



**VOTE BY JULY 3**  
*Sunday is deadline to vote  
for your favorites | Page 16*

# The Almanac

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

JUNE 29, 2011 | VOL. 46 NO. 44

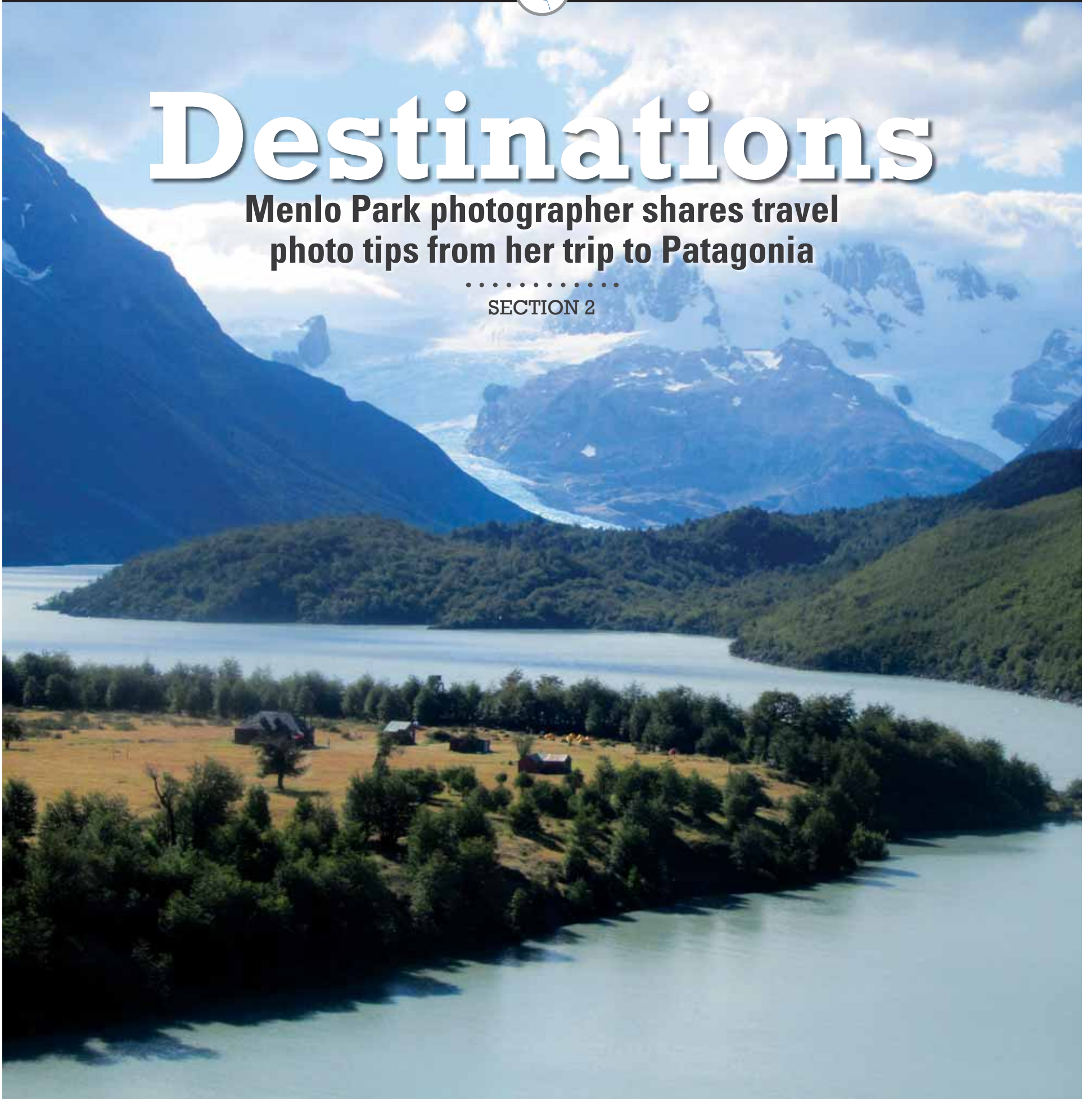


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## Roundup: Celebrating Bill Lane's legacy

By Caitlin Moyles  
Special to the Almanac

The memory of local legend Bill Lane will be celebrated at the Woodside Junior Rodeo, a staple of the Fourth of July in these parts.

The Bill Lane Western Heritage Award includes a \$1,000 scholarship and a silver belt buckle given to a youth based on academic record, horsemanship, and an essay. Past captains of the Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County will select a winner from junior rodeo participants.

Mr. Lane, who died July 31, 2010, was a longtime member of the patrol. He was a former owner of Sunset magazine, an active philanthropist, and the first mayor of Portola Valley.

More than 100 youth from around California will ride in the junior rodeo in events ranging from roping and barrel racing to bull riding (for older contestants). Doors open at 8 a.m. Monday, July Fourth, at the Mounted Patrol Grounds at 521 Kings Mountain Road in Woodside.

Admission costs \$20 for adults and \$10 for those kids ages 6 to 18. Kids under 6 get in free. Call 851-8300 for more information.

### Parade and festival

Everyone is invited to join the Menlo Park Fourth of July parade, which starts at 11:45 a.m. in the Wells Fargo parking lot at the intersection of Santa Cruz Avenue and Chestnut Street and then winds down toward El Camino Real. Kids are encouraged to decorate bikes and wagons.

The annual July Fourth festival runs from noon to 2:30 p.m. at Burgess Park. Activities include giant inflatable jump houses and slides, crafts, face painting, and three rock walls. The House Rockers will grace the festival with music, and community vendors will sell refreshments.

A \$6 wristband is required for some activities and can be



Courtesy Photo  
Bill Lane, aboard Toppy, was a longtime member of the Mounted Patrol.

tions are welcome. The barbecue dinner costs \$5. No reservations required.

Go to [firstbaptist.com](http://firstbaptist.com) for a map to the church and call 323-8544 for more information.

### Redwood City

Redwood City honors 150 years of the city's fire department bright and early as the firefighters serve up a fundraising pancake breakfast at 755 Marshall St. from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.

The annual festival starts at 9 a.m., offering arts and crafts for sale; a jump house and other kids' activities; a car show; a fire engine display; and live music, including the marching bands of Stanford University and the University of California at Davis.

A parade kicks off at 10 a.m. Go to [parade.org](http://parade.org) for maps of the festival area and of the parade route.

Visit [redwoodcity.org](http://redwoodcity.org) to register for the 35th Annual Fun Run, which meets at Brewster Avenue and Arguello Street and takes off at 9 a.m.

### Et alia

Not far from the Redwood City parade, the San Mateo County History Museum at 2200 Broadway offers something a little more retro: a chance to churn ice cream and make parachutes, whirligigs, and flags from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission is \$2.50 for adults, \$1.50 for seniors and students. Check [historysmc.org](http://historysmc.org) or call 299-0104.

La Honda historian and resident Bob Dougherty will be at the museum from noon to 2 p.m. to sign his book, "La Honda." With images from private collections, the book pays tribute to the pioneering spirit of the early settlers of La Honda.

Go to [sfsymphony.org](http://sfsymphony.org) to get tickets to Mountain View's concert by the San Francisco Symphony at Shoreline Amphithe-

### JULY FOURTH EVENTS

purchased at the parade or the festival. Call 330-2200 for more information.

### Ragtime

Anyone who fancies live ragtime music, here's your chance to indulge. Musicians will perform on the piano, mandolin, and guitar at the All-American Ragtime Blast concert in Menlo Park to raise money for San Francisco's USO.

Organized by local pianist Nan Bostick, the concert will be held at Menlo Park First Baptist Church at 1100 Middle Ave. from 3 to 4:30 p.m. A barbecue dinner prepared by Pastor Rick Line follows at 5 p.m.

Performers include Nick Robinson and Dennis Pash of The Ragtime Skedaddlers String Band and Meredith Axelrod and Pete Devine of Devine's Jug Band. Another highlight is a piano duel between Ms. Bostick and guest Dave Majchrzak, music director of Missouri's International Scott Joplin Ragtime Festival, who is traveling in from St. Louis.

The concert is free, but dona-

See **FOURTH**, page 9

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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

## Summit Prep cited as 'transformative' high school

Local public charter high school is named in Newsweek's magazine annual listing of the "best" high schools in the U.S.

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

Newsweek magazine has named Summit Preparatory Charter High School one of 10 "transformative" high schools in its annual report on the "best" public high schools in the United States.

Newsweek rankings of the 500 "best" public high schools is based on information from the 1,100 schools that responded to the magazine's annual survey.

The "transformative" label is based on three principal factors: high academic performance, a substantial number of students qualifying for federally subsidized lunches, and a policy of choosing students by lottery, Newsweek reporter Lauren

Streib told the Almanac.

"The schools that did the most with the least," she added.

Requests to fill out an online 16-question survey went to between 10,000 and 15,000 schools, Ms. Streib said.

Menlo-Atherton and Woodside high schools received requests but did not respond, she said.

Summit, located in Redwood City, graduated its first senior class in 2007. A significant number of its students live or have lived in the Almanac's circulation area.

"We're really doing things that very few high schools in the country are doing, and that's exciting," Summit Executive Director Todd Dickson said in an email. In an interview, he

Summit Prep statistics from Newsweek	
2010 graduates	94
Student-teacher ratio	26
Students qualifying for free/reduced-price lunch	42%
Four-year, on-time graduation rate	94%
Graduates who enrolled in college immediately	100%
Average SAT (out of 2400)	1610
Advanced placement/International Baccalaureate tests per graduate	4.7
Average AP exam score	2.4

Source: Annual survey by Newsweek magazine.

said he was referring to Summit's practice of having every student take several advanced-placement (AP) classes, at least three AP exams, and the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).

But does Summit have an advantage in tending to attract students with high hopes and caring parents who help their children turn hopes into achievement? Mr. Dickson noted that Summit's freshman

classes, on average, have lower standardized test scores from middle school than the average in the Sequoia Union High School District.

"If parents really cared, they would be doing better," he said. "(That issue) just doesn't hold water for our particular school."

Summit was one of two California schools designated as transformative. Texas had six.

Go to [tinyurl.com/SummitPrep](http://tinyurl.com/SummitPrep) for statistics on Summit Prep.

Got to [tinyurl.com/NewsweekPoll](http://tinyurl.com/NewsweekPoll) for the story.

### Shorter list

In 2006, the Newsweek survey listed 1,231 "best" public high schools, including Menlo-Atherton High School.

The number of schools rose steadily until in 2010, there were more than 1,600, always including M-A. Starting in 2009, the list included Woodside High and Summit Prep.

Woodside Principal David Reilly said he recalled responding to something that seemed related to a survey request. Mr. Reilly and M-A Principal Matthew Zito did not respond to requests for comment on the 2011 list.

The list shrank because a new team took over, Ms. Streib, the

See **SUMMIT**, page 8

## Supes agree to plan to reopen Flood Park

By Chris Cooney  
Bay City News Service

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors approved a plan June 23 that will temporarily keep Flood Park open through the beginning of next year.

The 21-acre public space off Bay Road in Menlo Park had been slated for closure this year, when the county indicated it would have to keep

Flood Park closed to save about \$200,000 in annual maintenance fees. The park is currently closed to accommodate the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, which is replacing a water supply pipeline through the area as part of its \$4.6 billion project to rebuild the Hetch Hetchy Regional Water System.

The project is expected to keep the park closed until September, when the county's budget had included a proposal to make the closure permanent to cut costs.

A well-organized community

reaction led to the formation of Friends of Flood Park and Save Flood Park, two groups that engaged residents, Menlo Park city officials, county supervisors and department heads in an effort to keep the park open.

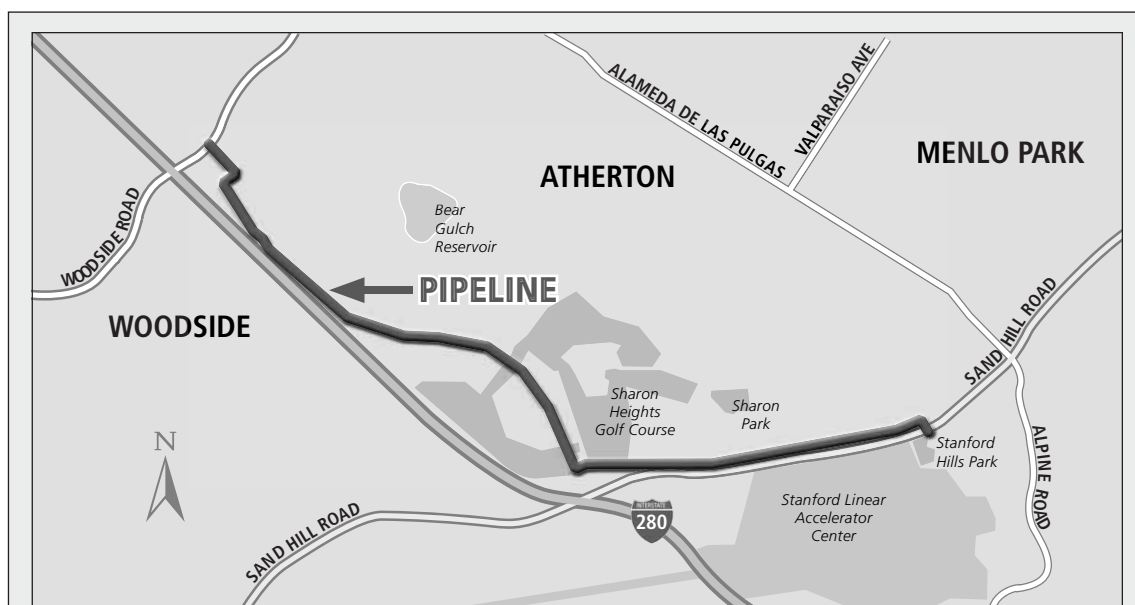
The plan approved by the supervisors will restore approximately \$155,000 to the county Department of Public Works, which will use the funds to reopen Flood Park when the SFPUC's construction project has been completed.

"We have anticipated keeping Flood Park open for six months with the bridge money we've received," public works director Jim Porter said.

The department will be able to keep the park open through March 31, 2012. During that period, the county can work with residents and Menlo Park officials toward a solution that would permanently avert any type of closure, Mr. Porter said.

See **FLOOD**, page 8

*A well-organized community reaction led to the formation of Friends of Flood Park and Save Flood Park.*



Map courtesy of Pacific Gas & Electric

Natural gas pipes under parts of Menlo Park and Woodside will be selectively purged and subjected to high pressure infusions of water to test their fitness, according to a PG&E statement

## PG&E to test underground gas mains

Fire district more involved since San Bruno explosion.

By Dave Boyce  
Almanac Staff Writer

To test the condition of natural gas pipelines that pass under parts of Menlo Park and Woodside, Pacific Gas & Electric Corp. will be running a remote controlled camera through selected pipes, followed by an infusion of water at much

higher pressure than the pipes ever experience, according to a PG&E statement.

The inspection program, begun after the pipeline September 2010 explosion in San Bruno, is "rigorous and ongoing" and intended "to improve the safety and operations of our natural gas transmission system — and the safety of the communities we serve."

To explain the process, the company will host two open houses: in Redwood City on Tuesday, June 28, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Shinnyo-en Buddhist Temple, 3910 Bret Harte Drive; and in Menlo Park on Wednesday, June 29, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at St. Bede's Episcopal Church at 2650 Sand Hill Road.

See **PG&E**, page 8

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



The alternative rock band Luce performed Saturday at Gwendolyn Fuller's home in the 700 block of Stanford Avenue in Menlo Park.

## Menlo Park resident opens backyard to concert series

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Eight years ago, Gwendolyn Fuller asked herself, "What are the dreams un-lived in my life?" While recuperating from an accident requiring extensive surgery, she realized one answer rested in her own backyard.

A musician, she loved listening to live music, but hated driving all the way to San Francisco or Shoreline only to sit so far away from the band it was like watching them on television.

"So I landscaped my house to be able to accommodate a stage area," she said. Enter Blue Rock House Concerts, the name inspired by glowing chunks of blue glass scattered around the yard of her home in the 700 block of Stanford Avenue in Menlo Park. "I'm a Star Trek fan," she admitted. "So I designed a futuristic Garden of Eden."

About 130 people lounged in Ms. Fuller's backyard on Saturday, June 25, to listen to alternative rock band Luce perform. "It was phenomenal," she said. "About one-third of the audience was new."

For seven years, Ms. Fuller has hosted bands large and

small at her home. With three shows during the summer, and occasional smaller gatherings during winter, she gets plenty of practice as a stagehand.

"I'm sort of the roadie. I'm looking at lights, doing multiple soundchecks, making sure the music is loud enough, but not too loud. I'm always keeping my eye open, is everything going alright with the bathroom?" she said and laughed. "I'm a vigilant relaxed person."

Aside from a rare plumbing problem like the one that struck the day before Saturday's concert, the events sound hassle-free. Charging \$25 per person to pay the band, Ms. Fuller described the event as basically a private party that makes no money, which saves her from dealing with the red tape of permits.

"The other thing I do is make sure the music never lasts beyond 8:30 p.m. I let all neighbors know when the concerts are, and they can come for free," Ms. Fuller said. "They love it. Sometimes they sit in their yards sipping wine and listen."

She hosts the next concert on Aug. 20, with Celtic band Molly's Revenge.

Go to [bluerockhouseconcerts.com](http://bluerockhouseconcerts.com) for more information. ■

## Sequoia Hospital opens treatment center

Sequoia Hospital has opened a Breast and Diagnostic Center at 2900 Whipple Ave., Suite 100, behind the main hospital building in Redwood City.

The center has an all-female team, including a new position, the patient navigator.

"The navigator will serve as the patient's personal assistant," said Dr. Lisa Booher, radiation oncologist and specialist in breast health. "This marks the beginning of a new approach to care delivery."

The Susan G. Komen Foundation will partner with Sequoia Hospital in promoting the importance of breast cancer prevention. According to the American Cancer Society, breast cancer is the most common cancer among American women, except for skin cancers. Death rates from breast cancer have been declining since about 1990, according to a Sequoia Hospital press release.

To schedule an appointment at the new center, call 367-5536.

## Almanac launches membership campaign

'Support Local Journalism' drive asks readers to invest in community reporting

The Almanac has launched a campaign to secure a healthy future by asking readers to begin paying for a portion of the costs of operating the newspaper and its popular website, AlmanacNews.com.

Through a letter to all residents and a print and online advertising campaign, the Almanac aims to replace the recession-driven decline in print advertising with membership subscriptions from people who value local journalism, regardless of whether viewed in print or online.

"As more residents turn online to stay informed about the community, and businesses rocked by the recession suspend their advertising or

turn to inexpensive marketing alternatives, the traditional business model that allowed local journalism to be primarily supported through advertising is quickly evaporating," said Almanac Publisher Tom Gibboney.

### SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM

"These changes threaten the viability of quality local journalism everywhere, including in our community," Mr. Gibboney explains in an editorial on Page 22 of today's paper.

At SupportLocalJournalism.org/Almanac, readers can sign up for a monthly payment pro-

gram of at least \$5 per month (17 cents a day). They can also sign up by returning the form being mailed to residents this week, or by calling the office at (650) 854-2626. Annual payments are also welcomed.

Subscribing members will receive a Support Local Journalism bumper sticker; a choice of a coffee mug, T-shirt or shopping bag; plus special offers and invitations to member events.

"Recent surveys show that our print and online readership is greater than ever," Mr. Gibboney said. "But rather than requiring a newspaper subscription fee or restricting our website to subscribers, we are hoping that residents will step up and do their part to fund the quality local journalism that we create day in and day out," he said.

## BevMo robber suspected of 20-plus crimes

■ Man armed with gun targets stores, police said.

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

A man suspected of robbing the Menlo Park BevMo store at gunpoint may have carried out at least 20 similar crimes throughout the Bay Area, police say.

After the suspect allegedly robbed another store June 1, the San Jose Police Department released a sketch of a black man in his mid 30s, weighing about 200 pounds, and standing 5 feet 9 inches.

Detectives believe he also committed robberies in San Francisco, San Leandro, San Bruno, Redwood City, Pacifica, Fremont, Daly City, and Colma.

On May 1, the robber targeted the BevMo at 700 El Camino Real in Menlo. Armed with a silver-colored revolver, the man ordered the store manager to

### ■ BRIEFS



Sketch of armed robbery suspect courtesy of the San Jose Police Department.

take money out of a safe and four cash registers, while a customer remained unaware of the robbery, police said.

No one was injured. The man fled on foot, wearing a black beanie, black mask covering his nose and mouth, a gray hooded sweatshirt, blue jeans and white shoes, police said.

San Jose police ask anyone with information regarding the suspect to call Det. Adam Hut-

son at (408) 277-4166. To contact investigators anonymously, call Silicon Valley Crimestoppers at (408) 947-7867.

### Stabbing suspect arrested in Menlo

A sharp exchange of words on a sunny afternoon turned physical Thursday, June 23, in Menlo Park. Police said they arrested Menlo Park resident Alamoti Finau, 69, for allegedly stabbing another man in the arm.

The two men got into a confrontation shortly after 4 p.m. in the 1200 block of Willow Road, police said.

Medics took the 68-year-old victim to the hospital, where he is expected to recover, police said.

Sgt. Matthew Ortega said the two men were acquaintances, but investigators don't know yet what they were arguing about.

Police said they are investigating the stabbing as an attempted murder. They ask anyone with information about the incident to call 330-6300.

## Last chance to vote for favorite shops, restaurants

The deadline to vote — and be eligible for prizes — in the 2011 Readers' Choice balloting is July 3.

From contractors to Chinese food, dry cleaners to dentists, we're asking you to single out your favorite places to eat, shop, buy services and have fun.

Visit [AlmanacNews.com/readers\\_choice](http://AlmanacNews.com/readers_choice) to access the online ballot.

New this year is a ballot for mobile devices that can be accessed by scanning the QR code



in the Readers' Choice ad on Page 16.

Vote for at least five categories by July 3. Be sure to activate your ballot by responding to a confirmation email, and you will be entered into a prize drawing. Prize winners will be contacted via email after voting ends July 3.

If you can't find your favorites in the drop-down menus, submit them

as write-in votes. Write-in votes help new businesses qualify for next year's ballot.



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## PG&E to test underground gas mains in this area

### PG&E

continued from page 5

The pipes run west along Sand Hill Road from about Branner Drive to Interstate 280, under the Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club and along I-280 to Woodside Road, according to a PG&E map. (The testing schedule is not yet available.)

Depending on the wind, an odor of natural gas may accompany this operation as a pipe section is blocked off and purged of gas. The gas will “quickly dissipate and will not be harmful,” the company statement said.

After testing, a second purging may again cause escaped gas, which will also disperse harmlessly, the statement said. The water used in testing will be considered tainted.

As the day of testing approaches, robo-calls will be made to homes and businesses within 2,000 feet of the gas line, the statement said.

The company urges people concerned by gas odors to call 1-800-743-5000, a 24-hour PG&E customer service line.

No work will be done without advance notice to fire and police agencies, and the company says it anticipates no disruption to customer gas service. Road crews will be on hand to control traffic and parking.

### Now forewarned

When different kinds of utility lines meet in the same patch of ground, the unexpected can happen.

In San Bruno on September 10, 2010, when a gas line exploded and several people

died in the resulting havoc, significant damage was done to a water main and sewer line, Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District said in an interview.

“We couldn’t shut the water down all the way and it created a (jet effect) that sucked sewage into the water main,” Chief Schapelhouman said, recalling his experience that night.

That experience, he said, has robbed him of excuses for not thinking about collateral damage in the event of a major catastrophe in the Menlo Park district.

“That (excuse of ignorance) is gone for me now,” he said. “I don’t get that soft pitch again. I’ve got to plan and train and prepare from what I’ve learned. I need to have a comfort level (such that) we’ve asked and exhausted all the questions to ensure public safety.”

After a few hiccups, PG&E is now familiar with the Menlo Park district management’s interest in becoming educated observers of local pipeline matters, including their ages, fitness, locations, capacities and maintenance, Chief Schapelhouman said.

“We’re putting people in harm’s way and we’re standing on point,” he said. “We haven’t had the necessary dialog to assess the risk and understand the complexity of the issues. I think (PG&E) is getting that. I don’t think anybody really thought this through.”

“Hopefully the testing will be successful and we’ll all have a higher comfort level as to the resilience of the infrastructure,” he said. ■

### FLOOD

continued from page 5

Board president Carole Groom said that closing Flood Park was not an option. “Some way or another, we have to keep it open,” she said.

County Manager David Boesch said the county is investigating different scenarios that would save the park, including an “active ongoing conversation” with the city of Menlo Park regarding a possible transfer of the property to that city’s jurisdiction.

Supervisor Adrienne Tissier said that even in tough economic times, closing Flood Park — or any county park — should be avoided, but cautioned against selling or transferring ownership of the county’s interest in Flood

Park in order to save it.

The board directed public works staff to come back before September with an update on the status of the SFPUC project, reopening Flood Park to the public, and negotiations that would keep it open permanently.

Kristin Cox, president of Save Flood Park and Friends of Flood Park, expressed “intense gratitude” to the supervisors for their action, and said plans were under way with the Silicon Valley Community Foundation to create a nonprofit that could establish a long-term funding stream to help maintain the park.

“I know we’ve got people in the community who want to come forward with their time or their checkbooks,” Ms. Cox said. ■

## Jeff Child returns to Menlo Park board

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

### ■ SCHOOLS

Each candidate had many strengths on offer, but in the end, the Menlo Park City School District board opted for experience in choosing former member Jeff Child to fill a vacant board seat on June 21.

Mr. Child, who chose not to run for re-election when his four-year term ended last year, will fill the remainder of Mark Box’s term, which ends in December 2012. Mr. Box resigned, effective June 30, to move to Spain.

Mr. Child, whose appointment will be effective on July 1, was appointed after all four candidates for the seat were individually interviewed by the board during a public session.

The short duration of the appointment, a new superintendent who begins his job on July 1, and the need for someone with deep financial expertise and vision were key factors for the four board members who chose Mr. Child. (Mr. Box didn’t participate in the appointment process.)

Board member Joan Lambert, who began serving on the board in December, noted that there’s a “steep learning curve” to be navigated when a new member is seated on the board. “I know first-hand how steep that curve is,” she said. “I feel that I’m not fully there yet.”

Because of all the pressing issues facing the district, she said, Mr. Child would be the best choice because of his prior experience, among other strong qualifications.

Board president Maria



Jeff Child “is the best person to hit the ground running,” said board member Terry Thygesen.

Hilton and member Laura Rich echoed their colleagues’ sentiments. They also were unanimous in their views that the other three applicants have much to offer, and in expressing hope that they would remain involved in the district.

Ana Uribe Ruiz, who ran for a seat last November, was among the applicants for the position. A Menlo Park resident for only two years, her involvement in the district has been limited.

Pam Larkin, a nine-year member of the district’s Strategic Planning Committee who has chaired and co-chaired the Encinal Site Council for the last two years, also applied for the seat, as did Ivan Montoya, who served on the Oak Knoll Site Council from 2003 to 2009, chairing the group during his final two years.

After his appointment, Mr. Child told the Almanac he was in the process of contacting the other three applicants to ask to meet with them. He wasn’t present during their interviews before the board, and “the other board members talked about all the good ideas” the other candidates put forward, Mr. Child said. He said he was eager to hear those ideas for himself, and added that he wants to encourage the other applicants to stay engaged with the district.

Asked why he applied for the board seat after deciding not to run for re-election last November, Mr. Child said that he has more free time now than he had when he decided not to run, in part because he has left the board of another organization.

“I’m eager to get back in,” he said. “I’m also interested in helping our new superintendent.”

Mr. Child was known as “the finance guy” during his previous tenure, he and other board members said, but his interests go beyond the budget. He said he has a strong interest in continuing work begun in earnest about four years ago to close the “achievement gap” in the district.

Test scores have shown that non-white students are underperforming, he said, and he, his board colleagues, and Superintendent Ken Ranella intensified the effort to reverse that trend in 2007.

“I really want to see us close (the gap),” he said during his interview before the board. “If we can’t do it in Menlo Park, where can it be done?” ■

### SUMMIT

continued from page 5

Newsweek reporter, said. The magazine ended its joint effort with the Washington Post and enlisted an education advisory panel to work on a new formula to evaluate schools, Ms. Streib said. One panel member helped in compiling the data, she said.

The panel included Linda Darling Hammond, a noted professor in the education school at Stanford University and co-director of Stanford’s School Redesign Network.

“I have not seen the Newsweek article and don’t know how they

came up with their ratings,” Ms. Darling Hammond said in an email. “I did have a conversation with a Newsweek reporter about indicators they might consider beyond AP scores.”

Previous Newsweek rankings relied significantly on the number of AP tests given at a school divided by the number of graduating seniors.

For 2011, what mattered were the average scores on AP and aptitude tests, the number of AP classes offered, how many AP tests were taken per graduate, and rates of high school graduation and entrance to college.

The formula will evolve, Ms. Streib said, adding that 2011 was “a transitional year” in this Newsweek tradition.

The Newsweek story mentions the 2010 movie “Waiting for Superman,” a harsh critique of comprehensive schools and the teaching establishment with a notable local angle: it singles out Summit Prep for explicit praise and Woodside High for implicit criticism.

“I haven’t seen that movie,” Ms. Streib said. The story mentioned it because it attracted press and significant attention to the education system, she said. ■



Almanac photo by Michelle Le

**Belle Haven's** community pool is closed for restoration. It will be open from July 11 through Aug. 21.

## Belle Haven diving boards closed for summer

■ Pool opening delayed.

By **Sandy Brundage**

Almanac Staff Writer

Cries of “Cannonball!” won’t resound at the Belle Haven pool this summer — rusting around platform bolts led the city to close both diving boards for the season. The \$40,000 needed for repairs won’t be available until next year, according to a memo from Community Services Director Cherise Brandell to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

The memo said “major rusting of the original diving board platforms has been discovered” and that repairs would be included with the next fiscal year’s capital improvement project to replace the heater and boiler.

Ms. Brandell told the Almanac that the boards dated back to the 1970s. “The engineer

who looked at the boards felt that they could still be safely used for years to come but we needed to make a decision immediately about whether or not to repair or replace them while we had the deck open,” she said. “The time needed to remove the boards and repair or replace them as a part of this summer’s project would have essentially kept the pool closed all summer.”

So the city opted to wait until it can replace the platforms, thereby extending the usefulness of the boards another 40 years instead of a short-term fix, Ms. Brandell explained.

Tim Sheeper, whose company won the contract to operate both of the city’s pool facilities in March, said other restorations are almost finished. “We plan to open Belle Haven on Monday, July 11, through Sunday, August 21,” he said.

The city’s restorations

delayed the pool opening, giving residents roughly a month-and-a-half to enjoy the pool this year instead of the three months expected by Mr. Sheeper’s contract.

In preparation for opening day, Mr. Sheeper estimated hiring six swim instructors, six lifeguards, four administrative personnel, and one maintenance staffer, but indicated that could change depending on community demand.

Since the city budgeted for repairs such as renewing the pool deck and 20-year-old fiberglass liner in its capital improvement plan, according to staff, Mr. Sheeper isn’t responsible for covering the costs. If he chooses to make other improvements worth \$200,000 total within the first four years of his contract, with the city’s consent, he gets an automatic five-year extension on the contract. ■

### FOURTH

continued from page 3

atre. The 8 p.m. show concludes with a fireworks display. Tickets are \$19.50 to \$47.35.

### Tipsy tow

The American Automobile Association (AAA) offers a free tow up to five miles for drivers who imbibed during the holiday celebrations, from 6 p.m. on July 4 to 6 a.m. the next morning. Drivers can call 800-222-4357 (AAA-HELP) and request a “tipsy tow.” ■

## Police league awards scholarships

The Atherton Police Activities League has awarded scholarships of \$5,000 each to three graduating seniors who attend schools in Atherton.

Maya Combs of Sacred Heart Preparatory, John Holland-McCowan of Menlo School, and Gabriella Meffert of Menlo-Atherton High School were selected from a pool of 37 applicants based on their academic achievements, community involvement, and the strength of

their personal statements.

Eligibility requirements also included a grade-point average of 3.0 or higher and enrollment in a college or university for the fall of 2011, said Jennifer Few, a spokesperson for the Atherton Police Activities League.

“All the money we receive is through donations, so our main goal is to give back to the community,” she said.

— Caitlin Moyles

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## Willows burglary suspects tied to other crime

By **Sandy Brundage**

Almanac Staff Writer

**N**eighborhood watch works. A Willows resident spotted two strangers strolling through his neighbor's backyard on Friday, June 24, and called police, who were ready and waiting when the men exited the house.

Upon reportedly finding stolen jewelry and small electronic items on the pair, police arrested both for burglary shortly before noon, Sgt.

Matthew Ortega said.

Luis Cadena, 18, of East Palo Alto, and a 17-year-old male companion were booked on suspicion of residential burglary. They'd reportedly climbed through an unlocked dining room window.

Police spokeswoman Nicole Acker said the investigators believe the pair also attempted to burglarize another house on the same day.

A resident in the 2000 block of Menalto Avenue came home

around 5 p.m. to find window screens removed from the house, but the would-be thieves failed to get inside, Ms. Acker said.

No word yet on whether the two men may be linked to the other burglaries plaguing the Willows during the past six months. The city hosted a community meeting last week to discuss the incidents.

Police ask anyone with information about the burglary to call 330-6300. ▀

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## Veterans get a boost at Canada College

Veterans returning from active duty in Afghanistan or other theaters can be confused by the maze of government programs designed to help them create a new life back home.

At a special center on its campus in Woodside known as "V-ROC," short for Veterans Resource and Opportunity Center, Canada College has created a two-room space where veterans can find out about housing allowances, how to sign up for up to 36 months of college tuition, and numerous other benefits.

The Rotary Club of Menlo Park is helping the college raise money to support V-ROC, and also has arranged for Amici's restaurant in Menlo Park and Safeway stores to supply lunch on alternating Tuesdays for veterans who drop in.

"The center is designed to be an oasis for the veterans, where they can hang out, have a snack, talk with other veterans, do homework, or watch TV," said Menlo Park resident Mary Helen Armstrong, a Rotary Club member who works on the project.

The Rotary Club's goal is to help Canada College raise funding for the center and eventually support other combat veteran mentors who can help their peers learn the life skills necessary when returning to civilian life, Ms. Armstrong said.

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**Above:** Camille Jones, 4, checks out her face at Joanna's Face Painting booth during the block party.

**Above:** Sam Louth, 8, adds a jump to his hula hooping during a summer block party in downtown Menlo Park on June 22. **Right:** Mid-Peninsula Animal Hospital hosted a dog parade during the block party. Donations fund the rescue and care of pets that were victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

#### Almanac photos by Michelle Le

A good time was had by many at a block party on downtown Santa Cruz Avenue in Menlo Park on Wednesday evening, June 22. Festivities included a dog parade, hosted by the Mid-Peninsula Animal Hospital in Menlo Park. There were hula hoops, face-painting, outdoor dining, and lots of music, including the launch of the city's eight-week summer concert series in Fremont Park.



## New businesses open shop in Menlo Park

By Caitlin Moyles  
Special to the Almanac

Two new businesses have opened in Menlo Park — Le Burge't Salon, which offers coloring, haircuts and makeup, and Nuleaf Compounding Pharmacy, offering customized prescribed medications.

Le Burge't is in the Sharon Heights Shopping Center and Nuleaf is at 441 El Camino Real.

#### Le Burge't

The San Francisco-based Le Burge't Salon share a suite in the Sharon Heights Shopping Center with Inspiration Day Spa. Open since June 1, the five-chair salon offers haircuts, coloring and makeup on an appointment and

walk-in basis, said Kristine Burge't, who opened the original salon with her sister Marie in 2007.

The salon operates on a commission basis and has two stylists so far, Ms. Burge't said, adding that she hopes to hire three more to fill all the chairs.

The sisters decided to move into the Sharon Heights building when the salon that used to occupy the space left several months ago. Le Burge't Salon occupies a little under half of the 3,500-square-foot building.

"Starting a business is so hard, and we saw an opportunity to cater to the spa's clientele," Ms. Burge't said. "We also researched the community, and when we saw that Menlo Park is in Silicon Val-

#### ■ BUSINESS

ley and that Facebook is nearby, we thought we could jazz up this community of clientele."

Ms. Burge't, who said it took only three months to set up shop from the time they heard of the Sharon Heights opening, described getting the necessary business permit as an "easy breezy" compared to the process in San Francisco.

"We couldn't be happier to be doing business here in Menlo Park," she said.

The salon will celebrate its grand opening with a hair show, catered hors d'oeuvres, live music, and door prizes on Saturday, July 9. The event will begin at 6 p.m.

Le Buge't Salon occupies Suite D-4, right next to Safeway and Wells Fargo, in the Sharon Heights Shopping Center, 325 Sharon Park Drive in Menlo Park. Call 847-1057 for more information.

#### Nuleaf Pharmacy

Nuleaf Compounding Pharmacy, a new business that works with doctors to customize their patients' prescribed medications, occupies a small building located at 441 El Camino Real in Menlo Park, said owner Lynn Pham. It has been open since June 1.

"We work with doctors to customize commercially available medications to fit the specific needs of the patient," she said. Services include isolating and removing an inactive ingredient that is bothering the patient, changing the dosage form, and altering fla-

vors for children.

"Menlo Park is a small, tight-knit community. The elderly population will especially benefit from independently customized medications," she said.

Setting up shop has taken longer than expected because Ms. Pham had to get a conditional use permit due to the building's "parking issues," she said. Getting licensed by the California Board of Pharmacy also took time, she added.

The 1,700-square-foot space was previously occupied by an optical lab, she said.

Nuleaf will celebrate its grand opening on June 30 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. There, attendees can meet the staff, learn more about compounding, and win a GPS and iPad in a raffle.

Visit [nuleafx.com](http://nuleafx.com) or call 485-2142 for more information. ■

# Complaint against police 'unfounded' New hiking trail opens

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

## ■ ATHERTON

Private investigator David Reuben has concluded that a citizen's complaint against Atherton's police chief and police lieutenant filed by former finance director John Johns is unfounded.

Mr. Reuben, whose background includes a long stint with the San Francisco District Attorney's Office, was hired in April by Atherton's interim city manager, John Danielson, to review Mr. Johns' complaint that a prior investigation into his allegations of wrongdoing by the police department was tainted. That investigation had been done by Pete Peterson, the former police chief of Clayton, California, and also concluded that Mr. Johns' complaints were unfounded.

In his latest formal complaint, Mr. Johns had alleged that Chief Mike Guerra and Lt. Joe Wade denied him "the right to a (proper), thorough and timely investigation of the citizen's complaints I filed during the time frame of February 2010 through January 2011."

Those allegations stemmed from his August 2007 detainment by police at the Atherton Town Center, when he was on paid administrative leave while being investigated by the town. Mr. Johns had accused members of the police department of evidence tampering, falsification of a police report, unlawful search and seizure, and illegal detention.

Soon after the 2007 incident, Mr. Johns was fired; he then successfully sued the town for

wrongful termination.

In a press release issued Friday afternoon (June 24), the town announced: "Following an exhaustive review of all documents submitted to the town ... over the last several years, a review of Peterson's investigation, and follow up interviews with relevant personnel (including Mr. Johns), it has been determined that no evidence was uncovered to suggest that investigator Peterson's inquiry was improper or incomplete in any way.

"On the contrary, Peterson did an extremely thorough and exhaustive review of Mr. Johns' complaint and was not influenced in any way by the police department or any individuals."

Reached by phone, Mr. Johns first joked that he was "abso-

See **POLICE**, page 13

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

## ■ PORTOLA VALLEY

A new hiking trail is now walk-worthy and within sight of the Portola Valley Town Center. The Public Works Department on June 21 announced the opening of a perimeter trail around the 6-acre Spring Down meadow, located at 725 Portola Road, adjacent to the Town Center tennis courts.

Along with a trail, this first phase of the project included the removal of non-native vegetation and replanting with native grass seed, all at a cost of about \$20,000, Assistant Town Manager Janet McDougall said.

The town has set aside \$75,000 for the entire project.

The second phase involves hiring a biologist to look for endangered species. If none are found, the town will hire a hydrologist

to consult on changing the 8-foot-deep, manmade, oxygen-starved, debris-strewn and possibly dangerous pond in the meadow into something natural, seasonal, shallower, and home for amphibians and insects.

"We don't believe we're going to find endangered species there," Public Works Director Howard Young said in April. "We're pretty sure of that."

"The pond could be the crown jewel," said Gary Nielsen, a member of the citizens committee that studied this meadow and recommended to the Town Council that it be preserved as open space.

The committee also heard proposals for a skate park or a

See **TRAIL**, page 13

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## Girl Scouts win Bronze

Eight local Girl Scouts of Junior Troop 31010 have been awarded the Bronze Award, the highest honor a Junior Girl Scout can earn, after completing a week-long community project.

With the guidance of troop leader Jane Baran, the Girl Scouts assisted a special needs classroom at Encinal Elementary School in Menlo Park as the students learned about the life cycle of butterflies, said Larissa Collins of Menlo Park, mother of

one of the girls who attained the Bronze Award. The girls are all fifth-graders at Encinal Elementary School.

The Bronze Award winners are: Anna Baran, Cammy Britts, Emma Collins, Rebecca Klein, Kate Perri, Katherine Steere, Kaitlyn Tonsfeldt and Elana Goff.

They were recognized at an award ceremony that took place at an Atherton home on Friday, May 20.

### TRAIL

*continued from page 12*

field to accommodate a pick-up baseball game, but open space won the day, according to a staff report.

“It very much emerged that a consensus wanted to keep it in an open state (though the minority’s views) were definitely considered,” committee liaison and Councilwoman Ann Wengert said in April.

To pay for projects like this one, the town taps the Open Space fund, which is expected to have a balance of about \$3.2 million in June 2012.

The fund is replenished yearly

with revenues of \$225,000 to \$250,000 from the utility users’ tax and about \$80,000 from the proceeds of the annual Blues & Barbecue festival. The festival will not be held in 2011 due in part to a lack of volunteers needed to bring it off. ■

### POLICE

*continued from page 12*

lutely thrilled that everyone in the Atherton police department is innocent.” He concluded: “I thank the town for looking into my allegations, and other than that I really don’t have anything to say. I accept the findings of Mr. Reuben.” ■

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## School districts must amend Lehman lawsuit

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

Attorneys for 12 San Mateo County school districts and the Office of Education have until July 18 to amend a lawsuit filed against the county over the schools' loss of about \$20 million in the 2008 Lehman Brothers collapse.

San Francisco Superior Court Judge Richard Kramer on June 16 ruled that the lawsuit could not go forward because, among other reasons, state law precluded the schools "from bringing common law causes of action for negligence and breach of fiduciary duty against the county," according to a press release from Kecker & Van Nest, the law firm representing the county.

Tom Prountzos of the law firm Jenkins Goodman Neuman &

Hamilton, which represents the schools, said his firm is amending the complaint to re-file by July 18.

Twelve area school districts — including Menlo Park City, Las Lomas, Portola Valley, and Woodside — sued the county and now-retired treasurer Lee Buffington earlier this year for actions that led to the schools' losses.

The treasurer's office is in charge of funds that school districts are required to put in an investment pool; the lawsuit alleges the treasurer invested an "imprudent portion" of the funds in Lehman, and kept them there "after learning of deterioration in the finances, credit rating, and stock price of Lehman."

Overall, the Lehman bankruptcy led to \$155 million in losses for the county and other agencies participating in the investment

pool. But most of those agencies are not required to participate, unlike school districts. The treasurer's office charges "substantial fees" to manage the money, according to Anne Campbell, superintendent of the county Office of Education.

Of the local school districts, Menlo Park City lost the most by far — about \$4 million. The Las Lomas district lost nearly \$400,000; the Portola Valley district, almost \$150,000; and the Woodside district, almost \$100,000.

Ms. Campbell, the spokesperson for the school districts involved in the lawsuit, said that school officials "certainly appreciate Judge Kramer's willingness to allow us to address the concerns he raised" about the complaint during the June 16 court hearing. ■

## James Fadiman on 'Psychedelic Explorer's Guide'

Psychology professor James Fadiman of Menlo Park will discuss his new book, "The Psychedelic Explorer's Guide: Safe, Therapeutic, and Sacred Journeys," at Kepler's bookstore in Menlo Park

at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 30.

Dr. Fadiman has been involved with psychedelic research since the 1960s. A former president of the Institute of Noetic Sciences, he teaches at the Institute

### ■ BRIEFS

of Transpersonal Psychology, which he helped found in 1975.

Admission to the event requires the purchase of the book or a \$10 gift card.

Kepler's is at 1010 El Camino Real in Menlo Park.

Visit keplers.com or call 324-4321 for more information.

### Woodside workshop on invasive grass

A free public workshop on identifying and removing slender false brome, an invasive grass, is set for Friday, July 8, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Independence Hall in Woodside at the corner of Whiskey Hill and Woodside roads, according to a statement from the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

Also invited to this workshop are local pest control professionals, who will have the opportunity to introduce themselves to property owners interested in removing this grass. The district's eradication program includes reimbursement of \$350 per acre of false brome removed, the statement said.

False brome's only known U.S. locations are in Oregon and Woodside, where it is concentrated between La Honda and Old La Honda roads and the Thornwood Open Space, district false-brome coordinator Ellen Gartside has told the Almanac.

For more information and to find out if false brome exists on your property, call Ms. Gartside at 691-1200, ext 577.

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## Companies bid to provide town services

■ A total of 18 bids are received by the town.

By Renee Batti  
Almanac News Editor

Atherton town officials will be reviewing a total of 18 bids from private companies offering to provide public services to the town that are now provided by paid staff in the building and public works departments.

Layoff notices were handed out to 13 employees in those departments late last month, and plans were announced to outsource the services. But subsequently, the planned June 30 layoff was postponed until July 15, giving the town and labor representatives time to consider proposed concessions in employee compensation.

Employees early this month had offered about 12 percent

### ■ ATHERTON

in concessions, which represented about \$167,000 in savings to the town. But they later increased proposed concessions to about \$300,000, according to union representative Peter Finn, who noted that the savings to the town from outsourcing was estimated by town negotiators to be roughly \$276,000.

Bids for providing the services were due in Town Hall on June 24. City Clerk Theresa Dellasanta said they have yet to be reviewed, but eight proposals were received to provide building services, such as plan examination and inspections; seven bids were submitted for the arborist position; and three bids were received for public works services, which include street and park maintenance. ■



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## Portola Valley prepares for emergencies

In addition to considering the budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1, the Town Council in Portola Valley will devote some significant time to emergency preparedness a few minutes after 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 29, in the Historic Schoolhouse at 765 Portola Road.


Scheduled to speak will be representatives from a Mill Valley emergency preparedness team, the Woodside Fire Protection District, and the town's Emergency Preparedness Committee.

Councilman Steve Toben arranged the presentation. "It looks like Mill Valley has done some serious work on evacuation planning," he told the Almanac. "I just thought it would be beneficial to cross-fertilize with them. They live in a part of the world that has similar features to where we live."

Mill Valley has conducted a "full dress" evacuation that included the evacuation of horses, Mr. Toben said. "We're progressing," he said, but "they're pretty sophisticated."

Go to [tinyurl.com/MV-evac](http://tinyurl.com/MV-evac) for a Youtube video on a Mill Valley evacuation.

In a recent discussion, the council discussed a need for new vigor in the Citizens Emergency Response and Preparedness Program, a group of volunteers who serve Portola Valley, Woodside and nearby unincorporated areas.



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## Menlo Park Hardware expands by 1,400 sq. ft.

Tool time: Menlo Park Hardware at 700 Santa Cruz Ave. in Menlo Park is growing by 1,400 square feet. "We leased the space almost a year ago," said Vasile Oros, who has owned the store since 2005. He expects to finish the expansion in two weeks. "We need more room; too much stuff in a little, small place."

The store's inventory will also expand. Mr. Oros said he plans to start stocking a wider selection of batteries, from boat to

### BRIEFS

laptop to camera batteries and more.

#### Strong-arm robbery

Two suspects punched and kicked a 19-year-old man until he passed out on Sunday, June 26, according to Menlo Park police. The two men then stole his wallet and cell phone. The victim went home after regaining consciousness and called

police, reporting that the robbery happened around 3 a.m. near the intersection of Carlton Avenue and Pierce Road.

#### Car burglarized, again

Thieves apparently like convertibles, or at least this particular convertible. For the fourth time, the owner reported that unknown suspects broke into the car, this time taking the stereo and a pair of Bose speakers worth about \$600, police said.

The car was parked in the 800 block of Laurel Avenue.

#### Salzman speaks

Silicon Valley venture capitalist Alan Salzman spoke at Menlo College's Commencement ceremony at the business school's campus in Atherton on May 7.

Mr. Salzman, co-founder and CEO of VantagePoint Capital Partners, spoke about clean technology's potential to solve global resource shortages, and encouraged students to adapt to change and use it to their advantage.

VantagePoint, which has offices

in San Bruno, specializes in clean-tech and clean-energy investments and said it manages about \$4.5 billion.

#### Compost giveaway

If it's time to fertilize the garden again, check out the free compost giveaway in Menlo Park on Saturday, July 2. Bring a shovel, proof of residency, and containers to help yourself to the large pile of at the entrance of Bedwell Bayfront Park, near the intersection of Bayfront Expressway and Marsh Road. The event lasts from sunrise to sunset or until the compost runs out.



**Deadline to Vote is this Sunday!**

## Tune in and vote!

In this year's Readers' Choice we serenade the businesses that make Menlo Park groovy — the rockin' restaurants, retailers and services in or around town.



Go to [AlmanacNews.com/readers\\_choice](http://AlmanacNews.com/readers_choice) and Vote!

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>BLACK EYED PEAS</b><br/>(FOOD AND DRINK)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Best Bagels</li> <li>Best Bakery</li> <li>Best Breakfast</li> <li>Best Dessert</li> <li>Best Ice Cream/Frozen Yogurt</li> <li>Best Independent Coffee and Tea House</li> <li>Best Hamburgers</li> <li>Best New Food/Drink Establishment</li> <li>Best Pizza</li> <li>Best Place to Buy Meat</li> <li>Best Place to Buy Wine</li> <li>Best Sandwiches</li> <li>Best Seafood</li> <li>Best Take Out</li> </ul> | <p><b>MEN AT WORK</b><br/>(SERVICES)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Best Auto Repair</li> <li>Best Barber</li> <li>Best Dry Cleaner</li> <li>Best Day Spa</li> <li>Best Gym</li> <li>Best Fitness Classes</li> <li>Best Florist</li> <li>Best Green Business</li> <li>Best Hair Salon</li> <li>Best Health &amp; Nutrition Services</li> <li>Best Hotel</li> <li>Best Landscape Service</li> <li>Best Manicure/Pedicure</li> <li>Best New Service Business</li> <li>Best Painter</li> </ul> | <p><b>RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS</b><br/>(RESTAURANTS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Best Casual Dining</li> <li>Best Chinese Restaurant</li> <li>Best Dining with Kids</li> <li>Best French Restaurant</li> <li>Best Indian Restaurant</li> <li>Best Intimate Dining</li> <li>Best Italian Restaurant</li> <li>Best Japanese Restaurant</li> <li>Best Mexican Restaurant</li> <li>Best New Restaurant</li> <li>Best Wine List</li> </ul>                        |
| <p><b>JOHNNY CASH</b><br/>(RETAIL SHOPPING)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Best Bicycle Shop</li> <li>Best Bookstore</li> <li>Best Boutique</li> <li>Best Floor Coverings</li> <li>Best Frame Store</li> <li>Best Gift and Novelty Store</li> <li>Best Grocery</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p><b>NIRVANA</b><br/>(FUN STUFF)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Best Happy Hour</li> <li>Best Place for a Date</li> <li>Best Place to Meet People</li> <li>Best Place for a Children's Birthday Party</li> <li>Best Live Music</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p><b>Best Hardware Store</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Best Home Decor &amp; Furnishings</li> <li>Best Jewelry Store</li> <li>Best Lingerie</li> <li>Best New Retail Business</li> <li>Best Nursery</li> <li>Best Pet Store</li> <li>Best Produce</li> <li>Best Shoe Store</li> <li>Best Toy Shop</li> </ul> <p><b>Best Pharmacy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Best Plumber</li> <li>Best Travel Agency</li> <li>Best Yoga</li> </ul> |

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File photo by Dave Boyce/The Almanac

**Bicycle safety** and the possibility of officially designated bike lanes on Alpine Road and Portola roads is becoming a priority for the Portola Valley Town Council.

## Does Portola Valley need real bike lanes?

■ Council looks at adding the lanes to Alpine and Portola roads.

By **Dave Boyce**

Almanac Staff Writer

A lone bicyclist is seen peddling along a rural suburban road. He approaches a stop sign after a long gradual climb, pauses slightly at the empty intersection, then continues along, finally disappearing around a curve. If a group of community volunteers who advise the Town Council on vehicle traffic overlooked the impact of this cyclist to the town's traffic congestion, no one would care. Not even if it happened every day.

What if it happened every five or 10 minutes at a busy intersection? What if many of those cyclists, jealous of their momentum, ignored the stop sign? What if a collection of cyclists, say 30 or 50 or 100, in an exercise of sophistication and beauty or monopolistic heedlessness, depending on who's watching, rolled through town every day in close formation and at high speed, flowing past the stop sign without pause, and not infrequently taking a whole lane and keeping it despite a train of several cars behind them?

These scenarios are a part of the milieu on Alpine and Portola roads in Portola Valley. On June 8, the Town Council discussed the possibility of revising the volunteer Traffic Committee's mandate to address bicycling issues, including safety and sharing the road.

In an indication of how serious the council is, Mayor Ted Driscoll has suggested widening Alpine and Portola roads

enough to allow genuine bike lanes. (The roads have white lines at the edges but the resulting lanes are not consistently wide enough to be formally designated.)

The council asked Public Works Director Howard Young to return with a cost estimate for an analysis of what it would take to build bike lanes on the two roads. The analysis would likely cost \$10,000, Mr. Young said.

### Low carbon footprint

During the discussion, Mayor Driscoll floated the idea of renaming the advisory group to the Bicycle and Traffic Committee.

"Amen," chimed in Planning

**Mayor Ted Driscoll has suggested widening Alpine and Portola roads enough to allow for genuine bike lanes.**

Commission Chair Nate McKitterick from the audience. Mr. McKitterick, an attorney, resident and dedicated bike commuter, had remarked earlier on the council's longtime commitments to reducing greenhouse gases.

An example: the council voted in 2006 to join the U.S. Mayors Agreement on Climate Change, committing the town to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012.

"The only way we're going to do that is if people buy (Toyota) Priuses or (Nissan) Leafs or get on bikes," Mr. McKitterick said, then outlined some tough questions that a committee might

have to address.

In what way should the town advocate for a cycling milieu that it is safe for all riders, he asked. What is the best design for bicycle-safe intersections? What can be done to change driver behavior about sharing the road?

Mr. Driscoll wondered if the presence of bike lanes would mean less concentration by law enforcement on stop-sign citations and more on bike safety in general.

"I would think so," Lt. Larry Schumaker of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office said from the audience. "I think there won't be as many issues. It will be easier to (issue citations). I think it's going to make it safer for all. Hopefully there won't be reasons for enforcement if we do it right."

Councilwoman Ann Wengert initially dissented on combining both traffic and bicycles in the same committee. The bicycling community has more than enough spirit to have a stand-alone committee, she noted, but ultimately went along with the majority.

While the cycling community was represented at the meeting, no one spoke up for the concerns of motorists. Asked in an interview about that constituency, Ms. Wengert said she has "seen more interest on this issue than I have on many and for a long time."

The town needs a forum for bicycle issues, she added, particularly in light of having no town committee to respond when, on Nov. 4, cyclist Lauren Ward, 47, of Los Altos Hills died after colliding with a tractor trailer at Alpine Road and Interstate 280, an unincorporated area but nearby. ■



### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF MENLO PARK PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING OF JULY 11, 2011

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the City of Menlo Park, California, is scheduled to review the following items:

#### PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

**El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan** - The Planning Commission will commence a multi-meeting review of the Draft Specific Plan. The intent of this review is for the Commission to provide clear and specific recommendations on potential improvements and refinements to the draft plan, for the future consideration of the City Council.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that said Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on public hearing items in the Council Chambers of the City of Menlo Park, located at 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, on **Monday, July 11, 2011**, 7:00 p.m. or as near as possible thereafter, at which time and place interested persons may appear and be heard thereon. If you challenge this item in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Menlo Park at, or prior to, the public hearing.

The project file may be viewed by the public on weekdays between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, with alternate Fridays closed, at the Department of Community Development, 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park. Please call the Planning Division if there are any questions and/or for complete agenda information (650) 330-6702.

*Si usted necesita más información sobre este proyecto, por favor llame al 650-330-6702, y pregunte por un asistente que hable español.*

DATED: June 23, 2011 Deanna Chow, Senior Planner

PUBLISHED: June 29, 2011 Menlo Park Planning Commission

Visit our Web site for Planning Commission public hearing, agenda, and staff report information: [www.menlopark.org](http://www.menlopark.org)



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**NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS  
BID PROPOSALS SOUGHT FOR  
PARKING PLAZA 2 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

The City of Menlo Park invites qualified contractors to submit sealed bid proposals for the construction of the PARKING PLAZA 2 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT. The Work required as part of this project, in general, consists of the removal and disposal of existing concrete curb, gutter, sidewalk, valley gutter, asphalt concrete materials, traffic signs, as well as other features as noted to be removed on the plans followed by the installation of asphalt concrete, new concrete curb, gutter, sidewalk, curb ramps, driveways, bioswales including planting new trees, installation of irrigation system, parking lot lighting system, striping, and slurry work, and other incidentals as necessary to complete the work as shown on the Plans and as specified in the Special Provisions. Performance of this work requires a valid California Contractor's License Class A. Project documents and copies of the prevailing rate of wages can be obtained from the Menlo Park Engineering Division, located in the Administrative Building at 701 Laurel St. Sealed bid proposals will be received at the Engineering Division office until 2 p.m. on Thursday, July 7, 2011, at which time they will be opened and publicly read. Additional information can be obtained on the City's website: [www.menlopark.org/departments/pwk/bidlist.html](http://www.menlopark.org/departments/pwk/bidlist.html)

**Hillview School hands diplomas to 229**

*Submitted by Debbie Devoto, eighth-grade counselor at Hillview Middle School.*

Hillview Middle School's 229 eighth-graders graduated June 15 with traditional pomp, ceremony, and rousing applause from the families, teachers and guests seated on Encinal School's field.

Retiring superintendent Ken Ranella was the adult speaker, and five Hillview students were selected by their classmates to also speak at the 5 p.m. event. Sophia Bock, Alex Iyer, Will Johnston, Danny LaPorte, and Devon Smith spoke on the theme, "A Life Lesson."

Principal Mike Melton presented the eighth-graders to their Academy teachers, who presented the diplomas.

The Hillview Concert Band, directed by Richard Vaughan, performed a pre-ceremony concert and the traditional processional, "Pomp

**GRADUATION 2011**

and Circumstance," and the recessional, "Legacy March." The newly formed Hillview Chorus, directed by Tyler Hunsanker, performed "May You Always Have a Song."

For the 25th consecutive year, the Jeff Sorrells Memorial Award, a \$2,000 scholarship, was presented to an eighth-grader. This award was established by the Sorrells family in honor of their son, Jeff, who was a student at Hillview from 1985 to 1987.

A reception for graduates and guests was hosted by the seventh-grade parents immediately after the ceremony, and then the graduates celebrated at the traditional grad night party, sponsored by their parents and held in Hillview's multi-use room.

**Graduates**

**A:** Miranda Alfano-Smith, Barrett Anderson, Lindsey Anderson, Thomas Andrae, Lindsay Andrew, Samantha Andrew, Marcus Anson, Alexander Argente, Elizabeth Atherton, Kyle Atkinson

**B:** Naomi Baer, Jonathan Baker, Tessa Baldwin, Danielle Balestra, Maya Barak, Evelyn Baran, Cassidy Barman, Deniz Bayrakeri, Theoren Belich, Dana Benelli, Sophia Bercow, John Bird, Natasha Bock, Sophia Bock, Lindsey Bogott, Alexandre Bourasseau, Nicholas Bradley, Rex Bressler, Grace Burke, Julie Burke

**C:** Claire Carruthers, Cameron Catalano, Nicolas Chand, Kaitlyn Cheng, Michael Child, Shaan Chilukuri, Ryan Cole, Gabriel Commissaris, Kodiak Conrad, Giulina Correa, Leza Cruzada, Monica Culhane, Schuyler Cummings, Kristin Cwirla

**D-E:** Anna Dailey, Sarah Dairiki, Alec Deng, Hannah Deutsch, Eliza Dewar, Peter Diller, William Dixon, Deja Douglas, Liam Dunn, Joseph Ellefritz, Victoria Ellis, Matthew Enriquez, Amanda Esquivel, Miles Evans

**F-G:** Jacob Feiler, Lauren Feldis, Taylor Felt, Samuel Ferguson, Brandon Fischer, Eliza Fitz, Jacqueline Foody, Nina Fox, Ina Franke, Eleanor Frye, Jackson Fuson, Quentin Gachot, Anthonie Garcia, Efrain Garcia, Samantha Gaston, Brigit Giles, Francesca Gilles, Mar-

garet Gittings-Randall, Lauren Goff, Chloe Green, Dennis Green, Hannah Grossman

**H-J:** Zoe Hafter-Manza, Grant Hallee, Taryn Harpell, Annie Harrier, Jhalia Harris, Caroline Hayse, Carla Herrera, Henry Hilton, Grady Hocking, Caroline Hodes, Elisabeth Holliday, Sarah Howell, Colin Hug, Carolyn Hunt-Gonzalez, Shohtaroh Ikeno, Alexander Iyer, Whitaker Jellins, Alexander Jin, William Johnston, Ashley Jones

**K-L:** Holden Kardos, Emily Katz, Ryan Kessler, Jacob Killelea, Madelyn Kim, Kalina King, Alaina Kleck, Peter Knopf, John Knox, Scott Kuhnens, Kenton Kwok, Alexander Laird, Mila Lamb, Daniel LaPorte, Arnaud Laprais, Emmett Lee, Katherine Lee, Kendall Lee, AJ Lemons, Oren Lenchner, Eric Levenson, Georgetown Libunao, Matthew Liston, Veronica Lopez

**M-N:** Michael Mainiero, Carlos Mancía, Salina Manibog, Preston Marsh, Mitchell Martella, Hannah Martin, William Marumoto, Cindy Matute, Ryan McCutcheon, Camille McKelvey, Ilya Mednick, Madison Mesec, Paul Messerschmidt, Sage Miner, Natalie Montoya, John Mulhern, Kyoko Nakano-Go, Whitney Nelch, Zachary Novak

**O-R:** Taryn O'Hara, Justin Onodera, Leslie Ortiz, Nathan Orttung, Emma Osterberg, Alyssa Ostrow, Jeffrey Pang, Theodore Paris, Daniel Pedreiro, Spencer Peters, Karin Phan, Grace Poat, Rolan Prasad, Kimberly Railey, Jack Reardon, Charles Reeves, Emily Riley, Sander Roat-Shumway, Natalie Roberts, Ian Rosenfeld, Darya Rostami, Anastasia Roumeliotis, William Rozanski, Mihai Ruber, Kate Rumann

**S:** Jackson Salabert, David Sandoval, Rebecca Schena, Alexander Schoettler, Elana Schulman, Stewart Shaffer, Jacqueline Sharif, Kasra Sheik, Taylor Shen, Andrew Simpson, Devon Smith, Brian Snyder, Sara Solomon, Max Sonderby, Keyana Spencer, Marie Spurlock, Suparat Srilatham, James Steere, Sally Stevens, Kathryn Stewart, Michelle Stoddart, Corey Stoesser, Nicholas Stoner, Alexander Summers, Shea Summers, William Sutton, Katherine Sze

**T:** Sharon Tautua'a, Kaitlin Tavarez, Joselyn Thomas, Cole Thomson, Amelia Tiemann, Amara Trabosh, Johnny Tran, Alexander Tucker

**V-Z:** Kalisa Vaka, Alexandra Van Ligten, Galya VanderZwan, Margaret Vannini, Sabina Vitale, Laila Volpe, Oscar Volpe, Nataly Vuong, Alexander Wait, Terry Wang, Carolyn Watson, Jordan Watts, Katherine Webb, David Weindorf, Megan Wiebe, Katrina Wijaya, Hannah Wilson, Katherine Windham, Alec Witham, Connor Woods, Madison Wright Zi Xia, Bryana Yorbrough, Thomas Yu, Salma Zaky, Giuliana Zanutta



**City of Menlo Park's Annual**



**OF JULY  
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**Parade 11:45am**

Starts at the Wells Fargo parking lot on Santa Cruz & Chestnut. Come dressed in red, white, & blue and decorate your bike or wagon to participate in this fun-filled people parade!

**Celebration 12-2:30pm**

Located at Burgess Park (Alma & Burgess Ave) and is the end point for the parade. Activities include: carnival games, jump houses, rock wall, crafts, face painting, laser tag, food, music by The House Rockers, & more!

**\$6** wrist band is required for some activities and is sold at the event & parade.

- City of Menlo Park •
- Community Services Department •

[www.menlopark.org](http://www.menlopark.org)

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**Town of Atherton  
Unclaimed Warrants**

The records for the Town of Atherton show the following checks outstanding for over three years to the listed payees. Under California Government Code Section 50050, unclaimed money will become the property of the Town three years after the check was issued. If you are one of the listed payees, please contact Jun Pan at (650) 752-0519 at the Town of Atherton by August 29, 2011 so that arrangements can be made to reissue the check.

Payee	Check #	Amount
USPS BUSINESS MAIL ENTRY UNIT	22579	\$253.83
J. WINK, INC.	22581	\$480.06
YOUQI WANG	23061	\$13,011.94
CITY & COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO TRAINING	23210	\$350.00
PAW PRINTS	23782	\$81.19
FASTSIGNS	23998	\$236.05
FASTSIGNS	24042	\$408.80
METROMOBILE COMMUNICATIONS INC.	24197	\$75.70
SIRENA MOWER SHOP	24251	\$285.49
FASTSIGNS	24620	\$231.55
GAFFNEY, GREGORY	24869	\$60.00
STEVE BARIZON	25141	\$1,000.00
100 CLUB OF SAN MATEO COUNTY	25763	\$150.00
ALAMEDA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE	25853	\$50.00
FASTSIGNS	26128	\$37.89

# Woodside graduates 48

Submitted by Tina Adolph of Woodside Elementary School.

Forty-eight eighth-graders at Woodside Elementary School took part in the school's graduation and received diplomas in the school's amphitheatre on June 10.

Commencement exercises began with the Woodside School Band, directed by Beth Dameron, playing the processional and eighth-grade students Lauren McHugh and Elisa Merten leading the salute to the flag and the singing of the National Anthem.

Bettina Pike, president of the Woodside Elementary school board, welcomed parents, guests and students before the

eighth-grade speakers gave their addresses.

The speakers and their topics were: Melissa Grace Demma, "Where We've Been, Where We'll Go"; Kyle Bruce Meredith, "Under Construction"; Rebecca Rose Shoch, "The Mistakes We Make"; and Eric Sager Luxenberg, "Timshel."

The class of 2011 chose and sang as its class song, "Stand By Me," with music and lyrics by Ben E. King.

Woodside School Foundation president and parent Sheree Shoch gave the commencement address.

Steve Frank, assistant principal, presented the Class of 2011 to trustees Wendy Crandall and Ginger Bamford.

## GRADUATION 2011

### Graduates:

**A-D:** William Henry Baldwin, Gillian Patricia Belton, Timothy Stephen Brown, Patrick Martin Dancer, Melissa Grace Demma, Guillaume Daniel Diaz

**E-K:** Daniel Jorgen Feeny, Lindy Michele Garratt, Fiona Elisabeth Marie Gilbert, Emily Catherine Glazer, Jack Harrison Goldstein, Taira Nicole Hovden, William Leo Isackson, Mimi Rodger Kelly, Daniel Conrad Kollar-Gasiewski

**L-P:** Ayla Joy Partch-Lebovitz, Paul Henry Lego, Ilana Pam Lindsay, Nikhil Lonberg, Eric Sager Luxenberg, Monique Claire McDevitt, Lauren Adams McHugh, Kyle Bruce Meredith, Elisa Christina Merten, Bria Christine Michelsen, Logan Greg Waterfield Nash, Megan Patricia O'Neill, Daniella Louise Patch, William Konley Patch

**Q-S:** Uriel Plancarte Torres, Elizabeth Christine Putnam, Emile Julian Rappaport, Travis Raymond Ristow, Evan Ridgway Sawyer, Nicole Danielle Schumacher, Alexander Joseph Shaw, Rebecca Rose Shoch, Skyler Myong-Yong Song, Rollen Alexander Steele, Celeste Marie Stoker

**T-Z:** Monique Wilhelmina vanVeenendaal, Elise Nicole Waldow, Christina Byrnes Wampler, Robert Kit Wang, Andrew Rodert Weiss, Luke Sebastian Williford, Jake Pablo Mitchell Yulo, Ryan Wallace Zaky

# Mid-Peninsula High names grads

Submitted by Lauren Newby, development assistant, Mid-Peninsula High School in Menlo Park.

Mid-Peninsula High School held graduation ceremonies on June 4 at the school at 1340 Willow Road in Menlo Park.

### Graduates:

**A-D:** Samuel Anthony Aiken, Gregory Nathan Bloom, Anthony DeWitt Briggs, Arthur Salvatore Bruno, Nicole M. Buchanan, Evangelina Calderon-Arteaga, LyDell Anthony Cardwell, Abigail N. DeMay, Alexander Stefan Dombovic

**E-K:** JP Esquivel, Aaron James Michael Hildreth, Samuel Hudson-Crim, Jan Joehnk, Garrett Johnson, Lauren Katz, Viral Khatri

**L-N:** Taryn Sutherland Lewis, Daisy Magana, Richard Meier, Connor James Newkirk

**R-S:** Conor Kent McNeil Rabinovitz, Gavin M. Rauch, Anthony Michael Rossa, Nicholas Seyer, Patrick L. Shan, Daniel Spool, Melissa Nicole Squire, Daniel A. Sturm

**T-W:** Sean J. Thigpen, Laura P. Tuthall, Tyler R. Wilkins, Reggie Williams, Kellie Wilson, Ian Wolfe, Alene Michelle Wood, Michael Connor Woods and Xia Weiyei.

## NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS BID PROPOSALS SOUGHT FOR CITYWIDE SIDEWALK REPAIR PROJECT

The City of Menlo Park invites qualified contractors to submit sealed bid proposals for the construction of the CITYWIDE SIDEWALK REPAIR PROJECT. Work required as part of this project consists of, in general, removing and replacing portions of concrete sidewalk, curb and gutter, handicap ramp, driveway, valley gutter, asphalt parking strip, deep-lifting asphalt concrete pavement, and tree root pruning at various locations in the City of Menlo Park; all as shown on the plans and described in the specifications. Performance of this work requires a valid California Contractor's License Class A or C8. Tree root pruning work shall be performed by a Class D49 contractor, or class "A" and "C8" under supervision of a licensed arborist. Project documents and copies of the prevailing rate of wages can be obtained from the Menlo Park Engineering Division, located in the Administrative Building at 701 Laurel St. Sealed bid proposals will be received at the Engineering Division office until 2:00 p.m. on THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 2011, at which time they will be opened and publicly read. Additional information can be obtained on the City's website: [www.menlopark.org/departments/pwk/bidlist.html](http://www.menlopark.org/departments/pwk/bidlist.html)



## 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 at a Special meeting scheduled for, Wednesday, June 29, 2011 at 7:00 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](http://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 22, 2011

Sharon Hanlon  
Town Clerk

## News of local college graduates

■ **Benjamin Taran** of Portola Valley graduated from Clark University with a bachelor of arts degree in economics and Asian studies on May 22. Clark University is in Worcester, Massachusetts.

■ **Christina Tobacco** of Portola Valley graduated from the University of California at Santa Barbara with a bachelor of arts degree in environmental studies, according to Peggy Schmidt, mother of the graduate. Ms. Tobacco, who graduated from Woodside Priory in 2007, was awarded the 2011 Marc McGinnes Law and Advocacy Award, a 2010-2011 Environmental Studies Program Outstanding Academic Achievement Award, and a Distinction in the Major Award. Ms. Tobacco did environmental studies

abroad at the University of Capetown in South Africa and through Wildlands Study in Chile. She also interned at the Environmental Defense Center, a nonprofit law firm, in Santa Barbara in the fall of 2010.

■ **Jaimie Lowe**, daughter of David and Dr. Ann Lowe of Menlo Park, graduated June 5 from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, with a bachelor of music degree. She majored in voice performance.

■ **Justin Happ**, son of Jeffrey and Shririn Happ of Redwood City, has graduated from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin with a bachelor of arts degree in government studies. The university's commencement ceremony was held June 5.

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## TOWN OF WOODSIDE 2955 WOODSIDE ROAD, WOODSIDE, CA 94062

### PLANNING COMMISSION July 6, 2011 • 7:30 PM

#### PUBLIC HEARING

2. California Water Service  
3760 Woodside Road

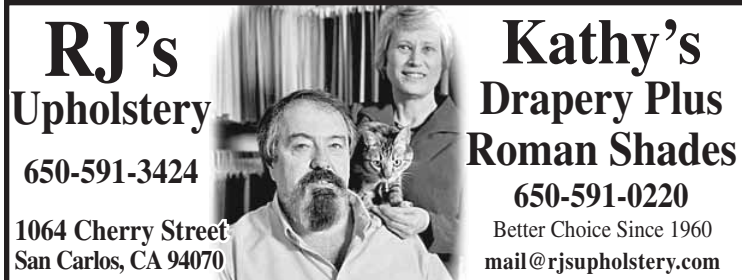
CUSE#2011-0002 and GRAD#2011-0002  
Planner: Deborah Dory

Review and recommendation of approval, conditional approval, or denial of a proposal to construct a 1,000,000 gallon welded steel water tank to replace an existing 1,100,000 gallon water tank for California Water Service. A Conditional Use Permit is required pursuant to WMC 153.026. The project includes grading in excess of 1,500 cubic yards which also requires Planning Commission review per WMC 151.22.B.

All application materials are available for public review at the Woodside Planning and Building Counter, Woodside Town Hall, weekdays from 8:00 – 10:00 AM and 1:00 – 3:00 PM, or by appointment. For more information, contact the Woodside Planning and Building Department at (650) 851-6790.

**RJ's Upholstery**  
 650-591-3424  
 1064 Cherry Street  
 San Carlos, CA 94070

**Kathy's Drapery Plus Roman Shades**  
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## Sally Louise Whelan

August 26, 1957-June 14, 2011

A lifelong resident of Menlo Park, Sally Louise Whelan died June 14, 2011, in Palo Alto surrounded by her loving family. A fourth generation Californian, she was born to Harry G Whelan M.D. and Joanne (Jodie) Roberts Whelan in Redwood City on August 26th, 1957. She attended Menlo Atherton High School, and graduated with a degree in Business Administration from San Jose State University in 1983. A marketing major with a keen fashion sense, she was sought out when she worked as a personal shopper for Nordstrom's. She was a buyer for Liz Claiborne and Jones of New York. She later became a sales rep for Telecheck and Softkey Computer Company. She was working for Mars Candy Company until her health declined.

She is preceded in death by her mother Jodie Whelan. She is survived by her father Harry G Whelan M.D., brothers Gabe (Debbie) Whelan and Robert Whelan, sisters Anne (Steve) Englert, Pat (Phil) McDonnell, Mary (Steve) O' Neill and Sophie (David) Kirk. She had 13 nieces and nephews Steve, Sophia, Hilary and Bobbie Englert, Jennifer, Harry, Natalie and Abby Whelan, Philip and Erin

McDonnell, Lauren O' Neill (God-daughter), Libby and Laura Kirk and many cousins.

An accomplished athlete, she played varsity tennis all four years for Menlo Atherton. She loved to water and snow ski. She enjoyed cooking, sewing, and card games of all kinds. She traveled extensively around the United States and Europe. For over twenty-two years, she and her cousin Jo Malone would attend the New Orleans Jazz festival where she met and maintained friendships with fellow jazz aficionados from around the country. She was also a member of the Junior League of Palo Alto.

A Rosary was held on Wednesday, June 22, 2011 at 7:00pm at Roller & Hapgood Funeral Home in Palo Alto. A funeral Mass was on Thursday June 23, 2011 at 11:00am at St. Denis Church in Menlo Park. The family requests that donations be made to the Pathways Hospice Group of Palo Alto.



PAID OBITUARY

## Nathalie Cooper

Oct. 26, 1923-May 31, 2011

Nathalie Cooper, who devoted her life to educating the children of Portola Valley, died peacefully on May 31, 2011. Nathalie was born in St. Francisville, Illinois, on October 26, 1923, and grew up there on the farm of her parents, Dorothy and Randall Brooke. She often spoke of the beauty of the countryside, the closeness of the community and the satisfaction of enjoying food grown on the farm.

Nathalie moved to California, attended the University of Southern California, and began teaching in Portola Valley in 1948 while her husband, John Cooper, attended Stanford Law School. At that time, Portola Valley was a farming community with two small school buildings, a gas pump, a Catholic church, and a bar across from the school where the patrons made way for the children to have lunch. Transportation to school was on foot, horseback and car pool. The school was the center for community gatherings. Generations of children began their formal education in Mrs. Cooper's kindergarten class. Although Nathalie had many opportunities to travel and to live abroad with her husband John, who became head of the legal department for Varian, teaching children was her main joy.

After her retirement in 1992, Mrs. Cooper continued to live in Portola Valley. Her former students remained devoted to her and would vis-

it her home, sometimes bringing their own children. She remembered every one and would tell stories of their days in kindergarten.

The Coopers were gracious and generous hosts. Their beautiful home, with a view of the western foothills, was the venue for many memorable events for friends and colleagues.

In 2008, after the death of her husband, Nathalie returned to live at her family farm in St. Francisville, Illinois, to be close to her nephew, John Randall Brooke, his wife, Darla Brooke, and their sons, Thomas and Wesley. Nathalie enjoyed being home again. The Brooke family cared for Nathalie in her last years and especially during her final bout with cancer.

Gifts in memory of Nathalie Brooke Cooper may be made to Windmill School, the Portola Valley pre-school, and Wabash Cemetery Association, Brooke/Cooper Garden.

Windmill School, 4141 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028

Wabash Cemetery Association, 11188 North 2300 Blvd, Allendale, IL 62410

The Brooke family is grateful for your remembrance.



PAID OBITUARY

### OBITUARY

#### Lynn A Crow

This obituary is based on information submitted by the family.

Lynn A. Crow, a La Honda resident since the early 1970s, was found deceased at his residence on June 15. He was 63.

Born at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, he traveled a lot as a youngster since his dad was in the Army. He lived in Japan and Germany before the family settled in Honolulu, Hawaii. He graduated from the University of Hawaii and went on to the Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara.

Mr. Crow lived in Hayward, Foster City and Redwood City, working as a real estate agent, before discovering La Honda in the early 1970s. He searched

for the "perfect lot" and settled in for more than 40 years, said his brother Jerry Crow.

There, he added to photography his love of restoring cars, most notably MGBs and Cadillacs, his brother said. "In La Honda, Lynn found the land, trees, and peace that blended well with his solitary, spartan, and minimalist lifestyle."

The family invites his friends to gather on July 6 or 7 at Alice's Restaurant, 17288 Skyline Blvd. in Skyland, to share stories about Mr. Crow.

Email jerryocrow@gmail.com to get details about the time and date of the gathering.



Lynn Crow

## Teen Talk looks for health educator

Teen Talk, a sexuality education program, is looking for a part- or full-time health educator to teach its curriculum to seventh-through 12th-grade students in public schools and juvenile detention facilities.

Teen Talk is an 8- to 10-hour course usually offered in health or

biology classes. It aims to help teens make healthy choices that will result in lower rates of teen pregnancy and STD/HIV in their communities.

Visit teentalkca.org for a complete list of responsibilities and qualifications, and how to apply. The job is listed under "Job Openings at TTSE" in the "About Us" section.

## Ralph J. Calcaterra

Ralph J. Calcaterra, a man who will be remembered for his dedication to family, being a fan of Big Band Jazz and entertaining friends, died at 93 on June 18, 2011. An entrepreneur, Ralph was born in Norway, Michigan in 1917. The son of Joseph and Mary and the youngest of seven children. Ralph was raised in Iron Mountain, Michigan, where he learned the importance of family, friendships and hard work.

Ralph moved west to California in his twenties, where he built his land development and property management businesses in California and Las Vegas, Nevada. Work kept Ralph young at heart. He often would say, He's working, so his children can retire. He was affectionately known as 'Mr. C' by his employees and always made an effort to treat people equally, while living by one of his credo's, 'It's awfully nice to be important, but it's awfully important to be nice.'

An avid drummer, Ralph played for years, and would often be seen tapping his feet at the office, while nervously listening to his beloved 49er's or Big Band Music on the radio.

In his final moments, Ralph was surrounded by family at his home in Atherton where he resided for forty seven years.

Ralph was active with the Peninsula Volunteer's and a generous benefactor to Nativity Church in Menlo Park, CA.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Ferne, son Richard, daughter Melissa, grandsons, Christian and Riley and granddaughter, Alison. The family is particularly grateful to Ange Gutierrez for the outstanding care she provided Ralph over the last six months and years with the family.

A memorial service was held on Friday, June 24, 2011 at Nativity Church in Menlo Park, CA. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations be made to Peninsula Volunteers (650) 326-0665, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Crippen & Flynn Woodside Chapel

(650) 369-4103

PAID OBITUARY

# Activists protest spraying of weeds in Menlo Park

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Weeds, there's no getting away from them. But Menlo Park does its best to kill weeds by dousing the plants with herbicide, an approach some call unnecessary.

The city began planning its annual summer spraying in June. Bay Area resident Nancy Arbuckle, who participates in a national effort to restore blue-bird populations to urban areas, asked Menlo Park to reconsider.

In an email to city officials on June 21, Ms. Arbuckle wrote that nesting boxes in city parks are now brimming with blue eggs and hatchlings. While weeds don't detract from park enjoyment, spraying does by endangering the wildlife. She also said that children and pets share the risk of exposure.

Assistant Director of Public Works Ruben Nino responded by saying the city takes pesticide safety seriously, posts signs to warn visitors not to enter the parks for 12 hours post-application, and waits until weather conditions discourage spray drift. According to Mr. Nino, the herbicide used, turfion ester, ranks in the next-to-last category of toxicity.

Ms. Arbuckle said the signs are easy to overlook. "The notion of 'weeds' is an outdated one," she told Mr. Nino. "Parks are

for playing, picnicking, and enhanced quality of life, all of which are undermined by herbicide use."

Vice Mayor Kirsten Keith is researching policies in other cities. "I would appreciate hearing both positive and negative information from other cities that have tried using alternatives, or have stopped using toxic products altogether," she said. "If there is a non-toxic way to control weeds that is cost effective, I think it would benefit the residents of Menlo Park to use non-toxic products on our public spaces."

The parks superintendent for San Rafael, Vern Doughty, said his city adopted a policy limiting herbicide use whenever possible, but still sprays as needed. He told Ms. Keith that reduced staffing, coupled with the ineffectiveness of alternative herbicides like clove oil, which also cost more, make traditional herbicides one of the city's most effective tools.

Former mayor Steve Schmidt hopes Menlo Park looks at mowing as an efficient alternative to broadcast herbicide spraying. "What I hear from city staff is that spraying saves a lot of money," he said. "I don't think they actually think it through. A case in point is Sand Hill Road. They sprayed it, but it still looks terrible and they're going to have to mow it anyway." ■



Courtesy of CBS/ The Price is Right

Atherton resident Joseph O'Brien (upper right) with his posse of friends who made a road trip to Hollywood for the show.

## Stanford MBA attains a life goal

Atherton resident appears on TV's 'The Price is Right'

By Caitlin Moyles

Special to the Almanac

Atherton resident Joseph O'Brien, 28, scratched one thing off his bucket list when he appeared on "The Price is Right," a CBS game show where contestants compete to win cash and prizes by bidding on the price of merchandise.

"It was really surreal spinning the Big Wheel onstage,"

said Mr. O'Brien, who graduated earlier this month with an MBA from Stanford's Graduate School of Business. "I'm a huge fan of the show. My brother and I used to make our parents come in early from the beach on vacation to watch it."

Mr. O'Brien and a group of friends decided to take a road trip to the CBS Studio Center in Hollywood to audition, he said. After a round of interviews, Mr. O'Brien made it

onto the show.

"Drew Carey made fun of me a lot for having a Stanford MBA and being on the show," Mr. O'Brien said. "He's a pretty funny guy."

Mr. O'Brien said he won a bedroom set, a mattress, some E-readers worth \$8,354, and a flat screen TV worth \$1,800.

The episode aired on Tuesday, June 14. To view it online, enter "The Price is Right" in a search engine. ■

### ■ POLICE CALLS

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

#### MENLO PARK

**Commercial burglary report:** Loss estimate of at least \$8,300 in three break-ins and thefts of copper cable, Facebook Corp. at 312 Constitution Drive, June 17, 20 and 22.

#### Residential burglary reports:

■ Loss estimated \$5,200 in break-in through rear window and theft of two TVs, three laptop computers, a bicycle, and jewelry, 1000 block of Almanor Ave., June 23.

■ Loss estimated at \$3,300 in break-in and theft from unoccupied residence of TV, two cameras and jewelry, Emma Lane, June 20.

■ Loss estimated at \$2,100 in break-in through unlocked sliding door and theft of laptop computer, stereo system, DVD player, video camera, jar of coins and other items, 300 block of Oak Court, June 22.

**Grand theft report:** Loss estimated at \$5,000 in theft of gold ring with opals, Rosewood Sand Hill hotel at 2825 Sand Hill Road, June 18.

#### Fraud reports:

■ Loss estimated at \$6,500 in incom-

plete repair of roof and installation of solar panels, Anderson Way, June 19.

■ Loss estimated at \$880 in unauthorized credit card purchase of Apple iPad, 1700 block of Stanford Ave., June 22.

■ Loss estimated at \$400 in failure to install concrete slab at residence, first block of Bay Road, June 18.

■ Loss of \$250 in forgery of personal check, 2800 block of Sand Hill Road, June 17.

■ Loss of \$20 when customer walked out without paying for salon services, Next Generation Nail Salon at 724 Willow Road, June 17.

**Stolen vehicle report:** Blue 1995 GMC Vandura, 1200 block of Windermere Ave., June 19.

**Child Protective Services report:** 1300 Hollyburne Ave., June 23.

#### WOODSIDE

##### Theft reports:

■ Loss estimated at \$3,400 in theft of several pieces of jewelry from residence, La Quests Way, June 19.

■ Loss estimated at \$2,000 in break-in through side gate and theft of four outside chess pieces, Cinnabar Road, June 17.

### ■ CALENDAR

■ Go to [AlmanacNews.com/calendar](http://AlmanacNews.com/calendar) for more Calendar listings

**Atherton Art in the Park Free Summer Concert** The Groove Kings will play classic rock at Atherton's Holbrook-Palmer Park. July 7, 6-8 p.m. Free. Holbrook-Palmer Park, 150 Watkins Ave., Atherton. Call 650-796-5373.

**The Hot Rods** The Hot Rods, a musical tribute to the early days of Rock & Roll, perform as part of the Summer Concert Series 2011 June 29, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Fremont Park, University and Santa Cruz Avenue, Menlo Park. Call 650-330-2200. [www.menlopark.org](http://www.menlopark.org)

**The Cocktail Monkeys** cover songs ranging from rock, pop, funk and disco. July 6, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Fremont Park, University and Santa Cruz Avenue, Menlo Park. Call 650-330-2200. [menlopark.org](http://menlopark.org)

**Insects and Spiders** The exhibit "Buzzzzz" at the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo explores the world of insects and spiders. Museum hours: Tue.-Sat. from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. 1-4 p.m. Free. Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo, 1451 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. [www.friendsjzm.org](http://www.friendsjzm.org)

**'Mamma Mia Sing-along Movie Night'** The story of a bride-to-be trying to find her real father told using songs by the group ABBA. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. July 8, 7-8:45 p.m. Free. Atherton Library, 2 Dinkel Spiel Station Lane, Atherton.

## Where is the dead body?

That is the first question people are asking when they smell the stench at the intersection of Kings Mountain and Greer roads in Woodside. Right now dozens of voodoo lilies are blooming on the corner, and the exotic looking purple flowers may look attractive, but they stink like rotting flesh in order to attract flies. Growing up to 3 feet high, the plants are much shorter and more common than another stinky plant called corpse flower.



Photo by Kate Daly

**Pure Ecstasy** Pure Ecstasy performs Motown music June 29, 6-8 p.m. Free. Stafford Park, Corner of King & Hopkins Streets, Redwood City. [www.redwoodcity.org/events/musicinthepark.html](http://www.redwoodcity.org/events/musicinthepark.html)

**Whiskey Dawn** performs country music July 1, 6-8 p.m. Free. Courthouse Square, 2200 Broadway, Redwood City.

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Tom Gibboney

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**News Editor** Renee Batti

**Lifestyles Editor** Jane Knoerle

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

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



**WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?**

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

**TOWN SQUARE FORUM**

Post your views on the Town Square forum at [www.TheAlmanacOnline.com](http://www.TheAlmanacOnline.com)

**EMAIL** your views to:

[letters@almanacnews.com](mailto:letters@almanacnews.com) and note this it is a letter to the editor in the subject line.

**MAIL** or deliver to:

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

**CALL** the Viewpoint desk at 223-6507.

## Why your help is needed to keep the Almanac and local journalism strong

*"Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter." — Thomas Jefferson*

**SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM**

Thomas Jefferson might well sound the alarm today about profound changes under way in the media business, ranging from the way news is gathered and presented to the way it is funded.

These changes threaten the viability of quality local journalism everywhere, including in the Almanac communities of Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside.

Imagine trying to stay informed on the issues before the city council or school board without journalists covering meetings, asking questions, and presenting analyses for debate and discussion throughout the community.

Local weekly newspapers have traditionally been the heart and soul of a community's identity and culture. They reflect the values of the residents and businesses, challenge assumptions, and shine a light on our imperfections and aspirations.

But as more residents turn online to stay informed about our community, and businesses rocked by the recession turn to inexpensive marketing alternatives, the traditional business model that allowed local journalism to be primarily supported through advertising is quickly evaporating.

That's why we've launched our campaign to Support Local Journalism.

Unlike national and international news, there is no substitute for locally produced news. By its very nature, local news depends on local newsgathering.

Local news is as popular and as highly valued as ever. In fact, the total number of people we reach has expanded substantially due to our website and "Express," our popular news digest sent out by e-mail every weekday morning.

All of our efforts are geared to creating greater public awareness and engagement — toward building a stronger community.

So if local readership interest has never been greater, what's the problem?

The problem is that the advertising business model for newspapers no longer works the way it used to. Craig's List is a prime example of this. Classified ads used to make up a significant portion of newspaper ad revenue. If you wanted to buy a used car, rent an apartment, look for a job or a mate, you opened your newspaper and scanned the ads. Add the current worldwide economic crisis and you have the "perfect storm" of radical change in the news and information industry and how it is financed, at every level.

Bottom line: The days of expecting local advertising to fund 90 percent of the cost of operating a quality local media organization are gone.

We need you — the citizens who value and benefit from the professional reporting we do and who recognize the critical role of the media in monitoring and, when needed, challenging the actions of local government and other institutions — to commit to funding a much greater share of our operations.

So here is our proposition:

Sign up to become a "subscribing member" and agree to an automated monthly credit card (or bank debit) charge of \$5, \$8 or \$10. By automating this process, you eliminate the need for us to spend money to repeatedly solicit your renewal of support. You can, of course, cancel at any time.

As a member, we will provide you with some special "perks" that you might enjoy or appreciate, including a "Support Local Journalism" bumper sticker, a small gift, and some special invitations to events.

It's simple. Go to [www.SupportLocalJournalism.org/Almanac](http://www.SupportLocalJournalism.org/Almanac) and fill out the online form, phone us at (650) 854-2626, or return the form you'll receive in the mail later this week.

We believe the vast majority of residents have always shared our view of the value and necessity of a strong local media and are willing to provide support equal to two or three cups of coffee a month to secure its future. This same model works well for KQED, so why not in support of the media organization that focuses exclusively on our community?

Thanks for doing your part to keep strong local journalism alive and well in the Almanac communities of Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside.

**LETTERS**

*Our readers write*

**Downtown plan EIR misses church project impacts**

*Editor:*

Something is missing from the El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan Draft EIR.

According to the Draft EIR for the El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan (Section 4.9-32), "... Land use changes within one-half mile of the Specific Plan area (approximately to Olive Street) could contribute to cumulative land use impacts. ... However, given the primarily residential nature of the surrounding area, no substantial changes to the area are expected."

The Menlo Park Presbyterian Church owns four parcels of land within in the Specific Plan area (on University Drive) as well as land adjacent to the Specific Plan area. As reported in an article published in the Almanac May 21, 2008, the "Presbyterian church plans a campus overhaul" the new facilities on this site may include a performing arts center, gymnasium or recreation building for local youth.

The July 2009 TOD Technical Assistance Panel Briefing Book prepared by Menlo Park city staff for the Urban Land Institute's San Francisco District Council's "Bay Area 2009 TOD Marketplace Report" refers to the city's knowledge of the overall plans, stating: "...Aside from

See **LETTERS**, next page

**Our Regional Heritage**

This undated photograph came from the collection of Eleanor Weir Tilden, who lived in Atherton during the 1920s to 1930s. The girl is not identified, but the photo shows the state of bicycle design at the time.



Atherton Heritage Association

**LETTERS**

Continued from previous page

the unique Stanford University ownership discussed earlier, the only other major private entity of note is the Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, which owns several parcels on the western edge of Downtown at Santa Cruz Avenue and University Drive. The Church is interested in a long-term redevelopment of these parcels as part of an overall campus, and has also expressed some interest in partnering with the City for a Downtown parking garage that could be used for both Church events and Downtown business patrons.”

A new project on the several parcels owned by the Church or its foundation (Church of the Pioneers Foundation) is likely. The Menlo Park Presbyterian Church has a large congregation and one can expect expansions to its facilities, especially the addition of a performing arts center and/or recreational building (that) will generate increased traffic for regular services as well as special events, would alter the aesthetic qualities of the neighborhood in ways not addressed in the Draft EIR. Failing to include any discussion of this in the cumulative impact section not only renders the DEIR inadequate, it brings into question whether a good faith effort at full disclosure has been followed at all times during the creation of the document.

**Roxanne Rorapugh**  
Sherman Avenue, Menlo Park

**‘Undue influence’ in Cargill decision-making process?**

Editor:

It is no surprise that the Redwood City Chamber of Commerce was fined by the California Fair Political Practices Commission for failing to disclose that it spent \$25,000 to oppose a 2008 local ballot measure that would have restricted development on open space in Redwood City, including the controversial DMB/Cargill salt ponds development. However the real news in that story (DailyNews 6-20-11) was missed.

It turns out that current and former Redwood City Council members Jeff Ira, Jeff Gee, Jim Hartnett and Rosanne Foust are or were Chamber of Commerce board members. Nancy Radcliff, Redwood City Planning Commission member, and John Bruno, a principal of DMB Associates, also serve on the Chamber’s board. I doubt it is no coincidence that the Chamber failed to disclose their \$25,000 to defeat a measure directly opposed to DMB’s interests.

This is now the second time that Redwood City public officials have been either directly or indirectly found in violation of California State Law (the first violation was in 2010 and involved Rosanne Foust). The decision to approve or reject DMB/Cargill’s massive development plan for the salt ponds is still pending before the Redwood City Council and Planning Commission. However, the public can no longer trust that they will make a fair and impartial decision free of undue influence.

**Marsha Cohen**  
7th Avenue, Redwood City



**Littlest Angels**  
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at Bethany Lutheran Church  
Menlo Park

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Palo Alto



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Menlo Park



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La Mesa Drive  
Portola Valley



**SOLD**  
Kellogg Avenue  
Palo Alto  
Represented buyer



**SOLD**  
Ringwood Avenue  
Menlo Park



# Kristin Cashin

G | R | O | U | P



### KCG Market Trend Report

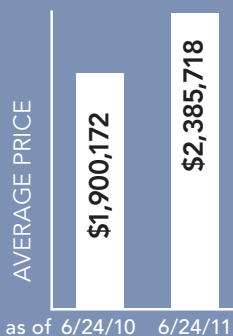
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#### PALO ALTO



Data provided from MLS; information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed.

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