



MEMORIAL service for Cate Fisher, 19;
police name suspects in shooting. *Page 5*

The Almanac

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

JULY 27, 2011 | VOL. 46 NO. 48



WWW.THEALMANACONLINE.COM

HORSE SENSE

What horses can teach us about interacting with people **SECTION 2**





MENLO GRILL

— B I S T R O & B A R —

A classic American grill with a warm and inviting neighborhood feel,
serving approachable and healthy comfort food.

- Breakfast, lunch, dinner and late night snacks
- Extensive wine-by-the-glass list and craft brews
- Housemade desserts
- Outside patio dining
- Happy Hour, Thursday and Friday, 4-6pm
- No corkage fee

Parking is plentiful, easy and free

www.menlogrill.com

100 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, CA

650-330-2790

Located at the Stanford Park Hotel

Menlo grad lands role in 'The Help'

Ahna O'Reilly plays part of Southern housewife in film based on popular novel

By Samantha Bergeson

Special to the Almanac

At 6, she moved with her family from Palo Alto to France, where they drove around the country in a VW van before settling in a small town in the Alps. At 8, she was a von Trapp child in a local Washington state theater production. While she was at Menlo School in Atherton, she and her family played beachgoers in the 2004 sci-fi action film "Dinocroc."

And now, Ahna O'Reilly is breaking into the Hollywood spotlight, with a supporting role in the Dreamworks' production "The Help," based on a 2009 debut novel by Kathryn Stockett. The film is due to be released Aug. 10.

The novel centers on the concept of opportunity, and Ms. O'Reilly, a Palo Alto native, seems to be seizing it.

The petite, charming Ms. O'Reilly began her acting career as a child, and in a somewhat accidental way. "One summer, we were in Washington state, and we didn't really have many friends there," she says in an interview. "It was just me and my two little sisters, and there was this regional theater company starting up."

Her mom suggested the kids audition and maybe this could be a summer activity for them. They did, and wound up playing the three young von Trapp children in "The Sound of Music."

"Ever since then, since I was 8, I wanted to be an actress," Ms. O'Reilly says.

Returning to Palo Alto shortly thereafter, she continued her acting work, taking drama courses at Menlo School during high school, and later driving to San Francisco to participate in acting classes with her younger sister.

"I just always knew, since I was little, that that was what I wanted to do," she says, while sipping a cappuccino at Mayfield Bakery in Town & Country, one of her favorite local spots.

After graduating from Menlo School, she moved to Los Angeles to go to the University of Southern California. But after a year,



Photo by Marija Thomas

"Ever since I was 8, I wanted to be an actress," says Ahna O'Reilly.

she left USC to pursue acting.

"I think a lot of students, when they graduate from college, suffer from figuring out like, 'What do I do with my time?' ... I experienced that a little bit earlier."

She threw herself into finding a good acting class. "I knew I had to study (acting)."

Being a Northern California native, she had a rough transition into the LA lifestyle. "At first I didn't love LA — I think because I love Northern California so much. But I love LA now. If you give it a chance, and can get over the traffic, it's a really interesting city with so much to offer."

Each day varies for her, with auditions, agent meetings, and classes at UCLA.

"Sometimes I can have three days and have nothing planned, or I can go through a week and have two to three auditions a day."

Her schedule varies by time of year. If it's during the TV pilot season (April), and she's going for a role, "it's just crazy," she says. "I'm up at 6 and in bed at 6, and just learning my lines."

However, she says, she still tries to live with a routine structure. "It mostly comes from me, and then whatever meetings or auditions I have thrown in there. No week or day really looks the same."

Her first credited acting job was in the 2008 film "Just Add Water," starring Danny DeVito,

Dylan Walsh and Jonah Hill. She played a "cracked-out" pregnant teenager. "And don't blink, 'cause you'll miss me. I'm literally in it for two seconds!"

In "The Help," she plays a Southern housewife alongside actors Emma Stone, Sissy Spacek, Viola Davis, Bryce Dallas Howard, and Octavia Spencer. This all-female ensemble brings to life the story of a white college-educated young woman, Skeeter (played by Ms. Stone), returning home to Mississippi in 1962, and refuting the unspoken prejudices that deal with African-American household workers — "the help."

With the nagging of Skeeter's mother (played by Ms. Spacek) and help from maids (played by Ms. Davis and Ms. Spencer), Skeeter challenges the local white social hierarchy, in the persons of Hilly (played by Dallas Howard) and Elizabeth (played by Ms. O'Reilly).

Ms. O'Reilly credits friend and actress Octavia Spencer for helping her land the part.

She met Ms. Spencer during the making of the 2009 film, "Herpes Boy," a festival favorite by Byron Lane. Ms. O'Reilly has her first "fleshed-out" role in the film, and Ms. Spencer co-stars.

"If I hadn't done ('Herpes Boy'), 'The Help' probably wouldn't have come my way because Octavia (Spencer) was the one who first called me with the part. She told me: 'There are so many female parts in it, you have to get in that room!'"

In fact, without Ms. Spencer's help, Ms. O'Reilly doubts she would have even auditioned. "The way it works with big movies like that with such a hot title, if you're at a big agency, they see all the girls from that agency. And I was not at a big agency; I did not have a very long resume. I did not have anything to get my foot in that door. So it was really Octavia being like: 'You've got to see this girl.' All of the stars aligned — thank God!"

Ms. O'Reilly entered her audition for "The Help" with excite-

See O'REILLY, page 24



ALLIED ARTS GUILD

75 ARBOR RD - MENLO PARK



Artisan Shop & Studios
Scenic Gardens
Historical Architecture
Events & Meeting Facilities

For more details, please see our website:
www.alliedartsguild.org Or Call (650) 322-2405

cp café primavera (650) 321-8810



Marsh Manor

NEIGHBORLY SERVICES...
JUST FOR YOU!

Same great services.
Great new look.

- Restaurants and Take-out Food
- Cakes and Ice Cream
- Full Service Grocery Store
- Wines and Liquors
- Cleaners and Laundry
- Dentist
- Beauty
- Insurance Services
- Wireless Services
- Fitness and Flexibility

MIDDLEFIELD RD.

MARSH MANOR

FLORENCE

101 FWY

3636-3770 Florence St.
Redwood City

www.MarshManor.com

CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

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

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

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

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

NOTICE REQUESTING BIDS

WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT 2010-2011 PHASE 2

Sealed proposals for the CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT 2010-2011, PHASE 2 will be received at the West Bay Sanitary District, 500 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, California 94025 until **2:00 pm on Wednesday, August 17, 2011** at which time they will be publicly opened and read. Bids shall be labeled "West Bay Sanitary District, Proposal for "CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT 2010-2011, PHASE 2."

The Work will include the furnishing of all labor, materials and equipment, and other appurtenances for rehabilitation and replacement of sanitary sewer mains by Cured-in-Place Pipe and Open Trench Construction, as indicated on the project plans.

The contract documents may be inspected at the office of the West Bay Sanitary District; San Francisco Builders Exchange, Attn: Deanna Johnson, 850 So. Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, California 94110; Reed Construction Data, Attn: Document Processing, 30 Technology Parkway South, Suite 100, Norcross, Georgia 30092; Peninsula Builders Exchange, 735 Industrial Road, Suite 100, San Carlos, California 94070; Santa Clara Builders Exchange, Attn: Kanani Fonseca, 400 Reed Street, Santa Clara, California 95050; Builders Exchange of Alameda, Attn: Richard Owens, 3055 Alvarado Street, San Leandro, California 94577; Construction Bidboard, Incorporated, Attn: Michael Schafer, 4420 Hotel Circle South, Suite 215, San Diego, California 92108; McGraw-Hill Construction Dodge, Attn: Shar Startz, 11875 Dublin Blvd., Suite A-118, Dublin, California 94568; and, Contra Costa Builders Exchange, Attn: Traci Horning, 2440 Stanwell Drive, Suite B, Concord, California 94520.

Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained at the office of the West Bay Sanitary District upon payment of a check or money order in the amount of \$40.00 for each set. The check or money order must be issued to the West Bay Sanitary District. All payments are nonrefundable.

A pre-bid meeting will be held at **10:00 am on Tuesday, August 2, 2011** at the West Bay Sanitary District Office in Menlo Park, California.

Each bid proposal shall be accompanied by a certified or cashier's check or a proposal guaranty bond payable to the order of the West Bay Sanitary District in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the amount of the bid as a guaranty that the bidder will execute the contract if it be awarded to him in conformity with the proposal. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a performance bond in an amount not less than one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price and a labor and material bond in an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price.

The District ("Owner") reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to determine which proposal is, in the judgment of the District, the lowest responsible bid of a responsible bidder or group of bidders and which proposal should be accepted in the best interest of the District. The District also reserves the right to waive any informalities in any proposal or bid.

Bid proposals received after the time announced for the opening will not be considered. No bidder may withdraw his proposal after the time announced for the opening, or before award and execution of the contract, unless the award is delayed for a period exceeding forty-five (45) days.

Pursuant to the provisions of Public Contract Code Section 22300, and upon the request and at the expense of the Contractor, securities equivalent to the amount withheld by the District to ensure performance under the Contract may be deposited with the District, or with a state or federally chartered bank as escrow agent who shall deliver such securities to the Contractor upon satisfactory completion of the contract. Only those securities listed in Government Code Section 16430 or other securities approved by the District are eligible for deposit. The deposit of securities with an escrow agent or the District shall be made in the form and on such terms and conditions as the District may require to protect the interest of the District in the event of the Contractor's default. The Contractor shall be the beneficial owner of any securities that are deposited and shall receive any interest thereon.

Pertaining to Sections 1770, 1773, and 1773.1 of the California Labor Code, the successful bidder shall pay not less than the prevailing rate of per diem wages as determined by the Director of the California Department of Industrial Relations. Copies of such prevailing rates are on file at the District office of the West Bay Sanitary District and which copies shall be made available to any interested party on request. The successful bidder shall post a copy of such determinations at each job site.

In accordance with the provisions of California Public Contract Code Section 3300, the District has determined that the Contractor shall possess a valid Class A License or a combination of Class C-12 "Earthwork and Paving", C-34 "Pipeline" and C-42 "Sanitation System" licenses at the time this contract is awarded. Failure to possess the specified license(s) shall render the bid as non-responsive and shall act as a bar to award of the contract to any bidder not possessing said license(s) at the time of award.

West Bay Sanitary District
Board of Directors
San Mateo County, California

/s/ Phil Scott
District Manager

Dated: July 21, 2011



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF MENLO PARK PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING OF AUGUST 8, 2011

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

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

Use Permit/Mehmet Erkus/1029 El Camino Real: Request for a use permit to add live entertainment to an existing restaurant (Oak City Bar and Grill) in an existing commercial building in the C-3 (Central Commercial) zoning district.

Use Permit/Lyle Company for AT&T/325 Sharon Park Drive: Request for a use permit to modify an existing wireless facility, including the addition of three new antennas and associated equipment on two existing light poles in a shopping center parking lot located in the C-2 (Neighborhood Shopping) zoning district.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that said Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on public hearing items in the Council Chambers of the City of Menlo Park, located at 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, on **Monday, August 8, 2011**, 7:00 p.m. or as near as possible thereafter, at which time and place interested persons may appear and be heard thereon. If you challenge this item in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Menlo Park at, or prior to, the public hearing.

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

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

DATED: July 21, 2011 Deanna Chow, Senior Planner

PUBLISHED: July 27, 2011 Menlo Park Planning Commission

Visit our Web site for Planning Commission public hearing, agenda, and staff report information: www.menlopark.org

SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM

Support The Almanac's coverage of our community.

Memberships begin at only 17¢ per day

Join today:
SupportLocalJournalism.org/Almanac

Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

East Palo Alto tries to stanch violence, homicides

■ Suspects named in the shooting death of Cate Fisher, 19, of Menlo Park.

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

East Palo Alto Police Chief Ron Davis looked determined as his department faced investigating the city's sixth homicide this year.

"We are not going to tolerate this level of violence," he told reporters at a press briefing on Monday (July 25). "We need the community to show they won't, either."

The chief also named three suspects in recent shootings,

including the killing of Cate Fisher, 19, of Menlo Park.

Last year, he said, East Palo Alto had four murders. This year surpassed that in a matter of days, with four homicides since July 13 alone. Chief Davis said his goal now is to go without a murder for the next six months.

Police officers will sacrifice their days off and work overtime to help achieve that milestone. The chief said extended hours will increase police coverage by 25 percent, with 12 officers

on the street during "the busy hours" of 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. for at least the next month. The department plans to tap grants to cover the overtime.

After that, it's up to the community. Outrage at the shooting of 3-month-old Izack Jesus Jimenez Garcia, killed as his family left a baby shower in East Palo Alto on June 5, led to the quick arrest of 17-year-old Fabian Zaragoza, who pleaded not guilty to murder charges in a shooting investigators believe was a retaliation gone wrong for an assault earlier this year by Sureno gang members in Redwood City.

Mayor Carlos Romero told the press he hopes that the arrest encourages residents to see cooperation as worthwhile. He's organizing a community march from east Menlo Park to Palo Alto on Aug. 6 "to say we're not going to allow this to happen."

Fisher not target

Catherine Fisher, 19, of Menlo Park was shot and killed while sitting in a car around 2 a.m. in East Palo Alto on July 13. At the press briefing Chief Davis said she was not the intended target, but that a young man riding in the same car may have been. He

described three men as primary suspects in both that murder and that of Hugo Chavez, 26, six days later.

Three East Palo Alto residents — Christian Fuentes, 20, Jaime Cardenas, 19, and Fidel Silva, 24 — are the focus of the investigation.

Mr. Fuentes was arrested last week for violating parole by not showing up for an interview with investigators, who were acting on a tip, according to Acting Captain Jeff Liu. Both Mr. Cardenas and Mr. Silva remain

See **SHOOTING**, page 14

Affordable housing project terminated in Menlo Park

■ Council agrees to buy back Habitat for Humanity land.

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writers

Ten years ago, Habitat for Humanity bought property at 297 Terminal Ave. in Menlo Park to build affordable housing. On July 19, the Menlo Park City Council killed that dream with the nonprofit's blessing.

"The Habitat project is dead, no pun intended," Deven Richardson, the nonprofit's Bay Area real estate director, said.

Habitat for Humanity envisioned a complex of 12 to 22 homes on the 1.5-acre site, but faced neighborhood opposition from the start as well as financing difficulties. Some of

the loudest protests came from Beechwood School, a private Belle Haven facility for grades K-8, which needs the land to expand its campus.

The project ran up a tab despite stalled construction. Menlo Park already spent \$998,000 on environmental remediation to prepare the site for housing, while Habitat for Humanity paid \$481,590 to buy a home on the parcel to get access to the building site.

That \$481,590 is what the council agreed to pay to buy back the property. That price, the city staff admitted, was above market rate, but the city is con-

See **TERMINAL**, page 8

Sprucing up green building standards

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writers

Revised standards for green building returned to the Menlo Park City Council on July 19, about a month after it asked staff to tweak the proposed ordinance. Seeming satisfied with the changes, the council members voted 4-0, with Mayor Rich Cline absent, to accept the ordinance's first reading, which is the initial step in implementing the new rules.

Part of a two-phase plan, the ordinance requires new construction currently subject to California's green building standards to exceed the state's

required energy efficiency by 15 percent. Builders will need to test heating and cooling ducts for leaks and install cool roofs that meet certain standards for reflecting sunshine and releasing absorbed heat.

The process for using alternative materials for cool roofs on residential homes — the section that triggered the revision request last time — was fine-tuned, but still needs further work. The staff report states the new language "explicitly allows for the use of alternative materials or methods that can demonstrate an equivalent

See **GREEN**, page 8



Almanac photo by Michelle Le

Morgan Buckley, left, and Hali Lindgren look through a photo album of the recently deceased Catherine Fisher, during a reception at Arrillaga Family Recreation Center in Menlo Park on Friday, July 22, following a memorial service. The painting of Catherine on the right was made by her childhood friend Mishiara Baker. Those who attended the service and reception were asked to wear pink, Cate's favorite color.

Memorial service for Cate Fisher, 19

A memorial service for Catherine (Cate) Fisher, 19, of Menlo Park, who died after being shot in East Palo Alto, was held Friday, July 22, at Temple Beth-El in San Mateo.

A reception followed at the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center in Menlo Park.

A college student who had planned to be a high school math teacher, Ms. Fisher was an instructor at the Menlo Park gymnastics center.

She was shot July 13 while sit-

ting in a vehicle with a man and a woman at 2:12 a.m. in the 2500 block of Annapolis Street east of Bay Road in East Palo Alto, police said.

She was taken to Stanford Hospital where she died from her injuries. The vehicle's other occupants were unharmed, police said.



Cate Fisher

A question surrounding her death is why she was at the site of the shooting at 2 a.m.

Her father, Jonathan Fisher, said July 21 that he has been told by the girl who was driving the car, Cate's best friend, that they were just dropping off a "third person, some guy" when the incident happened. "Cate was not into drugs at all," said her father, who wished to dispel rumors that this might have

See **CATE**, page 8

ROBERTS MARKET

SINCE 1889

WOODSIDE • 3015 Woodside Road • 650-851-1511
 PORTOLA VALLEY • 4420 Alpine Road • 650-851-1711
 Open 6:30AM - 8PM

Sale Dates: JULY 27, 28, 29, 30

www.robertsmarket.com

Fresh Produce

PINTS

BLUEBERRIES
\$2⁹⁹
 ea

CALIFORNIA

WHITE PEACHES
\$1⁹⁹
 lb

SWEET

WALLA WALLA ONIONS
59^c
 lb

Meat And Seafood

LONDON BROIL
\$4⁹⁸
 lb

TERIYAKI

CHICKEN K-BOB
\$5⁹⁸
 lb

**HAMBURGER
 PATTIES**
\$4⁹⁸
 lb

On Sale Grocery

BEN & JERRY'S

ALL NATURAL ICE CREAM PINTS—ALSO FROZEN YOGURT

\$3²⁹
**LAND O' LAKES BUTTER
 WITH CANOLA OIL**
 8 OZ.

\$1⁶⁹
**ZEVIA ALL NATURAL
 SODAS** 12 OZ. 6 PACK CANS
 —PLUS CALIF. REDEEM VALUE

\$3⁹⁹
**ANNIE'S NATURALS
 VINAIGRETTES**
 8 OZ.—ALSO DRESSINGS

\$2³⁹
**CINNAMON TOAST
 CRUNCH CEREAL**
 12 OZ.—ALSO 10 OZ. TRIX

\$2⁵⁹

Deli Department

Edna's Three Generations Delicious Hand Made Cookies
Join us for a tasting!
Woodside – Friday July 29th , 2:30 pm.
Portola Valley – Saturday July 30th, 2:30 pm.

Wine and Spirits

Wine of the Week
*Here's a seriously rich and delicious Chardonnay
 with connoisseur flavors at an every day price.*

2009 Talbott "Kal: Hart" Chardonnay, Esate Grown.....Reg. \$14.99.....Sale \$12.99

The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.
*This nicely oaked, buttery white is not far off
 the Talbott "Sleepy Hollow" at one-third of the price.*

Ringwood bridge to stay open during construction

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

■ MENLO BRIEFS

Caltrans crews broke ground July 20 on a project to build auxiliary lanes along a three-mile stretch of U.S. 101 in Menlo Park and East Palo Alto.

The new auxiliary lanes will be built along north and southbound 101 between Marsh Road in Menlo Park and University Avenue in East Palo Alto, Caltrans spokesman Bob Haus said.

The project, scheduled to be completed at the end of summer 2012, includes replacing a pedestrian overcrossing at Ringwood Avenue, Haus said.

Chip Taylor, Engineering Services Manager for Menlo Park, said the replacement overcrossing will be built alongside the current one, which will remain open until the new one is finished.

chose to shut down, as did Cafe Silan.

However, the bagel shop has a new neighbor in the Great Frame Up, which moved in on June 1.

Posh Bagel returns to 869 Santa Cruz Ave. bigger than ever, according to landlord Nancy Couperus, since it expanded into the space formerly occupied by the cafe.

"There seems to be a lot of interest on the street, so we're all very excited," Ms. Couperus said.

Inspectors from the Menlo Park Fire Protection District said an improperly installed flue at Cafe Silan triggered last year's blaze. There were no injuries and about \$100,000 in property damage, most of it from water cascading down and behind the walls of the three stores, according to Chief Harold Schapelhouman.

Council agenda: Police contract, parking

The Menlo Park City Council sits down on Tuesday, July 26, to debate the finer points of police salaries and charging for downtown parking, among other items.

Also on the agenda: Allocating \$22,500 for a recruitment firm to find a replacement for interim City Manager Glen Rojas, who retired July 15 but remains on as a contractor for up to six months.

The council will also revisit its contract with Capital Advocates, a high-speed rail lobbying company; affordable housing on Hamilton Avenue; and its operating budget. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. in council chambers at the Civic Center at 701 Laurel St.

Go to tinyurl.com/3tjde38 to see the meeting agenda and view staff reports.

Posh Bagel reopens

Posh Bagel reopened on Santa Cruz Avenue in downtown Menlo Park on Saturday, July 23, a little more than a year after a fire shut the shop down.

Of the three businesses destroyed by the fire on June 16, 2010, only Posh Bagel has returned. The Book Rack

Alzheimer's Cafe opens

Peninsula Volunteers has opened the Alzheimer's Cafe in Menlo Park, a free gathering place for those with dementia and their loved ones. Saying it's only the second resource of its kind in California, the nonprofit will hold meetings at the cafe on the third Tuesday of every month from 2 to 4 p.m.

Drop by 800 Middle Ave. to visit the cafe, or call Julie Scales, Little House program manager, at 326-2025, ext. 229, for more information.

Blood drive

Local churches are holding a blood drive on Friday, July 29, to reach a goal of 1,500 pints donated to the Red Cross this month. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at 1105 Valparaiso Ave. in Menlo Park will set up a donation station from noon to 6 p.m.

Go to redcrossblood.org and enter "Interfaith Community" as the sponsor code to register online or call 1-800-733-2767. The church asks that those wanting to roll up their sleeves and give to make an appointment. You must be at least 17 years old to donate, or have a signed parental consent form if 16. ■

County may come to rescue of ‘Granny’

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writers

People plan estates for their parents, their spouses, their children and pets. Now some Menlo Park residents are being asked to plan an estate for Granny, a centuries-old oak tree, and the county may come to the rescue.

The choice between digging a tunnel to save the heritage oak — versus opting for the cheaper route of cutting it down — hinges on who’s willing to take responsibility for maintaining the tree in perpetuity.

During a July 20 meeting between the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) and a coalition of neighbors fighting to spare the tree, a new possibility emerged. According to county staff, Assistant County Manager David Holland wants to explore whether the county should take over Granny’s care.

“It’s not a made decision, obviously,” said mediator Maya Perkins. An aide for Supervisor Rose Jacobs-Gibson, Ms. Perkins presented the idea on behalf of the assistant county manager, who was unable to

attend the meeting. “He sounded pretty confident it could be arranged.”

The county could allow limited public access and possibly create a community garden for the 1,100-by-80-foot parcel, she said. Both the SFPUC and the San Mateo County Board of

The county could allow limited public access and possibly create a community garden for the 1,100-by-80-foot parcel.

Supervisors would need to sign off on the deal.

Earlier in July, the SFPUC asked a coalition of neighbors fighting to save Granny to form a nonprofit to handle maintenance, liability insurance, and public access should the commission decide to dig a \$269,000 tunnel under the tree for a pipeline meant to carry water from the Hetch Hetchy as part of a \$4.6 billion seismic improvement project.

The oak sits in the path of the pipeline, on a right-of-way

owned by the SFPUC at 827 15th Ave. in North Fair. The commission initially planned to kill the tree in May on short notice, which riled Granny’s neighbors.

Whether the county can afford to take over the right-of-way remains unanswered. San Mateo County recently asked Menlo Park to acquire Flood Park as budget cuts landed the park on the shortlist for closure.

Money aside, the idea achieved a rare moment of harmony between the SFPUC and the coalition. Both sides agreed it was a fine idea — in theory. “We would need assurance that the county wouldn’t back out,” SFPUC Project Manager Joe Ortiz said.

Charles Berkstrasser, whose home borders the easement, said county management was a more comfortable option. “Nonprofit organizations are inherently unstable,” he noted.

The coalition hopes to speak with Mr. Holland this week and present a summary proposal to the SFPUC by July 27, according to spokesperson Mary Ann Mullen.

Mr. Holland was not immediately available for comment. ■

Atherton council pauses on layoffs, outsourcing plan

The Atherton City Council met July 20 as planned, but the mayor pulled the main agenda item: a legal step to implement a plan to outsource work now being handled by City Hall employees, some of whom were to be laid off on Friday, July 15.

While Mayor Jim Dobbie did not elaborate, City Hall’s hands are tied by a temporary

restraining order issued by a San Mateo County court that forbids layoffs until a court hearing is held. The town’s employees’ union had sued to prevent the layoffs.

The council did give signing authority to Interim City Manager John Danielson to implement pending contracts to outsource public works maintenance and

arrange for emergency staffing of the building department.

Getting that authority was important, Mr. Danielson said, because the council meets just monthly and the judge who issued the restraining order has notable discretion on when to take further action. The next scheduled court date on this matter is Aug. 11.

Time to register for Woodside ‘Day of the Horse’ trail ride

Rider registration is now open for the seventh annual Woodside Day of the Horse trail ride on Oct. 8.

On the trail ride, participants travel the Woodside town trail system with treats for horse and rider at designated stops along the way. Riders costumed in this

year’s Mardi Gras theme will receive special recognition at the paparazzi ride stop.

Concluding the ride, an “End of the Trail” celebration will be held with the Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County at its grounds in Woodside.

Registration fees begin at \$35.

Riders who register early and visit the minimum number of ride stops will receive special “goodie bags.”

Visit whoa94062.org for more information.

Day of the Horse is sponsored by the Woodside-area Horse Owners Association.

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Gloria Darke



How Bad Can It Be?

Dear Gloria,

We found a house in Menlo Park we are considering making an offer on. We were looking at open houses and the agent there was very helpful; however, our nephew is a realtor in the East Bay and we would like to have him make the offer for us. Do you see any problem with doing that? Would we be better off using the agent from the open house?

Sid & Diane M.

Dear Sid and Diane,

A. I definitely do see a problem with using a relative from out of the area who has not seen the property. It is important to be familiar with the nuances of this specific area and more particularly, the micro-neighborhood which you are interested in. Every neighborhood has its advantages and very few have disadvantages. How busy is the street? Are there plans for any city improvements or changes? School bonds? Is the neighborhood in transition? Up or down? What school district is the property in? Yes, you

can get some of this information off greatschools.net or other resources but an agent who lives and works in this area knows not only the schools and scores but teachers and anticipated changes. In other words, there is in-depth information that you have to “live and breathe” to really know an area and therefore, values. The flip side of this is that in this market when an offer is received on a property, the listing agent and sellers like to know who the agent is and that this escrow will close. What is the agent’s reputation and how much business does he do? This person will be an unknown to the seller and will lack credibility. It is not clear to me why you would prefer to use a relative who does not work this area. If it is because you might save a little money on commission, I would suggest that it is not in your best interests. Whether or not you choose to work with the agent who was holding the house open would depend on what kind of a relationship you developed and the reputation and qualifications of this particular agent.

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



Avenidas presents the 8th Annual

Caregiver Conference

Saturday, August 20
9 am - 3 pm
Mountain View, CA

Discover ways to:

- ◆ Overcome a loved one’s clutter
- ◆ Understand mental decline
- ◆ Manage multiple medications
- ◆ Plan ahead for legal issues
- ◆ Build family cooperation

Register at Avenidas.org
or call (650) 289-5435.

Avenidas
Where age is just a number

Introducing
ShopMenloPark.com

- A new online guide to Menlo Park businesses**
- Make purchases
 - Write and read reviews
 - Find deals and coupons
 - Buy gift certificates
 - Discover local businesses

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

Visit ShopMenloPark.com today

SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM

Support
The Almanac’s print
and online coverage
of our community.

Join today: SupportLocalJournalism.org/Almanac

Fire board changes its policy on firefighter pay

■ Board will consider factors other than what other firefighters are paid.

By Barbara Wood

Special to the Almanac

Business as usual, at least when it come to figuring out employee salaries and benefits, will be changing in the Menlo Park Fire Protection District.

The elected board of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District voted unanimously at its July 19 meeting to adopt a policy changing the ground rules for district employees' compensation. The policy will come back for final approval next month.

In the past the district has negotiated contracts with its employee unions that offered pay and benefits that were higher than the average at other local fire departments. Director Peter Carpenter, who has pushed for the changes, said this common method of figuring compensation ensures the average will continuously rise.

The philosophy adopted at the July 19 meeting would allow the district to base pay on other criteria, including the current economic climate, the regional unemployment rate, how many qualified candidates apply for openings, and "the District's anticipated ability to pay in the long term."

"Every time we have a vacancy we have over 100 applicants," Director Carpenter said after the meeting.

Currently, employees receive regular raises based on length of employment. Under the new policy, raises will be based on "merit and performance" and the district will no longer allow "pay increases based merely on length of employment."

The board will consider its own compensation at an upcoming meeting. Currently board members receive a \$100 stipend for each meeting they attend plus medical and dental insurance.

The board adopted the new policy with little discussion.

Audience members supported

the action. "I think what you've done has been extremely well drafted," said Edward Moritz, a member of the West Bay Sanitary District Board and resident of Menlo Park.

Mickie Winkler, a former Menlo Park mayor and City Council member, called the new policy a "declaration of independence" and said it is "forward thinking."

After the meeting, Duane Reno, the San Francisco attorney who represents the Menlo Park Firefighters Association, said he does not believe the action will really have much impact because the fire board will still have to negotiate with firefighters to set their pay and benefits.

"I guess I'm not sure what the point of it is," he said. "It looks like it's all for show." Comparing firefighter compensation to the pay for public sector jobs won't work because "how many firefighters are out there in the private sector?" he said.

"We're upset about this because it's just public posturing," said Mr. Reno. The firefighters would rather have the board working on negotiating a new contract with the firefighters, he said. "It would be nice if the association saw more substance and less political posturing, but I don't think that's going to happen any time soon."

District firefighters have not had a raise since July 2007 because the district and the Menlo Park Firefighters Association Local 2400 have been unable to agree on a new contract. In April the district imposed a contract on the union that offers no pay raise, but does include \$750 a month in additional benefits.

Right now, negotiations are on hold waiting for the outcome of a grievance alleging unfair labor practices filed by the firefighters'

ment hasn't decided yet what to do with the property. Money has been a sticking point in negotiations with Beechwood School; the city wants more than the school has offered to date.

According to the staff report, Menlo Park could also choose to retain the property for affordable housing or sell it at market rate. The council expects to receive a recommendation for its disposition in the early fall. ■

See **FIREFIGHTER PAY**, page 14

Former Woodside woman admits to embezzling millions of dollars

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Ann Ray, a bookkeeper and former resident of Woodside, pleaded guilty in federal court July 19 to six felony counts of income tax evasion in connection with the embezzlement of \$4.7 million from her employer of 34 years, federal authorities said.

Ms. Ray, also known as Georgia Engelhart, faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for each of the six counts, said Jack Gillund, a San Francisco-based spokesperson for the U.S. Department of Justice, in a statement based on the plea bargain.

Ms. Ray, now a resident of Antioch, kept the books for a San Carlos-based group of family businesses, owned by Don and Carole Tanklage of San Carlos, according to the Associated Press. Ms. Ray had "unfettered access" to the bank accounts of those businesses, the DOJ statement said.

She was charged on July 8 in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

Ms. Ray's defense attorney, Robert Carey of the Palo Alto firm Carey & Carey, has not yet responded to a request for comment.

Vacations and gambling

Ms. Ray, 67, started embezzling in the 1980s and by 2004 was redirecting to her own benefit hundreds of thousands of dollars per year, the statement said.

Her methods, according to the DOJ statement, included:

■ Writing company checks to herself and to her personal credit cards, which she used for everyday expenses as well as cash advances and "expensive vacations and regular gambling at casinos."

■ After the company owner had signed her payroll check, sometimes altering the leftmost digit, such as by changing the figure 1 in \$1,000 to a 4 or a 7.

■ Forging the owner's signature until, in 2007, the owner provided her a signature stamp, which Ms. Ray then used in falsifying business checks for her personal gain.

■ Altering bookkeeping, records and bank statements "almost on a daily basis" to conceal her activities, including on at least three occasions, creating false company-to-company transfers.

Ms. Ray admitted to embezzling \$4.7 million between 1998 and May 2009, the statement said.

In a criminal indictment by Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas Moore, chief of the Tax Division, Ms. Ray is said to have reported a total income tax liability of \$84,369 for herself and her spouse between 2004 and 2009, but owes an additional \$782,600 in unpaid back taxes.

The criminal investigation arm of the Internal Revenue Service conducted the probe that led to the prosecution, the DOJ statement said. ■

CATE

continued from page 5

been the reason she was there.

Wanted to teach math

Cate Fisher graduated in 2009 from Menlo-Atherton High School and from the Canada College "middle college" program that allows students to earn college credits while getting a high school diploma, her father said. She had just transferred to Cal State East Bay and needed another year and a half to graduate. "She was going to teach math to high school students," he said.

The young woman also loved teaching gymnastics for the city of Menlo Park, her father said.

"She was such an amazing person," he said. A memorial notice "doesn't really capture the great essence that was Cate. She was beautiful, vibrant, strong-willed, hard-headed."

Pearce Wagner, her supervisor at the gymnastics center, said she started working there in the 2008-09 school year, while she was still in high school.

"She was a hard worker and a great employee," he said. "She worked well with the children, who all loved her. She was always

willing to help; I could call her up and she'd always be there with a smile on her face."

Gymnastics program staff ask that people write memories or condolences in a book for Cate's family at the front desk of the gymnastics center.

In addition to her father, Jonathan Fisher of Belmont, she is survived by her mother, Michelle Sutton of Menlo Park, step-parents Paula Fisher and Mitch Sutton, and four siblings.

The family prefers memorial contributions to Susan G. Komen for the Cure or by becoming an organ donors. ■

GREEN

continued from page 5

performance to the requirement without having to comply with the specific requirement. When an alternative material or method is being proposed, reports providing evidence of equivalency are required to be supplied by a source that the Building Official finds to be reliable and accurate."

Speaking before the council at the Tuesday night meeting, local architect Sam Sinott suggested implementing a list of excep-

tions rather than requiring what he described as a complicated process of alternative material or method submission. For example, he said, he found some asphalt roofs that would conform, but no wood shingle roofs, at least for now.

"My goal is to craft this amendment so it does not inadvertently outlaw wood roofs and it meets the goal of Councilmember Fergusson to establish Menlo Park as an energy conserving role model," Mr. Sinott said.

Supported by his colleagues, Councilman Peter Ohtaki asked

staff to continue coordinating with Mr. Sinott and other architects to determine whether his suggestions were feasible, and report back by the second reading of the ordinance at an upcoming council meeting.

The state energy commission must approve the ordinance before the standards take effect, a process expected to take approximately three months once the council gives its final approval. The new rules fulfill a goal stated in the city's climate action plan to exceed the state's green building standards. ■

TERMINAL

continued from page 5

tractually obligated. The council vote was 4-0, with Mayor Rich Cline absent.

The funds were drawn from the city's affordable housing program fund and will need to be paid back to that fund should the site be sold for a different purpose.

Menlo Park Housing Manager Doug Frederick said his depart-



Almanac photo by Michelle Le

Recycling, compost and trash bins line Oak Grove Avenue in Atherton.

Trash-bin clutter: Residents face fines

■ Not everyone is happy about law requiring bins to be moved within 24 hours of pickup.

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Atherton's City Council has adopted a new ordinance regarding the timely rolling out and rolling in of recycling and trash bins on residential roadsides. The vote got a mixed reception from the audience in the council chambers on July 20, but many in town have complained about bins in roadways.

On a 3-2 vote, with council members Jerry Carlson and Elizabeth Lewis opposed, the new law gives residents 24 hours ahead of the scheduled pick-up to move their compost, garbage and recycling bins into the town's right-of-way, and then 24 hours to move them out again after they're empty.

The issues are safety and visual blight, Councilwoman Kathy McKeithen said. "If you have a party or a wedding, you don't want five, or 10 or 15 garbage cans out there," she said. "This is something a lot of people spoke to us about. ... (Enforcement of this law) is after all the options have been explored. This is a last resort."

There would have to be a history of negligence to warrant a citation, added Councilman Bill Widmer.

Councilman Carlson recommended waiting six months and, in the meantime, contacting the usual offenders.

Councilwoman Lewis said the law goes too far too fast. "We need to rethink the solution to this problem," she said.

■ ATHERTON

The town should send letters to all residents suggesting that they be respectful of their neighbors and their streets, she said. The \$20,000 allocated to this program for staff time, printed notices and decals should be spent on a task force of volunteers to be on call to pull bins off the streets, she said.

There were audible boos after the council's vote. Of the comments from the public before the vote, most were negative.

"My mother-in-law abhors the sight of garbage cans and

'My mother-in-law abhors the sight of garbage cans and she is opposed to this ordinance.'

ANNE SENTI-WILLIS,
ATHERTON RESIDENT

she is opposed to this ordinance," Anne Senti-Willis, a resident and an attorney, told the council. "As it reads, it's 24 hours, black or white, you get a ticket. That's the way it reads. I don't have the time to call code enforcement and argue with them about whether I should get a ticket."

Trash hauler Recology is "a huge part of the problem" in that the workers "don't put the trash cans back nicely," resident Colleen Anderson said.

Atherton has no sidewalks

and roads are often edged with gravel, which can be unwieldy in accommodating the plastic wheels of what can be large, heavy and awkward bins.

Getting specific

The law's target is a "very small" number of residents who habitually refuse to move their empty bins for days or not at all, Interim City Manager John Danielson said in a phone interview.

The ordinance is one paragraph. While it may resemble ordinances in other cities, the difference lies in how it's applied, Mr. Danielson said.

Residents with blue DMV placards are eligible to have recycling workers roll their full bins out to the street, he said. If rolling the empties back inside is the gardeners' job and they come two days after the pickup, that can be accommodated, Mr. Danielson said.

He is an interim city manager and his nuanced approach isn't written into the language of the law. What if his successor takes a different tack? "I've been in this business quite a few years," Mr. Danielson said. "City managers take their cues from city councils."

The Almanac asked Ms. Senti-Willis, who pushed for more nuanced language on enforcement, to comment on whether a future council might actually turn draconian on this law.

"I have no idea," she said. "It's really a question of what people complain about. I think it's probably better, at the town

See **TRASH**, page 12



Reviews —

"My family has been coming here for years. It's the best garden center in the area, the prices are very fair considering the area, and the staff is unbeatable... I would recommend this place to anyone who will ever need to buy a plant of any kind."

— John G., LA Ca

"This place is a wonderful source for plants, containers, and gifts. You can always get help and typically find what you want."

— Carol G., Palo Alto

Mirrors • ceramics • wall decorations • vases • picture frames • place mats & napkins • aprons • candles • greeting cards • gift wrapping • organic sprays • soaps & lotions • baby and children's gifts • baby books • stuffed animals
Superior rating for quality & price by Consumers Checkbook.



Ladera Garden and Gifts • 3130 Alpine Road • Portola Valley 94028 • 650.854.3850

Blue Sky
DESIGNS, INC.

Listen To Your Neighbor!

"As usual, the job keeps looking better and better. Your work is outstanding and your entire crew and operation is skilled and first class!"

— Peninsula Customer



Call Today to Schedule Your
Complimentary Design Consultation
650-726-5990

Blue Sky
DESIGNS, INC.

Landscape Design - Build
Award Winning Since 1985

www.blueskydesignsinc.com

Local Deals

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



Support Local Business

When you shop locally, good things happen to make our community stronger:

- Sales tax dollars, which fund schools and local services, stay in the community.
- You help to sustain the unique and diverse businesses that make our shopping areas vibrant.
- You show how much you value the expertise of these businesses and the quality service they offer their customers.
- You reduce your carbon footprint by not driving outside the community to shop.
- And when you shop at locally *owned* businesses, you also support our friends and neighbors who are running these businesses, donating to community events and causes, hiring our kids and getting involved in making Menlo Park a better place.

Go to **ShopMenloPark.com** to browse special offers, events and new marketplace items from these featured local merchants

Kicks

Estetica Skincare By Kasia

Kepler's Books and Magazines

Cheeky Monkey Toys

Flegel's Furniture

Gerry's Cakes

Ann's Coffee Shop

Learn more about the value of locally owned businesses at ShopMenloPark.com

A community collaboration brought to you by



The **Almanac**



For more information call 650.223.6509

Available in a mobile version



Contested election likely in high school district

■ Jeff Aalfs may run for Portola Valley council.

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

With more than two weeks left to register as a candidate for public office in the November election, a contested election looks likely in the Sequoia Union High School District. Below is a roundup of local election activity.

High school district

The terms of three board members in the Sequoia high school district expire in November. Two of the incumbents — Olivia Martinez and Lorraine Rumley — have confirmed that they are running for re-election. A third, Don Gibson, has not yet responded.

So far, three challengers have taken out papers, according to the county Registrar of Voters. They are San Carlos School District board member Carrie B. Du Bois, who has filed the papers; Larry James Moody, director of a ministry in East Palo Alto; and Allen Weiner, a lecturer at Stanford University law school and a resident of Menlo Park, who said he plans to file the papers soon.

The Sequoia district includes Menlo-Atherton and Woodside high schools and Summit Preparatory and Everest charter high schools.

The filing period closes at 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 12, unless the election includes an incumbent not running for re-election. In that event, the deadline is extended five days to Aug. 17.

Portola Valley

Jeff Aalfs, a member of the Architecture & Site Control Commission (ASCC) since being appointed by the Town Council in December 2008, has pulled nomination papers for a council seat, according to Town Clerk Sharon Hanlon.

With Councilman Steve Toben not running, and Councilwoman Ann Wengert planning to run, Mr. Aalfs' candidacy may be uncontested if no one else turns in papers before the deadline.

The filing deadline in Portola Valley is 5 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 17. Papers are available in Town Hall at 765 Portola Road on weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 5 p.m.

Ms. Wengert said she plans to begin her nomination process the day after she returns from her cross-country bicycle trip in August. "I am very enthusiastic about continuing to serve on the Council and

tackling the challenges facing our community," she wrote.

In the Portola Valley school district, of the two incumbent board members whose terms are up in 2011, Jocelyn Swisher has returned her completed nomination papers and Steven Humphreys has not yet taken any out, according to the registrar's report.

Woodside

Mayor Ron Romines and Councilman Peter Mason, both of whose terms expire in November, have taken out nomination papers, Town Clerk Janet Koelsch told the Almanac.

Terms also expire this year for Councilman Dave Burow, and Councilwoman Sue Boynton, who told the Almanac that she will not be running again.

On Woodside's elementary school board, the latest registrar's report shows no activity from incumbents Ellen Ablow and Ginger Bamford, both of whose terms expire this year.

Other races

As for the Menlo Park Fire Protection District board, incumbent Peter Carpenter told the Almanac that he is not running for re-election, while incumbent Bart Spencer has qualified to run, according to the registrar's report.

Also qualified as a candidate is Robert Silano, a security consultant who ran unsuccessfully for the board in 2009. Scott Barnum, an executive from Atherton, has taken out papers, the report said.

In the Woodside Fire Protection District, incumbents Patrick Cain and John Gardner are both running for re-election, Fire Chief Dan Ghiorso told the Almanac. Mr. Gardner is listed as having completed the nomination process.

Meanwhile in the San Mateo County Community College District, incumbent Dave Mandelkern and newcomer Jaime Diaz have taken out nomination papers. The report shows no activity for incumbents Patricia Miljanich and Karen Schwarz.

The report also shows no activity yet for two seats on the boards of the West Bay Sanitary District, two for the Ladera Recreation District, and two for the Los Trancos County Water District.

Go to shapethefuture.org for more information, or call the San Mateo County Elections Office at 312-5222. ■



Home Care
Lets You Be a Daughter Again!

Home Care Assistance lets you choose the care you need, live-in or hourly, when you call for your FREE assessment.

The top **Bay Area** home care choice since 2002, and the references to prove it. We provide caring, committed caregivers to work with your family—any time of the day or night—whether on a moment's notice or planned in advance. Plus our caregivers are:

- **Double screened.** First, with criminal background checks and second with psychological testing for honesty and trustworthiness.
- **Insured.** Bonded, covered by workers compensation, insured and trained in our exclusive Balanced Care™ Method so your family gets the best in care.

Trust Home Care Assistance caregivers to provide all the help your family needs.



Call to get started with your free assessment now.
650-321-6906
148 Hawthorne Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94301
www.HomeCareAssistance.com
"The 24/7 Live-In Specialists"



embarcadero media

Shop Local Online Sales Representative
(20-30 hrs per week)

Embarcadero Media is seeking a self-starter and motivated individual interested in helping build an innovative new online program that helps local businesses market themselves to the local community. Our Shop Local websites, powered by ShopCity.com, offer a unique and simple platform for business owners to promote their merchandise, make special offers, announce special events, maintain customer lists and engage in social network marketing on Facebook and Twitter.

The Shop Local Sales Representative is responsible for generating revenue by selling businesses subscriptions/memberships on the Shop Palo Alto, Shop Menlo Park and Shop Mountain View websites and helping to increase awareness about the program in the broader community.

Specific duties include:

- * Heightening awareness of the Shop Local program through distribution of marketing materials to local businesses
- * Directly selling Shop Local packages by phone and in-person to businesses within the local community, with an emphasis on locally-owned establishments
- * Increasing the use of the site by assisting businesses in setting up profiles, posting offers and understanding the features of the site
- * Assist in the marketing of the site through attendance at business and community events
- * Coordinate sales efforts and work with Embarcadero Media sales team as a resource person on the Shop Local program

The Shop Local Sales Representative is supervised by the Multimedia Product Manager.

Compensation is an hourly rate plus commissions for all sales. Schedule is flexible, but the target number of hours per week is 25 (five hours per day.)

This position is currently considered temporary, exempt and non-benefited, but may evolve into a permanent position as the program develops.

To apply, submit a letter describing why this position is a good fit for your background and experience and a resume to Rachel Hatch, Multimedia Product Manager at rhatch@embarcaderopublishing.com

Burglars swipe electronics from Woodside church

Burglars appear to have gotten away with electronic sound equipment valued at \$2,000 after prying open a side door of the Woodside Village Church at 3154 Woodside Road, according to a June 18 report by the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.

The thefts are believed to have taken place between July 8 and 13.

Items taken include wireless speakers, a DVD player, and handheld and lapel microphones, Lt. Ray Lunny of the

BRIEFS

Sheriff's Office said.

Investigators would welcome witnesses as they yet have no leads, Lt. Lunny said. "Hopefully, someone comes forward," he added.

Asked if the investigating deputies had dusted the interior for fingerprints, Lt. Lunny replied that they did not as the case was a week old and the prints would not have been any good.

In any case, he added, there may well have been a large number of unique prints in the room, many of which would need to be recognized and set aside so as to focus on the prints of strangers. "When you have a church, holy cow," he said. "There's no way to do that."

Menlo College receives \$1.05 million grant

Menlo College has received \$1,050,000 from the Bernard

Osher Foundation in support of scholarships for its Professional Studies Program, college officials said.

The program is Menlo College's accelerated undergraduate business degree program for working adults. One million dollars of the award will go into the college's endowment, yielding annual scholarships for working adults seeking undergraduate degrees. The remaining \$50,000 will bridge the

program's scholarship support during the 2011-2012 school year, until the endowment produces interest.

The San Francisco-based Bernard Osher Foundation provides post-secondary scholarship funding to colleges and universities across the nation, with a particular focus on reentry students, according to the foundation's website. It was founded by Bay Area businessman Bernard Osher in 1977.

The foundation has awarded \$200,000 in scholarship support to Menlo College for the past four years, college officials said.

TRASH

continued from page 9

level, to be as explicit as you can possibly be."

Ms. Senti-Willis said she would have liked the ordinance to spell out how residents could notify City Hall of an upcoming long weekend, perhaps through a phone call to City Hall as is done with the police department.

At least a half dozen cities have had problems with recycling bins and solved them with ordinances like this one, including in Redwood City and Monte Sereno, Councilwoman McKeithen said, adding that there are provisions for the disabled and it is not meant to be harsh.

Just because a law exists doesn't mean it has to be enforced, City Attorney William Conners noted. "You've got dozens and dozens and dozens that are violated every day," he said. "Laws are selectively enforced all the time." ■

SUPPORT LOCAL
JOURNALISM

Support
The Almanac's
coverage of our
community.

Memberships
begin at only
17¢ per day

Join today:
SupportLocalJournalism.org

WE
CANCER
BEAT
THIS.

STANFORD
WOMEN'S
CANCER
CENTER
OPENED JUNE 2011

Bringing Hope and Healing to Women with Cancer



The Stanford Women's Cancer Center is dedicated to providing comprehensive cancer services to women with breast and gynecologic cancers. The new facility offers Stanford's unparalleled outpatient cancer services—from diagnosis to treatment to supportive care—offering hope and healing to women with cancer. For more info, call 650.498.6004 or visit <http://cancer.stanford.edu/womens>



STANFORD
CANCER CENTER

Stanford University Medical Center
A NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE-DESIGNATED CANCER CENTER

■ OBITUARIES

Katherine "Kaye" Cutting

Katherine "Kaye" Morrissey Cutting, a resident of Menlo Park for 45 years, died July 1 at Stanford Medical Center after a short illness. She was 88.

A graduate of Boston College with a degree in nursing, Ms. Cutting served as a second lieutenant nurse in the South Pacific and Japan during World War II. She moved with her family from Aruba to Menlo Park in 1966.

She was employed as a nurse at Palo Alto Medical Clinic, Raychem, and Alza Corp. She was a volunteer at Treasures Hospice in Menlo Park.

She is survived by her children, Cathleen de los Reyes, Lynn Hansen, Eileen Cutting, and Paul L. Cutting; and three grandchildren.

Contributions may be made to Stanford Medical Center, Stroke Center, Office of Medical Development, 300 Pasteur Drive, Palo Alto, 94305.

Arrangements were under the direction of O'Connor Menlo Park Funerals.

Betty Flood

Woodside resident Betty Flood, a woman whose many interests over her long life included driving her English sports car, rounding up cattle in the company of cowboys, modeling clothes (briefly) at I. Magnin, and making needlepoint rugs for each of her 22 great-grandchildren, died at home on April 28. She was 94.

Elizabeth Dresser Flood, a San Francisco native, graduated from the prestigious Katherine Delmar Burke School in 1934 and modeled for I. Magnin around this time, relatives said. She married James Flood in 1938 at the Flood Mansion in San Francisco.

The couple honeymooned in Europe and returned with a red Talbot two-seater that Ms. Flood regularly drove in the Woodside May Day parade, relatives said, adding that when in Europe, she liked to visit the Italian Riviera town of Lerici.

The couple moved to Woodside in 1939 and raised four children there. Ms. Flood was active in the Woodside Trail Club and a riding group led by notable riding instructor Colonel Vladimir "Milo" Miloradovitch, relatives said.

At the time of the signing of the United Nations charter in San Francisco in 1945, dignitar-

ies, some of whom became lifelong friends, visited the Flood's Woodside home, relatives said.

Ms. Flood was a watercolorist, an accomplished equestrian into her 90s, and a weekly volunteer serving lunch to the needy at St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room in Menlo Park, relatives said. She enjoyed ringing a bell for the Salvation Army at Christmas and volunteered with the Red Cross during World War II.

She loved gardening, Halloween, April Fool's day and stacking a "perfect cord" of firewood, relatives said. The winter picnic, held just before Christmas in a barn or pasture, was the highlight of the year for the entire family.

Ms. Flood was preceded in death by her husband and is survived by her daughters Judy Wilbur and Elizabeth Stevenson; sons Jim Flood and John Flood; nine grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren, relatives said.

Relatives recommend gifts in Ms. Flood's name be made to St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room at 3500 Middlefield Road in Menlo Park, 94025, or Pets in Need at 871 5th Avenue in Redwood City, 94063.

Halcott "Hal" Moreno

Halcott "Hal" Moreno, a resident of Menlo Park, died July 7 at the Stanford University Medical Center after suffering a brief illness. He was 92.

A native of Palo Alto, he became involved in several organizations in the city, including the Palo Alto Host Lions Club, where he served as president, and the Palo Alto Elks Lodge, where he was the organist for 30 years.

He was also a member of the American Legion, as well as the Sons In Retirement (SIRS), where he held the title of Big SIR in 1999. He served as the SIRS historian and conducted new member orientation.

Survivors including his second wife, Marion; brother Albert; daughter Susan Hassitt; three stepchildren, David Farrell, Nancy Freitas, and Tom Farrell; and many grandchildren, step-grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and step-great-grandchildren, the family said.

Donations may be made to the Palo Alto Host Lions Club at paloaltolions.org or P.O. Box 976, Palo Alto, CA 94302-0976.



Betty Flood

Support Local Business



Health Insurance

Is Your Family Covered? Individual, Family, Medicare, Group Health Plans

Eric L. Barrett

CLU, CLTC, RHU, REBC, LUTCF CA. INS Lic #0737226
Serving the Peninsula For Over 23 Years

Authorized Agent

blue of california

Blue Shield of California Life & Health Insurance Company
An Independent Licensee of the Blue Shield Association

www.barrettinsuranceservices.net

1300 South El Camino Real, Suite 400 • San Mateo • 650-513-5690



Eric, Jackson, Brenna, Katia
The Barrett Family

LUCILE PACKARD



CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Your Child's Health University

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

MOTHER-BABY MORNINGS

Packard Children's Hospital offers a group forum for new mothers with infants 0-6 months of age. Often the first outing moms attempt after giving birth, our group provides support and camaraderie for new parents while promoting confidence and well-being.

- Tuesday mornings, 10:00 - 11:30 am

HEART TO HEART SEMINAR ON GROWING UP

Informative, humorous and lively discussions between parents and their pre-teens on puberty, the opposite sex and growing up. Girls attend these two-part sessions with their moms and boys attend with their dads.

- For Girls: Sundays, August 7 & 14: 3:00 - 5:00 pm
- For Boys: Thursdays, August 11 & 18: 6:30 - 8:30 pm

CHILD CPR & FIRST AID

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

- Saturday, August 13: 12:00 - 3:30 pm

SIBLING PREPARATION CLASS

This class for children two years of age and older will help prepare siblings for the emotional and physical realities of the arrival of a newborn.

- Saturday, August 27: 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

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



Lucile Packard
Children's Hospital
at Stanford



VISIT LPCH.ORG TO SIGN UP FOR CLASSES

SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM

Join today: SupportLocalJournalism.org/Almanac

Support
The Almanac's print
and online coverage
of our community.

Fire board changes its policy on firefighter compensation

FIREFIGHTER PAY
continued from page 8

union in 2009 with the state's Public Employee Relations Board (PERB). The board's hearing was completed in June, but no decision is expected until the end of the year.

Other non-safety district employees are represented by AFSCME, the America Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

Under the current contract, entry level firefighters' annual base pay is \$78,936, increasing to a maximum of \$95,340 per year after four years.

The district has only 11 employees classified as firefighters, however. It has 50 engineers, whose pay ranges from a starting level of \$97,092 to \$100,356 after two years in the position. The base pay includes a monthly stipend for the Emergency Medical Technician credentials, which all MPFPD firefighters have, but not pay for those who have paramedic credentials, overtime or benefits.

Including overtime and benefits, 41 of about 115 firefighters in the Menlo Park district are receiving more than \$200,000 a year, and 51 others are receiving more than \$150,000.

At the July 19 board meeting, union representatives said state labor laws make it illegal for the fire board to consider the new policy before meeting privately with union representatives to discuss the changes. But the district's attorney, Steven Meyers of Meyers Nave, disagreed. He said the new policy, which will be part of the board's Policy and Procedures Manual, could be adopted without separate meetings with the unions. In fact, he said, the policy technically does not even need the second vote that has been scheduled because it is not a resolution.

Firefighters have pointed out that the district is not in the same poor financial condition as many other government bodies, and in fact has a surplus each year.

Director Carpenter says this is "because we're well managed." He admits the district has saved money because without a contract, firefighters have not received a raise in three years except for annual step increases. Two years ago the district sold \$10 million in bonds to fund its current liability for pensions that will go to the district's future retirees. The interest rate on the bond is half what the state retirement program, CalPERS had charged, he said, saving the district further money. ■

SHOOTING

continued from page 5

at-large; all three are also wanted in connection with two robberies, a burglary, and a triple shooting and murder in Grand Junction, Colorado, police said.

"Our plea is that if people know where they are, call," Chief Davis said. "We have seen the damage that they can inflict."

Sunday shooting

Capt. Liu said police have not

ruled out a connection between these three suspects and a third homicide that happened late Sunday night, July 24. A 19-year-old man was gunned down around 10:30 p.m. in a pizzeria parking lot on East Bayshore Road as he greeted friends. Another man, 18, was also shot, but survived.

Police ask anyone with information about these cases to call the anonymous tip line at 853-8477 or send an anonymous text-a-tip to 409-7692. ■

Bay trees being removed to save oaks

A crew started removing roughly 250 bay trees in several open space lands in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties on July 11 to stop the spread of a plant pathogen that causes oak tree species to die.

The pathogen, *Phytophthora Ramorum*, causes certain oak trees to die from sudden oak death. In an effort to understand and eradicate the disease, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District has enlisted

the help of a work crew with the California Conservation Corps to remove nearly 250 bay trees within 15 feet of 49 healthy oak trees.

According to the open space district, research has shown that removing bay trees within 15 feet of oak trees significantly lowers their chances of becoming infected and dying from sudden oak death. Bay trees are a host species that can transmit the pathogen.

The tree removal will continue through July 28. The crews have tackled the trees at the Long Ridge and Russian Ridge preserves in San Mateo County. The week of July 25, they will work at Saratoga Gap in Santa Clara County and Skyline Ridge in San Mateo County.

The project, which was funded by a Proposition 84 grant, is meant to help prevent the buildup of dead trees and protect open space lands.

News of college graduates

Here is news about recent college graduates. If you have graduation news, please send it to: editor@AlmanacNews.com.

■ **Kristie Cu** of Atherton, daughter of Kechung and Jeannie Cu of Woodside, graduated from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, on May 9. She earned a bachelor of business administration degree from the Goizueta Business School of Emory University.

■ **Danielle Gessow** of Woodside, daughter of Andrew Jody Gessow and Rhonda Brofman Gessow, graduated from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, with a bachelor of

arts degree on May 9.

■ **Matthew Schainker**, son of Enssieh and Robert Schainker of Woodside, received a graduate degree from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, on May 20. Mr. Schainker graduated with a juris doctorate and master of business administration degree from the School of Law and the Olin School of Business.

■ **Patrick Leugers** of Atherton graduated from Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia, on May 16. He earned a bachelor of arts degree in international studies with honors. He is a graduate of Menlo-Atherton High

School.

■ **Benjamin Serrurier** of Menlo Park, graduated from Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington, on May 22 with a bachelor of arts degree.

■ Portola Valley resident **Graham Toben** graduated from Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington, on May 22 with a bachelor of arts degree.

■ **Brian Vieth** of Portola Valley earned his bachelor of arts degree Whitman College on May 22.

■ **Kristine Unkrich** of Redwood City also graduated on May 22 from Whitman College with a bachelor of arts degree.

Hilary Giles of Portola Valley named top financial adviser

Merrill Lynch private wealth adviser Hilary Giles of Portola Valley was recognized in the June 6 issue of Barron's financial magazine as one of America's top 100 women financial advisers.

This is the second year Ms. Giles has been on the list. Her business partner, Suzanne Killea, was also recognized. The women work out of Merrill Lynch's Menlo Park office.

Ms. Giles serves on the finance/investment committees of the Woodside Priory and on the parcel tax oversight committee for the Portola Valley School District. She and her husband live in Portola Valley with their four children.



Hilary Giles

PEOPLE

Shelley joins board

Dana Shelley of Atherton has been appointed to the board of directors of Family & Children Services, a nonprofit with offices in Palo Alto and San Jose. Ms. Shelley and Ian Nasman join a board of 19 volunteers who lead the nonprofit organization.

Ms. Shelley is director of budget planning and policy analysis in the university budget office of Stanford University. She formerly served on the boards of the Foundation for the Future, which raises funds for initiatives at Menlo-Atherton High School and the Menlo Park-Atherton Education Foundation.

Since 1948, Family & Children Services has provided counseling and support to children and adults in Silicon Valley, particularly those who might

not otherwise be able to afford care.

Lundberg named development director

Pennie L. Lundberg has been named director of development for Peninsula Volunteers Inc. in Menlo Park. She began the new position July 1.

Ms. Lundberg has served as a senior management executive in professional and college sports organizations, as well as in the entertainment industry. She has served as an executive at the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Northern California and the ALS Golden West chapter, serving 31 counties in California.

Peninsula Volunteers is a nonprofit organization that develops and administers programs and services for the aging population of the Midpeninsula.

SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM

Support The Almanac's coverage of our community.

Memberships begin at only 17¢ per day

Join today:
SupportLocalJournalism.org/Almanac



A benefit at a Portola Valley home raised \$10,000 for the Rich May Foundation.

Rich May sports field benefits from PV event

By Kate Daly

Special to the Almanac

■ AROUND TOWN

Dana Cappiello recently turned her Portola Valley home into a Parisian flea market for the day, raising \$10,000 for a sports field that is being sponsored by the Rich May Foundation.

Based in Atherton, the foundation is named after the East Palo Alto police officer who was gunned down in the line of duty in 2006.

The fundraiser on July 16 involved more than 20 vendors selling furnishings, clothes, plants and other items in support of building the Rich May Memorial Field on Bay Road in East Palo Alto.

Ms. Cappiello, who serves on the foundation's board of directors, came up with the idea for the event for generating donations and helped spread the word on Facebook.

Some 225 people attended, shopped, enjoyed live music, and sampled food from the Rosewood Sand Hill hotel.

Art benefit in Woodside for Shelter Network

Artists Angelica Di Chiara and Jean-Marc Brugeille have collaborated on an exhibition of their work to benefit the Shelter Network, and its homeless shelter in Menlo Park, Haven Family House. The outdoor benefit, sponsored by

the Istituto Educazione Italiana (IEI) of Atherton, will take place Aug. 13, from 4:30 to 8 p.m., at the home of Carla Anisman at 295 Ridgeway Road in Woodside.

A native of Brindisi, Italy, Ms. Di Chiara paints representational landscapes and cityscapes reminiscent of her native country. Mr. Brugeille, who recently arrived from Lyon, France, focuses on magnifying themes of daily life, dreams and poems, completing each piece with self-made oil paints.

Ms. Anisman, a local agent/broker with Coldwell-Banker, offered her home for the exhibition. Refreshments will be donated by Donato's restaurant in Redwood City and Renzo's Cafe in Palo Alto.

Annually, some 100 families, including 250 children, receive help with temporary housing, counseling, education, and enhancement of life skill.

Amy Write, director of major gifts for Shelter Network, will speak at the event about the organization.

No entry fee is required, however an RSVP is requested to insure appropriate refreshments.

Email info@italianartstudio.com or call 888-9521 to reserve a place. Comfortable attire and pavement-friendly shoes are advised.

— Alison Myoraku



Littlest Angels
PRESCHOOL
at Bethany Lutheran Church
Menlo Park

LIMITED OPENINGS FOR FALL
Classes start
Thursday, Sept. 8

2 YEAR-OLD PROGRAM
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
2, 3 or 5 Days
Potty training not required.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM
4-5 Year Olds
9:00 am - 1:00 pm
2, 3 or 5 Days

Before- and After-School Care
Available for ages 3 and older

For additional information or to schedule a tour, please call
650.854.4973
preschool@bethany-mp.org
www.bethany-mp.org/preschool
Since 1996

A TASTE OF THE PENINSULA

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

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Vive Sol-Cocina Mexicana

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

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

Coffee & Tea

Connoisseur Coffee Co.

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

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






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

MEYER FOR THE HOME

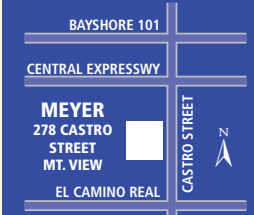
MEYER has been providing the Peninsula with home, kitchen & bath design and quality appliances, installation, parts and service for over — **65 years!**

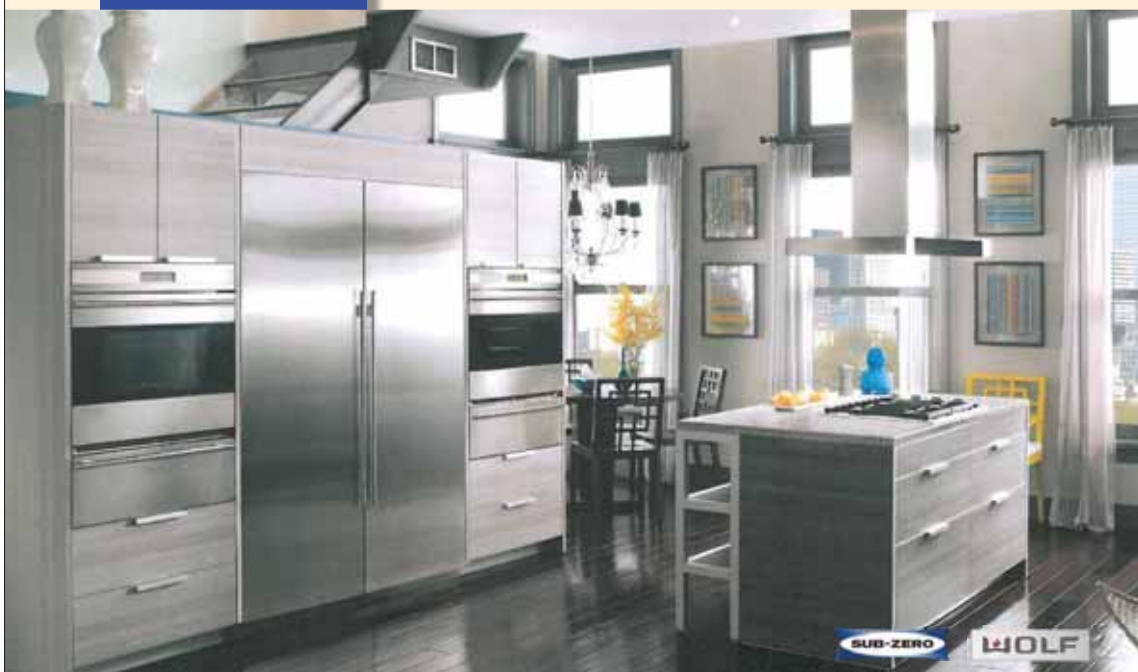
Our 18,000 sq ft. two story showroom has over 25 kitchen vignettes, built in appliances, cabinets and countertops, and a full parts and service department.

HOME | KITCHEN | BATH | DESIGN

APPLIANCES BRANDS WE SELL:

- ASKO
- FISHER & PAYKEL
- BEST
- FRANKIE
- VIKING
- GAGGENAU
- BODY GLOVE
- GE PROFILE
- GE CAFE
- GE MONOGRAM
- BOSCH
- MIELE
- WOLF
- SUB-ZERO
- THERMADOR





KITCHEN & BATH | DESIGN | CONSTRUCTION | REMODELING

We provide professional kitchen and bath design, cabinets, countertops, installation, and more!
— We staff architects, designers and licensed contractors to handle any project.
Designing for your life style is our passion!

PARTS & SERVICE

We have our own service department! Our techs are factory authorized to repair all major brands! We have one of the largest stocked parts department in the bay area! From water filters, heating elements, compactor bags, and dishwasher salt; we have it all!

APPLIANCES

We have one of the largest displays of built in and professional appliances. We sell and service Bosch, Sub Zero & Wolf, Thermador, Viking, Ge and more! *Certified Installation* —
Our own installers are certified by Miele and Viking extending your warranty!

MEYER FOR THE HOME **MEYER** TRUSTED SINCE 1946

BUILDERS | HOME-KITCHEN-BATH DESIGN | APPLIANCE | PARTS & SERVICE

278 CASTRO STREET, MOUNTAIN VIEW CA 94041

1.800.540.8318

www.kitchensbymeyer.com • www.meyer-appliance.com

M-A juniors pay tribute to Filipino heritage

By Caitlin Moyles

Special to the Almanac

Jesse and Christian Perkins, juniors at Menlo-Atherton High School and residents of Menlo Park, are often recognized for their prowess in tennis. This year, both were named Athletes of the Week by the Palo Alto Weekly, first team all-league players for doubles, and the M-A varsity team's "most inspirational" and "most valuable" players. They also maintain 4.5 grade point averages and help run a small family business.

Recently, the twins paid tribute to their Filipino heritage when they were filmed by the Filipino company, GMA Pinoy TV, for its weekly "Power Ng Pinoy" documentary program, which highlights Filipino Americans who are making a difference in their communities.

"We have respect for elders, the fighting spirit of Filipinos, and that we embody the work ethic of Filipinos," said Jesse, the older twin by two minutes. "We also have love for country, God, and family."

The Perkins twins, citizens of both the Philippines and the United States, were born in Cape Town City, near the Philippines' capital of Manila. They were filmed for "Power Ng Pinoy" on Saturday, May 21, at an Atherton home and doing drills on the M-A tennis courts.

"They also talked to us about how we take losing a match," Christian said. "We're always disappointed when we lose, but we always use that as a learning

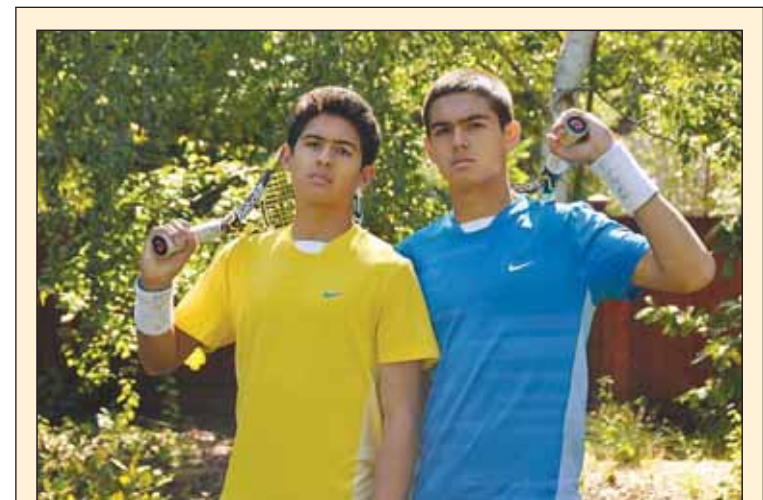


Photo by Jerry Perez

Jesse, left, and Christian Perkins at the May 21 filming of "Power Ng Pinoy" in Atherton. "Power Ng Pinoy" is a weekly documentary program on the Filipino GMA Pinoy TV that highlights Filipino Americans who are making a difference in their communities.

experience. I think part of the show's message is that passion and hard work are going to get you places you strive to get to."

Jesse added that he believes the show's message is especially important for Filipinos.

"(The program) showcases that everybody can reach their full potential and follow their dreams, which is a really a good thing for the mass of people who will watch it in the Philippines," he said.

The twins will return to the Philippines this summer, where they will spend two months practicing with the national tennis team in hopes of playing doubles for the Philippines in the Davis Cup, they said.

"It'll be a good opportunity to train and improve our weaknesses," said Christian.

Jesse added that they still have a lot of family in the Philippines and try to visit often.

"We were born there, so we love the Philippines and try to go there as much as possible," he said. "We also love Filipino food."

In their free time, Jesse and Christian help their dad run Born to Surf, a surf clothing business the twins got involved with to help pay for their college education.

"I'm the marketing person, and my brother handles the graphics and Web design," Jesse said.

According to Christian, however, their free time diminished significantly over the course of their junior year.

"Junior year is pretty hard," he said.

When asked what the future holds for them, the twins responded that they hope to continue to play doubles together at a college or university in California. UC Berkley, Stanford, University of Southern California, and Westmont are among their top choices, Christian said.

"It's definitely a goal," Jesse said. ■

Luisa Lagnoli

Sophistication and Elegance
Distinguished Italian Designer

Now Available at

fashion passion

Boutique

345 Stanford Shopping Center
(650) 328-3030
www.fashionpassionstyle.com

Open Weekdays 10am-9pm;
Sat 10am-7pm; Sun 11am-6pm

ShopMenloPark.com

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

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

JACKSON SQUARE FINE JEWELS

2808 EL CAMINO REAL
(3 LIGHTS SOUTH OF WOODSIDE RD.)
REDWOOD CITY
650-365-3000
WWW.JACKSONSQUARE.COM
TUES. - SAT. 10AM TO 5PM
CLOSED SUNDAY & MONDAY

SAFE-EASY-LOCAL

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

NOW PAYING TOP DOLLAR FOR:

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

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

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

FREE \$15 GAS CARD
WITH EVERY SALE OF \$200 OR MORE
ONE CARD PER CUSTOMER
EXPIRES 9/30/11

SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM

Support The Almanac's coverage of our community.

Memberships begin at only 17¢ per day

Join today:
SupportLocalJournalism.org



The new website of the San Mateo County Library system won a Webby Award for its creative presentation and innovation.

Library website goes 'social'

It allows users to review books, post on blogs

By Caitlin Moyles

Special to the Almanac

The San Mateo County Library took a cue from social media in the renovation of its website — www.smcl.org — that now allows users to write reviews of books, music, and movies, and share their thoughts on three blogs — Collective Brain, a teens blog, and a kids blog.

The website recently received critical acclaim when it was named a 2011 Webby Award Official Honoree in the government website category. The Webby Award, which honors excellence on the Internet in a variety of categories, recognizes the website's sleek layout and navigability, as well as the library's efforts to promote interaction between members of the library's online community.

Three local libraries — those in Woodside, Portola Valley and Atherton — are part of the San Mateo County Library system.

"We wanted to bring in that social interaction element," said

Greg Bodin, acting director of San Mateo County Library. "With social media being so up in the present, it's really a good way to share your ideas and what kinds of likes you have."

Redesigned in 2010, the website features portals for parents, teens, and kids. Users can opt to view the website in Chinese or Spanish.

In addition, users can add tags to books, music and movies to recommend similar content to their fellow community members.

In a nod to Twitter, the teen portal has a feature — called "Create a Shout-Out!" — that allows teens to post their thoughts and see them streamed across the top of the teens homepage.

The website aims to provide easy access to as many library services as possible, Mr. Bodin said. Visitors can use it to find the locations of items in the San Mateo County Library system, while the "Request this item" button allows users to have items delivered between any two libraries in San Mateo County. ■

Clayton Carr Carlson

1987-2011



Clayton Carr Carlson died tragically on July 7, 2011. In his short 23 years, he was a quiet light of illumination, thoughtful and wise beyond his age. His sensitive soul was open wide to the world and his gentle empathy for others was exceptional. Before his 5 year struggle with mental illness, he was an athlete, a national merit scholar, and the recipient of numerous awards in English and Latin. In high school, he was an exchange student in South Africa and returned profoundly affected by the continuing disenfranchisement of people without a political voice. Clay was a fierce competitor in varsity lacrosse and a cool dude on a skateboard. He treasured music - from classical to jazz to oldies to hip hop. Resisting the predictable, he loved the Giants and Bob Marley, the Economist and Rolling Stone, Starbucks and Buddha. Although he was unable to pursue his degree in philosophy at UC Berkeley, he never lost

his interest in grappling with the unfathomable issues of life, God, and the fact of his own mental illness. Clay's spirit alighted on many during his life and his presence will continue to be felt by those he touched. He is adored and survived by his parents Lisa Carr and Doug Carlson and his sister, Casey Carlson. A Christian-Buddhist memorial service for Clay will be held on Friday July 29 at 1pm at Trinity Episcopal Church, Menlo Park with a reception following. Clay's family welcomes donations in his memory to assist other young people struggling with mental illness at Momentum for Mental Health (408) 254-6828 www.momentumformentalhealth.org.

PAID OBITUARY

Richard C. Rhodes Jr.

January 9, 1916 – July 11, 2011

Richard C. Rhodes Jr. was born January 9th, 1916 in Westwood, New Jersey to Catherine Clare (Saunders) Rhodes and Richard C. Rhodes Sr. He was the second of three children and survived his older sister Claire Marie Rhodes of New York and his younger sister Loraine Bernice Barton of Los Altos Hills. He passed away at his family home in Woodside on Monday, July 11th at 8:30 a.m. He was 95.

"Dick" Rhodes began his career in the food marketing and sales industry as a stock boy in a corner market in the Bronx, NY during the Great Depression. He next found employment with the California Packing Cooperation, later known as Del Monte Foods. It was during this time when he met his lifelong sweetheart and wife Luella Sanelma (Harju) Rhodes, the recipient of the Miss Finnish America Beauty Pageant of 1939. They were married on November 5, 1942 in the Bronx, NY. His life with his new wife Luella and career with Del Monte were soon put on hold by WW II when he enlisted in the Army. He graduated from O.T.S as a lieutenant, attended artillery school at Fort Sill, OK and served in Europe landing in Normandy in 1944. He earned various campaign ribbons, a bronze star for meritorious service and departed the Army with the rank of Captain.

Upon returning to the States he was reunited with his wife Luella and introduced to his new daughter Barbara. Two more daughters, Bette, Blair, and a son Richard were soon to join the family as they took up residence on Long Island in Rockville Centre, NY. Dick Rhodes picked up where he had left off with Del Monte and in 1959 moved his family west to Park Ridge, IL on the outskirts of Chicago following a promotion to Di-

rector of Divisional Sales. In 1962 he relocated to the Del Monte headquarters in San Francisco finally becoming a Director of Marketing. This position took him to Europe, Scandinavia, Asia, throughout North America including Alaska. In 1978 he retired. In all, he spent 40 years working for a corporation he was proud of and with people he genuinely respected and enjoyed.

He was well educated and had a great sense of humor with an abundance of wit. As a youth he enjoyed riding his Indian motorcycle along the roadways in up state New York. He helped support his family through the Depression, loved his country and served it during time of war. But his life long love has always been his family and his beautiful wife Luella who preceded him in death in 2001. "Richard" as he was known later on in life is survived by four children; Barbara Cannon, Bett and Bill Scott, Blair and Sam Smith, Richard and Annette Rhodes; eleven grandchildren, David, Jon (Kristi), Joe, Cody (Nicole) and Colt Cannon; William, Jack and Doug Scott; Julia, Jackie and Christian Rhodes; and four great-grandchildren, Jace, Jax, Elias and Isaac Cannon.

In the presence of his family and friends Richard C. Rhodes Jr. was laid to rest at Skylawn Memorial Park on Thursday, July 21, 2011. He was buried with military honors while Scottish bagpipes droned and Taps was sounded.

PAID OBITUARY

■ POLICE CALLS

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

ATHERTON

Grand theft report: Four bracelets and three necklaces with total estimated valued of \$22,400 missing from residence, Fairview Ave., July 18.

MENLO PARK

Residential burglary reports:

■ Loss estimated at \$1,600 in break-in through open window and theft of wristwatch, pairs of earrings and other jewelry, Ivy Drive, July 19.

■ Loss estimated at \$700 in break-in of three storage sheds and theft of sanitizer dispensers, latex gloves and garbage bags, Beechwood School at 50 Terminal Ave., July 15.

■ Burglary interrupted when neighbor saw man who attempted to enter apartment via a screened window and who then fled on black bicycle, Linfield Drive, July 20.

Theft reports:

■ Loss estimated at \$300 in theft of bicycle from carport, Oak Grove Ave., July 20.

■ Loss estimated at \$300 in theft of two industrial recycling bins and siphoned gasoline, Techworld Trading at 562 Oak Grove Ave., July 17.

■ Loss estimated at \$300 in theft of playpen, crib, wine rack, coat rack, stroller and two shelves from front porch, Hedge Road, July 18.

■ Losses estimated at \$650 in separate thefts of three bicycles, 200 block of Waverley St., 800 block of Willow Road, and 800 block of El Camino Real, July 18 and 21.

Fraud reports:

■ Loss estimated at \$2,500 in false electronic filing of U.S. federal tax return in victim's name using victim's Social Security number, Sharon Park Drive, July 20.

■ Losses estimated at \$800 in unauthorized use of victim's credit card, Bay Laurel Drive, July 18.

Child Protective Services report: Madera Ave., July 19.

WOODSIDE

Residential burglary report: Two closets and dresser drawer rummaged but no thefts after unauthorized entry into home via smashed window, Greer Road, July 16.

PORTOLA VALLEY

Stolen vehicle report: Unlocked Silver Toyota Camry with keys left in ignition stolen from driveway, Shawnee Pass, July 16.

Theft report: Money clip stolen from unlocked vehicle and with it driver's license, \$30 in cash and debit card used for \$110 purchases from gas stations and 7-Eleven, Shawnee Pass, July 16.

SUPPORT LOCAL
JOURNALISM

Join today: SupportLocalJournalism.org/Almanac

Support
The Almanac's print
and online coverage
of our community.

Editor & Publisher

Tom Gibboney

Editorial**Managing Editor** Richard Hine**News Editor** Renee Batti**Lifestyles Editor** Jane Knoerle**Senior Correspondents**

Marion Softky, Marjorie Mader

Staff Writers

Dave Boyce, Sandy Brundage

Contributors Barbara Wood,

Kate Daly, Katie Blankenberg

Special Sections Editors

Carol Blitzer, Sue Dremann

Photographer Michelle Le**Design & Production****Design Director** Raul Perez**Designers** Linda Atilano,

Gary Vennarucci

Advertising**Vice President Sales &****Marketing**

Walter Kupiec

Display Advertising Sales

Heather Hanye

Real Estate Manager Neal Fine**Real Estate and Advertising****Coordinator** Diane MartinPublished every Wednesday at
**3525 Alameda De Las Pulgas,
Menlo Park, Ca 94025****Newsroom: (650) 223-6525**

Newsroom Fax: (650) 223-7525

Advertising: (650) 854-2626

Advertising Fax: (650) 854-3650

e-mail news and photos with
captions to:**Editor@AlmanacNews.com**

e-mail letters to:

letters@AlmanacNews.com

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

Subscriptions are \$60 for one year and
\$100 for two years.**WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?**All views must include a home address
and contact phone number. Published
letters will also appear on the web site,
www.TheAlmanacOnline.com, and
occasionally on the Town Square forum.**TOWN SQUARE FORUM**Post your views on the
Town Square forum at
www.TheAlmanacOnline.com**EMAIL** your views to:letters@almanacnews.com
and note this it is a letter to
the editor in the subject line.**MAIL** or deliver to:Editor at the Almanac,
3525 Alameda de las Pulgas,
Menlo Park, CA 94025.**CALL** the Viewpoint desk at
223-6507.

Viewpoint

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

Fire board tightens wage policy

In another indicator of the downward pressure on public employee compensation, local fire district board members agreed last week to change the criteria they use in negotiating pay and benefits for firefighters other employees.

The new policy, which will come up for final approval in a few weeks, would not rely solely on what other fire districts pay, but instead look at whether there is a "sufficient number of qualified applicants" willing to work at the pay offered, which will be based on other comparables. For example, if 100 or more persons apply for an opening, as is often

the case, a presumably lower salary will be considered enough to attract applicants who are "qualified and committed to high quality service to the community."

Board members believe that as long as there is a qualified and eager pool of job seekers willing to work for less money, the district will hire them at a pay scale based on current economic conditions, the regional unemployment rate, and how many qualified applicants apply.

It is no surprise that the district is attempting to pull the plug on high compensation for firefighters, although the firefighters' union is certain to fight it. Board members and Chief Harold Schapelhauman have been at loggerheads with the union for three years over the union's effort to win approval for an 11 percent salary increase.

Negotiations reached multiple impasses and long after the district board refused to go along with the increase, members voted in April to impose terms of a new contract on Local 2400 of the Menlo Park Firefighters Association. The firefighters' union has appealed to the Public Employee Relations Board alleging unfair labor practices, but that case could take several more years to be resolved.

During the economic downturn, sentiment for public employee

unions, especially those with high pay and benefits, has turned sour. And in our view, by seeking a pay increase, firefighters are not making many friends when similar unions are substantially lowering their expectations.

With 41 firefighters in the Menlo Park district receiving more than \$200,000 a year in salary, overtime and benefits, and 51 others receiving more than \$150,000, the union may be pricing itself out of the market. Other Peninsula communities are looking at consolidating fire departments. The latest move is to merge Central County Fire (Burlingame and Hillsborough) with Millbrae and San Bruno. San Carlos recently farmed its fire department out to Calfire, which pays its firefighters much lower wages.

In the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, it will take some time for the new compensation policy to have much of an impact on the district's bottom line. But we like the common sense approach in the document, which lays out nine principles to be followed in setting wage levels, including a commitment to fairness, performance-based pay, and fiscal sustainability. The policy also commits the district to 100 percent transparency with respect to every worker's pay package, including the cost of health, pension and other benefits.

The current downturn hit all segments of the economy hard, including local governments. The state, cities and special districts are scrutinizing every expenditure. At the fire district, employee compensation makes up 80 percent of the budget, due in part to salaries and benefits that have pushed total compensation for many firefighters over \$150,000 a year. Under current plans, after 30 years of service, firefighters will be able to retire at age 50 with 90 percent of their highest pay for life, and also receive full health coverage. Local taxpayers can no longer afford to support such grandiose compensation plans. The fire districts new employee compensation policy is a step in the right direction.

EDITORIAL*The opinion of The Almanac***LETTERS***Our readers write***Commission should cover 'Granny' costs***Editor:*

I strongly disagree with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission statement that, in an effort to save "Granny" (the centuries-old oak tree in North Fair Oaks), it would be "a gift of public funds to spend money on this tree to benefit the individual homeowner and adjacent neighbors."

Our heritage trees are a benefit to the entire community along with clean air, food and shelter for animals and insects. "Granny" is part of a larger system, and the very symbol of Menlo Park.

Meanwhile, the North Fair Oaks neighbors are besieged by construction noise and dirt. Is the commission compensating the property owners for the loss of quiet enjoyment of property values?

I have a responsibility to maintain heritage trees on my property and budget for it. Surely the commission could have foreseen this expense years ago.



Atherton Heritage Association

Our Regional Heritage

Artist Jean Groberg drew this view of the tank house in Atherton's Holbrook-Palmer Park. The structure was part of the original 1875 estate that ultimately was given to the town in 1964 by Olive Holbrook Palmer.

Is the Almanac offering to endow a fund to maintain the tree? That is "small price to pay."

Jill Andre
Pope Street, Menlo Park

Music@Menlo directors have other jobs*Editor:*

Congratulations on Rebecca Wallace's excellent coverage of the ninth season of Music@Menlo. I wish to

add two details: David Finckel and Wu Han are the artistic directors of Lincoln's Center's Chamber Music Society, and David is the cellist with

See **LETTERS**, next page

LETTERS

Continued from previous page

the Emerson String Quartet.

Anne Flegel
Selby Lane, Atherton

Kudos for performance by Theater Conservancy

Editor:

My wife and I recently attended a musical play performed by about 50 pre-teens at Valley Presbyterian Church that involved dialog, singing and dance. The cast members never stumbled on a word nor missed a beat.

When you consider the creativity and the time devoted to designing and making the costumes and sets, as well as the effort and energy spent by the director and by the cast in memorizing and rehearsing, all done in Portola Valley, I believe it would be deserved recognition if the Portola Valley Theater Conservancy were awarded an "Oscar" and a public "Job Well Done" for this local achievement.

Bernie Bayuk
Paloma Road, Portola Valley

Conservancy finds support for restoring the Bay

Editor:

Cargill and DMB developers charge that we the people cannot afford to restore the salt ponds site in Redwood City.

I say that we cannot afford not to.

I am not surprised that a Coastal Conservancy survey found that a majority of Bay Area voters would support a parcel tax if earmarked specifically for Bay restoration. San Francisco Bay amazingly drains two-thirds of California. The Bay used to be 100 percent larger with healthy wetlands along the shores.

That was before all the filling and dumping for over a hundred years. We lost most of our oysters, otters, sea lions, pelicans, marsh birds and 90 percent of the wetlands with natural fish hatcheries and marsh habitat in those years.

Since the 1960s, we have reversed course. Some species are returning slowly. Much more is needed. While we cannot do anything about existing towns built in the Bay, we can restore salt ponds to the healthy wetlands they once were.

In the Florida Everglades, the people awoke to the fact that their lives depend on a healthy Everglades and sweeping restoration is now urgently under way.

California depends on a healthy Bay with deep, vibrant wetlands — not saltwater drainage between tall levees.

Gita Dev
Woodside

A great bike ride!

**SUPPORT
LOCAL KIDS
NON-PROFITS**

TOUR DE MENLO 2011

Saturday, August 20

**65, 46 & 35
mile routes
with a few hills**

Ride Day Registration
8 to 10 a.m.

Menlo-Atherton High School
555 Middlefield Road
Atherton, CA, 94027

Sponsored by



The Rotary Club of Menlo Park
and

The Almanac



- Fully supported with three water/rest stops
- Great barbeque lunch catered by Lutticken's Deli (Burgers, hot dogs, chicken, potato salad, pasta salad and much more)
- Visit the scenic and historic Picchetti Open Space Preserve & Winery
- Free T-shirt for every rider
- 8 or 9 a.m. start at Menlo-Atherton High School
- All proceeds from ride go to Rotary tutoring, scholarships and non-profits like Boys and Girls Club and Second Harvest Food Bank.
- Plenty of opportunity to learn more about Rotary. Ask any ride worker for details.



Palo Alto Medical Foundation
A Sutter Health Affiliate



Register online at www.tourdemenlo.com

Jill L.
Hessler
MD PC

Facial Plastic Surgeon



hesslerplasticsurgery.com

Now offering Ulthera

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

ulthera®

visionary aesthetic ultrasound

Premier Plastic Surgery
1795 El Camino Real, Suite 200
Palo Alto, CA 94306
PremierPlasticSurgery.com
650.321.7100