



Squirrels vanish from
Bedwell Bayfront Park | Page 5

The Almanac

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

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Leland Yee

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Photos courtesy of the Grady family.

Pat Grady, a longtime farrier for Portola Valley, Woodside and La Honda equestrians, in later life took up the training of miniature horses like Blazer, shown here jumping a fence. Mr. Grady died at his Sutter Creek home on Jan 2 at the age of 79.

Former local farrier Pat Grady dies

By David Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Patrick Grady, a former resident of Portola Valley and a longtime farrier for area horses, died on Jan. 2 at his home in Sutter Creek, where he raised miniature horses. He was 79.

Mr. Grady learned the horse-shoeing trade from his father Ed, said Grady family friend Sue Sheehan in an interview. He shod polo horses at Webb Ranch (just east of Ladera) and the horses of Portola Valley co-founder Bill Lane, a lifelong equestrian.

Mr. Grady was a horseman himself and a life member of the San Mateo County Horsemen's Association, of which he was president in 1975, Ms. Sheehan said. After he moved to Sutter Creek in 1984, he would come back to this area to continue his trade. "He enjoyed it. He really enjoyed it," Ms. Sheehan said.

Mr. Grady was born in San Mateo, served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, and lived in the Woodside Highlands neighborhood of Portola Valley for 26 years. He and his wife Agnes raised three sons, all of whom went to Portola Valley Elementary School and Woodside High School, his daughter-in-law Connie Grady said in an e-mail.

Throughout his life, he was known as a good storyteller with a positive attitude, Ms. Sheehan said. As a young man, he was a speed skater.

Mr. Grady contracted terminal stomach cancer and had been living in a hospice in Sutter Creek in the expectation that he would die soon, Ms. Sheehan said. He did



Patrick Grady

not die soon and eventually moved in with his son.

On Aug. 20, his family threw him a combination birthday party/wake at which he reportedly said: "I'm probably the only one having a birthday and wake in the same week!"

"They expected him to die any day but he didn't," Ms. Sheehan said. "He fooled everybody and lived a lot longer than they expected."

"He continued to go to the casino, eat all his favorite sweets, and smoke until the very end," his daughter-in-law said.

Mr. Grady was preceded in death by his wife, Agnes, and their son, Daniel. His survivors, all of whom live in California, are his sons Ed Grady of Sutter Creek and Mike Grady of Shingle Springs; sister Katie Hayes of Cameron Park; and brother John of El Dorado.

Donations in Mr. Grady's memory be made to Hospice of Amador and Calaveras. ▀



Presented by
Mark Schmidt
Licensed Optician

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Mark Schmidt is an American Board of Opticianry and National Contact Lens Examiners Certified Optician licensed by the Medical Board of California. He can be easily reached at Menlo Optical, 1166 University Drive, Menlo Park. 650-322-3900.

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...is seeking applicants to serve on the District's
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This committee will meet four times per year to monitor expenditures for the building projects of the recently approved Measure J school construction bond. Periodically, the committee will report bond expenditures to the community.

APPLICATIONS

Applications may be downloaded from the Sequoia District web site at www.seq.org or may be requested from the district office by calling Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services Enrique Navas at 650-369-1411, ext. 2218.

Send completed applications to
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Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services
Sequoia Union High School District
480 James Avenue
Redwood City, CA 94062

TIMELINE

Application filing period – **Jan 12, to Feb 2, 2011, 4:30 p.m.**
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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Squirrels vanish from Bedwell Bayfront Park

■ City hired exterminator.

By **Sandy Brundage**

Almanac Staff Writer

No, they're not nuts: Menlo Park residents who thought squirrels were vanishing from Bedwell Bayfront Park were right. The city hired an exterminator during the fall.

Animal Damage Management Inc., based in Morgan Hill, received a \$9,750 contract from Menlo Park to take care of the squirrels in

August, according to Deputy City Manager Kent Steffens, describing it as a "very difficult but necessary decision."

He at first attributed the eradication to quarterly San Mateo County Health inspection reports that said squirrels were burrowing through the landfill cap and dragging garbage up to the surface, where the trash could blow into the waterways. "The city got comments on its quarterly reports that squirrel activity was very high and squirrels had actually penetrated the cap,"

Mr. Steffens said.

However, none of the county inspection reports stated that was the case.

"The main concern with the ground squirrels, or any other burrowing animal, is that their burrows can damage the landfill cap," explained Dean Peterson, the county's director of environmental health. "Caps are designed and installed to limit the amount of water entering a landfill and to control gas production — so an uncontrolled population of bur-

rowing animals could eventually devastate the cap."

If methane gas escapes from the cap, it creates a fire hazard, according to experts.

But garbage?

"We have no evidence of the squirrels actually dragging trash to the surface at the Marsh Road sites," Mr. Peterson said.

So the squirrels may indeed have posed a problem — the county inspection reports do mention increased activity — but how did the city decide that litter at the park

was the squirrels' fault?

"Well, we know because we followed up on it," Mr. Steffens said. "When the problem was identified, city staff did its own investigation, and said, 'OK, what are we going to do about this?'"

He said he didn't know how many burrows were baited with poison, or how many squirrels died as a result. Neither did a representative from Animal Damage Management, who said the technician who carried out the contract was on vacation. ■

Menlo Park plans to renew Team Sheeper pool contract

By **Sandy Brundage**

Almanac Staff Writer

Team Sheeper will continue to operate the Burgess pool, and add the Belle Haven pool to its roster, under a revised contract that may head to the Menlo Park council for approval next month once the city attorney completes his review.

Team Sheeper would pay \$3,000 a month for the Burgess pools, a \$6.8-million public facility, and operate the Belle Haven pools for at least three months a year. According to Community Services Director Cherise Brandell's analysis, that would save the city approximately \$90,000 a year.

The 10-year contract also spells out how much access a competing swim club, SOLO

Aquatics, will have to both facilities. The club clashed with Team Sheeper during the past three years over practice times and publicity.

Now, if the City Council approves the new contract on Feb. 15 as planned, SOLO should have a regular late afternoon practice time during the week at a discounted rate of \$6 per hour. They should also get an equal share of bulletin board space to advertise their programs.

SOLO didn't get everything it wanted — Ms. Brandell's memo states that Team Sheeper won't have to eliminate any program that competes directly with SOLO, or give the other club space for private lessons.

The city also appears to be addressing other concerns raised

See **POOL**, page 6



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Dancing with a star

Cheryl Burke of Atherton, two-time champion on television's "Dancing with the Stars," leads Ashley Vergara, a member of Dance Club Mountain View, in a salsa lesson. The event was a fundraiser for the club, sponsored by the Mountain View Police Activities League. The site of the event was the new Cheryl Burke Dance Mountain View studio.

Beltramos townhomes package approved by Menlo Park council

■ City to rethink below-market-rate program.

By **Sandy Brundage**

Almanac Staff Writer

The Menlo Park City Council got the new year off to a productive start. In less than an hour, without much debate or even public comment, the council voted 4-0 to let the Beltramos build 16 townhomes and an office complex at 1460 El Camino Real, in exchange for one below-market-rate (BMR) unit and a stack of fees.

City Attorney Bill McClure told the council at the Jan. 11 meeting

that including any BMR unit on the site would set a precedent.

"Commercial projects in Menlo Park pay in-lieu fees," he said, explaining that the mixed-use nature of the Beltramos project raised the cost of construction at the same time real estate values are declining.

The city and developer haggled for months over the number of below-market-rate (BMR) townhomes to be included on the 1.54 acre site, located at the intersection of San Antonio Street and El Camino Real. The original plan, first approved in 2006, followed city policy by setting aside three BMR units, but the Beltramos

have now asked to include only one in light of declining real estate values.

The new agreement allows the Beltramos to include only one BMR townhome in exchange for 10 to 20 percent of sales revenue on each remaining unit if the unit's sales price exceeds \$1 million, according to the staff report.

It also lets the city accept in-lieu fees on five market-rate townhomes and up to \$382,704 in commercial linkage fees for the two-story, 26,800-square-foot office building.

A member of the Housing Commission, Ann Moser, told the

council the same thing she'd told the Planning Commission during its hearing on the project — that Menlo Park doesn't have enough BMR housing to let the city collect in-lieu fees instead of units.

"I made a real mistake in voting for this on the Housing Commission," she said. "We should hold developers to the standards they agreed upon ... despite problems they may have run into over the years. I want you to know I'm very sorry we agreed to this project and wish we'd held them to the market rate agreements first agreed upon."

That didn't sway the City Council, however. Vice Mayor Kirsten

Keith said it was important to get at least one BMR unit instead of zero. Mayor Rich Cline concurred, calling the project "very nice," and noted the BMR program was not meant to apply to low-density projects like the townhomes.

In light of the difficulties of providing affordable housing in an area like Menlo Park, Councilman Peter Ohtaki suggested holding a study session to rethink the BMR program. His colleagues agreed and asked city staff to schedule it.

Councilman Andy Cohen was recused from the discussion since he lives near the project site. ■

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Woodside council to slam Cargill project on the record

By David Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Having kept its powder dry since April, the Woodside Town Council is now ready to use it. At its Jan. 11 meeting, the council asked staff to prepare a strongly worded statement expressing opposition to the so-called Cargill project in Redwood City.

The project, proposed by Minneapolis-based Cargill Salt Corp. and an Arizona developer, would convert 1,436 acres of salt flats off Redwood City into dry land for up to 12,000 homes. The development could include 1 million square feet of commercial space and some 800 acres developed as wetlands and outdoor recreational space.

The Portola Valley Town Council, in a unanimous vote on Dec. 8, notified the Redwood City council of its position: the salt flat should be restored to its natural state and included in the nearby Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge.

The Woodside council is taking the same basic position, though council members Sue

Boynton and Dave Burow were absent for this discussion. A position statement is set for council review on Jan. 25.

Council comment

The council had discussed a decisive resolution in April, but it failed on a 4-3 vote. Instead, on a 6-1 vote, the council chose to note the town's serious concerns and let the environmental review and comments periods run their course.

Mayor Ron Romines backed a stronger resolution initially and this time. "Our highest calling and obligation as publicly elected officials is to try to act as stewards of the resources and environment that we have," he said on Jan. 11.

Elected officials should not leave natural resources in worse condition than they found them, he said, and ideally should leave them in better shape. "This is a unique opportunity to do the latter," he said.

The project is unacceptable with respect to impacts on fresh water, transportation and population, said Councilman Dave Tanner. "I think we need to proceed ahead here and start to put our foot down about what's going on."

The council, added Councilman Peter Mason, should

appoint a liaison to attend "every single meeting" held on this project, "to let them know that we intend to be an active participant in this project and put an end to it."

The Cargill development "is an unbalanced, stupid, thoughtless thing to do," and the camel's nose under the tent, said Councilwoman Anne Kasten. The East Bay salt flats would be next, she added.

Woodside should be willing to offer financial aid for a restoration project, Councilwoman Deborah Gordon suggested. "It's a regional asset and if they want (our help), we should be willing to help," she said.

Public opposition

Woodside residents have spoken out against this project in past meetings.

Stephen Knight, political director of the environmental group Save the Bay, told the council that some 150 Bay Area elected officials formally oppose this project.

Ken Broome of the South Skyline Association suggested that if the project goes ahead and a levee is built around it, the levee do double duty as a road bed for the high-speed rail line.

The extra fresh water to be transferred in — the developer has water rights in Kern County for 70 years — is cause for concern, said Woodside resident Gita Dev. "Seventy years is a very short time," she said. "We need water in perpetuity." ■

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS

PORTOLA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Photovoltaic Panels @ Corte Madera & Ormondale Schools

Introduction The Portola Valley School District ("District") is inviting General Contractors to complete a pre-qualification questionnaire for the above referenced projects. The District is seeking to install photovoltaic panels at both the Corte Madera and Ormondale Schools. The Construction Document package will go out to Bid at the end of January, 2011. Interested parties can contact CJW Architecture (650 851-9335, info@cjwarchitecture.com) beginning January 3, 2011 to request a copy of the questionnaire.

Questionnaire response is due no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 25, 2011. Applications should be submitted to:

Portola Valley School District
4575 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028

The District intends to select a single general contractor to complete both projects in two steps:

1. Pre-qualify contractors on the basis of the response to the questionnaire.
2. Solicit bids for the projects from pre-qualified contractors.

Responses to the questionnaire may contain confidential information, such as financial information and specific qualifications. The District will maintain the confidentiality of these records to the extent permitted by law.

Description of Project Portola Valley School District has two schools (Corte Madera Elementary and Ormondale Elementary), and plans to install photovoltaic panels on the existing roofs at each school, totaling approximately 330 kw between the two schools. The selected general contractor will be responsible for purchasing the equipment, installation, electrical connections, inspections, warranties, and all other aspects of work in order to provide a fully functioning PV system for each school. Details will be provided in the Construction Document set.



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Short agenda for Atherton council

The Atherton City Council will be asked to approve measures that include slowing traffic down to 10 mph in public works construction zones, taking the next step in planning for a new library, and accepting a donation designated for the police K-9 program at its Jan. 19 meeting.

Perhaps reflecting the philosophy of a new interim city manager, the agenda lists all items of business on

POOL

continued from page 5

by the community, namely, improved communications and oversight. Team Sheepier will need to prepare an annual report for the Parks and Recreation Commission that includes a breakdown of fees and pool time allocations, and also share costs with the city for a semi-annual inspection by an external expert.

Representatives for Team Sheepier and SOLO Aquatics were not yet available for comment. ■

the consent calendar, and no items on the regular agenda. That means there will be no discussion of the items unless a council member or member of the public requests that an item be discussed. It also means it could be an uncharacteristically quick meeting.

Also on the agenda are reports by the city manager and council members, and an item from Mayor Jim Dobbie and Vice Mayor Bill Widmer directing staff to develop a list of services, volume of services, and any measurement of quality of the services performed by the police department.

Mayor Dobbie said the goal of developing such a report during a time some residents are advocating that police services be contracted out is to provide a clear picture of what residents are getting now. "I'm not sure they know all the services our police department provides," he said, but such knowledge is important for sound decision-making on whether to continue funding a police department.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the council chambers, 94 Ashfield Road in the Town Center.

Coach's lawsuit: Ruling appealed to higher court

By Renee Batti
Almanac News Editor

The lawsuit filed by a former Encinal School basketball coach against the school's Parent Teacher Organization and three of its officers has moved out of the local courtroom and up to the appellate court level after the defendants appealed a San Mateo County Superior Court judge's ruling in November.

Parent Lawrence Hecimovich filed the lawsuit last year after being stripped of his volunteer coaching position, which he had held for two years. Encinal PTO officers denied him the position as a result of conflicts arising during the 2008-09 school year, when Mr. Hecimovich attempted to address a fourth-grader's alleged behavioral problems.

The volunteer PTO officers named in the lawsuit are parents Kelly Perri, Julie Roth, and Leslie Burke.

In November, Judge Gerald Buchwald denied the defendants' motion to dismiss the lawsuit on grounds that it violated California's "anti-SLAPP" law. That law prohibits lawsuits brought primarily for the purpose of

intimidating others into making concessions rather than face a costly court fight.

Judge Buchwald also ruled that Mr. Hecimovich's complaint was legally insufficient; he allowed Mr. Hecimovich to amend the complaint, which he did in December.

Robert Muhlbach, the defendants' attorney, said his clients have appealed Judge Buchwald's ruling that the anti-SLAPP law doesn't apply, and now the matter

claims by Mr. Hecimovich," he said. But if the appeal is unsuccessful, he added, "We have every intent to defend (their position) in court."

In his lawsuit, Mr. Hecimovich, a deputy city attorney for San Francisco, is seeking reinstatement as a head coach in the program, punitive damages in an unspecified amount, and costs associated with the lawsuit. Among causes of action listed in the suit are libel and slander, negligence, infliction of emotional distress, and fraud.

Effects of dispute

In an e-mail exchange with The Almanac, Mr. Hecimovich said it was "never my intention to seek damages (or to sue) based on being denied a coaching slot. Rather, what I wanted to address was the total lack of a review process for decisions by PTO volunteer administrators."

His fight with the PTO, he said, has had tangible results. "I think it is significant that, in response to my claims, the PTO has adopted a comprehensive set of policies governing the basketball program The policies, which every parent must sign, provide the kinds of behavioral guidelines (for players, parents and coaches) and right of appeal of administrative decisions, up to the PTO Board itself, that were explicitly denied me." ■

The coach says his fight with the Parent Teacher Organization has had tangible results: new policies with guidelines on behavior.

is in the Court of Appeals facing a process that is likely to take 18 months to two years.

The three defendants in the case declined to comment, but Mr. Muhlbach said it is their intent to convince the court that the actions they took as PTO officers are protected by the First Amendment, and therefore the lawsuit should be dismissed entirely.

"Our goal with the anti-SLAPP (defense) isn't to refute, point by point, what we consider spurious

Mandarin may be offered at La Entrada next fall

By Renee Batti
Almanac News Editor

A pilot Mandarin language program is being considered for La Entrada Middle School students in the fall if there's enough interest in the class and certain other requirements are met, according to Superintendent Eric Hartwig of the Las Lomas School District.

The school board on Jan. 12 agreed to have staff continue working out the details of La Entrada Principal Lawrence Thomas' proposal to offer the class, which would give students another choice of world language study in a program that already includes Spanish, French and Latin.

The class will be offered as an elective when registration for the 2011-12 school year takes place next month, and if enough students sign up and other criteria are met to the school board's satisfaction, a teacher would be brought

onboard and the pilot course launched.

Mr. Hartwig said the board is asking staff for more details about the proposed program before it decides on whether to approve its addition to the curriculum.

A staff report to the board says that parent interest in offering Mandarin at La Entrada has grown in recent

it said.

Woodside and Carlmont in the Sequoia Union High School District currently offer Mandarin, as do a number of private high schools in the area, Mr. Thomas said in a letter to parents.

Mr. Hartwig said the program wouldn't be "a big financial investment for us," given that student enrollment is continuing to grow significantly and that more teaching staff is needed anyway to accommodate that growth. "The nominal expense for the program would be on materials," he said.

The staff and parents who worked collaboratively over the last couple of years to research how the program might be developed and put in place "really deserve a lot of thanks for their effort," Mr. Hartwig said. "It's a step in a new direction," which requires much effort and commitment, he added. ■

A staff report cites 'China's rapid emergence in the world's economic, cultural, and diplomatic arenas.'

years, and cites "China's rapid emergence in the world's economic, cultural, and diplomatic arenas" in underscoring the importance of Mandarin language study.

The program would be structured to prepare students to enroll in level-two Mandarin in high school, the report said. It would be offered to sixth- through eighth-graders,

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



It's A Good Time to Buy and Sell

Dear Monica: I have been waiting for the market to improve to put my home up for sale. What is your opinion about whether I should list it now or wait a bit longer? William E.

Dear William: As we begin the new year it is a good time to look at statistics and try to project what will happen going forward. Sales volume in Menlo Park and Palo Alto was up more than 10% in 2010 compared with 2009. In 2010 average prices in Menlo Park rose 6% and 2.6% in Palo Alto over 2009. Appraisers are still conservative in their assessments keeping prices in check. Despite this, there were still modest price increases. There is very low inventory as the new year begins as properties that sat on the market for months last year have mostly sold and very few new properties have come on the market in the first weeks of January.

If your property was on the market right

now, priced well, I have no doubt it would sell in a reasonable time. If your personal plan is to sell your house, this is a very good time to do so. It is an even better time for buyers because interest rates are still so low. They can lock in a long term rate that will make their home more affordable than it will probably be in the future.

Real estate is a lagging economic indicator. People buy homes when they feel secure in their jobs and have plans to settle in for a period of time. Markets are stronger and more stable when the overall employment picture is solid. The job market has not recovered to a high enough level yet but there are good projections from Bay Area companies that they expect better growth in 2011. If this translates into more full time jobs, you will see the real estate market get even stronger. You needn't wait longer to sell your home. It is a good time right now.

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






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Stanford Hospital Health Notes

A community health education series from Stanford Hospital & Clinics

Video-assisted Lung Cancer Surgery: Small Incisions Translate Into Big Gains For Pain Reduction and Recovery Speed

Bonnie Borton had already bested one kind of cancer twice – lymphoma, the kind that emerges in the body's lymphatic system. She'd gone through chemo twice, lost her hair and moved back into the regular rhythm of her life. Her oncologist kept a close eye on her.

Two years after her second occurrence of lymphoma, however, a scan showed some very tiny lesions in her lungs. She opted not to have a needle biopsy, a calculated risk that left her not at all surprised when another scan several months later revealed one particularly suspicious tumor. "I knew at the time I was rolling the dice," she said.

And now she was 78, not an age where the body can easily handle the traditional surgical approach to remove tumors from the lung: Long incision, ribs spread, and sometimes broken, muscles split apart, all in a procedure that can mean significant pain and several months of recovery. Borton, however, was offered by her Stanford physicians a minimally invasive option not available until relatively recently, supported by advances in technology and human expertise: a video-assisted lobectomy, or VATS lobectomy. Surgeons would make just three, one to two inch incisions into her torso and, guided by a high grade video camera, remove her tumor. Not only would it be gone, but she'd probably be out of the hospital within a few

days and back to her usual activities in a few weeks.

"I liked Dr. Shrager the minute I met him, and with my experience, I'm a pretty good judge."

– Bonnie Borton, patient,
Stanford Hospital & Clinics

The chest, said Stanford's Chief of Thoracic Surgery, Joseph Shrager, has been one of the last frontiers for minimally invasive surgery. The chest is filled with critical structures like each of the pulmonary arteries that carry half the body's blood flow. "If you nick a muscle around the gall bladder during a minimally invasive approach, that's probably going to be okay," he said. "The downside of having trouble in the chest is much, much greater."

Focused Skills

The field also includes surgery for esophageal cancer and other cancers of the chest. Nor had the medical profession developed, until the last two decades, the kind of training that produced surgeons who specialized in the chest's special geography. Before that training emerged cardiothoracic sur-

geons "were basically heart surgeons who did a little thoracic on the side and didn't really have a dedicated interest in the lungs or in cancer," Shrager said. Now there are about 20 hospitals in the U.S.—Stanford among them—where separate groups of surgeons specialize in thoracic cancers and also carry on thoracic surgery-focused teaching and research. Shrager's special interests include minimally invasive techniques to replace those traditional operations whose long incisions make them dangerous for older and sicker patients and whose after-effects can linger long after surgery. The incisions used for the decades-old procedures are "the most painful in any surgery," Shrager said. "You divide major muscles, you have to spread the ribs and no matter how careful you are, the nerves that run between the ribs are sensitive to manipulation."

The post-surgical pain is more than a question of discomfort; it can create dangerous complications. "Pain makes it difficult to cough and if you can't cough after a lung operation, you have the tendency to develop pneumonia," Shrager said.

Many people who have lung surgery will also need chemotherapy, and that needs to be started as soon after surgery as possible. "Minimally invasive procedures mean a quicker recovery time," Shrager said, "and in some cases, the faster you can get chemo started, the more likely you are to have a good outcome."



Norbert von der Groeben

For Bonnie Borton, 80, standard lung surgery would have been a difficult procedure. It requires an incision several inches long and spreading of the ribs, which can mean a great deal of pain and a long recovery. And she's a woman who values her independence.



Norbert von der Groeben

One of the great joys in Borton's life is her garden. To help it flourish, she needs to keep at it: Raking, watering, removing debris and harvesting. Because her Stanford surgeon, an expert in minimally invasive thoracic surgery, was able to remove her cancerous lung lesion with just three small incisions, she was back in her garden very quickly after her operation.

What You Should Know About Lung Cancer

- Lung cancer is the second most common cancer in both men and women. It is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the U.S. Cigarette smoking is the cause of most lung cancers, but approximately 10% of lung cancers occur in non-smokers.

Diagnosis

- Symptoms can include persistent coughing, coughing up blood, hoarseness, chest pain, wheezing, lung infection, or weight loss. A chest X-ray or CT scan may determine the first indications of illness.
- PET scan, endobronchial ultrasound or mediastinoscopy, or brain MRI may be needed to track the possible spread of the disease to the lymph nodes in the chest or to distant sites in the body.

Treatments

- A lobectomy is the most common operation and involves the removal of an entire lobe of the lung. In most hospitals, it is still performed with a large incision, rib-spreading procedure called a thoracotomy. At Stanford

and a few other medical centers, surgeons have the option of VATS, video-assisted thoracic surgery, which is completed with three small incisions and without spreading the ribs.

- A pneumonectomy removes an entire lung and is considered the most drastic approach. Some patients do well with this, but it can mean long-term disability because of shortness of breath.
- A sleeve lobectomy is used when cancer is found at the origin of the airway to a lobe. It is the most complex type of surgery but may avoid the more injurious pneumonectomy.
- A segmentectomy means just a portion of a lobe is removed and can be appropriate for some smaller tumors.

For more information about Stanford's thoracic surgery program, visit: cancer.stanford.edu/thoracicsurgery or call 650.721.2086.

Join us at stanfordhospital.org/socialmedia.

"I liked Dr. Shrager the minute I met him," Borton said, "and with my experience, I'm a pretty good judge. Also, I'd already gotten on the Internet and checked him out. I also knew that my oncologist would bend over backwards to make sure I had the very best doctors. I feel very fortunate."

Expertise Required

Shrager and his partners at Stanford are a select team. They are among an estimated 50 physicians in the U.S. trained in a particular technique called sleeve lobectomy. It allows a surgeon to remove one of a lung's lobes and then reconnect the remaining lobe or lobes. It's another way to reduce the risks of lung surgery—by avoiding the removal of the entire lung. Shrager has performed more than 2,000 lung lobectomies in his career. His three thoracic surgeon colleagues at Stanford bring their collective experience to at least double that number.

"It's like putting your eye right into the chest, right next to the things you're dissecting."

— Joseph Shrager, Chief, Thoracic Surgery and video-assisted lobectomy expert, Stanford Hospital & Clinics

The VATS procedure Shrager used to treat Borton's lung cancer isn't appropriate for every patient, he said. The cancer must be in its earliest stages, which means only one in three patients may benefit. "What you need is a tumor that is embedded in the lung tissue, but not stuck to anything or growing or spreading into other structures," he said.



Surgical nurse Wilberto Gutierrez, RN, holds the long wand that holds a fiberoptic scope for the video camera that enables video-assisted thoracic surgery. The scope allows Stanford physician Joseph Shrager to work inside the lungs and chest with sharp and detailed visibility. Just three small incisions are needed: one for the video viewer and two for the instruments that carry the tiny removal tools. Tumors must be small enough to remove with this minimally invasive approach and they cannot be attached, growing or spreading into other body structures. This type of surgery allows recovery in weeks, not the months typical for large incision surgery. The smaller photo shows a nearly-life size view of two sizes of video lenses.

Norbert von der Groeben

allow for important flexibility.

Research underway at Stanford is exploring methods for an even more detailed view of cancer's presence in the lymph nodes nearest the lungs. The Division of Thoracic Surgery is also investigating molecular aspects of lung cancer that may lead to future blood tests that could speed the diagnosis of lung cancer and build treatments that are less severe than chemotherapy and surgery.

Speedy Recovery

Borton's quick surgery was followed by a quick recovery: Shrager operated on a Wednesday; Borton was released home three days later on a Saturday. On Sunday morning, Borton woke up and went into her kitchen full with several family members and friends who'd arrived to help care for her during her recovery. "I recall walking around the kitchen, giving each one of them a hug and they were looking at me like, 'God, this woman just had major surgery!' In another three days, just a week after her surgery, Borton decided she wanted to buy a replacement lounge chair. A few hours of shopping later, with the chair found and ordered, her companion asked

whether Borton thought it might be a good idea to go home. "I guess so," Borton replied.

That quick recovery was important for Borton in another way, too. "I'm a pretty independent woman and I don't like to be a burden to my children," she said. Now, three small scars are the only marks of her VATS surgery.

"I was walking around the kitchen and I was giving each one of them a hug and they were looking at me like, 'God, this woman just had major surgery!'"

— Bonnie Borton, patient, Stanford Hospital & Clinics

Not exercising the way she once did, but perfectly capable of doing most of those things that are the great pleasures of her life — taking care of the home she's lived in for almost 50 years and tending to its garden, whose fruit trees and flowers she attentively nurtures. And, every day, she walks for at least 30 minutes, usually encountering a neighbor with a dog. She loves to read, as does her cat, apparently. As soon as she sits down with book in hand, Tippy leaps up onto her lap.

She doesn't think much about her illnesses. "I don't worry about it. I can only live today," she said. Nor is she thinking about any big moves. "I'm where I need to be. My husband was treated at Stanford. And I've had enough to do with Stanford to feel very comfortable right here. I'm happy to be where I am."

Stanford Hospital & Clinics is known worldwide for advanced treatment of complex disorders in areas such as cardiovascular care, cancer treatment, neurosciences, surgery, and organ transplants. Consistently ranked among the top institutions in the U.S. News & World Report annual list of "America's Best Hospitals," Stanford Hospital & Clinics is internationally recognized for translating medical breakthroughs into the care of patients. It is part of the Stanford University Medical Center, along with the Stanford University School of Medicine and Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. For more information, visit stanfordmedicine.org.



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Stanford University Medical Center

PG&E: Menlo Park gas leak due to house demolition

Failure to have PG&E turn off electricity and gas to a home about to be demolished resulted in a gas leak that dissipated into the atmosphere with no fire, PG&E reported Jan. 12.

Initial reports that there was a gas-main leak and possible fire drew firefighters from the Menlo Park Fire Protection District to 1315 Middle Ave., near Hermosa Way, shortly before 3 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 11.

But the leak was from a small gas pipe in the house that was broken during the demolition work, according to Joe Molica of PG&E.

PG&E crews arrived at the scene about 3:40 p.m. and had the gas turned off within 8 minutes, as well as the electricity, Mr. Molica said.

South Bay salt pond restoration meeting

Anyone interested in restoring salt ponds to wetlands habitat in the Ravenswood area, near the Dumbarton Bridge, is invited to attend a working group meeting on Thursday, Feb. 10, in Menlo Park.

Visit southbayrestoration.org to see the agenda. Discussion topics include Phase 2 restoration and public access projects, and construction updates.

The meeting will be held at the Menlo Park Library at 800 Alma St. from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

SamTrans survey

Answer 20 questions online for SamTrans, and get entered into a drawing for a monthly pass. The survey seeks to determine the best way to deliver information to the 45,000 people who use

Help for seniors discharged from hospital

Peninsula Volunteers Inc. is one of five local agencies receiving a grant to provide services to seniors just discharged from Sequoia Hospital. The hospital has distributed \$100,000 in grants to agencies carrying out the Sequoia Hospital Homecoming Project.

The program, which began last March and has served more than 50 seniors so far, is designed to bridge the gap between a patient's discharge from the hospital and

BRIEFS

SamTrans each day, and to find out why they ride the county-wide bus system.

Go to samtrans.com to access the survey, which will be available until Jan. 28, according to SamTrans spokeswoman Tasha Bartholomew.

Menlo College blood drive

The Red Cross Club is sponsoring a blood drive at Menlo College on Wednesday, Feb. 2, from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Visit redcrossblood.org or e-mail Hanna Malak at hmalak@Menlo.edu to sign up. Free food and raffle tickets will be provided for those who donate or volunteer.

The club hopes to collect at least 75 units of blood, enough to beat last year's record, according to Mr. Malak.

The campus is at 1000 El Camino Real in Atherton.

Five Caltrain stations getting new signs

Travelers may have a harder time getting lost while navigating the Peninsula's transit network once Caltrain installs new signs at its San Francisco, Palo Alto, Mountain View, San Jose Diridon stations and the Millbrae Intermodal Transit Center.

The new signs will consolidate information for all the transit systems serving that station, including all maps, schedules, and fare information. The installations should be finished by March, according to Caltrain spokeswoman Christine Dunn.

recovery, allowing recuperation at home.

Besides Peninsula Volunteers, the agencies receiving grants are Peninsula Family Service, Rebuilding Together Peninsula, Samaritan House, and Second Harvest Food Bank.

Services provided include assistance with housing needs, home-delivered meals, help with home repair, weekly groceries, and transportation referral.



Photo by Barbara Wood

Black Sheep Handweavers Guild members share their textile arts projects before the guild's recent meeting at the Woodside Village Church. From left, they are Kathleen Dickey, Carolynn Van Cise of Woodside, Barbara Shapiro of San Francisco, and Barbie Paulsen of North Fair Oaks.

Handweavers' Guild thriving in Woodside

By Barbara Wood
Special to the Almanac

Here in the heart of Silicon Valley, a thriving group meets monthly not to brainstorm about the art of creating the next killer iPhone app, but to celebrate and educate themselves about a quite different, centuries-old art — making textiles by hand.

In addition to weaving, members of the Black Sheep Handweaver's Guild may spin wool, dye yarn or fabric, knit, make baskets, make lace or wall art, or just watch and listen and soak up the creativity flowing at the monthly meetings.

Before a recent meeting, Barbara Shapiro, who first joined the guild more than 30 years ago, showed off one of her current projects. She was winding strips of fabric she had used to test indigo dyes into disks featuring subtle variations of blue that would eventually become wall art.

Ms. Shapiro, a former Peninsula resident who now lives in San Francisco, is a professional textile artist who has a woven silk piece currently on display at the deYoung Museum.

Carolyn Van Cise of Woodside, who has also been a member of the guild for three decades, brought some baskets and a scarf she had made. Ms. Van Cise says she belongs to three different guilds and enjoys doing "anything I get off the loom quickly," including baskets and scarves. She often starts by musing on how a certain material, color or texture would work in a proj-

ect. "Everything is a 'what if,'" Ms. Van Cise says.

The Black Sheep Guild meets monthly in the Guild Hall at the Woodside Village Church. Most meetings feature a speaker or other program and a show-and-tell, when members can share their latest project.

"Everything is applauded," Ms. Shapiro says.

Members also share projects they are having trouble with, and ask for advice from the group.

A few smaller working groups have spun off from the guild, including one that does complex weaving (using computer-generated patterns), one for spinning, and one for free-form projects, all meeting in members' homes.

The guild also holds workshops a few times a year. Planned for 2011 is a two-part series teaching how to weave fabric to be made into a fitted jacket. In March, in the first three-day workshop, participants will weave the jacket fabric. In September, the students will make the jacket. Sharon Alderman and Daryl Lancaster will teach the classes March 18-20 and Sept. 16-18.

The Black Sheep guild is part of the Handweavers Guild of America, but contrary to what is happening in some other parts of the country, the local guild is growing and attracting new members each month.

"This is a successful large guild that is growing," says Ms. Shapiro. Many young Silicon Valley professionals seem

to find spinning, weaving or other textile arts an antidote to the stress in other parts of their lives, she says.

Andrea Niehuis, who owns Amazing Yarns in Redwood City and lives in Emerald Hills, is another active Black Sheep member. Although she teaches weaving and writes articles about knitting, Ms. Niehuis says she never fails to be inspired by the guild meetings. "Every time I come here I get so many ideas about what to do next," she says. "The creativity is amazing."

In case one wonders where the guild got its name, Ms. Van Cise can explain.

It seems that shepherds used to cull the black sheep from their flocks, as their wool could not be dyed and was thought to be worthless. But then artisans who were spinning and weaving wool began to treasure the naturally colored fleece, and began preserving and breeding black sheep.

Today sheep are bred with black and other colors of wool for use by those who, like the members of the Black Sheep Handweavers Guild, love to spend time cultivating an ancient art.

Go to blacksheepguild.org for more information on the guild. Meetings are open to the public and are listed in the Almanac's online calendar. ■

Barbara Wood is a freelance writer, photographer and gardener from Woodside. She writes the "Dispatches From the Home Front" column for the Almanac.

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POST buys 97 acres near La Honda

The Peninsula Open Space Trust has acquired 97.5 acres of land on the western side of the Santa Cruz range near La Honda to preserve as open space, POST announced Jan. 11.

The acquisition will expand the connection between the 2,142-acre Skyline Ridge and the 3,025-acre Russian Ridge open space preserves and improve hiking access to Mindego Hill, POST said in a statement.

The property has undulating grassland, stands of oak and madrone, Douglas fire forests, and year-round creeks, including one that supports steelhead trout.

POST said it paid \$3 million to buy the property from the family of Jack H. Silva of Santa Clara. POST expects to transfer it within a year to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, the statement said.

Bicyclists may gain a new corridor between Russian Ridge and the Mindego Ridge trail.

"This rolling landscape is a natural extension of Mindego Hill and surrounding protected lands," POST President Audrey Rust said in the statement. "It also gives MROSD time to leverage public funding for this property and ensures that the heart and soul of Skyline Ridge remains protected from development."

Wild animals found in this area include mountain lions, coyotes, badgers and dusky-footed woodrats, golden eagles and various hawks, possibly the California red-legged frog and perhaps the uncommon — and charming — long-eared owl.

Small portions of the land were used at one time to farm oats and hay, the statement said.

15 apply for Planning Commission

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Serving on a commission in Menlo Park isn't everyone's idea of a good time, judging by the dearth of applicants for each vacancy. But the Planning Commission may be an exception. Fifteen residents will sit down for interviews on Tuesday, Jan. 18, in hopes of filling the seat left empty by former Commissioner Kirsten Keith's election to City Council.

Several familiar names popped up on the list, such as Transportation Commissioner Charlie Bourne, community activist Don Brawner, and JoAnne Goldberg, wife of Planning Commission Vice Chair Vincent Bressler — which could make for lively discussions around their dinner table.

According to City Attorney Bill McClure, there's no law against spouses serving on the same commission. He pointed out that since the Planning Commission consists of seven members, there's less potential for an inadvertent Brown Act

Interviews

Sacrificing their regular Tuesday night meeting, the Menlo Park City Council will interview the 15 applicants for the Planning Commission during the afternoon of Tuesday, Jan. 18. Public comments will be taken before the interviews begin. The session starts at 2 p.m. in the council conference room at the Civic Center (701 Laurel St.).

violation than on the smaller City Council, should spouses confer outside meetings and then privately talk to a majority of their colleagues.

The city clerk's office provided a complete list of applicants: Kenneth Baker, Richard Baum, Shawn Blackburn, Charlie Bourne, Don Brawner, S. Kelley Bryant, JoAnne Goldberg, Lawrence Lee, Waibun Lee, Christian Molick, Raymond Neal, Kathleen Pederson, Michael Stoner, Doug Vort, Peipei Carol Yu.

The intent to make a final selection on Jan. 25, according to City Clerk Margaret Roberts. ■

Kindergarten registration at Woodside School

Kindergarten orientation for Woodside Elementary School will be held at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 2, at the school. Parents only are asked to attend.

Children who will be 5 years old before Dec. 2, 2011, are eligible to attend kindergarten in the fall. A birth certificate,

proof of residency, immunization records, and a physician's report will be required before the child enters school. Registration packets for the 2011-2012 school year will be available in the school office, starting Feb. 2.

Visit woodside.k12.ca.us or call 851-1571 for more information.

Eagle Express lands at Encinal School

by Lisa Cope

It's not often the postmaster of Menlo Park is summoned to a local school for the purpose of swearing in second- and third-graders. Then again, there has never been another post office in town like the Eagle Express, which recently opened at Encinal School.

The student-run Eagle Express operates like the U.S. Postal Service, except that second- and third-graders are in charge. Students will be able to write and receive letters within the school and with family and friends anywhere in the country.

The idea came from Encinal Principal Allison Liner. The Eagle Express became a joint project of the Menlo Park-Atherton Education Foundation and the Encinal School Parent Teacher Organization. "The post office is a great way to build community, connect with one another, and build writing skills at the same time," said Ms. Liner.

With hours of work donated by parent volunteer coordinators Jill Kispert and Heather Karp, the program was designed and implemented over the fall of 2010. First up: designing how it would run.

"We came up with a street plan based on the hallways and classrooms of the school's layout. Then we asked the students to come up with names for each 'street' and conducted a vote to decide what the names would



Photo by Kristin Geiser

Encinal School second- and third-graders take the oath of service for the school's new post office.

be," said Ms. Karp. Winning street names included "Eagles Nest Lane" and "No Place Like Homework Way."

Ms. Karp and Ms. Kispert worked with PTO volunteers to design and print stamps, create a school-wide address book listing the new street address for every student, and make Eagle Express uniforms and mail carrier bags. The team also installed two large mailboxes on campus and gave each classroom its own smaller mailbox.

Second- and third-graders completed applications and interviews for such jobs as mail carriers, nixie clerks, cancelers and postmaster. Every applicant got hired.

At a Jan.10 school assembly,

Menlo Park Postmaster Jeff Gaskill was on hand to swear in the new "postal employees." Principal Liner introduced the Eagle Express and its Code of Conduct, then called the name of each student postal worker.

"It's truly amazing to see all these kids excited about the idea of working in the post office and delivering the mail," Postmaster Gaskill said.

As part of the school's curriculum, students will be writing to other students and will learn basic letter-writing techniques as well as how to address an envelope. ■

Lisa Cope is a freelance writer and editor living in Menlo Park with her husband and two boys.

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Katha Pollitt writes the "Subject to Debate" column in *The Nation*. She has written essays for *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, the *New York Times*, and has appeared on NPR, CNN, NBC, and the BBC.

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Sisters sentenced in stiletto heel attack

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

A pair of sisters pleaded no contest to misdemeanor charges in connection with a July 2010 British Bankers Club incident in which one of the sisters attacked a Menlo Park police officer with a stiletto heeled shoe.

In a plea agreement in San Mateo County Superior Court before Judge Lisa Novak, Delores Julia Simmons, 22, pleaded no contest on Jan. 11 to a charge of battering a police officer. Ms. Simmons was sentenced to two years probation and \$180 in fines, District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe said in a report.

She is also subject to random searches by police, must abstain from drinking alcohol and is subject to chemical testing for banned substances, prosecutors said. Restitution to the battered

police officer is to be determined on March 1. Ms. Simmons is out of custody on \$25,000 bail.

In a separate plea bargain over a charge of resisting arrest, Velisa Marie Simmons, 21, received essentially the same sentence as her sister with the exception that she owes no restitution, prosecutors said. She has been out of custody on her own recognizance.

Velisa Simmons's attorney, Mitri Hanania of Redwood City, called the resolution "a fair disposition, based on the facts." The original felony charges were dropped, Mr. Hanania said, adding that he would have taken it to a jury had prosecutors not agreed to the lesser charges.

Officers from the Menlo Park Police Department were called to the BBC on July 18, 2010, and discovered fights going on outside the bar and in the basement garage, where the Simmons sisters were

encountered, prosecutors said.

An officer ordered Velisa Simmons and others to leave the garage and Ms. Simmons responded: "Make me, mother---er," and started fighting with the officers as they attempted to arrest her, prosecutors said.

It was about this time that Delores Simmons came up behind an arresting officer and struck him in the head with a five-inch stiletto-heeled shoe that resulted in a gash in the officer's head, prosecutors said.

Officers applied pepper spray to both women and arrested them.

If an officer gives a lawful order, any delay in following it can result in a resisting-arrest charge. But as for calling an officer an uncomplimentary name, there's nothing on the books against it, Mr. Hanania said. ■

■ OBITUARIES

Norman Duvall

Longtime Menlo Park resident

A celebration of the life of Norman Lee Duvall will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, at Harry's Hoffbrau in Redwood City. Mr. Duvall, a resident of Menlo Park for 43 years, died Dec. 24 in San Diego, following a brief illness. He was 78.

Mr. Duvall was born and raised in Battle Creek, Michigan. A ROTC graduate of Michigan State University, he served in the U.S. Army with the rank of First Lieutenant.

Mr. Duvall had a long and successful career as an executive at Potlatch Corporation. He was an avid golfer, World War II film buff, and master of the daily crossword puzzle, say family members. He enjoyed fishing, watching football and baseball, and a good laugh, they say.

"He was an 'old school' guy," says his son, Farley Duvall, "who taught my brother and me right from wrong, to look a person in the eye, to have a firm handshake, and so much more."

Survivors include his wife of 47 years, Eileen Ann Duvall; sons Farley Cash Duvall and Derek Norman Duvall; and two grandchildren.

Contact normduvall@gmail.com for more information.

Helen Jeanne Iverson

Former Portola Valley resident

A memorial service for Helen Jeanne Iverson will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, at St. Simon Church in Los Altos. Ms. Iverson died on Dec. 27.

Born in Cheyenne, Wyoming, Ms. Iverson lived in Portola Valley from 1964 to 2005. She is survived by her children, Marilyn, Christine, and Robert; sister Marilyn Brodahl; and four grandchildren. Her husband of 48 years, Leonard R. Iverson, preceded her in death.

It took more than a year to get a diagnosis. When I went to Stanford's Dermatology Clinic, I finally found a dermatologist who truly listened to what I said—and then actually DID something about it. —Cindy W., Stanford patient

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■ POLICE CALLS

This information is from the Atherton and Menlo Park police departments and the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office. Under the law, people charged with offenses are considered innocent until convicted.

ATHERTON

Grand theft reports:

■ Computer stolen from vehicle parked in driveway, Tallwood Court, Jan. 10.

■ Items stolen from vehicle, first block of Melanie Lane, Jan. 12.

Auto burglary report: Forced entry into locked vehicle, 100 block of Burns Ave., Jan. 13.

Fraud report: Social Security number used to open five unauthorized credit cards, 100 block of Catalpa Drive, Jan. 13.

MENLO PARK

Residential burglary reports:

■ Losses estimated at \$10,391 in break-in and theft of jewelry and laptop computer, 1200 block of Windermere Ave., Jan. 13.

■ Losses estimated at \$950 in break-in and theft of leather jackets and golf clubs, 1200 block of Windermere Ave., Jan. 13.

■ Break-in but nothing apparently taken, 1100 block of Sevier Ave., Jan. 7.

Grand theft reports:

■ Losses estimated at \$1,500 in theft of newspaper racks, reported at main police station at 701 Laurel St., Jan. 12.

■ Loss estimated at \$700 in theft of Apple iPad, 1000 block of Lassen Drive, Jan. 13.

■ Loss of \$150 in cash and hundreds of dollars in gift cards in theft from unlocked vehicle, 900 block of Sherman Ave., Jan. 11.

Auto burglary report: Window smashed and empty briefcase stolen and later recovered, 2300 block of Blueridge Ave., Jan. 11.

Fraud reports:

■ Loss of \$479 in unauthorized use of credit card, 1300 block of Madera Ave., Jan. 10.

■ Loss of \$97 in unauthorized use of debit card, 100 block of Dunsmuir Way, Jan. 8.

Child protective services report: 1300 block of Willow Road, Jan. 11.

WOODSIDE

Theft report: Unknown losses in theft of purse, computer equipment, Apple iPad and several credit cards from unlocked vehicle, 3000 block of Sand Hill Road, Jan. 8.

LADERA

Fraud report: Loss estimated at \$1,700 in unauthorized use of Macy's credit card at store in Rancho Cucamonga, 1000 block of Dakin Ave., Jan. 10.

Theft report: Unknown loss in theft of wallet and laptop computer from unlocked vehicle, 1000 block of American Way, Jan. 10.

■ BIRTHS

Menlo Park

■ Jennifer and Douglas Hirzel, a

daughter, May 18, Sequoia Hospital.

■ Rachel and Knute Ream, a son, Jan. 4, Sequoia Hospital.

Dana Slatery Quellmalz

(1977-2010)

Dana Quellmalz, 33, beloved son of Edys Quellmalz, Portola Valley and brother of Kevin Quellmalz, San Francisco died December 28, 2010. He is survived by his father Robert Quellmalz, Laguna Beach, and siblings Robbie, Andrew and MaryKate. Dana attended Ormondale Elementary School, Corte Madera Middle School, Woodside High School, and UC Santa Cruz. He worked with his brother Kevin's construction company where his comic relief ad witty nature will be greatly missed. He was an accomplished golfer, history buff, and avid Giants fan. He loved fishing. All will remember him as bright, mischievous, kind, and loyal. A memorial celebration of Dana's life by family and friends is being planned.

PAID OBITUARY

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Frances Fearing Miller

May 20, 1916-December 26, 2010



Frances Fearing Miller passed away peacefully at home with her family at her bedside on December 26, 2010.

She was born to Chester and Florence Fearing in Bisbee, Arizona, and later moved to Huntington Park, California, where she graduated from Huntington Park High School.

She earned her undergraduate degree in economics at UCLA, where she was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa Society in her junior year.

At UCLA she met her future husband, Arjay. They were married on August 18, 1940, while both were pursuing graduate degrees at UC-Berkeley.

During his military service in World War II, she taught economics at UCLA and later worked as an economist in the Department of Commerce in Washington, D.C.

After the war, they moved to Dearborn, Michigan, and later to Ann Arbor, Michigan. Although her husband and two children came first, Frances developed a keen interest in business and politics, particularly as a member of the League of Woman Voters, and a lifelong

love of gardening and landscaping.

Frances and Arjay returned to California in 1969 and soon built a home among the redwoods in Woodside, where they lived together for 40 years.

She had a wonderful perspective on life, and both her family and a wide circle of friends greatly enjoyed many long conversations.

Frances will be greatly missed by her husband of 70 years, Arjay, her son Ken and her daughter-in-law Gisele, her daughter Ann and her son-in-law Jim Olstad, granddaughters Sarah (Tim) Kingsbury, Emily (Jeffrey) Gottfurcht and Laura Olstad, and five great-grandchildren.

A private service in celebration of her life was held December 29. The family requests that any contributions in her memory be made to the philanthropic organization of the contributor's choice.

PAID OBITUARY

Frederic Courcelle de Sibert

Frederic Courcelle de Sibert passed away on January 10, 2011 at his home in Monterey, California, after an extended but peaceful illness.

Fred, as he was known to friends and family, was born on September 27, 1930 in Geneva, Switzerland. He was the only child of Baron Pierre de Sibert of Paris, France and Dorothy Colford of New York, NY. Fred spent his early childhood in Geneva and then his parents moved to New York in 1936. After his parents' divorce in 1937, he spent the remainder of his childhood in France with his beloved father. They would remain very close throughout Fred's life, and his father, a highly decorated hero of two world wars, was an exemplary role model throughout Fred's life.

In 1947, after obtaining his French Baccalaureate, Fred made his maiden flight, leaving France for the United States in order to attend Princeton University via the Lawrenceville School. It was the beginning of a love affair with aviation that would last throughout his life. Fred graduated from Princeton in 1953 with a B.S. in aeronautical engineering, and then served in the United States Army as a helicopter pilot. During an extended tour of duty in Germany, Chief Warrant Officer de Sibert flew multiple life-saving missions and saw unofficial, but very real, action in Algeria, where he was a US technical advisor to the French Air Force.

It was during Fred's European tour that he met the love of his life, Marie-France Gadala, in Paris. They were married shortly after his return from Algeria, and their first child, Isabelle, was born in Germany in 1957. Soon thereafter the young family moved to Connecticut where Fred began his career at Sikorsky, working as a flight test engineer under the legendary Igor Sikorsky. Their second child, Geoffrey, was born in 1959, and shortly thereafter the family returned to Paris. Fred would spend almost twenty years at Sikorsky; he was first involved in the design and then the marketing and sales of the S-61, S-64 "SkyCrane" and S-65 "Jolly Green



Giant" helicopters and was eventually head of Sikorsky's European Operations. In 1971 a third child, Christopher, was born in Paris, where the family lived until 1980 when Fred retired. Once again the family crossed the Atlantic to settle in Woodside, CA where they would spend the next twenty years and where Fred served for some 10 years on the Woodside ASRB and Planning Commission. He especially enjoyed translating the epic works on Napoleon Bonaparte for the eminent historian, Proctor Jones. In 2001 Fred and Marie-France moved to the Monterey Peninsula.

Fred is survived by his beloved wife of fifty-four years, Marie-France, their three children and spouses: Mr. & Mrs. Gérard Dusastre (Isabelle, née de Sibert), Mr. & Mrs. Geoffrey de Sibert (Isabella, née von Kotze), and Mr. & Mrs. Christopher de Sibert (Eléonore, née Valais). He also leaves six grandchildren: Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Dusastre, Quentin, Charles and Melody Dusastre and Frederic and Charlotte de Sibert.

The family invites you to a Memorial Service which will be held at the Woodside Priory School, in Portola Valley, California, on Saturday, January 22, 2011 at 11:00am.

The family requests that no flowers be sent; a donation in lieu of flowers may be made to the breast cancer foundation chaired by Fred's daughter Isabelle: <http://www.kellyshiresfoundation.org>

PAID OBITUARY

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



WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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

TOWN SQUARE FORUM

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EMAIL your views to:

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

MAIL or deliver to:

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

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

City sets terms for pool operator

After five years of rent-free operation, the city of Menlo Park is apparently ready to sign a deal with pool operator Team Sheeper for a very modest rent of \$3,000 a month, a fraction of what the city had hoped to receive when the proposal was released months ago.

But the Sheeper team also agreed to operate the Belle Haven pool for at least three months a year, which will save the city about \$90,000 a year, and pay for utilities, chemicals and other maintenance and repair costs, according to an analysis by Cherise Brandell, the community services director. The 10-year deal includes a fair market rent adjustment in year six and the ability for the city to terminate at any time if Team Sheeper does not meet other specified goals.

And Team Sheeper agreed to improve its communications with the city and prepare an annual report for the Parks and Recreation Commission, which will enable the city to monitor use patterns at the pool.

Taken together, and with some concessions to Sheeper competitor SOLO Aquatics, the proposed 10-year contract is a good deal for the city and the hundreds of swimmers who use the \$6.8 million pool. The deal, which must win City Council approval, also sets aside specific practice time five days a week at a discounted rate for SOLO, which meets some, but not all, of the club's goals going into the bidding negotiations.

Tim Sheeper, whose operation of the pool has earned

high marks for the five years his club has been in charge, finally will be able to escape critics of the original deal which turned operation of a brand new public pool over to him rent free without a competitive bid. At the time City Council members said the deal was justified because the city could lay off its pool staff.

According to the memo written by Ms. Brandell, SOLO will be given a late afternoon practice time five days a week at a discounted rental rate, and also will get an equal share of bulletin board space to promote their programs. The city did not agree to bar Team Sheeper from competing directly with SOLO or give the club space for private lessons.

Clear communications about pool operations was lacking last August when a chlorine leak occurred and illustrated the need for the city and pool operator to work together so that swimmers and the public are notified about any dangerous circumstances at the pool. It is our hope that the new contract will provide for a clear protocol of who is in charge when emergencies occur.

Other parts of the new contract include a provision for Team Sheeper to write an annual report for the Parks and Recreation Commission that includes a breakdown of fees and pool time allocations and a provision that the team will share costs of a semi-annual inspection by an external expert.

Other than the glitch over reporting emergencies, we have nothing but praise for Mr. Sheeper's operation of Burgess Pool. Most swimmers are happy, and although SOLO members may have some concerns, overall operation of the pool has been very successful.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS

Our readers write

City's fees on town homes out of line

Editor:

Is it any wonder that developers and store owners are fleeing Menlo Park?

The Beltramos, who have been stellar citizens and great contributors to our city, want to redevelop their property. They should be able to do so without interference. But, once again, they are being blackmailed by the city, as though we are living in the former Soviet Union.

To wit: "Beltramos (must give the city) 10 to 20 percent of sales revenue on each remaining unit if the unit's sales price exceeds \$1 million. The commissioners also agreed to accept-in-lieu fees on five market-rate town homes and up to \$382,704 in commercial linkage fees for a two-story

See **LETTERS**, next page

Our Regional Heritage

A dramatic rescue of young Terrence Hallinan by a Hiller helicopter in 1949 helped the young Menlo Park company grow its business. The 12-year-old youth was bucked from a horse in an area at the 8,100-foot level of Yosemite National Park. Rescue attempts by the Navy and a Bell helicopter were unsuccessful but Jay Demming, the Hiller company's chief test pilot, plucked the boy from the mountain on July 31, 1949.



Menlo Park Historical Association

Lining up against the death penalty

By Henry Organ

A recent news report said that the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office soon will make a decision whether or not to seek the death penalty for a homicide crime committed last June at the Hillsdale Shopping Center.

Without discussing the innocence or guilt of the accused, I hope that the DA's office will not seek this penalty.

In 2004, the state Senate established the California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice; it completed its work in 2008. (Earlier, the Board of Supervisors approved a resolution supporting the study of the state's criminal justice system.) Although the commission did not make a specific recommendation on the abolition or continuation of the death penalty, this bipartisan commission did state emphatically in its final report that the death penalty "...system is broken..." in California.

As of Dec. 27, 2010, there are 722 death sentences in California, 15 of them from San Mateo County. There is no need for San Mateo County to add to this list, given the commis-



sion's conclusion, and the increasing number of states studying and abolishing the death penalty. The political climate on the death penalty changed notably in the last California general election.

For example, in his prior governorship, newly elected Gov. Jerry Brown appointed local resident Rose Bird chief justice of the Supreme Court, despite her staunch opposition to the death penalty. Unfortunately she was recalled, due mainly to the failure of many individuals (including this writer) to rally to her defense.

Bird's recall is overshadowed by the election of Kamala Harris as attorney general, the state's top law enforcement officer. It is well known that Ms. Harris is quite firm in her opposition to the death penalty. Some might comment that this is to be expected, in that she is in alignment with the progressive political profile of the city and county of San Francisco. It should not go unnoticed, however, that Ms. Harris defeated — in a slightly conservative statewide election — Steve Cooley, the DA of Los Angeles, who is fiercely pro-death penalty.

The point is that the district attorney should not be unduly concerned about his re-election if he does not seek the death sentence now, or in the future. ■

Henry Organ lives on Euclid Avenue in Menlo Park.

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

office building.”

What does it take for this city to see that all these demands and roadblocks — which are unethical and unfair — have led to a decimation of our commercial core?

Because of this bureaucratic intransigence, our sales taxes are a fraction of what they could be, and our city — looking like a tornado destroyed half of the downtown — suffers in silence.

**Sloane Citron
Arden Road, Menlo Park**

Resident files protest of new garbage rates

Editor:

This letter was addressed to the West Bay Sanitary District.

Today I received notice of the proposed 2011 solid waste rates. A quick analysis made it clear that the monthly charge for a 20-gallon can will increase 35.6 percent. I believe that the new company that has contracted with Peninsula cities and unincorporated San Mateo County has blindsided residents.

1. A rate increase of 35.6 per-

cent is unacceptable.

2. Weekly recyclable pickups are excessive. Biweekly is adequate.

3. Pilfering of valuable aluminum cans and plastic bottles has not been addressed and the individuals responsible have not been prosecuted.

This letter represents by written protest to the proposed 2011 rates.

**Nicholas P. Jones and
Oouisie Jones, Camino a Los
Cerros, Menlo Park**

Healthy options making inroads into school lunches

Editor:

President Obama recently signed the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act — the first major bipartisan bill enacted since the election by a deeply polarized Congress. The act will replace junk food in school lunches and vending machines with more healthful options.

Several jurisdictions have taken similar action. The Hawaii, California, New York, and Florida legislatures passed resolutions recommending vegan school options. Last year, the Baltimore City public school system became the first in the nation to offer its 80,000 students a weekly meat-free lunch.

According to the School Nutrition Association, 65 per cent of U.S. schools now offer vegetarian lunch options.

In the past, USDA has used the National School Lunch Program as a dumping ground for surplus meat and dairy commodities. Not surprisingly, 90 percent of American children consume excessive amounts of fat, and only 15 percent eat the recommended servings of fruits and vegetables. These early dietary flaws become lifelong addictions, raising the risk of diabetes, heart disease, and stroke.

Those who care about our children's health should demand healthful plant-based school meals, snacks, and vending machine items. Additional information is available at healthyschoollunches.org.

**Miles Barnes
Sharon Park Drive,
Menlo Park**



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**List of all Regular and Ongoing Local Committees/Commissions
(Government Code Section 54972 – Maddy Act - Local Appointments List)**

<u>Arts Committee</u>	<u>Expires</u>	<u>Term</u>
Five (5) vacancies	Terms Expiring April 30, 2011	3 Years

<u>Audit Committee</u>	<u>Expires</u>	<u>Term</u>
One (1) vacancy to fill vacated seat	Term Expires April 30, 2014	4 Years

<u>Environmental Programs Committee</u>		
Three (3) vacancies	Terms expiring in 2013	2 Years
Five (5) vacancies	Terms expiring in 2011	4 Years

<u>Finance Committee:</u>		
Alain Enthoven	Term Expires April 30, 2011	! Year

<u>General Plan Committee</u>		
One (1) vacancy to fill resignation	Terms expires April 30, 2011	4 Years
Elizabeth Plascke	Term expires April 30, 2011	4 Years

<u>Mid-Peninsula Community Media Center</u>		
Michael DiBattista	Term Expires April 30, 2011	3 Years

<u>Park & Recreation Commission</u>		
John P. Davey	Term Expires April 30, 2011	4 Years
Marylue Timpson	Term Expires April 30, 2011	4 Years
One (1) vacancy to fill resignation	Terms Expires April 30, 2011	4 Years

<u>Planning Commission</u>		
Herman Christensen	Term Expires April 30, 2011	4 Years
Philip Lively	Term Expires April 30, 2011	4 Years

<u>Rail Committee</u>		
Greg Conlon	Term Expires April 30, 2011	4 Years
Malcolm Dudley	Term Expires April 30, 2011	4 Years
Philip Lively	Term Expires April 30, 2011	4 Years
Mike McPherson	Term Expires April 30, 2011	4 Years
Rosemary Maulbetsch	Term Expires April 30, 2011	4 Years
Arthur Ringham	Term Expires April 30, 2011	4 Years
Julie Quinlan	Term Expires April 30, 2011	4 Years
Jim Janz	Term Expires April 30, 2011	4 Years
Paul Jones	Term Expires April 30, 2011	4 Years
William Grindley	Term Expires April 30, 2011	4 Years

<u>Transportation Committee</u>		
One (1) vacancy to fill resignation	Term Expires April 30, 2012	4 Years

The following Committees and Commissions do not have any terms expiring in 2010:
 Audit Committee
 Library Building Steering Committee
 Town Center Task Force
 San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control

For questions please contact Theresa DellaSanta, Deputy City Clerk at 650-752-0529 or tdellasanta@ci.atherton.ca.us



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- Lowery Drive
- Parkwood Drive
- Ralston Road
- Selby Lane
- Stevenson Lane
- Valley Road

LOS ALTOS

- Magdalena Avenue

LOS ALTOS HILLS

- Robleda Road

MENLO PARK

- Hermosa Way
- San Mateo Drive

PALO ALTO

- Byron Street
- Forest Avenue
- Lincoln Avenue

PORTOLA VALLEY

- Golden Hills
- Horseshoe Bend

REDWOOD CITY

- Doherty Way

WOODSIDE

- Josselyn Lane



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