



**CHRIS GULKER,**  
InMenlo founder, dies at 59 | PAGE 3

# The Almanac

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

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## InMenlo founder Chris Gulker dies at 59

*This is an edited version of a story written by Linda Hubbard Gulker for InMenlo.com. She is the wife of Chris Gulker and a co-founder of InMenlo.*

Chris Gulker, founder of InMenlo.com, the Menlo Park website devoted to photos and stories on local people and events, died Oct. 27 at his home in Menlo Park of brain cancer. He was 59.

A memorial service and celebration of his life will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 12, at Trinity Church in Menlo Park.

The tributes to him on his personal website demonstrate the breadth of his pursuits — photographer, writer, pioneer in electronic publishing, product evangelist — and how many people he touched, many of whom he only knew via the blogosphere.

Initially drawn to science, his interest in photography was sparked by his high school teacher Bill Moos while attending Western Reserve Academy in Hudson, Ohio. He continued to take photos during his college years at Occidental College, where he graduated in 1974.

He joined the staff of the Los Angeles Herald Examiner as a staff photographer in 1978 and was twice nominated for the Pulitzer Prize during his tenure there.

In 1989, Mr. Gulker moved to Menlo Park and joined the San Francisco Examiner as picture editor and then as director of media development. His Wikipedia entry explains his contribution to that newspaper:

“Turning the Examiner into a ‘digital laboratory,’ he converted the newspaper from black and



Photo by Anne Knudsen

**Chris Gulker** was nominated twice for the Pulitzer Prize for his work as a photojournalist at the Los Angeles Herald Examiner.

white to color by implementing a production system of his own design that used MacIntoshes to do color separations and made The Examiner the first major American daily to switch to full-color production using desktop technology. ...

“In 1994, Gulker’s editorial workflow system, dubbed the ‘virtual newsroom,’ was demonstrated at both Seybold shows and supported the creation of ‘a real Internet newspaper that used the Net throughout the process from story and photo solicitation to delivery.’ The system provided the publishing infrastructure for The Gate, the online newspaper jointly operated by the San Francisco Examiner and the San Francisco Chronicle. ...”

### Pioneer blogger

In 1995, Mr. Gulker started a personal website, which he maintained until the final days of his illness. Academics have cited gulker.com as one of the earliest weblogs — “the first to propose a network of bloggers.”

He also pioneered two of the most effective means through which blogging emerged as a social medium — the blogroll and link attrition.

In the past four years, he chronicled living with cancer and the challenges of reduced mobility with an aplomb and strength that many readers found remarkable and inspirational.

### Electronic publishing

In 1995, Mr. Gulker joined Apple, where he oversaw strategic relations for the company’s Design and Publishing Markets groups and served as “electronic publishing guru.”

From 1997 to 2003, he wrote a technology column for London-based newspaper, The Independent. After leaving Apple, he joined the executive team of a number of startups and at the time of his cancer diagnosis was a product manager at Adobe Systems.

For the past 15 months, Mr. Gulker was once again pounding the pavement as a press photographer, this time as a labor of love for the hyperlocal blog, InMenlo, that he started with his wife, Linda Hubbard Gulker, and friend Scott Loftness in 2009. It was his portraits of local people, which showed considerable range and diversity, that gained the blog much of its following.

Mr. Gulker was an avid science fiction reader. When William Gibson read on gulker.com that he was worried he wouldn’t be alive when the author released his next book, the author FedEx’d an advance copy, which his fan sat down and read cover to cover. Author and fan later met when Gibson appeared at Kepler’s bookstore in Menlo Park.

Mr. Gulker’s interests also included hiking, cooking and gardening. Earlier this spring he and granddaughter Grace planted a new vegetable garden together.

In addition to his wife Linda and granddaughter Grace, he is survived by stepson John Getze and daughter-in-law Julie Getze and aunt, Theresa Simon.

Those wishing to make a contribution in his memory can do so either to Western Reserve Academy, where a fund is being established in his name — c/o James A. Gundy, Assistant Head of School, Western Reserve Academy, 115 College Street, Hudson, Ohio 44236; or to the University of California San Francisco, 514 Parnassus Ave., P.O. Box 45339, San Francisco, CA 94145-0339, for continued brain tumor research.

Go to [tinyurl.com/ChrisGulker2010](http://tinyurl.com/ChrisGulker2010) for the full story on InMenlo, including Chris Gulker’s account of his photography experience at the Los Angeles Herald Examiner.

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### STEVE MARSHECK

STEVE EARNED HIS B.A. IN MATHEMATICS FROM UC SAN DIEGO AND HIS M.A. IN MATHEMATICS FROM VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY.

He wants his students to see the beauty and magic in mathematics. He says, “Once I experienced Abstract Algebra in college, I was hooked. I want my students to see the structure and logic in math that is often hidden by the details and computations.”

When Steve isn’t teaching math at the Priory, he pushes his physical limits by training for Ironman Triathlons. In addition, he coaches the Priory’s Middle School cross-country team.

He believes teaching is a gift for the teacher and the student. Steve says, rather humbly, “After 17 years, I still think teaching is fun. I enjoy attempting to convince teenagers that math is beautiful. Occasionally, I succeed.”

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### Check AlmanacNews.com for election results

AlmanacNews.com will report election results Tuesday night, Nov. 2. There will be election tables on top of the page, with results from Menlo Park, Atherton, Palo Alto and Mountain View. Page down for more results and election stories.

### CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

The Almanac newsroom is at 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Newsroom: 854-2690 (ext. 213) ■ E-mail news, information, obituaries and photos (with captions) to: [editor@AlmanacNews.com](mailto:editor@AlmanacNews.com)

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■ E-mail letters to the editor to: [letters@AlmanacNews.com](mailto:letters@AlmanacNews.com)

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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

## PTO volunteers sued by coach they forced off the court

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

A conflict that originated on the Encinal School basketball court appears headed for a court of law after a father who was stripped of his volunteer coaching position filed a lawsuit against the school's Parent Teacher Organization and three parents who volunteered as PTO officers.

Lawrence Hecimovich, the father of two boys and coach for two years of his older son's after-school basketball team, names Kelly Perri, Julie Roth, and Leslie Burke in addition to the nonprofit PTO in a lawsuit filed in late August in San Mateo County Superior Court.

Among the causes of action listed in the suit are libel and slander, negligence, intentional and negligent infliction of emotional

distress, and fraud.

Mr. Hecimovich, who is a deputy city attorney for San Francisco, is seeking reinstatement as a head coach in the school's basketball program, punitive damages in an unspecified amount, and attorney fees and costs associated with the lawsuit.

He also wants to require the PTO to provide program coordinators and volunteers "the training and resources needed to provide a safe school environment for Encinal students," asserting that "PTO's unsafe practices needlessly expose students to the risk of serious physical injury."

The defendants, through their attorney Robert A. Muhlbach, declined to comment for this story.

Mr. Muhlbach said a court date is set for Nov. 17, at which time he will argue for a motion to dismiss

the case based on California's "anti-SLAPP" law, which prohibits lawsuits brought primarily for the purpose of intimidating others into making concessions rather than face a costly court fight.

Although he declined to comment on the lawsuit itself, Mr. Hecimovich said in an e-mail, "I offered to settle for (no monetary damages) a number of times, asking only for an apology, and got no response, so a settlement seems unlikely." He is asking for a jury trial.

The basketball program is under the auspices of the city of Menlo Park's community services department, but the school's PTO appoints the coaches and is the program coordinator.

### Behind the lawsuit

The conflict arose during the 2008-09 school year, when a player

on the fourth-grade team Mr. Hecimovich coached "engaged in behavior that went beyond disruption to posing a serious risk to his own safety and the safety of other players," the lawsuit states.

That behavior included "kicking and throwing basketballs at the gym lights, clock and fire alarm in an effort to break them; throwing or kicking balls at other players or other players' basketballs to disrupt their shooting or dribbling; and disappearing without notice during practices, including the final incident lasting half an hour," according to the lawsuit.

Mr. Hecimovich's attempt to make the boy's parents aware of the problem was first ignored, then resulted in "extreme anger and hostility ... and the threat that the parent had rallied and would continue to rally team parents" to

remove him as coach, he says in the lawsuit.

The document also says that appeals to the PTO basketball coordinator, Ms. Roth, to allow him to respond to the boy's misconduct by reducing his playing time were rejected; Mr. Hecimovich's persistence resulted in threats to remove him as coach.

The following year, the lawsuit says, Ms. Roth, her successor Leslie Burke, and then-PTO President Kelly Perri "found Hecimovich unfit to coach and permanently barred (him) from participating in the Encinal League."

The lawsuit cites conflicting statements allegedly made by the defendants regarding whether complaints had been made against Mr. Hecimovich by parents, and

See **COACH**, page 8

## Did Menlo Park councilman Cohen cross ethical line?

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

"I'm going to do whatever I can to help you out, because you're such a good-looking woman."

That remark raises no eyebrows in some contexts; between good friends, for example.

In others, it crosses an ethical line; such as between a business executive and potential vendor.

How about between a Menlo Park councilman and a developer with business shortly coming before the council?

Kim LeMieux, who asked the City Council to overturn a commission decision and allow her to cut down a heritage redwood tree at 240 University Drive, spoke with several council members before the meeting, including Andy Cohen.

During their lengthy phone conversation preceding the Oct. 26 council meeting, Mr. Cohen made the above remark.

He told The Almanac he thought she was a woman he'd met at the Golden Acorn awards last month, and didn't realize until the meeting started that he'd actually never met Ms. LeMieux.

"Is that what I was quoted as saying? Jesus. That's real-



2007 photo by Dave Boyce/The Almanac  
Andy Cohen

ly terrible. I was really impressed by her integrity, which I think influenced me to make that remark," said the councilman, who is a former judge with a Stanford law degree.

"I guess I should be red in the face. But you know, one thing I think is, if I don't have anything to be ashamed of, and I didn't even know Kim before this, I have nothing to be ashamed of. Her openness with me was extraordinary, and I think that's beautiful. So that's one thing in my defense."

The Almanac was unable to speak with Ms. LeMieux to ask for her assessment of the pre-meeting conversation with Councilman Cohen. She did respond earlier to questions about her reaction to the council's decision.

Mr. Cohen, along with colleagues Kelly Fergusson and Heyward Robinson, voted to have a third-party architect attempt to design a new home around the tree, preserving the redwood while still allowing Ms. LeMieux to develop the property, a decision she said left her "very disappointed."

"How many more expert opin-

See **COHEN**, page 8



Photo by Emily Bouthilllette

Students at Woodside Elementary School walk to school on Oct. 27.

## Hundreds participate in 'Walk to School'

Woodside Elementary plans to make it a monthly event

Submitted by Millo Fenzi of Woodside, a member of the Woodside Elementary School Site Council and leader of the school's Safe Routes Initiative.

October was International Walk to School month. This annual event promotes physical activity, concern for the environment, and taking back neighborhoods for people on foot.

Woodside Elementary School chose Oct. 27 as its Walk to School day. A school bus meth-

odology was used: a volunteer parent ibus driver leads a group of children on foot, with more parents scattered through the "bus" and bringing up the rear. Eleven volunteer parent ibus drivers lead walking, cycling, and equestrian buses.

Four hundred and forty-three students arrived at school on time on Walk to School day. Of those, an astounding 241 walked to school. Another 23 rode bikes. Five rode horses. Forty-eight took carpools, electric cars, or a bus.

A phenomenal 317 of the 443 students walked, biked, bused, carpooled, took an e-car or rode a horse to school. That is 83 percent of the entire student body. In addition, 91 parents rode or walked with their children. At arrival, participants were greeted with steaming hot chocolate; a perfect compliment to the brisk morning temperature.

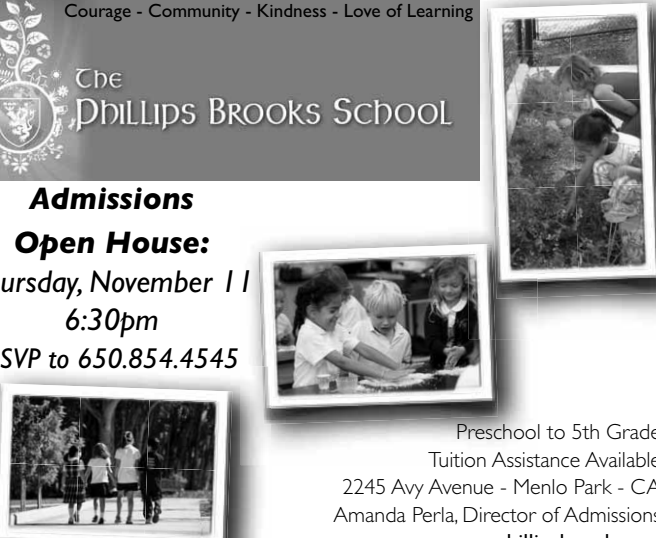
Both the second and fourth grades had better than 90 per-

See **WALK**, page 8

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## Sudden oak death update: disease spreads to Atherton

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

An important follow-up visit by scientists investigating sudden oak death in Woodside, Portola Valley — and now parts of Atherton — is taking place at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 8, in the community in Portola Valley at 765 Portola Road.

The expected speakers are Matteo Garbelotto, chief scientist at the Forest Pathology and Mycology Laboratory at the University of California at Berkeley; and Janet Santos Cobb, the executive officer of California Oaks, a project of the nonprofit California Wildlife Foundation.

Those who attend the Nov. 8 presentation will be eligible to participate in a bulk order of chemical treatments for affected trees. For more information, contact Portola Valley Planning Manager Leslie Lambert at 851-1700, extension 212.

Go to [is.gd/gp0au](http://is.gd/gp0au) (case sensitive) to check the laboratory's website.

### Now in Atherton

In the sampling done by volunteers in the three towns earlier this year, the results tested positive for 28 percent of Woodside samples, 25 percent of Atherton samples, and 10 percent of Portola Valley samples, according to data from the lab's website.

The Atherton infections happened in the last two or three years, Mr. Garbelotto said in a recent interview over the telephone. "All the evidence suggests that it wasn't there before that," he said.

Peninsula communities are valuable in this scientifically exacting and prolonged effort to understand the nature of this disease and are willing to come back year after year with

more samples, Mr. Garbelotto said. "They understand that the distribution changes," he said. "People really learn. They become really good surveyors."

### Progress is slow

Scientists have only recently understood the pathogen's basic biology, he said. They also know that the ideal condition for its spread is warm weather after a rain.

Scientists are working on finding answers to the questions of what happens to it when the weather is dry, why it exits dormancy so rapidly, and how its processes may be interrupted, such as by intense light.

"Some experiments will take year and years," maybe 10 years, Mr. Garbelotto said. "It's not easy. (We) actually don't have a system to get funding for 10 years. There's always the risk of 'No more for you.'"

The task in typical field work now: find volunteers to fill 200 buckets with four gallons of water each; count the sporangia, if any, in the water; collect five uninfected bay leaves for each bucket; leave the buckets and leaves at 200 separate locations in 200 to 300 acres of woodland; check the leaves after two weeks for spots indicating infection; change the water and the leaves; start all over again, and again, and again.

"We are changing the scale (of the investigation)," Mr. Garbelotto said. "We could never do it as a research unit from Berkeley. The volunteers know the areas so they know where to look. There is a great synergy that's generated."

The volunteer response in June in Woodside of around 70 people "was the biggest surprise of my scientific career," Mr. Garbelotto said. "I really think the Peninsula is leading the way in doing this the right way." ■

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- For Girls: Mondays, December 6 & 13: 6:30 – 8:30 pm
- For Boys: Tuesdays, November 30 & December 7: 6:30 – 8:30 pm

### ▶ SIBLING PREPARATION CLASS

This class for children two years of age and older will help prepare siblings for the emotional and physical realities of the arrival of a newborn.

- Saturday, December 4: 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

### ▶ CESAREAN BIRTH CLASS

This two-hour class is taught by a labor and delivery nurse/childbirth educator who helps prepare families for cesarean delivery. Information about vaginal birth after cesarean (VBAC) will also be discussed.

- Wednesday, December 8: 7:00 – 9:00 pm

### ▶ COMFORT TECHNIQUES FOR LABOR

For couples who have already completed Childbirth Prep, this class provides additional tools and practice for relaxation, breathing and comfort measures for labor.

- Wednesday, December 15: 6:30 – 8:30 pm.

Call (650) 723-4600 or visit [www.calendar.lpch.org](http://www.calendar.lpch.org) to register or obtain more information on the times, locations and fees for these and other courses.



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### ■ BIRTHS

#### Atherton

- Jennifer and Robert Noravian, a daughter, Oct. 1, Sequoia Hospital.

#### Menlo Park

- Wendy and Albert Hsiao, a son, Oct. 17, Sequoia Hospital.
- Annie and Brian Peters, a daughter, Oct. 19, Sequoia Hospital.
- Elizabeth and David Skibbe, a daughter, Oct. 23, Sequoia Hospital.

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Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Former president Jimmy Carter greets a child in the book-signing line at Kepler's.

## Hundreds line up for Jimmy Carter

By Richard Hine  
Managing Editor, The Almanac

Hundreds of people lined up Oct. 26 at Kepler's bookstore in Menlo Park to exchange a quick smile with former president Jimmy Carter and have him sign a copy of his new book, "White House Diary."

At 86, Mr. Carter hasn't slowed down a bit, at least in the book-signing department. The 39th president was dispatching books at a rate of at least a dozen a minute, as the book buyers quickly traipsed by in front of a roped-off area where Mr. Carter sat at a table wide enough so people couldn't reach across for a hand-shake and slow down the process.

Mr. Carter did look up to give many of the buyers his trademark smile, and exchange a few words, including "hi, pretty girls" to some of the many children who showed up with their parents.

Dressed in a blue, open-

collar shirt with khaki pants, Mr. Carter looked shorter and less presidential than he does on TV.

At one point, when the books stopped coming, he



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac  
Jimmy Carter at Kepler's.

looked disappointed, but he didn't have long to wait. Later, when there was a longer break in the book feed, he got up and walked over to the press and photo corral (where many book buyers had gathered to take pictures) and made a few remarks.

"Thirty years later, President Obama is dealing with the

same issues that I was dealing with -- the Middle East, health care, energy," he said. "Things don't change much."

Someone wanted to know the secret to a successful marriage. He said he wasn't an authority, given that his marriage "only stood the test of 64 years." But his advice: "Don't go to bed angry."

Asked his pick for the Word Series, he said, "I'm pulling for the Giants." (I wonder if he says that in Texas.) "I have to admit that, earlier, I was rooting for the Braves."

"What is the most important issue of the 21st century," asked a reporter who apparently thought he was addressing the Oracle. Mr. Carter took the question seriously, and said he had been talking about this around the world. "The most important issue is the growing chasm between rich people and poor people," he said, to applause from the huddled assembly, who apparently agreed with him. ■

## Mary Paine to be honored for environmental work

Mary Paine of Portola Valley was there in 1972 for the founding of Environmental Volunteers, a nonprofit with offices in Palo Alto and San Jose and a mission of providing hands-on experiences in Bay Area ecosystems. So far, they have reached some 300,000 adults and children, the organization says.

Environmental Volunteers is honoring Ms. Paine and eight

other long-time volunteers at a three-hour celebration that starts at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 7, at the Crowne Plaza Cabana Hotel at 4290 El Camino Real in Palo Alto.

The group "believes all children deserve to learn about the natural world through personal exploration, so they can become responsible stewards of the Earth."

The event will include a "heart-warming and fun walk down memory lane and (a) festive dessert reception," a Peninsula Volunteers spokesperson said. Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$20 for youths.

Go to [is.gd/gso79](http://is.gd/gso79) (case sensitive) to order tickets online, or to donate to a specially designated fund in recognition of the honorees.

## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Gloria Darke



### Why Use an Agent?

**Q. Dear Gloria,**  
With the market the way it is and the value of our property so much less than it was, we would like to save the money that one has to pay an agent. Perhaps you are the wrong person to ask, but why is it necessary to use an agent? What would be the downside of trying to sell it ourselves?  
Hazel D., Menlo Park

Dear Hazel, It is possible to do it yourself but, frankly, I cannot imagine how one does it. The experience that a realtor brings to the transaction is invaluable to a successful close of escrow. The documents alone, many which are required by law, can be well over one hundred pages. The disclosure laws are very specific about the items a seller must disclose to the buyer and non-disclosure is one of the big causes of law suits down the line. Writing the purchase contract requires expertise not only in the legal parts of the contract but certainly in

the negotiation. How do you know what all the comps are and at what price should you offer your home to the market? Are you going to offer to share the savings by selling it yourself with the buyer? Realtors spend thousands and thousands of dollars to promote your home to the public. Just one newspaper ad can cost \$1500. Then there is the development of the web-site, virtual tours, brochures for the property, for sale sign, and placing the property on the multiple listing service, which your agent pays hundreds of dollars per year to belong to.

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

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## Atherton police report investigation stalled

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

Seven months have passed since Atherton's police chief asked the San Mateo County district attorney to investigate the charge that a police report was falsified to bring a trumped-up charge of child abuse against an Atherton resident.

Steve Wagstaffe, the deputy district attorney, said in April that the investigation by his office should be wrapped up in two to four weeks. Not only has that not happened, but the investigation has been in limbo almost from the start, causing concern among the public that Atherton police officers might have engaged in an illegal act to harm a resident, and may never have to answer for it.

The issue centers on the report written on the arrest of resident Jon Buckheit, who called police out to his house in October 2008 to help in a domestic violence incident. Although Mr. Buckheit told the police his then-girlfriend was the offender, and he had the injuries to prove it, he was arrested.

Mr. Buckheit was never charged, but his conflict with the town and the county continues.

When Mr. Buckheit successfully sued the town to obtain his police report months after his arrest, it was to have all documentation needed to petition the Superior Court for a declaration of factual innocence in the domestic violence incident.

What he found when he reviewed the long-withheld report was shocking: In addition to a charge that he had committed violence against his girlfriend, another charge accused him of violence against her young son.

Mr. Buckheit won his declaration of factual innocence in a trial in January, but the courtroom testimony of Officer Tony Dennis raised new questions: Mr. Dennis said that, although he had written and signed the report, he hadn't included the child abuse charge, and that it was added without his knowledge.

Prior to the trial, Mr. Buckheit had filed a \$10 million lawsuit in federal court against the town and San Mateo County over matters related to the arrest, including an assertion that his

arrest was the result of a county policy of discriminating against men when domestic abuse cases are reported.

After the declaration of innocence was granted, he turned the heat up on the town and Police Chief Mike Guerra to find out who had altered the report despite there being no evidence that the boy had been a victim of violence.

Although he sought an outside investigation into the matter — by the state attorney general or the FBI — Mr. Buckheit strongly objected when Chief Guerra turned it over to the county District Attorney's Office.

"It's just totally inappropriate," he said. "I'm suing the county, which includes the D.A., so how can he pass judgment on the wrongfulness of what was done to me? The D.A. has a vested interest in not exposing the wrongdoing."

Mr. Wagstaffe rejected the argument that his office couldn't be relied on to conduct a thorough and fair investigation.

So what has stalled the investigation? When Judge Mark Forcum granted Mr. Buckheit's statement of innocence, he sealed all court and police records on the matter, allowing them to be unsealed only by Mr. Buckheit. And Mr. Buckheit, insisting that the investigation must be done by an outside party, won't release the police report to the district attorney.

"As long as we aren't given the records, we can't conduct this investigation," Mr. Wagstaffe said. He said he had requested the report months ago through Mr. Buckheit's attorney, Robert Carey. But Mr. Carey said he intended to ask the attorney general to take up the investigation. "So the ball goes back into their court," Mr. Wagstaffe said.

Mr. Carey could not be reached for comment. Mr. Buckheit said the attorney general's office was asked to investigate, "but they won't take it on."

So what might break the stalemate? Mr. Buckheit said the attorney general might agree to investigate with Mr. Wagstaffe's permission, and hopes the district attorney will agree to write a joint letter with Mr. Carey to appeal for help from the state agency or the FBI. ■



Photo by Dave Boyce  
Jon Buckheit

## Did councilman cross ethical line?

COHEN

continued from page 5

ions do they need to make a decision?" she asked. Her presentation to the council included alternate designs drawn at her own expense before she concluded it wasn't possible to save the towering redwood.

Mr. Cohen said he had coached her on how to make the presentation, but also did the same for a neighbor who opposed cutting down the tree. At 70 feet tall and 52 inches in diameter, the redwood looms large enough to provide shade for houses next door.

Explaining his vote to delay deciding the tree's fate, he said his perspective is that further research may allow both parties in the dispute to walk away happy.

"If Kim says it's impossible to do something with the alternatives being presented, I'm going to vote to remove the tree. I tried to make that very clear Tuesday night in the fluff Kelly and Heyward create when they do their dance," Mr. Cohen said.

Mayor Rich Cline voted to grant the developer's request to cut down the tree.

"Well, he didn't help her much," observed Mr. Cline after a long pause when asked about



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

The controversial heritage redwood tree on University Drive.

the comment.

He noted that his colleague, known for scathing criticism of other council members in Menlo Park and beyond, seems to get a pass on controversial remarks, unlike everyone else on the dais.

Still, Mr. Cline hesitated to reach a conclusion regarding Mr. Cohen's conduct. "If I took it at face value, a lot of times I'd be very disappointed in what I'm hearing. At best it's a sloppy comment; it's a lazy use of the English language. At worst, it's an offensive comment. It's up

to the person who heard it to define that," he said.

If it's an ethical misstep for a business executive, how much more so for a council member? "It's probably pretty egregious from an elected official," Mr. Cline said.

Menlo Park, however, has no ethics policy for the council. There is, according to City Attorney Bill McClure, a policy adopted in 1995 for city employees, but nothing specific to council members. He said that nothing in Mr. Cohen's remarks appears to raise a legal issue. ■

COACH

continued from page 5

states that, after the end of the 2008-09 season, "virtually every parent complimented (him) for a wonderful season and several confirmed their son's interest in being coached by (him) the following year."

When Mr. Hecimovich asked for a review of the decision to take away his coaching position, district Superintendent Ken Ranella assigned a consultant, former Hillview Middle School principal

Michael Moore, to investigate the matter. (Mr. Moore was on a retirement contract that year to perform a number of services for the district, Mr. Ranella said.)

Mr. Hecimovich asserts that the investigation was not carried out in the way he was told it would be, but in spite of flaws in the process, the consultant found, among other things favorable to Mr. Hecimovich, that "there was no truth to (Leslie) Burke's original rationale for the decision to ban Hecimovich, ... that the PTO had acted despite the absence of any complaints or other information

from the other team parents," and that an allegation that the coach had assaulted a child "was entirely without merit."

Before being dumped by the PTO, Mr. Hecimovich had coached basketball, baseball and soccer for five years, and had intended to coach throughout his sons' adolescence, he says in the lawsuit. He hasn't coached since, the lawsuit asserts, because of "the defamation and other unlawful conduct" by the defendants, and he "will not be able to coach until (they) acknowledge their deceit and clear his reputation." ■

WALK

continued from page 5

cent participation in the event. The students in 2A and 4A had the highest participation in the school at 94 percent. Fifteen of the 16 2A students walked to school that day and 17 of the 18 4A students walked, carpoled or biked.

Participating parents sent in the following event highlights: The pride that our boys felt in getting themselves to school under their own power was so evident. It had a great vibe for socializing — not the

social pressure of a party, not the usual small talk of school dropoff, more of a we're-all-in-this-together-and-it's-really-fun neighborhood feeling.

The best part was seeing the smiles on the faces of the kids as they walked along together, chattering the whole time. Walking did not take anywhere near as long as we thought that it would. It was great to interact with other parents who live on my block but whom I never see.

A teacher declared that her class was much calmer than typical as a result of burning off all that energy in the morning.

Some onlookers commented that seeing the horses brought back memories of years gone by when parents regularly rode to school with their children then tied their horses up at Buckis and ate breakfast before riding back home.

The direct and collateral benefits of the Walk-to-School day were so overwhelmingly positive that the community intends to make this a regular monthly event.

To find out more about Woodside Elementary School's Safe Routes Initiative contact Millo Fenzi at fenzi@comcast.net. ■

## Helping hands for Menlo council candidates

■ What assistance must be reported?

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer



we have all the information we need.”

Menlo Park residents spotted precinct walkers handing out fliers supporting three candidates for City Council along with “Yes on Measure T” doorhangers, and finding similar literature in their mailboxes, during the final week before the Nov. 2 election. That assistance wasn’t disclosed on anyone’s campaign finance reports, however.

Developer David Bohannon hopes to see the ballot measure pass so he can build Menlo Gateway, a nearly 1-million-square-foot office-hotel complex, on property he owns east of U.S. 101.

“We did not believe we had to report this since our campaign workers’ principal mission was to distribute Yes on T literature, and the other literature was added on,” said Bohannon spokesman Patrick Corman. “We now have been advised otherwise and are preparing an amended financial statement, which we will file this week as soon as

The three candidates most enjoying the generosity of the Bohannon coalition’s support are Mayor Rich Cline, Councilman Heyward Robinson, and Planning Commissioner Kirsten Keith, who all support Measure T.

“I knew they were dropping fliers for candidates so I gave them some of mine. I haven’t talked with them directly,” Mr. Cline said. He recalled the workers asking for fliers around the first week in October.

Mr. Robinson said the workers “have been doing this for most of the campaign.” One of the workers handed him a stack of fliers on Saturday that included Mr. Cline’s, Ms. Keith’s, and even one for Peter Ohtaki, who also supports Measure T.

“We will certainly amend our 460 [finance report] if necessary,” the councilman said.

The last campaign finance report covered donations and contributions through Oct. 16. Contributions or expenditures

of \$1,000 or more after that date must be reported within 24 hours, according to the California Fair Political Practices Commission. In-kind donations must be reported by recipients within 48 hours from the time received, but volunteer services aren’t reportable.

Mr. Bohannon had thrown \$475,000 at last report into funding the campaign to support Measure T, with at least \$14,864 dedicated to a series of mailers attacking the one candidate who vocally opposes Menlo Gateway, Chuck Bernstein.

What about the other campaigns? The “No on Measure T” crowd confirmed that their literature had sometimes accompanied Mr. Bernstein’s fliers.

“All are volunteers; none are paid,” said Patti Fry, one of the organizers behind the effort to defeat the measure. “That’s the way grassroots campaigns have been done forever. If someone were normally paid and donated their time, then that should be reported. If someone were donating legal time, or better yet, an office that would normally be rented out. Feet on the street? No.” ■

## Menlo Park council takes break between busy agendas

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

The Menlo Park City Council has canceled its meeting on Tuesday night, Nov. 2, no doubt to devote every last minute to shaping the political future of the city on election day.

The break comes sandwiched between two busy meeting agendas.

At its Oct. 26 meeting, the council voted to:

■ Hire Capitol Advocates, a Sacramento-based lobbying firm to represent the city on high-speed rail, for \$80,000.

■ Formally oppose Proposition 23, a statewide initiative that would stop enforcing greenhouse gas emission laws until unemployment drops to 5.5 percent or lower for an entire year.

### ■ BRIEFS

■ Not make a decision on whether a developer could cut down a heritage redwood tree at 240 University Drive. Instead, the city will pay an architect to attempt to design a home around the tree.

Vice Mayor John Boyle dissented on each vote, with Mayor Rich Cline joining him on the tree issue.

When the council convenes on Tuesday, Nov. 9, it will decide whether to allow Beverages & More to open a store on El Camino Real in the same mall as Staples and Big 5. Judging by the volume of e-mail sent to the City Council on both sides of the issue, it will be a long night

of public comments.

### Public comments on Burgess pool contracts

Since the Menlo Park community appears interested in the management of the city’s swimming pools, the Parks and Recreation Commission is holding a meeting on Thursday, Nov. 4, to hear public comments on the proposals submitted by the two competing vendors, current Burgess pool manager Menlo Swim and Sport, and SOLO Aquatics.

Go to [tinyurl.com/MP-pool-2010](http://tinyurl.com/MP-pool-2010) to view proposals on the city’s website.

The meeting starts at 6 p.m. in council chambers at the Menlo Park Civic Center at 701 Laurel St.

## Two local restaurants win Michelin star

Two local restaurants — the Village Pub in Woodside, and Madera in Menlo Park — have earned a star in the 2011 Michelin Guide.

Receiving a Michelin star is a particularly impressive feat for Madera: The restaurant is only one and a half years old. The kitchen is headed by Executive

Chef Peter Rudolph. The restaurant is part of the Rosewood Sand Hill luxury hotel, which opened last year on Sand Hill Road.

For the Pub, the Michelin honor is becoming a tradition; this is the third consecutive year the restaurant been awarded a star. Once again, chef Dmitry Elperin takes a bow.

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SUN / NOV 7 / 2:30 PM

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TUE / NOV 9 / 8 PM

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### CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE

SAT / NOVEMBER 13 / 8 PM

“Effortlessly charismatic bassist” (*NY Times*) McBride returns with a dazzling acoustic quintet.



### TAKÁCS QUARTET

FRI / DECEMBER 3 / 8 PM

Takács performs towering late works by Schubert (including “Death and the Maiden”) and Bartók.

**PLUS:** Chanticleer (DEC 9), Olive Kitteridge: Word for Word (JAN 9), Emanuel Ax - LTD AVAILABILITY (JAN 12), Rennie Harris Puremovement (JAN 22), St. Lawrence String Quartet (JAN 30), Mingus Dynasty (FEB 2), & **MANY MORE!**

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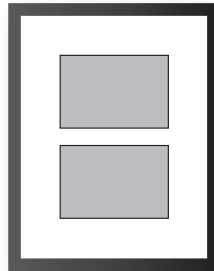
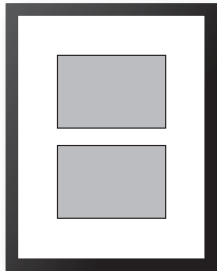
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## Santa's not coming to town, after all; train is canceled

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Santa's lost his ride this year. Despite months of effort trying to save it, Caltrain managers have canceled the holiday train that has collected thousands of toys over the years for children who otherwise might not find anything under the Christmas tree.

"It's heartbreaking to me because it's one of the things in my job that I really enjoy doing. It brings so much joy to people out in the community," said agency spokesperson Tasha Bartholomew.

This would have been the 10th annual holiday train. Ms. Bartholomew said the executive team made the decision on Tuesday, Oct. 26, even though, as The Almanac reported earlier, the agency still planned a scaled-down version of the train, with fewer stops and less decoration.

The changes came after the annual toy donation drive had its budget slashed from \$38,000 to \$12,000, said Ms. Bartholomew.

Caltrain realized that budget wouldn't include necessities such as lighting and sound systems at the train stops, and that scheduling entertainment this late in

the year was nearly impossible, according to the spokesperson.

Last year the train collected approximately 4,400 toys for the Salvation Army and U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots program.

Gunnery Sgt. Kevin Thomas, who organizes the Marine Corps toy drive, said he could tell how much the news upset Caltrain employees. "I understand they have to be good stewards of taxpayers' money. Their hearts are in the right places, but they have the money people above them."

He remains hopeful for this year's donations anyway, saying he'd received another 17 requests on Thursday morning for collection boxes. Last year the Marine Corps placed 600 boxes locally.

"We'll just drive on. Lucasfilm donates thousands of toys; I think we're going to be fine. But it would've been fun," said Sgt. Thomas.

Caltrain hopes to bring the train back next year, but will need to aggressively seek sponsors, Ms. Bartholomew said.

As for this year — Caltrain employees are donating toys on their own, according to Ms. Bartholomew. "It's going to be a very small fraction of what the train usually contributes."

## Council clears way for cell tower

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

■ PORTOLA VALLEY

T-Mobile West Corp. passed another milestone toward its goal of erecting a cell phone tower on undeveloped property at the corner of Peak Lane and Golden Oak Drive in Portola Valley.

The Town Council gave its unanimous approval on Oct. 27 to a resolution that granted T-Mobile a conditional use permit to erect the tower, but only after review and approval from the Architectural & Site Control Commission.

The 3-0 vote, with Mayor Steve Toben and Councilman John Richards absent, brings the council's role in this matter to a close.

The council on Oct. 13 heard T-Mobile's appeal of a 4-1 Planning Commission decision rejecting a permit, with Commissioner Arthur "Chip" McIntosh dissenting. The majority disputed T-Mobile's claim of a significant coverage gap and was willing to take a chance that the courts had not ruled definitely on a phone company's discretion in a semi-rural town.

The council unanimously reversed the commission's decision, with Mr. Richards absent. While no one on the council appeared to like casting their votes

as they did, they had little choice.

Federal regulations tip the balance in favor of phone service providers that can demonstrate the need for a tower. T-Mobile apparently made its case effectively, as every council member noted the unlikelihood of the town's prevailing in court.

The permit conditions direct the company to do everything possible to keep the pole/tree out of the line of sight of residences, to not draw attention to itself, and to test for radio frequency radiation every year, with the results subject to independent testing and review at the company's expense, a staff report said.

The pole may be as high as 70 feet if the ASCC is shown data proving that antennas for three separate carriers could be accommodated on the pole and that the results would be aesthetically acceptable, the report said. The ASCC will have considerable discretion in the location of the pole and its appearance.

T-Mobile has accepted all the conditions, said San Francisco attorney Paul Albritton, who was representing the company before the council. ■

## Cancer: From Prevention to Survivorship

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Author Debra Jarvis

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# Community Health Education Programs

## Palo Alto Center 795 El Camino Real

### Lecture and Workshops 650-853-4873

#### What Everyone Should Know About Hospice

Presented by Colleen M. Kenny, MACP, Hospice Community Relations Liaison, and Sophie Mace, R.N., Case Manager, Sutter VNA & Hospice  
Tuesday, Nov. 9, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

#### Your Baby's Doctor

Wednesday, Nov. 17, 7 to 9 p.m.

### Living Well Classes 650-853-2960

#### Functional Spine Training

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



### Nutrition and Diabetes Classes 650-853-2961

#### Adult Weight Management Group

Thursdays, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

#### Bariatric Nutrition SMA

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

#### Living Well with Diabetes

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

#### Heart Smart Class

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

#### Healthy Eating Type 2 Diabetes

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

#### Gestational Diabetes

Wednesdays, 2 to 4 p.m.

#### Prediabetes

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

### Post-Stroke Caregiver's Workshop 650-565-8485

Thursday, Nov. 11, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

### Pregnancy, Breastfeeding & Child Care Classes

#### New Parent ABC's – All About Baby Care

Mondays, Nov. 8 & 15, 7 to 9 p.m., 650-853-2960

#### Preparing for Birth

650-853-2960

Thursdays, Nov. 4 – Dec. 16, 7 to 9:15 p.m.

Saturday/Sunday, Nov. 20 & 21, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturdays, Dec. 4, 11 & 18, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Wednesdays, Dec. 8 – Jan. 12, 7 to 9:15 p.m.

#### Preparing for Birth – A Refresher

Sundays, Nov. 21, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 650-853-2960

#### PAMF Partners in Pregnancy

Monday, Nov. 29, 6 to 7:30 p.m., 650-853-2960

#### Preparing for Childbirth Without Medication

Sunday, Dec. 5, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., 650-853-2960

#### Raising Healthy & Happy Eaters!

650-853-2961

Introduction to Solids (ages 0 – 1)

Feeding Your Toddler (ages 1 – 3)

Feeding Your Preschooler (ages 3 – 6)

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### Support Groups

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650-281-8908

#### CPAP

650-853-4729

#### Cancer

650-342-3749

#### 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

#### Healthy Family Meals

#### Dr. Marvin Small Memorial

#### Parent Workshop Series

Presented by Dalia Perelman, R.D., PAMF Nutrition Services  
Tuesday, Nov. 2, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

#### Meet the Diabetic Foot

#### For Your Health

#### Community Lecture Series

Presented by Elaine Davis, M.D., PAMF Podiatry  
Wednesday, Nov. 10, 7 to 8 p.m.

#### Bye Bye Diapers

#### Dr. Marvin Small Memorial

#### Parent Workshop Series

Presented by Heidi Emberling, ParentsPlace  
Tuesday, Nov. 9, 7 to 8:30 p.m.



### HMR Weight Management Program 650-404-8260

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

### Living Well Classes 650-934-7373

#### Back School

Tuesday, Nov. 2, Noon to 1 p.m., and Thursday, Nov. 11, 5 to 6 p.m.

### Nutrition and Diabetes Classes 650-934-7177

#### Heart Smart Class

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

#### Diabetes Class (two-part class)

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

#### Prediabetes

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

#### Sweet Success

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

### Pregnancy, Breastfeeding and Child Care Classes

#### Breastfeeding

Mondays or Tuesdays, Nov. 1, 2, Dec. 6 or 7, 6:30 to 9 p.m.

#### Feeding Your Toddler

Tuesday, Nov. 2, 7 to 9 p.m.

#### Childbirth Preparation

Nov. 5, 6, Dec. 3 & 4; Thursday, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., Friday, 6 to 9 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon

#### Preparing for Baby

Tuesday, Nov. 9, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

#### Infant/Child CPR

Monday, Nov. 15, 6 to 8 p.m.

#### What to Expect

#### with Your Newborn

Tuesday, Nov. 16, 7 to 8 p.m.

#### Infant Emergencies and CPR

Wednesday, Nov. 3, 17 and Dec. 1, 6 to 8:30 p.m.

#### OB Orientation

Wednesday or Thursday, Nov. 17 & 18 or Dec. 2, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

#### Baby Care

Nov. 2, 18, Dec. 1 & 7, Tuesday/Thursday, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to noon

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

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## Consolidation of public health clinics ahead for South County

Uninsured and impoverished residents of southern San Mateo County will have more physical space for medical exams in a new clinic to be built with funds from the Sequoia Healthcare District.

The county Board of Supervisors on Oct. 19 approved a grant of \$6.3 million from the district to the county public health system for the purpose of consolidating into one clinic the three existing facilities that offer free or low-cost medical treatment — two in North Fair Oaks and one in Menlo Park.

The district granted \$3.6 million to the county for this new clinic in the 2008-09 and 2009-10 budget years, said public health spokeswoman Robyn Thaw in a statement. This new grant raises the total to \$9.9 million.

The Sequoia Healthcare District, which includes Atherton, Woodside, Menlo Park and Portola Valley, derives its funding from property taxes.

About \$5.6 million of the district's total grant will subsidize patient treatment, with the remaining \$4.3 million to be used to build the clinic, Ms. Thaw said.

The three existing clinics han-

dled about 69,000 outpatient visits for about 19,000 people for the 2009-10 budget year, said public health spokeswoman Robyn Thaw.

The new clinic, which will be larger than the three clinics combined, is likely to be situated in North Fair Oaks and should open for service in two to three years, Ms. Thaw said. With 33 percent more examination rooms, outpatient visits are expected to rise to 91,000 a year for 26,000 clients, she said.

(North Fair Oaks is an unincorporated and largely Latino residential area bordered by Middlefield Road, U.S. 101, Atherton and Redwood City.)

The current clinics are "overwhelmed," said Jean Fraser, chief of county public health. The uninsured and indigent will be covered in 2014 under the recent federal health care reforms, Ms. Fraser said, but until then, they will need a place to go for medical care.

"Sequoia Healthcare District's additional grant to pay for care will help us bridge the gap for these individuals," Ms. Fraser said.

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# Roller-coaster week for California high-speed rail

By Gennady Sheyner  
Embarcadero Media

The California High-Speed Rail Authority received some good news at the beginning of last week, when the Federal Railroad Administration awarded the agency another \$715 million in funding, bringing the agency total secured funding up to \$4.3 billion.

The money would be used primarily for building high-speed rail in the Central Valley, even though the rail authority has yet to formally decide which segment of the San Francisco-to-Los Angeles line would be the first to be constructed.

Curt Pringle, chair of the authority's board of directors, said the funding "has once again invigorated the project and will be a huge boost to the state's economy."

By the end of the week, however, followers of the rail project had a new reason to be concerned about the money. A new audit from state Inspector General Laura Chick concluded that the authority is "not fully prepared to distribute and

monitor (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) funds."

The audit found that the authority has some notable deficiencies when it comes to money management. The audit reviewed 11 invoices totaling \$8.94 million and found that \$3.4 million in expenditures were "without adequate supporting documents."

Auditors also found that over a four-month period, the authority paid \$72,000 to public-outreach consultants "without any back-up documentation." During this same period, the authority dished out more than \$1 million to Ogilvy Public Relations, its primary communications consultant.

Ms. Chick indicated in a letter to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger that the authority is getting better at tracking its expenditures and that its new contract manager has renegotiated several contracts, potentially saving the taxpayers \$2.6 million. "Just think how much money could be saved if all state contracts were negotiated in this way from the get go!" she wrote. ■

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K THROUGH 12



## Surreal moments from the campaign trail

■ Theme songs, developer parties, and wandering e-mails.

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Where will the candidates spend election night? The answer may depend on whether a candidate backs Measure T.

David Bohannon, the developer who hopes to see the ballot measure pass so he can build Menlo Gateway, a nearly 1-million-square-foot office-hotel complex, is hosting an election night party at the Oak City Bar and Grill in Menlo Park.

Expected to attend, according to Mr. Bohannon: incumbents Rich Cline, who confirmed his plans, and Heyward Robinson; along with candidate Kirsten Keith.

All three support the project, and all three received assistance from the Bohannon camp during the campaign, according to the party invite. Menlo Park residents



reported spotting precinct walkers handing out fliers supporting the three candidates along with 'Yes on Measure T' doorhangers. That assistance wasn't disclosed on the campaign finance reports, either as a monetary or a non-monetary donation.

Mr. Bohannon has thrown \$475,000 at last report into funding the campaign to support Measure T, with at least \$14,864 dedicated to a series of mailers attacking one candidate, Chuck Bernstein, a vocal opponent of Menlo Gateway.

No word yet on where Mr. Bernstein will be on Tuesday night, but the other candidate against the measure, stay-at-home dad and community volunteer Russell Peterson, said he plans to stay home.

"Final plans include getting to sleep at a reasonable hour and re-introducing myself to my family," Mr. Peterson said. "Perhaps I'll hold a private press conference and explain my position on the weighty issues; homework, chores, when do the kids get cell phones, how much Halloween candy can be consumed per day."

### Campaign mode vs. council mode

Incumbents running for re-election face several pitfalls during campaign season. Every decision of the past four years returns to haunt them, for example. Then there's the temptation to campaign during council meetings, which is not a sanctioned use of city time.

Competing candidate Chuck Bernstein addressed the City Council at its Oct. 19 meeting on Measure M, a countywide ballot measure that would raise vehicle registration fees \$10, describing it as "a regressive tax" that falls more heavily on poor people.

Incumbent Heyward Robinson couldn't resist firing back. "I find it interesting that Mr. Bernstein, who is touting himself as a fiscal conservative, and Vice Mayor John Boyle, who is touting himself as a fiscal conservative, is not willing to take steps to address well-known subsidies."

Mr. Boyle has not endorsed Mr. Robinson's bid for re-election.

Later, Mr. Robinson told The Almanac he had realized the comment was inappropriate, and had apologized. "I realized 'I'm not in campaign mode here, I'm at a council meeting,' and I blurred the lines a little bit."

He said the issue "pushed one of his buttons."

### Smoke, but no fire

A Citizens' Brown Act Violation Fundi has sprung up in the wake of the Daily Post reporting that three Menlo Park City Council members used city e-mail accounts to conduct campaign business.

Founded by Peter Carpenter, a staunch defender of the public's right to know what the city is doing, the fund had \$3,000 pledged as of Nov. 1.

The e-mails were shared between Councilmember Kelly Fergusson, and incumbents Heyward Robinson and Rich Cline, who are running for election.

The city attorney, however, said no violation took place. Bill McClure explained the Brown Act applies to communication between a majority of members on items within the jurisdiction of the council.

The only e-mails between multiple council members related to campaign mailings, with no discussion of content or positions on issues, and attendance at a Felton Gables neighborhood event, according to Mr. McClure. "Neither topic being or relating to an item of business within the subject matter jurisdiction of the city council," he wrote in an e-mail to The Almanac.

Ms. Fergusson said a handful of e-mails, out of thousands and thousands, were inadvertently sent from her city account.

Asked why she later sent a statement supporting Measure T, the Menlo Gateway project, to the City Council e-mail list, her answer blended both public and private reasons.

"There's a lot of misinformation out there. It was signed by five mayors and I'm one of them. I used my private e-mail address, as a private citizen," said Ms. Fergusson.

Another e-mail, sent to a Menlo Park resident from Ms. Fergusson's city account, made an argument for voting against Measure L, the pension reform initiative, claiming



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Photo by Dave Boyce/The Almanac.

### A new sewer

This trench began as a set of parallel cuts in the pavement for a couple of blocks on the Allied Arts end of Cambridge Avenue in Menlo Park. It is now home to a new sewer pipe and covered with asphalt. But the same sorts of pavement cuts have been seen on nearby streets.

## Runoff: Horsley out-raises Vargas bigtime

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

In the run-off election for District 3 San Mateo County supervisor seat now occupied by Rich Gordon, former sheriff Don Horsley has raised more than three times as much as his opponent, business woman and Coastside resident April Vargas.

Mr. Horsley has raised a total of \$249,528 and spent \$403,802, according to his Oct. 16 campaign finance report. Asked in an interview about the \$154,274 difference between income and expenses, Mr. Horsley noted that he has been running his campaign—and accumulating revenues—for about two years.

Of Mr. Horsley's 200 donors, 64 percent, or 128 donors, gave \$500 or more, and 89 of those were for \$1,000 or more. Twenty-two came from residents of The Almanac's circulation area.

Ms. Vargas raised \$74,662 and her report lists expenses of \$84,000. Of the 142 contributors to Ms. Vargas' campaign, 23 percent, or 33 donors, gave \$500 or more, and 22 of them were for \$1,000 or more. Ten live in The Almanac's circulation area.

### Horsley's \$500-plus donors

The following donors gave \$500 or more to Mr. Horsley's campaign:

■ **Menlo Park** residents Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, Andrea S. Braun, William T. Phillips, Steven Wagstaffe, as well as Lutticken Inc..

■ **Portola Valley** residents Michael Berube, Thomas Fogarty, Arthur Graham, Chong-Moon



Lee, Reiko-Takahashi Lee, J. Dorian McKelvy, Terese G. McKelvy, Brittany Perry and Sara A Messman Perry.

■ **Atherton** residents Sandra Ferrando, Isaac Stein, Nariman Teymourian and James F Wickett.

■ **Woodside** residents Catherine T. Harvey, Kevin R. Harvey, Warren R. Merrill, Dennis J Sammut and Karen Sammut.

■ **Palo Alto** residents Larry N. Horton, J. Burton McMurtry, DeeDee McMurtry, Mario M. Rosati, Eric Wickersham, Grover T. Wickersham and Jill Wickersham.

■ **Redwood City** residents Barnett R. Adelman, Julie Arbuckle, Justin H. Arbuckle, Philip Gregory, Elizabeth Hill, Duncan Matteson, Debra K Weiner as well as Gateway & Mitchell Properties and the San Mateo Credit Union.

■ **San Carlos** residents Gil DeVincenzi, Michael J. King and Matthew E. Tutino; **San Mateo** residents Mario DeCaro, Mina K. Fisher, Joe Galligan for Treasurer, Tom Huening, Frances B. Nelson, Michael D. Nevin, Nanci E. Nishimura, William Pedrini and Stephen A Way, as well as Barulich Dugoni Law Group, Concar Enterprises, the David D. Bohannon Organization, the South County Firefighters PAC, and the Western Manufactured Housing Communities Association.

■ **Others:** **Foster City** resident Preston Butcher as well as the San Mateo Building Trades Joint Council; **Millbrae** resident George R. Corey and Richard Holober

for Community College Board; **Hillsborough** residents Robert Batinovich, Dr. Joseph Haggerty, Diane Pitre and Frank M. Pitre; **Burlingame** residents Joseph Cotchett, Nancy L. Fineman, Ara R. Jabaghourian, Niall McCarthy, Mark Molumphy, Mark A Pitre, Ina Stewart, Steven Williams and David J. Byers, as well as Putnam Toyota Scion; **Sunnyvale** Susan Chavez, Kirk B. McGowan, Angeles Perry and John Perry, as well as BAGG Engineers; **San Francisco** residents Marc D. Haberman, Mila Medina and Reull Medina; **South San Francisco** residents Krishana K. Patahk and Richard A Poletti, as well as Five Brothers Inc. and the Nauman Roos Chapel by the Sea; **Daly City** resident Gladys Callan; **Sacramento's** the CDF Firefighters Small Contributor PAC, the Plumbers, Steamfitters and Refrigeration Fitters, the California Apartment Association TriCounty Division, and the Western Manufactured Housing Communities Association; **Los Angeles** resident Nathan Fisher as well as the California Real Estate PAC; **Half Moon Bay** residents Robert LaMar, Robt W. Lishman, Donald O'Keefe, as well as Oscar Knows Inc.; **Belmont** resident Ted Taube; **Emerald Hills** resident Charles Carr Huggins; **La Honda** resident David Gollnick; **San Anselmo** resident A. John Murphy; **San Bruno** resident Rommel Medina; **Pescadero** resident Meredith Reynolds; **Los Gatos** resident Christopher L Schaffer; **El Granada** resident Robert H. Senz; **Los Altos** resident Robert L. Denebelm; **Corcoran, Califor-**

See SPEND, page 18



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## A clean start

A small neon-green-vested army rumbled along Cambridge Avenue in the Allied Arts neighborhood of Menlo Park on Oct. 26 distributing new trash bins: blue for all paper, aluminum, glass and plastic; green for compost such as yard waste and, as of January 3, food scraps, coffee grounds and pizza boxes; and black for everything excepting hazardous wastes, which are handled by appointment. Enter "Recology San Mateo County" in a web search engine for more information.

Photo by Dave Boyce/The Almanac



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## Treasurer candidates digging into own wallets

In the runoff election for the office of San Mateo County treasurer/tax collector, both candidates have lent themselves significantly more money than they've raised in contributions.

The candidates are required to update the public on their expenses and income from donors who gave more than \$100.

Sandie Arnott, the deputy treasurer and the leader after the votes were counted for the June primary election, lent herself \$66,500, according to her Oct. 16 campaign finance report. She raised another \$31,063 from 14 donors for a total of \$97,563. She has spent \$95,812.

Ms. Arnott's report lists nine donors of \$500 or more: Keith



Hoffman of Redwood City; Beverly Evans of Burlingame; Rommel Medina of San Bruno; and San Francisco residents Mila, Reull and Aubrey Medina, and Daniel Becco and Marilyn Nuqui.

Dave Mandelkern, who came in second out of a field of four candidates in June, borrowed \$100,000 from himself for the campaign and raised \$61,499 in donations from 42 contributors for a total of \$162,499. He has spent \$156,157.

Mr. Mandelkern's report lists 18 contributors of more than \$500: former Congressman Paul McClo-

sky of Rumsey, California; (state Sen. Joe) Simitian for 2012 of Palo Alto; Philip Gregory of Redwood City; Nanci E. Nishimura and Joe Galligan for Treasurer, both from San Mateo; Richard Holober for Community College Board from Millbrae; Frank M. Pitre of Hillsborough; Burlingame residents Ara R. Jabaghourian, Nancy L. Fineman, Niall McCarthy, Mark Molumph and Steven Williams; D.E. Cooley from Watsonville; San Mateo Building Trades Joint Council; Northern California Carpenters Regional Council; plumbers and steamfitters union locals in Concord, Fresno and Burlingame; and Citizens for Good Government out of Burbank.



## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE Amending City of Menlo Park Master Fee Schedule

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Menlo Park, California, will hold a Public Hearing to consider amending the City's Master Fee Schedule to increase certain parking citations by \$3.00 per ticket in response to passage of State of California Senate Bill 857 on October 8, 2010 which increases per ticket payments from the City of Menlo Park to the County of San Mateo and the State of California by \$3.00 effective December 7, 2010. The increase if approved would be effective December 7, 2010. The specific parking citations recommended to be increased and the increased amount of these citations will be available to the public at least 10 days in advance of this Public Hearing at the Finance Department.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Menlo Park will hold this Public Hearing on Tuesday, November 16, 2010, 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".

DATED: Dated: October 28, 2010  
/s/  
MARGARET S. ROBERTS, MMC, City Clerk

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on November 3, 2010 and November 10, 2010

### SPEND

continued from page 16

nia, resident Sandra Nordstrom; Seattle resident Michael Fleming; Nevada resident John Muller; Lemoore, California, resident Mark S. Grewal; Alameda's the Operating Engineers Local Union; Fresno's the Pipe Trades District Council; from San Mateo; Anaheim's the Trailer Ranch Association; Lombard, Illinois Veolia Transportation.

### Vargas donors

The following donors gave \$500

or more to Ms. Vargas' campaign:

■ Menlo Park residents Steve Blank, Robert Levenson, Brad O'Brien and Gregory Serrurier.

■ Portola Valley residents Allan Brown and David Smernoff.

■ Atherton residents Nancy Criley and Elizabeth Ross.

■ Woodside resident Susan Lang.

■ Others: Redwood City residents Marsha Cohen and Matt Leddy; Half Moon Bay residents Pamela Fisher, Lois Joseph and Dana Kimsey; Montara residents David Beck, Ann Forrister, Arthur Hofmayer, Charles Lintell, Paul

Perkovic and Jeffrey Olson, Suzanne Stephanik and Eric Tre-feiner; El Granada resident Jim Blanchard; Moss Beach residents Christine Mendonca, Larry Mendonca and Brigid O'Farrell; Burlingame resident Nancy Blachman; Pacifica resident Edward Carter; Piedmont resident Richard Deatley; San Carlos Green Party of San Mateo County; La Honda resident Pam Patek; Sun City West, CA resident Gloria Vargas; Los Gatos resident Mariquita West; Los Altos resident Peter LaTourrette; Oxnard: National Women's Political Caucus. ■

## Menlo preschool director changes plea to no contest

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

In a surprise move, the 55-year-old former director of Menlo Park's Belle Haven childcare center, who was charged with harassing the teenage daughter of a co-worker, changed his plea to no contest on the day his trial was set to begin.

Jose Adalberto Lopez, of San Mateo, will serve no more than 90 days in county jail for the misdemeanor, according to the San

Mateo County District Attorney's office. He will be sentenced on Dec. 10.

"The court will consider less after reviewing the pre-sentence report," Chief Deputy District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe said. "The defendant will have to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life."

Mr. Lopez met the 13-year-old girl when she came to the preschool to do homework, according to the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office.

As time passed the man gave her gifts — earrings, a silver bracelet, and women's underwear. The district attorney's office said that when she stopped speaking to him, he sent letters asking why she was ignoring him.

Those letters proved to be his undoing. A secretary found one earlier this year and turned it over to the victim's mother, who called police.

He had worked at the Belle Haven childcare center since 2001. ■

## Volunteers hold 'Baubles & Bags' fundraiser

More than 150 new, gently used, designer and celebrity-owned handbags will be available at Peninsula Volunteer's second annual "Baubles Bangles and Bags" fundraiser on Nov. 8 at the Menlo Circus Club in Atherton.

The first "Baubles Bangles and Bags" event sold out before invitations were mailed and raised \$89,000 for Peninsula Volunteers' programs for seniors, including Meals on Wheels, Little House, and Rosener House.

Fashions and jewelry from Prestige, Town and County Village, and Jackie Jones will be offered at the event, which is chaired by Pat Grillos and Darlene Woodson of Atherton and Linda Drew of San Carlos.

Tickets, at \$125, may be purchased by calling Cathy Duhring at 326-0665, ext. 238.

Celebrity bags include those from Dancing with the Stars' Cheryl Burke, designer Michael Kors, and American Idol runner-up Katharine McPhee.

### Corte Madera School holds book fair

The Corte Madera School book fair will be held Monday through Friday, Nov. 1-5, at the school, 4575 Alpine Road in Portola Valley.

The book fair will be run by Kepler's Books, which will donate about 20 percent of total proceeds to the Portola Valley school libraries, said Angela Schillace, co-chair of the book fair.

Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day except Thursday when it's open until 7 p.m. and Friday when it closes at 3 p.m.

"We will have great kids and teens selections and a fantastic

### AROUND TOWN

adult selection as well," Ms. Schillace said.

### Books sale Nov. 6 at Woodside Library

Thousands of books will be on sale at the Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Road, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 6, says Susan Flint, chair of the semi-annual book sale and a member of the Friends of the Woodside Library, which is sponsoring it.

"Stock up on holiday gift books, most from private collections and in a wide range of categories," she says.

The library's phone number is 851-0147.

### Diners help Meals on Wheels

Peninsula Volunteers is participating in the Bay Area Dine Out for Meals on Wheels on Nov. 9.

The following restaurants in San Mateo County are participating and will give back 10 percent of their sales on Nov. 9 to Peninsula Volunteers Meals on Wheels:

Mountain Mike's Pizza in Belmont; The American Bull Bar and Grill in Burlingame; Celia's in Daly City, Menlo Park, San Bruno and San Mateo; Amici's, Bona Restaurant, British Bankers Club, Cedro Ritorante Italiano, El Cerrito, Gambardella's, Marche, Oak City Bar and Grill and Round Table Pizza in Menlo Park; Parkside Grille, Red Lotus, and Round Table Pizza in Portola Valley; Chantilly, John Bentley's, Max's of Redwood City, Pamplemousse Bakery and Taqueria El Jarocho

and Amici's in Redwood City; Mythos Bar Restaurant and Vanilla Moon Bakery in San Carlos; and Alice's Restaurant and Woodside Bakery and Cafe in Woodside.

Anyone dining at these restaurants Nov. 9 will help Peninsula Volunteers deliver 150,000 hot meals to seniors and the homebound in southern San Mateo County.

For more information, call Linda Drew at 598-0190.

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## NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS BID PROPOSALS SOUGHT FOR BURGESS GYMNASTICS TENT

The City of Menlo Park invites qualified contractors to submit sealed bid proposals for the BURGESS GYMNASTICS TENT. Work required as part of this project consists of providing a tent of approximately 6,500 sq. ft., with side wall panels and four (4) doors with lighting and safety equipment for a period of nine (9) months. All work should be done in accordance with the City of Menlo Park Building Code Requirements and State Standard Specifications. Bidders may obtain copies of the bid documents from the Maintenance Division located at 333 Burgess Drive, Menlo Park, CA. Electronic documents may be obtained via email at no charge. Additionally, you may download this bid document on the City of Menlo Park's Contracting Opportunities website at <http://www.menlopark.org/departments/pwk/bidlist.html>. All bidders shall be licensed under the provisions of the Business and Professional Code to do the type of work contemplated in the project. The successful bidder must insure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against on the basis of age, color, race, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, sexual preference, marital status, and shall comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Sealed bid proposals will be received at the Maintenance Division office until 2 p.m. on Wednesday, November 10, 2010, at which time they will be opened and publicly read.



## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

### Amending City of Menlo Park Master Fee Schedule

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Menlo Park, California, will hold a Public Hearing to consider amending the City's Master Fee Schedule concerning proposed changes in fees for the Community Development Department. The primary fees under consideration are as follows:

- A new fee for expedited plan checks of building permits for commercial and industrial tenant improvements to provide an enhanced service.
- The reestablishment of the building permit reinstatement fee for expired permits that was inadvertently omitted during a previous round of updates to the Master Fee Schedule.

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 Finance Department.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Menlo Park will hold this Public Hearing on Tuesday, November 16, 2010, 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".

DATED: October 28, 2010

/s/

MARGARET S. ROBERTS, MMC, City Clerk

Published in THE COUNTRY ALMANAC on November 3, 2010 and November 10, 2010

## New lacrosse club team being formed

Submitted by M.J. Davey of Atherton, a board member of the new lacrosse club.

### BRIEFS

A new lacrosse club, based in Menlo Park and Atherton, is being formed. Called the Menlo Atherton Youth Lacrosse Club, it will compete with clubs in the Bay Area through the Northern California Junior Lacrosse Association.

The lacrosse season runs from February to May. Boys and girls who turn ages 5 to 11 by Dec. 31, 2010, may register. The club is starting with both boys and girls teams under-9 and under-11. There will be a kindergarten-first-grade group as well.

"Lacrosse is a game of agility, strategy, speed and teamwork," said M.J. Davey of Atherton, a board member of the new lacrosse club. "A combination of basketball, soc-

cer and hockey, lacrosse is fast and easy to learn. It appeals to both girls and boys. Players of any body type, short or tall, can be successful."

Visit [MenloAthertonLacrosse.com](http://MenloAthertonLacrosse.com) for more information.

### Dentist awarded

ChauLong T. Nguyen of Menlo Park was one of 81 dentists to receive a Mastership award from the Academy of General Dentistry at its recent annual meeting in New Orleans.

To receive the award, Dr. Nguyen completed 1,100 hours of continuing dental education. The academy is a professional association of more than 35,000 general dentists.

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Photo by Dave Boyce/The Almanac

## Light flight

While Councilwoman Maryann Moise Derwin does not have a pilot's license, she has admitted to aspirations and could learn to fly the plastic-foam model she held at the Oct. 27 meeting of the Portola Valley Town Council. Volunteers from the Nature and Science Committee requested permission for a demonstration in the community hall, perhaps next spring, on flying model aircraft designed for indoor use. The council gave the go-ahead, stipulating that adults handle the remote controls.

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## Town councilman restores peace and quiet

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

The rhythmic mechanical thundering that signifies the presence of an idling Harley Davidson interrupted the quiet of the Woodside Town Council meeting in Independence Hall on Tuesday, Oct. 26, but there was no motorcycle.

"That isn't a Harley Davidson?" this reporter, a one-time connoisseur of engine exhaust notes, asked the town clerk in disbelief. "No," she

said, or words to that effect.

The noise, Councilman and builder Dave Tanner and Assistant Town Manager Kevin Bryant discovered, came from the equipment alcove above the men's bathroom.

After about five minutes with a pocket knife, Mr. Tanner fashioned a hook from a piece of what might have been bamboo and opened an access door in the ceiling. Down came a set of collapsible stairs.

With tools retrieved from his truck, Mr. Tanner removed an

access cover from some ductwork, found the source of the noise in a large rotating impeller and shut off the power. A deteriorating fan belt, he said.

On the stairs shooting pictures, none of which turned out to be usable, was The Almanac reporter, just doing his job documenting the center of the action. "There are some extra fan belts on the wall there," the reporter said, or words to that effect.

Mr. Tanner chose a belt, replaced it, reattached the access cover and returned to the meeting.

While not deserving of a reward, the reporter was nevertheless offered one: a choice of one of two complimentary soft drinks by Mayor Dave Burow, plus some words of thanks from Mr. Burow and his colleagues.

It was nothing ... really. All in a day's work. ▀

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## MP company names chief medical officer

A Menlo Park biopharmaceutical company, 3-V Biosciences, recently appointed Edward Connor Jr. as its chief medical officer.

Mr. Connor directs all medical activities and creates and executes product development plans, the company said.

He is also the director of the office of investigational therapeutics for the Children's National Medical Center, and a professor of pediatrics at the George Washington School of Medical and Health Sciences.

3-V Biosciences is located at 1050 Hamilton Court in Menlo Park.



**Broken glass and damaged furniture** are everywhere at Avanti Pizza at 3536 Alameda de las Pulgas in West Menlo Park after a vehicle driven by an elderly woman crashed through the front of the restaurant and trapped the cashier beneath the rubble of the counter.

Photo by Dave Boyce/The Almanac

## Car crashes through window, traps cashier

By **Dave Boyce**  
Almanac Staff Writer

Medics took a cashier from Avanti Pizza at 3536 Alameda de las Pulgas in West Menlo Park to Stanford Hospital on Monday afternoon after a car crashed through a plate-glass window and well into the restaurant, entangling the young woman in counter equipment that had rolled on top of her, Chief Harold Schapelhouman of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District said.

The 911 call came in at 1:59 p.m. and elicited an immediate response from firefighters and medics at the fire station on Valparaiso Ave. a few blocks away.

The first order of business was backing the vehicle out to take the pressure off the counter structure and the victim, the chief said.

The victim, identified as a 26-year-old Newark woman by the CHP, was talking and conscious during the 10 to 15 minutes it took to disentangle her and get her into an ambulance, Chief Schapelhouman said.

The driver was identified as an 80-year-old Atherton woman who had been trying to park when she for some reason hit the accelerator and crashed through the front window, CHP Officer Curtis Glace said. The driver was not hurt, he said.

The laundry next door suffered collateral flooding damage in that the crashing ruptured a water pipe that served the entire

strip mall. The water is off for all the retailers there, the chief said.

Given the damage to the counter, plumbing, electrical fixtures and the gas cylinders, Avanti will likely need a building permit and a building inspector's permission before reopening, the chief said. "I don't believe they will be able to open very quickly."

The damage in many of these incidents tends to be limited to the front doors and windows, he noted. "This one was truly and legitimately one of those unfortunate situations when there was injury." Had it happened during lunchtime, he added, "it would have been a much more chaotic and catastrophic situation."

*Bay City News Service contributed to this report.*

### CAMPAIGN

*continued from page 14*

it would stop city employees from paying \$100 per month towards medical expenses, an amount she estimated at \$200,000 a year.

However, Measure L would only affect new hires, not current employees, and doesn't change any already-established agreement.

### Every campaign needs a theme song

While you might expect challenger Chuck Bernstein to go for a feisty "Rocky"-type theme song, instead the candidate took a folksy route.

"Chuck, Chuck, save us a buck," goes the refrain of his campaign song. Mr. Bernstein said a music teacher who works with his child-care business composed and sang the tune, with the candidate himself contributing a few verses "to make them as relevant as possible to city politics." The song is posted on his campaign website.

He said the inspiration came from a student-designed fundraising billboard that read, "Give a buck to Chuck." ■



### TOWN OF ATHERTON NOTICE OF HEARING

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the City Council of the Town of Atherton will conduct a public hearing on Wednesday, November 17, 2010, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, California to consider the following:

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE TO ADOPT** the 2010 California Codes of Regulation Title 24, Parts 1, 2, 2.5, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 11 and 12. California Administration Code, California Building Code Volumes 1 & 2, California Residential Code, California Mechanical Code, California Plumbing Code, California Electrical, California Energy Code, California Fire Code, California Green Building Code and California Referenced Standards Code and to make modification to those codes due to local conditions. Recommended CEQA status: Exempt.

Details and additional information are available for public review in the Building Department, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, California beginning on Tuesday, November 2, 2010. Anyone interested may appear and be heard at the time and place noted above. If any of the above actions are challenged in court, issues which may be raised are limited to those raised at the public hearing or in written correspondence delivered to the City at, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, California, attention Deputy City Clerk or prior to the public hearing.

Dennis Lockard  
Interim Building Official

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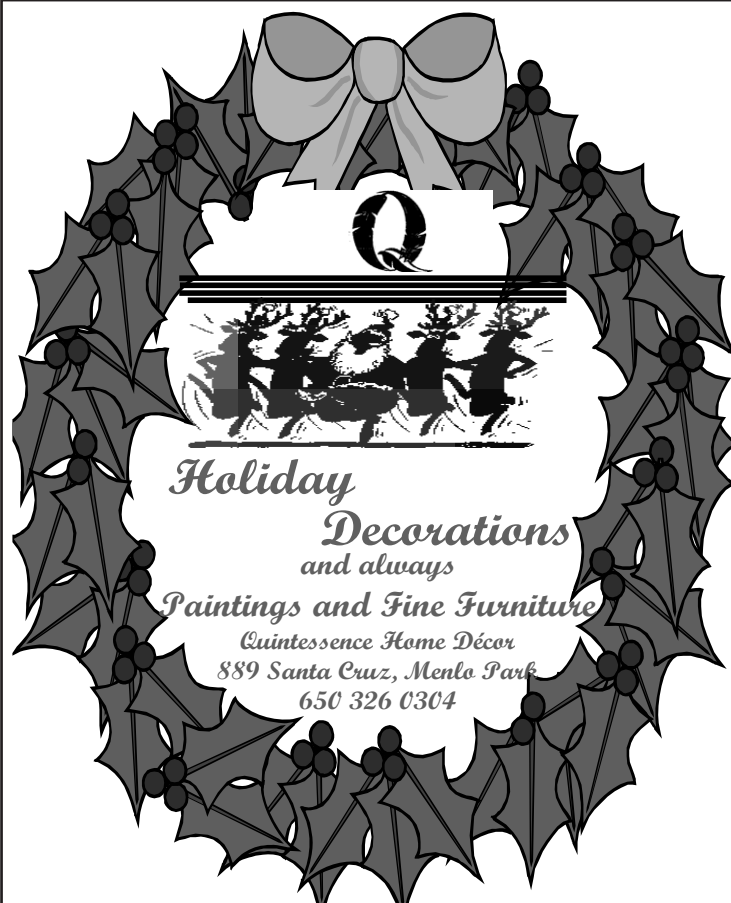
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Preparatory - Grades 9 - 12  
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November 21, 2010 at 1:00 p.m.  
No RSVP required; for information call 650.473.4006

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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](http://www.TheAlmanacOnline.com), and occasionally on the Town Square forum.

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[letters@almanacnews.com](mailto: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.

## Cleaning up after 'Superman'

Woodside High School's teaching staff, whose style and substance were called into question in the documentary "Waiting for Superman," appears to be pulling together and making more of an effort to improve the education experience of its under-achieving students.

"Superman" included Woodside's under-achieving population in an examination that focused primarily on students in inner-city schools in Washington, D.C., New York City, and Los Angeles — even though suburban schools like Woodside serve a community where even modest homes can sell for more than \$1 million. Woodside High appeared on the screen for less than a minute.

That was enough time to show how a student, who wanted more than what she thought she could get at Woodside, applied for a lottery and won admission to the local Summit Preparatory Charter High, which consistently sees nearly all its graduating seniors accepted by a four-year college.

The message that underserved and/or under-prepared students can and do fall through the cracks is loud and clear in the film, along with the charge that so many socio-economically disadvantaged students who start grade 9 are nowhere to be found on graduation day.

Woodside High Principal David Reilly has plenty to say about the school's portrayal in the movie, including the legitimate complaint that the movie's producers did not visit the campus and discuss their concerns with Mr. Reilly or the school's teachers.

Now, still smarting from that snub and the film producers' refusal to look deeper into the reasons students drop out of or don't perform well in high school, Woodside teachers are making more of an effort to reach out to students and let them know they are welcome. That is an uphill climb, given the fact that many parents who send their children to Woodside High are not aware of their own important role in seeing their son or daughter graduate, and go on to college.

**EDITORIAL**

*The opinion of The Almanac*

**LETTERS**

*Our readers write*

### Sequoia funds support health-care providers

Editor:

To decide which candidates are best suited to serve on Sequoia Healthcare District's board, voters need to be made aware of the scope and impact of its community benefits program. The Almanac's Oct. 19 article didn't even scratch the surface in describing what Sequoia Healthcare District (SHD) is actually doing with the property tax revenues it receives.

The board of the SHD has long recognized the importance of supporting community partnerships that reduce the burden on hospitals by preventing unnecessary emergency room visits and hospitalizations.

Ravenswood Family Health

See **LETTERS**, next page

The "Superman" film needed an example to show that a wealthy suburban high school could fail its lower-rung students just as easily as a public school in Harlem. Sadly, that is true, but it is grossly unfair to slam Woodside High, or other similar schools in California, where many teachers are doing the best they can with the resources they have.

Although the schools need to do a better job of controlling the drop-out rate, many factors beyond their control can enter into the equation.

Charter schools have huge advantages, such as small class sizes and parents who are aware of their options in public education and motivated to find the best fit for their children. No student falls through the cracks at a good charter school.

Most high school administrators will say there is a need for both types of schools. Comprehensive schools offer a wide range of classes and extra-curricular activities, while charters tend to focus exclusively on academics.

Reforming the nation's public school system is akin to changing the course of an aircraft carrier: You need a lot of ocean. For public schools, that means a lot of effort, and time, and participation by parents.

Can charter school teaching methods be quickly grafted to a public high school? What schools are willing to be test cases? And there is the fact that the Sequoia Union High School District is not unified; it has no control over the academic qualifications of its incoming students, a huge handicap that has never been resolved and that prevents the kind of sweeping K-12 approach adopted by districts in San Francisco and San Jose.

Despite the good points made by "Superman," including the inability of school districts to fire incompetent, union-backed teachers, it will take time for even the best public schools to change their style and drastically lower the dropout rate. But the challenge is definitely out there, the gauntlet has been thrown down, and in the long run, we believe "Superman" could be a potent catalyst in bringing reform to public schools.



Atherton Heritage Association

### Our Regional Heritage

Four men await the train to San Francisco in this 1913 photograph taken at the Atherton train station. Anyone who knows the identity of one or more of the men is asked to contact the Atherton Heritage Association at 688-6540.

LETTERS

continued from page 22

Center and other safety-net providers have received major support for the primary care medical services we provide to uninsured, low-income residents within the district.

In addition to the district's commitment to nonprofit health-care organizations and services, the district has been responsible for launching strategic health-care initiatives in education and workforce development at the local level. In August SHD announced the "Healthy Schools Initiative" that will significantly expand professional health resources in four San Mateo County school districts. Other major initiatives include partnerships with nursing programs at Canada College and San Francisco State, and a grant of \$650,000 to build a state-of-the-art nursing skills lab at Canada.

As a major news source serving residents in the Sequoia Healthcare District, we urge you to encourage your readers to pay attention to all that is at stake in the upcoming election in choosing the district's board members. To make an informed decision, voters should visit Sequoia Healthcare District's website [www.sequoiahealthcaredistrict.com](http://www.sequoiahealthcaredistrict.com) and review the district's community benefit grants, major initiatives and district programs.

**Luisa Buada**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Ravenswood Family  
Health Center

**Mandelkern is best choice for treasurer-tax collector**

Editor:

On Nov. 2 we have the opportunity to elect a new San Mateo County treasurer-tax collector.

Our current treasurer and his assistants lost \$155 million of our tax dollars in the Lehman Brothers bankruptcy. It's time for a change in leadership.

I am enthusiastically supporting Dave Mandelkern for this office. I've known Dave for many years and he represents the kind of no-nonsense, pragmatic leadership we need to make government work more efficiently and more effectively.

Dave is the only candidate with proven experience in balancing a \$100 million budget year after year as an elected trustee of our community college district. He also oversees a \$500 million capital improvement fund that has been cited as a model for other school districts to follow.

He has proven leadership and management skills from his



successful Silicon Valley business career. Having taken his own software company public, he knows how to deal with Wall Street and will invest our money wisely. I know we can count on Dave to protect our tax dollars as if they were his own.

Please join me in voting for Dave Mandelkern for San Mateo County treasurer-tax collector.

**Howard L. Hibbard**  
Burlingame

**Reminiscing about good government in Atherton**

Editor:

It has been very interesting observing the political and management problems in Atherton through the years.

Granted the community was smaller when Howard Boren and Roy Hubbard were in charge, but government seemed much more efficient then. Still, it is hard to criticize today's council people, who are dedicated and give a great amount of time and effort to serve.

Unquestionably there is some shirt-pulling going on in a community this small, but these are intelligent people who should be above such pettiness. Maybe we are taking ourselves too seriously. Perhaps we should consider some other form of community management.

**Ed and Olga Mairani**  
Park Boulevard, Atherton

**Even Measure T opponents create traffic**

Editor:

To those who condemn Measure T because they have now anointed themselves experts on traffic, I say this: Traffic is not just other people.

Traffic is also you. To these nay-sayers of Measure T, I must ask, do you own a car and if so, why? Do you drive to work? Do you shop? Drive your kids to school? Drive to the City Council meetings? I hope you can see where I'm going with this.

Life is a constant balancing act of a thousand and one things; most grown-ups know that. The mail trucks that delivered the fliers which condemned Measure T for creating traffic contributed to creating traffic in the act of delivering that flier.

The Gateway team and the city of Menlo Park has put together a package that both sides find acceptable, not perfect, but acceptable.

Only the narrow-minded and extremists demand perfection

and only on their terms. To such individuals I would respectfully suggest you consider selling your car and buy a horse or risk being called a hypocrite. To the grown-ups in our city I ask, please consider voting yes on Measure T.

**Matt Henry, president**  
Belle Haven Neighborhood Assn.

**Vargas is best choice for supervisor**

Editor:

As your newspaper has noted, the candidates for the Board of Supervisors do indeed differ on key issues.

In fact, they differ most significantly on the one that will shape the future of this entire region — the potential development of a new city of 30,000 on the Cargill salt ponds.

Don Horsley has said "he would wait to get information from an EIR (environmental impact report) on the project, but the development is essentially a Redwood City issue." Well, he has missed the boat on both counts.

First, we don't need an EIR to tell us what we already know: Our streets and freeways can't handle more cars, houses built by the bay will be underwater as sea levels rise, and if there's an earthquake this site will be prone to liquefaction, the consequences of which will be borne by taxpayers. While he's waiting for the EIR, Don Horsley has collected the maximum allowable campaign contributions from Cargill and the site's Arizona developer DMB. So maybe it's not "essentially a RWC issue."

Don Horsley likes to say he has "never been a part of the good old boys network." Yes, when you have been inside that world for so long, that's what looks normal. But the rest of us can spot it a mile away. More of the same insider influence, big money, developer-oriented local politics. It is past time for a change and that change is named April Vargas.

It is refreshing to be able to support a candidate who actually takes a stand. April Vargas has said unequivocally that she is opposed to any kind of development on the Cargill salt ponds. She is knowledgeable, full of integrity and accountable to her constituents, not to the good old boys that have been running the show for all too long.

Vote for April Vargas for Board of Supervisors.

**Nancy Arbuckle**  
Redwood City

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