

Contributions in his memory can be sent to the Heritage Foundation (www.heritage.org).

PAID OBITUARY

Sports

NEWS OF LOCAL ATHLETES AND TEAM SPORTS

Linda Bibbler named volunteer of the year

Linda Bibbler, a resident of Woodside for 40 years, received the Volunteer of the Year Award at the recent American Vaulting Association national championships in Lexington, Kentucky.

She co-founded the Woodside Vaulters club with her husband and daughter in 1990. It has grown to become one of the largest vaulting clubs in the U.S.

Vaulting is a sport involving gymnastics and dance on a moving horse.

Ms. Bibbler is a member of the U.S. Equestrian Federa-

tion board of directors, chair of the USEF Vaulting High Performance Committee, and has served on the USEF Vaulting Technical Committee since 1996.

She is a member of the organizing committee for the 2010 World Equestrian Games and



Linda Bibbler

the 2009 Concours International de Voltige.

She has served on the American Vaulting Association executive board and board of directors since 2007, and is a vice president of the association. She served as its international committee chair from 1991 to 1997.

Locally, she has planned and organized the Woodside Vaulters Spring Fest in Portola Valley since 1995.

For more information on Woodside Vaulters, go to woodsidevaulters.org/.

Woodside Vaulters' Katherine Wick named champion

Katherine Wick, 16, a member of the Woodside Vaulters club, was named the women's gold-level reserve champion at the American Vaulting Association Regional II championships on Aug. 9 in Watsonville. The region encompasses all of northern California, as well as northern Utah.

Equestrian vaulting is the sport of gymnastics and dance on the back of a moving horse. Performances are judged based on form, level of difficulty, and harmony with the horse.

Wick, a student at Woodside Priory School in Portola Valley, has been a member of the Woodside Vaulters equestrian vaulting

club for the past nine years.

During the competition, she vaulted on Dutch Warmbloods named Paradox and Sovira.

Woodside Vaulters was founded in 1990 and provides year-round instruction in competitive and recreational vaulting. For more information, go to woodsidevaulters.org.

Perkins twins sizzle in Boys 16 tennis doubles

The Perkins twins, Christian and Jesse, of Menlo Park won the Boys 16 Doubles championship Aug. 4 at Alpine Hills Tennis and Swim Club with a 7-6 (6); 7-6 (3) win over Michael Standifer and Brian Tashjian.

Their win follows a championship win at the Heat Wave Open held July 18 at the Lafayette Tennis Club. The boys also won the Northgate Junior Open on Aug. 8 at Northgate High School in Walnut Creek.

The Perkins twins are now in first place in Boys 16 Doubles in NorCal in the U.S. Tennis Association Grand Prix standings.

Christian and Jesse will be sophomores at Menlo-Atherton High School this fall.

Menlo Park Legends wrap up first season

The Menlo Park Legends finished their inaugural season with a 14-15 record, good for sixth out of the 12

Stable authorized by U.S. Pony Club

Life isn't fair, particularly when it comes to the availability of ponies as compared to the number of kids who would like to own one.

A note to the pony-less majority: if you're serious about riding, you don't have to own a pony or a horse. After learning the

BRIEFS



Christian, left, and Jesse Perkins display trophies won Aug. 4 at the Alpine Hills Tennis and Swim Club.

teams in their league.

The Legends, a newly formed amateur baseball team playing in the Western Baseball Association, won five of their last six games of the season. Their expansive roster featured 15 graduates of Menlo-Atherton High School, where they played their home games, and 10 Division 1 baseball players.

Founder David Klein (M-A 2005) has big ambitions for the program. He's hoping to expand

basics, riders can arrange leases and/or earn rides in exchange for working in the stables.

The U.S. Pony Club (USPC) offers training in the necessary skills. Locally, lessons, ponies and horses are available to those

See PONY, page 20



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:

Consideration of an Appeal of a Heritage Tree Permit denial at 1155 Santa Cruz Avenue.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Menlo Park, California, will hold a Public Hearing on the Determination of the Heritage Tree Removal Permit Appeal for 1155 Santa Cruz Avenue.

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 22nd day of September, 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



PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Adoption of a Transportation Impact Fee for City of Menlo Park

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Menlo Park, California, will hold a Public Hearing to consider the adoption of a Transportation Impact Fee for the City of Menlo Park concerning a new proposed fee for Transportation Improvements within the City. The amounts of the proposed fees are based on information which will be available to the public at least 10 days in advance of this Public Hearing at the Transportation Division.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Menlo Park will hold this Public Hearing on Tuesday, September 22, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., or as near as possible thereafter, in the City Council Chambers of the City of Menlo Park, Civic Center - 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, California, 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 Public Hearing".



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY 2009 CLASSES

Check out our website for exciting new classes offered this quarter-many classes available for all ages! Fun fitness, art, writing, dance and many more activities available for you and your whole family!

The fall quarter begins September 14th, classes are held in our beautiful Town Center sign up now as some classes and activities fill up fast.

Open registration now available online at www.portolavalley.com or you may sign up in person at Town Hall, 765 Portola Road. For more information call (650) 851-1700 ext. 200 or e-mail crodas@portolavalley.net



ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

TOWN OF ATHERTON
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

2009 CAPE SEAL PROJECT
PROJECT NO. 09-001

Notice is hereby given that SEALED BIDS will be received at the office of the City Clerk, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, California 94027, until 3:00 p.m. September 15, 2009, at which time they will be publicly opened and read, for performing the following work:

Performing of Cape seals per Town specifications on the listed streets which includes notifications, traffic control, prep work, oil and chip installation, compaction, sweeping, and re-stripping/pavement markings where needed. 1 year guarantee.

Bids must be for the entire work, and shall be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked: "Bid of (Contractor) for Atherton Cape Seal Project, Project No. 09-001, along with date and time of bid opening.

Plans and specifications may be obtained at the Town of Atherton Public Works Department, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton CA 94027, for a non-refundable fee of \$30.00. Additional important information is contained in Town of Atherton Standard Specifications, which is available for an additional \$20.00. If shipping is requested, there will be an additional charge of \$20.00.

Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of cash, a cashier's or certified check or bid bond for not less than ten percent (10%) of the amount of the bid, as a guarantee that the bidder, if awarded the Contract, will fulfill the terms of the bid. The Town of Atherton reserves the right to refuse any or all proposals.

Bidders are hereby notified that, pursuant to California Civil Code Sections 3247 and 3248 and Standard Specifications Section 3.02, the successful bidder will be required to provide payment and performance bonds in the amounts stated in Section 3.02 of the Standard Specifications.

Bidders are hereby notified that provisions of California Labor Code regarding prevailing wages are applicable to the work to be performed under this contract. Pursuant to Section 1773 et seq. the general prevailing wage rates have been determined by the Director of the California Department of Industrial Relations and appear in the California Prevailing Wage Rates. Copies are on file at the office of the City Engineer and are available to interested parties upon request. The successful bidder shall post a copy of the wage rates at the job site.

The Contractor may elect to receive 100 percent of payments due under the contract, without retention of any portion of the payment by the Town of Atherton, by depositing securities of equivalent value to the retention amount in accordance with the provisions of Section 22300 of the California Public Contracts Code.

The successful bidder must be licensed under the provisions of Chapter 9, Division 3, of the California Business and Professions Code to do the type of work contemplated in the project at the time the contract is awarded and shall be skilled and regularly engaged in the general class or type of work called for under the Contract. Failure of the bidder to obtain proper and adequate licensing for an award of the contract shall constitute a failure to execute the contract and result in the forfeiture of the bidder's bid security.

Each bidder shall submit with this bid a statement setting forth his/her/its experience and qualifications. The statement shall be made on the forms provided by the Town and must accompany each bid. The three lowest bidders will be required to submit subcontractor's experience and qualifications statements within 48 hours of the bid opening, on forms provided by the Town.

By submitting a bid in response to this advertisement for bids, the bidder shall be conclusively deemed to have read, understood and agreed with all of the information and materials contained in the bid documents, including but not limited to the construction contract, the standard specifications, the special provisions, the required nature and amount of insurance and the documentation evidencing said insurance.

Any questions regarding the project should be directed to the Streets Superintendent, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, CA 94027, telephone (650) 752-0541, preferably no later than five days before bid opening. Requests for Information may be faxed to (650) 688-6539. Plan holder's lists may be obtained by calling (650) 752-0570.

By: _____
Duncan L. Jones, P.E., City Engineer

Date: _____

Sacred Heart Prep kicks off season with high hopes

By Tim Goode

Palo Alto Online Staff

SPORTS

Check TheAlmanacOnline for more sports stories, photos and game results.

For some, it's springtime in Paris. For others, it's Christmas in New York City. For Sacred Heart Prep football coach Pete Lavorato, the most magical time of the year is November and high school football playoffs.

Last year, Sacred Heart Prep rampaged through November and its first Central Coast Section tournament before losing in the December championship to Sacred Heart Cathedral.

"My favorite thing about high school football is playing in November," Lavorato said. "That's the goal every year. You don't have to worry about putting new things in . . . You just get ready to play. Last year was so much fun."

The Gators finished the season 11-1-1 after earning a co-championship for the Peninsula Athletic League Ocean Division. For its efforts, the Gators, along with co-champ Kings' Academy, were moved into the PAL Bay Division, one of the section's five "A" leagues. In turn, Menlo School and South San Francisco were sent down to the Ocean Division, a "B" League.

It didn't take long for the Gators to start a program and move into the big time. Prep is 37-17-1 over the past five seasons and has ascended from the Private School Athletic League to the North Coast Section's Bay Football League to the PAL's top division. This year, the Gators may have enough to challenge the best in the league — predicted to be Aragon, Kings' Academy and Terra Nova.

Prep's offense, which averaged 453 yards per game last year, will have to replace the savvy play of graduated quarterback Ryan Sakowski. The Gators will attempt to do so with the speed of junior quarterback Colin Terndrup, one of the fastest runners on a speedy team.

Prep returns two of the top runners in the area in seniors Victor Ojeda and Matt Walter. Last season, both rushed for more than 1,000 yards and averaged better than seven yards per carry.

Ojeda and Walter will make their way behind the blocking of center John Oppenheimer (6-foot, 260 pounds). "He's the best lineman I've ever coached here," Lavorato said. Joining Oppenheimer will be Brian Moran (6-6, 300), Brian McFarland (210), Jeff Avila (210), Cameron Palmer (6-5, 275) and Rooney Pitchford.

Receivers will be returning starter Greg Hook and junior Tomas O'Donnell. Ty Cobb and John Lahlouh will share tight end and play defense.

Defensively, many of the linemen will go both ways. Anthony Tran will play linebacker or in the defensive backfield. Matt Hardy started at inside linebacker as a sophomore and will be back at that position. Senior Ryan Lockareff has been playing very well in preseason workouts and has worked into a starting linebacker role along with classmate Ian Ritchie.

The defensive backfield features Chris Gaertner, who will also get carries at tailback, Cam Pringle and Matt Thomas.

The Gators play a nonleague schedule against Mt. Eden (Hayward), Riordan, Valley Christian-Dublin and Silver Creek before opening league play against Terra Nova.

"Hopefully we can beat a couple of teams in nonleague play and get on a roll," Lavorato said. "Our goal is to get to the playoffs."

PONY

continued from page 19

21 and under at the Glenoaks Stables at 3639 Alpine Road in Portola Valley, which was recently named an official Pony Club Riding Center, Glenoaks spokeswoman Deb Doyle said in a statement.

Glenoaks is offering a four-lesson package for \$225, Ms. Doyle said. Pony Club lessons follow established standards and are designed to appeal to youth who do not own or have "consistent access" to a horse, according to the USPC Web site.

Included in the lesson plan are riding on flat ground, jumping, and riding in open territory, with students earning ratings according to the skills they acquire, and with each rating being more difficult than the previous one, Ms. Doyle said.

The lessons include general knowledge about horses and how to care for them, she said. Pony Club students are expected to be at the barn three or four times a week.

For more information, contact Rhonda Weiss at 854-4955 or glenoaksstables@gmail.com.

■ 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 reports:

■ Job site "cleared out" of equipment valued at \$60,000, Odell Place, Aug. 31.

■ Construction tools stolen, Faxon Forest Lane, Aug. 31.

Grand theft report: Tools valued at \$1,000 stolen from back of truck, Fair Oaks Lane, Aug. 31.

Child/elder abuse report: Menlo-Atherton High School at 555 Middlefield Road, Sept. 3.

MENLO PARK

Grand theft reports:

■ Two bicycles stolen, 1200 block of Sevier Ave., Aug. 28.

■ Car stereo system and remote control stolen from vehicle, 400 block of Willow Road, Aug. 31.

Commercial burglary reports:

■ 4600 Bohannon Drive, Sept. 1.

■ Lock cut on gate, 200 block of Constitution Drive, Sept. 2.

Auto burglary reports:

■ Window smashed and items stolen from vehicle, 800 block of Coleman Ave., Sept. 2.

■ Two vehicles burglarized, 1000 block of Almanor Ave., Sept. 2.

Comments sought on Bohannon office-hotel project

Menlo Park residents interested in responding to the environmental impact report for the Menlo Gateway project proposed by developer David Bohannon must do so by Sept. 21.

The city's Planning Commission will meet at 7 p.m. Sept. 14 to discuss the report, in the council chambers in the Civic Center complex between Laurel and Alma streets. Residents can provide feedback on the report during that meeting, or submit comments in writing by 5:30 p.m. Sept. 21.

■ BRIEFS

For more information, or to view the report, visit tinyurl.com/menlogateway. Contact Thomas Rogers in the planning department with questions: 330-6722 / throgers@menlopark.org.

Free compost at Bayfront Park

Free compost and mulch can be picked up by Menlo Park residents

at Bedwell Bayfront Park on five consecutive Saturdays, beginning Sept. 12, and concluding Oct. 10.

The compost will be available from 9 a.m. to sunset each Saturday. Residents must bring their own shovels and containers. The material is generated through the curbside collection program.

The park is located near the intersection of Marsh Road and Bayfront Expressway. For more information, contact Regina Wheeler with the city: rmwheeler@menlopark.org.

PV council to discuss citizen task force

The Portola Valley Town Council is set to discuss a proposal that would schedule a public meeting to discuss wages, benefits and staffing in Town Hall, and create a citizens task force to review and pass judgment on the resulting action plan.

The proposal is an outgrowth of a recent grand jury report that examined the upward trajectory of wages and benefits for public employees. The council meets at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 9, in the Historic Schoolhouse at 765 Portola Road.

The council will also consider a \$12,000 contract with a landscaping company to maintain the grounds of the Town Center, which is sown with native species that need an educated eye to distinguish them from weeds.

■ BIRTHS

Menlo Park

■ Sarah-Jayne and Christopher Couhault, a daughter, July 18, Sequoia Hospital.

Woodside

■ Laura and Andy Poppink, a daughter, July 15, Sequoia Hospital.

Emerald Hills

■ Elizabeth Powers and Libby Albanese, a son, June 20, Sequoia Hospital.

Obituary policy

The Almanac publishes obituaries about people who lived in Atherton, Menlo Park, Portola Valley and Woodside, or played a prominent role in these communities. These obituaries are news stories, written by Almanac staff writers, based on information provided by mortuaries and family members. There is no charge. Due to space limits and other reasons, these stories may not include all the information a family wishes. Some families choose to write their own memorial announcements, and purchase space to publish them in the Almanac. For information about that, e-mail Blanca Yoc in the Advertising Department at byoc@pawebweekly.com or call 326-8210, ext. 221.

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

Subscriptions are \$60 for one year and \$100 for two years.



WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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

TOWN SQUARE FORUM

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

EMAIL your views to:

letters@almanacnews.com and note this it is a letter to the editor in the subject line.

MAIL or deliver to:

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

CALL the Viewpoint desk at 854-2690, ext. 222.

Public meetings on contract talks a good idea

Anyone who believes the citizen-based San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury is an unfailingly neutral body incapable of political play is not living in the real world. But to dismiss its recent report on escalating employee costs in the county's cities as "clearly ideologically driven, and clearly politically driven," as Menlo Park City Councilwoman Kelly Fergusson did at a recent meeting, is just not reasonable or fair.

Cities and public agencies across the state are in serious financial trouble because of fast-rising employee costs that include generous pension and post-employment health-care benefits. When the economy

was in good shape, most of the pay packages were agreed to with very little public scrutiny. That's all changed.

The civil grand jury studied the situation at the regional level, and issued its report and recommendations. While the report isn't perfect, it has valuable information and recommendations that can be of help to cities struggling to rein in employee costs in order to continue needed services for the public. And, it has the added benefit of helping to raise public awareness of a serious problem that can no longer be ignored.

The City Council met on Aug. 25 to discuss the city staff-generated response to the grand jury report. It was there that Ms. Fergusson launched her attack, saying the grand jury "failed miserably" in its task, and denouncing former council member Lee Duboc for a series of "hysterical" e-mails she has sent to

residents over a number of months regarding employee costs.

The city's response to the report was reasoned and civil, even while identifying errors, or assertions that were stated too simplistically. But, like the grand jury report, it wasn't without its own spin. For example, it justified the city's staggering 30 percent salary increase for police sergeants by citing "three years of staffing losses, totaling 30 officers (of a department of 50), due to Menlo Park's extremely low pay rate compared to other Peninsula communities..." While those figures are accurate, the stated reason for the exodus ignored the extremely low morale that, according to a number of officers who left, was due more to poor leadership than pay.

The council ended up approving the city's response to the report on a 4-1 vote, with Councilman John Boyle opposed. He wanted to postpone the vote to give the council time to fine-tune it, and to make it less "defensive." He also wanted the council to agree to one of the recommendations in the report: to hold public hearings before initiating closed session negotiations.

Although Mayor Heyward Robinson said the council was not rejecting that idea, and that he would like to see a staff report on the possibility of such hearings, the tepid response wasn't promising. We urge the council to call for public meetings to hear community concerns on employee costs and future negotiations; to heighten awareness of the highly complex considerations the city faces in setting compensation; and to hear ideas from a community brimming with creative thinkers willing to put their talent and energy toward a solution.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS

Our readers write

Woodside school board member won't run again

Editor:

It has been an honor to serve my community as a Woodside Elementary School Board member for the past four years. During this time I tried to approach every issue fairly and with an open mind. My term ends this November, when there will be an election to fill three of the five board seats.

As The Almanac reported on Aug. 12, several candidates declared themselves for this election. All of them are fellow parents of current students at Woodside. I know them all to be intelligent, caring and thoughtful people who are sure to do an excellent job if elected.

After much reflection, I have decided to withdraw my candidacy. Given the high caliber of the other candidates, I am sure the school will be well served. If needed in the future, I will be happy to serve my community again. But for the next few years, I want to spend more time directly supporting my two



Our Regional Heritage

Atherton's oldest remaining home was built in 1866 by Commodore James T. Watkins on property near Ashfield Road. It was moved to Isabella Avenue, where it remained for many years. In 1998, it was moved to where it is today, on Alejandra Avenue. Before it could be moved, it was cut in half and its porches were removed, but the house was restored once it arrived at its new site.

children's many endeavors.

Unfortunately, although the election is not until November, it seems to already be too late to "officially" withdraw and remove my name from the bal-

lot. I am doing my best to publicize my decision to minimize confusion.

I encourage everyone to attend the candidates' forum sponsored by the League of Women

Voters' on Tuesday, Oct. 20, at 7 p.m. in room 39 at Woodside School.

Elianne Frenkel-Popell
Incumbent, Woodside
Elementary School District board

Bohannon project would generate much-needed funds for city coffers

By John Celedon

Menlo Park is facing unprecedented economic challenges as local revenues from sales, property and utility taxes decline. As a result, we must be proactive about finding solutions to maintain the quality of city services that we have come to expect.

So, what should we do?

First, we should continue to prudently manage the tax dollars that we do have. This year, the City Council has managed to balance the budget with minimal visible impact to city services, through deferred spending and dipping into the city's reserves. But, as City Manager Glen Rojas reminded the City Council recently, Menlo Park must adapt to the new economy by focusing on new revenue-generating business opportunities.

Secondly, we must increase tax revenue, and that is indeed a top priority. The only way to achieve this without placing a higher burden on city residents is to encourage and promote new economic ventures. One new venture has already opened.

The Rosewood Hotel, near Sand Hill Road and Highway 280, is providing net new tax revenue to Menlo Park — as well as several hundred new jobs.

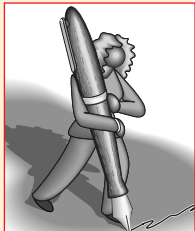
Another exciting opportunity is the Menlo Gateway office and hotel project, proposed by the Bohannon family, led by Menlo Park resident Dave Bohannon. Menlo Gateway would sit on the eastern outskirts of Menlo Park, re-developing existing under-utilized industrial land east of Highway 101 near Marsh Road. The location is ideal for offices and hotels — next to major

transportation corridors.

Clearly, it will provide net positive new tax revenue to Menlo Park in the coming years. The city's own fiscal analysis estimates a net positive inflow of \$1.6 million annually. And clearly, it will provide new jobs. Approximately 1,900 jobs will be created during construction and 2,300 permanent jobs will be available once the project is complete.

The Menlo Gateway proposal is winding its way through the city review process and is scheduled for a final vote by the City Council in the spring of 2010. The Menlo Park City Council needs to make sure this project receives its full attention, advocacy and action. The proposed project can be viewed at www.menlogateway.com.

John Celedon is chair of the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee. He is writing on behalf of the committee.



GUEST OPINION

Legislation will help sea otters recover

By Gloria Eddie

Thanks to local Representative Anna Eshoo, who voted in favor of the Sea Otter Research and Recovery Act, an iconic California native that needs our help may soon receive it.

From a remnant population of fewer than 1,000 animals worldwide — and only 20 in California — the sea otter has struggled back. The California population increased to 2,400 in 1995 before mysteriously beginning to decline.

Urban runoff, or storm water, is the largest source of ocean pollution. Cities are required to develop plans to mitigate the impacts of urban runoff. Plans include measures to contain oils and metals from roadways and cars, sediment from grading activities, chemicals from swimming pools, detergents from washing cars, pesticides from landscaping, and sewage waste from leaking sewage laterals or illegal bypasses. Cities are required to educate the public about how their storm drain system most often connects directly to the local streams or ocean.

Urban runoff plans can also drive development standards, requiring pervious pavements, new designs for streets and sidewalks, and open space for storm water percolation.

In a hopeful move to reconsider off-shore oil drilling, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar extended the public comment period for the Minerals Management Service's proposed five-year offshore oil and gas plan by 180 days. This plan was drawn up during the end of the Bush administration to form the basis for making future decisions on what the Outer Continental Shelf program should include.

Offshore oil and gas leasing poses a seemingly endless list of harms to the ocean, caused by both large spills and gradual degradation of the ocean associated with drilling-related activities. The dangers range from the destruction of marine habitat, to vast long-term ecological impacts. Sea otters are especially vulnerable to oil; thousands died in Alaska 20 years ago with the Exxon Valdez tanker spill. A single oil spill, if big enough, could wipe out the entire population of California sea otters.

Additionally, the Central Coast is a hub of agricultural activity with approximately 600,000 acres devoted to irrigated farmland. When properly managed, runoff into public waters from irrigated agriculture is eliminated. When not properly managed, runoff carries nutrients, pesticides, and

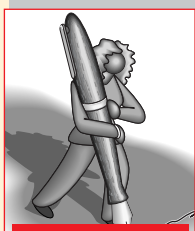
legacy chemicals (DDT) to our rivers and oceans. Our sea otters are carrying huge loads of toxic chemicals washed from farms.

Monterey Coastkeeper, part of an otter advocacy group, began a program designed to monitor runoff from farms. Samples were collected by a trained water quality program manager and sent to certified labs for testing. Results will be discussed with growers and farm owners. Growers enrolled in programs to reduce farm runoff will be encouraged. Farmers not enrolled in progressive programs will be asked to make changes in their farming practices.

The program is meant to assist farmers reach clean water standards. In the circumstance that a grower is found to be polluting our public water, and refuses to participate in programs to reduce pollution, water quality monitoring results will be passed on to regulating agencies for enforcement.

With the House of Representatives' substantial majority, the Sea Otter Research and Recovery Act now goes to the Senate. Out of 53 California districts, only 11 representatives did not support it. Thanks to Representative Anna Eshoo, among others, for making it possible.

Gloria Eddie lives on Cambridge Avenue in Menlo Park



GUEST OPINION



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF MENLO PARK PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING SEPTEMBER 21, 2009

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the City of Menlo Park, California, is scheduled to review the following items:

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

Use Permit/William Anton Patzer/327 Pope Street: Request for a use permit to demolish an existing single-story, single-family residence and construct a new two-story, single-family residence and detached garage on a substandard lot with regard to lot width in the R-1-U (Single-Family Urban) zoning district. As part of the proposed development, a 16-inch heritage locust in good condition in the right rear corner of the property would be removed.

Use Permit, Architectural Control, Tentative Subdivision Map and Environmental Review/Joe Colonna for 1706 ECR LLC/1706 El Camino Real: Request for a use permit, architectural control, tentative subdivision map, and environmental review to demolish an existing one-story, 6,875-square-foot commercial building (formerly Gaylords Restaurant) and construct a new two-story, 10,148-square-foot office building for medical/dental office use and the related on-site and off-site improvements, including new entry monuments on Buckthorn Way, at 1706 El Camino Real located in the C-4 (General Commercial, applicable to El Camino Real) zoning district. The proposed project would require the following approvals: Use Permit for construction of a new building; 2) Architectural Control for design review of the new building and related site improvements; 3) Tentative Subdivision Map for the creation of six medical/office condominium units within the buildings; and 4) Mitigated Negative Declaration to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project. "In addition, the applicant is requesting approval of a Below Market Rate (BMR) agreement for payment of in-lieu fees associated with the City's BMR Housing Program."

Use Permit Extension/St. Patrick's Seminary and University/320 Middlefield Road: Request for a five-year extension of a use permit for a temporary modular building on an existing seminary site in the R-1-S (Single-Family Suburban) zoning district. The revised use permit would expire in 2014.

Use Permit and Architectural Control/Phillips Brooks School/2245 Avy Avenue: Request for use permit and architectural control to install a new 50-foot long by 64-foot wide metal sports court canopy on an existing playground area at a private school located in the P-F (Public Facilities) zoning district. The canopy would be approximately 26 feet in height to the center ridge line of the canopy. No other changes to the buildings, conditions or operations of the school are proposed.

STUDY SESSION ITEM

Study Session/Monte Rosa Land Company, LLC/2742 Sand Hill Road: Request for a study session regarding the demolition of an existing 835 square-foot deli building and construction of a new 8,030 square-foot office building and associated site improvements located in an existing office complex in the C-1-C (Administrative, Professional and Research District, Restrictive) zoning district.

PUBLIC MEETING ITEMS - None

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that said Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on public hearing items in the Council Chambers of the City of Menlo Park, located at 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, on Monday, **September 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.

The project file may be viewed 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 Department of Community Development, 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park. Please call the Planning Division if there are any questions and/or for complete agenda information (650) 330-6702.

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

DATED: September 2, 2009 Deanna Chow, Senior Planner
PUBLISHED: September 9, 2009 Menlo Park Planning Commission

Visit our Web site for Planning Commission public hearing, agenda, and staff report information: www.menlopark.org



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Information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed. Square footage and/or acreage information contained herein has been received from seller, existing reports, appraisals, public records and/or other sources deemed reliable. However, neither seller nor listing agent has verified this information. If this information is important to buyer in determining whether to buy or to purchase price, buyer should conduct buyer's own investigation. Photography by Bernard André

