



Neighbors ask court
to save heritage oak *Page 9*

The Almanac

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

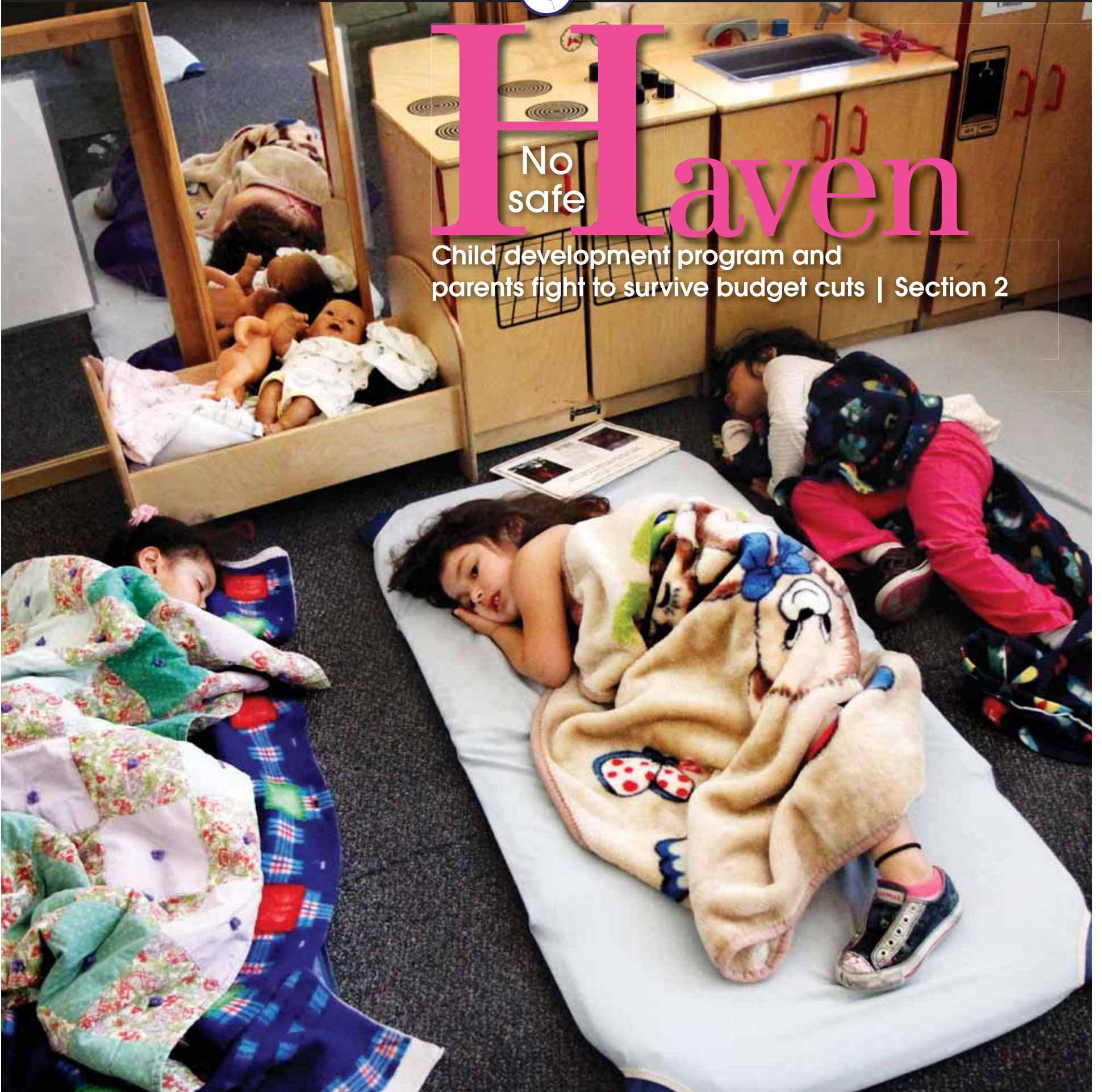
MAY 18, 2011 | VOL. 46 NO. 38



WWW.THEALMANACONLINE.COM

No safe Haven

Child development program and
parents fight to survive budget cuts | Section 2



Go to **open.apr.com** for the Bay Area's only complete online open home guide.



PALO ALTO

Enter this charming home to a wonderful Great Room encompassing the living room, dining room and exceptional kitchen with fine custom cabinets, marble counters, and top of the line appliances. Beautiful hardwood and slate flooring and double pane windows were added. There is an office plus a spacious master suite. The 3rd bedroom/bath has a separate entrance and 4th bedroom/bath is a delightful studio.

\$1,799,817



MENLO PARK

Stylish 2-story home wins you over immediately. Serene setting yet close to Las Lomas schools, shopping and commuter routes. Lovely living room, large family room adjoining well-planned kitchen, separate dining room, office or 4th bedroom and 3 baths. Double-decker garage structure has room for 2 cars and a downstairs bonus room perfect for artist/office/workshop. Low maintenance yard suits busy lifestyles.

\$1,595,000



WOODSIDE

Expand your dreams of living in Woodside with this cozy Glens home on a mostly level lot with views of the western hills from the living room deck. Enjoy a short walk to Roberts and Woodside Elementary from this desirable family oriented neighborhood. Adjoining lot also available.

\$1,175,000

MENLO PARK OFFICE 1550 EL CAMINO REAL, SUITE 100 650.462.1111

WOODSIDE OFFICE 2930 WOODSIDE ROAD 650.529.1111



Almanac photo by Michelle Le

Winners of Rotary Club of Menlo Park scholarships are (front row, from left): Maya Combs, Sara Nicole Jacobs, Kendall Anne Cody, Jennifer A. Neider, Ana Medina and Wendy Buendia; (second row, from left): Araceli Lombera, Jamisse Payne, Laurin Yuri Noguchi, Isabella Mei Wa Colosso, Priyanka Anandita, Laura Mayen and Katie Rojas; (back row, from left): Alexis M. Keller, Joseph Buchanan Wise, Justin Genevro, Vivien V. Jones, Sofia Gutierrez-Dewar and Alma Argueta.

Rotary awards \$105,000 in scholarships

The Rotary Club of Menlo Park celebrated local scholars May 9 during ceremonies at Menlo-Atherton High School's Performing Arts Center, where 26 graduating seniors received \$105,000 in scholarships.

More than 100 high school students also attended and received scholastic achievement awards after being selected for the honor by their high school. Students from Eastside College Preparatory, Sacred Heart Preparatory, Menlo School, Mid-Peninsula High School, and Menlo-Atherton High School received awards and scholarships.

The scholastic awards were handed out by school principals and headmasters as parents, friends and fellow students looked on at the Performing Arts Center. The ceremony was preceded by a rousing address from retired Superior Court Judge LaDoris H. Cordell, who told the students they are the best and the brightest and challenged them to "pay it forward" by helping others achieve success.

Rotary Club president Eric Hartwig and Rotary Club Foundation Glen Rojas handed out



These scholarship winners missed the large group photo. They are, from left, Isamar Moya, Roshana Ta'na Smith, Haley Fowler, Carina Bustos and Estefania Avila.

the scholarships, and Michelle Tsui presented her family's math and science scholarship, awarded every year to a top-performing young woman.

Here are the recipients of this year's Rotary Club of Menlo Park scholarship awards:

■ Tsui/Tsian Family Math and Science Scholarship (\$5,000) to Kimball Anne Cody, Sacred Heart, who plans to attend Stanford.

■ Judge John D. Russell Scholarship (\$9,000), Moneel M. Chand, Eastside Prep, UCLA.

■ Robert G. Paroli Family Scholarship (\$8,000), Estefania Avila, Menlo School, MIT.

■ Flegel Family Scholarship (\$8,000), Sara Nicole Jacobs, Sacred Heart, undeclared.

■ Doris and Orm Rector Scholarship (\$8,000) Maya Combs,

See **ROTARY**, page 10

CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

Newsroom: **223-6525**
 Newsroom fax: **223-7525**
 Advertising: **854-2626**
 Advertising fax: **854-3650**
 Classified ads: **854-0858**

■ E-mail news, information, obituaries and photos (with captions) to: editor@AlmanacNews.com
 ■ E-mail letters to the editor to: letters@AlmanacNews.com

To request free delivery, or stop delivery, of The Almanac in zip code 94025, 94027, 94028 and the Woodside portion of 94062, call **854-2626**.

THE ALMANAC (ISSN 1097-3095 and USPS 459370) is published every Wednesday by Embarcadero Media, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Periodicals Postage Paid at Menlo Park, CA and at additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation for San Mateo County, The Almanac is delivered free to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside. Subscriptions for \$60 per year or \$100 per 2 years are welcome. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Copyright ©2010 by Embarcadero Media, All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The Woodside Elementary School District will hold a public hearing on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2011-12 on Tuesday, June 7, 2011 at 3:30 p.m. at the Woodside Elementary School District, located at 3195 Woodside Road, Woodside, California. A copy of the proposed budget will be available for public examination at the Woodside Elementary School District Office at the above location from June 2, 2011 through June 7, 2011 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Any taxpayer directly affected by the Woodside Elementary School District Budget may appear before the Woodside Elementary School District Board of Trustees and speak to the proposed budget or any item therein.

FRIENDS OF THE MENLO PARK LIBRARY

present

The Collectible & Special Books Sale



Sunday, May 22 Noon to 4:00

New This Year!

Shop a room full of intriguing and unique books.

Great books. Great prices. Great cause.

www.friendsmpl.org
 800 Alma Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025
 (650) 330-2521

All proceeds benefit the Menlo Park Library.

Help us rescue lives in Japan.

Go to www.rescue.org/altweeklies

The Almanac A fundraising effort by the Association of Alternative Newsweeklies and The Almanac



NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that the Las Lomas School District of San Mateo County, California, acting by and through its Governing Board, will receive sealed bids at the District Office, 1011 Altschul Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025, up to and including dates and times listed below for the furnishing of all labor, equipment and services required for the following referenced project:

Las Lomas School District Portable Addition

Bid Opening: May 31, 2011 at 3:00 P.M.

Plans and specifications may be obtained from Sugimura Finney Architects, 2155 South Bascom Ave., Ste. 200, Campbell, CA 95008 (408.879.0600) attn: Mark Finney. Construction documents will be made available at the mandatory walk-through. A maximum of one full set of construction documents will be given to each eligible bidder at no cost to the Bidder. The bidder may purchase additional sets from South Bay Reprographics, 1370 Tully Road #504, San Jose, CA (408) 291-0455.

A mandatory walk-through will be held on May 18, 2011 @ 3:30 p.m. at La Entrada Middle School at 2200 Sharon Road, Menlo Park, CA. The group will then depart to Las Lomas elementary school at 4:00 pm. at the front of each school. Bidders are required to attend and sign in at the walk-through. Bidders who are late and/or bidders that do not sign in at the mandatory walk-through will not be allowed to bid on this project.

The Governing Board of the Las Lomas School District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and to act as sole judge of the merit and qualifications of the proposals offered.

Support Local Business



A new
online guide
to Menlo Park
businesses

ShopMenloPark.com

CHAMPION TENNIS CAMPS

Alan Margot
since 1978
TENNIS



JULY 25-AUGUST 12
AGES 4-14

Atherton Tennis Center
www.alanmargot-tennis.net

650-400-0464

Help us
rescue
lives in
Japan.

Go to
www.rescue.org/altweeklies

The Almanac
A fundraising effort
by the Association of
Alternative Newsweeklies
and The Almanac



NEED A TUTOR?

Join The Club!

One-On-One Tutoring In Your Home

- All Subjects
- Pre-K-Adult
- SAT/ACT Prep
- ADD/LDD
- Study Skills
- Affordable Rates
- Qualified Tutors
- Flexible Schedules

\$50 OFF TUTORING!
Call for details.



Summer Programs Forming Now!

650-326-6300
www.clubztutoring.com

The Menlo Park Tradition Continues! June 10,11, 12

Nativity's 31st Annual Spring Carnival



Fun for the whole family.....

FREE ADMISSION

Nativity School Grounds at 1250 Laurel St.
Corner of Oak Grove & Laurel, Menlo Park...

**Raffle
Grand Prize
Toyota Prius**



Musical Entertainment

Friday 6:00 to 10:00 — *Spill The Wine (Soul, Funk, R&B)*

Saturday 6:00 to 10:00 — *The Bell Brothers (New Country)*

Sunday 2:00 to 6:00 — *Second Story (Classic Rock)*

Bar with 5 beers on tap

& Margaritas

Great selection of food

Silent Auction

In the New Gym — Friday 5-11pm

Saturday, Noon-8pm

Sunday Noon-5pm (Pick-up day only)

Carnival Hours

Friday, 5 – 11pm

Saturday, Noon – 11pm

Sunday, Noon – 6pm

Security on-site

For more information, go to Facebook.com/nativitycarnival • www.nativitycarnival.org

Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Scathing report on state's high-speed rail

■ Legislative Analyst calls for stripping power from the high-speed rail authority.

By Gennady Sheyner

Embarcadero Media

California's proposed high-speed-rail system is facing potentially crippling threats from looming federal deadlines and weak oversight by the agency charged with building the project, the state Legislative Analyst's Office concluded in a new report.

The scathing report, which the nonpartisan office released

May 10, recommends stripping the California High-Speed Rail Authority of its decision-making powers and giving the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) oversight over the increasingly controversial project.

The Legislative Analyst's Office also concluded that the rail authority's business plan remains deeply flawed; that most of the revenues the agency

is banking on to fund the new system are unlikely to materialize; that the project will cost far more than the rail authority's official estimate of \$43 billion; and that the rail authority's decision to begin the line in Central Valley is a "big gamble" based on "faulty assumptions."

The report, titled "High-Speed Rail Is at a Critical Juncture," comes as another major blow to a project that voters approved in November 2008 but that has since been plagued by financial uncertainty and scathing criticism from communities along

the proposed route.

While previous audits had also highlighted flaws in the rail authority's business plan, ridership assumptions and day-to-day operations, the new report goes a step further and argues that the state Legislature should reject the rail authority's funding request for the next fiscal year and halt the project altogether unless federal deadlines are renegotiated and the governance structure for the project is revamped.

"We have concluded that the current governance structure

for the project is no longer appropriate and is too weak to ensure that this mega-project is coordinated and managed effectively," the report states. "These changes in governance need to be made soon, in our view, because HSRA has already begun the process to move toward the award of multi-billion dollar construction contracts for the project."

Eric Thronson, the analyst who wrote the report, presents several alternatives to the exist-

See **RAIL**, page 8

Menlo Park council OK's traffic mitigation deal on medical center expansion

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Swapping the right to sue for more money, the Menlo Park City Council voted 4-0 to accept Stanford's offer of \$3.7 million for traffic mitigation and other improvements related to its planned medical center expansion.

The \$3.5 billion project would bring about 1.3 million square feet of new development and more than 2,200 new employees to Palo Alto by 2025. But it could also add an estimated 10,000 new daily car trips to the area, with 51 percent of the traffic passing through Menlo Park, raising concerns on the city's Transportation Commission and council.

The new deal includes \$2.4 million with the flexibility that it could be used for infrastructure and community improvements instead of just traffic solutions, and \$290,000 for adaptive traffic signals at the intersection of Middlefield Road with Willow Road and also Ravenswood Avenue.

Finally, Stanford agreed to three payouts instead of a lump sum — one-third after final project approval, and the remaining amounts estimated to arrive in 2013 and 2018, respectively, as triggered by permit issuances.

City attorney Bill McClure reminded the council at its May 10 meeting that by approving the deal, Menlo Park agreed not to sue over the project's environmental impact report. "If litigated, those monies are off the table," he said.

Councilman Peter Ohtaki thanked the transportation commissioners for the extensive analysis of the document presented to the council last month.

Colleague Kelly Fergusson recused herself from voting on the offer since her husband works at Stanford University.

Beechwood School

The council also unanimously agreed to accept Habitat for Humanity's withdrawal from a plan to build affordable housing on Terminal Avenue, a decision greeted with cheers from those attending the meeting to support Beechwood School's desire to buy the land to expand its program.

"Study your hearts and think with your heads," Rose Bickerstaff urged the council before the vote. A resident of the Belle Haven neighborhood where the private K-8 school is located, she spoke of the positive impact it has on its students.

Before casting his vote, Mayor Rich Cline called the need for better education immediate, and suggested the city should take a look at consolidating the Ravenswood and Menlo Park City School districts.

"We should not have multiple school districts in this city," he said. "There should be one; our kids should be in the same schools."

The Habitat for Humanity plan would have addressed

See **COUNCIL**, page 8



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Maurice Ghysels, left, stands next to his sister, Ivonne Ghysels Witt, and father, Maurice, as members of the public congratulate him after his contract was approved.

Board affirms superintendent choice

By Renee Batti

■ SCHOOLS

Rumblings of discontent in the online community didn't materialize into public resistance when the Menlo Park City School District board unanimously approved a three-year contract on May 10 that will install Maurice Ghysels in the district superintendent's office beginning July 1, at an annual starting salary of \$205,000.

The board and Mr. Ghysels signed the contract at a special public meeting after a closed session in which the board discussed the hiring.

Although there was a lively

discussion and much criticism on the Almanac's online forum urging people unhappy with the choice to show up at the meeting and protest, there was no public comment before the contract was approved. Most of the criticism centered on Mr. Ghysels' conduct when he was superintendent of another elementary school district on the Peninsula, and began a romantic relationship with a principal he supervised.

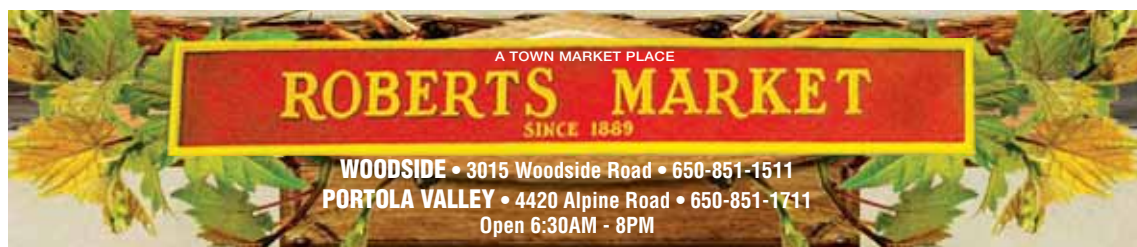
Mr. Ghysels will replace Ken Ranella, who has held the position since 2002. Mr. Ranella announced his retirement in

January, effective June 30.

The salary and benefits package represents a significant decrease in compensation for the position, according to Mr. Ranella, who in his final year will be paid \$245,803 in total compensation. He said under his contract, he pays the costs for his benefits, which amounts to around \$12,000 annually.

Although he didn't have the exact numbers, Mr. Ranella said that his successor, by agreeing to a base salary of \$205,000 and having the district pick up the costs of his benefits separately, will be compensated overall at a

See **GHYSELS**, page 8



Sale Dates: May 18, 19, 20, 21 www.robertsmarket.com

Fresh Produce

CALIFORNIA
APRICOTS

\$1⁹⁹
lb

6 OZ. DRISCOLL'S

RASPBERRIES

\$1⁹⁹
ea.

FAVA BEANS

79c
lb

Meat And Seafood

PORTERHOUSE STEAK

\$13⁹⁸
lb

T-BONE STEAK

\$12⁹⁸
lb

Fresh

BAY SHRIMP

\$9⁹⁸
lb

TERIYAKI CHICKEN K-BOB

\$6⁹⁸
lb

On Sale Grocery

CLOVER ORGANIC FAT FREE MILK

GALLON—ALSO WHOLE—2% REDUCED—1% LOW FAT

\$4⁹⁹

SUGAR BOWL

\$3¹⁹

BAKERY MADELEINES

8 OZ.—ALSO BROWNIE BITES—PALMIERS

KRUSTEAZ

BUTTERMILK WAFFLES

\$1⁹⁹

13 OZ.—ALSO MINI PANCAKES

LAURA SCUDDER'S

NATURAL PEANUT BUTTER

\$2²⁹

16 OZ.

SPECTRUM

CANOLA MAYONNAISE

\$2⁹⁹

11 OZ. SQUEEZE BOTTLE

Deli Department

Try these wonderful cheeses in our International Cheese Dept.

Black Diamond "Sharp" Cheddar from Canada \$18.99 lb.

or

Jarlsberg from Norway "Nutty" \$7.99 lb.

Huge Savings!

Wine and Spirits

2010 Rosé (Part 2)

Rosé season is in full swing. Each week we are receiving new, exciting wines. Below are our most recent acquisitions. The 2010 vintage is exceptional for rosé, and particularly from the south of France. C'mon, join in the celebration!

2010 Le Roc, Fronton..... \$9⁹⁹

2010 Dom. De Fontsaïnto, Gris de Gris,
Corbieres \$13⁴⁹

2010 Ch. Mas Neuf "Compostelle",
Costieres de Nîmes..... \$14⁹⁹

2010 Saint Andre de Figuiere "Magali"
Cotes de Provence \$15⁹⁹

2010 Commanderie de Peyrassol,
Cotes de Provence \$17⁹⁹

2010 Dom. de Bagnol, Cassis..... \$24⁹⁹

2010 Dom. du Gros Noré, Bandol..... \$26⁹⁹

The above wines assort for a 10% discount
on 6 bottles, or more.

Famed Shorenstein estate may be split into 3 parcels

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Another chapter is beginning for the storied Portola Valley home of real estate magnate Walter Shorenstein, a generous friend of the Democratic Party, an ardent fan of Portola Valley's character, and a not infrequent host of notable politicians at his home at 1260 Westridge Drive. Mr. Shorenstein died in June 2010.

The Planning Commission will consider a proposal to set in motion the preparation and approval of a map subdividing the 11.6 acres into three parcels. A public hearing is set for the Wednesday, June 1, meeting of the commission.

The Architecture and Site Control Commission is also set to consider the proposal when it meets on Monday, June 13, to be followed by another Planning Commission review on July 6, according to a staff report by Town Planner Tom Vlasic.

At this stage, the owners do not intend to seek permits for either development or demoli-

■ PORTOLA VALLEY

tion, Mr. Vlasic said. Any such action "shall only be done pursuant to future permits issued by the town in compliance with all zoning, building and other regulations of the town then in effect," he said.

Once approved, the map would be valid for two years with a possible three-year extension, Mr. Vlasic said. The map would be binding on new owners should the property be sold, he added.

Mr. Shorenstein hosted guests that included Congress members Nancy Pelosi and George Miller, former San Francisco mayors Gavin Newsom and Willie Brown, and former president Bill Clinton.

Go to tinyurl.com/Shorenstein for more information. ■

If you have first-hand knowledge of the history of this house and its visitors, please contact Almanac reporter Dave Boyce at DBoyce@AlmanacNews.com.

Garbage rates, ethics panel on agenda

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

The Atherton City Council will review and possibly approve higher garbage rates, and discuss proposals by two council colleagues that would create an ethics and oversight board for the town, and establish rules on private donations made to the police department when it meets on Wednesday, May 18.

The meeting, which includes a public hearing on the proposed new garbage rates, begins at 7 p.m. in Jennings Pavilion in Holbrook-Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Ave. in Atherton.

The garbage rate issue has been a contentious one since the town first proposed increases ranging from 63 percent to 98 percent late last year. With many residents up in arms over the proposal, and many questions raised about the need for rates that would have made Atherton the most expensive place on the Peninsula for trash pickup, the council voted in March to significantly lower the proposed rates.

Although council members at that time agreed to a rate schedule that would reflect a 39 percent increase for all service levels — from a 20-gallon can to a 96-gallon barrel — the public notice sent out that month inadvertently reflected higher rates than the council endorsed.

Theresa DellaSanta, the town

■ ATHERTON

clerk, said the council could still, for the most part, approve the lower rates it endorsed when it acts this week.

The council will also consider two memos from council members Bill Widmer and Kathy McKeithen, the first of which would require that specific donations made to the police department be made anonymously, and channeled only through the city manager and city attorney.

The memo notes that several donations have been made to the department recently, which has led to "citizen concerns... that they may result in favoritism."

The proposed requirement comes at a time when a community group is "looking into ways to assist our community in minimizing the impacts" of budget cuts, according to former mayor Didi Fisher, who is part of the group. She said the group will look for sources of income such as grants and private donations to see the town through its financial crisis.

Mr. Widmer and Ms. McKeithen are also asking their colleagues to consider establishing an ethics oversight board consisting of one council member, one citizen who is a judge or lawyer, and the town's human resource manager or town manager. The board would hear and investigate citizen complaints of actions by town employees. ■



Priory stages 'Willows'

Actors, from left, Ryan Calbert, John Gregory, Rebecca Whitman and Carl Sibley perform in the Woodside Priory School's production of "Wind in the Willows" on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, May 19-21, at Rothrock Performance Hall on the campus at 302 Portola Road in Portola Valley. Tickets are \$5 for students and children and \$12 for adults. Show times are at 7 p.m. each night, plus 1 p.m. Saturday. Tickets may be bought at the door or on priory.ticketleap.com.

Women's clinic to close doors this fall

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

■ LADERA

For decades, Ladera has been home to a women's medical clinic on Alpine Road just east of the Ladera Community Church. But come the fall, when the lease expires, the Portola Valley Women's Health Center at 3250 Alpine Road will shut its doors for good.

The staff of one nurse practitioner and seven physicians — five specialists in ob-gyn and two in fertility — will shift their practices to Redwood City, Palo Alto and Los Altos to clinics that are also run by the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, foundation spokeswoman Cynthia Greaves told the Almanac.

The foundation's executive board decided to close the clinic when confronted with a lease renewal price of \$1 million a year, Ms. Greaves said. The figure was "fairly prohibitively expensive," she said.

The building's owner, San Mateo-based Dewey Land Company, would not consider a short-term lease, she said. "It was all in or all out."

"I'm not going to comment on any specifics on the lease," said Ryan Guibara, Dewey's director of real estate, when asked to confirm the \$1 million figure.

The Ladera clinic handled more than 16,000 patient visits in 2009 and again in 2010, Ms. Greaves said.

"Health care reform is driving a lot of very difficult decisions," she added. "A big one is becoming more cost-effective and affordable. We have to make tough decisions and

this is certainly one of them."

The consolidation reflects the foundation's ongoing preparation for new health-care mandates in 2014, when Bay Area medical service providers will have to open their doors to "hundreds of thousands" of people currently without medical insurance, she said.

"When they get it, they will need doctors and we want to be their doctors," Ms. Greaves said. "Our mandate is to take care of people."

"We have to be more affordable," she added. "Our organization has been focused on excellence. Now we have to focus on excellence and being affordable to more patients."

Asked if that meant a two-tiered system based on ability to pay, Ms. Greaves said it did not. "We are just looking at becoming more efficient so we can reduce prices, so we can be more affordable to more people."

16,000 babies

The Ladera clinic provides routine health and obstetric care, specialty consultation for gynecologic disorders and high-risk obstetrics, and consultations for fertility concerns, said Dr. Jim McCarrick, the clinic's director, in an e-mail.

"By my calculation, we have delivered more than 16,000 babies since the office has started," he added. "There are thousands of women who are cared for through our office, coming to us from as far as Napa, Santa Cruz, Pleasanton and San Luis Obispo."

Dr. Candace Weinstein founded the clinic in 1984, the first such clinic to be founded by a woman physician in the area, Dr. McCarrick said. "It was opened to provide total care for women in all phases of life, teens through reproductive years and into menopause."

The facility had been struggling and almost closed its doors in 1998, but the medical foundation took it over and saved it, Ms. Greaves said.

"Since then, we've been stable and doing well," Dr. McCarrick said in an interview. "It sounds like the owner was pretty dead set on a number" for the new lease, he said. "The current realities of the world," he mused. "It's just kind of crazy."

Reaction

Told of the plans to close in light of high rents, Virginia Dare, a resident of Woodside and a patient at the clinic for nearly 10 years, said she doesn't blame the foundation for leaving.

But as for going to the Palo Alto clinic: it's confusing and crowded, Ms. Dare said. "I don't really like it. At Ladera, you drive up, you park your car, they greet you by name and you're in."

"It's just another convenience that we're losing," she said. "If the rent's unreasonable for a rural community, I understand that."

Getting lab work done was particularly efficient in terms of time spent, Ms. Dare said.

Portola Valley resident Mimi Breiner agreed. "It was just so convenient to go down there and have the blood work done," she said. "I'll sure miss it." ■

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Gloria Darke



Buyer Credit

Dear Gloria, We have chosen an agent to list our house and he has now suggested several things that we should do before we put it on the market. We are a bit put out because it would involve not only a lot of work on our part but quite a bit of money. Some of it we are willing to do but the main thing we really object to is painting the inside. We just painted a couple of years ago in colors that we like. He says it is too much color. It would cost us at least \$3000 to repaint. We might be willing to give a credit to a buyer but we definitely don't want that mess at this time.

What do you think?

Barbara W.

Dear Barbara, I can understand what you're objecting to but frankly, you need to listen to your agent. There are several impressions a potential buyer receives when they first look

at a house. What you (or your agent/stager) is trying to create is an overall impression that invites the buyer to envision themselves living in your space. In order to create that impression you need to "depersonalize" your home. That means declutter, including taking all your personal pictures down, creating space on the kitchen counters by putting everything away and (yes, that does mean your toaster and coffee maker!) and getting rid of excess furniture.

And don't forget to organize closets and get rid of old clothes. A painting credit is not going to mean anything to a buyer who cannot envision themselves in a house with too many different and strong colors. Buyers only buy what they see unless they consider it a fixer-upper on which they will offer a greatly discounted price. And, by the way, you should thank your realtor for being honest with you — that is what you hired him for.

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

JILL L.
Hessler
MD PC

Facial Plastic Surgeon



www.hesslerplasticsurgery.com

Now offering Ulthera

The only FDA-approved ultrasound device for skin tightening and lifting

Join us for our June open house
Call for details

Premier Plastic Surgery
1795 El Camino Real, Suite 200
Palo Alto, CA 94306
PremierPlasticSurgery.com

ulthera
www.ulthera.com
650.321.7100

Board affirms choice of Ghysels as superintendent

GHYSELS

continued from page 5

lower rate. The board “recalibrated the compensation” for the job in light of the changing economic landscape, he said, adding that “the market has gone down.”

The new superintendent will also be paid \$5,000 for relocation costs, a monthly allowance of \$250 to cover expenses for attending community events and other activities that involve representing the district, and \$250 per month for driving his own vehicle to district-related activities within San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, under terms of the contract. In addition to his salary, he will receive the same health and welfare benefits received by the district’s teachers.

Mr. Ghysels’ contract grants him 25 vacation days a year, with a maximum of 10 days carried over to the following year in unused vacation time.

Mr. Ghysels was one of 27 applicants for the position, and one of the six finalists interviewed by the board.

A number of Mr. Ghysels’ family members and supporters attended the meeting, including his parents, sister, daughter and son-in-law, and Carmen Mizell, whom he described as “my better half” and later as his significant other. Mr. Ghysels came under fire in 2009 when he was superintendent of the Mountain View Whisman School District and it was revealed that he and Ms. Mizell, the principal at one of the schools he oversaw, were involved in a romantic relationship. Both were married to other people at the time.

Some members of the school community complained that a conflict of interest existed, particularly in light of Ms. Mizell’s transfer in 2008 to a high-performing school, according to an Oct. 26, 2009, article in the Mountain View Voice. Other parents and community members stated their continuing support for both the superintendent and the principal, the Voice reported.

Board President Maria Hilton told the Almanac that board

members “knew about (the relationship with the principal) even prior to interviewing him,” and after “doing our due diligence” were satisfied that Mr. Ghysels’ conduct in Mountain View shouldn’t disqualify him for the Menlo Park position.

During the special meeting, Ms. Hilton noted that after the six finalists for the job were interviewed, board members voted, in a blind-ballot process, to rank the candidates. All board members ranked him No. 1, she said.

All five board members made statements praising their choice for superintendent. Terry Thygesen said she was a member of the board that hired Mr. Ranella, and was dismayed when he announced his retirement earlier this year. But she said that while helping with reference checks on Mr. Ghysels, she had been impressed by “the breadth and depth of support (he) has” within the school community “at all levels.”

Mr. Ghysels received a doctorate in education from the University of San Francisco, and an undergraduate degree in economics from San Jose State University. His career in education, which includes a stint as a high school principal, a middle school principal, and deputy superintendent at the Campbell Union School District, sandwiches an interlude in the private sector with CitiBank and with a short-lived start-up company.

“I never wanted to leave education for very long — it’s my first love,” he told the Almanac.

He said he is proud of his work at the Mountain View district, particularly in the areas of “student achievement, student attendance, and student inclusion.” But, he said, “It was a ‘we’ thing, not a ‘me’ thing.” Building a collaborative environment with strong teamwork “allowed us to achieve a lot together.”

Saying he’ll have big shoes to fill when he comes onboard in his new job, Mr. Ghysels said he looks forward to forging relationships in the community, including with businesses and educational institutions. ■

nonprofit paid \$481,590 to buy an adjacent parcel to get access to the building site.

Whether Beechwood will purchase the land remains to be seen, although the council’s action clears the path for negotiations. The school will need to offer a price the council considers fair market value for the parcel. ■

Burglars hit three homes in three days

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

A daytime burglar reportedly crept into a home in the 800 block of Hamilton Avenue through an unlocked back window on Monday, May 9, and left with \$2,800 of ill-gotten gains, namely, a 40-inch flatscreen television and a laptop.

A home on the 1400 block of Hill Avenue suffered similar bad luck on Tuesday, May 10, but not

as much as the alleged burglars. After a neighbor spotted the duo, Nathaniel Kinsey, 20, of Stockton, was arrested by police along with a teenage accomplice for reportedly stealing \$6,400 worth of items that inexplicably included the pink slip to a car, along with earrings, checks, photos, a hard drive, speakers, and an iPod.

Wednesday, May 11, brought a double-header. An open bathroom window in the 1100 block

of Willow Road provided access to another daytime burglar, but not much by the way of stolen property — a DVD player worth about \$30 was the sole item missing.

Also reported to police on Wednesday, a resident of the same street realized that on May 4 someone walked in through the front door and out with a folder containing a Bible, photos, passport, and \$4,760 cash. ■

Scathing report on state’s high-speed rail

RAIL

continued from page 5

ing governance structure, which consists of nine appointed board members, a handful of paid staff members and hundreds of consultants. The project, Mr. Thronson wrote, could be shifted to Caltrans, an agency with far more oversight and expertise in transportation projects, or moved to a newly created state department dedicated to high-speed rail. He argued in the report that the existing structure gives the rail authority too much autonomy and not enough accountability to the Legislature or the governor.

“The considerable autonomy,” he wrote, “does not ensure that the board keeps the overall best interests of the state in mind as it makes critical decisions about the project.”

Under the current system, he noted, board members aren’t required to have “specific expertise” relating to management of a major construction project. He also pointed out that the agency’s board members are not subject to direction by the executive branch or the legislative confirmation process.

“This relative lack of accountability to either the executive or legislative branches creates a risk that the board will pursue its primary mission — construction of the statewide high-speed rail system — without sufficient regard to other state considerations, such as state fiscal concerns,” he wrote.

Of the two proposed alternatives, the report leans in favor of shifting the project to Caltrans. The report recommends that the Legislature pass a bill in the current session making the switch.

The new report also backs up recent claims by rail watchdogs that the rail authority’s estimated \$43 billion price tag for the rail system is far too low. The segment between San Francisco and Los Angeles, Mr. Thronson wrote, is “likely to cost much more.” He estimated the cost of the project to

be about \$67 billion.

The rail authority currently has about \$5.5 billion on hand in state and federal funds for construction of the rail line and is banking on future contributions from the federal government, private investors and local agencies to help pay for the system. These assumptions are overly optimistic, the new report argues.

The rail authority’s 2009 business plan estimates that the project will obtain between \$17 billion and \$19 billion in federal funds. So far, it has received \$3.6 billion, and the Republican majority in the U.S. House of Representatives has opposed making additional appropriations for high-speed rail.

“The HSRA indicates that without additional significant federal support beyond that provided to date, the project cannot be completed,” the report states. “Given the federal government’s current financial situation and the current focus in Washington on reducing federal spending, it is uncertain if any further funding for the high-speed rail program will become available.”

Voters approved \$9 billion in bonds for the new system in 2008 when they passed Proposition 1A. The new report estimates that if the state were to sell all the rail bonds, the total principal and interest costs for repaying the debt would be \$18 billion to \$20 billion.

Mr. Thronson also criticized the rail authority’s decision in December to begin construction of the San Francisco-to-Los Angeles line in the Central Valley — a decision that was driven largely by input from the Federal Railroad Administration. Given the possibility that the entire rail line will never be fully completed, the Legislative Analyst’s Office report urges further consideration of other segments as possible starting points, including San Francisco-to-San Jose, Los Angeles-to-Anaheim and San Jose-Merced.

A high-speed rail system at any

of these three segments could provide “greater benefit to the state’s overall transportation system even if the rest of the high-speed rail system were not completed,” Mr. Thronson wrote.

“Largely as a result of these federal deadlines and requirements, HSRA decided in December 2010 to begin the construction of the statewide system within the Central Valley,” the report states. “This decision by HSRA, however, represents a big gamble that additional monies will eventually become available from the federal government or other sources to connect the Central Valley line to other major urban areas of California.”

The Legislative Analyst’s Office report recommends that the Legislature rejects the rail authority’s 2011-12 budget request for \$185 million for project development and appropriate only \$7 million for the agency. The money would be used to identify the top two options for beginning construction based on criteria such as cost, “statewide benefit of a particular segment,” estimated ridership and revenue potential.

Roelof van Ark, the CEO of the rail authority, issued a statement in response to the report saying the LAO’s recommendations will be “thoroughly reviewed in the context of our mandate to operate under the provisions of Proposition 1A.” He also said he believes the project has been “successful thus far because it has strived to operate more like a private business than a typical government bureaucracy.”

“I hope to work with the Legislature to come up with solutions that benefit all Californians and allow us to move forward with the successful completion of the state’s high-speed rail system — and we hope that this report at least encourages healthy discussion towards that goal,” Mr. van Ark said in the statement. ■

Go to tinyurl.com/HSR-510 to see the report.

COUNCIL

continued from page 5

another of Menlo Park’s critical needs — affordable housing. But development stalled after nine years of community opposition. In the meantime, Menlo Park spent \$998,000 on environmental remediation to prepare the site for housing, while the



Almanac photo by Michelle Le

North Fair Oaks residents gather to protest plan to cut down heritage oak for the new Hetch Hetchy water distribution system.

Neighbors ask court to save oak

By **Sandy Brundage**

Almanac Staff Writer

The neighbors of an oak tree called “Granny” headed to court Monday morning to ask a judge to issue a temporary restraining order that would keep the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission’s axes at bay.

The tree at 827 15th Ave. grows within a backyard easement controlled by the commission. Property owner Charles Berkstresser said the commission left a message on his door Friday evening, May 13, telling him the tree would be cut down Monday.

However, he says the commis-

sion has now backtracked, claiming it never intended to do so — but it remains mum about when, exactly, the tree will get cut down. He was expecting a visit from a commission representative Monday, in between the stream of tree supporters dropping by his backyard to take a look at the 65-foot tree that dwarfs his home.

Meanwhile, neighbor Mary Ann Mullen headed to court to plead the tree’s case. The neighbors question whether the commission ever applied for a permit to remove the tree, a step required by the heritage oak tree ordinances of both San Mateo and San Francisco counties. It’s

not clear at the moment which county’s ordinance would govern this particular oak, since it’s located in one county while the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) belongs to another.

They’re also wondering why the commission disregarded two options that would save the tree while still allowing pipes for the Hetch Hetchy water improvement project to be placed underground. A report by McClenahan Consulting, an arboriculturist company, suggested as alternatives either tunneling below the tree

See **OAK TREE**, page 20

Ex-Atherton employee pleads no contest to embezzlement from town’s post office annex

Lois English was on building department staff during tumultuous period.

By **Renee Batti**

Almanac News Editor

Former Atherton town employee Lois English pleaded no contest in San Mateo County Superior Court on May 2 to charges of embezzlement and petty theft from the post office, according to Kevin Collins, a deputy district attorney.

Ms. English was working for the postal annex in Atherton Town Hall when the embezzlement occurred between Sept. 29 and Oct. 10, 2008, he said.

In October 2009, the District

Attorney’s Office filed embezzlement and grand theft charges, but reduced the charge to petty theft because the amount involved was near the \$950 threshold that must be crossed before the crime is considered grand theft, he said.

Ms. English was sentenced May 2 to one day in county jail and 18 months of probation. She was ordered to pay \$969 in restitution plus 10 percent in administrative fees to the Menlo Park post office, which contracts with the town of Atherton to have an annex in Town Hall. She also must pay \$394 in court fines and \$110 in restitution

to the public defender.

Ms. English was caught up in the town’s building department upheaval that came to a head in 2005 and 2006. She was the permit technician in the department when it was headed by Mike Hood, who left under a cloud in June 2006. An audit of the department conducted by then finance director John Johns raised a number of red flags about questionable practices and financial transactions.

The town took a series of measures to fix identified problems within the building department after Mr. Hood’s departure, including transferring Ms. English, who ended up behind the desk of the post office annex. ■

APPLEWOOD COUPON

Have a Party! Applewood Now Delivery! FREE DELIVERY!

\$2 OFF

Medium or Large Size Pizza

APPLEWOOD COUPON

Have a Party! Applewood Now Delivery! FREE DELIVERY!

\$3 OFF

Extra Large or Family Size Pizza

Gluten-Free Pizza Now Available!

These Coupon Offers are available Daily between 2-6pm

New Hours: Open Mon-Sat 11am – 10pm • Sun 11am – 9pm
 1001 El Camino Real, Menlo Park (650) 324-3486
www.applewoodpizza.com



The Portola Valley Schools Foundation

Would like to extend a warm Thank You to our generous 2010-2011 Community Business Partners

Educational Trustees - \$5,000

Bianchini’s Market
 Chilton Auto Body
 Gonsalves & Stronck Construction Company, Inc.
 Joe Kavanaugh & Ginny Kavanaugh, Coldwell Banker

High Honors - \$2,500

Burgess Pediatrics
 Plumleigh Law
 Ron Ramies Automotive

Honor Roll - \$2,000

Pollock Financial Group

Honor Roll - \$1,250

Roberts Markets
 The Symon Group, Alain Pinel Realtors

Contributor - \$1,000

International ProInsurance Services, LLC

Contributors - \$500

CSI Custom Homes
 Hector Flamenco, State Farm Insurance
 Veronica Kogler, Coldwell Banker
 Ladera Garden and Gifts
 Eloise Pollock, Coldwell Banker
 Portola Valley Hardware
 Spring Down Equestrian Center
 Wendy McPherson, Coldwell Banker

Supporter - \$250

Helping Hands Home Care Services
 Konditorei
 John McAfee, State Farm Insurance
 Keri Nicholas, Coldwell Banker
 Parkside Grille
 Portola Valley Garage
 Village Square Veterinary Hospital

Supporter - \$100

Ladera Cleaners



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

TOWN OF ATHERTON
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

TOWN OF ATHERTON JANITORIAL MAINTENANCE SERVICES PROJECT NO. 59-55010

Notice is hereby given that proposals will be received at the office of the City Clerk, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, California 94027, until 3:00 p.m. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2011. Competitive scoring of these proposals will take place over the next week with a ranking being posted June, 9, 2011.

Janitorial maintenance services at Atherton Town Center to include the Library, City Council Chambers, Police Department, Town Administration offices, Permit Center and Public Works Corporation office per specifications.

Proposals must be for the entire work, and shall be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked: "PROPOSAL of (Contractor) for TOWN OF ATHERTON JANITORIAL MAINTENANCE SERVICES, Project No. 59-55010", along with date and time of proposal due date.

Request for Proposal may be obtained at the Town of Atherton's website at www.ci.atherton.ca.us under Bid Solicitation at no cost. Additional important information is contained in Town of Atherton Standard Specifications, which are available on line at www.ci.atherton.ca.us/publicworks.html. Contractor shall be responsible for any addendums that may be posted on the Town's website. No Planholders list shall be available.

The Town of Atherton reserves the right to refuse any or all proposals.

A mandatory pre-proposal meeting and walkthrough will be held Wednesday, 10:00 a.m., May 25, 2011, in the Town Hall Council Chambers, located at 94 Ashfield Road in Atherton. The meeting will consist of two parts, first an oral presentation discussing the request for proposal and its contents and second, a walkthrough of the Town facilities reviewing the various components and janitorial needs. Failure to attend this meeting will result in a disqualification of proposal for that company.

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

The successful proposer must be licensed under the provisions of Chapter 9, Division 3, of the California Business and Professions Code to do the type of work contemplated in the project at the time the contract is awarded and shall be skilled and regularly engaged in the general class or type of work called for under the Contract.

Each proposer shall submit a statement setting forth his/her/its experience and qualifications.

By submitting a proposal in response to this advertisement, the proposer shall be conclusively deemed to have read, understood and agreed with all of the information and materials contained in the request for proposal documents, including but not limited to the REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL, SAMPLE SERVICE AGREEMENT AND THE ATTACHED EXHIBITS.

Any questions regarding the project should be directed to Steve Tyler, Public Works Superintendent, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, CA 94027, telephone (650) 752-0541, preferably no later than five days before PROPOSAL due date. Requests for Information may be faxed to (650) 752-0591.

By: _____
Mike Kashiwagi, P.E. City Engineer

Date: _____

Atherton: Rash of thievery hits unlocked vehicles

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

The Atherton police have been busy. The blotter for Monday, May 9, shows 10 cases of theft or attempted theft and 10 more cases of police investigating suspicious circumstances.

Three more thefts were reported on Tuesday, May 10, Lt. Joe Wade of the Atherton Police Department told the Almanac in an e-mail. Police are looking at the El Camino Real corridor as the thief's or thieves' preferred locale, Lt. Wade said.

The three incidents listed for May 10 include the thefts of gift cards from two unlocked vehicles on Lloyd Drive, cash and an Apple iPod from an unlocked vehicle on Normandy Lane, and a license plate and its frame from a vehicle on Fair Oaks Lane.

The first theft on May 9 was reported at 12:45 a.m. and the reports continued until shortly after noon. Police consider them to be related, Lt. Wade said. All 10 involved unlocked vehicles.

Only two cases involved actual theft; the most expensive

item stolen was a GPS unit, Lt. Wade said. Eight cases showed nothing stolen, but in six cases vehicles were ransacked, Lt. Wade said.

Three thefts came to the attention of the police because an officer noticed a vehicle with its interior dome light on.

Of the 10 suspicious-circumstance incidents, officers initiated seven, while the other three were based on calls to the department.

All 10 thefts were listed as petty, meaning that the estimated value of the items stolen would not or do not add up to more than \$400. Both petty theft and attempted petty theft are misdemeanors, meaning that if the thief is caught and convicted, he or she could go to jail for not more than a year.

In two theft reports, police found discarded property such as a purse that could have been thrown away in connection with an actual theft. If police learn of a link between the found property and an incident, they can elevate the incident to theft from attempted theft.

Police are advising residents to lock their vehicles and to not leave valuables in sight. ■

Atherton 'blitz' on sudden oak death

The Atherton Tree Committee is hosting a sudden oak death (SOD) community meeting on Saturday, May 21, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the Carriage House at Holbrook-Palmer Park in Atherton.

Matteo Garbelotto, assistant adjunct professor in the Department of Environmental Science at UC Berkeley, will lead the training session.

The pathogen that causes SOD spreads most often on infected

California bay laurel leaves, said Kathy Hughes Anderson, Atherton's town arborist. The May 21 meeting is a SOD "blitz," she said, designed to involve volunteers in detecting the disease and producing local maps of disease distribution.

Meeting participants will be trained in collecting samples of bay leaves for diagnostic testing.

To RSVP, contact Kathy Anderson at 752-0526 or kanderson@ci.atherton.ca.us.

ROTARY

continued from page 3

Sacred Heart, Loyola Marymount.

■ Ed Mintz Scholarship (\$5,000) Isabella Mei Wa Colosso, UC Berkeley.

■ Crittenden Family Scholarship, (\$5,000) Carina Bustos, Eastside Prep, Occidental.

■ Business and Professional Scholarship, (\$5,000) Isamar Moya, Eastside Prep, Connecticut.

■ Menlo Park Rotary Foundation Scholarships (\$5,000 each): Joseph Buchanan Wise, Sacred Heart, Loyola Marymount; Vivien V. Jones, Menlo-Atherton, undeclared; Laurin Yuri Noguchi, Men-

lo-Atherton, undeclared; Haley V. Fowler, Eastside Prep, Wesleyan; Roshana Ta'na Smith, Eastside Prep, Mt. Holyoke; Alexis M. Keller, undeclared; Jennifer A. Neider, Menlo-Atherton, UCSC.

■ Drue Kataoka Arts Scholarship, (\$2,000): Sofia Gutierrez-Dewar.

■ Community College Scholarships, Tom Borden Grant (\$2,000): Justin Genevro, Katie Rojas, Araceli Lombera, Priyanka Anandita and Alma Argueta.

■ Rotary Club Foundation Award, (\$1,000): Wendy Buendia, Nicholas Mendola-Poole, Ana Mendina, Laura Mayen and Jamisse Payne. ■

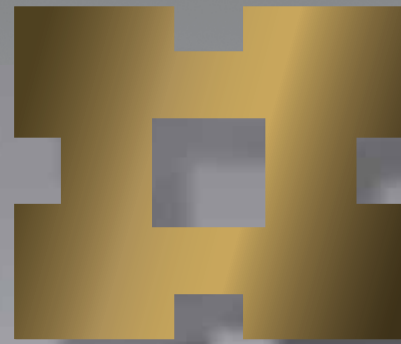
San Francisco Regional Office
San Francisco
415. 229. 8400

North Bay Regional Office
San Rafael
415. 456. 6000

East Bay Regional Office
Walnut Creek
925. 287. 7880

Mid-Peninsula Regional Office
Palo Alto
650.321.0500

www.PresidioBank.com



PRESIDIO BANK

The business bank that works.



Stanford Hospital Health Notes

A community health education series from Stanford Hospital & Clinics

When Stroke Strikes No Time to Waste:

Rapid Recognition and Reaction Turn Tide

Chris McLachlin's survival story reads like the script for a Hollywood movie where, unbelievably but totally by chance, everything happens at just the right moment and in just the right place.

When he stopped talking in mid-conversation and slumped over the couch, one of the people in the room with him was someone who'd had a stroke, recognized the symptoms and immediately called 911. He was at a hospital within 15 minutes.

When physicians called his wife to get her permission to administer the gold standard, frontline clot-dissolving medication, she answered her phone just as she was about to step inside a movie theater where she would not have had phone reception for at least three hours.

For McLachlin, as it is with anyone having a stroke, time is everything. No matter what the stroke's cause, every second that passes means more brain cells die of oxygen starvation and more capabilities lost.

Physicians and scientists know more about stroke than they ever have, and can reach inside the brain with more impact than was ever dreamed of, even three years ago. But stroke remains a leading cause of death in the US and the primary cause of

adult disability. The direct and indirect costs in 2009 neared \$69 billion.

Expert Care Quickly

McLachlin became a patient of the Stanford Stroke Center at Stanford Hospital & Clinics, considered a national leader in advanced stroke treatment. At Stanford, an innovative, streamlined protocol called the SIRS (Stroke Interventional Radiology Service) Rapid Access Program drives patient care, particularly for patients coming from other hospitals, delivered in the fastest fashion possible.

"I remember feeling paralyzed on my right side. I wasn't frightened because I didn't understand what was going on."

— Chris McLachlin, stroke patient at Stanford Stroke Center

The protocol includes a rapid access transfer system that includes specific time goals for each step, a checklist, a simultaneous page to a full team of medical professionals to plan care ready as soon as the new patient arrives.

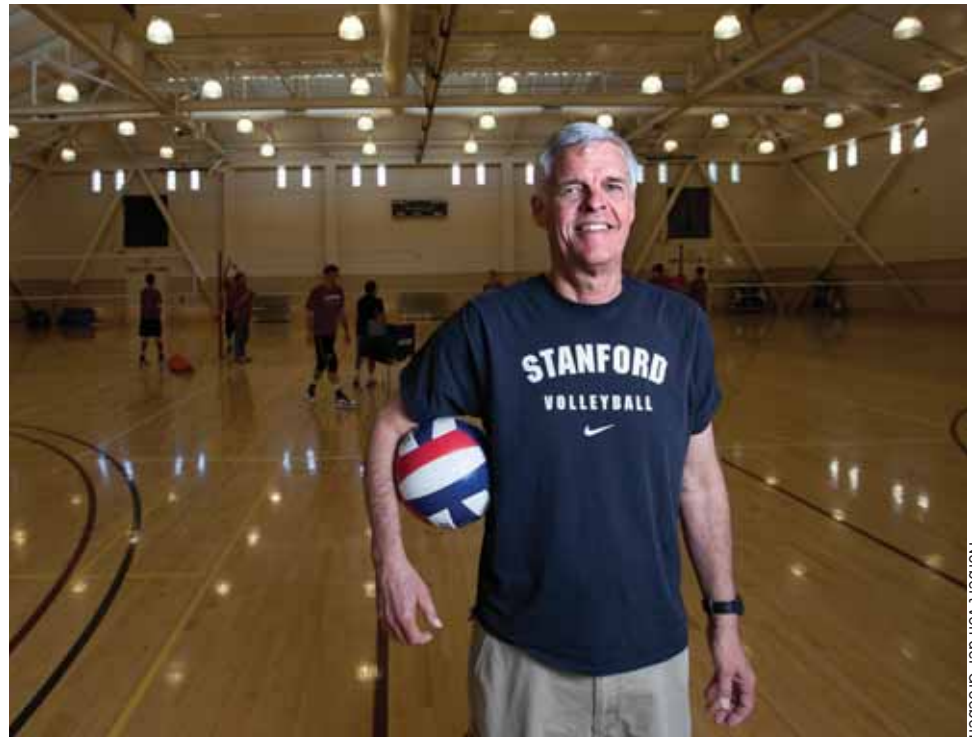
Quick care is important, but the risk of stroke can be reduced with changes in behavior that make other medical sense, too: quit smoking,

eat a balanced diet and exercise regularly. For people with high blood pressure, diabetes and high cholesterol, medications can be very effective. "All of those things go a tremendously long way toward controlling risk," said Neil Schwartz, MD, PhD, who treated McLachlin at the Stanford Stroke Center.



Norbert von der Groeben

It took a year, but McLachlin recovered nearly all his abilities. He's been well enough to fill in as a coach for the past two years with the Stanford University Men's Volleyball team. He always does the warm-ups with the team.



Norbert von der Groeben

Chris McLachlin thought he had his health under control: He'd been an athlete since middle school, made sure he got eight hours of sleep each night and kept his cholesterol in mind when he ate.

Age, however, is one element that can't be altered. McLachlin had just retired after 37 years as a sports coach, teacher, counselor and administrator at the Punahou School in Honolulu, Hawaii. He coached the school's teams to 11 state titles in volleyball and three in basketball.

A Healthy Life Derailed

From the time he was in middle school, McLachlin had been an athlete. Basketball and volleyball were his sports and when he arrived at Stanford as an undergraduate, he began a collegiate athletic career that concluded with the unusual post of player-coach on Stanford's volleyball team.

Throughout his adult life, he said, "my attitude about my health was pretty good. I was good at getting eight hours of sleep, my cholesterol was good, and I played steady tennis and golf. My blood pressure was a little high but not serious; I was taking medication for it."

He played master's class volleyball until he was 55; his father, at 89, still plays tennis five days a week.

McLachlin considered himself to be in great shape, and was looking forward to a trip that would take him to visit one son at Stanford, another son in Arizona and his daughter in Southern California. He flew from

Hawaii and stopped in the Bay Area to visit a family that had helped him through graduate school at Stanford more than 40 years earlier.

He was sitting in their living room and talking with them when suddenly he noticed he couldn't speak. "I remember feeling paralyzed on my right side and falling over on my right onto the couch," he said. "I wasn't frightened because I didn't understand what was going on. I was in a kind of haze. I was not really aware of what was going on."



McLachlin has become an active advocate for steps people can take to reduce blood pressure and cholesterol checks.

Speeding Help For Stroke

The Stanford Stroke Center has recently developed a ground-breaking protocol to expedite treatment for patients transferred from other hospitals. Called the SIRS (Stroke Interventional Radiology Service) Rapid Access Program, the protocol includes streamlined communications to ensure rapid acceptance to the Stanford Stroke Center for patients from outside hospitals, regardless of immediate bed availability. SIRS also includes evaluation of the case by a collaborative, multidisciplinary team of stroke experts so a treatment plan is ready when a patient arrives.

SIRS also includes a checklist that sets out specific times within which actions must be taken and completed; it also contains a list of information to be gathered. A simultaneous page goes out to mobilize responders from all over the hospital, including specialists in anesthesia, imaging, diagnostic radiology, critical care nursing, pharmacy, respiratory therapy and intensive

care. SIRS's special interventional neuroradiology team care is available 24/7 to remove blood clots from a patient's brain if that procedure is required.

SIRS was created to gain every second possible between a stroke and treatment. Some medications are only effective if administered within a certain time frame, and the speeded transfer process improves the odds that such medications will be effective in reducing stroke damage.

For more information about stroke and the Stanford Stroke Center, visit strokecenter.stanford.edu or, phone 650.723.6469. Join us at stanfordhospital.org/socialmedia.

Watch the new **Stanford Hospital Health Notes** television show on **Comcast**: channel 28 on Mondays at 8:30 p.m., Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. and Fridays at 8:30 a.m.; channel 30 Saturdays at 10:30 p.m. It can also be viewed at youtube.com/stanfordhospital.

Within minutes of getting to a hospital and being administered tPA, tissue plasminogen activator, the go-to clot-dissolving medication, McLachlin regained some movement in his right leg and arm.

Trouble Starts Small

McLachlin's stroke began with a clot in his left internal carotid artery caused by a tiny bit of plaque. The clot travelled up into a smaller vessel within the brain, producing the stroke symptoms McLachlin experienced.

Plaque is a combination of cholesterol, fatty acids and fibrous tissue that gathers along the lining of an artery. Plaque makes it harder for blood to get through the artery, making it more likely to clot. The body's chemistry includes natural clot-dissolvers, but sometimes clots are too big, jamming arteries closed.

The brain works on oxygen carried to it by blood, and when that blood stops coming, oxygen-deprived tissues begin to die. The sooner the clot can be dissolved or removed, the more likely

it is that significant recovery can take place.

Stanford's physicians take information from CT and MRI scans and process it through a Stanford-invented computer software program that builds an image of great sensitivity and specificity that includes speed, volume and location of blood flow throughout the brain. That visual map may serve first as a guide for making treatment decisions, and then serves to confirm the effects of treatment.

"Stanford's a big campus, so I do a lot of walking. I still play tennis and golf when I can."

— Chris McLachlin, stroke patient at Stanford Stroke Center

McLachlin was again lucky, because his clot dissolved without further treatment. In other cases, physicians called interventional neuroradiologists may have to thread a narrow tube, called a catheter, into an artery in the groin and push it up into the brain, carrying miniature treatment tools. Those tools can either grab a clot to extract it or vacuum it out.

New Options to Advance Care

Modern, high-tech imaging, including techniques developed at Stanford, allow for a very detailed look inside the brain. "We have imaging tools that allow for a rapid and real-time elucidation of information," Schwartz said, "that tells us just what's happened to the brain tissue, what's salvageable and what's not."

Stanford researchers are also investigating other methods of stroke treatment and neuro-protection, Schwartz said. Those include everything from lowering the temperature of the body and brain of a stroke patient to using special lasers. There are also treatments under study using stem cells, he said, that may stimulate the brain to repair its damaged parts.

Even though McLachlin's stroke was quickly treated, he spent a year in therapy, working to regain not only mobility but strength, too. He was surprised at how quickly he did recover, but Schwartz was ever cautious. "Don't get too full of yourself," McLachlin recounts him saying, "You had a severe stroke and your body needs at least a year to get over the trauma."

McLachlin still lives in Hawaii, but has spent a lot of time at Stanford, too. He's been filling in as an assistant coach for the University's men's volleyball team for the last two years. It's meant he's been coaching his younger son, who's now a senior and team captain. It's also meant he gets good workouts. "I work out with the team," he said, "and Stanford's a big campus, so I do a lot of walking. I still play tennis and golf when I can."

He also watches his diet but does allow himself the occasional burger. "Dr.

Schwartz told me, 'You don't need to be torturing yourself. You don't have to beat yourself up – just don't do anything to excess.'"

"We have imaging tools that allow for rapid and real-time elucidation of information that tells us just what's happened to the brain."

— Neil Schwartz, MD, PhD, Stanford Stroke Center

He does check his blood pressure twice a week, before and after workouts. And he gets his cholesterol checked regularly, too. "These are not things that would disrupt anybody's life," he said, "and they could save your life."

He does spend as much time as he can speaking to groups about stroke prevention. Even when he travels, he said, he sometimes delivers his "one-minute spiel about how to save somebody's life from stroke."



Norbert von der Groeben

When McLachlin had his stroke, friends recognized immediately what it was and called 911. Getting help quickly can make the difference between recovery and disability.



Norbert von der Groeben

an take to keep track of their health, like regular blood

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.

 **STANFORD**
HOSPITAL & CLINICS

Stanford University Medical Center

'Night in New Orleans' theme for schools gala

The Portola Valley Schools Foundation will hold its fundraising gala, "Our Night in New Orleans," on Saturday May 21, at the Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club.

Guests will walk down "Bourbon Street" with New Orleans-style decor. There will be live jazz music with dancing.

Party-goers can bid on such auction items as a holiday getaway to New York, a summer excursion to Sun Valley, and a week in Aix-en-Provence, France. There are parties available, including a ladies' dinner at the Woodside firehouse and an evening at Fogarty Winery, and some practical items such as a parking spot at Ormondale elementary school.

(Visit pvschoolsfoundation.org/gala through May 18 for an auction of items that are exclusively online.)

The foundation, which organizes gala events every other year, hopes to raise at least \$400,000 from the May 21 event, said Laura Kavanaugh, community outreach chair for the foundation.

Part of the fundraising effort is for Fund-A-Need, a donation-only live auction item that, at each gala, raises money for a specific need identified by the school district. The 2011 Fund-A-Need focuses on "educating the whole child" through counseling and other programs designed to inspire and enable students to problem-solve and become "resilient, empathetic leaders," Ms. Kavanaugh said.

Visit pvschoolsfoundation.org/gala for more information.

'Annie' in Woodside

Woodside Elementary School will stage the musical "Annie" as its eighth-grade operetta June 1-4. Each student in the

AROUND TOWN

graduating class will participate, continuing a school tradition that began in 1958.

The production, based on the 1977 hit Broadway musical composed by Charles Strouse with lyrics by Martin Charnin, features Elise Waldow as Annie, Robert Wang as Daddy Warbucks, Nicole Schumacher as Miss Hannigan, and Lindy Garrett as Grace.

It is co-produced by Daran Reinholm, Jill Wang and Katherine Williford, all parents of eighth-graders.

Elena Mori (director) and Ruthie Smith (musical director) have staged the Woodside Elementary operetta since 2002 and 2001, respectively. The team was joined in 2003 by choreographer Patti Michelsen, an eighth-grade parent herself. Karen Arimoto-Peterson is the faculty adviser.

The production will be staged in George Sellman Auditorium, located on the school campus at 3195 Woodside Road.

Tickets go on sale to the public on May 23 at \$12 for adults and \$10 for kids 10 and under. The June 1 dress rehearsal begins at 6 p.m.; the other performances are at 7 p.m.

For more information, contact the school office at (650) 851-1571, ext. 291.

Polo Club tourney

The Menlo Polo Club will hold its second annual U.S. Polo Association-sanctioned Ladies' Tournament on Saturday, May 28, at the Menlo Circus Club, 190 Park Lane in Atherton.

Teams made up of local and out-of-town amateur and professional women players will

See **AROUND TOWN**, page 16



Almanac photo by Michelle Le

Showing off Bloomingdale's spring fashion, a preview to Menlo School's annual fashion show on May 27, are, from left, Andrew Carlisle, Mary Nash, John Holland-McCowan, and Monica Kang.

'Dial M' fundraiser benefits Menlo School

Menlo School's 61st annual fashion show benefit, "Dial M for Menlo," will be held Friday, May 27, in a large decorated tent on the Menlo School campus in Atherton.

With a nod to Alfred Hitchcock, the event will feature luncheon and dinner runway shows, showcasing senior students in Bloomingdale's fashions for spring and summer.

The benefit raises funds for financial aid, which supports a fifth of the student body, said school spokesperson Jill Kasser.

The catered luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m., and the black tie optional dinner show starts at 6 p.m. In a new feature, senior students will show ways to outfit a college dormitory room

with housewares and bedding items from Bloomingdale's.

Graduating seniors will reflect on the impact Menlo teachers have made on their lives.

Raffle items will include an iPad 3G with WiFi, Persian carpet from Medallion Rug Gallery, Tiffany & Co. diamond pendant, gift certificates to Bloomingdale's, and AXIS personal trainers. A separate raffle will be held for teachers. Live Auction bidders will compete for getaways, sporting events and parent-hosted parties.

Event co-chairs and Menlo parents Gail Kittler and Susan Valeriotte have worked with a committee of about 130 adult volunteers, plus hundreds of

students.

Serving as the producer, choreographer and fashion show director, respectively, are Alex Perez, Jan Chandler and Jeffrey Adair. Mr. Perez is director of creative arts and communications at Menlo. Ms. Chandler, the school's dance director, has served as the benefit's choreographer for 27 years. Mr. Adair, co-owner of J Floral Art in Menlo Park, has produced and/or directed the show off and on for 20 years.

The cost is \$100 for the luncheon show and \$200 for the dinner show.

Visit menloschool.org/benefit and click on "Benefit" to make reservations and to participate in the online auction.

OFFICIAL KICK-OFF TO FESTIVAL SEASON • DOWNTOWN MOUNTAIN VIEW ON CASTRO STREET

15th Annual
Ala Carte & Art
MOUNTAIN VIEW

May 21-22 • 10am to 6pm

Presented by the Central Business Association

FREE ADMISSION
INFO-LINE: 650-964-3395
www.miramarevents.com
no pets please

Contemporary Fine Art, Cool Crafts • Kids' Tons of Fun Zone • Health & Wellness Displays • Home & Garden Exhibits • Dynamite Live Music • Organic & Green Product Showcase • Farm-Fresh Produce • Fabulous Food & Drink Wines, Microbrews, Mojitos & Margaritas • Classic Car Show

WORLD-CLASS ART • MUSIC • FOOD • FAMILY FUN • CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Find us on Facebook

Whose tree is it, anyhow?

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

■ WOODSIDE

Before a new house goes up or an old one comes down in Peninsula cities and towns, it is common practice to invite comment from neighbors. Should the same be done in Woodside for the destruction of a large tree, particularly a tree that screens a neighbor's property?

The topic of neighbor involvement versus property rights was one of several that came up during a third discussion by the Town Council on directions for staff in revising the language of the law regulating the felling of "significant" native trees, defined as measuring 9.5 inches in diameter at 48 inches above ground.

The council also touched on penalties for cutting a tree without a permit, an issue not yet resolved. Woodside's current penalties go as high as \$10,000 per tree, a figure that a survey shows is much higher than in comparable communities.

The council also considered how to clarify the law with respect to transplanting a significant

Should neighbors have a say in cutting down trees?

tree. The council leaned toward forgoing a permit within property lines, but requiring one if the tree goes off site.

A loophole allowed a resident some years ago to move several full grown heritage trees to Atherton. Advances in methods for doing this are lowering what were serious risks of the tree dying, Councilwoman Anne Kasten said.

"We have some very valuable trees in our town that other people would pay a lot of money for," she said.

One check on residents' plans, council members noted, is the town's Architecture and Site Review Board, which oversees major residential projects.

"I think we should be involved and have some oversight in moving a significant tree," Councilman Dave Burow said. "Some people are going to do it right, some are not."

"Who's the arborist advising you?" Mr. Burow asked, imagining a question from staff to a resident with plans to remove a heritage tree. Continuing the dialog, Mr. Burow implied that some residents, while not saying it out loud, could think, "I don't need no stinking arborist."

Impact on neighbors

During a March 8 council discussion, a resident of West Maple Way complained about

a neighbor who, reportedly without a permit, felled a strip of significant trees near the neighbor's driveway.

"How do you value my property now that my privacy is gone," the resident asked the council, noting that it would be 30 to 40 years before her screening vegetation returns. "I'm furious at this person's attack."

A possible catch: the trees were eucalyptus and Monterey cypress, both invasive and ill-favored species along with Monterey pine and acacia. For these species, the standard is more harsh; they aren't considered significant until they reach 36 inches across.

Word has gotten around that, because these species are vulnerable to felling for a longer time, they are considered "fair game,"

Town Manager Susan George wrote in a staff report. The current ordinance, which lumps them under the "other" category, should be revised to name their species and note that a permit may be necessary, the report said.

But the Woodside Fire Protection District lists these trees as fire-prone and dangerous. "We want to get as many of those out as possible," Mr. Burow said. "They're not good trees. They're just fuel."

They also provide screening, Ms. Kasten said.

"It seems crazy that a neighbor would force (another) neighbor to keep a high-fire-danger tree," Mr. Burow said. "It seems totally wrong."

Neighbors ought to have an opportunity to comment, and staff an opportunity to take those comments into consideration, Mayor Ron Romines said.

"I'm curious," Ms. Kasten asked of Mr. Burow, "would you have all the eucalyptus and Monterey pine and acacias in town removed?"

Too expensive, Mr. Burow replied. He said he knows of people who cull one eucalyptus a year, but at a cost of hundreds of dollars. "The economics suggest that they'll be here way longer than you and I."

Neighbors ought to provide their own screening, resident Diane Elder said during the public comment period, adding

See TREES, page 16

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

TOWN OF ATHERTON
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

2011 CAPE/SLURRY PROJECT
PROJECT NO. 56049

Notice is hereby given that SEALED BIDS will be received at the office of the City Clerk, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, California 94027, until 2:00 p.m. JUNE 1, 2011, at which time they will be publicly opened and read, for performing the following work:

Performing of Cape seals and Type II micro-surfacing per Town specifications on the listed streets, which includes notifications, traffic control, prep work, oil and chip installation, compaction, sweeping, and re-striping/pavement markings (as needed) with a 1-year guarantee.)

The Engineer's Estimate for the project is: \$609,979

Per Section 6.01 of the Town of Atherton's Standard Specifications, the General Contractor shall perform, with his own organization, work of a value amounting to not less than 50% of the total contract, excluding specialty items as indicated on the bid schedule.

Bids must be for the entire work, and shall be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked: "Bid of (Contractor) for 2011 CAPE/SLURRY PROJECT, Project No. 56049", along with date and time of bid opening.

Plans and specifications may be obtained at the Town of Atherton's website at www.ci.atherton.ca.us under Bid Solicitation at no cost. Additional important information is contained in Town of Atherton Standard Specifications, which are available on line at www.ci.atherton.ca.us/publicworks.html. Contractor shall be responsible for any addendums that may be posted on the Town's website. No planholders list shall be available.

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

The Town of Atherton, The City, reserves the right to reject any or all bids; to make any awards or any rejections in what it alone considers to be in the best interest of the City, and waive any informalities or irregularities in the bids. The contract will be awarded, if at all, to the responsible bidder that submits the lowest responsive bid. [NOTE: If there are alternates in the bid, the City will need to state how the low bid will be determined, as required by PCC 20103.8.]

Bidders are hereby notified that, pursuant to California Civil Code Sections 3247 and 3248 and Standard Specifications Section 3.02, the successful bidder will be required to provide payment and performance bonds in the amounts of 100% of the contract price.

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

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

All bidders shall be licensed under the provisions of the Business and Professions Code to do the type of work contemplated in the project. The City has determined that the Contractor shall possess a valid Class _ license at the time the bid is submitted. Failure to possess the specified license shall render the bid non-responsive.

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

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

Any questions regarding the project should be directed to David Huynh, Project Engineer, telephone: (650) 752-0555 or by written Requests for Information (RFI) to: Public Works Department, 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, CA 94027, no later than ten (10) business days before bid opening. RFIs may be emailed to dhuynh@ci.atherton.ca.us or faxed to (650) 688-6539. Responses shall be posted on the Town's website no later than five (5) days prior to bid opening.

By: _____
Michael Kashiwagi, P.E., City Engineer

Date: _____

A TASTE OF THE PENINSULA

A cornucopia of restaurants and cafes providing the finest dining from brunch to dessert.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Vive Sol-Cocina Mexicana

2020 W. El Camino Real, Mtn. View
(650) 938-2020

Specializing in the Cuisine of Puebla.
Open daily for lunch and dinner.

Coffee & Tea

Connoisseur Coffee Co.

2801 Middlefield Road, Redwood City
(650) 369-5250 9am-5:30pm Mon. - Sat.

Coffee roasting & fine teas,
espresso bar, retail & wholesale.



To Advertise in "A Taste of the Peninsula" call The Almanac 650-854-2626.

Film program: Polish, Arab revolutions

Revolution: It happened in Gdansk, Poland, in the fall of 1980. In solidarity with ongoing revolutions in the Arab world and North Africa, there will be a screening in Atherton at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 25, of "World and Solidarity," the story of the worldwide impact of the workers' strikes in Poland in 1980.

After the screening at the Performing Arts Center at Menlo-Atherton High School, there will be a discussion of past and current revolutions with the Polish filmmaker, Jolanta Kessler Chojecka, and San Francisco State University media professor, Dina Ibrahim, a native of Egypt.

Donna Baranski-Walker, founder of the San Mateo-based Rebuilding Alliance, a nonprofit working to help war-torn neighborhoods rebuild, will lead the

BRIEFS

discussion. Rebuilding Alliance is organizing the event.

Ms. Kessler Chojecka, who is flying in from Switzerland for the program, reported for 11 years on the Solidarity movement for Radio Free Europe in New York and Paris.

Following the program, there will be a reception at Bona, a Polish restaurant in Menlo Park. Bona and Menlo Park's Flegel's Fine Furniture are sponsoring the program.

The M-A Performing Arts Center is at 555 Middlefield Road in Atherton.

Write to Justyna@RebuildingAlliance.org or call 325-4663 to inquire about attending the reception.

Go to tinyurl.com/MA-revolution for tickets, which are \$10 per person and \$5 for students.

"We hope that you will decide not to exercise your exemption privilege," he wrote. "Without the revenue from our parcel tax and the generous donations we receive from the Las Lomitas Education Foundation, we would not be able to maintain our excellent education programs for our students while still keeping class sizes as small as possible."

Those needing an exemption application should call the district's business office at 854-6311.

St. Raymond says goodbye to principal

St. Raymond School in Menlo Park will say so long to its principal for the past 16 years, Sister Ann Bernard, at a farewell Mass and barbecue on Sunday, May 22.

Both events are open to the public, said school spokesperson Kim McNair.

The Mass at St. Raymond Church, 1100 Santa Cruz Ave. in Menlo Park, starts at 4 p.m., and the barbecue at 5 p.m.

Speakers will include Gary Colbert, president of the school board, and Father William Myers, pastor of St. Raymond Church.

Visit tinyurl.com/Raymond-522 to see a Feb. 2, 2011, Almanac story on Sister Ann Bernard.

On Sunday, May 15, St. Raymond dedicated a new grass field at the school to the Daschbach family. Twelve members of the family have graduated from the school since 1968, Ms. McNair said.

The half-acre field, installed this past winter, is used for recess, physical education, and the annual St. Raymond Jog-a-Thon, which took place May 13.

The field is also used for many St. Raymond School events and traditions such as the back to school barbecue, field day, spirit week, an annual Pumpkin Festival, Colonial Day and the Faculty Frenzy. Camp Kerns will be using the new field this summer for its Wide World of Sports and Adventure Camps.

TREES

continued from page 15

that she is uncomfortable with protecting "trees we are trying to get rid of."

You don't want to empower a neighbor to stop a resident's plans cold, Mr. Burow said.

"The goal is to get people to talk with one another," Ms. Kasten noted. Maybe the town should reconsider the matter of a tree's fate being left up to one person, she said. ■

Stanford Continuing Studies

SUMMER 2011



Liberal Arts & Sciences

Featured Summer Courses:

Art of Revolution

New York: A Cultural History, 1880-1930

How to Save Your Aging Brain

Take Five: Five Iconic Jazz Artists

On Civility (And Why It Really Matters)

Memory Play: Stanford Summer Theater Festival

Language and Identity in Geopolitical Hotspots

Geologic Gems of Northern California

Stanford Continuing Studies offers a broad range of courses in liberal arts & sciences, creative writing, and professional & personal development. Designed to cultivate learning and enrich the lives of adults in the Bay Area, most courses are taught by Stanford instructors and are open to all.

Summer Registration Now Open. Enroll Today!
continuingstudies.stanford.edu



Deadline nears for tax exemption

Property owners in the Las Lomitas School District who are 65 years and older have until June 1 to apply for an exemption to the district's parcel tax for fiscal year 2011-12.

The \$311 annual tax was approved by voters in March 2007 with a provision allowing a senior citizen exemption if requested. Eligible seniors must be 65 years or older as of July 1 of this year, and live on the property for which they are requesting the exemption.

In a letter sent to the community that accompanied an exemption application, Superintendent Eric Hartwig encouraged seniors not to opt out of paying the tax, noting that the decline in property tax revenue and increasing student enrollment are creating an increasing financial burden for the district.

AROUND TOWN

continued from page 14

compete for trophies.

Proceeds will benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, said Lyn Jason Cobb, president of the Menlo Polo Club.

Opening ceremonies start at 11 a.m. and the last match is expected to end by 3 p.m.

Admission is \$10 to the public with limited bleacher seating on the west side of the field. Spectators are encouraged to bring comfortable chairs.

Parking is available at nearby Sacred Heart Schools.

Visit menlopoloclub.com for more information.

Menlo Park's theatrical experiment

City sponsors events at Performing Arts Center

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

Postcards advertising musicians and comedians popped up in Menlo Park postboxes recently, bearing the city's logo in the bottom right corner.

It turns out the city is experimenting with a new model for using the Performing Arts Center at Menlo-Atherton High School, according to Recreation Services Manager Katrina Whiteaker. She said the city is working with a production agency — identified as Prime Time Entertainment on the postcards — that provides sound equipment, event coordination, and staffing.

Ms. Whiteaker described the city's financial commitment as "minimal marketing" and the facility itself. If revenue from the event exceeds a certain threshold, she said, the city receives a cut to cover costs.

The Menlo Park City Council in 2007 approved a \$2.6 million payment toward construction of the center, guaranteeing the city rent-free use of the center for 55 days during the school year and unlimited use during school vacations. However, the city must pay labor costs, starting at \$80 per hour, for custodial and theater management services.

The first two events are singer George Komsky on Saturday, May 21, and comedian Will Durst on Saturday, June 25. Tickets cost \$25 and \$20, respectively.

For an event like the concert, Ms. Whiteaker said, with 14 hours of theater time needed, including set-up, the city would pay \$1,120. If all 492 tickets sold, sales would generate \$12,300 and Menlo Park would collect 15 percent, or approximately \$1,845 to cover expenses.

So far the trial program isn't a booming success — Mr. Komsky's show has been canceled, despite selling out theaters in Walnut Creek and San Francisco, according to Jim Douglas of Primetime Entertainment.

"What really needs to happen is to establish a decent-sized marketing budget, and get a series in place," he said. "You invest all that money on the front end, it only makes sense to invest enough resources to make it fly."

Calling the cancelation of the first event "frustrating," Mr. Douglas said it also showed what needs to happen to make future bookings a success, with tweaks such as a user-friendly ticket website; developing a database of ticket buyers; marquee names — and a marquee

to advertise the show, as the one at Menlo-Atherton High was unavailable.

Theater manager Cara Arcuni confirmed that the high school didn't allow the shows to be advertised on its marquee, because the display is created by video production students and a teacher that are "completely booked making displays for school events." She said the city has booked the center for 27 days so far this school year. ■

MENLO BRIEFS

Pool users group

One clause of the contract between Team Sheeper and Menlo Park remains to be fulfilled, and the Parks and Recreation Commission will take a step toward making that happen at its meeting on Wednesday, May 18.

The contract calls for an aquatics user group that will evaluate pool operations, including customer satisfaction, once a year. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. in the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center at the Civic Center at 701 Laurel St.

Meeting canceled

City commissions may be busy this week, but the Menlo Park City Council is taking a Tuesday night off. The council won't meet on May 17.

The next scheduled council meeting is Tuesday, May 24.

Homeless census

According to the county, the number of homeless people in Menlo Park rose by 47 during the past four years. Data released by the Human Services Agency of San Mateo County showed 240 homeless people in the city during a single-night count.

Overall, San Mateo County experienced an increase as well, with 2,187 people counted as homeless on one night; from that, the agency estimated a total of 6,737 homeless in the county.

Ducky mixer

Ducky's Car Wash will host a Chamber of Commerce mixer on Wednesday, May 18, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The business is located at 1436 El Camino Real.

John O'Connor's
MenloParkFunerals.com

FDR 502

1182A Chestnut Street
Menlo Park, CA

FD 2060

HELLER IMMIGRATION LAW GROUP

Employment-based, Family/Marriage & Investor Visas

A Full-Service Immigration Law Firm
Serving the SF Bay Area & Silicon Valley for 25+ years
PERM Labor Certification - EB1/NIW Self-Petitions
Green Cards, H1B and Work Permits
Engineers, IT/Computer fields, Scientists/Researchers
HR/Corporate, Business & Individual Clients



Free Attorney Consult!

877.252.8829 • greencard1.com • heller@greencard1.com

LUCILE PACKARD

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



Your Child's Health University

Lucile Packard Children's Hospital offers classes and seminars designed to foster good health and enhance the lives of parents and children.

▶ BUILDING A CYBER-SAVVY IDENTITY

Join us with your middle-school-aged son or daughter for a free informative seminar all about safe use of social media presented by a Sunnyvale Public Safety Officer and a Director at Yahoo! This seminar is free however space is limited.

- Thursday, June 2: 7:00 – 8:00 pm

▶ ALL ABOUT PREGNANCY

We will offer an overview of pregnancy for the newly pregnant or soon-to-be pregnant couple. The program will include the physical and emotional changes of pregnancy, comfort measures for pregnancy, fetal development and growth, pregnancy testing, life changes and much more. This is a free seminar however space is limited.

- Saturday, June 18: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

▶ CHILD CPR & FIRST AID

Designed for parents and care-givers of children one year of age to adolescence, this class will cover cardio-pulmonary resuscitation techniques, choking and first aid for common childhood injuries.

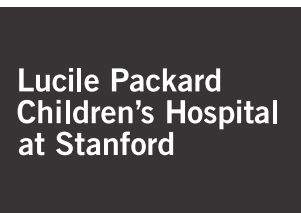
- Saturday, June 25: 12:00 – 3:30 pm

▶ PEDIATRIC WEIGHT CONTROL PROGRAM

Start the summer with a family-based, behavioral and educational weight management program that promotes healthy eating and exercise habits for overweight children and their families. More than 80% of children achieve long-term weight loss through this program — and parents lose weight too!

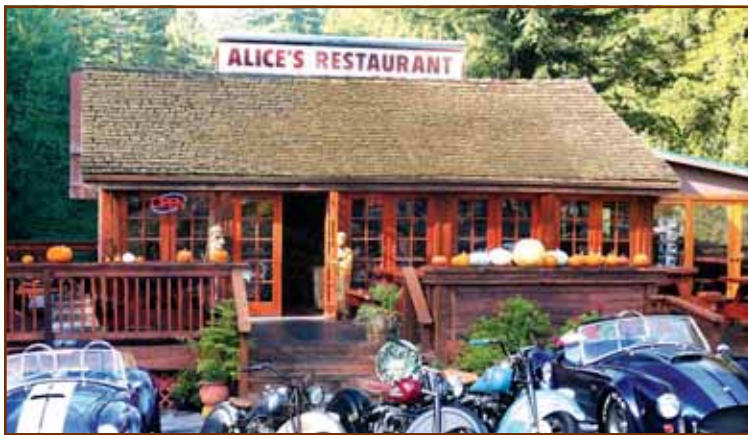
Call (650) 725-4424 to register. Spaces are limited.

Call (650) 724-4601 or visit calendar.lpch.org to register or obtain more information on the times, locations and fees for these and other courses.



Lucile Packard
Children's Hospital
at Stanford

VISIT LPCH.ORG TO SIGN UP FOR CLASSES



Plenty of room to play



• Kid Friendly • Dog Friendly • Family Friendly Back Deck Dining



17288 Skyline Blvd. (650) 851-0303

Located at the crossroads of Highway 84 and 35 (Skyline)

Only a 10 minute drive up the hill of Woodside

Local Family Owned

Introducing

 Good for Business. Good for You.
 Good for the Community.

PORTOLA VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The Portola Valley Elementary School District will hold a public hearing on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2011-12 on Wednesday, June 1, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the District Annex Building, located at 4575 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, California. A copy of the proposed budget will be available for public examination at the Portola Valley Elementary School District Office at the above location from May 26, 2011 through June 1, 2011 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Any taxpayer directly affected by the Portola Valley Elementary School District Budget may appear before the Portola Valley Elementary School District Board of Trustees and speak to the proposed budget or any item therein.

view for yourself...

video tour at: 27Preston.com

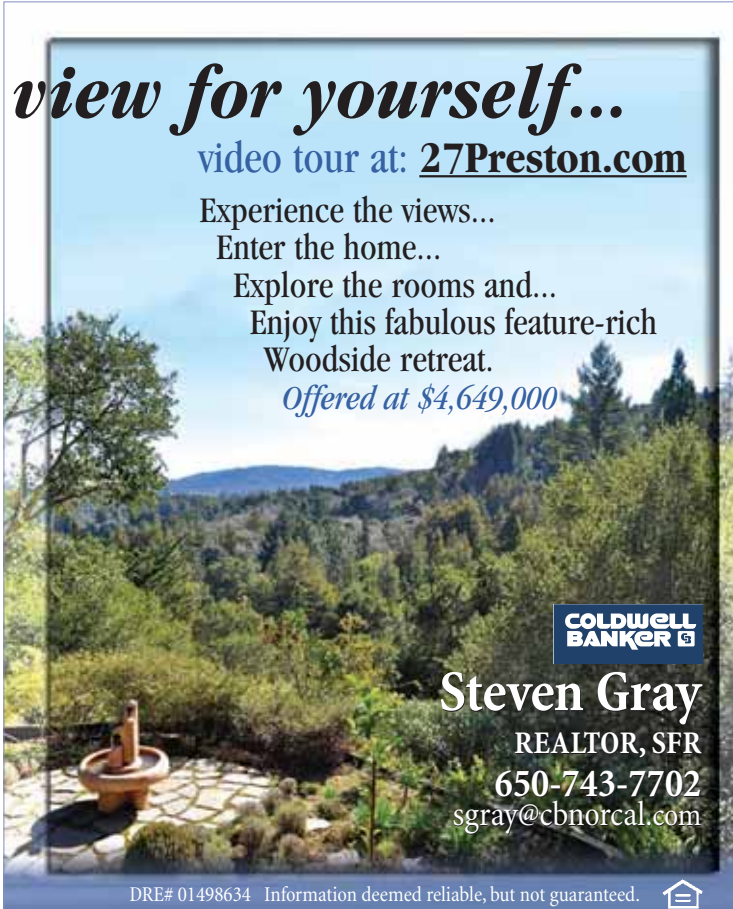
Experience the views...

Enter the home...

Explore the rooms and...

Enjoy this fabulous feature-rich Woodside retreat.

Offered at \$4,649,000



COLDWELL BANKER

Steven Gray

REALTOR, SFR

650-743-7702

sgray@cbnocal.com

DRE# 01498634 Information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed.

We Buy Gold, Jewelry, Diamonds & Silver, Highest Prices Paid



J JACKSON SQUARE FINE JEWELS



2808 EL CAMINO REAL (3 LIGHTS SOUTH OF WOODSIDE RD.)

REDWOOD CITY 650-365-3000

WWW.JACKSONSQUARE.COM

TUES. - SAT. 10AM TO 5PM
 CLOSED SUNDAY & MONDAY

NOW PAYING TOP DOLLAR FOR:

- ROLEX
- GOLD, SILVER OR PLATINUM
- JEWELRY NEW OR OLD, WORN EVEN DAMAGED
- PATEK PHILIPPE, CARTIER AND ANY FINE WATCHES
- DIAMONDS & PRECIOUS GEMS
- SILVER AND GOLD COINS
- NOT SURE? BRING IT IN!
- STERLING SILVER AND FLATWARE
- WE ALSO ACCEPT TRADE-INS AND CONSIGNMENT

SAFE-EASY-LOCAL

- KNOWN, TRUSTED
- IN BUSINESS SINCE 1989
- FULL SERVICE JEWELER & WATCH REPAIR
- VIEW THE PROCESS IN A COMFORTABLE SETTING

WE BUY STERLING FLATWARE, SILVERWARE, SILVER COINS, SILVER JEWELRY AND BARS— NOT SURE? BRING IT IN!

FOR OVER 20 YEARS WE HAVE BEEN A PART OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY COMMUNITY. COME TO OUR STORE ON EL CAMINO REAL WHERE YOU CAN VIEW THE PROCESS AS WE EVALUATE YOUR ITEMS.

FREE \$15 GAS CARD
 WITH EVERY SALE OF \$200 OR MORE
 ONE CARD PER CUSTOMER
 EXPIRES 6/21/11

Youths gather at Menlo College

More than 100 sophomore from high schools throughout Northern California have been invited to participate in the annual Northern California Youth Leadership Seminar from Friday through Sunday, May 20 to 22, at Menlo College in Atherton.

The nonprofit hosts the three-day seminar for students who have demonstrated leadership potential in their high school, said spokesperson Jen Brown. The seminar focuses on critical-thinking and communication skills and community responsibility.

Each Northern California high school is invited to send one student to the seminar at no cost to the school or the student. During the weekend, the students stay at Menlo College, interact with fellow sophomores, and meet with community leaders in politics, business, media, education, high-tech, and other industries.

The public is welcomed to attend the closing ceremony at 11 a.m. Sunday, May 22, at Menlo College.

After the seminar, the sophomores are challenged to participate in the President's Volunteer Service program by completing 100 hours of community service the following year. To date, NCYLS alumni have logged more than 10,000 hours of service throughout California, Ms. Brown said.

Alumni have started civic organizations, such as Students Against Violence, Key Clubs, Juniors, peer counseling groups, and Students Against Drunk Driving.

NCYLS is funded by individual donations, corporate grants and alumni and their families, with significant annual donations from local General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Visit californialeaders.org for information about the seminar, the selection process, and how to participate.

Williams service at Ladera church

A memorial service for Duncan Williams, a longtime resident of Ladera and the founder of Palo Alto's Winter Lodge skating rink, will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, May 21, at Ladera Community Church, at 3300 Alpine road in Ladera.

The service had previously been scheduled for The Sequoias retirement community in Portola Valley.

Mr. Williams, 90, died April 11. He and his wife Mercedes moved to The Sequoias eight years ago after living in Ladera for 47 years.

Visit tinyurl.com/Duncan-Williams for an obituary on Mr. Williams.

'Mardi Gras' is theme for Woodside's Day of the Horse

WHOA! — the Woodside-area Horse Owners Association — has announced that the 2011 Day of the Horse fair and trail ride will be held Oct. 8 and the theme will be "Mardi Gras."

Now in its seventh year, the event aims to preserve and promote equestrian traditions in Woodside and nearby communities, said Day of the Horse co-chairs Fentress Hall and Donna Poy.

The trail ride draws participants from across the state, said Day of the Horse spokesperson Nan Meek. The horse fair includes fun activities and information for children and adults, she said.

Nearly 2,000 people come to Woodside for the event, Ms. Meek said.

At a March 2 kickoff for the Day of the Horse, the co-chairs unveiled the commemorative artwork for the event, "Racing the Storm," donated by artist Nancy Dunlop Cawdrey. The painting

depicts two trail riders racing to return home before a storm unleashes its power. A reproduction of the original will be raffled as part of fundraising for Day of the Horse.

Ms. Hall and Ms. Poy thanked the sponsors of Day of the Horse, listed on the website of the Woodside-area Horse Owners Association, and invited others to sponsor the event.

The association said that about \$65,000 raised from Day of the Horse events have been given to the Folger Stable Renovation and Endowment Fund; trail maintenance and building in town; county parks; the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District; regional equestrian activities for children; the Veryl Goodnight sculpture "Spring and Sprite"; and large animal rescue equipment.

Visit whoa94062.org for more information.



Photo courtesy Woodside-area Horse Owners Association

From left, Woodside Day of the Horse co-chairs Fentress Hall and Donna Poy show the commemorative artwork for the event, "Racing the Wind" by Nancy Dunlop Cawdrey, to Calvin, modeling the 2011 "Mardi Gras" theme with Adeline Forrest.

B.O.K. Ranch hosts 'Western Day'

B.O.K. Ranch will host its 26th annual Western Day event on Sunday, June 5, from noon to 5 p.m. at 1815 Cordilleras Road in Redwood City.

A nonprofit, therapeutic riding program for children and adults with special needs, B.O.K. Ranch showcases the students' riding abilities on Western Day.

There will be games and activities for children, including a petting zoo, plus a live band and barbecue. There is a silent auction for those who want to donate.

Tickets are \$45. Children under 10 are admitted free.

B.O.K. — stands for "be OK" — began in the Kulchin family's backyard in 1984. After three relocations, B.O.K. found its home at the Horse Park at Woodside.

Visit bokranch.com for more information.

John Beiers is county counsel

San Mateo County Counsel Michael Murphy was succeeded by his chief deputy, John Beiers, when Mr. Murphy's retired in March.

Mr. Beiers, 50, appointed by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors to succeed Mr. Murphy, joined the county counsel's office in 1995 and had been chief deputy since 2006.

Mr. Murphy had joined the counsel's office in 1982 and was appointed chief deputy in 1998. He became assistant county counsel in 2006, and was appointed county counsel in August 2007.

The county counsel is the county's attorney, serving elected offi-

BRIEFS

cial, the sheriff's and district attorney's offices, the county courts, the grand jury, and all county departments and agencies. The office is also legal counsel to 22 of the 24 school districts in the county, as well as special districts and other local government agencies.

Before joining the county counsel's office, Mr. Beiers worked as an environmental litigator for law firms in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco.

He graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara, in 1983 and went on to study law at Santa Clara University, where he obtained his law degree in 1989.

He lives in San Carlos with his wife and two of his three children.



John Beiers

Support Local Business

A new online guide to Menlo Park businesses

ShopMenloPark.com



FREE SKIN CANCER SCREENING

Dermatologists from Stanford Hospital & Clinics will be on hand to check for unusual moles or irregular blemishes that could signify the onset of skin cancer. If you have had the following, this free screening is for you:

- Fair skin and excessive exposure to the sun
- Many moles or atypical moles
- A parent or sibling who has had skin cancer

Saturday, May 21, 2011
9:00am – Noon

Stanford Medicine Outpatient Center
450 Broadway, Pavilion B, 4th Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063

For questions, directions, or additional information, call **650.723.6316**. There is no registration for this event; it is a first-come, first-served screening.



Outpatient Center • Redwood City

stanfordhospital.org/skinscreening

Remembering joyful summers in Woodside long ago

By Marie Wagner Krenz

Special to The Almanac

Our old friend and neighbor Louise Zaepffel Rahmer and I recently reminisced about the Woodside of our childhood and our happy summers together.

When school closed each June, my brothers and I left our home in foggy San Francisco for a summer in the country. The first day of vacation, one of our uncles arrived at our house with a truck from Grandfather's factory. We loaded it with everything we would need for the summer — toys, books, clothes, card tables, a washing machine, bicycles, and even a dog house.

I strongly resented that the boys were allowed to ride in the truck, and I had to go in the car with Mother and the family pets.

The first thing we children did upon arrival was to run down to Tripp Road and the home of our dear friends, the Zaepffels. In those days, Tripp Road was not called Tripp Road. According to Louise, it had no name.

It annoyed Grandmother that we had just arrived in the country and already we were running out. "Didn't we have everything we needed right there?" she asked.

Tony the Iceman (Antoine Zaepffel) and his wife Elise had five children, some of whom corresponded in age to my brothers and me. But age didn't matter. The older ones welcomed us and, on occasion, played with us.

When we were little, the boys and I could not walk down the

road alone, but on weekends, one of our uncles accompanied us, and sat and read as we played.

A couple of times each summer, both families (mothers and children) took a hike and picnicked together. One of our favorite destinations was to what is now Huddart Park, where we walked along the creek as far as our limited strength permitted.

One of our favorite destinations was to what is now Huddart Park, where we walked along the creek as far as our limited strength permitted.

ited strength permitted.

With two mothers preparing, we had a wonderful lunch. I remember Mrs. Zaepffel bringing a crock of baked beans in a two-handled satchel, a heavy load that the older children took turns carrying.

As we grew older, we went off alone and often walked to a spring that today is somewhere on the property of the San Mateo County Mounted Patrol. On one occasion we found the skull of a small animal and placed it on a boulder above the spring to warn interlopers away from our private venue.

Once a summer, we hiked Squealers' Gulch, a tough walk up a steep creek. It still exists, but these days none of us shows much interest in doing it.

We remember Miss Huddart driving down Huddart Road (now called Greer Road) in her white electric car. She waved as she passed, and we thought she

looked quite regal in her ribboned hat and white gloves.†

Louise has happy recollections of Miss Huddart and her brother, the owner of those many pristine acres. That kind lady often entertained the Sunday school children at their home, where she organized games and provided refreshment. Mr. Huddart rowed

the children around his lake in a small boat.

Addie Tripp was a good friend of the Zaepffels and even gave them a piano. At that time the Woodside School provided weekly piano lessons for each interested child.

On Sunday mornings, Louise and her siblings always stopped at Miss Tripp's home to greet her with a kiss as they waited for Miss Huddart to drive them to Sunday school.

On many summer afternoons, the Zaepffels came up the road

to our house to play board games and to listen to the radio with us. Our favorites were: "Little Orphan Annie" and "Jack Armstrong, the All American Boy." If they happened to come by in the morning, we listened to soap operas like "Ma Perkins," "Vic and Sade," "Stella Dallas," and "Back Stage Wife." Each one was only 15 minutes so we weren't spending inordinate time in such pursuits.

Occasionally, on summer nights, San Francisco friends who were also Woodside summer residents, came to play with us and the Zaepffels. The boys preferred cherry plum wars, but I liked Kick the Can.

It wasn't all play time at our house. Grandmother doled out chores to each of us that must be accomplished before we could visit our friends.† I forget what the boys had to do, but I was assigned to sweep the porch and the patio each morning, and I hated it. Before dessert, I also had to brush the crumbs from the dinner table onto a little tray. I rather liked that task.

With all our pleasure, Louise remembers one winter night of

horror and sadness. Her family awakened in the middle of the night to the sound of sirens and looked out to see a reddening sky. They dressed quickly and hurried up Kings Mountain Road in time to see our old home engulfed in flames.

The fire department was helpless. Their hoses were too short to reach the hydrant a block or more away, a shortcoming for which they apologized.

On the weekend, the family drove to Woodside and we children were shocked to see the smoldering ruins, but we also found it exciting. Our uncles called in an architect and somehow had the house rebuilt by June, in time for another wonderful summer in Woodside. ▀

WOODSIDE MEMORIES

About the author: Marie Wagner Krenz has been visiting or living in Woodside since the late 1920s, when her grandparents purchased a home there to escape the cold San Francisco summers. She is a freelance writer from Orinda, but she still spends weekends at the old family home.

Town may form panel to address bike safety issues

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Portola Valley may emulate Woodside and establish a regular forum for bicycle-related issues. A formal discussion of the matter is likely at an upcoming Town Council meeting.

Mayor Ted Driscoll has suggested that the time has come to address bicycle safety and related issues. Among the points brought up in recent council discussions:

■ The town's two arterials,

PORTOLA VALLEY

Alpine and Portola roads, lack bike lanes but are heavily traveled by two-wheelers.

■ Bike traffic has grown by a multiple of three or four over several years, Mr. Driscoll said, and the town is visited almost daily by a knot of 50 to 100 cyclists — a simmering issue that occasionally boils over.

■ More cyclists are being cited by deputies, many for running stop signs. Statistics show 223 citations issued in 2010, up from

102 citations in 2009 and 19 in 2008, according to Sheriff's Office statistics.

Mr. Driscoll suggested that road-riding issues might be a good fit for the Traffic Committee, which has been lacking vital issues to address, while trail riding might be taken up by the Trails and Paths Committee.

Former mayor Ed Davis, the town's police commissioner, wrote to the council to register opposition to these ideas. The Traffic Committee has enough to

See **BIKE**, page 21

Lois R. Blackmarr

1918-April 26, 2011

Lois R. Blackmarr, a longtime Menlo Park resident, died April 26 of congestive heart failure. She was 93. Lois grew up in Burlingame and attended Burlingame High School. An accomplished pianist, she graduated from Mills College with both a BA and an MA in Music. In 1941, she married Donald D. Blackmarr, an engineer and violinist. During World War II, they moved to Mobile, AL, where Don served in the Coast Guard. After the war, they returned to the Bay Area, settling in Menlo Park in 1952. In addition to raising four children, Lois enjoyed teaching piano students and working as an elementary school teacher's aide. She volunteered for numerous organizations, including the Stanford Music Guild, the Stanford Music Library, and the Palo Alto Area Mills College Club. She and Don also played musical duets for many local churches and senior centers. In 1975, Lois earned an MA in Library Science from San Jose State University. An active member of the Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, she volunteered in their church library for many years.

Lois was predeceased by her husband, Don, in 2001. She is survived by her brother, Atherton Mitchell, and her sister, Alison Thompson; her two sons, Philip and Richard Blackmarr; her two daughters, Anatta Blackmarr Riddle and Gail Blackmarr Heim; and five grandchildren.

PAID OBITUARY

OAK TREE

continued from page 9

or relocating the water pipe either above the root zone or more than 10 feet away from the trunk.

SFPUC spokeswoman Maureen Barry said public agencies aren't required to get a permit before removing a heritage tree. And the alternatives to cutting down the tree presented two problems: either the limbs and possibly the entire tree would be compromised, or the roots would eventually grow over and corrode the new pipe.

"It's fair to say the project team is as disappointed as anyone that we weren't able to find an engineering solution here," she said. Ms. Barry

stressed that the pipeline project is critical to ensuring a water supply if an earthquake strikes.

Mr. Berkstresser just wants to see documentation showing that cutting down the tree is the only viable choice. "If it is true, then they need to show us. Document, document, document, proof," he said, emphasizing the last word.

San Mateo County's heritage tree ordinance doesn't specifically state public agencies are exempt from the permit process. Representatives from both counties were not immediately available for comment. However, the San Mateo County Building and Planning Department confirmed that its director will meet with the SFPUC on Tuesday, May 17.

The Almanac has filed a public records act request with the commission for copies of all documentation related to the tree.

The tree, estimated to be about 300 years old, was one reason Mr. Berkstresser chose that home six years ago. "It's an asset to the entire community," he said. "Frankly, it's an asset of the state. This is old growth forest."

"Granny" won't die this week, according to Ms. Barry, because the SFPUC is waiting for contractor proposals. She said the commission will send out notices to update the community once the proposals are approved.

Meanwhile, the neighbors said they're putting together legal counsel. ▀



Photo by Ginger Brudos

Firefighter doses compost pile fire Saturday night at La Entrada School in Menlo Park.

Quick response stops spread of fire at school

The quick response of a dog walker and firefighters stopped the spread of a compost pile fire at La Entrada School in Menlo Park on Saturday night, May 14.

The picture shown was taken by Ginger Brudos, a former Las Lomas PTA president, who was in the area and stopped when she saw smoke coming from the school at 2200 Sharon Road.

The compost pile is in the garden adjacent to a classroom where her son is a student. (Ms. Brudos' son and her daughter, a La Entrada graduate, were

with her when they spotted the smoke.)

"A dog walker was already on the scene repeatedly filling a bucket from a hose and then carrying it some distance to douse the flames," she said in an email. A few minutes later, a fire truck arrived.

"The firefighter pictured, Mr. Montalvo, is married to a current La Entrada teacher," she said. "We are grateful for their quick response and the heroic actions of the dog walker so that the damage to our school was minimized."

■ 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:

■ Laptop computer stolen from backpack, first block of Valparaiso Ave., May 10.

■ Laptop computer stolen, 500 block of Middlefield Road, May 12.

Fraud report: Unauthorized filing of federal and state taxes in victim's name, first block of Walnut Ave., May 6.

MENLO PARK

Fraud reports:

■ Possible scam leading to loss of \$175,000 to \$250,000 in nine-month episode of victim giving away money, 500 block of Glenwood Ave., May 11.

■ Loss estimated at \$7,000 in check fraud, 1100 block of Carlton Ave., May 7.

■ Loss of \$2,972 in unauthorized use of credit card, 500 block of Windsor Drive, May 6.

■ Loss estimated at \$1,500 in unauthorized use of Social Security number, 1100 block of Windermere Ave., May 6.

Theft reports:

■ Loss estimated at \$850 in theft from unlocked vehicle of video games and purse containing credit cards and \$450 in cash, 1600 block of Marsh Road, May 9.

■ Loss unknown in theft of bag from bleachers during basketball game, 500 block of Laurel St., May 9.

Grand theft report: Possible theft of jewelry by family member staying at house, 500 block of St. Francis Place, May 9.

WOODSIDE

Theft report: Loss estimated at \$1,850 in theft of two rings and pair of earrings, possibly by visiting relative, Canada Road, May 6.

Franklin Smith

Aug. 26, 1924 – April 8, 2011



Franklin Smith, a 50-year resident of Menlo Park, died April 8th, 2011. He was born Aug. 26, 1924, in Texhoma, Oklahoma. He moved to the Bay Area after serving his country in World War II in the Pacific Theatre. Frank graduated from U.C. Berkeley in 1950, where he was an active member in the TKE Fraternity. After college, Frank joined Lederle Labs as a Pharmaceutical Salesman and successfully called on the Bay Area for more than 30 years, retiring in 1990. Frank moved to Menlo Park in the late 1950's with his wife Norma, where they raised their three children.

He was a member of Ladera Oaks Swim & Tennis Club, where he enjoyed playing tennis with his

wife and friends. Frank also enjoyed traveling, as well as working on home improvement projects. He is survived by his three children, Scott Smith; Douglas Smith of San Francisco; Sharon Smith of Menlo Park and two grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, May 28 at 11 A.M. at St. Raymonds Church, 1100 Santa Cruz Ave, Menlo Park.

Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America. Link: <http://www.alzfdn.org/telethon/donate.html>

PAID OBITUARY

John G. Linvill

Stanford Engineering Professor and Inventor

Professor emeritus of electrical engineering at Stanford University and inventor of the Optacon reading device for the blind, John Grimes Linvill, has died in Palo Alto, California. He was 91. A revered figure at Stanford, he was widely admired for his energy and his commitment to fostering entrepreneurial spirit in his students. He was a seminal figure in the School of Engineering during the 1960s and 70s heyday that fed countless electrical engineers to an eager and growing Silicon Valley.

As Chairman of the Department of Electrical Engineering, Linvill had an innate and uncanny understanding of the transformative moments in research. He was able to see a breakthrough, to understand its import far down the road, then quickly build Stanford's faculty to be the best in that field. Linvill enjoyed the role of mentor and seeing others succeed. Many of his students remained lifelong friends.

Linvill applied his engineering creativity and his own entrepreneurial spirit to the needs of his daughter, Candy, who became blind in infancy. Linvill sought a way to allow her to directly read printed materials without translation into Braille. His solution, using integrated circuits developed in the Stanford labs, and with the help of colleagues at Stanford and Stanford Research Institute (SRI), was the Optacon (Optical-to-Tactile Converter). The Optacon was a portable device with a small, hand-held camera that could be moved across any type of printed material to generate images on a fingertip-sized tactile display that were then felt and interpreted by a blind reader.

Linvill received a patent for the invention of the Optacon in 1966. He was a co-founder of Telesensory Systems, Inc. (TSI) in 1970, a company established to manufacture and disseminate the Optacon worldwide. The Optacon was to become one of the most important examples of how technology could be applied to the development of assistive devices for people with disabilities. Helped greatly by her father's invention, Candy attended Stanford and went on to earn her doctorate in clinical psychology.

Born and raised in Missouri, Linvill received a bachelor's degree in mathematics from William Jewell College before heading out for MIT, where he earned bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees in electrical engineering. After two years as an assistant professor

at MIT, Linvill joined Bell Labs, working on transistor circuit issues.

In 1955, the legendary Dean of Stanford's School of Engineering, Fred Terman, recruited Linvill to come to Stanford to "transistorize" the Stanford curriculum.

Linvill's career at Stanford overlapped almost precisely with the rise of the semiconductor industry. Stanford's ascension in the field owes much to the vision and the industry of John Linvill. As department chair, Linvill initiated and oversaw the technology transfer that has transpired between industry and academia since the 1960s.

In the late 1970s, Linvill spearheaded unique partnerships with industry to construct a new facility at Stanford, the Center for Integrated Systems (CIS).

Linvill served as Chairman of the Department of Electrical Engineering from 1964 to 1980. And, from its endowment in 1989 until his retirement at the end of 1990, Linvill was the Canon USA Professor of Electrical Engineering, the first professor to hold that position. As a professor emeritus, John Linvill continued to follow his passions, focusing research on integrated systems.

In 2007, colleagues, former students, friends and family honored Linvill by establishing the John G. Linvill Fellowship in Stanford's Department of Electrical Engineering.

A resident of Portola Valley for over 50 years, John treasured the beauty of nature and the outdoors. He was an avid tennis player and golf enthusiast. He was an early morning cyclist who enjoyed riding the hills of Portola Valley long before riding "the loop" became popular. One of his greatest pleasures was spending time with family and friends at his beach home at Pajaro Dunes.

John Grimes Linvill was born on August 8, 1919 in Kansas City, Missouri. His twin brother, William, also a Stanford professor, died in 1980. He is survived by his wife, Marjorie Linvill, of Palo Alto; a son, Greg (Betty), of Belmont, CA; a daughter, Candy Berg (Chris), of Portola Valley, CA; two granddaughters, Angela and Alyssa Linvill; and a great grandson, Sato Ramsaran.

A service celebrating the life of John Linvill will be held at the Stanford Faculty Club on May 23, 2011 from 3:30-5:30. The family suggests that donations in memory of John G. Linvill be made to the LMSarcoma Direct Research Foundation in Tulsa, OK (www.lmsdr.org).

PAID OBITUARY

BIKE

continued from page 20

do; mixing in bicycles and their advocates could be awkward and lead to conflicts, he said.

A better idea, Mr. Davis said, is a standalone Bicycle Committee as a public forum for bike-related matters, including town policies and the development, use and safety of all bikeways. ■

Support Local Business



Help us rescue lives in Japan.

Go to www.rescue.org/altweeklies

The Almanac

A fundraising effort by the Association of Alternative Newsweeklies and The Almanac



Editor & Publisher

Tom Gibboney

Editorial

Managing Editor Richard Hine

News Editor Renee Batti

Lifestyles Editor Jane Knoerle

Senior Correspondents

Marion Softky, Marjorie Mader

Staff Writers

Dave Boyce, Sandy Brundage

Contributors Barbara Wood,

Kate Daly, Katie Blankenberg

Special Sections Editors

Carol Blitzer, Sue Dremann

Photographer Michelle Le

News Intern Miranda Simon

Design & Production

Design Director Raul Perez

Designers Linda Atilano,

Gary Vennarucci

Advertising

Vice President Sales & Marketing

Walter Kupiec

Display Advertising Sales

Heather Hanye

Real Estate Manager Neal Fine

Real Estate and Advertising

Coordinator Diane Martin

Published every Wednesday at
3525 Alameda De Las Pulgas,
Menlo Park, Ca 94025

Newsroom: (650) 223-6525

Newsroom Fax: (650) 223-7525

Advertising: (650) 854-2626

Advertising Fax: (650) 854-3650

e-mail news and photos with
captions to:

Editor@AlmanacNews.com

e-mail letters to:

letters@AlmanacNews.com

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

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



WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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

TOWN SQUARE FORUM

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

EMAIL your views to:

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

MAIL or deliver to:

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

CALL the Viewpoint desk at 223-6507.

Board has no issues with new superintendent

The trustees of the Menlo Park City School District have apparently looked Maurice Ghysels in the eye and found everything they want in a superintendent. So at a special meeting last week, it didn't take them long to offer him \$205,000 a year plus significant allowances to take over the job now held by Ken Ranella, who is retiring. It was a unanimous vote.

EDITORIAL
The opinion of The Almanac

The board members obviously had no problem with the details of Mr. Ghysels' departure from the Mountain View Whisman School District, where he worked as superintendent from 2005 to 2010. He left that job voluntarily after it became public that he was in a romantic relationship with an elementary school principal who reported directly to him. Both he and Principal Carmen Mizell were married to other people, but were filing for divorce at the time they told the school board about the relationship.

But this incident, and a few other concerns raised last year about Mr. Ghysels' oversight of Ms. Mizell, obviously did not give pause to the Menlo Park district's five board members, who for the most part raved about the district's new boss, and voted to give him the job.

Remarkably, not one board member mentioned Mr. Ghysels' indiscretion in their public statements at the meeting when he was offered a three-year contract. All five members praised their choice and one, Terry Thygesen, said that while conducting reference checks she had been impressed by the "breadth and depth of support (he) has" within the school community "at all levels."

Board president Maria Hilton said that all board members

knew about the relationship with the principal even before they interviewed him. And after "doing our due diligence," they were satisfied that Mr. Ghysels' conduct in Mountain View should not disqualify him from the Menlo Park position.

In our experience, few superintendent hopefuls make it to the final cut with even the slightest blemish on their resume. But in this case, after all six finalists for the job were interviewed, board members voted, in a blind-ballot process, to rank the candidates. It was a straw poll, but Ms. Hilton said all members ranked him No. 1.

In fact, the board may have been too eager to get to a vote on Mr. Ghysels' contract; it voted during a closed session without listing a public comment period on the agenda before that session. Some have said this is a violation of the Brown Act, which governs public meetings, a charge disputed by the district.

But although a public comment period was not included on the agenda, President Hilton offered everyone at the meeting a chance to speak before the board went into closed session, and there were no takers.

So given the enthusiasm shown for Mr. Ghysels by all five board members, who are solely responsible for hiring and firing the superintendent, it is clear he has the support he needs to take over the Menlo Park district, whose academic performance is among the best in the state.

All Mr. Ghysels has to do is maintain that record, bring in a major construction project at Hillview Middle School on budget, while dealing with one of the most challenging budget environments in the district's history. To accomplish these and other goals, he'll certainly have his hands full in the months and years ahead.

LETTERS

Our readers write

Now is the time to reclaim lane on El Camino

Editor:

The Menlo Park draft downtown plan environmental impact report points out that the plan will result in more congestion.

In my opinion, the easiest and cheapest way to mitigate that congestion is to open up El Camino to three lanes in each direction, just like in Redwood City and Palo Alto. Traffic snarls up in downtown Menlo Park already due to this head-scratching lane reduction.

The city could simply decide to wipe out the parking spaces on El Camino, send out a crew with a few cans of paint one night, and restripe El Camino to three lanes without having to pour a single gallon of asphalt. This simple expedient would make a big difference to traffic downtown right now, much less

Our Regional Heritage

The famed Menlo Park gate, erected in the 1850s by Dennis J. Oliver and Daniel C. McGlynn, immigrants from Menlough, County Galway in Ireland, was destroyed by a speeding car in 1922. The two purchased 1,700 acres on the Peninsula that later became known as Menlo Park.

Menlo Park Historical Association



in the future after the plan is adopted.

Brian Schar
Laurel Avenue, Menlo Park

Why food industry dislikes photos, videos

Editor:

Free press advocates have been outraged recently by bills in the

Florida, Iowa, and Minnesota legislatures to prohibit possession and display of videos of factory

See **LETTERS**, next page

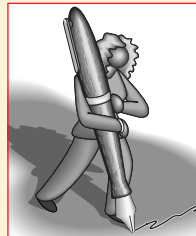
Why the downtown plan makes sense

By Henry Riggs

I don't love everything in the current Menlo Park specific plan but, unlike Martin Engel (Town Square, May 10), I don't expect to. After three years of a highly inclusive process, the recommendations that are the assumptions of the environmental impact report now in review are not my wish list — I had to share input with hundreds of others. The consensus was for change within certain guidelines, and I accept that. But there are those who will resist change at any level.

Ironically, some residents fear for their property values if we have a more vibrant downtown. And long-time commercial owners have their own interests, many simply "land banking" properties — that is, waiting for real estate values to go up again at a scale where having tenants is irrelevant — then cash in for retirement. This is not a sincere interest in our town.

I respect Mr. Engel's intentions but distrust in the face of change has made him and some others loudly resist every meaningful effort to free our town of the intentionally preventive codes of the 1990s. Frankly, the idea that we should "inhibit traffic" to discourage living and shopping in Menlo is not helpful.



GUEST OPINION

As an architect I see repeatedly how our codes discourage any but the heartiest would-be businesses — it's four weeks to four months to obtain a use permit in this town. Then there's building plans review, multiple permits and the construction itself, all while someone pays \$10,000 per month on a mortgage for an empty 3,000 square foot space. Try to do a business plan on that calendar. And that's for an existing building. Forget replacing it with a building to current codes. Think of the few new buildings on Santa Cruz Avenue and

how long they took to open for business.

We need to protect key aspects of what is Menlo Park, but we also need to allow growth so we can control growth. Stamping our feet in denial is a temporary and unrealistic effort; we've proven we can halt progress, and the result is not pretty. The specific plan is about reasonable development rules organized around infrastructure like parking; it does not cause construction, it sets clearer rules that are easier to follow and financially viable. No San Francisco-style six-story buildings. We are still a small town, so maybe nothing changes for years, but at least stagnation won't be our fault.

There are many positives in the specific plan besides allowing renewal of some sorry 1950s buildings: the nicer sidewalks, added public spaces, long-term parking, the code-required sustainability of new buildings, customers walking among businesses, and more — not just a renewed tax base.

My largest concern remains traffic generation. (Note that the impact report

evaluates traffic resulting from full, foreseeable build-out, if that ever happens). But here's the irony: new residents shop locally, it's just convenient, and we want that. But you can't have more customers without more cars to bring them, at least until local transit makes the jump to being useful and attractive. For that reason, I will be pressing relentlessly for that better transit until I see it happen. And it will happen. If there is anything that we can all agree on, it's that need.

So if you're worried about how many cars will be sitting at El Camino traffic lights in 10, 20 or 30 years, start thinking about the day we don't need the car to buy groceries, go to work in Redwood City, or get Isabel to Laurel and Jacob to Encinal schools, and demand that change too. This is, after all, all about our future.

The Planning Commission holds its hearing on the environmental impact report June 6 at 7 p.m. in the council chambers.

Henry L Riggs is a Menlo Park architect and member of the Planning Commission.

Help needed for traffic-choked Alpine Road

By Janet Davis

What does it take to get the huge (often double) tractor trailers off the totally unsuitable, medium-density residential section of Alpine Road between Junipero Serra and I-280?

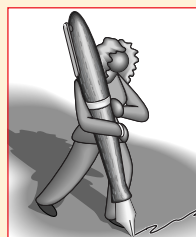
According to local papers, there are now three different lawsuits alleging that the road constitutes a "dangerous condition," arising from the tragic death of Los Altos Hills bicyclist Lauren Ward. The various dangers are well known facts and have been the subject of numerous letters to the Board of Supervisors and the county Public Works Department, as well as residents' petitions, and oral communications and discussions at various other meetings over more than a decade.

Alpine Road is a two-lane road with blind corners, many driveways and cul de sacs that front onto it, and school bus stops. It is subject to falling trees, downed power lines, rock slides, and sometimes flooding. It is frequently used by slow-moving horse trailers and farm equipment, and is a well-known bicycle route.

The entire length of intersecting Junipero Serra is posted with signs prohibiting large trucks. If this ban were enforced, no Stanford construction trucks could traverse Alpine Road on the way to Campus Drive West. I was informed by the Santa Clara County Planning Department some time ago that this "ban" is ignored pursuant to a provision in

Stanford's General Use Permit.

At times there have been convoys of up to eight double rigs racing back and forth from Stanford to I-280 via Alpine Road. These long rigs often sway into the bike lanes and across the yellow lines. They sometimes go too fast to stop safely should traffic be at a standstill around one of the blind corners.



GUEST OPINION

The entire length of the Stanford Weekend Acres portion of Alpine is posted with cautionary speed limits of 25 or 30 m.p.h. yet the official limit is 40 m.p.h., and traffic often travels at 60 m.p.h. when not at a standstill. There are no metering provisions and enforcement is rare.

Local residents have great difficulty accessing the road in an eastbound direction, and crossing to go in a westbound direction is virtually impossible at commute times. (Stanford protects the portion of Junipero Serra south of Campus Drive West, where its staff have homes, by enforcing the truck ban, and is proposing traffic calming provisions that will likely direct yet more commute traffic onto Alpine Road.)

This situation is predicted to deteriorate during and after construction of the hospital, yet the San Mateo County Public Works Department has apparently done nothing to prepare for, or mitigate the consequences. How many more people are going to have to die before remedial action is taken, especially with respect to trucks and speed limits?

Janet Davis lives on Alpine Road in Menlo Park.

Sally Jean MacBride

July 25, 1917-April 14, 2011

Sally Jean MacBride was born July 25, 1917 to June Samson Scott and James Nelson McCune in Portland, Oregon and she passed away in peace, April 14, 2011, at home in Woodside California. She will be deeply missed by her family and many friends, close by and far away.

Sally had an eclectic childhood, living with her mother and stepfather Walter Scott in Hong Kong, attending the Bishop Brent School in Baugio, the Phillipines and later Oregon Episcopal School in Portland. She was an undergraduate student at the University of California and a member of Delta Gamma sorority. She studied voice and piano in Rome, departing in haste when Italy declared war on Britain and France in the late 1930s. Shortly after returning to the United States, she married Robert Boude MacBride of Piedmont and Modesto, California. They had a long and happy marriage of over 60 years, residing, for much of that time, in Woodside, California, a community they both loved.

In addition to her love of music, Sally was an accomplished horticulturalist and an advocate for preserving native California environments and wild species. Her creek-side garden, documented in *The American Woman's Garden* by Rosemary Verey and other publications, was well-known for its collections of fragrant plants, specimen trees and naturalized bulbs. She was a lifetime member of the Governing Board at Filoli Center, where she established the Friends of Filoli support group and other education programs when the property became a public center.

Among many interests, she counted Strybing Arboretum, in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, The Garden Club of America, for which she held many local, regional and national offices, Filoli Center in Woodside, California, and, most personally, Quarryhill Botanical Garden in Glen Ellen, California, where she was also a lifetime trustee.

Sally was preceded in death by her husband Robert MacBride and is survived by three children, Alice Schilla, Suzanne Loomis and Alex MacBride and six grandchildren Annalisa Schilla, Peter Schilla, Andrew Loomis, Augusta Loomis, Cameron MacBride and Morgan MacBride, a step granddaughter Cynthia Charette and two great grandchildren, Lillian Schilla and Leif Koralek.

A vesper service is planned for 5 pm, Friday, June 3, 2011 at Woodside Village Church, 3154 Woodside Road in Woodside.

Gifts in memory:

*Quarryhill Botanical Garden: P.O. Box 232, Glen Ellen, CA 95442

*Nine Lives Animal Shelter: 1683 Broadway Redwood City, CA 94063

PAID OBITUARY

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

farming. Yet, for the meat, dairy, and egg industries that push for these bills, the prohibition makes perfect sense.

A year ago, undercover investigators exposed E6 Cattle Co. in Castro County, Texas, chaining dairy calves in tiny wood crates and bludgeoning their skulls with

pickaxes. Last June, Cal-Cruz Hatcheries in Santa Cruz were found to grind up and suffocate live chicks. In August, Iowa's Hillandale Farms and Wright County Eggs were forced to recall 550 million eggs for Salmonella contamination. If I was running one of those operations, I certainly wouldn't want people with cameras anywhere near my facilities.

Filthy conditions and cruel practices are likely to remain legal and commonplace on U.S.

factory farms, and their operators will continue to avoid public exposure. Our only option, as consumers, is to stop subsidizing these conditions and practices at the checkout counter by shifting to wholesome, cruelty-free vegetables, fruits and grains, as well as grain- and nut-based meat and dairy substitutes available in every supermarket.

**Miles Barney
Sharon Park Drive,
Menlo Park**

FOR SALE



56 Sutherland Drive, Atherton

Expansive 6-bedroom, 5.5-bath, two-level home on a cul-de-sac in west Atherton appointed with hardwood floors, oversized windows, and French doors; Exceptional gardens, terraces, plus pool and spa; Top-rated Las Lomitas schools.

OFFERED AT \$5,200,000

FOR SALE



255 Selby Lane, Atherton

Classic estate property on a cul-de-sac; beautifully updated with traditional appeal; 6 bedrooms plus 3 flex rooms and full guest house with its own gate and garage; Lovely grounds with vast lawn, koi pond, waterfall, pool, & spa

OFFERED AT \$3,995,000

FOR SALE



460 Walsh Road, Atherton

Quality 3-story estate property built by PPG in 2007 with 5 bedroom suites; Main-level master, theatre, billiards room, wine cellar, & so much more; creekside setting with pool and spa; Top-rated Las Lomitas schools

OFFERED AT \$7,200,000

FOR SALE



226 Oak Grove Avenue, Atherton

3-bedroom main home, 2-story 2-bedroom guest house + studio – all beautifully updated; Great opportunity for extended family and/or office needs; Beautiful grounds with heritage oaks, lap pool and spa; Menlo Park schools.

OFFERED AT \$3,550,000

SALE PENDING



1005 Olive Street, Menlo Park

Contemporary-style ranch with 3 bedrooms and 2 baths in the heart of central Menlo Park at the end of a long private driveway; walls of glass overlook the surrounding gardens; just blocks to downtown and top-rated Menlo Park schools

OFFERED AT \$1,595,000

SALE PENDING



2198 Clayton Drive, Menlo Park

Original adobe home fully renovated and expanded by Samuel Sinnott; hardwood floors, recycled glass mosaic tiles, master suite with spa-inspired bath, and wonderful family room off kitchen; Pool & spa; Las Lomitas schools

OFFERED AT \$3,100,000

For virtual tours of these properties, please visit www.tomlemieux.com

