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The Almanac

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

JUNE 15, 2011 | VOL. 46 NO. 42



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Almanac photo by Michelle Le

Portola Valley town historian Nancy Lund checks out the bound volumes of the Almanac from the early 1970s to 2003 at the Portola Valley Library.

Almanac archives find new home

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

The Almanac and the town of Portola Valley have a shared history. The town was incorporated in 1965, the same year the Almanac published its first issue. For its first few months of existence, the paper's founders assembled it at a Portola Valley kitchen table.

So it may be fitting that the Almanac's archives, bound volumes of old newspapers dating from the first issues up to 2003, have a new home in the Community Heritage Center in the Portola Valley library.

(The first several years are not bound, but are available in flat files in a side room.)

The archives include print photos, boxes of negatives organized by publication date for papers issued between April 1975 and March 2000, and a card catalog with references to stories and photos.

For years, this material was stored at the Almanac offices. "We were running out of space and (Portola Valley Historian) Nancy Lund gracefully offered to take the archives," Almanac

Publisher Tom Gibboney said in an interview. "She actually has done a lot of work on them that we never had the time to do."

"The town and the Almanac are almost the same age," Ms. Lund told the Almanac in an interview at the library. "It sort

'We consider it to be a rare and wonderful treasure, I can tell you.'

NANCY LUND,
PORTOLA VALLEY TOWN HISTORIAN

of makes a nice place for them if they can't be where they truly belong."

Asked to comment on the notion that the Almanac archives belonged in the Almanac offices, Mr. Gibboney said that Ms. Lund and her crew of volunteers "are much better custodians of these archives than we were, and (the archives) are much more usable."

While the card catalogs are in varying degrees of completeness, the collection of negatives appears to be missing only those photographs not taken by long-

time Almanac photographer Carol Ivie, who died in 2005.

"There's just a mystery because sometimes the negative is not there," Ms. Lund said. "The only guess we have is that it was not taken by an Almanac photographer."

"They are just wonderfully organized," she added. "Every little folder has a date on it of the issue of the paper."

There are print photos, too, hundreds of them that had been stored in Almanac file cabinets, more than a few without names. Ms. Lund said she sought help in identifying them from her counterparts Thalia Lubin of Woodside, Marion Oster of Atherton, and Frank Helfrich of Menlo Park.

"I dragged them in here to take a look," she said. "We consider it to be a rare and wonderful treasure, I can tell you."

Ms. Lund said she plans one last attempt, with veteran Almanac staff writers Marion Softky and Marjorie Mader, to identify the unidentified.

New labels

Of the bound volumes, each of which weighs maybe 20

See **ARCHIVES**, page 14

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Local News

MENLO PARK | ATHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Willows traffic plan hits dead stop in Menlo Park

■ Council votes unanimously to halt project.

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

The rhetoric was bloodthirsty, for a Menlo Park City Council meeting: One after another public speaker on June 7 urged the council to kill it. Kill it dead. Kill it good and dead and beyond hope of resuscitation — “it” being the latest iteration of the Willows traffic improvement plan.

The council considered whether to embark upon a survey to determine what Willows residents really thought about proceeding with the plan. A storm of emails to the council this week suggested that many residents already knew what they thought, and those thoughts mirrored the public comments during

the meeting.

“This is a solution that has meandered in search of a problem that does not exist. If implemented, there will be significant problems,” Patrick Daly told the council.

The suggested improvements fell into two categories, according to staff: speed reduction and traffic volume reduction. It was the notion of restricting left-hand turns on Willow Road at O’Keefe Street and also Chester Street, along with creating one-way zones on Woodland Avenue, that drew particular ire from residents speaking at the council meeting.

The five-member council was pared down to three, as Vice Mayor

Kirsten Keith and Councilwoman Kelly Fergusson recused themselves by virtue of living in the Willows neighborhood.

‘This is a solution that has meandered in search of a problem that does not exist.’

PATRICK DALY

When the time came, the remaining members voted 3-0 to stop the plan in its tracks.

“I’m going to vote against this plan. I don’t think it has a snowball’s chance in hell of passing,” Andy Cohen said, and explained that he didn’t see the need to waste time teasing out individual provisions as colleague Peter Ohtaki had sug-

gested.

Engineering Services Manager Chip Taylor said the data collected during the \$120,000 study would still prove useful for future projects.

Transportation Commissioner Ray Mueller seemed satisfied by the result, if not the process. “While I agree with the outcome of the meeting, Mayor Cline missed an opportunity last night to reprimand staff and apologize to the public and to the Transportation Commission, for the gamesmanship staff played with respect to the Willows Traffic Study, and staff’s misrepresenting the vote of the Transportation Commission in the City’s budget meeting two weeks ago. It was unfortunate,” he wrote in an email to the Almanac.

In April, the Transportation Commission voted 2-3 on a motion to recommend the plan to the council. At the time, Mr. Taylor said the commissioners had voted against recommending the plan.

However, staff appeared to reverse that opinion later — Deputy City Manager Kent Steffens told the council on May 24 that the commission had taken no action. He also said it had considered two plans, when in actuality the commissioners evaluated only one, according to Mr. Mueller.

As Mayor Cline ruminated during the meeting, that was not quite the same as voting against the plan, but the oddly worded motion caused headaches for those trying to track the study’s progress and for staff trying to explain what happened. ■

Walgreens: one-stop shop for sundries ... and alcohol?

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Next time you stop at Walgreens, you might be able to pick up a six-pack to go with that aspirin. The drugstore has asked Menlo Park to let it sell beer and wine, a request that reminded at least one veteran of last year’s battle over allowing a Beverages & More (BevMo) to open in town.

Barbara Rosasco handed out a statement at the Hometown Peninsula meeting on June 6 to share her concerns. The statement cited the number of stores already selling alcohol in the city — at least 19 now, counting BevMo — and questioned whether “easy access to alcohol” at the store, which sits at 643 Santa Cruz Ave., would entice panhandlers, lead to public disturbances, and otherwise mar the “family-oriented home town atmosphere.”

She also pointed to the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control’s requirements for issuing alcohol permits that include a demonstrated “public convenience or necessity,” and that the permit not prove detrimental to the welfare of the city.”

Those requirements were frequently tossed into the heated debate over BevMo’s permit application, along with concerns of economic damage to local merchants such as Beltramo’s and Draeger’s.

BevMo won its long battle. But Walgreens is struggling to obtain permits in other Bay Area locations, including Palo Alto and San Francisco.

Walgreens spokesman Robert Elfinger described the store’s planned offerings as limited, saying the beer and wine selec-

See **WALGREENS**, page 8



Almanac photo by Michelle Le

Cultural Arts Day

Encinal student Ethan Mirmeles has his face “tattooed” by classmate Aiden Dunn during Encinal School’s Cultural Arts Day on Friday, June 10. This year’s theme focused on the Polynesian Islands. See another photo on Page 8

Taxation with too much representation? The wilder side of redistricting

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

A proposed state redistricting plan has added some interesting dynamics to the political representation of the four communities in the Almanac’s circulation area.

The first draft of new vot-

ing-district maps that will change legislative boundaries was released by the California Citizens Redistricting Commission on June 10. The new maps redraw the boundaries of California’s congressional, state Senate, state Assembly, and state Board of Equalization districts to reflect the new census popu-

lation data.

The citizens’ commission, mandated by voters in 2008 through Proposition 11 (the Voters First Act), was created to take redistricting out of the hands of politicians.

Local impact

If the redistricting map is

implemented in its current form, Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, D-Menlo Park, would have her district boundaries shifted.

Rep. Jackie Speier’s 12th district would represent most of Menlo Park, while Atherton, Woodside and Portola Valley would stay with Ms. Eshoo. No

one from her office was available to comment on the record, including on the question of whether Ms. Eshoo would have to move out of Menlo Park so as to reside in her new district.

Meanwhile in the state Senate, depending on factors that

See **REDISTRICKT**, page 16

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Atherton employee layoffs delayed as talks continue

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

The town of Atherton agreed on June 9 to delay its planned layoff of 13 employees until July 15 while it negotiates with the union representing them, according to Teamsters union representative Peter Finn.

Mr. Finn told the Almanac that the two parties met in an afternoon session that day, during which they discussed the union's proposed 12 percent in employee concessions, offered earlier by the union in an attempt to save the employees' jobs. By the day's end, the union offered still more concessions, he said.

The town in late May announced its intent to outsource the building department and the public works department, which provides streets, parks and facilities services. The move would cost 13 employees, some of whom have worked for the town for decades, their jobs. Pink slips delivered May 31 were to be effective June 30.

Town negotiators estimated that outsourcing the services would save the town roughly \$276,000, Mr. Finn said — an estimate that prompted a second proposal by the

union: In addition to the earlier-proposed concessions, incentives would be provided for early retirements; employees would be furloughed 10 days; and employees would pay their entire contribution to the retirement system (PERS), plus a portion of the town's contribution. (The town now pays the employee contributions in addition to its own.)

Those concessions would increase the estimated \$167,000 in savings to the town of the initial proposed concessions to more than \$300,000, surpassing the town's estimated savings through outsourcing, Mr. Finn said.

Interim City Manager John Danielson could not be reached for comment.

The proposed employee contributions to PERS would amount to about 8 percent of their compensation, while the furlough days would amount to about a 4 percent reduction, Mr. Finn said.

Meanwhile, the town has issued requests for proposals (RFPs) to solicit bids from private firms interested in providing building and public works services. The bids are due in town hall by 4 p.m. June 24. ■

Budget may be passed, but questions remain

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

A budget that has yet to be reviewed at a public meeting may be approved by the Atherton City Council on Wednesday, June 15, with the understanding that a revision will be required once key questions — such as whether public services will be outsourced — are resolved.

The council will review a proposed operating budget for fiscal year 2011-12 of about \$10.53 million and a capital budget of about \$1.1 million. The fiscal year begins July 1, and a budget must be approved to keep the town going while town hall, led by an interim city manager hired to plant the economically ailing town on solid fiscal ground, reviews options for cutting costs.

Interim City Manager John Danielson was unavailable for comment, but Finance Director Louise Ho said the proposed spending plan assumes a balanced budget, which means that spending cannot exceed projected revenues of \$10.53 million. But because the town hasn't made a final decision over

outsourcing the building and public services departments, how the balance will be struck has yet to be determined.

A call for bids from private firms interested in providing the services has been issued, but proposals aren't due until June 24, and until they are reviewed, it is unknown how much such outside services would cost the town.

Vice Mayor Bill Widmer, a member of the town's Finance Committee, said he has only recently seen the proposed budget, having been out of town for several weeks. But the document has been a work in progress, and the push toward outsourcing the two departments was begun after the Finance Committee reviewed an earlier preliminary budget in April. The earlier version assumed that those departments would remain in house, he said.

Police donations

Also on the council agenda is Mr. Widmer's request for council approval of a resolution requiring specific donations made to the police depart-

See **BUDGET**, next page

Cyclist dies after accident in Woodside

Richard I. Kadet, the 67-year-old Redwood City cyclist who, on May 29, fell in a reported solo bike accident on eastbound Woodside Road near the intersection with Northgate Drive in Woodside, has died of his injuries, relatives said. He "passed away peacefully" on June 9, they said.

Mr. Kadet was "an avid road biker for more than 35 years" and an active participant in organized rides, including many 100-mile rides, wherever he lived, relatives said.

The accident left him with a severe brain injury and unconscious when he was admitted to Stanford Hospital for emergency brain surgery, deputies from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office said.

Mr. Kadet had "appeared to be in control of his bike," a witness told the deputies. He was wearing a helmet and had a regular Sunday morning routine of a 25-mile-to-40-



Photo courtesy of Kadet family
Richard I. Kadet, 67, died as a result of his injuries in a May 29 bike accident in Woodside.

mile bike trip, deputies said.

According to the witness, who told deputies that she saw the accident in her vehicle's rearview mirror, Mr. Kadet was in the bike lane when his bike began to wobble, and he fell over into the lane of traffic.

Representatives from the

Santa Clara County Coroner's Office confirmed Mr. Kadet's death but declined a request for the cause of death.

Former CFO

Mr. Kadet's career was in finance, beginning with General Electric Corp. and moving on to several positions as chief financial officer for Silicon Valley early-stage and start-up technology companies, relatives said.

He is survived by Carol Kadet, his wife of 45 years; daughter Robin of Pawlet, Vermont; sons Ken of Minnetonka, Minnesota and Greg of Tampa, Florida; two brothers in Seattle; and six grandchildren, relatives said.

A memorial service has been held. Donations in Mr. Kadet's name may be made to the Peninsula Temple Beth El Brotherhood at 1700 Alameda de las Pulgas in San Mateo, or a charity of the donor's choice.

Police commanders may get salary bump

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Right on the heels of the police sergeants union agreeing to a two-year pay freeze, the two police commanders of Menlo Park could see a pay raise of up to \$13,956 — if the City Council approves it on Tuesday.

According to the staff report, since a commander makes less than a sergeant but has more responsibility, the jump from \$128,035-\$160,044 to \$139,200-\$174,000 is necessary.

Not so fast, said pension reform advocate and planning commissioner Henry Riggs. "Seriously, enabling raises in

2011?" he said.

Police and firefighter salaries remain a hot topic of debate in the wake of November's passage of Measure L, the city's pension reform initiative, which didn't include public safety employees. City Manager Glen Rojas was not immediately available for comment.

"Pay decreases and a plentiful supply of qualified candidates are now the norm. Police in San Jose and other jurisdictions in the Bay Area are REDUCING compensation in the range of Ten Percent. Why is Menlo Park staff ignoring this reality?" wrote Ned Moritz, also a key figure behind Measure L's success, in a letter to The Almanac.

BUDGET

Continued from previous page

ment to be made anonymously, through the city manager or city attorney's office.

In a memo to the council, supported by Councilwoman Kathy McKeithen, Mr. Widmer noted that recent donations to the police department have raised concerns by some residents that the contributions "may result in favoritism."

The council agreed at its May meeting to forward the issue to this month's agenda for discussion.

At the May meeting, Mr. Widmer also proposed, with support by Ms. McKeithen, that the council consider forming an ethics oversight board for the town. Under Mr. Widmer's proposal, the board would confidentially review citizen complaints of actions by town employees, and return to the council with a recommendation. The ethics board idea was nixed in a 3-2 vote.

The meeting is set to begin at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 94 Ashfield Road in the Town Center. ■

Both Mr. Riggs and Mr. Moritz questioned why the raises were tucked into the agenda under a budgetary item rather than labor negotiations.

The City Council meeting starts Tuesday, June 14, in council chambers at the Civic Center at 701 Laurel St. ■

Rep. Anna Eshoo recovering from appendectomy

U.S. Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Menlo Park, underwent an appendectomy June 7 and spent the week recuperating from the successful operation, her office said.

Rep. Eshoo, a resident of Menlo Park, canceled her scheduled speech at the June 8 Gunn High School graduation. Her office arranged a substitute speaker, U.S. Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-San Jose, who was a member of Gunn's first graduating class in 1966.

The laparoscopic appendectomy took place at Stanford Hospital and was performed by Dr. Karen Whang. Rep. Eshoo's office reported that there were no complications.

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Gloria Darke



Financial Difficulties

Q. Dear Gloria, We have been having financial difficulties for the past year and can no longer afford to keep our house. I know it isn't a good time to sell but we don't want to fall behind on our mortgage payments. What are the best steps we can take to facilitate a fast sale with a good price?

A. Dear Sellers, I am sorry for your problems. I am sure it is of little comfort to know you are not alone. I do applaud your decision to take action before you damage your credit as well as cause additional stress in your life. So what can you do to make the best of the situation and maximize your position? I would say that there are two important points: One, price it right for this market. Two, get the house in the best possible condition. So much has been said and written about pricing in this market

that no more need be said. However, getting the house in good condition is so important.

I would recommend that you deal only with cosmetics and what buyers can really see. There are some sellers who like to have a new furnace, update the plumbing, fix the fireplace, etc. Perhaps these items need to be addressed by way of a counter and the seller give a credit for items that are non-functional but these are not the upgrades that buyers see and are willing to pay for. Focus on the most dramatic transformations with new paint, perhaps floor coverings and decluttering. The most bang for the buck that you can get is by hiring a professional stager. They will make all the recommendations and for a relatively small amount will rent furniture, art, and even bedcoverings to you until the house sells. And don't forget to make the front of the house appealing so that when potential buyers drive up they can make an emotional connection.

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Save it or not, dealing with oak tree carries steep price tag

■ SFPUC and “Granny’s” neighbors evaluate costs.

By Caitlin Moyles
and Sandy Brundage
Special to the Almanac

A tunnel might be the key to saving “Granny,” the 65-foot-tall heritage oak tree standing in the way of a new Hetch Hetchy pipeline, but it won’t come cheap. Then again, neither will any other option, according to a meeting between the tree’s neighbors and San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) officials on June 9.

The centuries-old oak sits in the middle of a site at 827 15th Ave. in North Fair Oaks that’s designated for a pipeline meant to carry water from the Hetch Hetchy as part of a \$4.6 billion seismic improvement project. The commission initially planned to kill the tree in May on short notice, which sparked a protest from Granny’s neighbors.

SFPUC Project Manager Joseph Ortiz presented an estimate from a contractor, Mountain Cascade, which would charge \$269,000 to dig a tunnel — steep, but significantly lower than the SFPUC’s initial estimate of \$437,000.

A tunnel might cause problems for more than the commission’s piggy bank. Condensation on the surface of the pipeline may cause the oak’s roots to wrap around the pipe and cause corrosion, said project arborist Matt Horowitz. Last week he excavated around the tree and found numerous roots that may be corroding a pipe already installed nearby.

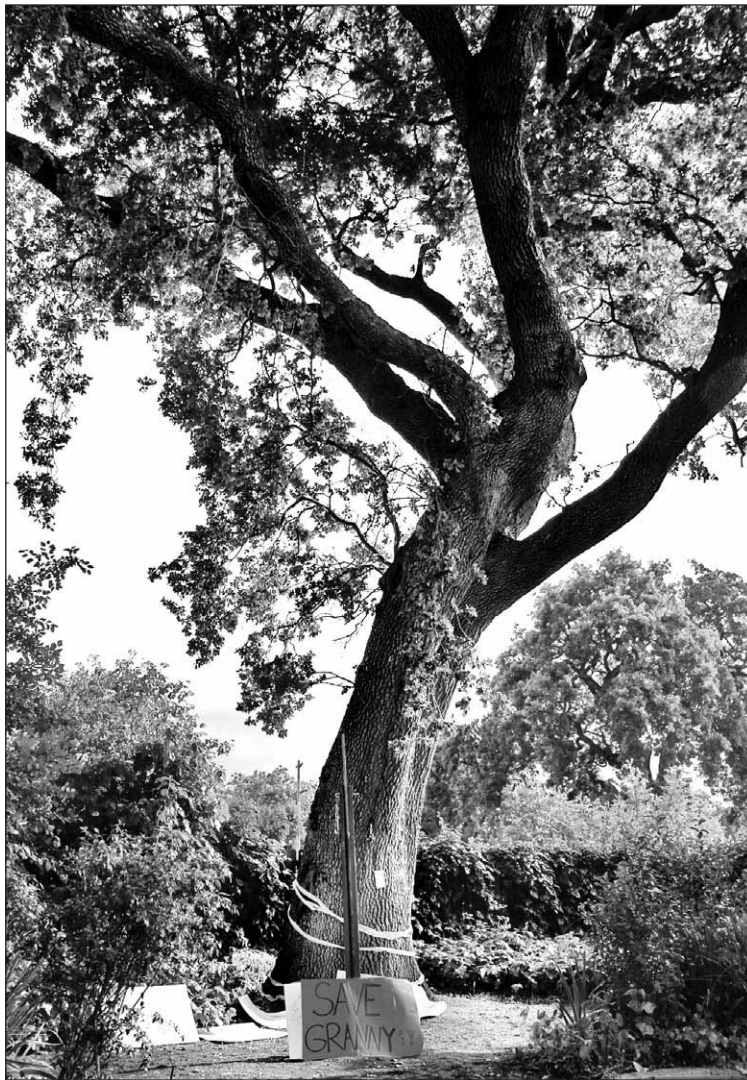
Roots touching the new pipe may not cause the same damage as they did to the old pipe, which was built in the 1930s, said Mr. Ortiz.

The SFPUC told the Almanac that it doesn’t track root-induced pipeline failures or corrosion in its databases. Manager Dave Briggs estimated three to four leaks plague the regional pipeline system each year, and that corrosion causes a portion of those.

“Leaks are indicative of reduced pipeline strength,” he said. “It may also be helpful to know that our policy with tree roots is very standard and not something unique to the SFPUC. No pipeline owner wants roots on or near their pipelines.”

Not everyone agrees that Granny’s roots pose a threat. A report released two weeks ago by an arborist hired by the neighbors called the likelihood of damage “so small as to be irrelevant.” Barrie Coate, who also works as an arborist for the City of Saratoga, wrote that the pipeline’s depth should stop roots from reaching it.

Relocating Granny is also on the table, but no one knows where the tree’s new home should be. Environmental Design Inc., a tree-transplanting company, estimated \$275,000 for moving expenses if the oak goes to a nearby county-owned park. Mr. Ortiz added that relocating the tree to the park would require an official agreement with San Mateo County, which would take on the responsibility for the tree’s care and maintenance.



Almanac photo by Michelle Le

North Fair Oaks residents are fighting to save this centuries-old oak that could be cut down to make way for the Hetch Hetchy pipeline improvement project.

On the other hand, scooting the tree closer to the home it currently overlooks would require demolishing landscapes on the adjacent

properties.

Arborist Jane Herman also expressed concern that pruning the roots in preparation for a move

could damage the oak’s health.

Cost remains a priority, Mr. Ortiz said, since the commission is under pressure from people paying for water in the San Francisco area to keep rates low.

Granny’s neighbors responded that the \$40,000 estimated by Mountain Cascade for the tree’s removal is misleadingly low. They noted that the costs of trenching, laying pipe, and the loss of goodwill between the utilities commission and the public should be factored into the price.

Mr. Ortiz agreed and said SFPUC is still considering all options. “Regardless of what we do, it will probably cost the same amount,” he said.

With this in mind, the neighbors seemed to agree that tunneling under Granny is the most viable option. “The solution with the lowest impact for the tree is to leave it in place and tunnel underneath it, cutting as few roots as possible,” said Charles Berkstresser, whose property is home to the oak tree, adding that their objective is to find an option that serves both the tree and the pipeline. The neighbors also said they don’t want to delay what they acknowledged to be a very important project.

Both sides did agree on one item — Granny’s roots, currently exposed by the excavated trench, will be wrapped in moist burlap for protection until a decision is made.

The commission and the neighbors will meet again in a couple weeks, after an SFPUC arborist alongside Mr. Coate further investigate the site. ■

Facebook’s Mark Zuckerberg speaks to Belle Haven School graduates

Families of approximately 75 eighth-graders graduating from the K-8 Belle Haven School in Menlo Park got a surprise June 8 when Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg showed up as the commencement speaker.

Mr. Zuckerberg told students that achieving their goals would not be easy but would take hard work — and that surrounding them-

selves with good friends would be important.

“It was very emotional,” said a school staff member. “The kids were very surprised and excited he was there.”

The celebrity visit had been a complete secret tightly held by Belle Haven Principal Maria Ibarra.

— Chris Kenrick

WALGREENS

continued from page 5

tion would take up only about 2 percent of shelf space.

“Our small section won’t feel like another liquor store in the neighborhood,” he said. “We’re known across the country as a very responsible retailer; we’ve been in business since 1901. We’re going to create a safe environment for someone to occasionally buy a bottle of wine.”

The drugstore chain carried a

full liquor selection during the 1990s, but according to Mr. Elfinger, Walgreens stopped once the displays proved too cumbersome for managers. The move to start carrying alcohol again comes in response to customers asking for a one-stop shopping experience.

The use permit comes before the Menlo Park Planning Commission on Monday, June 27. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. in the council chambers at the Civic Center, 701 Laurel St. ■



Almanac photo by Michelle Le

Cultural Arts Day

Fo’ou Tangi, right, teaches Encinal students a dance called Ma’ulu’ulu, in the multipurpose room during Cultural Arts Day on Friday, June 10. This year’s theme focused on the Polynesian Islands. Students from Cesar Chavez Academy and Costano Elementary School taught and performed dances and hosted a luau. See another photo on Page 5.

City chops tree removal request in half

■ Country club gets OK to remove 37.

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

The Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club at 2900 Sand Hill Road asked Menlo Park for permission to cut down 82 heritage trees, of which 79 are coastal redwoods. The trees line the first nine holes of the golf course.

The city's response? Cut down 37. Dueling arborist reports suggest the reason for partially denying the club's request has to do with differing evaluations of tree health.

On behalf of the club, arborist Straun Edwards of Trees 360 Degrees inspected the heritage trees slated for removal and concluded that 75 percent are either hazardous or unhealthy. In addition to potentially hurting the golf course economically, Mr. Edwards wrote, the



Coastal redwoods at Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club in Menlo Park.

■ MENLO PARK

trees were planted too close together to thrive.

The city's arborist begged to differ. That report states the remaining 45 trees are in good condition that will only improve

with routine maintenance — and with the removal of the others.

According to Rebecca Fotu, environmental programs manager for Menlo Park, the deadline for appealing the decision is June 23. Club management was unavailable for comment. ■

City gets ready to bargain for Flood Park

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

As Menlo Park prepares to start negotiating to take over Flood Park, residents called a June 13 meeting to figure out how to help.

Faced with needing to cut 10 percent from its operating budget, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors recommended permanently shutting down the 21-acre park, located at 215 Bay Road, which costs a minimum \$205,000 annually. Right now the park is closed until Sept. 30, while the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission installs a water pipeline. When open, the park receives an estimated 75,000 visitors a year, according to county data.

The county has asked Menlo

Park to consider taking over park operations. A staff report for the City Council meeting on June 14 indicates Menlo Park intends to ask the county to help cover maintenance and capital improvement costs.

A survey of the park identified "a long list of outstanding deferred maintenance needs" at the park, according to the staff report, which would add to the price tag.

The county has now planned to set aside enough money in its 2011-12 budget to keep the park open until April, buying the city time to figure out whether it should take over, if the Board of Supervisors approves the budget.

Meanwhile, the community hasn't sat idle. What started off as a grassroots neighbor-

hood group is becoming a new, formal 501(c)3 nonprofit named "Friends of Flood Park," according to co-founder Jill Olson, who will serve as treasurer. Kristin Cox as president and Amy McGarghan as secretary fill out the board. With the Silicon Valley Community Foundation serving as a financial agent, the nonprofit said it can now accept donations to help save the park.

Ms. Olson said so far the group has organized a letter-writing campaign, resulting in at least 80 emails to the City Council supporting acquisition of Flood Park, and distributed 240 lawn signs throughout the park's neighborhood.

Visit savefloodpark.org for more information. ■

Playhouses raise \$500,000 for Rebuilding Together

By Caitlin Moyles
Special to the Almanac

Stanford Shopping Center set the stage for 15 custom-made playhouses, ranging in themes from a classic firehouse to Dr. Seuss. The playhouses helped raise \$500,000 for Rebuilding Together Peninsula at the 10th Dreams Happen gala and playhouse auction, which was hosted at the shopping center on June 4.

Rebuilding Together is a nonprofit dedicated to rehabilitat-

ing homes and facilities for low-income families.

This year, Dreams Happen drew 350 attendees, said spokesperson Kate Comfort Harr. The highest winning bid was \$60,000 for an outpost-themed playhouse designed by Arcanum Architects and built by Behrens-Curry Homes.

The live auction was held in the shopping center's main pavilion with NBC 11's Diane Dwyer as emcee, she said. Guests also partook of an indoor cocktail and

dinner hour catered by Stanford Shopping Center restaurants.

Dreams Happen has raised about \$3 million for Rebuilding Together Peninsula since its inception in 1993, Ms. Harr said. A 30-person committee, consisting mostly of members of the Junior League of Palo Alto-Mid Peninsula, organized the event. Michelle Kirsch and Lisa Pedersen co-chaired the event. Visit rebuildingtogetherpeninsula.org for more information about Dreams Happen. ■

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—Sandra Scherer,
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Transportation commission scrutinizes downtown plan's environmental impact report

By **Sandy Brundage**

Almanac Staff Writer

Is there actually less traffic in Menlo Park now than a decade ago? When the city released the draft environmental impact report (EIR) for a revision of the downtown and El Camino Real corridors, it was a milestone for a plan that's been years in the making. Now that the scrutiny has begun, it didn't take long to identify a glitch.

The Transportation Commission met on June 8 to discuss the report. Commissioner Ray Mueller said he reviewed Menlo Park's historical traffic data from 1995 to 2009, and discovered that traffic dropped by approximately 12 percent during those years even though the city's population grew 14 percent.

However, the draft EIR, like previous traffic studies have done, assumes a 1 percent annual increase in traffic. Although the report states that figure is based on historical data obtained by monitoring Menlo Park's streets, city staff told the Transportation Commission that it's actually an industry standard applied to built-out cities.

"We're not creating a specific plan for an industry standard," Mr. Mueller noted. "We're creating it for what's actually going to occur in Menlo Park." He then proceeded to present a data analysis showing traffic volume had decreased.

The city's transportation manager, Atul Patel, responded that the economic downturn could account for that; the recession led to fewer cars on the streets. Mr.

Mueller countered that traffic decreased even during the dot-com boom.

Staff pointed out that the traffic projections are intended to also capture regional growth, such as increased traffic from the Stanford hospital expansion, and that using the 1 percent factor instead of historical data wasn't likely to change the overall projected traffic impacts.

The study estimates 13,385 more car trips per day into the downtown area under the development scenario outlined in the specific plan. That includes 899 more car trips during the morning commute, and 1,319 more car trips during the evening, although it's still unclear how the draft EIR takes all regional projects into account.

"We have a very small area and a lot of cars coming into it, and it's really important that we get this right," Mr. Mueller said.

Commissioner says traffic has dropped 12 percent since 1995.

The Planning Commission heard a similar staff presentation on the draft EIR earlier last week, and decided to hold four meetings during the summer to review the document before providing recommendations to the council. On Tuesday, June 14, the council will review the current status of the draft EIR evaluation process.

The public comment period for the draft EIR ends Monday, June 20. Submit comments to Thomas Rogers at throgers@menlopark.org or to the Community Development Department, 701 Laurel St., Menlo Park, CA 94025, or fax to 327-1653. ■

Silt curtains part of huge water project

By **Caitlin Moyles**

Special to the Almanac

Commuters traveling on Interstate 280 and Highway 92 may notice bright yellow booms floating in the Crystal Springs and San Andreas reservoirs in the coming weeks. The booms are silt curtains, which are being deployed as part of the massive \$4.6 billion seismic improvement project for the Hetch Hetchy Regional Water System.

The silt curtains will block biological species from entering the work zones and protect water quality by containing disturbed sediment, said the San Francisco Public Utilities Com-

mission.

Divers will begin underwater work on outlets and pipelines at depths of more than 100 feet, the commission said. All watercraft and materials entering the reservoirs will be screened to prevent non-native species and contaminants from entering the water.

The Crystal Springs Reservoir System serves as the emergency water supply for about one million people in San Mateo and San Francisco counties. The utilities commission expects the giant seismic improvement project to be completed in 2013.

Visit sfwater.org/SCT for construction updates.

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Now we invite you and your family to help us celebrate ours. More information at anniversary.lpch.org.



20th Anniversary
Lucile Packard
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at Stanford

Stanford Hospital Health Notes

A community health education series from Stanford Hospital & Clinics

Pulled Back from the Brink: Spine Neurosurgery Comes to Rescue When Injury Threatens Spinal Cord

Matthew Ryan had been an athlete all his life before a big Pacific Ocean wave slammed him under water with a violent shock. “Ironically, I’d been backing off. I’d already stopped doing contact sports,” he said. “I was just doing a little bit of bike riding and swimming and golf.”

Ryan had played serious contact sports college football and rugby and playground basketball. “I beat my body up quite a bit,” he said. Nearing 50, and veteran of three Iron Man competitions, he was still strong, “but internally my body was breaking down.”

Ryan had followed his youthful interest in the mechanics of the body and trained in biomechanics and athletic training. He was also coaching a high school track team in Santa Cruz. He was married, the father of two. In January 2009, with a third child about to be born, he and his mother-in-law decided to take the kids to the beach and give his wife Sara a bit of a break. It was a warm Sunday afternoon and Ryan asked his son if he’d like to see his dad do some boogie-boarding.

Ryan paddled out into the waves and prepared. The wave he saw

coming for him gave him barely enough time register what was about to happen. “I knew I was about to be thrown, and when you know you’re going to be underwater for a while, you take a deep breath,” he said. “I’ve done that in bodysurfing a thousand times.”

A Surreal Vision

As the wave flipped him down onto the ocean floor, he took a hit against it so hard that he didn’t really know what had happened. “I took a second to check and that’s when I knew I couldn’t feel my body. It was surreal. I was looking up and could see the sun through the water and I thought, ‘This is it.’ I started thinking that if I lived, I would be a quadriplegic and a big burden to my family. I started thinking about Christopher Reeve and another friend who broke his neck.”

Somehow, he got his face up out of the water and took a huge gulp of air and someone saw him—a surfer who had been a lifeguard ran to grab Ryan and haul him up onto the beach.

“My little girl was there, crying,” Ryan said, “and I called my wife as they were loading me into the ambulance and told her, ‘It’s going to be all right.’ Later, she told me she’d been thinking, ‘The baby can’t come until he’s back.’”

Three days later, Ryan was at his wife’s side as she gave birth to their second daughter, Charlotte, at a hospital in Santa Cruz. And, he could

stand to cut her umbilical cord, as he had done for the couple’s other children.

The only reason he could do that, Ryan said, is because of what happened for him at Stanford Hospital & Clinics, under the care of Jon Park, MD, Director of Stanford’s Comprehensive Spine Neurosurgery.

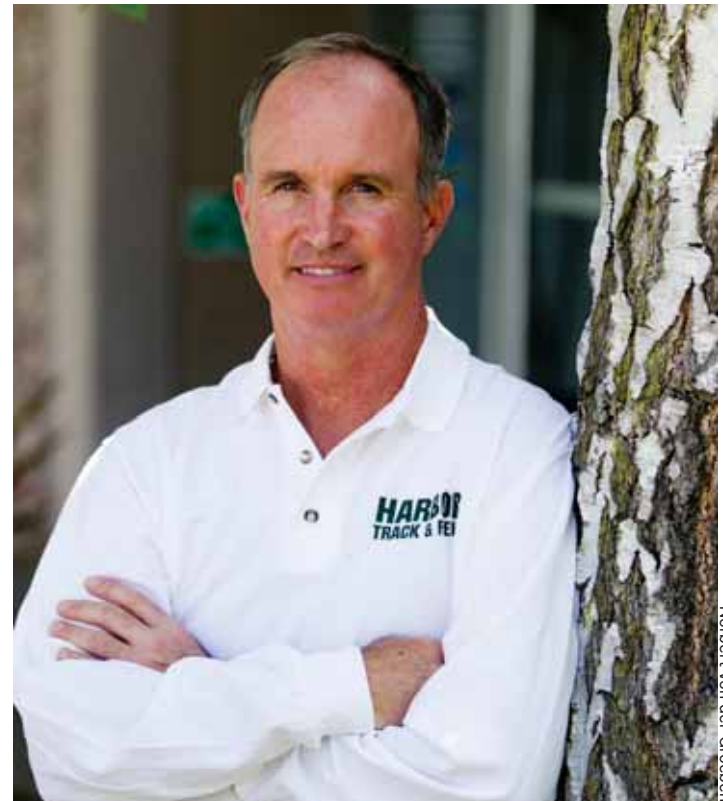
The Best in the World

“He came in to see me in the ICU and I could tell right away he was extremely bright and well-educated. He had a great bedside manner, very personal and very professional at the same time,” Ryan said. “Here I am, I don’t know what’s going on, how badly damaged I was going to be, but I’d been told he was the best in the world. I just gave myself to him and said, ‘Do everything that you do and I’m good with that.’”

“I was looking up and could see the sun through the water and I thought, ‘This is it.’”

— Matthew Ryan, patient, Stanford Hospital & Clinics

What Park saw in the CT and MRI images was a mess. Ryan had multiple fractures of his spine at the sixth and seventh vertebrae, leading down from his skull. One of the damaged vertebrae was pushing the other one out of position and both were pushing against Ryan’s spinal cord. The images also tracked nerve activity and found abnormal spinal cord signals at higher vertebrae and a cord compression at the sixth. The ligaments supporting the muscles around those sixth and seventh vertebrae were also injured and pushing them out of place.



Norbert von der Groeben

After Matthew Ryan took a tumble from a boogie board and fractured vertebrae high in his spine, Stanford spine neurosurgeon Jon Park spent seven hours putting things back together. Later, “he told me I’d been very, very hurt and that I was very, very lucky.”

For seven hours, Park carefully maneuvered through Ryan’s vertebrae, first going in through the front-facing side of Ryan’s neck to reset the dislocated vertebrae. Then, he turned Ryan over and made an incision to get directly at the spine to pick out fragments of cartilage, finishing off the surgery by putting a protective cage around the injured vertebrae. The cage is made out of titanium, a metal noted for its strength and light weight. Park told Ryan later he was very surprised that the sixth vertebrae had not gone right through



Norbert von der Groeben

Ryan, a lifelong athlete who’d completed two Ironman competitions, is still physically active golfing, swimming and cycling. Now, he’s added martial arts to a routine that keeps him active without stress on his spine.



For decades, Ryan has coached young athletes, using his knowledge to help them do well without injury.

A Pain in Your Back

- Nine out of 10 people in the United States will experience low back pain at least once during their lives. It's the most common reason people go to the doctor or miss work.
- Most back pain resolves itself with nonsurgical treatment and self-care.
- Many forms of nonsurgical therapies, such as physical therapy, can help, especially in the short term.
- While a small minority of chronic back pain patients have a physical abnormality, like a large bone spur, scoliosis or significant disc degeneration, many people will have no obvious anatomic cause for the pain.
- Spinal stenosis, the most common surgical need in the United States for people over 50, can often be treated with physical therapy or by using a cane before surgery is required.

- The vast majority of back pain patients do not need surgery, said Stefan Mindea, MD, Director of Minimally Invasive Spinal Surgery in Stanford's Comprehensive Spine Neurosurgery program. "Back surgery does not work if you are not the right candidate," he said.
- A comprehensive care team can include a spine neurosurgeon, pain anesthesiologist, rehabilitation psychiatrist, and a neuropsychiatrist to manage surgical and nonsurgical disorders of the spine and peripheral nerves.
- Injuries like Matt Ryan's require specialized trauma care that may involve spine reconstruction.

Source: Stanford Health Library

For more information about spinal conditions and comprehensive neurospine care at Stanford, visit stanfordhospital.org/neurospine 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.

the cord, which would have left Ryan without feeling or the ability to move his body below his neck.

"What he also saw was a lot of instability that wasn't part of my neck fracture, from earlier injuries," Ryan said. "It also helped that I have a very long neck so he could move things around to put in the titanium cage to stabilize everything."

Park is modest about the surgery he did on Ryan. "Knowing I have made a difference for someone is what rewards me at the end of the day," he said.

Tricky territory

He is very serious about the complex geometry of the spine and the spinal cord. "The spine is a joint," Park said, "and when you're treating a joint you have to be very careful it's a mechanical area, not like a liver or an appendix."

Park, who also directs Stanford's Spine Research Laboratory, heads a



Ryan had multiple fractures of his spine at the sixth and seventh vertebrae, leading down from his skull. One of the damaged vertebrae was pushing the other one out of position and both were pushing against Ryan's spinal cord. In a seven-hour surgery, Stanford spine neurosurgeon Jon Park reset the dislocated vertebrae, picked out cartilage fragments and placed a titanium cage around the vertebrae to stabilize Ryan's spine.

team that includes Stefan Mindea, MD, Director of Minimally Invasive Spinal Surgery and Larry Shuer, MD, a professor of neurosurgery at the Stanford School of Medicine. Shuer is also past president of the California Association of Neurological Surgeons.

"The spine is a joint and when you're treating a joint, you have to be careful. It's not like a liver or an appendix."

— Jon Park, MD, Director, Stanford Hospital Comprehensive Spine Neurosurgery

The Stanford spine neurosurgery team's research includes work on artificial disc technologies, regenerative spinal technologies, radiosurgery for spinal cancers and degenerative spine disease.

Surgery on the spine has improved in many important ways, Park said. What has had the greatest impact are those diagnostic and treatment techniques that mean large incision

surgery is not necessarily required to care for spinal trauma, disease and deformities. Minimally invasive procedures, sometimes accomplished through incisions as small as 1 centimeter, are now possible, guided by video and robotic instrumentation developed especially to work in the spine. Stanford's neurosurgery spine physicians have been pioneers in such minimally invasive techniques.

Research has also found alternatives to major surgery, Park said. "Many spine problems we can treat without surgical intervention — like degenerative disc disease. We can selectively choose an area and do a minimally invasive procedure or something non-invasive that will improve a patient's condition. Putting in hardware is an end stage treatment."

In Ryan's case, it made sense. And it was so effective that he was up and about, although moving slowly, the day after the surgery when Park came to talk with him again. "He told me I'd been very, very hurt and that I was very, very lucky."

A few hours later, Ryan's mother-in-law called. Sara Ryan was in labor. Ryan asked if he could leave. Park said yes, and off Ryan went. His wife's physicians, who knew what had happened to him, were so surprised to see him arrive that they all came over to exclaim over him. "She's saying, 'Excuse me, I'm giving birth here!' But I stood up, shuffled over and cut the cord and little Charlotte came into the world."



Norbert von der Groeben

Ryan, a physical therapist, is back at his job with no signs of the injury that nearly took his life or the surgery that saved it.



Norbert von der Groeben

knowledge of biomechanics and athletic training to make sure

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



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TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TOWN BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011/2012

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley will hold a public hearing on the Proposed Town Budget for Fiscal Year 2011/2012, Wednesday, June 22, 2011 at 7:30 p.m., in the Historic Schoolhouse, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, California.

Comments may be submitted in writing prior to the Town Council meeting or presented at the meeting. All interested persons are invited to appear before the Town Council at the time and place herein above mentioned.

The Proposed Town Budget for fiscal year 2011/2012 is available for viewing on the Town website at www.portolavalley.net as well as copies are available between 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.; 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at Portola Valley Town Hall, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, California and, via mail by contacting Sharon Hanlon, Town Clerk at 650-851-1700 ext. 210.

Dated: June 9, 2011

Sharon Hanlon
Town Clerk

How to use the Almanac archives

Bound volumes of the Almanac from the 1970s to 2003 are available to the public in the Community Heritage Room of the Portola Valley Library whenever the library is open.

Write to HistoricResources@portolavalley.net or call Town Clerk Sharon Hanlon at 851-1700, ext. 210, to schedule an appointment to use reference catalogs for particular stories and photo negatives, and to view issues from the late 1960s. The

Heritage Room is staffed on Thursdays between 3 and 5 p.m.

The Portola Valley Library at 765 Portola Road is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Go to AlmanacNews.com for an online archive of issues from 1998 to the present. Use the search box at the top of the page or click on the "Recent Editions" link in the column on the left.

The Menlo Park Historical

Association has a bound Menlo Park-oriented Almanac collection published during the 1970s and 1980s.

The association's offices are in the basement of the Menlo Park Library at 800 Alma St. and are open from noon to 3 p.m. Tuesdays and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesdays.

Write to mphistorical@yahoo.com or call 330-2522 to schedule an appointment for another time.

How one Woodside resident used Almanac archives

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

The new home for the Almanac's archives — in the Community Heritage Room of the Portola Valley Library — proved useful recently to Woodside resident Harvey Rosenthal.

Mr. Rosenthal, who in 1978 and 1979 helped in a community effort to protect from subdivision of the open space now known as Kite Hill, was looking for the Almanac's coverage of

that collective enterprise.

He mentioned a couple of names from that effort to Portola Valley town historian Nancy Lund, who went to the Almanac's card catalog and found references to relevant stories and letters to the editor, Mr. Rosenthal said in a phone interview.

"I was very impressed," he said. "Nancy was able to go to her catalog that the Almanac editors kept back in the day. It was just very impressive that everyone at the Almanac was so conscientious at

cross-referencing the stories with the dates and everything."

He said he went back some time later to look up a Woodside May Day parade story featuring his son as kindergarten "king" of the parade and former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Joe Montana as parade marshal.

Ms. Lund found photos of them both in the photo negative collection and Mr. Rosenthal sent prints to his son.

The experience "was great fun," Mr. Rosenthal said. ■

ARCHIVES

continued from page 3

pounds, the black covers have held up but the original labels had been showing their age. The new labels resurrect the paper's original name, the Country Almanac, an adjective that lives

on in the minds of many in the circulation area but which was formally dropped years ago in favor of "The Almanac."

Removing the labels sometimes involved solvents, she said, and they worked to not discolor the black book covers. Asked how much time it took to replace them, Ms. Lund sighed

and said, "Oh, a lot."

The volumes sit in shelves of blond wood, like the rest of the shelving in the room. Tor Lund, Ms. Lund's husband, and Jim Lipman, another Portola Valley resident, followed the ethic of the library's construction and built the shelves from sustainably harvested wood, Ms. Lund said.

The shelves sit on the floor along a wall. The first plan had the shelves hanging off the wall, she said, but visitors would have had to climb a ladder to get to them, a building inspector would have had to approve the plans, and it might have cost \$2,000.

In its current form, it was a \$300 project. Mr. Lund and Mr. Lipman donated their labor, Ms. Lund said.

Back in the day, people read only by means of words on paper. Today, there are viewing screens of great variety, and visual clarity that approaches the quality of print. Should the archives be digitized? Almanac text near the bindings is nearly impossible to read and truly impossible to photocopy.

The idea of an online archive came up at a May 2010 Town Council meeting but went essentially nowhere.

Redwood City archives include printed newspapers that go back to the 19th century, Ms. Lund noted. "They're fine," she said. "They're bound and they're fine. I hope that these will be as well." ■

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La Entrada School awards diplomas to 127 students

Submitted by Tanya Rianda, sixth grade/student activities director, La Entrada School.

GRADUATION 2011

Graduates

A-C: Shannon Aguiar, Brooke Anderson, Grace Baker, Natalie Baker, Luke Balzarini, Grace Barada, Conner Bennett, Jason Blazensky, Sydney Bonham, Brenten Brandenburg, Francesca Burlington, Renee Butler, Victoria Canny, Grace Casolo, Kendall Chapman, John Chitouras, Ikjoo Cho, Marie-Agnes Claverie, Brian Coggins, Gabriel Cohen, Alice Coleman

D-G: Ashley Davis, Natalie DeLong, Jennifer DiSanto, Evan Easton, Marta Fatica, Sean Felderman, Wesley Fischer, Benjamin Flanagan, Ryan Foster, Hayley Fryling, Taylor Fryling, Katelyn Gaherty, Justin Galvin, Alexander Garcia, Ashley Garcia, Max Gardiner, Sarah Geonzon, Daryl Goins, Zachary Golland, Alyssa Goldberg, Alexander Gonzalez, Erin Goode, Jenna Greenstein, Christine Guenin

H-L: Athony Hernandez, Anthony Hernandez, Kyle Hom, Inga Hwang, Mikel Hylkeima, Ryan Jacquemet, Roman Joustra, Zachary Katz, Caroline Kelly, Hanna Kiani, Paul Kiraly, Didrik Koister, Matthew Korman, Sebastian Krappe, Donald LaHaye, Edward LaHaye, Grant LeRoy, Chloe Lete, Thomas Liang, Benjamin Lipps, Adam Lowsky

M-P: Garrett Mack, Elijah Madrid, Madeleine Maibach, Cameron Malloy, Natalie Marshall, Uate Mataele, Louise Mathevon, Thibault Mathevon, Sabrina Mathews, Steven McColloch, Matthew McGarry, Roman Mezger, Justin Molano, Healey Montague-Alamin, Misato Muraoka, Paige Muschott, Deric Nicolas, Taylor Noble, Farbod Nowzad, Clayton Olsen, Yitzhak Olvera, Talbott Paulsen, Will Peirce, Erin Perrine, Anne Perrone, Cathrine Petersen, Ara Peterson, Maxwell Peterson, Maria Pinto-Garcia, Nicolas Plume, Elizabeth Purpura

Q-Z: Zachary Rash, Ashley Richardson, William Richardson, Weston Sabatini, Daniel Salz, Adam Scandlyn, Stephanie Schein, Nicole Schoonbrood-Fox, Lindsay Schott, Katherine Scioscia, Sarah Scofone, Kiera Shepard, Justin Shin, Nicole Stanley, Chelsea Tam, Isabelle Tearse, Peyton Uphoff, Ashley Utz, Kyrie Vesely, Blanca Vina-Patino, Kartikeya Vinayak, Matthew Vollrath, Adam Weiss, Erin White, Katherine Wilcox, Kyle Windsor, Amanda Wiseman, Byron Yu, TiaJames Zuleta

La Entrada's Class of 2011 received diplomas June 8 during a festive ceremony in the Menlo Park middle school's gym that featured class speakers, music, awards, and short recorded student reflections on their times in the Las Lomitas School District.

The 127 eighth-graders entered the gym to "100 Years" by Five for Fighting and exited to "Viva la Vida" by Coldplay.

Eric Hartwig, superintendent of the Las Lomitas School District, welcomed the students, their families and guests. William Richardson, student body president, served as master of ceremonies.

Ashley Utz, Amanda Wiseman, Sebastian Krappe, and Brook Anderson were selected as the featured student speakers. All eighth-graders wrote an essay in their English classes. The speeches were narrowed to finalists who gave their speeches to teachers serving as judges. ASB Secretary Conner Bennett led the flag salute.

Sonya Dineen, assistant principal, presented the Larry McCarty Inspirational Award to eighth-grader Farbod Nowzad, who was nominated by a peer and chosen by a committee from the Larry McCarty Foundation for Kids and school representatives.

Principal Larry Thomas announced the student awards and presented the graduating class to John McDonald, president of the Las Lomitas School District board, who awarded the diplomas.

A reception was held immediately after the ceremony before the graduates celebrated later at "Grad Night," planned by their parents.

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2011

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The wilder side of redistricting

REDISTRICT

continued from page 5

include the November 2010 mayor's election in San Francisco, Woodside and Portola Valley could end up with two state senators until 2014, or one, or none, according to Sen. Leland Yee's spokesman, Adam Keigwin. Sen. Yee represents Portola Valley and Woodside.

There is also a scenario in which the "no state senator until 2014" outcome could include Menlo Park and Atherton, Mr. Keigwin said.

As for the state Assembly, the redistricting appears not to have shifted any part of the Almanac's circulation area out of the 21st District, which is represented by Rich Gordon.

Senate roulette

According to Mr. Keigwin, Portola Valley's and Woodside's state Senate representation will depend on 1) whether their new district is assigned an even or odd number, 2) whether their current senator, Sen. Leland Yee, is elected mayor of San Francisco, and 3) if Sen. Yee wins that election, what date Gov. Jerry Brown sets for a special election to replace him in the state Senate.

Important point: A redistricted map would go into effect at the next scheduled general election. For even numbered districts, that means 2014. For odd numbered, it's 2012.

Portola Valley and Woodside are in state Senate District 8, but the new map has them reassigned out of Sen. Yee's district to an as yet unnumbered district, Mr. Keigwin said. But the voters in his district elected Sen. Yee for another four-year term in 2010 and that map is valid until 2014. The only way that map could become invalid is by a special election to replace Sen. Yee, but it would also depend on when that special election is held, Mr. Keigwin said.

The two towns could have two state senators, Mr. Keigwin said, if their new district is assigned an odd number, meaning an election in 2012, and if Sen. Yee is elected mayor of San Francisco, thus necessitating a special election, and if Gov. Brown chooses that the election be held on or before June 5, 2012.

If Sen. Yee loses his bid for mayor and the new district gets an odd number, he would continue to represent Woodside and Portola Valley, but the two towns would also be represented by whoever wins the 2012 general election.

Portola Valley and Woodside could be out in the cold with no state senate representation if Sen. Yee is elected mayor and if some other district gets the number 8 and if, according to state law, a special election to replace Sen. Yee occurs on the official election date of June 5, 2012, Mr. Keigwin said.

There are other possible scenarios, but all result in the usual allotment of one senator to represent Portola Valley and Woodside.

Regardless of whether Sen. Yee is elected mayor of San Francisco, if the new senate district for San Mateo County receives an even number, Menlo Park and Atherton will be without a state senator until 2014, Mr. Keigwin said.

Sen. Yee, if he is still in office, would "adopt" these towns along with with San Carlos and Redwood City, and it's likely that his successor would do the same, Mr. Keigwin said.

In any case, Mr. Keigwin added, the Senate Pro Tem's office will have staff assigned to handle constituents who have been disenfranchised.

Aug. 15 deadline

In contrast to previous redistricting, the Citizens Commission is releasing draft maps long before its final Aug. 15 deadline, giving the public time to collaborate with the commission to develop final maps.

Janis Hirohama, president of the League of Women Voters of California, said the maps are the first round and will be refined after public comment. She encouraged the public to take an active role.

Visit votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov to submit comments online. Comments can be submitted by fax at 916-651-5711 or by mail to: Citizens Redistricting Commission, 901 P St., Suite 154-A, Sacramento, CA 95814.

The commission will hold 11 public-input hearings in June on the draft maps.

Visit wedrawthelines.ca.gov for the hearing schedule and draft maps.

A meeting will be held June 25 from 2 to 5 p.m. at San Jose City Hall, 200 E. Santa Clara St., San Jose. **A**

— Sue Dremann of Embarcadero Media contributed to this report.



Get ready to groove at downtown block party

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

It's that time of year — Menlo Park's free summer concert series kicks off on Wednesday, June 22, with cover band Groove Kings. The music starts at 6:30 p.m. in Fremont Park, at University Drive and Santa Cruz Avenue.

The eight-concert series runs on Wednesday evenings through Aug. 10. This year, it also coincides with the city's first summer block party on downtown Santa Cruz Avenue. Call 330-2200 for more information.

Calling all commissioners

Menlo Park's searching high and low for residents to fill vacancies on the following commissions: Environmental Quality; Parks and Recreation; Housing; and Transportation.

Visit tinyurl.com/apply-201 to apply, or contact City Clerk Margaret Roberts at msroberts@menlopark.org or 330-6625.

Crime online

Can't get enough of police reports? Is reading Ann Rule one of your favorite guilty pleasures? Now Menlo Park residents can track crime happening in their own backyards, from the comfort of home. The police department introduced its new online reporting tool on June 7.

Go to menlopark.org and click "Crime Reports" in the Quick-Links box to play armchair detective. The tool lets browsers filter results by date, neighborhood, and type of crime, right down to traffic stops.

Rojas temporary contract approved

It's official: City Manager Glen

MENLO BRIEFS

Rojas will retire on July 15, then return to serve on a temporary contract until December or until Menlo Park hires a replacement.

The City Council approved the contract during its June 7 meeting. Mr. Rojas will earn \$15,000 a month, while also collecting his pension. The council granted an extension on repaying a \$1.2 million home loan from the city; he'll now have two years from his last day as interim manager to pay back the approximately \$41,500 left.

Meanwhile, the council is searching nationwide for a new city manager.

Council: Downtown plan, Flood Park

As the Menlo Park City Council picks up its pace with the summer recess in sight, the agendas get longer. A few items on tap for the June 14 meeting: a status review of the downtown specific plan draft environmental impact report; whether to start negotiation for county-owned Flood Park; and regional appointments.

Vice Mayor Kirsten Keith has announced her desire to run for the seat on the SamTrans board left vacant by San Carlos Mayor Omar Ahmad's untimely death.

Great Frame Up replaces Book Rack

Decades after first spotting an ideal spot for a store, Marcy Magatelli, owner of the Great Frame Up in Menlo Park, finally got to move in.

On June 1, the store left its El Camino Real location behind to move into the spot left empty by

the Book Rack at 865 Santa Cruz Ave. after a fire almost one year ago. A temporary vinyl banner in the window is already advertising the new tenant.

"That very spot was the spot I wanted to move into 20 years ago when I started my business," Ms. Magatelli said. "I just couldn't get it together to get the place then and have regretted it ever since."

She said she likes that the shop will be down the street from a furniture store, and easier for

pedestrians to wander into — and more parking doesn't hurt, along with better rent.

The new site is about the same size as the old one, she said, but with a more open floor plan. Ms. Magatelli also plans to add eco-friendly interior decor.

Posh Bagel will join her as a neighbor in the near future, she said, once that shop — also shut down by the fire — finishes expanding into the space previously occupied by Cafe Silan.

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▶ GRANDPARENTS SEMINAR

Designed for new and expectant grandparents, this class examines changes in labor and delivery practices, the latest recommendations for infant care and the unique role of grandparents in the life of their child.

- Thursday, July 7: 6:00 – 8:30 pm

▶ INFANT SAFETY

A room-by-room guide to preparing your home for a newborn and growing child, including environmental safety and the latest car seat recommendations. This class is ideal for new parents, grandparents and other care-givers of young infants.

- Saturday, July 23: 1:00 – 3:00 pm

▶ BRINGING BABY HOME

A two-part workshop for expectant couples and new parents in their first postpartum trimester, this program designed by Drs. John and Julie Schwartz Gottman will assist you in making the transition to parenthood.

- Two Sundays, July 24 & 31: 10:00 am – 3:30 pm

▶ CAR SEAT EDUCATION & INSTALLATION

The Kohl's Child Safety and Outreach Program at LPCH offers a free car seat check and installation education at LPCH. Appointments can be made online at carseatfitting.lpch.org.

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.



VISIT LPCH.ORG TO SIGN UP FOR CLASSES

About 150 to lose jobs in closing of alcohol bottling plant in Menlo

By Caitlin Moyles

Special to the Almanac

About 150 people will lose their jobs when an alcohol bottling facility on Commonwealth Drive in Menlo Park closes on July 31. The plant belongs to Diageo, a UK-based company that sells brands that include Smirnoff, Baileys, Guinness, and Captain Morgan.

Diageo decided to close the plant on Commonwealth Drive after a strategic review of its supply operations, according to a statement issued by the company.

The closure is a blow to

the 128 union workers and approximate 20 non-union workers who have tried to find solutions to keep the plant open, said Fred Pecker, secretary-treasurer of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 6.

A total of 53 of the union workers have been there more than 20 years, and 18 of those have been there more than 34 years, he said.

"We have a lot of people who've spent a lifetime in that plant," Mr. Pecker said. "A lot of these people were planning on retiring, and now they have to go out and look for jobs." ■

WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS GIVEN pursuant to Sections 5473, et. seq. of the California Health and Safety Code that the District Board of West Bay Sanitary District has, by general regulation, elected to collect its charges for sewer services for FY 2011-2012 on the tax roll in the same manner as general taxes and will cause to be filed with its Secretary a written report containing a description of each parcel of real property receiving sanitary sewer service from the District and the amount of the charge for each parcel.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that on Wednesday evening, June 29, 2011 at the hour of 7:00 p.m. at the meeting room located at the District's offices, the District Board will conduct a Public Hearing to hear and consider all protests and objections, if any, to the report.

Anyone wishing to address the District Board concerning these matters may do so in writing at or before the date of the Public Hearing or may be heard at the time of the Board's meeting.

Dated: May 25, 2011

/s/ Phil Scott
Phil Scott
District Manager

To be published pursuant to Government Code 6066.

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COMMUNITY

Sacred Heart Prep graduates 132 students

Submitted by Millie Lee, director of communications, Sacred Heart Schools, Atherton.

Sacred Heart Preparatory graduated 132 students on May 27, during the 113th commencement ceremony on the Sacred Heart Schools campus in Atherton.

Director of Schools Richard A. Dioli, Board of Trustees Chair Anne Holloway, Sacred Heart Preparatory Principal James

Graduates

■ A-B: Sophia Teresa Abuel-Saud, Stephanie Noelle Baladi, Calder Nicholas Baloff, Philip Andrew Bamberg, Anton Greco Baruh, Rebecca Frances Simiran Baugh, Gregory Elias Botto, Keara Ann Brosnan, Megan Atherton Bryan, Neal Aragon Buncke, Zachary Robert Buono

■ C: Robert Nicholas Caine, Gianna Marie Capovilla, Alicia Beatrice Carcione, Olivia Vella Carroll, Kendall Anne Cody, Isabella Mei Wa Colosso, Maya M. Combs, Shannon Elizabeth Coulson, Adam Lyle Cropper

■ D: Abigail Lynn Dahlkemper, Michael Jacob DeBroeck, Madeleine Elizabeth Del Santo, Catherine Eileen Donahoe, Caren Elizabeth Duane, Amy Stephens DuBose, Claire Elizabeth Duesdieker, Robert Wood Dunlevie

■ E-F: Hanna Elmore, John Patrick Ertola, Lauren Avery Espeseth, Kate Elizabeth Fallon, Devan Caitlin Feeney, Matthew Richard Ferranti, Charlotte Jane Ferrari, Kendall Susan Flesher, Alexandra Elizabeth Flessel

■ G: Sarah Catherine Gage, Melanie Marie Louise, Galindo-Huame, Cristina Garcia-Cartagena, John Anthony Geary, Michelle Ann Gonia, William Edward Gotcher, Geena

GRADUATION

Everitt, Interim Dean of Students Isolina Martinez, Academic Dean Ken Thompson, and Associate Academic Dean Karen Filice presented the graduates with their diplomas.

Valedictorian was Gianna Maceda, who is enrolled to attend Yale University in the fall. Salutatorian was Rooney Pitchford, who will attend Stanford University.

Of this year's graduating class,

Grayce Graumann

■ H: Sean Francis Hamilton, Matthew Lawrence Hardy, Stephen Fredric Harman, Eliza Marguerite Henderson, Ann Mary Hau Heslin, Nathaniel Boynton Hinman, Lindsay Steller Holtvedt, Jacqueline JiaLin Hong, Andrew Antonio, Hosking, Caroline Chandler Hoskinson, Sydney Alexandra Surprise Huss

■ I-L: Tyler Richard Jackson, Sara Nicole Jacobs, Katherine Anne Jarve, Eleanor Catharine Jones, Julia Margaret Keller, Colin Donald Kelley, Grant Stephen Kinsey, Kaile Ellen Krauss, Catherine C. Lahlouh, Spencer Paul Lamb, Keighley Elizabeth Lane, Ryan Sterling Leadbeater, Felicity Marie Tsun-Wei Lu-Hill, Danielle Quin Lusier, Ian Cornelius Lynch

■ M: Gianna Rufino Maceda, Rubi Maldonado, Alexandra Veronika Marshall, Patrick William McCarthy, William Turner McConnell, Reed Holbrook McConnell, Holly Frances McDonald, Patrick Lynch McNamara, Jose Daniel Mendoza, Reed Winston Thomas Merrill, Lauren Elise Miller, Caroline Iliki Milner, Alec Kumar Mishra, Christina Hope Moore, Brian Patrick Moran, Charles Tomas Moran, Christopher John

the National Merit Scholarship Program recognized 22 students, and honored seven as finalists. Three students were also named National Hispanic Scholars.

All 132 graduates will matriculate to 57 different post-secondary institutions. Fifty-six graduates will attend colleges in California and 77 will attend colleges in states other than California. Nine graduates will attend an Ivy League institution. ■

Morrison, Bryan William Munks

■ N-Q: Takumi Nakagawa, Tomas O'Donnell, John Douglas Odell, Roberto Carlos Ojeda, Nancy Maria Orocio, Mario Bruno Paganini, Emily Anne Parsons, Riley Mary-Sarah Perdue, Marcelino Perez, Rooney Mark Pitchford, Nicole Marie Quillian, William Teague Quillin

■ R: Austin Elizabeth Randall, Yasmine Jennett Reid, Sean Callen Fegan Reidy, Catherine Raleigh Riefflin, Pedro Nicolas Theodore Robinson, Christine Rose Rogers, Rachel Allyson Rosensweig

■ S: Robert Edward Sakowski, Andrew Michael Savage, Peter John Schaul, Kyle Evan Scherba, Madeleine Sophia Shannon, Hunter Saunders Shaw, Alexandra Cary Shields, Cara Lilli Sivara, Aleksandr Ragnar Staprans, Francesca Eloisa Surraco, Airen Connery Surzyn

■ T-Z: Olivia Tay, Saba Abadi Teklu, Colin Christopher Terndrup, Christian Philippe Thauere, Veronica Olda Mary Thompson, Veronica Teresa Twombly, Kyle Dente Van Zanten, Brent Peter Vece, Zachary Tyler Watterson, Sarah Katharine Westcott, Joseph Buchanan Wise, Vivian Y.E. Wu, Caleb Staley Young, Lucy Zhu

Menlo School awards diplomas to 145

Submitted by Jill Kasser of Menlo School.

The 145 members of Menlo School's Class of 2011 received their diplomas June 7 in an outdoor ceremony on the Atherton campus.

John Schafer, director of the

Graduates

■ A: Eliza Thayer Adams, Christopher Andrew Addiego, Philip Thomas Anderson, Zoe Rebecca Aron, Estefania Avila

■ B: Alexander Badrenkov, Birtukan Belete, Timothy Thomas Benton, Madeline Rebecca Berry, Taylor Anderson Blackburn, Kyle Dean Bowman, Adam Justin Boyd, Emily D. Breyer, Megan Hui Fong Ling Brown, Jacob Robert Bruml, Kamyaa Butt

■ C: Andrew Scott Carlisle, Stephanie Grace Carlisle, Jose Castaneda, Kelly Ann Cavan, Dana Mariko Chang, Jee Yoon Chang, Grace Yen-Yun Chen, Timothy Pierce Coggins, Annie Laurie Elizabeth Cook, Brian Arthur Cooper, Marcus James Cootsona, Carly Elizabeth Cozad, Molly Bassell Crowe, Morgan Mekiella Haas Cundiff, Dominique Alessandra Curatola

■ D-F: John Patrick Daly, Jacob James Dorn, Bradley Michael Eckert, Brayden Fabris, Matthew M. Fackler, Cristian Fajardo, Samuel Ridenour Fancher, Elise Marie Filo, John McDonough Finch, Alexandra Frappier, Grace Marie Fremont, Rebecca Pearl Friedman

■ G: Devin Nicole Garnick, Kyle Preston

Upper School, gave welcoming remarks. The commencement speaker was Julie C. Lythcott-Haims, dean of freshmen and undergraduate advising at Stanford University.

Senior Class President Taylor Blackburn offered her thoughts on graduation. Menlo School's

Petkanics Gerstenschlager, Alexandra Catherine Giacomini, Gabrielle Martha Girard, Ryan Goulden, Sarah Elizabeth Graham-Helwig, Andrea Jean Grimbergen, Laura Charlotte Grimbergen, William Patrick Moreno Grimes, Serena Sapna Gupta

■ H: Madeleine Claire Halley, Jonathan Daniel Warner Halprin, Matthew Zachary Heising, Madalena Ann Kingsbury Henning, Sean Mackenzie Hoag, Anelise Kathryn Hohl, John Bramwell Holland-McCowan, Whitney Terrell Hooper, Kyle Joseph Hutchinson

■ J-L: Robert James Jasek, Kevin Yumeng Ji, Meredie Irene Rose Johnson, Taylor Catherine Jones, Monica Kang, Neal Khosla, Tucker Tewksbury King, Kent Phillip Lacob, Geoffrey Guy Broome Lalonde, Jonathan Walter Lam, Matt Lam, Justin J.D.M. Lannin, Anna Oleta Redberg Larson, James Alan Lawson, Rebecca Alice Lawson, Ethan Michael Leibovich, Kelsey Claire Linton, Ruo Ran Liu, Benjamin David London, Emma Britt Ludlum

■ M-N: Paul Scott Madera Jr., Taylor Faith Magnuson, Serena H. Marini, Brendan Cullen Martin, Alexandra Shi-Yue Mei, Jazmin Aria Moledina, Alison Sang-hie Nahm, Mary Elizabeth Nash, Beau David Nichols, Leyla Azize Nielsen, Priyanka Nigam

Chorus and Orchestra provided the music.

Menlo School Board Chair Susan Ford Dorsey assisted John Schafer and Head of School Norman Colb in conferring high school degrees upon members of the class. ■

■ O-Q: Irina D. Oros, Shannon Mitsuye Osaka, Maclean Thomas Osborne, Samuel Gofen Parker, Victoria Jean Paterson, Emma Blair Paye, Caitlin Eve Peltz, Robert Ivan Pender III, Alejandra Pereda, Michael Aaron Portman, Sarah Summer Purkra-bek, Ryder Alexander Quigley.

■ R-S: Lauren Claire Robinson, Eve Morgan Rosekind, Monica Renee Rosenkranz, Matthew Alexander Roy, Emily Anne Ryles, Michael Andrew Amador Schulze, Maxime S. Serrano, John Francis Shanley IV, John Sieber, Jackson Anthony Siegman, Hailey Kathleen Smith, Rachel Allison Star, Ryan Michael Stastny, Peri Rebecca Steiny, Michael Alan Stern, Caroline Fullerton Stone, Will Strober, Katherine Anne Strong, Jack Stewart Suiter, Kyle Christopher Sum

■ T-V: Carina Tai, Philip Hatchell Taylor, Kyle Edward Hynes Tessier-Lavigne, Bijan E. M. Thornycroft, Miles Richard Tomlinson, Mycal D. Tucker, Mesiu Mafileo Tapi-aka Tupou, Ricardo Valencia Arias, Kyra Louise Vargas, Christophe Dakota Viret

■ W-Y: LeeAnne C. Wang, Chasen Alexander White, Robert Jay Wickers, Jordan Christopher Williams, Keegan Mitchell Williams, Nicole Whitney Elizabeth Wolf, Justin Francis Wong, Lowry Baird Yankwich, Margot Fried Yecies, Nicole Lindsey Yee.

Hap Halloran, bombardier and POW from World War II, dies

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

During World War II, Menlo Park resident Raymond “Hap” Halloran found himself on the giving and the receiving ends in the air war over Japan — first as a B-29 bombardier and then, after his plane was shot down over Tokyo, as a prisoner of war. The prison camps were unmarked and thus occasional targets of apparently ferocious friendly fire, including the March 1945 fire bombing of the city.

Mr. Halloran, who died June 7 at the age of 89, experienced parachuting from his doomed airplane; humiliation as a POW when put on display in a zoo; solitary confinement; a successful business career; decades of nightmares as he tried to escape wartime memories; and, finally, relief after reconciling with former enemies, according to an autobiographical account.

A memorial is set for noon Friday, June 17, at St. Raymond Church at 1100 Santa Cruz Ave. in Menlo Park.

When invited, Mr. Halloran would talk about his experiences. He spoke in Japan at museums, temples and in Peace Parks in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. “They also were seeking closure,” he wrote of his audiences, some of whom reciprocated by visiting him in the United States.

While visiting Japan, he met the fighter pilot who shot him down, and a “good guard” from his time as a prisoner of war, according to his account.

Mr. Halloran is survived by his sons Dan of Barcelona and Tim of Brentwood; and by his daughter Peggy of Redwood City, relatives said.

A cold dark cage

Raymond Halloran grew up in Cincinnati, the second of five boys. He volunteered for the Army Air Force following the December 1941 attack at Pearl Harbor.

After training, he joined an 11-man crew that flew a new B-29 bomber from the Midwest to Honolulu and then to an airfield in the Northern Marianas Islands, from which were launched bombing raids on the Japanese mainland.

On his crew’s fourth mission, a Japanese fighter plane critically damaged two of his B-29’s four engines such that it left the formation. The crew bailed out at 27,000 feet at an ambient temperature of 58 below zero, he said in his account. Five men survived, he said.

After 24,000 feet of free fall,

he deployed his chute and a Japanese fighter pilot flew by and saluted him, he wrote. “A rarity,” Mr. Halloran noted.

The graciousness did not last. On the ground, a crowd of civilians set upon him and administered “severe beatings,” he wrote. He was nearly dead by the time Japanese soldiers came upon him and took him off to solitary confinement for 67 days in a “cold dark cage.” He received no medical treatment and was forbidden to talk except when interrogated, he wrote.

He was out of solitary by the time the Allied forces fire-bombed Tokyo. “The heat, smoke and firestorm were absolutely terrifying,” he wrote. Some prisoners burned to death in their cells, Mr. Halloran’s son Dan said in an interview. The guards wouldn’t let them out, he added.

After the fire bombing, soldiers took him to the Ueno Zoo, Mr. Halloran wrote, where they displayed him in a cage as “the hated B-29 prisoner,” naked, unwashed and covered with sores from insect bites. “Conditions were extreme,” he wrote. “I cried (a form of relief) and prayed constantly.”

B-29 crews were new to bombing from the jet stream, Mr. Halloran told his son Dan, and were being blown off course and missing their military targets. The citizens hated them, Dan said, because “they saw them as individuals killing citizens.”

His father also signed a paper purportedly nullifying his Geneva Convention rights, Dan said. “They felt they could do anything they wanted to him.”

With peace came liberation to a hospital ship, then back home and months in a government hospital. He returned to civilian life and a career, but with changes, including nightmares for 39 years, he wrote.

“Very disruptive to my family life,” he wrote. “In the early years after the return from POW days I absolutely tried to wipe out all those bad memories of my time in Japan. I failed.”

“Dad never talked about it,” his son Dan said. “We knew something was wrong. He was having nightmares and screaming and once tried to climb out a window,” he said.

Relief, for a time

Relief began with reconciliation. Mr. Halloran flew to Japan in 1984 to “view people and places as they are presently,” he wrote. “Positive



Photo courtesy of Halloran family
Hap Halloran

results slowly became evident in my outlook, feelings and judgments. Understanding and reconciliation became a reality.”

Alzheimer’s disease proved his undoing, however. Mr. Halloran’s mental strength had kept his wartime memories at bay, but

they came roaring back. He entered psychotherapy with his son.

“(The memories) started to kind of take over when he was losing control of his mind,” Dan said. “He thought that he was in prison camp again. It really didn’t help at all.”

“They’re doing a lot with post-traumatic stress treatment now,” Dan Halloran added. “The families really learn how to support these guys.”

“It was very painful for World War II veterans when they didn’t have any psychiatric help after the war,” Dan said. “Basically these guys were on their own once they were physically able to get out in the world again.” ■



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Little League city championship Friday

The Menlo-Atherton Little League and the Alpine/West Menlo Little League Majors Division champions and the AAA Division champions will play for the "City Title" on Friday, June 17, said Carla Posthauer of the Menlo-Atherton Little League.

"This is a fun competition for the entire community to watch," she said. "Come out and support your local teams."

The games will be played at

Burgess Park in Menlo Park and are scheduled to be played at 4 p.m. (AAA) and 6 p.m. (Majors).

'Superbowls'

Alpine/West Menlo Little League and Menlo-Atherton Little League start the summer baseball tournaments June 18, said Lindsay Bowen, a board member of both Little Leagues.

The first events are the Majors Superbowl and Minor Superbowl, running concurrently, he said. Both winners will be crowned on the first day of summer, June 21.

The Superbowl Tournaments are fashioned after the Central Coast Section High School baseball playoffs "one and done" format, Mr. Bowen said. A team must win four games in four days to be crowned champion of District 52.

Both leagues have entries in the Majors Superbowl, hosted by Hillsborough Little League, and both leagues have entries in the Minors Superbowl, hosted by Foster City Little League. Game time and locations are available on the District 52 Little League website.

Visit cadistrict52.org for more information.

Nedra Elaine Carr

1922-2011

Nedra Elaine Carr passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on May 31, 2011. She lived her life so vibrantly that death by surprise was perhaps inevitable. Nedra was born in East St. Louis on April 30, 1922. She rejected the farm life of her extended family and subscribed to the New Yorker to plan her dreams. Her life's ambition was to be an actress, but she gave it up to contribute to the well-being of her family. After WW II, she married Warner Carr and migrated to the mecca of Southern California where she lived the happiest period of her life. She worked as an executive secretary and was enthralled by the glamour, music, sunshine, and beaches of Los Angeles in the 1950s.

After the birth of her daughter Lisa and her move to Northern California, she volunteered with the Junior League and Atherlons, worked in public schools, canvassed for local political campaigns, and played golf weekly with the Palo Alto Hills Country Club ladies. The second happiest period of her life was during her 60's when she returned to work as an office manager at Gerber Baby Food Products, hiked with the Sierra Club and danced to Harry James and Mick Jagger.

She reluctantly retired from work at 70. Nedra loved to tell stories, laugh, dance, exercise, follow the business news and dote on her grandchildren, Casey and Clay. Her last great regret was giving up the Bay to Breakers race at age 85 but her great joy was the anticipation of whatever adventure lay ahead in her life. Her intense passion and energy for life will be missed by everyone who knew her. She was predeceased by her first husband Warner and her second husband John Smurr.

She is survived by her daughter Lisa, her grandchildren Casey and Clay Carlson, her sister Margaret Sutton and her niece Kim Shelton.

A Memorial Service was held at Messiah Lutheran Church in Redwood City on Saturday June 4 at 1pm.

Donations may be made in Nedra's memory to the shelter for victims of domestic abuse, "CORA" P.O. Box 4245, Burlingame, CA 94011. 650-652-0800."



PAID OBITUARY

Equine center holds Poker Ride

By Caitlin Moyles

Special to the Almanac

The National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy will put a new twist on its traditional Poker Ride and Pledge Challenge at Family Fun Day, a celebration of NCEFT's 40th anniversary, to be held Saturday, June 18, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

In its 17th year, the Poker Ride and Pledge Challenge will allow participants to walk or ride from NCEFT's Woodside facility through the privately owned Runnymede Sculpture Farm, drawing playing cards at five stops to collect a poker hand by the end of the course, said Marie Fox, development director for NCEFT.

Participants will then return to the NCEFT facility for prizes, which will be awarded to the people with the best and worst poker hands, and a barbecue of chicken, hot dogs and

hamburgers, she said.

Prizes will also be awarded to participants who raise the most pledges from their friends and families, which is the main focus of the event, Ms. Fox said. She added that the prizes have been donated by local businesses such as Roberts Market, Buck's restaurant, and Woodside Bakery & Cafe.

NCEFT decided to open up the event to walkers to allow more people to participate in the festivities, said Ms. Fox. The course, which usually begins at the Woodside Mounted Patrol grounds and takes riders through Huddart Park, is also different from previous years.

The event costs \$40 for those age 16 and over, and \$20 for participants under 16, she said.

Visit nceft.org or send an email to marie@nceft.org for more information. ■

Marcia Mary Sherman

October 16, 1920 - June 8, 2011

Resident of Danville

Beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother, Marcia Mary Sherman passed away on June 8, 2011. Marcia was born Marcia Pain to William and Edith Pain in St. Albans, Hertfordshire, England. She spent most of her youth and young adulthood in England and attended business school after graduating from high school.

After meeting Fred Sherman in England in 1945, their romance blossomed. Fred asked Marcia to join him in the USA while he attended Duke University. They were married on May 3, 1947. Her marriage to Fred lasted 32 years until he passed away on April 17, 1980.

Marcia resided in Atherton for 44 years. She worked several years as a secretary for Wilson, Jones, Morton & Lynch Law Firm in San Mateo.

She was an active member of "The Daughters of the British Empire", Windsor Rose Chapter in San Mateo.

We will all miss her dearly, our British "Mumsey".

She is survived by her son Stephen Sherman, daughter Kimberley Krampf, son-in-law Edward Krampf as well as five grandchildren, Nicole, Sophia, Jesse, Zachary and Jon and three great grandchildren Alison, Catherine and Bryce.

A special thank you to the wonderful caregivers at Diablo Lodge in Danville, Tri-Valley Personal Home Care Services in Pleasanton and Hope Hospice for the excellent care of our mother.

Graveside services were held at Alta Mesa Memorial Park, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

Memorial contributions are preferred to Hope Hospice, 6377 Clark Ave., Ste 100, Dublin, CA 94568.

Graham-Hitch Cremation & Memorial Center
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PAID OBITUARY

Muriel J. Roosman

Former business woman

■ OBITUARY



Muriel Roosman

Muriel Roosman, who lived in Menlo Park for many years, died April 21. She was 93 and had outlived her husband, Clarence Roosman, and all the members of her family.

A business woman and legal stenographer from 1944 to 1964, Ms. Roosman retained her accounting and record-keeping skills all of her life. Having learned the importance of being well turned out from her business years, she was an impeccable dresser and especially liked red shoes and clothing, say friends.

She was a lifelong member of the Church of Christ, Scientist.

Ms. Roosman had a prodigious memory, friends say, recalling stories about friends, family, trips and events from her life at a moment's notice. She loved classical music, especially opera, and attended many performances of the San Francisco and West Bay Opera companies. She also enjoyed travel and took more than 100 trips to California sites, keeping records of each one of them.

An avid gardener, she was often seen outside tending to her roses, giving them what she called a "pat on the back."

Those wishing to honor Ms. Roosman's memory, may donate to a favorite charity in her name.



Almanac photo by Michelle Le

"The Secret Art of Dr. Seuss" collection is at the Peabody Gallery in Menlo Park.

Dr. Seuss' lesser known characters pay a visit

By Caitlin Moyles

Special to the Almanac

Horton, the Grinch, and the Cat in the Hat are instantly recognizable to fans of Dr. Seuss' children's books, but lesser-known characters abound in "The Art of Dr. Seuss Tour" at the Peabody Gallery in Menlo Park.

Born Ted Geisel, Dr. Seuss created a plethora of artwork that did not appear in his books, said Ruth Dailey, fine art specialist at the Peabody Gallery.

The limited edition reproductions, which include paintings, illustrations, and sculptures, were issued by the Chase Group in collaboration with Dr. Seuss Enterprises and Audrey Geisel, the wife of Dr. Seuss, said Ms. Dailey. The items will be available for purchase through June 30.

"This is the work he did playing, relaxing and having fun," Ms. Dailey said. "It allows 'Seussians' to see what Mr. Geisel created behind the scenes."

Paintings such as "Cat

From the Wrong Side of the Tracks" and "Pink-Tufted Small Beast in a Night Landscape" are priced at several thousand dollars, she said.

Prints (11 by 14 inches) from his celebrated books, including "One Fish Two Fish" and "Green Eggs and Ham," are priced between several hundred and several thousand dollars, depending on their popularity and rarity.

"That's the value of the collection, when you can see the depth and breadth of (his) work," Ms. Dailey said. "The tour really immerses you in the creative spirit of Dr. Seuss."

The gallery, which hosted a Dr. Seuss tour in 2004 for the centennial of his birth, plans to host another Dr. Seuss tour called "Secrets of the Deep" in October, Ms. Dailey said.

The Peabody Gallery, located at 603 Santa Cruz Ave., is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Visit peabodygallery.com for more information. ■



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Spencer Harris

June 26, 1936—May 17, 2011t

Spencer Phelps Harris, age 74, died unexpectedly May 17th, 2011 in Palo Alto, California. He was born in Evanston, Illinois, to Ward and Eleanor Spencer Harris. His father practiced law in the Chicago area until age 90. His mother still played the piano at age 95.

After graduating from Evanston Township High School, Spencer attended Purdue University, and then Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, where he majored in accounting. After graduating he worked for Arthur Anderson in the Chicago area before becoming a stock broker with Hornblower & Weeks.

Before coming to California in 1970 to work for a nuclear medicine company in Palo Alto, Spencer received a Masters Degree in Finance from the University of Chicago.

In 1976 Spencer started The Data Financial Press Company in Menlo Park, compiling an accounting directory published twice a year called "Who Audits America", now in its 66th edition. It was once cited by the "Economist" magazine and others as the authority on accounting firms.

Spencer enjoyed diverse activities throughout his life. While in the Chicago area, he was an avid sailor keeping his boat at the Lake Geneva Yacht Club in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. He played the piano, hiked with the Sierra Club, played a good game of chess, and enjoyed attending the San Francisco Symphony as well as attending lectures concerning politics and the economy.

Histravelsincluded trips to England and France, and cruising Alaska and the Panama Canal. He made annual visits to Cancun, Mexico; Florida; Texas and Coronado, California to visit friends and relatives.

Spencer thoroughly enjoyed his daily visits to Peet's Coffee Shop in Menlo Park where his friends have placed a plaque on his favorite bench which reads "Spencer Phelps Harris, 1936-2011, Bohemian Intellectual, Conversationalist, Peetnik."

Spencer is survived by his brother, Wesley Harris and sister-in-law Charlotte of Coronado, CA; his nephews Tim Harris (Lee Ann) of Ventura, CA; Scott Harris (Susie), Steve Falstrup (Kira) and niece Karen Falstrup of Coronado, as well as grandnephews Pike, Trevor, Parker, Caiden, and grandniece Sally.

Spencer's life will be celebrated in a private ceremony by his many relatives at their annual Christmas gathering in Coronado. A memorial service will be held at the Menlo Park Presbyterian Church Library, July 21, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

In remembrance, donations may be made to the Sierra Club, 85 Second Street, San Francisco, CA 93105, or to the San Francisco Symphony, 201 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102.



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Tom Gibboney

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Viewpoint

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

Portola Valley takes on cycling safety

It may be an impossible dream, but the small town of Portola Valley decided last week to come to grips with the ever-increasing crowds of cyclists who roll through their community every day.

Spurred on by a memo from Town Council member Ted Driscoll, who says that he has seen more bikes than cars on the town's roads, the council conducted a wide-ranging discussion about the daily impact hundreds of cyclists have on the town's quality of life and determined that much needs to be done

before a successful policy on cycling can be adopted.

The Driscoll memo noted that if a forum on cycling is important and necessary, there must

be a change. The issue now is dispersed among various town committees, whose members are volunteers. For example, the Trails Committee considers mountain bike issues, such as conflicts with equestrians; the Teen Committee focuses on bicycle-riding students; and the Traffic Committee, which now has only two members, looks at issues that involve motor vehicles.

The council reached consensus on a few sensible steps that could improve things:

- Seriously consider a combination bicycle and traffic committee, with the goal of providing a forum for all users of the roads.

- Investigate what it would take to create genuine bike lanes that meet state requirements. The white line near the road shoulder is simply a fog line to indicate the edge of the traffic lane. Official bike lane designation requires a wider lane of consistent width. With real bike lanes, the town's law enforcement team can ticket cyclists who are not riding in them.

The council also authorized the town's public works direc-

tor to seek proposals for establishing true bike lanes on Alpine and Portola roads, and examine Westridge Drive on ways to improve safety; there is no room for bike lanes. It may come as a shock to many cyclists that what appear to be bike lanes along Alpine and Portola roads are, in fact, not.

These ideas look good, but the town needs to make sure the cycling community, which includes riders of all ages, genders and abilities, will agree to be shoehorned into a policy designed by a consultant or town bureaucrats. Many of these riders may not even be aware that Portola Valley has an official town government, or that it has jurisdiction over this long-standing route that is featured in guidebooks sold in the U.S. and abroad.

If the town does enact new regulations, the changes should be circulated widely in the local news media and on cycling websites and blogs. Handouts should be distributed to every rider on Alpine and Portola Road during peak usage periods.

Enforcement of the new rules should follow, but with plenty of warnings so cyclists get the message about the changes. The biggest challenge will be to convince the large, twice-a-day, peloton rides to obey traffic signals and keep their riders in the bike lane. These expert groups have a history of ignoring safety issues and rarely stop at stop signs.

Regardless, the town is taking a necessary and correct approach to establish sensible regulations for cyclists who use this popular loop that winds through Portola Valley and Woodside. The goal must be to make cycling a safer and more rewarding experience in Portola Valley.

With little or no oversight, we already have seen many serious accidents on the route, including several fatal encounters just outside the town's jurisdiction. It is time to ask, and require, the cycling community to take part in a solution that will bring more safety to one of the state's most popular bicycle routes.

LETTERS

Our readers write

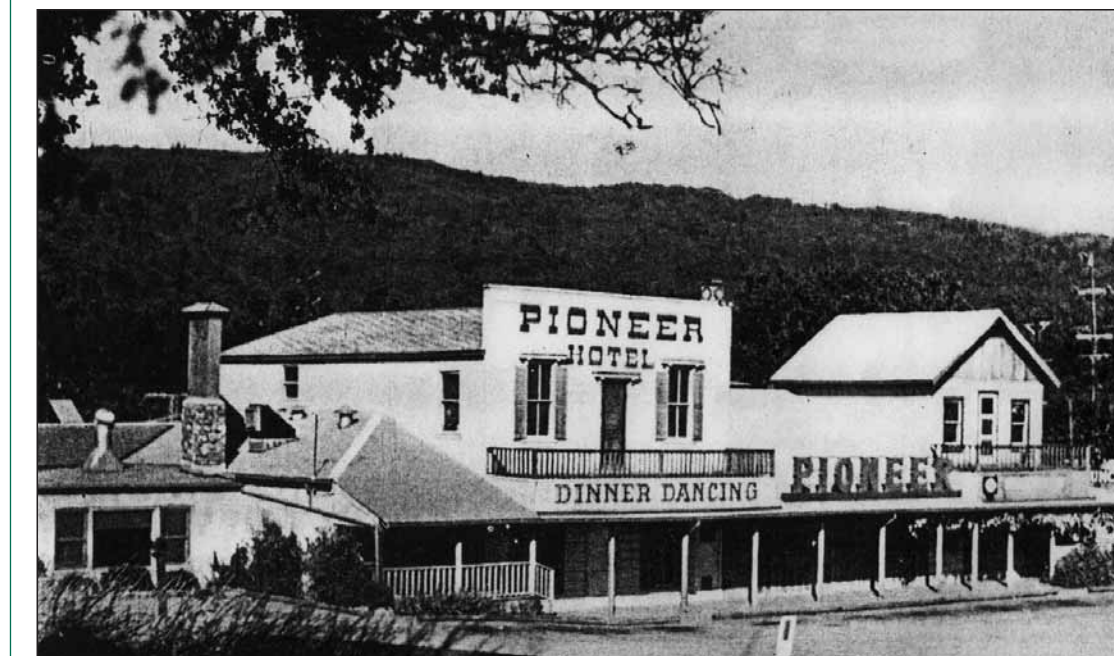
Riley's Place a big hit with homeless kids

Editor: After reading the article on Riley's Place (June 1) I thought I would share what Riley's Place has done for us.

I am assistant children's coordinator at First Step for Families of Shelter Network. We are a nonprofit shelter that serves homeless families. We have 39 families and over 80 kids at our site.

These kids are going through a traumatic transition with becoming homeless. Many times these kids are not experiencing a childhood due to being part of the homeless cycle. My job is to provide a field trip for the kids here.

I had heard about Riley's Place from Haven Family House, another Shelter Network facility. I contacted Wendy from Riley's Place and right away she was very welcoming and helpful in getting the field trip ready for us. On our first trip we brought six children. None of them had ever been on a farm, let alone around animals like goats, mini-horses, and bunnies.



Jac Audiffred Collection

Our Regional Heritage

Aldo Cominoli purchased this property at Woodside and Whiskey Hill roads in 1941 and opened the Pioneer Hotel in 1946. In its heyday the hotel was the place to go for dinner and dancing. It is now owned by the Gilbert family and remains a lively saloon, offering music and dancing Tuesday through Sunday. This photo is from the 1960s.

Wendy and volunteers interacted with the children and made them feel very comfortable. The kids truly enjoyed interacting with and learning about the animals.

The amazing thing about Riley's Place is how much of an impact the animals have on kids. They not only get to be kids and smile and have fun, but they get to have a child-

hood.

Riley's Place has done so much for First Step for Families of Shelter

See **LETTERS**, next page

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

Network and the kids here. We now go on monthly field trips to Riley's Place. We really appreciate everything Riley's Place, the volunteers, and Wendy has done for us and the community.

Yasmin Loza
First Step for Families

Council correct in halting Willows traffic plan

Editor:

Thanks to the Menlo Park City Council for euthanizing the Willows Area-Wide Traffic Study.

It was obvious to all except the city transportation staff and the handful of neighborhood traffic activists (for whom the plan was designed) that it "didn't stand a snowball's chance in hell" of gaining the support of the neighborhood. It benefited too few (Chester Street and Woodland Avenue) to the detriment of too many (almost everyone else).

Much of the \$120,000 that has been spent already would have been saved by insisting, from the start, that the activists put forward goals backed by a supermajority of residences and businesses. Instead, this requirement of the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program was waived to benefit the activists.

This enabled the activists to ignore the reality that their goal of blocking access to two major streets would damage most of the neighborhood. And staff members, as usual, seemed to believe their glib assertions that the few dozen residents (out of a total population of 6,000) who participated in the planning meetings "represented the neighborhood."

In stopping the "study" now, the council did the right thing. They saved the additional \$400,000 and priceless neighborhood good will at risk of being wasted on this doomed project. In future Willows projects, the city should insist on compliance with the Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan from the start, as they have for all other projects under the plan.

Eric Doyle
Laurel Avenue, Menlo Park

Conflict today on Willows traffic, but not in 2008

Editor:

Now you see her. Now you don't. Two Menlo Park City Council members recently removed themselves from voting on the city's spectacularly unpopular Willows Traffic Plan, since they live within 2,500 feet of some of the plan's traffic-diversion features. The resulting potential impact on their property values caused them to have financial interests in the project, leading appropriately to their recusals.

Too bad that one of them, council

Mayor, councilman make case for Atherton layoffs

By Jim Dobbie and Jerry Carlson

On June 8 the Almanac published an article by two former Atherton mayors and an editorial regarding the proposed layoffs of some town employees.

The town has been discussing the matter of our current cost structure for delivering services to our residents for many months and has determined it is not financially stable. The matter of outsourcing park maintenance was first proposed more than one and a half years ago.

The council tasked Interim City Manager John Danielson to come up with a financial plan beginning with our fiscal year 2011-2012 budget in line with our revenues. Continuing the trend of dipping into our general fund reserves cannot be sustained and the prospect of an \$850,000 gap between revenues and operating costs is unacceptable. We believe if the above authors (the former mayors) had taken the time to do their homework with John Danielson, their perspective of the situation we are facing would have been more accurate.

Employee compensation costs amount to approximately 80 per cent of the town's budget. The projection in cost increases from current pension and health care plan costs for retired (lifetime benefits) are projected to grow and become an even larger portion of the budget in the future.

The public should be aware that the investment assumption being made by CalPERS, the public employee pension fund, is betting on a 7.75 percent average return on their investments, which we believe is far higher than will be realized. What this will mean when CalPERS makes a realistic adjustment is that the amount assessed to local governments will increase significantly and will have to be paid out of town reserves unless something changes.

member Kelly Fergusson, didn't exhibit similar reservations in 2008, when she enthusiastically voted for the city to spend \$120,000 on the plan that produced this conflict of interest for her. She even voted to include in the plan, contrary to established city policy, exactly the kinds of street features that created the conflict.

The potential impact on Willows properties, including hers, was certainly predictable, since a 2,500-foot radius from her home includes almost the entire Willows neighborhood. No doubt, she will argue that her 2008 actions were technically legal, but that will miss the point of the questionable ethics of her behavior.

You see, in 2008, when Fergusson was running for re-election to council, traffic activists in the Willows needed to be appeased with an expensive study. By 2011, the topic had become a political hot potato to be avoided.

Ms. Fergusson's Houdini-like appearance and subsequent disappearance in this drama make perfect sense... for a political opportunist.

Frank Tucker



Here are some examples of our employee total annual compensation, including retiree medical costs:

Office specialist, \$117,199; public works maintenance worker, \$114,320; building inspector/plan checker, \$152,977; and park events manager, \$136,437. This compensation is far more than the private sector would pay.

Let's address the claim about the loss of institutional knowledge. We think that claim is overblown. The contract employees that we have today in the Building Department and the Public Works Department have received numerous compliments from residents impressed with their professionalism and knowledge.

In the past our residents have generously voted for a parcel tax, mainly to support the police and fund capital improvements. To ask our residents to support another parcel tax to keep what many residents believe are overcompensated employees would be irresponsible and unlikely to pass.

We have a structural financial problem that has to be addressed. Our short-term deficit for this year is over \$800,000 but that is not taking into account other potential liabilities. We could have up to a \$600,000 payment to two trash companies. We have pending lawsuits, which, depending on the courts, could add much more.

Recent government accounting changes mandating that local governments recognize their long-term liabilities for retiree medical costs has added emphasis to the urgency to address our compensation issue. In the past, only the cash being paid out in the current year for retiree costs was included in the budget and the growing future liability had been ignored. But it is a real obligation that the local agency cannot ignore.

Recent articles about Vallejo and other cities

demonstrate that many local governments are technically bankrupt or close to it. By taking actions now, we can change the course and manage our town in a responsible fiscal manner, which is our fiduciary responsibility as council members.

We also need to be honest about the town's budget beyond employee compensation. If we designate virtually all of the town's money to pay employee salaries and retirement, where does the money come from for street repairs, fuel, maintenance tasks, and so on?

We have no information technology, human resources or risk management departments. The City Hall buildings, including the police department, have damaged roofs that leak in the winter and our electrical wiring and phone systems need complete renovation.

Of course layoffs are a terribly sad and heart-wrenching situation but sometimes they are part of doing business. The town has looked at our finances from every angle, weighed the risks and rewards, and found few alternatives.

We cannot allow ourselves to fall into the same trap as other agencies. Stockton intends to lay off 100 employees and Costa Mesa has reduced employees by 50 percent. Bankruptcy is a real possibility for Antioch and San Diego. We must be better stewards of our town than to allow long-term financial instability.

We must address cash flow. We have been depleting our reserves at an alarming rate. Our situation is difficult but not impossible if we take a solid financial stance and plan for long-term financial stability.

The "bottom line" of the plan that John Danielson has laid out for us is to achieve a much more efficient and cost-effective town government, where residents believe they are receiving fair value for the quantity and level of town services that they pay for.

Jim Dobbie is mayor of Atherton and Jerry Carlson is a city council member.

Politzer Drive, Menlo Park

Downtown parking garage would scare off shoppers

Editor:

To the City Council members: I own property in Menlo Park. One of my buildings is contiguous to the present airy and tree lined parking area that occupies three blocks in the center of Menlo Park's commercial district. One of my buildings, at University Drive and Santa Cruz Avenue, will lie in the brooding shadow cast by the recently proposed five-level parking structure. Where there is now light there will be darkness.

With its interior darkness and hiding places, this monolithic structure will create an opportunity for desperate or evil intentioned folk to prey upon others. Our citizens will become targets of opportunity.

I have enclosed clippings that illustrate a recent murder in a Santa Rosa parking garage and monies lost due to Redwood City's underutilized parking garage.

Here in Petaluma a one and a half-story parking garage is underused at night because drivers only

park close to the exits due to the need for rapid escape.

The key to bringing money to the city is economic vitality, not temporary jobs and construction fees. Please do not ruin our lovely town. Let people who do not wish to see sunshine and trees while shopping arm themselves and shop in Redwood City where there is presently a parking garage.

Please allow Menlo Park to keep its character. Vote no on the proposed five-level parking garage.

Lindsay M. Mickles
Menlo Park property owner for 40-plus years and supporter of Menlo Park (40+ years)
Owner of 1150-1162 University Dr., 661 Live Oak Ave., 530 Oak Grove Ave. Petaluma

Ruskin elected despite opposition to death penalty

Editor:

I was concerned to read that Ira Ruskin has an "incurable brain tumor," but am encouraged to learn that he is focusing on recovering.

I first met and communicated with Mr. Ruskin in 2004, when he was pursuing the 21st Assembly

District seat. An issue to me and in the state at the time was the formation of the California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice. A moratorium on the death penalty was being sought until the commission completed its work.

Mr. Ruskin's Republican Party opponent on the ballot was Steve Poizner. Mr. Ruskin responded in a survey that not only was he in support of a moratorium, but that he was opposed to the death penalty. Mr. Poizner responded that he supported the death penalty. As is known, Mr. Ruskin won the election, and served admirably during his terms. Moreover, his election verified that individuals who oppose the death penalty can run successfully for public office.

It is hoped that Mr. Ruskin's recovery will be fast and without complications. His personal and family interests are of primary concern, of course. Nevertheless, I hope he will recover and seek public office again. The public sector will always need individuals of such compassion and competence.

Henry Organ
Euclid Avenue, Menlo Park



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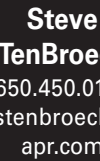
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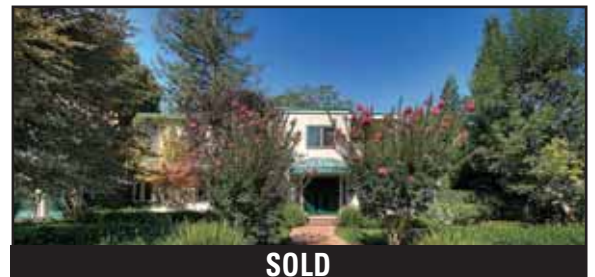
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