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See insert in this issue



# The Almanac

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

JULY 13, 2011 | VOL. 46 NO. 46



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Photo by Veronica Weber/Palo Alto Weekly

Lowry Yankwich's guiding passion has been music.

## Graduate: 'Be open to spontaneous things'

*This profile of Menlo School graduate Lowry Yankwich was written by Palo Alto Weekly education writer Chris Kenrick as part of a graduation package.*

Spontaneity, caring and sanctuary are a few of the things that have helped Lowry Yankwich through high school.

An athlete and serious classical pianist, the Menlo School graduate said he's had the most fun by "being open to trying anything, and then allowing myself to commit a little, and then more and more."

In seven years at Menlo, that's added up to a long list of engagements, including lacrosse, track and four years each of cross country and soccer. He also argued in Mock Trial and sang with Menlo's Chamber Choir and a smaller madrigal group.

"Being open to random, spontaneous things is extremely rewarding and fun. And actually caring about the things you're doing has been really good," he said.

Through it all, his guiding passion has been music.

Since the age of 6, he has studied

piano with Diane Smith of Menlo Park and — because Ms. Smith is Canadian — competed annually for the past seven or eight years in the Royal Conservatory Music Festival in Ontario.

Contestants must prepare a wide-ranging repertoire in baroque, classical and romantic categories.

"You enter classes with other students, and you play your Bach piece against their baroque pieces," he said.

While finishing his final semester at Menlo School, he also took three major piano exams, in performance, theory and counterpoint.

He said he doesn't know exactly why he's gone so far with piano.

"At first I needed encouragement, but there's a certain point at which you're sort of good enough that the music sounds nice and you like what you're playing, and from there I really liked music."

So much so, that before enrolling at Stanford University, he will take a "gap year" to live in Montreal and study with a teacher in St. Adele, Quebec.

Playing piano, in fact, has been a stress-management technique

in high school, what he calls one of his sanctuaries.

"I have physical places I go if I need to. I need quiet, normally."

He favors sitting on the ground and leaning against a particular fencepost in Eleanor Pardee Park in his Palo Alto neighborhood or long walks in Atherton near the Menlo campus.

Or sitting down to play a Chopin ballade, with his own story to the music going through his head.

Much as he loves music, he says he's likely to major in something else once he gets to Stanford — neuroscience or behavioral economics are high on his list at the moment.

He will most miss the teachers and sense of connection and community at Menlo School but will not miss Menlo's relatively small size.

The connections enabled by modern technology are a blessing and a curse, he said.

Social networking offers "a lot of opportunities to define yourself, learn more about people and even approach people," he said. "On the other hand, nobody — including me — knows how to stop." ■

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**THE ALMANAC** (ISSN 1097-3095 and USPS 459370) is published every Wednesday by Embarcadero Media, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Periodicals Postage Paid at Menlo Park, CA and at additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation for San Mateo County, The Almanac is delivered free to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside. Subscriptions for \$60 per year or \$100 per 2 years are welcome. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Copyright ©2011 by Embarcadero Media, All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

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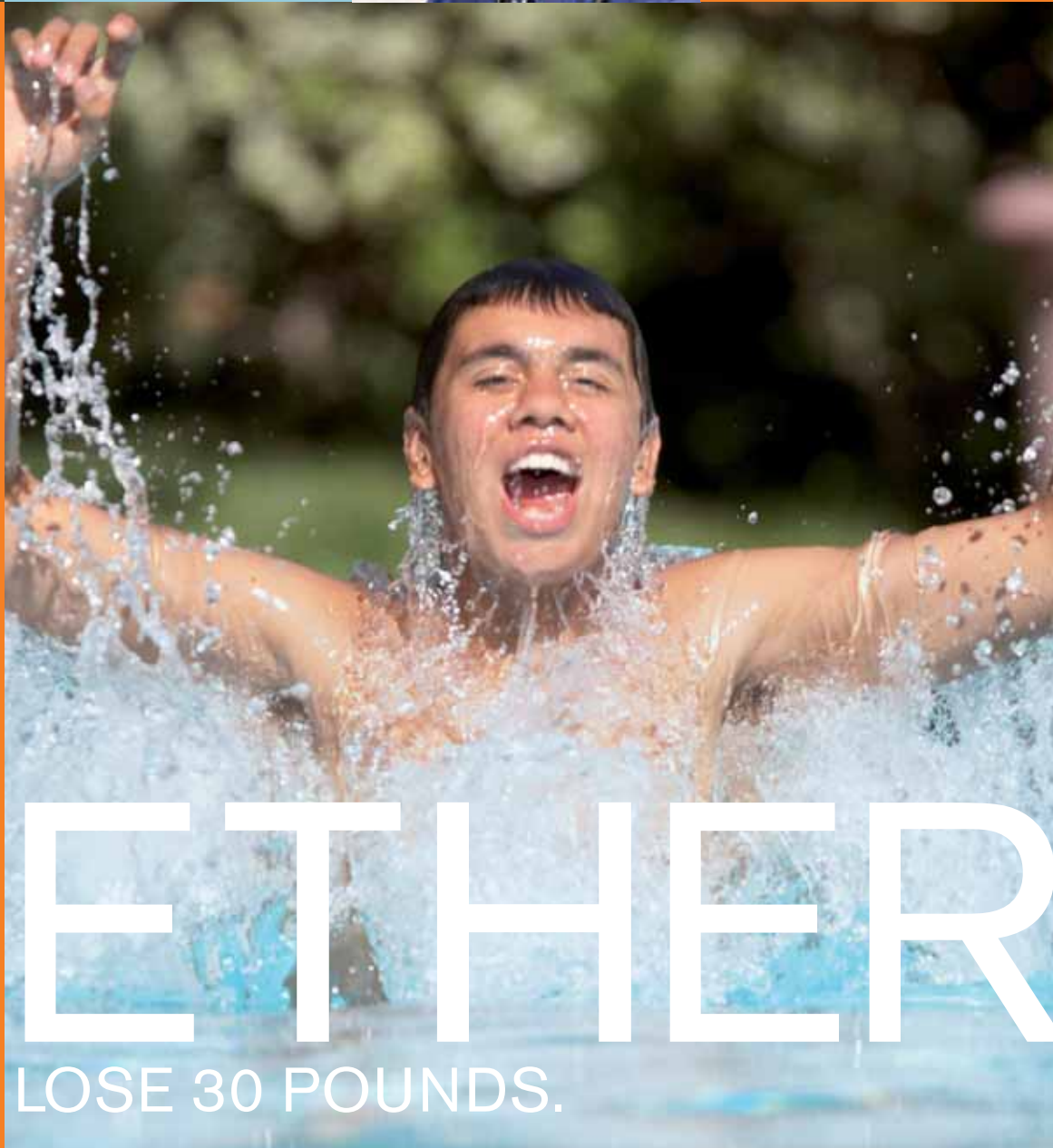
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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

## Durable landing gear factor in plane's safe landing

■ Scott Bohannon lands Cessna 210 on I-280.

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

When the left wheel of Scott Bohannon's 1975 Cessna 210 single-engine airplane grazed the roof and broke the rear window of a 2009 Mercedes coupe headed north on Interstate 280 on the evening of July 3, it was all in a day's work for the landing gear.

The Cessna's engine had stopped in mid air and Mr. Bohannon landed on the freeway shoulder in the direction of traffic just north of Farm Hill Boulevard in unincorporated Woodside, according to a report from the California Highway

Patrol. There were no injuries.

The CHP did not speculate as to the cause of the engine failure.

The accident and its causes

are most likely being investigated by the

Federal Aviation Administration, according to an agency spokesman.

Wendy Kwon, 47, of Sausalito was driving alone in the Mercedes, CHP officials said. In addition to the broken window, the car's roof was dented near the center, the CHP said. It was towed from the scene, as was the plane, though it was not dam-

aged.

Why didn't the plane crash when its tire hit the car?

"When the tire hit, it would be with enough force to damage the vehicle but not enough to

built to withstand thousands of pounds of pressure, he said.

In this case, Mr. Neimeth said, although Mr. Bohannon had no engine power, he apparently did have enough lift and forward

momentum,

and skill, to lift the plane

off the car and

on to a safe

spot on the edge of the road.

**Pilot radioed airport**

Mr. Bohannon, 53, is a senior vice president at Bohannon Development Corp. based in San Mateo, according to a spokeswoman from his office. He is a grandson of David D. Bohannon, a legendary Peninsula developer, and the brother of David Bohannon,

the company's current chief executive.

Mr. Bohannon had taken off from the San Carlos Airport on a test flight and was on his way back when the mechanical failure occurred, CHP Officer Art Montiel said. Mr. Bohannon radioed the airport as he was landing.

The CHP began to receive reports at 7:13 p.m. that a small aircraft had landed on the highway. As officers were responding, the airport also contacted the CHP about the incident.

Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Allen Kenitzer said the plane was conducting a photo mission when it lost engine power.

See **PILOT**, page 8

*Why didn't the plane crash when its tire hit the car?*

## Woodside School names superintendent/principal

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

Woodside Elementary School has a new superintendent/principal: Elizabeth (Beth) Polito will pull up stakes from her job as assistant superintendent of educational services in the Saratoga Union School District to begin work in the local one-school district on Aug. 1.

In a unanimous vote, the school board appointed Ms. Polito during a special meeting on July 8, announcing the choice in a written statement.

Ms. Polito, who holds a doctorate in education from the University of San Francisco, held her current position as assistant superintendent for four years. Before that, she was a teacher, dean of students, vice principal, and principal at Redwood Middle School in the Saratoga district for a total of 14 years.

The new superintendent will make \$183,000 annually. She fills the post held since mid-2008 by Diana Abbati, who resigned June 30 to become superintendent of the Los Gatos Union School District.

"Dr. Polito's leadership in the areas of mathematics, gifted and talented education, support for English language learners, and use of technology and data to inform/

improve instruction all led to positive changes in her district," the written statement said.

Board President Bettina Pike told the Almanac that what came across during the interview with Ms. Polito was "her vision of how to educate each individual child within the public school system."

She said the board will look to the new superintendent to continue on the track established over the last few years by sound leadership. "Woodside is in the best shape we've been in years," she said, adding that she doesn't think there are any significant problems that need fixing.

Ms. Polito said early this week that she is excited to be moving into a position in which she will be with children every day, after having spent the last four years in a district office. And because the school is small, "I can get to know every student," she said.

Her career in the Saratoga district gave her a range of experience that will serve her well in the K-8



Beth Polito

*'Woodside is in the best shape we've been in years.'*

BOARD PRESIDENT BETTINA PIKE

See **POLITO**, page 8



Fellow midshipmen and brothers Brian (right) and Kevin Flaherty of Atherton share a tradition at the Naval Academy graduation on May 27.

## Brothers share Naval Academy tradition

Brothers Brian (right) and Kevin Flaherty from Atherton shared a Naval Academy tradition at graduation on May 27.

Tradition dictates that a new graduate must give a silver dollar to the first person who salutes him, according to their father, John Flaherty of Atherton, a Marine Corps veteran.

In this case, older brother Brian (Class of 2011) was saluted by younger brother Kevin (Class of 2014).

The tradition dates back to the days of the Revolutionary War, Mr. Flaherty said.

At graduation, Brian was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps. He will report to Quantico, Virginia, for Marine Officers' Basic School followed by flight school in Pensacola, Florida.

Younger brother Kevin, who also plans to go into the Marine Corps, is currently conducting

summer training on a ship in Norfolk, Virginia. Both boys graduated from Menlo School in Atherton and were members of Boy Scout Troop 206.

Brian was appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy in 2007 by Sen. Diane Feinstein.

Kevin was appointed to the Academy by Congresswoman Anna Eshoo last year.

"It's unusual to have two brothers at an academy at one time," said Mr. Flaherty.

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## Portola Valley: Search begins for new town manager

The first step to finding Portola Valley a new town manager, soliciting proposals from executive recruiters, is on the schedule for the Wednesday, July 13, meeting of the Town Council.

Angie Howard, the current town manager, recently announced plans to retire in April 2012 after 21 years in Town Hall, including 11 leading the staff. The recommendation the council will consider on Wednesday would give search firms 11 business days, July 14 through 29, to respond the requests for proposals.

Also on the agenda:

■ A recommendation to establish a formal policy requiring the town to maintain a reserve adequate to fund six months of normal operations. The town's current reserves of \$2.1 million would fund nearly seven months of the projected \$3.7 million in expenses for the budget year that ends June 30, 2012.

■ Increase by 2.8 percent the monthly retainer for Spangle Associates, the Menlo Park firm that provides planning services to the town. Using the consumer price index, the town would boost the retainer to \$7,091 per month.

### ■ POLICE CALLS

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

#### ATHERTON

**Fraud report:** Resident received phone call soliciting money after fraudulently alleging that resident's grandson was jailed in Central America, first block of De Bell Drive, July 7.

#### MENLO PARK

**Commercial burglary report:** Loss estimated at \$2,000 in break-in and theft of two computers from classroom, Trinity School at 2650 Sand Hill Road, July 6.

#### Residential burglary reports:

■ Loss estimated at \$3,000 in theft of laptop computer in unlocked apartment, 300 block of Sharon Park Drive, July 7.

■ Loss estimated at \$1,500 in break-in and theft of two Apple iPad devices, 2800 block of Sand Hill Road, July 6.

■ Loss estimated at \$1,225 in break-in through unlocked window and theft of

four gold bracelets, digital camera and video game console, 1900 block of Euclid Ave., July 4.

■ Loss estimated at \$1,090 in break-in to unoccupied house under renovation and theft of jewelry and jewelry box, 600 block of Coleman Ave., July 5.

#### Child Protective Services report:

200 block of Waverley St., July 1.

**Spousal abuse report:** 1900 block of Euclid Ave., July 3.

**Stolen vehicle report:** Gray 1993 Nissan Sentra, 1300 block of Modoc Ave., July 7.

**Fraud report:** Loss estimated at \$5,000 in unauthorized use of credit card, 1300 block of San Mateo Drive, July 7.

#### WEST MENLO PARK

**Auto burglary report:** Break-in and theft of cell phone, 1000 block of Sherman Ave., July 3.

## Filoli holds 'Wine with Roses' event

Filoli will open its gardens for wine tasting and a sit-down dinner at its annual "Wine with Roses" fundraiser, to be held Saturday, July 23, from 5 to 8 p.m.

The event is one of six annual fundraisers that provide for the operation and maintenance of the 654-acre Woodside estate, located at 86 Canada Road. A historic site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Filoli features a 36,000 square-foot residence and 16 acres of English Renaissance gardens that will set the stage for the evening's festivities.

Laurel Thomsen will perform Celtic violin music as guests tour the garden and sample wines provided by 10 Northern California wineries, including Thomas Fogarty of Woodside. A sit down dinner accompanied by

the vintners' wines will follow the tasting.

Raffle prizes including a three-day stay at a 5-bedroom home at Northstar at Tahoe and gift certificates to local restaurants will be awarded during dessert.

Tickets are \$110 for Filoli members and \$125 for non-members. Seating is limited, so advance reservations are required.

To purchase event and raffle tickets, call 364 8300, ext. 508, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Raffle tickets are also available online (winners need not be present to win) and will be available for purchase in Filoli's Member Services Office at the event.

Visit [filoli.org](http://filoli.org) for more information.

— Caitlin Moyles

# Labor council steps into Atherton staff layoff fray; City Council meets Tuesday

By Renee Batti  
Almanac News Editor

The San Mateo County Central Labor Council sent a sharply worded message to Atherton Mayor Jim Dobbie last week, urging the town to negotiate a "fair and equitable agreement" with the union representing 12 town employees who are almost certain to lose their jobs on July 15.

The employees of the town's public works and building departments were handed layoff notices in late May, and have attempted to save their jobs by offering major concessions in their compensation. But the town appears poised to follow through on a plan to ax the jobs and outsource the services to private firms.

The City Council meets in closed session at 2 p.m. Tuesday, July 12, to discuss the matter, although no formal council action is required to allow Interim City Manager John Danielson to move forward with the plan. The public can address the council before it goes into its closed meeting.

Members of Teamsters Union Local 856, representing the 12 affected employees and three others who don't face layoff, authorized a strike on July 5 after town negotiators, union representatives and a state mediator failed to reach an agreement after about 10 hours of talks. Union representative Peter Finn said 92 percent of the membership gave the union the green light to call a strike.

Mr. Danielson said that the mediator found the two parties at an impasse.

In the labor council letter to the mayor, executive secretary-treasurer Shelley Kessler said the labor council granted "emergency strike sanction" to the local union unit, and that "if a settlement is not reached, I shall begin our process of support activities."

In a telephone interview, Ms. Kessler told the Almanac that the union is still "trying to have conversations" with the town about saving some

## INFORMATION

The Atherton City Council will meet in closed session to discuss matters related to the possible layoff of 12 employees and the outsourcing of services. The meeting is at 2 p.m., and begins with a chance for the public to comment on the issue. It will be held in the Council Chambers, 94 Ashfield Road in the Town Center.

of the jobs. At this point, there are no specific actions planned against the town as labor leaders monitor the situation, but that could change, depending on the results of further talks, she said.

Employees have offered concessions to help eliminate the budget's estimated \$856,000 structural deficit. Those concessions would save the town at least \$300,000, according to Mr. Finn.

**Employees have offered concessions to help eliminate the budget's estimated \$856,000 structural deficit.**

In the labor council's letter, Ms. Kessler writes: "The decision of your town to outsource the entire workforce of the building and public works department with no public discussion is not only shortsighted and detrimental to the city's ability to be accountable to its citizenry; it completely ignores the union's offer to negotiate a fair settlement that would save the city more than \$300,000, let alone the tremendous revenues that were achieved by (the building department) over the past two years."

Ms. Kessler told the Almanac that because the building department is designed to pay for itself through fees, it appears to labor leaders that the town is more interested in "an opportunity to bust the union" rather than addressing

financial problems — a charge Mr. Danielson denies.

The building department hasn't been self-sustaining for the last couple of years, he said, and is subject to "the yoyo effect" because of seasonal slowdowns in building, when fee-generation also slows down.

But that claim is disputed by union leaders, who complain that their requests for information about the building department reserves have been denied. The Almanac also has been unsuccessful in obtaining that information, and has filed a Public Records Act request.

Building inspector Joseph Aiello, who also is a union steward and is bracing to lose his job, has challenged the management of the department, saying that when it is run properly, it pays for itself. He said that the department has had only one minor slowdown, and that was in late 2008. The department, he said, "is busy and getting busier."

Mr. Danielson said last week that "the staffing for the building department has been really spotty the past couple of weeks," he said. Although he wouldn't characterize the absences as a slowdown — a strategy used at times by represented employees dissatisfied with the progress of labor talks — he noted that on July 5 "no one showed up in the building department" to staff the front counter. The town had to call in substitute help from the private firm that employs the current interim building official, he said.

Mr. Aiello defended the staff against the insinuation that employees were taking time off without permission. He told the Almanac that no one took time off that day who wasn't scheduled to be off. The schedule is made by Interim Building Official Dennis Lockard, an employee with the private firm CSG, which has been providing contract service since the retirement of building official Mike Wassman last September. ■

## Deputy manager Kent Steffens heads to Sunnyvale

Kent Steffens, currently the deputy city manager in Menlo Park, will take over as public works director in Sunnyvale on Aug. 1, it was announced Monday by Sunnyvale City

Manager Gary Luebbers.

Over his 12 years with the city of Menlo Park, Mr. Steffens directed public works and served as interim and interim assistant city manager.

In Sunnyvale, Mr. Steffens will oversee some 180 employees and have oversight of streets, engineering, and parks and project management, Mr. Luebbers said.

## REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Gloria Darke



### Buying Under Construction

**Q. Dear Gloria, We plan to sell our home in Marin and buy a new home on the Peninsula. Do you have any special advice about buying a new home that is currently under construction?**

**D. Martin**

**A. Dear D. Martin,** First, fully understand your financial position. Get with an experienced local Realtor to learn what your "net equity" position will be after you sell your home. Then, when you start looking for your new home, there are several things to be aware of.

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Reputations of developers and builders do get around, and local real estate professionals are good sources of information and advice.

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



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## Atherton police chief retires; interim chief appointed

By Renee Batti  
Almanac News Editor

Atherton Police Chief Mike Guerra is leaving on July 15 the post he has held since November 2009, in a department he has served since 1985. He is being replaced on an interim basis, effective July 18, by former Santa Rosa police chief Ed Flint, the interim city manager announced July 11.

In an unusual arrangement, Chief Guerra will stay on with the town until April, not as police chief but performing specific projects, essentially pro bono, while being paid from the pool of money he accumulated from vacation and other leave time, according to Interim City Manager John Danielson.

“He’s really being kind to us,” Mr. Danielson said. “He’s got so much time on the books that if he cashed it all out it would be kind of devastating for us.”

The projects will be “meaningful,” such as working on “best management practices” policies and a records-management system for the police department, Mr. Danielson said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Danielson has appointed Mr. Flint, who also worked as police chief in Elk Grove for some time, as interim police chief to run the department, which he expects will remain operational long into the future, despite calls for outsourcing.

“I absolutely, unequivocally, completely have no interest whatsoever, nor has the council put any pressure on me whatsoever, in outsourcing the police department,” Mr. Danielson said.

That said, he and the council want to streamline the department and reduce costs, he noted. He will ask the union representing the

police to reopen contract talks and will seek concessions in the neighborhood of \$200,000 a year, he said.

Chief Guerra is the third police chief to leave the position since August 2008, when Bob Brennan retired. His successor, Glenn Nielsen, was appointed by then-city manager Jerry Gruber, retired after only about 14 months in the post, leaving town with a large cash payout for unused vacation time.

Chief Guerra’s current annual base salary is about \$171,300, and his total compensation last fiscal year was about \$274,700, according to Finance Director Louise Ho. The latter figure includes about \$25,100 of vacation cash out, she said.

Mr. Danielson said he chose to hire an interim police chief because he himself is in his post on an interim basis, and the appointment of a permanent chief would best be left for the permanent manager who will succeed him.

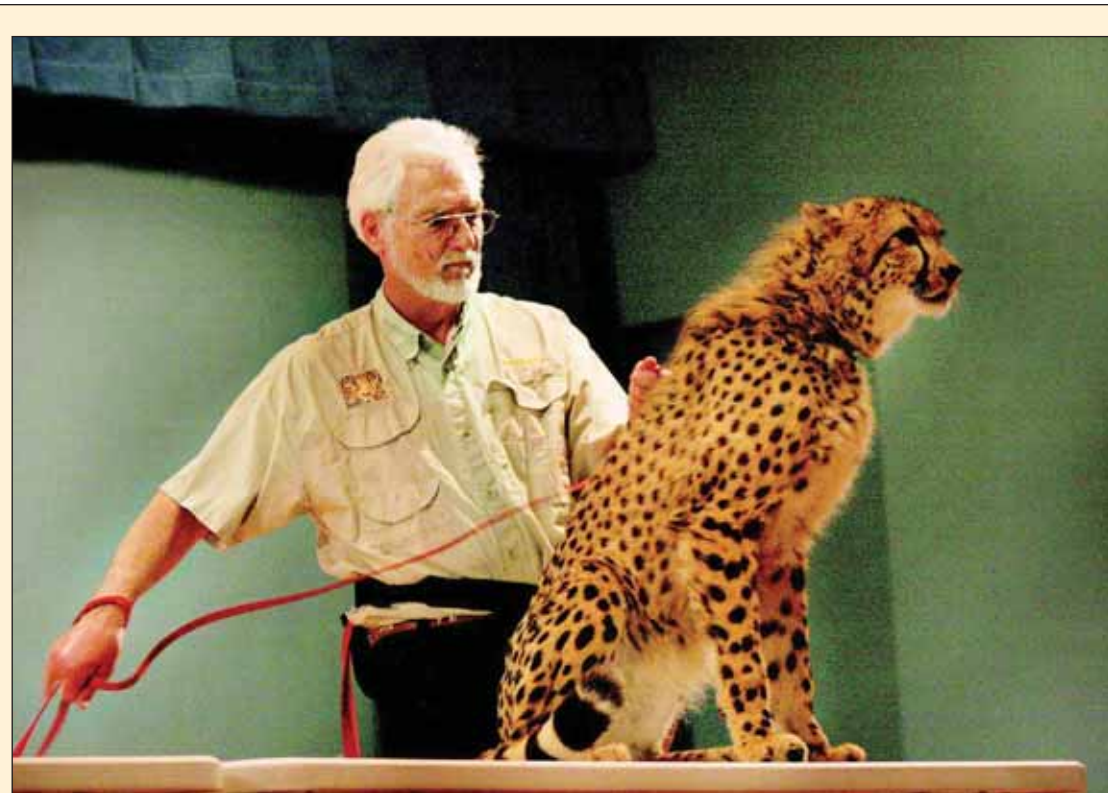
In a written statement, Mr. Danielson said the new interim chief has logged about 35 years of multi-agency law enforcement experience. He began his law enforcement career with the California Highway Patrol in Redwood City, and later moved to the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department, where he worked up through the ranks to captain. His career includes a stint as assistant police chief in Citrus Heights.

Mr. Flint also served active duty in the Army, and in the Army Reserves and California National Guard, Mr. Danielson said. ■



Mike Guerra

**The interim city manager said he will seek concessions from the police department in the neighborhood of \$200,000 a year.**



Almanac photo by Dave Boyce

### Cheetah visits Portola Valley

Rob Dickey, of the Wild Cat Education and Conservation Fund in Sonoma County, brought this African cheetah and four other wild cats to the Sequoias retirement community in Portola Valley on June 17. The other cats: a Canadian lynx, a rare Geoffroy’s cat, and a domestic mountain lion. He was there with Barbara Dickey, his wife and the founder of the wild feline sanctuary. The couple care for about 20 wild cats, all born in captivity and none of whom get along well with each other, Ms. Dickey said.

### PILOT

continued from page 5

#### Landing on a freeway

That there were no injuries in this accident is probably more an indication of the pilot’s skill rather than luck, said Chris Dancy, a spokesman for the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association in Frederick, Maryland.

A pilot’s first responsibility in any emergency may sound simple: fly the plane, Mr. Dancy said in a phone interview. Without an engine, a Cessna 210 becomes a glider and the pilot has full use of the controls just as if the engine were running, he said. The links to the plane’s controls are cables and rods, but nothing hydraulic that is dependent on engine power.

dent on engine power.

An equivalent responsibility is safety. “From the first time a pilot sets foot in the plane, all of the flight training focuses on safety,” Mr. Dancy said, adding that the pilot is solely responsible for the safety of any flight.

The pilot’s job in such a situation is to manage and mitigate risk, which includes calculating a rate of descent over the longest distance, a formula known as the best glide speed, Mr. Dancy said. If the plane is high enough above ground, the pilot has “a fair amount of time” to make these calculations, he said.

While there are no guidelines for emergency landings on freeways, they are a natural choice, Mr. Dancy said. “What is more attractive than something that

looks like a runway and behaves like a runway?” he said. “If you’re fortunate to be near a major highway that’s got a good straightaway, that’s obviously an option.”

The FAA agrees. “Typically, when a pilot is put in a position to have to get the airplane down in an emergency, it is a matter of choosing the least worst place to land,” spokesman Lynn Lunsford said in an e-mail.

Asked if a citation was likely, CHP Officer Neimeth deferred to the FAA. Mr. Lunsford, asked the same question, deferred to the CHP but added that the FAA would not be issuing any citations. “This is an emergency situation, not a planned event,” he said. ■

Bay Cities News Service  
contributed to this report.

### POLITO

continued from page 5

Woodside district, she said. The bulk of her time there was spent at the 6-8 level, and during her tenure as assistant superintendent, a key focus for her was K-5 curriculum, particularly in the areas of math and literacy, she said.

A total of 26 applications were received for the post, and a consultant narrowed that field to 11, Ms. Pike said. The board interviewed five of those candidates, and narrowed the field to three finalists before making its choice, she said. ■

### Venture capitalist joins POST board

Venture capitalist Matt Miller of Woodside has joined the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) board of directors. Mr. Miller is managing director of Walden Venture Capital, a San Francisco firm investing in early-stage digital media and cloud-computing businesses.

A graduate of Cornell University, with a master’s of business administration from Columbia University, Mr. Miller moved to the Peninsula from Boston in

1988.

“I came to Silicon Valley for the technology, but stayed for the open space,” says Mr. Miller. “During my first trip here for a job interview, I drove over Highway 92 to Half Moon Bay. As I took in all that was there — forested hills, farmland, the ocean — I knew what I saw was unique and that I wanted to live here.”

Mr. Miller’s first tech job in California was with Oracle Corporation’s newly created Desktop

division, which developed and launched the first database server running on an Intel chip in 1989. Since then he has been involved in a wide range of early-state tech companies.

Mr. Miller is a past president of the Portola Valley Schools Foundation and a guest lecturer at Notre Dame de Namur University’s executive MBA program.



Matt Miller

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## Partial human skull found in Ladera

■ Coroner's office says it is the remains of a Native American.

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Deputies from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office were called to Ladera on Friday, July 1, after a worker discovered what turned out to be a human skull while digging a trench near a swimming pool in the 100 block of Aliso Way, according to a Sheriff's Office report.

The deputies on the scene called in staff from the county coroner's office, who took the skull and analyzed it. Senior

Deputy Coroner Michelle Rippey told the Almanac that the skull is the remains of a Native American male. She did not have information on the age of the man or when he died, but she said that there will be further investigation.

The facial area of the skull was missing, Lt. Ray Lunny of the Sheriff's Office said. The police report is silent as to whether other bones were found in the vicinity, Lt. Lunny added.

The Almanac asked for a comment from George Mader, a Ladera resident, a

consultant to the Planning Department of Portola Valley, and someone with experience in dealing with such discoveries in the context of a proposed building project.

"It's relatively close to a creek, where you would expect to find Indian encampments, so that isn't too surprising," Mr. Mader said.

Los Trancos Creek flows past Ladera along the south side of Alpine Road and is the only major creek in the area, said Paul Heiple of the Portola Valley Conservation Committee. ■



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## Emergency response: New crop of volunteers needed

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Portola Valley does not have a "deep bench" of residents ready to respond to a major emergency such as an earthquake or wildfire, Town Councilwoman Ann Wengert said in a May council meeting.

Ms. Wengert used the baseball analogy during an extended discussion of the viability of the 13-year-old Citizens Emergency Response Preparedness Program, or CERPP.

The volunteer group has 25 radio-connected divisions that encompass the entire Woodside Fire Protection District, which includes Portola Valley, Woodside and the nearby unincorporated communities such as Los Trancos Woods, Vista Verde, Ladera and Emerald Hills.

In a fire district of 16,500 residents, CERPP has between 700 and 1,000 trained volunteers, adding about 45 a year, spokeswoman Gaylynn Mann told the Almanac.

The group has \$40,000 invested in 110 trauma kits that the volunteers assembled and keep fresh, and \$70,000 in radios, including 110 for neighborhood use. There are ten containers of disaster-related goods — cots, blankets, flashlights, tools, etc. — distributed throughout the district, Ms. Mann said.

But original members make up a substantial part of the group and they're getting tired. New members are needed as well as division leaders, Ms. Mann said.

"Who wants to think about

their house burning?" she said in considering the problems of recruiting new members. "It's not a topic that people really want to talk about. People are affluent and in an affluent community, people think that's what they pay tax dollars for, for (other) people to take care of them."

A common question in informational sessions: "How long will it take you to get to my house?" Ms. Mann said. "I can't tell you how many meetings I've been to where I hear that question."

What's likely to happen is triage, in which firefighters address burning houses as they encounter them,

Commission, said that about 10 percent of city residents are ready for an emergency, a situation attributed to apathy, denial, fatalism and a sense of entitlement.

As the presentation showed, Mill Valley conducts an annual full-dress drill in a different neighborhood each year. Residents and animals are evacuated with major participation from the city's police and fire departments — a seamless coordination hard to duplicate here with first responders employed by independent agencies.

Another difference: Mill Valley's volunteer preparedness team belongs to a county-wide group. In the annual drill, Mill Valley firefighters are joined by colleagues from nearby municipalities, the logic being that a city's firefighters

may be far away when a real emergency strikes. One might say that Mill Valley has a deep bench.

Mr. Toben said recently that during his eight years on the Town Council, "neither CERPP nor the town have ever done an evacuation exercise."

Ms. Mann disagreed, citing a drill several years ago in which fire district residents were asked to gather at Canada College.

"I think (an evacuation) would be interesting and I don't think it would be that expensive," Ms. Howard said.

The Mill Valley fire chief put the cost at \$5,500 to cover publicity and drinking water and lunch on the day of the exercise, Ms. Wimmer told the Almanac. That figure does not include overtime for police and firefighters, she said. ■

**'We're not asking them to save the world. We're asking them to save themselves.'**

GAYLYNNE MANN, CITIZENS EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM

Ms. Mann said. "But you can't make people understand that."

"We're not asking them to come out and save the world. We're asking them to save themselves," she said in her plea for more volunteers. "I would be thrilled if we got half the fire protection district residents trained."

"CERPP is struggling a lot right now," said Angie Howard, the town manager in Portola Valley and a CERPP board member.

"We do have a problem with getting people involved enough to volunteer," said Woodside's Town Manager Susan George, also a CERPP board member.

### Logistical problems

In a recent presentation to the Portola Valley council, Tiana Wimmer, who chairs the Mill Valley Emergency Preparedness

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## ABC teaches 10 languages at its Menlo Park school

By Caitlin Moyles  
Special to the Almanac

ABC Language Exchange has opened a school in Menlo Park, providing group, private, and virtual lessons (via Webcam) in 10 languages, said Rachel Meyer, owner and founder of the company.

Among the languages: Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, French, Hindi, Italian, Russian and Spanish.

Located at 585 Glenwood Ave., ABC shares the 4,000-square-foot, 10-classroom space with Language Pacifica, an English language program for non-native speakers. Language Pacifica uses the space until 3 p.m., and ABC uses it in the evening, Ms. Meyer said. ABC moved into the school on May 17.

Ms. Meyer, who speaks Mandarin Chinese, Spanish, French, and American Sign Language, said she was inspired to open a location in Silicon Valley when she moved to Menlo Park three years ago.

"The demographic of this area is full of educated, international, people, or people who are married to an international spouse, who would like to learn a different language," she said. "I also liked the idea of starting a business here to become part of the community."

The success of ABC's other two schools didn't hurt, either. Its flagship school in New York City, where Ms. Meyer founded the business 15 years ago, now has 500 students enrolled, while its San Francisco location has attracted 200.

Ms. Meyer, who now lives in Mountain View, said she has 60 students enrolled at the ABC school in Menlo Park and expects the number to rise to 150.

"A lot of people are sick of being a monolingual American," she said. "Learning a second language makes travel more interesting, and the people in this area travel a lot."

In addition to evening classes, ABC offers summer boot camps for middle school and high school students, and plans to start after-school lessons for children, ages 7 to 10, in the fall.

She said that in line with



Rachel Meyer is founder and owner of the company, ABC Language Exchange.

her goal of making her work relevant to the community, ABC has started Peninsula Language Lovers Meetup, a free language-practice group that meets monthly in Menlo Park.

"Last time we met at the Oak City Bar & Grill, and we had people from Turkey, Russians, people working for local companies who want to meet Americans, and people who just found us locally through

meetup.com who are interested in foreign languages," Ms. Meyer said. "It's a nice way to get your feet wet and explore."

Learning through interaction is a concept that surfaces in the ABC classroom, where teachers stick mainly to the target language and students engage in role play to build their conversational skills, Ms. Meyer said. She also facilitates interaction between the students by serving wine, jelly beans, and chips before every class.

"These are adults coming after work, so we want to maintain a light atmosphere," said Ms. Meyer.

Still, Ms. Meyer tempers the socialization with small class sizes — they are capped at ten people — and professional teaching standards.

"All of our classes are taught by professional language teachers with a minimum of two years of teaching experience at a university or language school," Ms. Meyer said. She added that the teachers use university textbooks to structure their classes. ■

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# Trail connections a focus for POST leader Walter Moore

■ Walter Moore takes helm at open space trust following 24-year tenure of Audrey Rust.

By Chris Kenrick

Embarcadero Media

Creating trail connections among open-space parcels on the Peninsula will be the next great focus of local land preservation, says the new president of the Peninsula Open Space Trust.

Walter Moore, who on July 1 took the helm of the nonprofit following the 24-year tenure of Audrey Rust, said cuts in public funding for parks leave it to groups like POST to finance trails and parking so visitors can access open space lands.

In its 34-year history, POST has helped save 64,000 acres in San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties by raising private funds to facilitate deals between private landowners and public agencies.

For example, in the case of Palo Alto's 609-acre Arastradero Preserve, POST in 2002 bought "the hole in the doughnut" — a 13-acre privately owned parcel — and held it for three years, allowing the city to raise funds from the California Coastal Conservancy and others to buy it.

"Otherwise you could have had a very large single-family home right in the middle of a preserve, and now it's beautiful additional space," Mr. Moore said.

He spoke in an interview in a glass-walled conference room at POST's downtown Palo Alto headquarters. Hanging throughout the building are photos of spectacular local scenery from POST-affiliated lands.

In addition to Palo Alto's Arastradero piece, POST had a hand in saving the popular Windy Hill in Portola Valley, Bair Island in Redwood City, and the Phleger Estate in Woodside, among many projects.

Just recently, the nonprofit sold nearly 100 acres along Skyline Ridge to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, making way for a future trail connection between Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve and Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve.

POST had acquired the parcel for \$3.09 million last December, and sold it to the open space district for the same price.

"We are working closely with (the open space district) to plan a potential new parking and trails staging area at this site to make it easier for the public to enjoy the phenomenal trails and views from this beautiful spot along Skyline Ridge," Mr. Moore said.

POST also has saved more than 13,000 acres of agriculture and grazing on the San Mateo County

coast through buying land that was subject to development, obtaining conservation easements to restrict future land use, and then selling the parcels to farmers.

A recent POST project opened to the public just last month is Little Basin, purchased in 1963 by HP founders Bill Hewlett and David Packard and used for decades as a site for company

picnics and retreats.

HP transferred ownership of Little Basin to POST and the Semprevirens Fund in 2007 and the property recently was added to Big Basin State Park.

The HP facilities — including campsites and picnic tables personally designed by Mr. Hewlett — are still there and available to the public, Mr. Moore said.

Rosemary Young, wife of former HP CEO John Young, was among the local leaders — including

venture capitalist Ward Paine, Sand Hill Road developer Tom Ford, and Sunset magazine co-owner Mel Lane — who formed POST back in the late 1970s.

"They looked at the hills and the setting around them and thought it would be wonderful if there were a private,



Walter Moore

nonprofit partner to complement the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District," Mr. Moore said.

"It would be able to raise money and work confidentially with landowners.

"And the open space district thought, 'Wouldn't it be wonderful if, in 10 or 20 years, POST could raise \$1 million.'

"Well, we've raised hundreds of millions," Mr. Moore said.

See POST, page 14

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# Stanford Hospital Health Notes

A community health education series from Stanford Hospital & Clinics

## Stanford Tackles Tough Tumors Once Thought Beyond Treatment

Michelle Perea has a very clear memory of what went through her head when doctors told her that a rare and malignant tumor had swollen her abdomen and wrapped itself around the major arteries of her chest and abdomen.

“I was 38 years old; my youngest was two years old, my oldest 12, and all I kept thinking about was, ‘We have to get things in order,’” Perea said. She went elsewhere for a second opinion and heard much the same, although it was suggested she look around for a clinical trial. “I went home to my kids thinking this would be the last holiday I would have with them,” Perea said.

Then, a doctor who was a family friend, who had a sister involved in cancer research, said something different: “Michelle, you’ve got to try Stanford. You’ve got to try.”

Stanford Hospital has several tumor boards, specific to particular kinds of cancer, and Perea’s case was presented. In on the conversation were E. John Harris, Jr., MD, a vascular surgeon in the Stanford Vascular Center, and Jeffrey Norton, MD, an oncology surgeon at the Stanford Clinical Cancer Center.

Together, they brought nearly 65 years of experience as physicians to the dilemma of how to treat Perea.

She didn’t do any research on Harris or Norton before her surgery. “I just knew they were doctors at Stanford,” she said, “and that people come to them from all over the world.”



Everyone in the Perea family does sports; Michelle’s husband, x, coaches youth softball teams. The Pereas’ back yard is large enough for a batting cage, where Michelle can watch from the sidelines and encourage her kids’ play.

Harris and Norton had recently begun an unusual partnership, one designed to tackle impossible-to-remove tumors like Perea’s, laden with risk. Instead of an oncology surgeon handling the surgery alone and calling for help if needed, as has been the norm, Harris and Norton would work together from the start—a move to get beyond the old barriers around certain cancers like Perea’s: those that emerge from the body’s soft, connective tissue fat, muscle, nerves, fibrous tissues, blood vessels or deep skin tissues. By nature, these tumors invade and entangle other tissues, and the prognosis is often dire.

### Partners in Innovation

Perea’s malignant sarcoma was located in what anatomy books call the retroperitoneum that middle section of the body where several organs and major arteries are packed together, a tightly-configured space where any surgery is risky, and where, without preoperative angiograms, the need for blood vessel reconstruction can be a dangerous surprise.

Even when a sarcoma appears in an arm or a leg, that blood vessel problem is so great that amputation has been the norm.

Inside Perea, the tumor, the size of a melon and weighing 11 pounds, had grown around the major artery supplying blood to her abdomen. The artery was buried like a straw through the middle of a softball, just the type of situation where few physicians would venture. Another layer of risk: The tumor originated on Perea’s spine, so removing it also raised the possibility that she might emerge from surgery paralyzed. Perea was willing to risk that.

Perea met first with Norton. “I told him about my kids



Michelle Perea had been told that nothing could be done to remove the rare malignant tumor crowding her abdomen, wrapping itself around major arteries. It was too dangerous, she was told. A friend urged her to call Stanford Hospital & Clinics, where physicians had different ideas.

and showed him a picture of my family,” Perea said. “It almost seemed as though he was thinking, ‘She’s only 38 years old. We have to try and do something—we have to do these things that seem impossible because that’s what we do.’”

*“I just knew they were doctors at Stanford, and that people come to them from all over the world.”*

—Michelle Perea, cancer patient,  
Stanford Hospital & Clinics

Norton, in the blunt manner of someone unafraid to break new ground, put it differently. “Surgery is the only effective treatment for sarcomas,” he said. “Even though this tumor involved major blood vessels, we didn’t think it was unreasonable to try to remove it. We are not here to not take out tumors.”

Harris, with his special expertise in the vascular system, would do the reconstruction and replacement of the arteries and any other blood vessels damaged by the tumor, the key step to break down the barrier against removing tumors that grow to interfere with major blood vessels.

### First of its kind

In his meeting with Perea, Harris explained in detail what the surgery would involve. He also told her something she hadn’t known. “My understanding was that this had never been done before,” Perea said, “that that large of a tumor had never been re-

moved in that area before, with that much reconstruction.”

Norton never wavered from a positive outcome, she said, “but he said we had to do it right away. He rescheduled his vacation so that could happen.”

The duo of Harris and Norton brings together two very clear-eyed physicians whose nature is to know their individual limitations and to embrace the power of collaboration. “I’ve spent my whole life trying to take tumors out,” Norton said. “I know surgery pretty well, but there are certain times when I can’t deal with blood vessels.”

For vascular surgeons, Norton said, knowing “what vessels you can take and those you can’t, which you ligate or which you have to reconstruct,” is their basic alphabet of working knowledge.

Working with Harris filled out that part of an equation that opened the door to this problematic kind of surgery “where the more you cut, the more you can injure,” Norton said. With Harris’ expertise in the vascular system, the two could plan ahead, designing an approach to lower the risk of unexpected bleeding,



When Perea was diagnosed at 2 years old. After the first surgery to remove the tumor from her abdomen, her doctors advised her to have surgery again to remove that tumor, t

## Cancer Care at Stanford Hospital and Clinics

- The Stanford Cancer Institute coordinates basic research, development of new therapies, clinical trials, patient care, screening, prevention, education, community outreach and psycho-social support. It also houses a tumor registry.
- The Stanford Clinical Cancer Center is focused on patient care. It offers 12 disease-specific management programs and a full range of specialists in BMT, breast, cutaneous, gastrointestinal, gynecologic, head and neck, hematology, lymphoma, neuro, sarcoma, thoracic, urologic and radiation oncology. Cancer care at the Center is based on a coordinated, multi-disciplinary approach.
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something that can quickly upend a surgery. "That unexpected bleeding is the one thing we all want to avoid," Norton said.

*"It almost seemed as though he was thinking, 'She's only 38 years old. We have to try and do something—we have to do these things that seem impossible.'"*

—Michelle Perea, cancer patient, Stanford Hospital & Clinics

Their collaboration began after Norton had had to call for Harris' help in the middle of a surgery. Later, Harris said, "I told him it would be better if I saw these patients ahead of time and we came up with a plan." Essential to the plan was a complete mapping of a patient's vascular system, using computed tomography angiography so there would be no surprises.

Harris and Norton told Perea that her first-of-its-kind surgery would be videotaped so others could learn from it.

The surgery lasted more than 10 hours. "It was pretty complex," Harris said. "It involved all the major blood vessels supplying the kidneys and the intestines. The tumor grew right up out of her spine and pressed up against her heart and traversed her diaphragm."



and told nothing could be done, her youngest child was just 6 years old. In a never before done procedure, removed an 11-pound tumor. Perea returned three years later. Stanford surgeons went in for the surgery.



Perea's mother, Diane Lawson, has been an important part of her recovery from two cancer surgeries, ground-breaking approaches made possible because two Stanford surgeons pooled their expertise.

In addition to the threat of paralysis, Harris said, the blood supply to her liver and other parts of her body could have been compromised.

### New thinking adds options

Perea was in critical care for a week. After three weeks in the hospital, she went home to restart her life.

Since the account of Perea's surgery was published in the Archives of Surgery, other surgeons have begun to try the joint venture approach inaugurated by Harris and Norton for these types of cancer. "We do have the ability to do this kind of surgery," Harris said. "It's just old thinking that if a sarcoma has invaded a major blood vessel, that there's nothing you can do but give patients palliative therapy."

The surgery does require what Harris called a skill set that's not found everywhere—a special combination of

experience and knowledge but he and Norton are both modest. "We're not doing anything totally different than anybody else does, but we do it well," Norton said. "We plan these things out to minimize blood loss and we're always thinking, 'What's another way of doing it?'"

*"It's just old thinking that if a sarcoma has invaded a major blood vessel, that there's nothing you can do but give patients palliative therapy."*

—E. John Harris, Jr., MD, vascular surgeon, Stanford Hospital & Clinics

One of the basic maneuvers is called debranching, something that neurosurgeons and vascular surgeons bring out for aneurysms—a way to go around a damaged area by connecting the good part before and the good part beyond.

Something else is important, too that collaborative spirit. "Jeff and I have a good relationship. There is no ego," Harris said. "John is a good guy," Norton said, "easy to work with. A lot of surgeons can't work together."

With the success of their teaming, they have expanded the approach to include surgeries to remove tumors in the pancreas and duodenum, with similar replacements of major veins

and arteries. That heralds a bigger role for vascular surgery in tumor removal, Harris believes.

In 2010, Harris and Norton removed a new tumor, another challenge requiring major vascular replacement: This time, the cancer appeared in Perea's liver, invaded her vena cava, the vein that transports deoxygenated blood, and worked its way up her chest wall.

"When I was rediagnosed, I thought, 'Oh, crap, it's back.' But it's just one of those things," Perea said. "Sometimes, I wake up and I don't feel I can do this another day, but then I think about how far I've come and I say, 'I have to.' There's no way I can give up on myself when no one else did. I just keep moving forward."

She has gained more time with her children. Her youngest just finished kindergarten, her oldest is 16. "The bottom line is I just want to be here as long as I can."



With her tumor removed, Michelle Perea knows she has gained more time with her family: son Diego, 6; husband Mike, daughters Sophia, 14, Olivia, 16, and Allejandra, 8.

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

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Stanford University Medical Center

## Three arrested in connection with burglaries

Menlo Park police arrested three male juveniles Thursday (July 7) in connection with several residential burglaries on Gilbert Avenue, Laurel Avenue and Pope Street in Menlo Park.

The arrests were triggered by a report from a resident in the 700 block of Gilbert Avenue who said that on returning home at about 9 p.m. Wednesday, July 6, it was discovered that the home was broken into and property was stolen.

The next day Menlo Park police detectives found that the property reported missing was similar to items confiscated by officers on Monday, July 4, from three male juveniles.

The juveniles — a 14-year-old from Coalinga and a 13- and 14-year-old from East Palo Alto — were booked into Juvenile Hall on suspicion of burglary.

### BRIEFS

The suspects admitted to other burglaries in the 700 block of Gilbert Avenue, the 100 and 800 blocks of Laurel Avenue, and the 500 block of Pope Street, said Nicole Acker, a spokesperson for the Menlo Park Police Department.

Anyone with information about these burglaries is asked to call the police department at 330-6300.

### Burglars take laptops from Corte Madera

One or more burglars broke into the computer lab at Corte Madera Middle School in Portola Valley and got away with 21 laptop computers valued at about \$16,000, according to the San

Mateo County Sheriff's Office. The incident was reported to the Sheriff's Office on June 30. The school, located at 4195 Alpine Road in Portola Valley, is closed for the summer and investigators have no leads, deputies said.

### Car accident in Portola Valley

A woman attempting to park her car June 30 in the 500 block of Portola Road — the location of The Sequoias retirement community — jumped a curb and collided with a 3-foot retaining wall after accidentally stepping on the accelerator, deputies said.

After hitting the wall, the vehicle veered and traveled 35 feet along the wall, ran into a golf cart and pushed it into another wall, deputies said.

The driver's vehicle sustained "moderate damage" to the hood, grill and driver's side fender and rear quarter panel, the report said. The driver was reported "incapacitated at the scene."

### POST

continued from page 11

As of June 30, 2010, POST had net assets of about \$227 million. It runs on an operating budget of about \$15 million, according to financials posted on its website.

POST frequently has partnered with the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, which reaps annual revenues of about \$15 million from property tax and is governed by an elected board.

Mr. Moore, a real estate lawyer, joined POST in 1995 as general counsel.

Asked about taking over from the nationally known Audrey Rust, he said simply, "I'm not going to fill those shoes."

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# Nine graduates win Kolozsi Scholarships

By Caitlin Moyles  
Special to the Almanac

Nine high school graduates from the Sequoia Union High School District recently received Kelly Kolozsi Scholarships, which are awarded to seniors for their academic achievements, contributions to their schools and communities, and demonstrated financial need.

The winners must also attend one of the branches of the University of California in the fall, said Tita Kolozsi of Atherton, the mother of Kelly, for whom the scholarship was named.

Kelly Kolozsi was killed in 1988 by a drunken driver in North Lake Tahoe. He graduated from Menlo-Atherton High School in 1982 and from the University of California at Santa Barbara in 1986.

The scholarships range from

\$1,000 to \$5,000 depending on financial need, Ms. Kolozsi said. She added that a committee of eight members selected the winners based on a transcript, essay, teacher recommendation, and interview.

Four students were named Kelly Kolozsi Scholars, allowing them to apply for a one-year renewal of their scholarship. They are: Sophia Fries and Melissa Mahood of Woodside High School; Matteo Porcedda of Sequoia High School; and Carly Reed of Carlmont High School.

Awards of merit were awarded to Erica Balderrama, Fiona Kirby and Jennifer Neider of Menlo-Atherton High School; Matteo Porcedda of Sequoia High School; and Ahuitz Romo-Gonzales of Woodside High School.

Chelsea Braun of UCLA, Courtney Durdle of UC Davis, Alena

Mclucas of UC Santa Cruz, and Victoria Tinoco of UC Riverside received scholarship renewals after being named Kelly Kolozsi Scholars last year.

"These students are all unbelievable," Ms. Kolozsi said. "They always restore my appreciation for the younger generation."

This year's scholarship winners will be recognized with certificates at their respective high schools' awards night ceremonies, she said.

Contact Tita Kolozsi at tita-kolozsi@hotmail.com for more information regarding the scholarship. ■

## Military get free admission to Filoli

The historic Filoli estate in Woodside is offering free admission to all active duty military personnel and their families through Labor Day 2011. It is one of 1,300 museums and

cultural institutions across the U.S. to offer free admission through the Blue Star Museums program, a partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star families.

**BIRTHS**

**Woodside**  
■ Kristen and William Dunn, a son, June 20, Sequoia Hospital.

**Atherton**  
■ Elizabeth and John Balena, a son, June 23, Sequoia Hospital.

**Menlo Park**  
■ Margarita Alvarez and Karl Neuman, a daughter, June 24, Sequoia Hospital.  
■ Kerry and Bradley Cook, a son, May 31, Sequoia Hospital.  
■ Neval and Farooq Javed, a daughter, June 3, Sequoia Hospital.  
■ Carol and Darren Cunningham, a son, June 19, Sequoia Hospital.

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# Peninsula College Fund awards scholarships

By Caitlin Moyles

Special to the Almanac

The Peninsula College Fund has awarded scholarships of \$12,000 each to 15 high school seniors from East Palo Alto, east Menlo Park and Redwood City.

The fund aims to help minority students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds to attend college. It also provides winners with a mentor to assist them in securing summer jobs and internships throughout college, said Charles Schmuck, a Menlo Park resident and founder of PCF.

Although U.S. colleges and universities often award scholarships to minority students with grade point averages of 4.0 or above, PCF is geared toward minority students with grade point averages between 3.2 and 3.8, Mr. Schmuck said.

"The kids who qualify for PCF are generally overlooked," he said.

He added that the winners are all first-generation college students.

PCF, which is primarily funded by individual donations, has awarded 52 scholarships since it was founded in 2005. This year's winners were chosen based on their transcript, a teacher recommendation, a recommendation written by someone who knows them outside the classroom, and an interview, Mr. Schmuck said.

The winners are: Dalia Angel and Karina Lira of East Palo Alto Academy; Bryan Duenas, Izamar Moya, Roshana Smith, and Ashley Washington of Eastside College Preparatory; Erica Balderrama and Lilita Guillen of Menlo-Atherton High School; Jessica Esquivel and Sefora Rios of Sequoia High School; Nazareth Diaz and Eric Ramirez of Summit Prep; and Ruby Gonzales, Patricia Peraza, and Keneisha Perry of Woodside High School.

The winners were recognized at an award ceremony at Sacred Heart Schools in Atherton.

Visit [peninsulacollegefund.org](http://peninsulacollegefund.org) for more information. ■

## Menlo-Atherton Little Leaguers honored for good sportsmanship

Submitted by Carla Posthauer of the Menlo-Atherton Little League.

Each year Menlo-Atherton Little League honors one player per team for good sportsmanship. The league's goal, with the support of the Positive Coaching Alliance, is to recognize players who consistently exhibit a positive attitude, support for teammates and a sense of fair play, and handle tough situations with good sportsmanship.

In addition to the players, coaches are honored for being "dual goal" coaches. The Positive Coaching Alliance has defined the "dual goal coach" as one who balances the goal to win with respect for all players, coaches, and umpires.

On Saturday, June 11, the 2011 winners of the Menlo-Atherton Little League's Sportsmanship Awards were announced. The winners are:

■ **Majors Division:** Coaches Brian Rodrigues and Dan Aguiar. Players Joseph Hoy, Sam Chazen, Max Comolli, Michael Liebsch, Davos Paquin and Connor Mead.

■ **AAA Division:** Coach Dean Wilkins. Players Aidan Chandra, Sam Forese, James Plaschke, William Meinhardt, James Homer, Emilio Obando, Ryan Crowley, Garrett Kelly, Alexios Stavropolous and Will Frimel.

■ **AA Division:** Coach John Sakamoto. Players Ryan Philbin, Collin Brahana, Branden Fox, Bryant Gavello, Jack Phillips and Luke Hammarskjold.

■ **A Division:** Coach Scott Evars. Players Peter Koenig, Ryan Cox, Alexander Baigorria, Samuel Judas, Isaac Heintze and Jake Karp.

■ **Coach Pitch Division:** Coach Brian Roberts. Players Hassen Hove, Jackson Williams, Dylan Murphy, Chase Hurwitz, Ben Miller and Gabriel Buigas.

■ **T-ball Division:** Coach Evonne Dunne. Players Jackson Bryman, Nicholas Machicao, Ryan Kelly, Emmett Avrach, Angelina Edwards, Davis Phillips.

■ **Challenger Division:** Player Cameron Todd.



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## Elizabeth 'Betty' McGlashan

Feb. 15, 1917-June 19, 2011

Elizabeth "Betty" H. McGlashan, 94, at rest on June 19, 2011.

Betty was a long time resident of Menlo Park, California, recently living in Bellevue and Maple Valley, Washington.

Betty was born to Earl and Henrietta McGlashan, February 15, 1917 in San Francisco, CA. She graduated from Lowell High School and received a BA at her beloved Stanford University in 1938. There she was active in student theater and wrote under the name "Sister McGonigle" for Chaparral magazine. A lifetime member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority, she also received her teaching credential.

Betty was a dedicated high school history and English teacher in Palo Alto until she retired in 1982. She was passionate about her students.

Betty is survived by her son and his wife, Doug and Lisee; her brother Bill Macy; and three grandchildren, Caterina, Rob and Kelly. She was preceded in death by her son, Patrick and her brother, Col. Robert McGlashan.

A memorial fund has been set up at Heart to Heart International Ministries (H2Hint.org) PO Box 1832, Ramona, CA 92065, a group that works with orphans and abandoned children in Romania in honor of Betty's beloved granddaughter, Caterina. Please note on the donation that it is in memory of Betty McGlashan.



PAID OBITUARY

## Nona Jean Cox

December 22, 1913 – June 17, 2011

Born December 22, 1913 in Leavenworth, Kansas to Nona Grace and Emil Metschan, Nona Jean Cox of Portola Valley, California, passed away June 17th. Wife for fifty-three years of the late Morris Arnold Cox, who preceded her in passing in 1986, she has resided in Menlo Park and The Sequoias of Portola Valley for the last twenty five years since his death.

"Nonie" as she was affectionately called by her loving family, grew up in Kansas City, Missouri and, having lost her Mother four days after her birth was blessed to have her Father marry a wonderful lady, Hazel, a superb cook and pianist, several years later. Nonie was Valedictorian of her Junior High School, graduated from Northeast High School with top honors and went on to attend Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri. On June 30th, 1934, she married Morris Cox and they had one daughter, Shirley Matteson of Palo Alto. Throughout her life, she supported his amazing professional career that took them from Kansas City to Burlingame, California in 1952, and finally to a happy retirement in Pebble Beach, California for 10 years before returning to Menlo Park prior to his death in 1986.

Nonie was always everyone's friend and confidante and throughout her life listened patiently, giving wise counsel when asked. She was a superb cook and had a green thumb that created a magnificent rose garden. She was a girl scout leader, counselor and a volunteer for several thousand hours of service at Peninsula Hospital in Millbrae and the Community Hospital in Monterey as well as at Filoli where she worked in the gift shop for a number of years.

Above all, she has been a thoroughly devoted and loving Mother to Shirley, Mother-in-law to Duncan, grandmother to Melissa Matteson Badger and Matt Matteson and their spouses, Dr. James Badger and Betsy Matteson. As a Great Grandmother to Brady, Brooke, Courtney, Sydney and Brig, her greatest joy has been in following their activities and having them visit her frequently. Her nephew, Michael Metschan of Austin, Texas, his wife Sally and sons, Brent and Kent have continued a close, supportive relationship with Nonie and visited her often. Her brother, Joseph Metschan (Michael's father) also of Austin, Texas predeceased her in 1997.

A longtime member of Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, she was active in a Bible Study group that she was invited to join in 1986 that became her main interest. The friendships she formed in the Bible group and the church have been especially important to her, and their visits and support have been greatly appreciated. A very active member over the years of her PEO group, chapter FK, she enjoyed her association on the Peninsula and in Pebble Beach as well. As her vision declined and her activities became more limited, she became dedicated to her "card ministry," writing to friends who were experiencing health challenges and other difficulties on an almost weekly basis, encouraging them with her thoughtfulness.

As a devoted, gentle, loving lady, Nonie will be greatly missed by all her family and circle of very dear friends that meant everything to her. She lived her long life with graciousness, compassion, and elegance and in spite of losing her sight several years ago, never complained about the compromises that were required. She was blessed to be cared for these last several years by Lesieli Lotoaniu and Selina Makoni and the entire family wants to extend our deep gratitude for the love, caring, patience and support they brought to her life each day.

A private family interment was held on June 20th at Skylawn Memorial Park in San Mateo. A celebration of her life will be held on Sunday, July 24th, at 2p.m. at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, 950 Santa Cruz Ave. A reception will be held immediately following the service at the Menlo Country Club at 2300 Woodside Road, in Woodside.

Memorial contributions honoring Nona Jean Cox can be made to Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 2470 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, CA 94306, Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, 950 Santa Cruz Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025, or Palo Alto Medical Foundation, Encina Practice, 795 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, CA 94301.



PAID OBITUARY

## OBITUARIES

### George Oliver

Submitted by daughter Tina Turner-Morfitt.

George Oliver died June 25, surrounded by loved ones at his home in Menlo Park. He was 91.

Born in Marshall, Texas, he was the first in his family to venture out to California, where he remained until his death.

He was a merchant seaman, construction worker, plumber, handyman, and "an entrepreneur of sorts," his daughter said. He had a passion for fishing, hunting, and gardening.

She said he loved teaching his children important life skills, and enjoyed sharing childhood stories while fishing or spending time at home with his grandsons, family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife Frances B. Oliver. He is survived by 10 children, three sisters, and many other relatives, including grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at New Sweet Home Church of God in Christ, in East Palo Alto on July 6.



George Oliver

### Spencer Harris

Spencer Phelps Harris, a resident of Menlo Park, died unexpectedly May 17 in Palo Alto. He was 74.

Born in Evanston, Illinois, he attended Purdue University and then Southern Methodist University in Dallas, where he majored in accounting. After graduating he worked for Arthur Andersen in the Chicago area before becoming a stock broker with Hornblower & Weeks.

After receiving a master's degree in finance from the University of Chicago, he came to California in 1970 to work for a nuclear medicine company in Palo Alto.

In 1976, he started the Data Financial Press Company in Menlo Park, compiling an accounting directory published twice a year called "Who Audits America," now in its 66th edition.

Mr. Spencer enjoyed diverse activities, the family says. While in the Chicago area, he was an avid sailor, keeping his boat at the Lake Geneva Yacht Club in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. "He played



Spencer Harris

Visit [AlmanacNews.com/obituaries](http://AlmanacNews.com/obituaries) for more information and to post remembrances. Obituaries are based on information submitted by the family.

the piano, hiked with the Sierra Club, played a good game of chess, and enjoyed attending the San Francisco Symphony as well as attending lectures concerning politics and the economy," his brother said.

He traveled to England and France, cruised Alaska and the Panama Canal, and made many visits to Cancun, Mexico; Florida; Texas; and Coronado, California, to visit friends and relatives.

He enjoyed daily visits to Peet's coffee shop on downtown Santa Cruz Avenue in Menlo Park, where his friends have placed a plaque on his favorite bench. It reads: "Spencer Phelps Harris, 1936-2011, Bohemian Intellectual, Conversationalist, Peetnik." Survivors include his brother, Wesley Harris.

A memorial service will be held at the Menlo Park Presbyterian Church Library, 950 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park, on Thursday, July 21, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Memorial donations may be made to the Sierra Club, 85 Second St., San Francisco, CA 94102; or to the San Francisco Symphony, 201 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102.

### John Alexander Bartlett

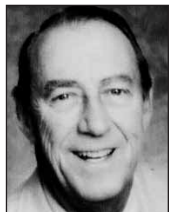
John Alexander Bartlett, a 46-year resident of Portola Valley, died peacefully on July 1 in the presence of his family. He was just shy of his 82nd birthday.

A native of New York state, Mr. Bartlett was born in Niagara Falls and grew up in Lewiston, New York. He graduated from Dartmouth College in 1952, and served during the Korean War as naval officer on the destroyer USS Bearss, according to his family.

After his service in the Navy, he moved to San Francisco, where he met the woman he would marry, Jeanne. The couple continued to live in San Francisco until moving to Ladera, then to Portola Valley.

Mr. Bartlett recently retired from Coldwell Banker after working for more than 40 years in the residential and commercial real estate business. His family said he was an avid tennis player, fly fisherman, and golfer.

In addition to Jeanne, his wife of 52 years, Mr. Bartlett is survived by four children, Stewart of



John Bartlett

See OBITUARIES, next page



**The Firehawks Under 9 boys team** at Sequoia High School in Redwood City. Pictured are, top row, from left, Coach Mark Di-Tarigiani, Coach Tom Barnds, Coach Wyatt Weisel and Coach Michael Douglis; middle row, from left, Owen Sweeney, Tyler Weisel, Andres Simbeck, Jake Wolfe, Billy Barnds and Harlan Banks; front row, from left, Jake DiTargiani, William Van Dyke, Cooper Huh, Trevor Douglis, and Paxton Fawcett.

## Lacrosse: Firehawks win Surf City tourney

By Caitlin Moyles

Special to the Almanac

The Firehawks lacrosse club's Under 9 boys' team took the Surf City Lacrosse Tournament in Santa Cruz on May 7 after winning seven straight games in one day, said Tom Barnds, a Woodside resident and team coach who last year helped lead the Under 9 boys' team to victory in the same tournament.

"It was quite a marathon,"

said Mr. Barnds of the seven games, which were 25 minutes each. "The kids had huge smiles on their faces at the end of the day."

The players reside in Woodside, Portola Valley, Menlo Park, Palo Alto, San Carlos and Redwood City.

The Firehawks lacrosse club was founded in 2006 by Doug Appleton and has grown to include 350 players with 100 people on a wait list, Mr. Barnds

said. The club now has boys' and girls' teams in the Under 9, Under 11, Under 13, and Under 15 age categories. It is now one of the largest youth lacrosse teams in the area, he said.

Mr. Barnds added that although lacrosse is traditionally a New England sport, it has become increasingly popular in California over the past 20 years.

"Today, California has more lacrosse players than any other state," he said.

### OBITUARIES

continued from previous page

Lake Oswego, Oregon, Lindsay Montero of Redwood City, Shelly Sweeney of Woodside, and Peter Bartlett of Pacifica; and eight grandchildren.

A celebration of his life will take place at a later date. The

family requests that memorial donations be made to the hospice center at the Veterans Affairs hospital in Palo Alto, 3801 Miranda Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94304, attention voluntary services. Donors should specify that the contribution is for hospice care.



### TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY

765 Portola Road  
Portola Valley, CA 94028

#### NOTICE OF GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a General Municipal Election will be held in the Town of Portola Valley on Tuesday, November 8, 2011, for the following officers:

A member of the Town Council to fill the office now held by Steve Toben for a full term of four years;

A member of the Town Council to fill the office now held by Ann Wengert for a full term of four years;

If no one or only one person is nominated for an elective office, appointment to the elective office may be made as prescribed by Section 10229, Elections Code of the State of California.

The polls will be open between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Sharon Hanlon  
Clerk of the Town of Portola Valley

July 5, 2011



### TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY

NOTICE OF CONTINUED  
PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED SUBDIVISION X6D-210,  
AND PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD) X7D-171  
1260 WESTRIDGE DRIVE (APN: 077-050-200)

AND  
PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION  
(RESCHEDULING OF CANCELLED JULY 6, 2011 CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the Town of Portola Valley has rescheduled the continued public hearing on this matter to July 20, 2011 at which time it will consider actions on the project proposed by Shorenstein Realty to subdivide the subject 11.60-acre property located at 1260 Westridge Drive into three parcels to accommodate two new residential building sites. Also proposed as part of the project is a PUD to regulate the specific manner in which the three parcels may be used. The PUD, as provided for under the town's zoning ordinance, allows for flexibility to ensure the unique property conditions are appropriately reflected in the final standards controlling use and development of the subdivision lots for conformity with the basic intent of the Portola Valley General Plan, and Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances. Each of the three new parcels will have a minimum area of over three (3) acres, whereas the minimum parcel area for the property's zoning district is 2.5 acres.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the public hearing on the proposal that opened on June 1, 2011 will continue at the July 20, 2011 Planning Commission meeting rather than the previously scheduled July 6, 2011 meeting. The matter is being continued due to the lack of a quorum for the July 6, 2011 meeting. All reports, plans and documents associated with this project are available for review in the Portola Valley Planning Department at 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, California. The specific reports, plans and supporting documents for the July 20, 2011 Planning Commission continued public hearing will be available in the Planning Department on July 15, 2011.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the proposed public review period on the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the above described project closed on June 18, 2011. The Planning Commission of the Town of Portola Valley will consider comments received and approval of the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and the subdivision and PUD at its meeting on July 20, 2011 at 7:30 p.m., Town Center (Historic Schoolhouse), 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, California.

All interested persons are invited to appear before the Planning Commission at the time and place herein above-mentioned.

Dated: June 30, 2011  
Signed: Carol Borck, Town Planning Technician

TOWN OF WOODSIDE  
2955 WOODSIDE ROAD, WOODSIDE, CA 94062

PLANNING COMMISSION  
July 20, 2011 • 7:30 PM

#### PUBLIC HEARING

2. California Water Service Company CUSE#2011-0002 & GRAD#2011-0002  
California Water Station 16, APN: 072-174-040 Planner: Deborah Dory  
(No situs address. The property is located north of 3760 Woodside Road.)

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.

3. Dale Koop MERG2011-0002  
746 Southview Way Planner: Sage Schaan

Review and recommendation of approval, conditional approval, or denial of a proposal to merge three lots (Lots 44, 45, and 46) within two Tax Assessor's Parcel Numbers (068-232-380 and 068-232-390) into one legal lot of record comprised of 31,747.90 square feet in an R-1 zoning district (20,000 square feet minimum).

4. Bruce Wonnacott CEQA2009-0003, XMAX2009-0004, ZOAM2009-0001, GPAM2011-0001,  
408 Eleanor Drive LLAJ2009-0001, GRAD2011-0003 & ASRB2009-0032  
Planner: Deborah Dory

Review and recommendation of approval, conditional approval, or denial of a project that includes the construction of a new 7,996 square foot main residence, a 1,474 square foot guest suite, and a reflecting pool. The existing 615 square foot house onsite is proposed to be converted into a second guest house. The project includes a Lot Line Adjustment reducing three existing lots to two lots, the dedication of a Conservation Easement, a change in zoning from Suburban Residential (SR) to SCP-5 for proposed Lot 2, a change in General Plan designation from Residential to Residential/Environmentally Sensitive Area for proposed Lot 2, a Maximum Residence Size Exception, and grading in excess of 1,500 cubic yards per WMC 151.22.B. A Mitigated Negative Declaration is considered for adoption. The property is 8.97 acres.

5. William Hurlbut/Joan Baez LLAJ2011-0004  
490 Whiskey Hill Road/510 Whiskey Hill Road Planner: Deborah Dory

Review and recommendation of approval or denial of a proposal for a Lot Line Adjustment between 490 Whiskey Hill Road and 510 Whiskey Hill Road in accordance with WMC Sections 152.021 and 153.300. The two properties are zoned Rural Residential (RR).

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.

# Menlo Grill opens at Stanford Park Hotel

Chef Juliene Brown is serving American comfort food at the new Menlo Grill, which opened June 16 at the Stanford Park Hotel in Menlo Park.

The Duck Club, the hotel's restaurant since opening, has been replaced by the Menlo Grill, which emphasizes fresh and locally sourced ingredients, according to a press release.

The hotel's general manager, Patrick Lane, says guests and local residents told management that, while the area offered many steakhouses, as well as Italian and French restaurants, it needed a stylish restaurant with a broad range of American food.

The restaurant's chef, Juliene Brown, studied at the California Culinary Academy. "The opportunity to create new menus and prepare the kind of food that I like to serve to my own friends and family is a dream come true for me," she says.

A signature dish on the Menlo Grill's dinner menu is a center-cut

## FOOD & DRINK

pork chop, served with cornbread dressing, fried sage and warm apple sauce. The menu features a range of dishes, from charbroiled salmon to organic free-range chicken to pasta dishes that include a gluten-free option.

Lunch offers a wide selection of salads and sandwiches in addition to large entrees. Items include a house-smoked turkey sandwich, pulled pork barbecue sandwich and baked rigatoni. One of the restaurant's specialties is its homemade garden burger.

The breakfast menu features house-made muffins and the signature "Chef's griddle trio," with sampler-size Belgian waffle, brioche French toast, and lemon ricotta pancakes.

Strawberry and rhubarb cobbler is featured on the summer dessert menu and brioche bread pudding with caramel sauce will be offered year-round.



Photo by Justin Lai

A server prepares the Menlo Grill for dinner hours.

With emphasis on becoming a neighborhood restaurant, the Menlo Grill does not charge for corkage, although it offers a wide selection of beer and wine.

The restaurant has been re-de-

signed by the Brayton/Hughes design firm. It now features dark oak floors, natural light from the large windows, leather banquettes and club chairs, and warm red wall accents.

The Menlo Grill is located at 100 El Camino Real in Menlo Park and is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Go to [menlogrill.com](http://menlogrill.com) for more information.

## CALENDAR

Visit [AlmanacNews.com/calendar](http://AlmanacNews.com/calendar) to see more calendar listings

### Special Events

**Connoisseurs' Marketplace** Live music, art, crafts, chefs' demos, artisan specialty food, a green-products showcase, food and drink, a collector car show, kids' fun zone and more. July 16-17, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Free. On Santa Cruz Ave., Between El Camino Real and Johnson Street, Menlo Park.

**The Distractions** play classic and modern rock music as part of Menlo Park's Summer Concert Series 2011 on Wednesday, July 13, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Fremont Park, University Drive and Santa Cruz Avenue, Menlo Park. Call 650-330-2200.

**The Bell Brothers** perform country music as part of the Summer Concert Series on Wednesday, July 20, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Fremont Park, University Drive and Santa Cruz Avenue, Menlo Park. Call 650-330-2200.

**Climate Change Adaptation in Bay Area: Forecasts, Challenges and Recommendations** A panel of local environmental professionals will discuss the potential impacts of climate change and the status of adaptation planning in the SF Bay Area. Presented by the Association of Environmental Professionals. July 19, 5:45-7:30 p.m. Free. Redwood Shore Public Library, 399 Marine Parkway, Redwood City.

### On Stage

**'Curtains'** Foothill Music Theatre presents the whodunit musical "Curtains," directed by Jay Manley. July 21 through Aug. 14, Thu.-Sat. at 8 p.m. and Sun. at 2 p.m. \$13-\$26. Foothill College's Lohman Theatre, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-949-7360. [www.foothillmusicals.com](http://www.foothillmusicals.com)

### Talks/Authors

**Picasso** A deYoung Museum docent will discuss the current Picasso exhibit. July 13, 7-8:15 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. [smcl.org](http://smcl.org)

**Stanford Breakfast Briefings** presents "GenY Decoded: Insights and Tactics for Leaders." In this session, Dr. Kit Yarrow speaks about Generation Y. July 13, 7:30-9 a.m. \$60. Stanford Faculty Club, 439 Lagunita Drive, Stanford. Call 650-725-3330.

### Art Galleries

**'The Art of the Book in California'** Five presses, selected by curator and printer Peter Koch, exemplify the book arts in California today. Through Aug. 28, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford.

**Art in the Garden at Gamble Garden** Art will be shown in Gamble Garden Friday, July 15, 7-8:30 p.m. and Saturday, July 16, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday is free. \$25 for Friday party. Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverley St., Palo Alto. Call 650-329-1356 ext. 201. [www.gamblegarden.org](http://www.gamblegarden.org)

### Clubs/Meetings

**Atherton Book Club** meets on the second Tuesday of each month to discuss a book and share potluck food. Several copies of each book are available for checkout. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 650-328-2422. [www.smcl.org/en/node/3696](http://www.smcl.org/en/node/3696)

**Blackberry REACT** is an emergency-preparedness meeting for radio operators. Group meets first Wednesday of the month. 7:30-9 p.m. Free. Blackberry REACT Meetings, 1467 Chilco St., Menlo Park. Call 650-336-8227. [www.blackberryreact.org](http://www.blackberryreact.org)

**Model Railroad Club Open House** The West Bay Model Railroad Association holds monthly open houses the fourth Wednesday of every month. The club is seeking new members who are interested in model railroading, regardless of skill level. 7-10 p.m. Free. West Bay Model Railroad Association, 1090 Merrill St., Menlo Park. Call 650-322-0685. [wbmra.ning.com](http://wbmra.ning.com)

### Concerts

**Capriccio Chamber Orchestra** Conductor and violinist Alexander Aisenberg leads this diverse group of musicians in a blend of Asian and European traditions. July 16, 7-9 p.m. Free. Oshman Family JCC, Jessica Lynn Saal Town Square, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. [www.paloaltojcc.org](http://www.paloaltojcc.org)

**Native Elements** performs reggae music July 15, 6-8 p.m. Free. Courthouse Square, 2200 Broadway, Redwood City.

### Kids & Families

**Folklore Puppet Show** will present a show based on Aesop's Fables. July 21, 10-11 a.m. Free. Woodside Independence Hall, 2955 Woodside Road, Woodside. Call 650-851-0147.

**Hula Dance** The library will host Keiki Pa'ina,

a children's party, with Island Moves. The party begins with a demonstration, followed by a hula lesson. July 14, 4:30-5:15 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560.

**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.friendsjnmz.org](http://www.friendsjnmz.org)

**Paws for Tales** Children can improve their reading skills by reading to a trained therapy dog. The Humane Society requires a signed release form for each time a child reads. Sign up in advance. Fourth Saturdays, 11 a.m.-noon. Free. Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 650-328-2422.

**Rock Steady Juggling** show features music, magic, juggling, plate spinning and unicycling. All ages. July 25, 4-5 p.m. Free. Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 650-328-2422.

### Live Music

**Capriccio Chamber Orchestra** Conductor Alexander Aisenberg leads the Capriccio Chamber Orchestra in a performance July 16, 7-9 p.m. Free. Oshman Family JCC, Jessica Lynn Saal Town Square, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Call 650-223-8609. [www.paloaltojcc.org/arts](http://www.paloaltojcc.org/arts)

**Michael O'Neill Quartet & Sandra Aran** perform July 18, 6-8 p.m. Free. Jazz on Main, Stage at Main and Broadway, Redwood City.

### Et Alia

**Edible Landscaping Tour** of local edible gardens and the Common Ground demonstration garden. July 23, \$35. Common Ground Garden Supply and Education Center, 559 College Ave., Palo Alto. Call 650-493-6072.

**Historic Folger Stable** Visitors can view the historically restored Folger Stable and miles of woodland trails. View historic displays and video in the carriage room. Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. Free. Wunderlich Park, 4040 Woodside Road, Woodside. Call 650-851-2660.

**Jazzercise** is a fusion of jazz dance, resistance training, Pilates, yoga and kickboxing. Mon.-Tue. at 6 p.m. and Thu. at 5:40 p.m. \$47 per month (\$42 for Little House members). Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-703-1263.



Photo by Lars Speyer © 1998 by Joan Larimore

## I Ching paintings at Menlo library

An exhibit of five watercolor paintings from Joan Larimore's series of 64 I Ching paintings are on display through July in the entrance foyer of the Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St. The watercolors are "metaphysical landscapes," each illustrating one hexagram of the I Ching, an ancient Chinese book of divination, she says. This painting is called "The Well: water above, wind below." Ms. Larimore has been a resident of Menlo Park for 25 years. The entire I Ching series can be seen online at [divinationfoundation.com](http://divinationfoundation.com) (click on Joan Larimore paintings).

# Atherton man starts 'Salute the Brave' cap business

By Caitlin Moyles  
Special to the Almanac

■ BUSINESS

Ryan Morris, a 21-year-old Atherton resident, has launched a patriotic baseball cap business called Salute the Brave, which donates one cap to Operation Gratitude for every cap sold. Operation Gratitude is a non-profit that sends about 100,000 care packages to military hospitals and deployed members of all military branches each year.



Ryan Morris

Mr. Morris, who attended St. Joseph's School in Atherton from preschool to eighth grade, and Menlo School, also in Atherton, for high school, is majoring in business with a concentration in entrepreneurship at the University of Southern California. He will be a senior this fall.

Mr. Morris's education in entrepreneurship, however, began closer to home — he is the grandson of Mervyn Morris of Atherton, founder of the former Mervyn's department stores.

The younger Mr. Morris decided to start selling the baseball caps, which feature the Salute the Brave logo and come in different styles including white and camouflage, after he was cut from USC's baseball team his junior year a week before the season started.

"There was a guy sitting next to me in class one day who had a tattoo on his wrist that said 'Marines.' We got talking and I realized I needed to stop feeling sorry for myself," Mr. Morris said.

He developed his business plan when he had to come up with a pitch for a company for an entrepreneurship class. He said he used TOMS Shoes, a footwear company based in Santa Monica, California, as a business model. Part of its One for One Movement, TOMS Shoes matches every sale by donating a pair of shoes to a child in need.

"It allows customers to get the

most bang for their buck, since they can buy something they like and help someone else at the same time," said Mr. Morris.

To turn his idea into a reality, Mr. Morris said he met with various USC professors and got a lot of advice from his grandfather.

"He's my role model, a guy I can talk to about everything," said the younger Mr. Morris. "He's my real inspiration."

Mr. Morris returned to Menlo School May 20 to sell hats during lunch period.

"I sold 75 hats in 45 minutes," said Mr. Morris. He added that he thinks teenagers are particularly inclined to the hats, which sell for \$25, because a lot of the soldiers overseas are no more than 18 or 19 years old.

"This is a business that I want to take as far as possible," said Mr. Morris. "I want to create a brand people notice right away when they see someone wearing it on the street. The sky's the limit."

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



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

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

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



**WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?**

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

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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.

## Emergency response group needs fresh participants

Once upon a time on the southern end of the San Francisco Peninsula, a group of citizens from several well-to-do communities, deeply forested and apart from the major population centers, gathered to consider their collective fate. Life was fine, as it is in many places where people of good will gather. But as it is written, bad things can happen to good people.

Among the bad things to worry about, they put aside fear of blizzards and tornadoes, this being the Bay Area. But under them lay the notorious San Andreas fault and over them was

**EDITORIAL**

*The opinion of The Almanac*

a blue sky, cloudless for half the year because rain falls in the other half, if they're lucky. Earthquakes and wildfires were real threats.

So the citizens formed a volunteer task force to deal with these two threats in particular. Self-sufficiency was important. If something bad were to happen, they live at the end of the road, and in a regional disaster, they could be on their own for some time.

These citizens named their task force the Community Emergency Response Preparation Program, or CERPP. Over time, CERPP invested more than \$100,000 in emergency supplies, including two-way radios, medical kits, blankets, cots, flashlights, all the stuff you'd want in an emergency. And they took care to renew the perishable items on a regular basis. They were a dedicated lot, these CERPP members.

As the years went by, CERPP improved its efficiency and its effectiveness: It subdivided into 25 neighborhood divisions that could talk to each other over radios; the members formed teams, chose leaders, ran drills and workshops and took on responsibilities such as learning CPR and first aid; they considered equestrians, of which there were many, and they learned to evacuate animals large and small; and they were blessed with more than 100 ham operators ready to tune in their highly sophisticated long-distance radios.

Today, CERPP members can look back with satisfaction on 13 years of self-starting volunteer activism in planning for an event that they hope never happens. What they need now, what they don't have, are enough fresh volunteers from Portola Valley, Woodside, Vista Verde, Ladera, Emerald Hills and the other communities served by the Woodside Fire Protection District. The old-timers are getting tired and new members have been hard to find, reliable sources say. The old-timers want to pass on what they know.

And that's not the whole story. Even the old-timers can be only so useful without comprehensive drills that involve everyone: the emergency preparedness committees, the town staffs, the residents at large, the firefighters and the sheriff's deputies.

If a warning were needed, it came to a Portola Valley Town Council meeting recently when volunteers from Mill Valley gave a detailed presentation on emergency preparedness done well — annual full-scale drills that include actual evacuation of many residents and their animals.

Not that CERPP is sitting around doing nothing. It isn't. There is at least one elaborate simulation a year and several radio-check exercises. And in Mill Valley, the logistics are simpler. Their CERPP covers all of Marin County, and Mill Valley has its own police and fire departments and help from neighboring departments to coordinate drills and train residents. An enviable situation, Portola Valley Mayor Ted Driscoll noted recently, given the general task of coordinating with agencies that have their own priorities and their own funding, and the lack of meaningful participation from agencies outside the Woodside fire district.

The fire district serves communities in which life is good. Will they be ready when something bad happens? When the day comes that CERPP has to spring into action — and that day is surely coming — will there be enough people on the ground who are well-trained, well-drilled and ready to go? That is the question for these communities.

**LETTERS**

*Our readers write*

**Action needed to deal with cyclists in PV**

*Editor:*

This letter is regarding the Portola Valley City Council's decision to consider adding bike lanes to our roads. All because some organized biking groups take up an entire lane, while almost all bikers coast through the stop sign riding from Alpine onto Portola. First of all, there is no question that bikers in large groups tend to have some really obnoxious riders. Can the police ticket these road hogs or meet with the leaders of these bike clubs and convince them to stay within the existing lanes or risk really serious fines?

Secondly, coasting through a right turn at a "T" intersection poses no threat of harm to anyone unless they are in a group.

See **LETTERS**, next page



Jacque Audiffred Collection

**Our Regional Heritage**

The Audiffred family of Woodside often spent summer vacations camping in La Honda, off what is now Highway 84. During a month's vacation, the family would enjoy fishing, hunting, and visiting the Sears Hotel in La Honda.

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

Ticketing these individual riders may raise money for the town but causes much ill will. Why don't the sheriffs earn their pay by enforcing the oft-neglected speed limits on our two main roads?

Finally, if anything is to be done, when is a bike lane going to be installed on Alpine at 280 where Mrs. Ward was killed last year?

**Marty Mackowski**  
Los Charros Lane  
Portola Valley

**Build library at existing site, not in park**

Editor:

How fortunate we are to have the money and energy to build a new, efficient, and seismically safe library for our town. How tempting it is to overbuild the facility just because we can. A sincere "thank you" to those who are working diligently on planning.

As almost 40-year users, supporters and observers of both the existing library and Holbrook-Palmer Park, here are our thoughts. From listening and learning at the two informational meetings this past week, we are fearful that the library consultants are envisioning a new facility which is too big and too complex for us.

The term being used for the new library is "community center," encompassing meeting rooms, indoor-outdoor study spaces, teen gathering areas, possible food and drink amenities as well as comfortable seating, acoustic

separations, computer and laptop facilities, enhanced collection areas, efficient staff work spaces, etc. Atherton is a unique, sleepy little town of fewer than 8,000 residents, many of whom live in gated and walled residences; Atherton has no commercial venues by choice. Atherton does not have the same requirement for a "community center" as perhaps Menlo Park or Belmont. In the current planning, are we perhaps seduced by the mentality of "If we build it, they will come"?

Having overheard an Atherton library staffer tell a group of patrons this week that the new library will likely be built at Site B, Holbrook-Palmer Park, we wonder if the two meetings this past week were for appearances rather than substance. Since 1972 we have witnessed improvements to the park (with attendant wear and tear) and remember well a multitude of "improvements" which were fortunately not allowed: swim club, putting green, bonsai garden, art gallery, etc. Our judgment is that it would be a huge mistake to locate a new library/community center at Site B, Holbrook-Palmer Park, because it would be yet another attraction for increased auto traffic and parking, wear and tear, maintenance and expense to our already strapped budget. Far more appropriate, in our opinion, would be to build at the existing library location, Site A, because a new library would continue to be an asset to the adjacent neighborhood rather than a diminishment to the inherent natural ambiance of Holbrook-Palmer Park.

**Stuart and Bill Awbrey**  
Rittenhouse Avenue  
Atherton

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