



RISING STAR: Teenage chef starts
her own catering business [See Section 2]

The Almanac

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

MAY 5, 2010 | VOL. 45 NO. 36



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Hundreds march in May Day parade

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Photo by Dave Boyce/The Almanac

Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District stands amid the rubble of a fire that destroyed a 1920s-era two-story home at 825 Berkeley Ave. in Menlo Park early on the morning of April 27.

Menlo Park man killed in fire likely inhaled superheated air, say coroner and fire chief

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

The Menlo Park man who died in a fire that nearly completely consumed a two-story Berkeley Avenue home on the morning of April 27 was Kelly Brosnan, 46.

Mr. Brosnan, San Mateo County Coroner Robert Foucault told The Almanac, died as a result of “inhalation of products of combustion,” by which he said he meant soot and superheated air.

Firefighters found Mr. Brosnan lying next to a deflated air mattress in a first-floor bedroom in the one unburned part of the house. He may have tried to stand up, encountered superheated air, taken a breath and died, his lungs seared from the heat, Menlo Park Fire Protection District Chief Harold Schapelhouman said.

“One breath and it’ll kill you right away,” Mr. Foucault said.

The fire was a furious one, Chief Schapelhouman said at the scene later that day. He noted the absence of a roof and supporting beams and the blackened, skeletal, spindly uprights — studs that,

unlike today’s lumber, actually measured 2 inches by 4 inches. (The house was built in the 1920s or 1930s, he said.)

“That’s really unusual, to see that depth of burn,” he added, pointing to what firefighters call “alligator” charring for its scale-like surface texture. “There’s nothing (left) there. That’s a long time in burning. ... It could have been preheating for hours. I’d say this fire was burning for maybe 30 minutes before anybody discovered (it).”

It was a very hot fire, too, the chief said, pointing out how it had blistered paint on a neighboring garage and blackened a redwood tree and fence. The home’s melted aluminum window frames meant a temperature of at least 1,000 degrees, he said.

Because the fire had a head start and a high potential for injury, firefighters fought it from the outside, he said.

“Every fireman wants to go to a fire until you deal with something like this,” he said, referring to the fatality. “All of a sudden, you’re sort of brought up to the reality of what your job is.”

The fire appears to have start-

ed accidentally, Chief Schapelhouman said. The blaze was reported at about 1:30 a.m. at 825 Berkeley Ave. in a tree-filled neighborhood.

Firefighters arrived within four minutes and quickly extinguished the flames, Chief Schapelhouman said. The fire was under control by 2 a.m.

Peter Farmer, who lives next door, said Mr. Brosnan rented the house for the past six or seven years and lived alone.

Mr. Farmer was sleeping when he, his wife and their two daughters awoke to the sound of explosions, looked out the window and saw flames pouring from the house next door.

“The flames were intense and probably reaching up 30 or 40 feet,” Mr. Farmer said. “It was quite frightening to wake up and see the house completely in flames.”

Chief Schapelhouman said the explosions were propane cylinders and aerosol cans that were kept in a wooden shack behind the burning home. ■

Bay City News Service contributed to this report.

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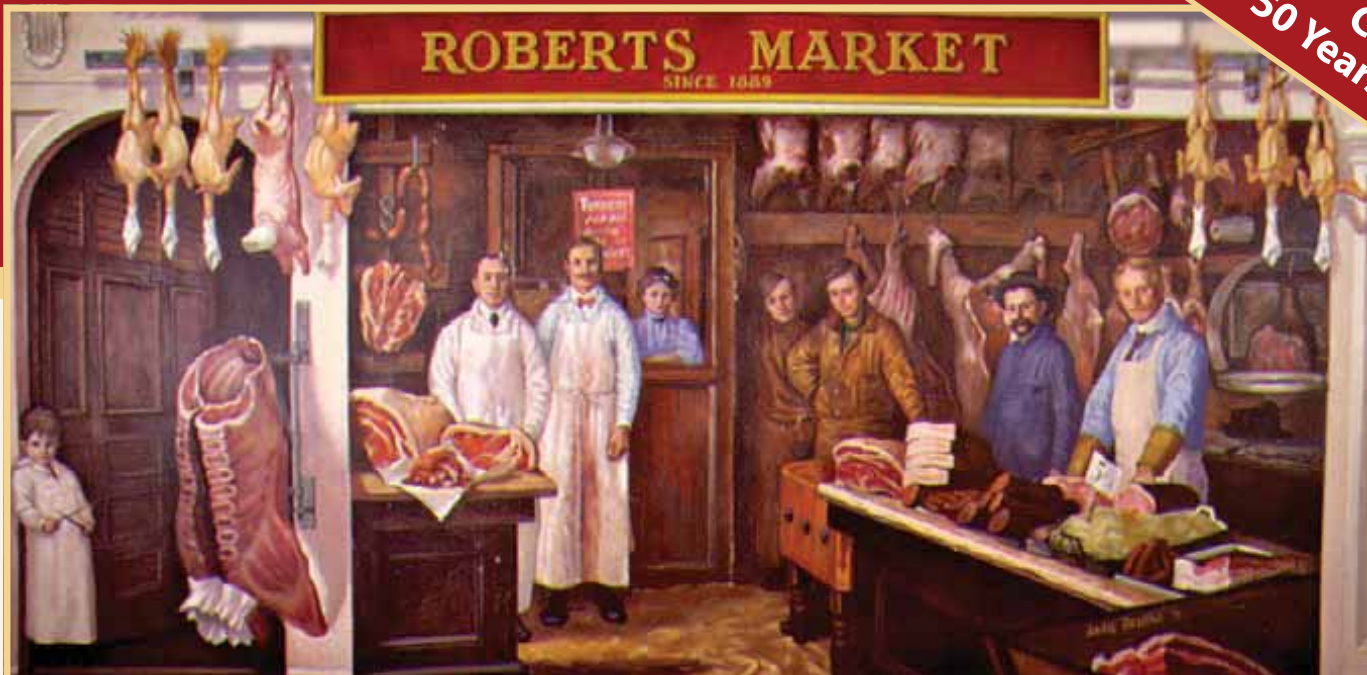


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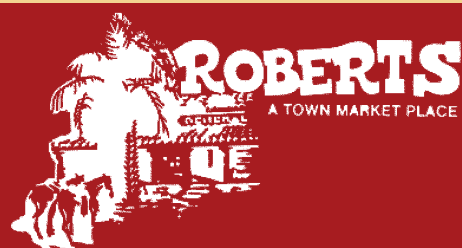
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Local News

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Pension reform advocates turn in petitions

By Sean Howell

Almanac Staff Writer

People trickled onto the sun-baked patio outside Menlo Park's city administration building to join a bubbly crowd as 1 p.m. approached on Monday, waiting for more of their number to arrive. Then somehow a decision was reached, the doors opened, and the crowd flowed into the building, pooling in front of the city clerk's desk upstairs.

If the two men sitting on a nearby bench had made a bet on what the people were there for, the one who put his money on pension reform probably would have gotten pretty favorable odds. He also would have walked away with money in his pocket.

"This is about Menlo Park being a leader, and taking the initiative," Roy Thiele-Sardina, a leader of the group, told a couple journalists outside the building. "The

initiative we're proposing is the fiscally responsible thing to do."

The group said it gathered more than 3,100 signatures from Menlo Park residents in the past six weeks, over half-again the 1,882 required to put an initiative measure on the ballot. They collected so many signatures, in fact, that the city will likely be forced to hold a special election if it isn't able to arrange everything in time to present the measure to voters in November, according to City Clerk Margaret Roberts.

Mr. Thiele-Sardina and Mr. Riggs, the other leader of the initiative drive, said they had forgotten all about that possibility. After Ms. Roberts told him that it would cost the city about \$60,000, Mr. Thiele-Sardina assumed roughly the pleased and sheepish expression of a kid who has broken a neighbor's window with a home run ball (the men said they had

meant to avoid gathering that many signatures).

If it makes it to the ballot, and if voters approve it, the initiative would scale back public pensions for new city employees so that they would receive three-fifths of their annual salary after retiring at 60 (under the current formula, they receive four-fifths at 55). It would also require the City Council to send any future "enhancement" in pension benefits to the voters.

Many of the 100 or so volunteers who helped with the campaign came out for the event. They looked over Mr. Thiele-Sardina's shoulder as Ms. Roberts checked the paperwork. They chatted and took photos of each other, but mostly just stood there, looking pleased and a touch apprehensive, happy to have been part of something that felt momentous, waiting to see what would happen next. ■



Photo by Sean Howell/The Almanac

Pension reform advocates said they turned in more than 3,100 signatures on Monday to put a "pension reform" initiative on the ballot. Henry Riggs (left) and Roy Thiele-Sardina (center) waited as City Clerk Margaret Roberts checked their paperwork.

Menlo council set to impose two-tier pension system

By Sean Howell

Almanac Staff Writer

As the bureaucratic gears start turning to verify a citizen-led "pension reform" ballot initiative, Menlo Park's City Council looks set to impose a "two-tier" pension system on the city's largest union, similar to the one in the initiative.

The system would increase retirement age for non-police city employees from 55 to 60, and would decrease pension benefits from a maximum of four-fifths of annual salary to three-fifths. While the council is discussing imposing it on the 152 employees represented by Service Employees International Union (SEIU), the system would only go into place if the city negotiates the same deal with the city's middle management employees when their contract expires in 2011.

Henry Riggs, a leader of the "pension reform" drive, said Monday that the council's potential action would not affect his group's efforts, noting that the imposition is only temporary and contingent on future negotiations, and that the pension initiative would also

require voter approval of any future pension enhancements.

The terms the council will consider at its meeting Tuesday, May 4, would also include a salary freeze, and a provision that would potentially increase employees' contributions to future pension and health care costs.

The terms are similar to those agreed to by the union representing middle-management employees in December. While the city initially made the same offer to both unions, SEIU rejected it, according to Personnel Director Glen Kramer. Negotiations have been at a standstill ever since.

Since December, the council's position on the two-tier system has apparently shifted. In a staff report, Mr. Kramer cites the continued economic downturn, as well as political factors, including the "public perception that the existing plans in place ... are excessive when compared to the private sector."

The "pension reform" group began gathering signatures for its campaign after the city agreed to that initial contract, and the issue has generated a lot of public interest since the reces-

Yoriko Kishimoto: living the dream

By Gennady Sheyner

Palo Alto Weekly

Of the three Democrats running for Ira Ruskin's seat in the 21st Assembly District, Yoriko Kishimoto is the only one who can boast of being a "proven futurist."

It's been more than two decades since Ms. Kishimoto co-wrote the book "The Third Century," which predicted that America's entrepreneurial spirit, democratic system and tendency to attract the best foreign talent would give the nation a major long-term advantage over Europe and Japan. These days, she is struck by how many of the prophecies in the book came true.

For Ms. Kishimoto, California presents the same challenges and opportunities as the nation at large: a dysfunctional Legislature, fierce competition from abroad, and an education system that's gradually slipping. But she believes that, of the three candidates, she is uniquely positioned to lead the state forward. She didn't just study the statistics about foreign workers succeeding in America, she became one.

Ms. Kishimoto, 54, sees herself as the "face of California." Born in Japan, she immigrated to America as a child, learned English, earned a master's degree in business from Stanford University, and started

a management consulting business. She was elected to the Palo Alto City Council in 2001 and had what she calls her "watershed moment" six years later, when she became the city's first Asian-American mayor.

"Of the 15 mayors in Santa Clara County, five were Asian and all five were first-generation Americans," Ms. Kishimoto said in a recent interview. "That's a true testament to the robustness of our economy."

During her eight years on the Palo Alto council, Ms. Kishimoto never shied away from pushing for her top priorities: walkable neighborhoods, safer bike paths, a functional public-transit system, climate protection and land conservation. She routinely subjected developers and planning staff to grueling Q-and-A sessions and voted against any project that she felt was inconsistent with the city's long-term vision.

Last year, she voted against Palo Alto's three largest proposed developments: Alma Plaza, the College Terrace Centre, and the proposed hotel for the Palo Alto



Photo by Veronica Weber/Palo Alto Weekly

Yoriko Kishimoto



This is one in a series of stories on candidates for the state Assembly's 21st District seat in the June 8 Democratic primary. The district includes The Almanac's entire circulation area.

Bowl site. All three were ultimately approved despite her opposition.

Ms. Kishimoto has also emerged as one of the Peninsula's leading critics of the proposed high-speed-rail system. In October 2008, she joined the City Council in passing a resolution urging residents to support the state-wide Proposition 1A, which provided \$9.95 billion for the project. She now says she regrets casting that vote.

Ms. Kishimoto said she still supports having a high-speed-rail system, but is disappointed with the way the planning process for the new system has played out. In February 2009, she attended a few public outreach meetings on the project and found some of the information coming out of the meetings vague and troubling.

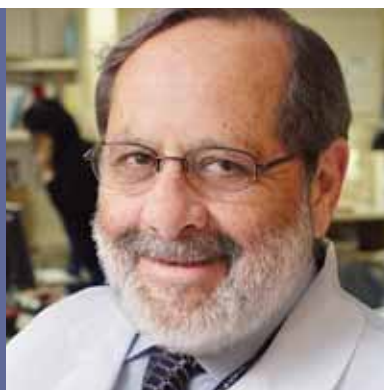
In the coming months, she reached out to neighboring communities and helped found the Peninsula Cities Consortium, a coalition that includes Menlo

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See PENSION, page 8



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Election results to be posted Tuesday night

Results for the all-mail special parcel tax elections for the Menlo Park City and the Portola Valley school districts will be posted online at 8:05 p.m. Tuesday, May 4, according to Warren Slocum, chief elections officer.

Go to AlmanacNews.com for updates.

There's still time for voters in the two school districts to cast ballots, but they must be dropped off by 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 4, at the Elections Office at 40 Tower Road in San Mateo.



Alternatively, they may be dropped off at a city hall in the district by the office's closing time on May 4. For the Menlo Park district election, ballots may be dropped off at city hall in Atherton, 91 Ashfield Road; or in Menlo Park at 701 Laurel St. In the Portola Valley district, voters may drop off ballots at

the town hall at 765 Portola Road.

In the Portola Valley election, Measure D calls for a four-year, \$168 annual parcel tax.

Measure C in the Menlo Park election calls for a seven-year, \$178 annual parcel tax. Both require a two-thirds yes vote in order to pass.

Go to shapethefuture.org and click on the "Track and Confirm" button to confirm that the elections office received your ballot.

Atherton grapples with town's 'unfunded liability'

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

In the short term, the town of Atherton must wrestle with a projected \$1.2 million shortfall as it crafts its 2010-11 budget. But it's the long-term outlook, which is clouded by an unfunded liability that has reached nearly \$8 million, that has some Town Council members even more troubled.

Spending in the proposed \$10.4 million budget is down from last year's \$11 million, but the council will have to find more spending cuts in spending, or boost revenues with higher fees, to balance the budget.

The council looked at the draft budget for the first time at an April 26 study session. With Mayor Kathy McKeithen out of town and absent from the meeting, the other four council members expressed concern about the town's unfunded liability for post-retirement health care costs promised to employees. An actuarial study placed that cost at \$7.7 million in the current fiscal year, according to Louise Ho, the town's finance director.

Cities and special districts throughout California for years have been struggling with the so-called "other post-retirement benefits" costs, which do not include pensions, and some have been setting aside money each

year to build a fund to ensure the money is there when retirees need it.

The town put money aside for the post-retirement costs for the first time this fiscal year, City Manager Jerry Gruber reminded the council.

Based on the actuarial report, the town should pay a specified amount each year for the next 30 years to pay off the unfunded liability, Ms. Ho said after the meeting. The specified amount for 2010-11 is \$655,000, but the city manager is recommending funding half that amount, or \$327,000, for the next fiscal year unless the town's financial position improves, she said.

Clearly uncomfortable with the size of the unfunded liability and the projected \$1.2 million shortfall, Councilman Jerry Carlson asked town staff and the town's Finance Committee to put together a five-year plan to review town costs and address a "cost curve that is steeper than the revenue curve."

"And the unfunded liability is key in this," he said.

Dealing with the unfunded liability "is not going to be fun, and it's not going to be easy," but it can't be ignored, he said.

Property tax revenue

Atherton's property tax revenue may not be as "flat" as that of

other Bay Area towns, but this year's revenue increase is far less than what the town experienced during better economic times when real estate values soared. Ms. Ho said projections from the county show that property tax revenue will increase by only 1.2 percent this year.

The draft budget includes no money for employee raises, and doesn't touch the \$873,620 general fund reserve. It does, however, spend \$344,000 from the building department's \$406,546 operating reserve.

Council members made it clear that they were committed to using the \$1.8 million in annual parcel tax revenues only for what voters were told they would be used for: public works projects and public safety — not for balancing the budget.

They also supported budgeting \$100,000 toward costs related to the town's involvement in the high-speed rail issue, which includes consultant fees and possible legal costs.

The council is expected to review a more complete draft of the budget at its May 19 meeting. ▀

■ TOWN SQUARE

Post your views and comments on TownSquare: www.TheAlmanacOnline.com

National Merit scholarships go to six local students

Five seniors at Menlo-Atherton High School and one from Menlo School have earned National Merit scholarships of \$2,500 each.

The awards to M-A students went to three Menlo Park residents — Sashi A. Ayyangar, Maya Lozinski and Scott J. Swartz — and Portola Valley residents Ellora T. Israni and Chloe E. Peters, according to a statement from the National Merit Scholarship Corpora-

tion. The sixth winner, Daniel M. Diekroeger of Woodside, is a Menlo School student.

The 2,500 award winners were chosen from a nationwide pool of 15,000 finalists, the statement said. The criteria include difficulty of a subject studied, grades, standardized test scores, leadership in community activities, an essay and a recommendation from a school official.

The number of winners per

state is proportional to the state's percentage of graduating seniors. California had 310 for 2010.

Comparing numbers of scholarships per school "will lead to erroneous and unsound conclusions," the statement said, adding that the scholarship program is a showcase for individual students with "exceptional academic ability and potential for success in rigorous college studies."

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Gloria Darke



Buyers move in early?

Q: The sale of our home will be delayed a couple of months until the buyers' home sells. Since we have a place to move, the buyer's are asking for early occupancy so their son can attend summer school at his new school. While I am certain it is not a great idea is there a downside to this? I really feel sorry for them and would like to help.

A: Giving early occupancy is rarely a good idea because too many things could go wrong. For instance, what if your buyers' home doesn't sell on schedule or -worse yet- what if it doesn't sell at all?

However, if you must give early occupancy make certain that your contract covers critical items. First,

how much rent will be charged and when is it due?

What kind of penalty will the buyers incur if the rent is late? Who will pay the utilities after you move out? Will the buyers be covered by adequate insurance while occupying your property?

What recourse will you have if the buyer's sale falls through and they cannot buy your house? What if they don't want to leave?

The buyer's "walk-through" inspection should be done before occupancy, just in case something happens to the property after they move in. Even if you can satisfactorily answer these questions, this would be one area of real estate I would stick with "never"!

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

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State audit blasts High-Speed Rail Authority

By Gennady Sheyner

Palo Alto Weekly

California's controversial high-speed-rail project risks major delays because of poor planning, a shaky business plan and lax oversight by the state agency charged with building the \$43 billion system, a new report from the California State Auditor Elaine Howle has found.

The audit, which the state auditor's office released April 29, identifies a myriad of flaws in the California High-Speed Rail Authority's effort to implement the 800-mile rail system, for which state voters approved \$9.95 billion in 2008.

The audit found that the rail authority has failed to carefully track the work of its contractors; has not figured out exactly how it will pay for the colossal project; and has spent at least \$4 million on invoices without receiving evidence that the work in the invoices was performed.

"The report concludes that the High-Speed Rail Authority has not adequately planned for the future development of the program," Mr. Howle wrote in the cover letter of the report, which carries the descriptive title, "High-Speed Rail Authority: It Risks Delays or

an Incomplete System Because of Inadequate Planning, Weak Oversight, and Lax Contract Management."

Many of the audit's findings echo the concerns recently expressed by Legislative Analyst's Office; by state Sens. Joe Simitian and Alan Lowenthal; and by a multitude of rail watchdogs and project opponents. Chief among these is the concern that the rail authority's business plan has failed to identify the necessary funding sources for the project and to adequately consider some of the project's biggest risks.

The rail authority's 2009 business plan projected, for example, that the rail authority would receive \$4.7 billion from the federal government as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. So far, the agency has only received \$2.25 billion.

"The program risks significant delays without more well-developed plans for obtaining or replacing federal funds," the auditor's report states.

The report also notes, however, that the rail authority is working to improve its approach to managing funding risks. The agency recently hired a risk-insurance manager and revised its risk-management

process. The audit states that the authority "must ensure that these actions for managing risk are fully implemented so it can respond effectively to circumstances that could significantly delay or even halt the program."

The new report is particularly scathing in its review of the rail authority's oversight of contracts. The auditor's office found that the rail authority "does not generally ensure that invoices reflect work performed by contractors."

Authority's reaction

Curt Pringle, chair of the rail authority's board of directors, wrote in his response to the auditor's office that the rail authority agrees with the auditor's recommendations, but not the report's title.

"We do believe, however, that the report's inflammatory title is overly aggressive considering that the contents of the audit's findings are not equally scathing," Mr. Pringle wrote. "While the Authority is appreciative that the report in its entirety reflects more objectively the challenges of a state entity in transition from a planning body to one responsible for implementing

Rail issues get a hearing in Atherton

Atherton residents will have a chance to ask California High-Speed Rail Authority consultants about alternatives being considered for the rail's construction from San Jose to San Francisco at a meeting set for 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 4.

The meeting will be in the Jennings Pavilion at Holbrook-Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Ave. in Atherton.

There will be a display of maps, and participants can pick up basic project information available on tables around the edge of the room. Town staff will open the meeting with a short review of the town's goals and priorities regarding the project.

The town's overview will be

followed by a 30-minute presentation by the rail authority's consultants, who will review right-of-way issues, identify key street crossings, and review options being considered, according to the agenda.

A 45-minute question-and-answer session will follow.

Atherton has strongly criticized the rail authority's plan to run the high-speed trains along the Caltrain corridor that bisects the town, and is a party in a joint lawsuit alleging that the rail authority withheld crucial information about how it arrived at its ridership estimates.

For more information about the meeting, call the city clerk's office at 752-0500.

a large-scale infrastructure project, we also appreciate that not all Californians are able to read each and every word in the audit report and therefore may be misled by the title and headlines contained within."

The rail authority also wrote that it is already working to update its risk-management prac-

tices; clarify its efforts to secure private funds for the rail project; and implement a database that tracks expenditures. ■

REPORT

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YORIKO

continued from page 5

Park, Atherton, Belmont and Burlingame. She thinks the consortium may have played a role in persuading the rail authority to eliminate the "berm" option (known locally as the "Berlin Wall" option) from its list of considered designs.

Ms. Kishimoto said a seat in the state Assembly would give her more power and influence over the controversial \$43 billion project. She supports demanding a better business plan from the rail authority; ensuring that the rail authority's work undergoes peer reviews; and making sure the system's design doesn't harm the quality of life in local communities.

"It has to be a solution that leaves the communities better and protects the walkable and livable aspects of our community," Ms. Kishimoto said.

Ms. Kishimoto also supports tackling the state's \$21 billion budget deficit by instituting an oil-extraction fee (a position shared by her two Democratic opponents) and raising taxes on cigarettes and alcohol. She also said she would support reining in pension costs for state employees and trimming expenditures, though she couldn't cite any specific programs she would eliminate.

She acknowledges that holding office in Sacramento would be more difficult than serving in Palo Alto, but says she's up to the challenge. She recalls that when she joined the City Council, the body was also dysfunc-

tional and polarized. She takes some credit for the growing spirit of cooperation and cites herself and former Mayor Bern Beecham as the two council members who were willing to cross the proverbial aisle and build constructive relationships.

Ms. Kishimoto believes her ability to find common ground helped her govern in Palo Alto and build alliances around the Peninsula. If elected, she expects these same skills to help her tackle some of California's steepest challenges.

"California has some very serious short-term issues and challenges that we have to face head on," she said. "But we do have the single best long-term system in the world—a system that is amazingly resilient; a system that allows us to pick up and reinvent ourselves." ■



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PENSION

continued from page 5

sion began.

While several union representatives have suggested that the council's shift on the issue may have more to do with politics than financial stability, Councilman John Boyle said in an interview that the proposal is all about managing the city's risk.

"I certainly don't think this is just a political ploy," he said. "In my various conversations with other council members and with staff, I never heard anybody say anything (to that effect)."

"There's a sincere intent here: We have to fundamentally change the

model, and come up with something that is sustainable in the long run."

Asked why the city wasn't eyeing a two-tier system in late 2009, Mr. Boyle said that it's become clearer since then that the city's revenues are lagging. He also said that other nearby cities are implementing or exploring two-tier systems with more gusto, giving Menlo Park more confidence that it can be competitive in the labor market.

Councilman Heyward Robinson disagreed with Mr. Boyle, saying that a two-tier system would make it harder to attract employees. The city's recent inability to lure a qualified environmental programs manager for a salary of

over \$80,000 shows that finding employees is still a challenge, even in a recession, he said.

Councilwoman Kelly Fergusson said in an interview several weeks ago that it wasn't clear to her that a two-tier system would save the city money, but said in a phone message that she now supports the plan.

"Without taking significant steps to modify the pension structure over the long term, we are looking at layoffs and a decrease in services," she said. "That's what we want to avoid."

The council meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the council chambers, between Laurel and Alma streets in the Civic Center complex. ■

Menlo landscaping ordinance passes with little controversy

By Sean Howell
Almanac Staff Writer

After spending months sweating over an ordinance regulating water use in landscaping for single-family residences, Menlo Park's City Council unanimously approved the substance of the law at its April 27 meeting.

The process of drafting the law, a modification of a state ordinance that went into effect at the beginning of the year requiring certain water-efficient landscaping techniques, inspired hours of argument and head-scratching on the dais over the three meetings in which the council discussed it. It was even detailed in a New York Times article that featured a photo of Councilman John Boyle standing in his spacious back yard, opposing a provision that could restrict lawn size, under the headline: "Water Conservation Could Limit Suburban Lawns."

But despite all the hubbub, the final ordinance in most essentials hews close to the state law already in place. It's not as restrictive as the ordinance developed by the Bay Area Water Supply and Conserva-

tion Agency (BAWSCA), or the one originally proposed by city management. And it does not, in fact, limit lawn size — a provision that Mr. Boyle and city staff now maintain was optional all along.

Menlo Park's law diverges from

'In five years, you're gonna walk down to Roger Reynolds and they're only gonna have low- and medium-water-use plants.'

RICK CIARDELLA, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

the state's in that it covers about four-fifths of the city's single-family residences, leaving out smaller parcels, while the state's applied to about one-half. While the state's law sets predetermined water-use limits, the city's does not. Instead, it requires homeowners to choose most of their landscaping from a list of low-water-use plants.

The city's law, which supersedes the state's, would also require covers for new spas and pools.

Homeowners would only have to begin complying with the ordinance if and when they apply to the city for new construction, new water service, or other projects, and only if irrigated landscaping work is part of the project.

Will the ordinance decrease residential water use? It's tough to say. The city hasn't estimated how much water would be saved, and won't enforce the law beyond reviewing initial landscaping plans.

Rick Ciardella, a local landscape architect and recent council candidate, said in an interview that he believes the state law will force the landscaping industry to employ more conservation-minded practices.

"The basic thing for me is that it forces the industry to produce plant material that's suitable for the California landscape," he said in an interview. "In five years, you're gonna walk down to Roger Reynolds and they're only gonna have low- and medium-water-use plants. The number of high-water-use plants is gonna be very small."

Mr. Ciardella successfully lobbied council members, separately and in private, to not apply the ordinance to smaller properties, to

See **ORDINANCE**, page 16

Arrillaga-funded gym will bear his name

By Sean Howell
Almanac Staff Writer

Palo Alto land developer John Arrillaga has lent his family's name to several athletic facilities on the Stanford campus. Now one in Menlo Park will bear the name, as well.

The new gymnasium Mr. Arrillaga is helping the city finance will be christened the Arrillaga Family Gymnasium when it opens in the fall, the result of a unanimous vote by the City Council at its meeting Tuesday, April 27.

The council waived a city policy stipulating that facilities can only be named after a deceased person, five or more years after the person's

death. The policy also states that facilities can only be named after people who have made "major, overriding contributions to the city."

There wasn't any disagreement among council members that Mr. Arrillaga has met that criterion. Having played and coached basketball for over 30 years at the Burgess Gymnasium, he stepped in after hearing that the city was short on funds and agreed to build the gym himself, with a \$5.8 million contribution from the city. The city has estimated Mr. Arrillaga's share of the cost at \$8 million or more.

"I would just like to express our deep gratitude to Mr. Arrillaga

for his very generous contribution, and the amazing construction job," Councilwoman Kelly Fergusson said before the council vote.

The city has twice waived the policy in recent years: to name the Burgess Park Little League field in honor of Tom Harrison in 2004, and to add the name of former city manager Mike Bedwell to Bayfront Park in 2008.

Construction is well under way on the gymnasium, located off Alma Street in the Civic Center complex, with the building scheduled to open in September.

Visit menlopark.org for time-lapse photography of the construction. ■

Children's center supervisor retires following arrest

The supervisor of the Belle Haven Child Development Center in Menlo Park, who was arrested on April 13 for allegedly harassing and giving unwanted gifts to a 13-year-old girl, has retired from his position, according to a city official.

Jose Adalberto Lopez, 55, of San Mateo, has been on paid administrative leave from his post since his arrest, according to Glen Kramer, the city's personnel director. Mr. Lopez will remain on paid leave until his retirement becomes effective on May 14, Mr. Kramer said.

Police were called to the child development center on Ivy Drive

on April 13 after receiving information from city staff, according to Nicole Acker, spokeswoman for the Menlo Park Police Department. He was booked into San Mateo County jail that night, Ms. Acker said.

The police department completed its investigation and submitted it to the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office last week, according to Chief Deputy District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe. His office will review the case and determine whether charges should be filed, he said.

Mr. Lopez's arraignment is set

for 9 a.m. May 18, Mr. Wagstaffe said.

Natalie Bonham, a teacher at the child development center for seven years, has been named acting supervisor of the center until sometime in June, when the center holds a graduation for the older children, Mr. Kramer said. "We're working on longer-term solution" to put in place after that event, he said.

Mr. Lopez began working with the city as a teacher in 2001, and was promoted in 2006 to be the center's supervisor, according to Mr. Kramer.

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Hundreds march in May Day

Clockwise from above:

■ Austin Merrill and Robin MaGrin sit and chat on a classic Chevy. They are dressed for "Grease," a show eighth-graders will perform in June.

■ From left, Mia Goldberg, Gabriella Gomez and Lulu Stringer perform during the maypole dance.

■ Dusty makes an appearance.

■ Pam Harvey performs with the Los Trancos Woods Community Marching Band.

■ From left, sisters Margaret, Anne and Mary Griffin wait for the parade.

Photos by
Michelle Le



By Kate Daly

The town of Woodside continued its 88-year-old tradition of parading through the streets on May Day in a colorful display of homegrown pageantry on Saturday, May 1.

Hundreds of people participated in the May Day Parade on that sunny morning, and hundreds more watched, representing several generations of locals, many of them tied to the event's host, Woodside School.

The parade started at the school, and more than 40 entries rolled, rode and walked down Woodside Road toward Roberts Market, then

turned around to retrace the route.

Anne Schoebel, the announcer for 12 years, as well as a Woodside School graduate and former parent at the school, observed, "This is the most people I've ever seen."

Woodside resident Betty Flood went to see her great-grandchild in the parade. Ms. Flood has been involved, either as a participant or spectator, for close to 70 years, and commented that in the past, "there were more horses," fewer vehicles, and everything was "more homemade."

This year, two motorcyclists from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office led the

parade, stopping frequently to throw candy to the crowd. A convertible carried the grand marshal, Cherie van der Molen, a Woodside preschool teacher for 18 years who was wearing a crown that could have come from her students' dress-up collection.

The Royal Court of kindergartners rode in style in a 1946 fire truck restored by Woodside Fire Protection District firefighters. Several groups on horseback trailed behind, including the Mounted Patrol and San Mateo County Horsemen's Association.

Woodside riders Becky and Kip Witter decked themselves out in red, white and

blue, and showed off a vintage Western saddle they said was designed by Roy Rogers.

A large draft horse pulled a carriage for NCEFT, the National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy, based in Woodside. A pony pulled another carriage to help publicize an open house on Sept. 19 at the newly restored Folger Stables on the other side of town.

The Canada 4-H clubbers added to the collection of animals, displaying a rooster, rabbits, guinea pigs and goats.

Representatives from the Woodside Town

May parade



Frances Geballe

Frances Geballe named Citizen of the Year

Longtime Woodside resident and philanthropist Frances Geballe is this year's recipient of the Citizen of the Year award.

Each year the Woodside School District's PTA asks the community to nominate people who embody the spirit of giving, and Ms. Geballe, with more than 30 years of volunteer service to the school, came out the clear winner.

The award was announced at the Woodside May Day festivities on Saturday, May 1.

Ms. Geballe and her husband Ted moved to Woodside in 1969. Their children and grandchildren attended Woodside School. Ever since then she has volunteered in many classrooms, focusing mainly on literature and the arts.

Retired teacher Linda McCahon says during the 22 years she taught third-graders in Woodside, Ms. Geballe came in four times a week to read with them. Ms. Geballe still meets with third-graders three times a week, and has volunteered at schools in Redwood City and East Palo Alto, as well.

When asked about all the help she has provided hundreds of students over the years, Ms. Geballe grinned and beamed, saying, "I've just loved it!"

— Kate Daly



Council, Woodside School board, Woodside School PTA (the parade's sponsor), and the Woodside School Foundation rode in various vehicles.

The parade's theme, "Queen of Hearts," was related to the foundation's fundraiser, the grand auction "Wonderland" coming up at the school on May 15.

Wearing costumes, a group of eighth-graders sang and danced around a 1956 Chevy convertible owned by Woodsider E.J. Polati to help promote the class' operetta. The students will be performing "Grease" at school June 2-5.

The Woodside High School Wildcats Band played some tunes and was accompanied by baton twirlers.

In keeping with tradition, the fun-festooned Los Trancos Woods Marching Band livened things up, but with one noticeable addition — Charlie Schmidt on stilts. He went to Woodside School, is a parent there now, and hopped around in a king of hearts costume his mother and wife made, handing out fliers for getjumping-stilts.com.

Mr. Schmidt showed up again later in the school's amphitheatre, where the third-

grade class did a sword and May Pole dance, and the Citizen of the Year was announced. A barbecue and carnival capped off the day. ■

■ ON THE COVER

In the picture on the cover, members of the third-grade class of Kara Ireland D'Ambrosio untangle ribbons after the maypole dance at the Woodside May Day festivities Saturday. In front are Gemma Greening, left, and Taylor Jagolinzer. In back are Audrey Mees, left, and Gabriela Gomez.

Dr. Bortz speaks at Kepler's

Dr. Walter Bortz of Portola Valley, a gerontologist and a clinical associate professor Stanford School of Medicine, will

discuss his book, "The Roadmap to 100: The Breakthrough Science of Living a Long and Happy Life," at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday,

May 5, at Kepler's bookstore, 1010 El Camino Real in Menlo Park.

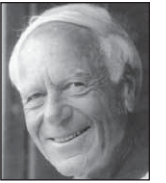
Dr. Bortz, the author of other books, including "Dare to Be 100," is past co-chairman of the

American Medical Association's Task Force on Aging and the former president of the American Geriatric Society.

He has been a marathon runner for four decades, and ran his

40th marathon in April in Boston at the age of 80.

Dr. Walter Bortz



Handbell Ensemble at Bethany Lutheran

Bethany Lutheran Church in Menlo Park will host a free concert at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 5, by the Handbell Ensemble from Concordia University in Portland.

This will be its only Bay Area stop on its spring tour, said K.C. Aarons, spokesperson for the church, located at 1095 Cloud Ave.

The ensemble, directed by Judy Schumacher, rings five octaves of Malmrk hand-bells and three octaves of hand-chimes. It has a 25-year tradition at Corcordia, a private, Lutheran liberal arts university.

Go to cu-portland.edu/music for more information.



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF MENLO PARK PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MAY 17, 2010

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/Timothy Chappelle/719 Hermosa Way: 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 garden shed on a substandard lot with regard to lot width in the R-E (Residential Estate) zoning district.

Use Permit and Architectural Control/Pacific Peninsula Group Architecture/737 Fremont Street: Request for a use permit and architectural control for the demolition of an existing duplex, cottage, detached garage, and other accessory buildings and to construct four single-family residences comprised of two two-unit attached, single-family residential buildings and associated site improvements on a standard size lot in the R-3 (Apartment) zoning district. The proposed project would include the removal of 34 trees, including 10 heritage trees, and the installation of 25 new 24-inch or 36-inch box trees.

Use Permit/Anatole Zelkin/1923-1929 Menalto Avenue: Request for a use permit to operate a yoga studio (private recreational facility) and beauty salon (personal services) and to modify previous conditions of approval for a café in an existing commercial building on a property that is substandard with regard to parking in the C-2 (Neighborhood Shopping) zoning district.

Use Permit/Laurie Carvill/1098 Hamilton Avenue: Request for a use permit for indoor storage and use of hazardous materials for the research and development (R&D) of ocular drug delivery systems for the treatment of vision related conditions at an existing building located in the M-2 (General Industrial) zoning district.

PUBLIC MEETING ITEM

2010-11 Capital Improvement Program/General Plan Consistency: Consideration of consistency of the 2010-2011 projects of the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan with the General Plan.

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, **May 17, 2010**, 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: April 29, 2010 Deanna Chow, Senior Planner
PUBLISHED: May 5, 2010 Menlo Park Planning Commission

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

Jackling house defenders appeal ruling

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

■ WOODSIDE

Another chapter is ahead in the long-running story of Woodside's Jackling house, that Jazz Age summer mansion designed by architect George Washington Smith for copper king Daniel C. Jackling and now the property of Apple Corp. chief executive Steve Jobs, who wants to rid himself of it and replace it with a more modern home.

Defenders of the house, a group called Uphold Our Heritage, have appealed a March 8 ruling by Judge Marie S. Weiner that gave Mr. Jobs the right to pursue a demolition permit, according to an e-mail from Uphold's attorney, Douglas Carstens.

The appeal, filed on April 29, Mr. Carstens said, retains Uphold's rights as negotiations proceed between Mr. Jobs and a Woodside couple, Jason and Magalli Yoho, who have submitted parts of a plan to the town to take the house apart and move it to a nearby property in Woodside.

"The Yohos have not yet submitted everything the town

needs in order to process their application(s)," Town Manager Susan George said in an April 30 e-mail. "My staff and I continue to work with them to facilitate their submittal, but there's only so much we can do."

Among the issues facing the Yohos are permits from the town to trim large trees that get in the way of moving the house safely. The house is also significantly weathered and was open

to the weather with resulting damage to the interior.

A demolition permit for Mr. Jobs is most probably at least 30 days away from being ready, Ms. George added.

Attorneys for Mr. Jobs have been talking with the Yohos, the talks are going well, and the issue may be resolved outside a courtroom, Mr. Carstens said.

Ms. Yoho, in an interview, said that if they win the right to move the house about 2 miles to Lindenbrook Road, her family would live in it.

Atherton: Combating Sudden Oak Death

■ BRIEFS

Go to AlmanacNews.com for more news about community events.

Atherton residents wanting to help combat Sudden Oak Death (SOD) disease that threatens trees in their town can join an effort set to begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 8, in Atherton.

Sponsored by the Atherton Tree Committee, the "SOD Blitz" will teach participants to identify SOD symptoms on California bay laurel trees, which often are hit first by the pathogen that causes SOD and signals that the disease has arrived in an area.

Residents meeting Saturday at

the Carriage House in Holbrook-Palmer Park will be trained to identify SOD symptoms, and learn the basics of sampling and collection, said town arborist Kathy Hughes Anderson.

Leaf samples will be taken in specific collection areas, she said. The samples will be analyzed in a UC Berkeley laboratory and a map showing disease distribution in the town will be produced.

Those interested in participating should contact Ms. Anderson at 752-0526, or kanderson@ci-atherton.ca.us.

Breakfast of Champions

Author Chris Gardner will receive the Champion of the Year award at JobTrain's annual Breakfast of Champions at 7:30 a.m. Friday, May 7, at the Hyatt Regency Santa Clara.

Mr. Gardner, author of the 2006 autobiography, "The Pursuit of Happiness," will deliver the keynote address. Other notables due to attend are chef Jeff Henderson of the Food Network, playwright and community activist Donald Lacy, and comedian Michael Pritchard. One thousand guests are expected to attend the breakfast, says JobTrain spokesperson Kail Lubarsky. Individual tickets are \$45.

JobTrain, based in Menlo Park, is a nonprofit job-training organization, formerly known as OICW. For more information, call 330-6569.

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Thursday, May 19, 7 – 9 p.m.



Living Well Classes 650-853-2960

Functional Spine Training

First Monday of each month,
5 – 6:30 p.m.

What You Need to Know About Warfarin (Coumadin)

Wednesday, May 5, 2 – 4 p.m.

Learning About Heart Failure

May 6, 14, 18 & 27, various times.

Nutrition and Diabetes Classes 650-853-2961

Adult Weight Management Group

Thursdays, 5:30 – 7 p.m.

Bariatric Pre-Op Class

First Tuesday of each month,
9:30 a.m. – noon

Bariatric Nutrition SMA

First Tuesday of each month,
10:30 a.m. – noon

Prediabetes

First Monday of the month, 9 – 11:30 a.m., and third Wednesday of every other month, 4:30 – 7 p.m. Also in Redwood Shores, fourth Wednesday of every other month, 5:30 – 8 p.m.

Living Well with Diabetes

Tuesdays, 4:30 – 7 p.m., or Fridays,
9:30 a.m. – noon

Heart Smart Class

Third and fourth Tuesday of every other month, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Healthy Eating Type 2 Diabetes

Third Wednesday of every other month,
5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Gestational Diabetes

Wednesdays, 2 – 4 p.m.

Pregnancy, Breastfeeding & Child Care Classes

Preparing for Birth

Thursdays, May 6 – June 10, 7 – 9:15 p.m.; Saturday/Sunday, May 15 & 16, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Wednesdays, June 2 – July 7, 7 – 9:15 p.m., 650-853-2960



Preparing for Childbirth Without Medication

Sunday, May 16, 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.,
650-853-2960

Breastfeeding: Secrets for Success

Saturday, May 22, 10 a.m. – noon,
650-853-2960

Raising Healthy & Happy Eaters! (for parents of children aged 0 – 6)

650-853-2961
Toddlers and Preschoolers,
Thursdays, 10 a.m. – noon, Palo Alto
and Los Altos

Introduction to Solids, offered in Palo Alto, please call for dates.

Support Groups

Bariatric

650-281-8908

Cancer

650-342-3749

CPAP

650-853-4729

Diabetes

650-224-7872

Drug and Alcohol

650-853-2904

Healing Imagery for Cancer Patients

650-799-5512

Kidney

650-323-2225

Multiple Sclerosis

650-328-0179

Mountain View Center 701 E. El Camino Real

Lecture and Workshops 650-934-7373

Understanding the Parent's Role in Feeding

The Marvin Small Memorial Parent
Workshop

Presented by Tracy Slezak, R.D.
Tuesday, May 11, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Is Your Blood Pressure Controlling You?

A Conversation With...

Presented by Nancy Jacobson, R.D.
Sunnyvale Public Library
Thursday, May 20, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Ladies' Night Out Women's Bone Basics Mother's Day Event

For Your Health Community Lecture Series

Presented by Anne Liess, M.D., and
Susan Kirkpatrick, R.D.
Wednesday, May 12, 7 – 8 p.m.



HMR Weight Management Program 650-404-8260

Free orientation session. Tuesdays, noon – 1 p.m., and Thursdays, 5 – 6:30 p.m.

Living Well Classes 650-934-7373

Supermarket Wise

Tuesday, May 18, 2 – 4 p.m.



Nutrition and Diabetes Classes 650-934-7177

Heart Smart Class

Second Tuesday of each month,
3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Diabetes Class (two-part class)

Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. – noon and
Wednesdays, 2 – 4:30 p.m.

Prediabetes

Third Thursday of each month,
2 – 4 p.m. Fourth Tuesday of each
month, 3 – 5 p.m.

Sweet Success

Gestational Diabetes Class
Wednesdays, 9 a.m. – noon

Pregnancy, Breastfeeding and Child Care Classes

Infant Emergencies and CPR

Wednesdays, May 5 & 19,
6 – 8:30 p.m.

OB Orientation

Thursdays, May 6, 20 and June 3,
6:30 – 8 p.m.

Infant/Child CPR

Monday, May 10, 6 – 8 p.m.

Preparing for Baby

Tuesday, May 11, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Childbirth Preparation

Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays,
May 13, June 3, 4 & 5, 6 – 9 p.m.

What to Expect with Your Newborn

Tuesday, May 18, 7 – 8 p.m.

Baby Care

Saturday, May 22, 10:30 a.m. – noon

Feeding Your Preschooler

Tuesday, June 1, 7 – 9 p.m.

For all, register online or call
650-934-7373.



Free Appointments 650-934-7373

HICAP Counseling, Advance Health Care Directive Counseling,
General Social Services (visits with our social worker)

Support Groups 650-934-7373

AWAKE

Bariatric Surgery

Breastfeeding



For a complete list of classes and class fees, lectures
and health education resources, visit: pamf.org.

Fine Art in the Park

Figures from sculptures by Anne Klocko,
Barbara Glynn Prodaniuk and Debořah Bridges



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WWW.ROTARYARTSHOW.COM

Atherton: Combating Sudden Oak Death

Atherton residents wanting to help combat Sudden Oak Death (SOD) disease that threatens trees in their town can join an effort set to begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 8, in Atherton.

Sponsored by the Atherton Tree Committee, the "SOD Blitz" will teach participants to identify SOD symptoms on California bay laurel trees, which often are hit first by the pathogen that causes SOD and signals that the disease has arrived in an area.

Residents meeting Saturday at

BRIEFS

the Carriage House in Holbrook-Palmer Park will be trained to identify SOD symptoms, and learn the basics of sampling and collection, said town arborist Kathy Hughes Anderson.

Leaf samples will be taken in specific collection areas, she said. The samples will be analyzed in a UC Berkley laboratory and a map showing disease distribution in the town will be produced.

Those interested in participat-

ing should contact Ms. Anderson at 752-0526, or kanderson@ci-atherton.ca.us.

Breakfast of Champions

Author Chris Gardner will receive the Champion of the Year award at JobTrain's annual Breakfast of Champions at 7:30 a.m. Friday, May 7, at the Hyatt Regency Santa Clara.

Mr. Gardner, author of the 2006 autobiography, "The Pursuit of Happyness," will deliver the keynote address. Other notables due to attend are chef Jeff Henderson of the Food Network, playwright and community activist Donald Lacy, and comedian Michael Pritchard. One thousand guests are expected to attend the breakfast, says JobTrain spokesperson Kail Lubarsky. Individual tickets are \$45.

JobTrain, based in Menlo Park, is a nonprofit job-training organization, formerly known as OICW. For more information, call 330-6569.

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ORDINANCE

continued from page 9

schedule annual check-ups on the cost to homeowners and amount of water saved, and to cut several minor provisions that he said were unnecessarily burdensome.

Like the state's, the city's law requires plants with similar water needs to be grouped together, mandates sensors that shut off sprinklers when they detect moisture, prohibits sprinklers from running between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m., and requires irrigation systems to be "70 percent efficient."

The vote was not entirely free of contention. Mr. Boyle asked to qualify language requiring people to agree to certain maintenance measures, saying he didn't want to encourage lawsuits between neighbors over weeding and mulching schedules. The council agreed to soften the language, though not without some debate and one very audible sigh of frustration.

The ordinance must still clear a procedural vote at a later council meeting. ■

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For full information, contact:
The Tolan Foundation
TolanFoundation@gmail.com

GUIDE TO 2010 SUMMER CAMPS FOR KIDS

Camp Connection

For more information about these camps, see our online directory of camps at PaloAltoOnline.com/biz/summercamps
To advertise in a weekly directory, contact 650-326-8210

Sports Camps

Spring Down Camp Equestrian Center

Spring Down camp teaches basic to advanced horsemanship skills. All ages welcome. Daily informative lecture, riding lesson, supervised hands-on skill practice, tacking/untacking of own camp horse, and fun horse arts and crafts.

www.springdown.com

650-851-1114

Stanford Baseball Camps

All Day or Half-Day Baseball Camps at beautiful Sunken Diamond. For ages 7-12, Stanford Baseball camps feature personalized Baseball instruction, fun activities and drills, and exciting Baseball games. Camps for beginner and advanced players. Camps for older players also available. Camp availability from June 14th-August 6th. Receive \$25 off by calling 650-723-4528.

www.StanfordBaseballCamp.com

650-723-4528

Stanford Water Polo Camps

Morning and/or afternoon water polo sessions at Avery Aquatic Center. June 14-17 for ages 8-14. Beginners welcome. Fun water skill instruction, activities and games. Camps for more advanced players available too.

<http://www.gostanford.com/camps/waterpolo-camp.html>

650-725-9016

Academic Camps

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Experience North America's #1 Tech Camp — 4 Bay Area Locations! Ages 7-18 create video games, websites, movies, iPhone® & Facebook® apps, robots and more during this weeklong, day and overnight summer tech program. Teen Programs also available at Stanford. Save w/code CAU22.

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Stratford School - Camp Socrates

Academic enrichment infused with traditional summer camp fun—that's what your child will experience at Camp Socrates. Sessions begin on June 28 and end on August 13 with the option for students to attend for all seven weeks or the first four weeks (June 28-July 23). Full or half-time morning or afternoon program are available to fit your schedule. 12 locations.

www.stratfordschools.com

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Fun and enriching technology classes for students, ages 6-14! Courses include LEGO and K'NEX Projects with Motors, Robotics, and Game Design. Many locations, including Palo Alto, Menlo Park, and Sunnyvale. Half and all day options.

www.techknowhowkids.com

650-474-0400

Academic Camps

India Community Center Camps

Explore the rich heritage of India through the India Community Center's Cultural Immersion, Hindi Language, Bollywood Dance & Crafts of India Camps. Over 14 different camps all through the summer for ages 4-18. These unique camps will immerse children in Yoga, Indian Dance & Music, Sports & lots more!

www.indiacc.org/culturalcamps

408-416-0215

ISTP Language Immersion

International School of the Peninsula camps offered in French, Chinese, Spanish or ESL for students in Nursery through Middle School. Three 2-week sessions, each with different theme. Students are grouped according to both grade level and language proficiency.

www.istp.org

650-251-8519

Amazing Science Camp!

Check out this terrific new hands-on science camp designed to bring STEM (Science, Engineering, Technology, and Mathematics) to students in a way that engages both mind and body. Two Great Programs-- One for 1-3 graders (1 or 2 weeks 9:00am-12:00pm) —the other for 4-6 graders! (This is a 2-week course- 1:00-4:00 pm) Both camps are July 26th-Aug 6th.

Email: AmazingSciClass@AOL.com

650-279-7013

Conversation Hindi Camps

The camps provide a creative, fun and interactive environment and focus on developing conversational Hindi skills. A natural and nurturing environment gives numerous conversation opportunities through theatre, role playing, games, arts & crafts and multimedia.

www.eduhindi.com

650-493-1566

Summer Program @ Mid-Peninsula High School

Mid-Peninsula High School Summer Program is open to students entering grades 9-12 and is proud to offer a variety of academic and enrichment courses in an individualized and caring environment.

www.mid-pen.com

650-321-1991 x110

Earth Care Science Camp

Conservation and Preservation of God's Creation. Hands-on learning environment featuring experiments, arts and crafts, games, field experts and more. For age 3 to Grade 5. August 2 to 6, 9am to 12pm. Held at First Baptist Church.

www.fbcla.org/childrens

650-948-5698

■ OBITUARIES

William Thomas Gray*Production engineer*

William "Bill" Thomas Gray of Menlo Park died peacefully April 20 due to complications from pneumonia. He was 88.

Born in San Jose, he attended Bellarmine College Preparatory and Santa Clara University, where he received a degree in engineering.

After attending the Maritime

**William Thomas Gray**

Academy in New York, he served in World War II. Upon returning from the war, he married Barbara Collins, and made a career as a production engineer.

The Grays lived in Atherton for 35 years before moving to Menlo Park.

Mr. Gray was a golf enthusiast and avid sailor, say family members.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Barbara; sons William Thomas Jr. and Steven; daughters Teri McKelvy and Lauren Koenig; brother Thomas Gray of San Jose; seven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

A private service for the family was held April 26. Memorial donations may be made to Aging Adult Services at Stanford Uni-

versity, attention: Rita Ghatak, 300 Pasteur Drive, Suite H3245, Stanford, CA 94305-5229.

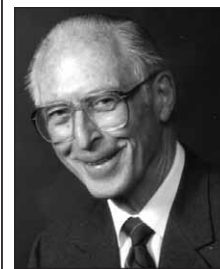
Alex Fu-Hing Cheng

Alex Fu Hing Cheng, a resident of Portola Valley and later Oakland, died April 24 due to illness. He received an MBA from Stanford in 1967.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, May 8.

E-mail memoryofalex@gmail.com for more information.

An obituary will appear in a future issue.

JOHN DONOVAN

John Donovan, passed away on 4/26/10 at the age of 87. He lived in Menlo Park for 54 years before moving to Woodinville, WA, in 2008 to be closer to family.

He was an Army captain in WWII, an avid stamp collector, and a retired stockbroker. He graduated from NMMI and the U of Washington.

John was married to Donna for 61 years until she died of cancer in 2004. He is survived by 4 children, Sandy Wenning, of Austin TX; Judy Thomson, of Maui, HI; Linda Olson, of Woodinville, WA; and Mike Donovan, of Carlsbad, CA; as well as 10 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

PAID OBITUARY

■ POLICE CALLS

ATHERTON

Grand theft report: Laptop computer stolen, Sacred Heart Preparatory High School, 150 Valparaiso Ave., April 26.

MENLO PARK**Grand theft report:**

Pool sweeper stolen for estimated loss of \$699, in 300 block of August Circle, April 26.

Shooting report: Thomas Mitchell, 19, arrested and charged with child neglect over incident in which juvenile in his vehicle shot BB gun and hit construction worker in shoulder, Bay and Marsh roads, April 26.

Commercial burglary reports:

■ Energy drink and pastry stolen with total value of \$6, Safeway supermarket, 525 El Camino Real, April 26.

■ Break-in but nothing missing, Quiznos Restaurant at 604 Santa Cruz Ave., April 28.

Fraud report: Unauthorized withdrawal of funds amounting to \$755 from account, 1100 block of Del Norte Ave., April 28.

Auto burglary reports:

■ Placard for disabled person parking spot stolen for loss of \$6, 200 block of Middlefield Road, April 26.

■ Forced entry into vehicle and stereo system valued at \$160 stolen, in 300 block of Ivy Drive, April 27.

■ Stereos stolen with values of \$100 and \$150, in 1300 block of Willow Road, April 29.

WOODSIDE**Fraud reports:**

■ Unauthorized use of resident's online banking account for fraudulent purchase, 400 block of Summit Springs Road, April 23.

■ Eleven unauthorized checks written to resident's bank account for total loss estimated at more than \$1,400, in 100 block of Blue Ridge Lane, April 24.

PORTOLA VALLEY

Theft report: Four marijuana plants discovered in back of vehicle with 12-year old who confessed to having stolen the plants while driver was found to be in possession of 0.4 ounces of marijuana, Alpine and Portola State Park roads, April 21.

WILLIAM "BILL" THOMAS GRAY

April 25, 1921 - April 20, 2010



Surrounded by his loving family, Bill Gray peacefully passed away on April 20 due to complications from pneumonia. He was born in San Jose, attended Bellarmine High School and Santa Clara University where he received a Degree in Engineering.

After attending the Maritime Academy in New York, he served in World War II. Upon returning from the War, he married Barbara Collins, resided in Atherton, and made a career as a Production Engineer. Bill was a golf enthusiast and an avid sailor. He is survived by Barbara Gray;

wife of 65 years, sons William Thomas Jr., and Steven, and daughters Teri McKelvy and Lauren Koenig. He was a cherished grandfather to Mathew and Todd Gray, Max and Taylor McKelvy, and Austin, Kyle and Jessica Koenig. Also, great grandfather to Sara and Dylan. He is also survived by his brother Thomas Gray of San Jose and several nieces and nephews. A private service was held for the family on April 26, 2010. Memorial donations may be made to Aging Adult Services at Stanford University, attn. Rita Ghatak, 300 Pasteur Dr., Suite H3245, Stanford, CA 94305-5229

Crippen&Flynn Woodside Chapel
650-369-4103

www.crippenflynn.com

PAID OBITUARY

Equestrian vaulting event benefits team

An equestrian vaulting performance, inspired by Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," will be held from 5 to 6 p.m. Sunday, May 9, at Stanford Red Barn, 100 Electioneer Road on the Stanford campus.

The performance will be a benefit to help support the FACE (Free Artists Creative

Equestrians) team on its quest to represent the U.S. at the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games in Kentucky, according to Anna Kahl de la Motte, manager and co-coach of the vaulting team. Admission is free but donations are welcome.

Go to facevaulting.com for more information.

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e-mail letters to:

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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.

Viewpoint

Ideas, thoughts and opinions about local issues from people in our community. Edited by Tom Gibboney.

Cheers for Reps. Eshoo, Speier

During the heated and very public bailout of major U.S. banks and manufacturers, the relatively tiny \$1.7 billion lost by more than 40 local government agencies across the country, due to the fall of Lehman Brothers, has yet to be resolved — despite the efforts of our local representatives.

So after waiting and hoping but seeing no action from several House and Senate committees, Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Menlo Park, introduced a bill, co-sponsored by Rep. Jackie Speier, D-San Mateo, that would help these agencies — including San

Mateo County — recoup at least part of their losses.

California requires small government units to keep their long-term funds like bond monies in an investment pool, which in San Mateo County was operated by Treasurer Lee Buffington, who placed the money in Lehman and various other securities. When Lehman went under, the county and local agencies here lost \$155 million, including \$6.5 million from the Sequoia Union High School District and \$3.5 million for the Menlo Park City School District. The San Mateo Community College District lost more than \$20 million, while other local school districts, including Las Lomas, Portola Valley and Woodside lost much smaller amounts.

And so far, despite lawsuits and requests for relief before various Congressional committees, no relief is in sight.

That is why Rep. Eshoo's bill is so important now, as Congress questions Goldman Sachs executives and others about their role in the biggest financial collapse since the Great Depression. Rep. Eshoo's bill would return money that belongs to local taxpayers and

was lost due to no fault of any of the agencies involved, which in our view, had every right to expect the money was in safe hands.

In a statement, Rep. Eshoo said the Treasury Department has earned \$15.4 billion from dividends, interest and the sale of bank stock that it purchased through the TARP (Troubled Assets Relief Program). It is expected that the government will accrue another \$7.5 billion from the sale of its 27 percent stake in Citigroup.

The Eshoo bill, named the Restitution for Local Government Act, will require the Treasury to use profits from TARP assets to purchase Lehman Brothers securities held by local governments on Sept. 12, 2008, the Friday before Lehman collapsed

A major piece of Rep. Eshoo's argument goes like this:

"By selling TARP assets, the federal government has already made more than 10 times the amount of money that public institutions lost when Lehman collapsed." She added, "My legislation will require the Secretary of the Treasury to provide relief to those institutions with any future profit" the government takes in.

At this stage, it is difficult to handicap the chances of such a bill clearing Congress. Given the still-lagging economy, support may be hard to find for what could be viewed as a bailout. Certainly representatives Eshoo and Speier, with the help of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-San Francisco, should be able to steer it to the proper committees for a fair hearing and perhaps pass it through to passage.

But along the way, it will be important for Congress to hear from constituents in the jurisdictions that lost millions of dollars with Lehman. For anyone who is concerned about these terrible financial losses to local schools, now is the time to step up and let your feelings be known.

EDITORIAL*The opinion of The Almanac***LETTERS***Our readers write***Local pension reform: misguided, mean-spirited***Editor:*

The so-called Menlo Park "pension reform" advanced by former City Council members Lee Duboc and Mickie Winkler is completely misguided and not real reform.

That's why only about 30 people have reportedly provided financial support for this flawed proposition.

It's time everyone gets the facts. For one, it will result in no immediate savings and will do nothing to resolve the current budget shortfall. Not to mention half of CalPERS retirees receive only about \$1,300 a month or less. And the average CalPERS pension is approximately \$25,000 a year.

Our state is in an economic crisis due to poor investments on Wall Street, not because of working families. City workers pay into their retirement plan and they don't receive Social Security benefits. Attempting to punish working families for a temporary recession they didn't create not only doesn't make sense, it's just plain punitive and mean-spirited.

Why would anyone want to sup-



Woodside Library Collection

Our Regional Heritage

In 1868, Woodside's Summit Springs Road was known as the Tole Road, which led to the timber lands and Pacific coast. Here, Mrs. Henry Bottger and her daughter Lucy stand near their home as a heavily loaded wagon pushes up the hill.

port that?

Mary Jane Salinas-Cabildo
Laurel Street, Menlo Park

How many digits needed to track a customer?

A bit of "tongue-in-cheek" observation on the status of the

identification of the water meters in our fair city.

Due to the recent change in the management of our water district, it was necessary to put my account number on a check to pay the bill. Lo and behold, the number was 19 digits long! Now how does that work?

Menlo Park has a population of

around 32,000. Add in the commercial parcels (I will assume 5,000) and using two as the average population per home (16,000 homes) adds up to around 21,000 water meters in the city. But to identify these 21,000 meters, 19

See **LETTERS**, next page

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

digits are used?

I would like to point out that 19 digits is in the order of a “quadrillion!” And that number is about 100 times the total population of our planet.

Dan Goodman
Trinity Drive, Menlo Park

Who was responsible for Lehman losses?

Editor:

Congresswomen Anna Eshoo and Jackie Speier were making noise in Washington last week, hoping to get the government to give back to local counties the money they lost with Lehman Brothers as if the counties bear no responsibility for investing their cash.

If they were really out to help the counties, these two fiscal hawks would not have voted for the health care bill, whose cost will make the money lost with Lehman look like peanuts. I wonder if a few trips on House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's plane influenced their votes?

Pat White
Fremont Street, Menlo Park

Counties need to step up for Caltrain

Editor:

If Caltrain service is eliminated or severely cut, it will cost millions of dollars in lost business revenue, as well as lost sales and other taxes. The region cannot afford to lose the jobs Caltrain provides.

The loss of Caltrain service will lead to fewer people attending events at HP Pavilion, the San Jose convention center, AT&T Park, Moscone Center, performing arts centers from San Jose to San Francisco, festivals in every city on the train line. This will cost jobs at the venues and surrounding businesses, resulting in losses in the tax revenue these businesses generate and the jobs they provide.

Caltrain serves Santa Clara, San Mateo and San Francisco counties. All three counties must provide emergency short-term funding to maintain Caltrain service. The Joint Powers Board (JPB) that manages Caltrain must work with the counties to find the funding now and begin creating a dedicated funding source. Other transportation agencies such as VTA, AC Transit, BART, and SamTrans have dedicated sales or property tax funding to support their operations. Caltrain must have permanent funding as well.

We need to keep this vital link between Gilroy and San Francisco intact and operating at a level that meets the needs of our community.

Bob Mack
San Jose

Correcting the record on Menlo Gateway project

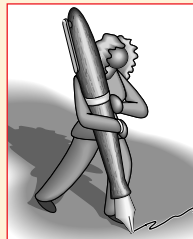
By Joanne Brion

Last week, The Almanac ran a guest opinion by Vince Bressler, a sitting Menlo Park planning commissioner, concerning the Menlo Gateway project. In the article, Mr. Bressler mistakenly interprets some figures from the city's financial analysis to support the contention that the Menlo Gateway project will be “free and clear of debt” by 2023. I would like to correct the record as to Mr. Bressler's misinterpretation of the city's financial analysis.

First, the \$50 million per year in net income cited by Mr. Bressler is not “profit.” In fact, a significant portion of this \$50 million in annual revenue must be used to pay debt service on the \$400 million development costs required upfront.

Thus, contrary to Mr. Bressler's assertion, the project is not “free and clear of debt” by 2023. Rather, the table cited by Mr. Bressler reflects an actual sale of the property in 2023, at which time the debt would be repaid and/or refinanced by the next buyer. In the absence of a sale (or even with a sale), debt payments are likely to continue for another 20 years or more, so Menlo Gateway in actuality would be far from “free and clear” of any debt.

Second, according to Cushman & Wakefield, the city's own consultant, the project's



GUEST
OPINION

return was shown to be “... less than industry target return of 15 percent.” A 15 percent or higher return is necessary to finance and undertake a project of this scale and risk relative to much safer and secure investments. Without a minimum return, no developer would undertake the

project, and the land would remain in its current state without providing any public benefits, including the \$1.4 million in annual revenues created by the project.

Third, the revenue from the office component is needed to support the hotel/health club component, which, according to the city's hotel consultant, was found to be marginally feasible without the office.

According to the consultant's report, “If we were to deduct a typical entrepreneurial incentive of 15 percent of development costs there would be no residual value to the land, reflecting the marginally feasible nature of this component (the hotel) of the project. The developer must earn his profit from the office component.”

This means that the city's fiscal revenue stream from the project is from the hotel's transient occupancy tax, which would not be feasible by itself. The office component of the project funds the hotel, which in turn funds the city's revenue stream.

Finally, the benefits that the city derives from the Menlo Gateway project are substantial, and require no investment or financial risk on the part of the city. The \$1.4 million in revenue a year to the city is a significant benefit, especially in light of the city's recently projected \$1.3 million budget shortfall, and should not be dismissed.

Indeed, this annual return to the city is equivalent to a cash investment of \$28 million returning 5 percent annually — not a bad profit to the city, considering it has no funds at risk.

In addition, the city receives a number of other tangible benefits that are critically important to the Menlo Park community, not to mention the jobs and economic development benefits, and the secondary revenues these jobs and income would generate for the city.

Joanne Brion of Brion & Associates
is the urban economist for
the Menlo Gateway Project.

Cargill argument has been made before

Editor:

“By 2020, the population of the peninsula will be over 14 million residents and therefore we need to create new housing in the bay.”

Does this sound like a current statement by Cargill and DMB? Well, it was spoken in 1961 by a developer connected to the Rockefeller family, who wanted to cut off the top of San Bruno Mountain and dump it in the Bay in order to build thousands of new homes.

Back in the 1960s, Peninsula residents stopped the developer. San Bruno Mountain is still there. Cargill may be one of the largest privately owned corporations in the United States, but the residents of the Peninsula do not want 30,000 additional residents living below sea level on Bay-fill sur-

rounded by large levies.

Population growth is not new, and filling in the bay to satisfy housing needs was discredited long ago. Over 100 current and former public officials have had the wisdom and the courage to state their opposition to the proposed Cargill development. It would seem that going forward with an environmental impact report on Cargill's proposed housing is premature and that issues of Redwood City zoning and the general plan should be addressed first.

Kaia Eakin
Redwood City

Summer heat can be deadly for your pet

Editor:

In warmer weather, it is best to leave pets at home while shopping or dining out, unless your

destination allows you to keep them with you, rather than leaving them in the car.

According to an article published by the Humane Society of the United States, “Common sense tells most people that leaving their pet inside a parked vehicle on a hot summer day could be dangerous after an extended period of time. But most people don't realize that the temperature can skyrocket after just a few minutes. Parking in the shade or leaving the windows cracked does little to alleviate this pressure cooker.”

A study by the Stanford University School of Medicine showed that temperatures inside cars can rise dramatically even on mild days. With outside temperatures as low as 72 degrees, researchers found that a car's interior temperature can heat up by an average of 40 degrees

within an hour, with 80 percent of that increase in the first 30 minutes. A cracked window provides little relief from this oven effect.

The Stanford researchers found that a cracked window had an insignificant effect on both the rate of heating and the final temperature after an hour.

Please pay heed to the Humane Society: “While people can roll down windows, turn on the air conditioner or exit the vehicle when they become too hot, pets cannot.”

Your furry friends will be grateful that you took the time to read this brief article.

Go to is.gd/bPgp8 (case-sensitive) for more information from the Humane Society of the United States.

Lanny Danenberg
Palo Alto

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