



Portola Valley's Chris Paine
returns with 'Revenge' Page 3

The Almanac

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Paine returns with 'Revenge'

Chris Paine of Portola Valley revisits electric car in documentary

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

With gasoline-electric hybrid cars now well established and at least two all-electric cars selling in showrooms, we are several years into a revival of using electricity to propel a vehicle down a road.

It's time for a celebration, according to Chris Paine, a Portola Valley native and documentary film director who visited Palo Alto's Aquarius movie theater Saturday, Nov. 5, to talk about "Revenge of the Electric Car," his new film profiling four men and the cars they have championed in the electric car's comeback.

Mr. Paine spoke with the Almanac while seated on a low wall in front of the theater on Saturday evening amid a chilling rain and a milling crowd of fans gathered to talk with him between screenings.

At the curb in front of the theater was Mr. Paine's Chevrolet Volt, a car profiled in his film. He traded in a Prius, which has back-up electric power, for the Volt, which has back-up gasoline power.

He said he also owns a Tesla all-electric sports car and his girlfriend owns an all-electric Nissan Leaf, both profiled in the film. "I want all my cars to have plugs in them," Mr. Paine said.

Many of the cars parked nearby ran on fossil fuel, and there are arguments to be made about the practicality of electric cars today, but this film does not engage in that battle. "We wanted to celebrate early adopters and the momentum and the people taking risks," Mr. Paine said.

Mr. Paine also directed the 2006 documentary "Who Killed the Electric Car," an analysis of the automotive industry's connection to fossil fuels with a focus on the EV-1, a General Motors experiment in which the company leased these cars, then repossessed and destroyed them, reportedly because they were not profitable.

Chris Paine attended local schools, including Selby Lane School in Atherton, Trinity Parish School (now Philips Brooks School) in Menlo Park, and Menlo School in Atherton, where he



Photo courtesy of Chris Paine.

Chris Paine, who grew up in Portola Valley and went to school in Atherton, is out talking about the new documentary film he directed, "Revenge of the Electric Car," now showing at the Aquarius theater in Palo Alto.

graduated in 1979.

"I grew up on the Peninsula and loved it," he said. He delivered newspapers in Atherton and Redwood City and made Super8 films with his friend Roger Gilbertson, who worked on both electric car documentaries.

After college at Colgate and the New York University film school, Mr. Paine studied documentary filmmaking in a summer program at Stanford University and interned at HP and Pixar Animation Studios.

Secrets on film

GM is back in "Revenge," but not for a grilling. Vice President Bob Lutz, erstwhile champion of the Cadillac Escalade and the Hummer, is the force behind the Volt.

"I would say that electrification of the automobile is a foregone conclusion," Mr. Lutz says early in the film.

Greg "Gadget" Abbott, referred to as "The Outsider," with the help of his wife Charlotte Abbott, is blazing a path by electrifying sports cars in Southern California. And a hard path it is, as the film shows.

We also meet Carlos Ghosn, chairman and CEO of Nissan and Renault and referred to in the film as the Napoleon, the master strategist, in the race to capture the electric vehicle market. The public's expectation that car companies

will respond to climate change is driving Nissan's strategies, Mr. Ghosn says.

And there is Elon Musk, the man behind Tesla and a local presence, particularly in the Menlo Park showroom where there are anguished scenes about the headaches of manufacturing a new brand of car. "It's like eating a glass sandwich every bloody day," he says at a low point.

Mr. Paine filmed candid internal meetings at each company, the last in 2008. His access hinged on the three-year gap between the filming and the screening, Mr. Paine said.

"In the beginning at GM, nobody trusted anybody," Mr. Paine said. At Tesla, the film crew was kicked out of a tense meeting on financial worries. They caught Mr. Musk holding his head, but from outside the room.

"They didn't tell us we couldn't film through the window," Mr. Paine said.

The film ends on a positive note, but engineering a new status quo has opponents, and it's a leap to spend thousands on something you can't refill at a gas station, Mr. Paine acknowledged. The oil industry abets the wariness through front groups with appealing names to argue against going electric, Mr. Paine said, adding: "It takes a long time for people to change." ■

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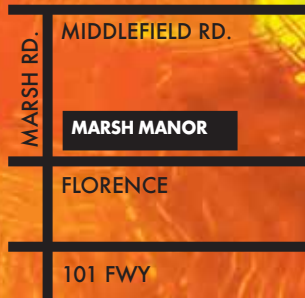


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Local News

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Supes up ante on Stanford's trail offer

■ Weekend Acres residents win a round.

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

The ball, suddenly, is in Stanford University's court. With an expiration date looming for San Mateo County to accept an offer of millions of Stanford's dollars to redesign a narrow and unsafe roadside path along Alpine Road, the county supervisors set their own new deadline.

The supervisors, in a 4-1 vote with board President Carole Groom dissenting, gave Stanford until Dec. 13 to expand to six options what has been a set of three options to fix the path as it passes the communities of Stanford Weekend Acres, which opposes Stanford's offer, and Ladera, which supports it, by and large.

Stanford is offering an inflation-adjusted \$10.4 million to improve the path and a creek bank, but it expires Dec. 31 unless the supervisors ask for a two-year extension.

The offer fulfills a condition in Stanford's use permit with Santa Clara County (which will receive the money if San Mateo County refuses it).

In voting no, Ms. Groom said she would have let the offer

expire. The board rejected this offer by unanimous votes in 2006 and 2010.

Stanford spokesman Larry Horton, asked to comment on the Dec. 13 deadline, smiled and said, "We'll see in December."

The options

Stanford has offered these options:

■ Move sections of Alpine Road north to make room for an adequate trail on the south side of the road.

■ Leave Alpine Road alone and make do without the extra space.

■ Do nothing because the trail cannot be made safe.

The supervisors on Nov. 1 requested these three options be added for study purposes:

■ Build a trail that hugs the north side of Alpine Road after crossing at Piers Lane (to avoid Weekend Acres).

■ Build a trail that crosses Alpine at Piers Lane and heads across Stanford land toward Sand Hill Road.

■ Upgrade the trail between Ladera and Piers Lane and no further.

Making things worse?

Space is scarce for a two-way



File photo by Dave Boyce/The Almanac

This narrow, old and inconsistent path is considered unsafe, and supervisors are testing the flexibility in Stanford's offer of millions to fix it amid loud opposition from most Weekend Acres residents and support from many Ladera residents. The offer of \$10.4 million expires Dec. 31 if the supervisors don't ask Stanford for an extension.

trail on Alpine Road as it passes Weekend Acres, and residents talk of long waits to pull in and out of the neighborhood. County public works department

studies show 18,000 vehicle trips daily on Alpine Road by the neighborhood. Residents worry that an improved trail would draw cyclists and pedestrians

and make things worse.

Ginger Holt said she polled 180 of her Weekend Acres neigh-

See **ALPINE**, page 8

Menlo city employees union signs on to benefit cuts

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

A proposed two-year contract with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) in Menlo Park freezes pay for 35 city employees and brings new hires in under a two-tier, "2 percent at 60" pension system based on the average of three years' highest pay.

According to the staff report produced after the council concluded a closed session with negotiators on Nov. 1, the contract also swaps a cap on employee contributions to health benefit premiums with a fixed city contribution equal to that approved for the police unions. As for CalPERS, the city employees would pay an additional 0.376 percent of their salaries post-tax into the pen-

■ MEETING

The council is scheduled to vote on the contract on Tuesday, Nov. 15. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. in council chambers at the Civic Center at 701 Laurel St. in Menlo Park. "That means it's time for you, the public, to evaluate this contract," Mayor Rich Cline said. > Go to tinyurl.com/3t8vse to review the staff report.

sion system.

Retiree health credits for supervisors hired after Oct. 22 got the ax, as did an award for using fewer than three days of sick leave per year. However, the city would agree to pay \$20 more per month per employee for dental insurance and increase coverage limits.

See **UNION**, page 8

Council picks Dumbarton Transit Station site

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

■ MENLO PARK

Location, location, location was the focus of the Menlo Park City Council's discussion on Nov. 1 about where to put the future Dumbarton Transit Station.

The council voted 5-0 to go with the city staff's recommendation to put the station in the Menlo Science and Technology Park nestled between Willow Road and Hamilton Avenue.

A group of transit agencies that includes San Mateo County and Santa Clara Valley transportation authorities is exploring whether to reactivate a rail line between Redwood City and Union City across the Bay.

According to Interim Public Works Director Chip Taylor, the options include running six trains westbound in the morning, then returning eastbound in

the the evening, but that could change.

Menlo Park's site selection is part of the project's environmental impact report (EIR). The draft EIR should be released by early summer 2012, according to city staff, with the opening of the rail line projected for 2020.

City staff included Facebook's west campus, which sits across the street from its new 1601 Willow Road headquarters, as an alternative location, but said the technology park presented fewer complications and had better access to public roads.

The transit station, including parking, would be built within the railroad's 100-foot right-of-way, but also needs an access easement across the technology park.

At Councilwoman Kelly Fer-

gusson's suggestion, the council voiced support for exploring whether a bike-and-pedestrian pathway could be added that would potentially provide a way to get from Sunnyvale to Redwood City via bike.

Mr. Taylor said the transit agencies are currently focusing on enhancing the bus service that already exists within the Dumbarton corridor. Ms. Fergusson, who is serving as the council's liaison on the project, explained that the goal is to improve bus ridership before opening the rail line. ■

■ MEETING

A community meeting on Thursday, Nov. 10, at the Senior Center at 110 Terminal Ave. in Menlo Park will give residents a chance to weigh in on the Dumbarton rail plan. The meeting starts at 6 p.m.

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David Boesch resigns as county manger

■ He won't apply for Menlo Park city manager job.

By **Sandy Brundage**
 Almanac Staff Writer

David Boesch, who was city manager in Menlo Park for seven years, announced Nov. 4 that he plans to resign as county manager due to "different philosophies" with the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors.

In a press release, he said that he resigned "in the best interest of the organization." The announcement followed a closed session of the board.

He told the Almanac that he has no definitive plans yet for what comes next, but he doesn't intend to apply for Menlo Park's currently open city manager position.

Asked whether the philosophical clash with the supervisors included conflict over the county's decision to build a new jail instead of choosing a less expensive alternative, Mr. Boesch said in an email: "I guess that some may point to the difference in opinion about the jail project. I have always provided the Board with my best advice and recommendations, with a clear understanding that they are, ultimately, the policy and decision makers."

Board President Carole Groom said it wasn't a specific issue, just overall general direction and vision that led to the parting of ways.

Mr. Boesch's final day in office will be Nov. 15. He's agreed to work from home after that to help the transition to an interim manager until Dec. 31, drawing upon unused leave for payment. As county manager, he earned \$270,233 annually plus a \$13,338 transportation allowance on top of other benefits. His severance package includes three-and-a-half months' salary plus health insurance through April 2012, as long as he doesn't find another

job before Dec. 31.

The \$1.16 million home loan Mr. Boesch received from Menlo Park in 2002 was transferred to San Mateo County; according to a county spokesman, the loan is to be repaid in full upon the sale of the house or by Dec. 31, 2012, whichever comes first.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to lead this organization during especially challenging times," Mr. Boesch said in the statement. "I will forever treasure this experience and the many fond memories and friendships."

He was city manager in Menlo Park between July 2000 and February 2007, when he was named assistant county manager. He took the county manager post in late 2008, upon the retirement of John Maltbie, who was county manager for 19 years.

"I have a real passion for working on problems that on the surface seem intractable," Mr. Boesch said in the statement. "What I have learned in my career in public service is that almost any problem is solvable if you bring together the people involved and demonstrate a genuine commitment to working in partnership toward a solution."

Mr. Boesch has a master's degree in public administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and previously served as community development director in Nashua, New Hampshire, and in Sunnyvale.

Ms. Groom, noting Mr. Boesch's many contributions, said the board will look nationwide for a new manager. ■



David Boesch

Burglars hit businesses on Halloween

The end of the work day for employees was just the start of the work day for some burglars, who hit two Menlo Park businesses overnight on Halloween.

One break-in proved more profitable than the other; the thieves who cut a chain link fence at Fortistar Methane Group on Marsh Road walked away with a compressor, printer, and hand tools worth about \$600, according to police.

Although they also squeezed through the fence at a West Bay Sanitary District supply yard next door, the burglars left empty-handed after causing about \$1,700 worth of damage by busting the windows on several vehicles, police said.

Police spokesperson Nicole Acker said investigators believe the cases are connected.

— Sandy Brundage

Woodside picks Bryant as town manager

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Kevin A. Bryant, currently the assistant town manager for the town of Woodside, beat out 94 other candidates and will take over as town manager on Jan. 14.

He was chosen by a unanimous vote of the seven-member Town Council at a special meeting Nov. 3.

Susan George, the town manager since 1993, announced in January that she would be stepping down in January 2012. Recruiter Bobbi C. Peckham of Sacramento has been working since March to find a replacement.

"My colleagues on the council and I have devoted significant energy and time over the course of the last few months to ensure that we selected the best candidate to serve as the next town manager," Mayor Ron Romines said in a statement.

"Kevin's understanding about what it takes to manage the town, his enthusiasm about tackling the challenges that face the town, his proven capabilities, and his many already established working relationships distinguished him from his competitors," Mr. Romines continued. "We look forward to many successful and productive years of working with Kevin as he moves into the top spot."

How had Mr. Bryant made his interest known? "Anyone who asked me, I told them that I would be a candidate for the position," he said in a phone interview. "The recruiter didn't need to reach out to me. I was ready to throw my hat into the ring from the beginning."

Mr. Bryant said he had one

interview with the recruiter, one with the senior management team in Town Hall, and two with the full Town Council.

His base salary will be \$195,000 a year. He will receive the same retirement, personal leave, holiday and health insurance benefits as all town employees plus \$300 per month mileage reimbursement and 100 hours of administrative



Kevin Bryant

ary 2008 from Sausalito, where he was the assistant to the city manager, he said in a bio he provided. His experience previous to that was as an "advance planner" for the town of Tiburon and as a planning associate for the city of Alameda.

Mr. Bryant grew up in Warren, Maine, graduated from Medomak Valley High School in Waldoboro, Maine, and has a bachelor's degree in political science (1993) from the University of Southern Maine and a master's degree in regional planning (1998) from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, he said.

In his spare time, he said, he enjoys spending time with his daughters and reading from the "backlog of good books I have stacked on my bookshelf."

Change? No change?

Few would argue that Ms. George's will be a hard act to follow.

In March, Ms. Peckham, the recruiter, asked a small group of residents to name a few problems that might not have been addressed over the 18 years of Ms. George's administration. The response was 15 or 20 seconds of silence until one resident said, "Nobody's perfect."

Does Mr. Bryant have changes in mind? "I do, but part of the reason that this job was very attractive is that Woodside was being well managed and is being well managed," he said.

Changes will be incremental and will probably be aimed at improving ways to provide residents with information and ease the process of applying for permits, he said. ■

Kevin Bryant will succeed longtime manager Susan George in January

leave per year. Administrative leave compensates the seven senior-level exempt employees in Town Hall who are not paid for overtime.

Mr. Bryant said he will not be hiring a replacement as assistant town manager, but he plans to hire someone with similar skills.

The search

Ms. Peckham, the recruiter, had said her search for town manager candidates would start on the Peninsula followed by the East Bay, Marin County and Santa Clara County. "There is a certain culture in the Bay Area that I'm not going to find in Southern California," she said. "I think what's really critical is to start right here in this county."

She did not have to go far. Mr. Bryant lives in San Carlos with his wife and two daughters, one in elementary school and one in preschool.

He came to Woodside in Febru-

Burst pipeline likely caused by backhoe, PG&E says

A Pacific Gas & Electric natural gas pipeline that exploded during pressure testing on Sunday afternoon, causing a mudslide across Interstate 280 in Woodside, was likely damaged by a backhoe, a utility spokesman said Monday.

PG&E crews on Monday were determining how to extract and replace the damaged section of Line 132, which ruptured during hydrostatic testing on a knoll above I-280 near Farm Hill Boulevard at about 3:20 p.m., PG&E spokesman David Eisenhauer said.

A preliminary investigation indicated that the section of pipe that ruptured had been damaged by a backhoe sometime after the line was

installed in 1947. PG&E is looking into when that damage might have occurred and what agency might have been responsible, Mr. Eisenhauer said.

The explosion left a 5-foot-by-5-foot crater in the hillside, and water from inside the pipeline caused a mudslide that reached northbound I-280 and blocked two lanes for about four hours, California Highway Patrol Officer Art Montiel said.

No one was injured.

The test was being conducted as part of an ongoing safety evaluation of natural gas transmission lines in "high consequence" or highly populated areas, Mr. Eisenhauer said. "That's exactly

why we do these type of safety tests, to find weaknesses in the pipeline," he said.

PG&E crews have conducted pressure tests on more than 120 miles of pipeline since April.

Mr. Eisenhauer said no homes or buildings were damaged by Sunday's rupture, and that the utility employs different testing strategies on pipelines that run directly through neighborhoods, such as placing cameras or "pigs" that run inside the pipes to detect corrosion or faulty seams.

Last week, PG&E found a 1-millimeter leak in Line 132 in the vicinity of Palo Alto and

See **BURST**, page 12

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



What To Do If The Appraisal is Low?

Dear Monica: I am in contract to buy a great property but the appraisal just came back and it is lower than the purchase price. I don't want to lose this property but the loan amount will be affected by this. What should I do?

Jill B.

Dear Jill: Good appraisers have a difficult job these days and your situation is not uncommon. The parameters appraisers must follow are so narrow that it is hard to find recent sales that both fit these rules and support the purchase price. A property's value may be perfectly clear from a market standpoint but the appraisal may not have enough

data to support the price.

You have a few options to resolve this. You could get another appraisal but this is not likely to find any higher value unless the first appraiser was incompetent. You can negotiate and either ask the seller to sell at the appraised value, or split the difference by some amount. To do this you would have to have sufficient cash since the loan will be limited to a percentage of the appraised value. The seller may not want to lower their price but they may have to since the next buyer would likely have the same issue. If the seller wants to sell, you should be able to resolve this.

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





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Supes up ante on trail

ALPINE

continued from page 5

bors recently about such a trail between Piers Lane and Menlo Park. One hundred sixty-five respondents, or 83 percent, opposed it.

The poll, a copy of which was sent to the Almanac, involved visits to 128 of the 130 total households, of which 106 responded, Ms. Holt said.

Opposition is not as severe in Ladera, where the roadside allows a wider path.

A staff report from the county manager's office recommended accepting Stanford's offer of an extension, citing widely held views that the path is unsafe. The report notes comment material from three community meetings and at least 200 emails.

On Nov. 1, the supervisors heard from some 60 members of the public, many opposing the offer, many from Weekend Acres.

"Engineering and design can do wonderful things but they can't do magic," resident John Peterson said.

"Why are we here again?" resident Diana Gerba asked. "I think you should stand by your last two votes. ... We do not want this trail."

"I want to live in a county that's in charge of its own destiny, not dictated to by Santa Clara County and particularly by Stanford," said resident Joseph Brown.

"I'm almost certain not to be believed here," said P.J. Utz, a

Stanford professor from Ladera, "but there is now a groundswell of support (for Stanford's offer) from Ladera."

The \$10 million is "an unprecedented opportunity" to fix the Alpine Road corridor, added Heidrun Utz. "You could make an evidence-based decision and not an emotion-based decision."

"Will you decommission the existing trail if you reject the funding?" asked Noel Hirst of Portola Valley. "The (Weekend Acres) poll cannot be considered unbiased (and) was based on historic emotions."

Hidden motives?

What is Stanford really up to? Theories abound.

Alpine Road as an expressway for traffic from an expanded Stanford hospital?

"I have never heard this prospect mentioned by anyone at any time," Mr. Horton wrote via email. "There is certainly no effort under way by any Stanford official or employee to make Alpine Road an expressway, and I do not think the notion has crossed anyone's mind here."

A Stanford traffic engineer, through Mr. Horton, acknowledged projections of hospital-related traffic impacts at the intersection with I-280.

A trail would probably make "a very big difference for those who choose to ride a bike (east) to Menlo Park, Palo Alto, or Stanford rather than drive a car ... particularly for youth and those uncomfortable riding on a busy road," he added. ▀

three-fifths.

Henry Riggs, who helped lead the Measure L campaign, called the new AFSCME agreement a good first step and gave credit to the negotiating team for making it happen.

"My impression from the staff summary is that the city's focus is on long range savings as prescribed by Measure L, primarily in establishing the '2 at 60' second tier; also per Measure L, this requires that employee contributions to their retirement rise as CalPERS inevitably raises the payment schedule. Of course, this is welcome."

He also noted that the contract does provide a modest increase in benefits for current employees despite the current economic climate, with a total added cost to Menlo Park of approximately \$19,000 annually. "Future employees will have benefits more in keeping with the time," he said, since they'll be hired under the revised terms. ▀



Judge Hawthorne (Reed Cornish of Portola Valley) interrogates John Proctor (Lukas Sarnow of Palo Alto) and Elizabeth Proctor (Krysten Pfau of Portola Valley) in Woodside Priory School's production of "The Crucible" by Arthur Miller.

Woodside Priory stages 'The Crucible'

Woodside Priory School in Portola Valley will stage Author Miller's "The Crucible" from Thursday through Sunday, Nov. 10-13, at Rothrock Performance Hall on the school campus.

Performances will be at 7 p.m. on three dates: Thursday through Saturday, Nov. 10-12, and at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 13. The school is at 302 Portola

Road in Portola Valley.

The play is set in Salem, Massachusetts, in 1692, when a young girl with a secret agenda, and her friends, accuse adults of witchcraft and are believed. As chaos grips the town, a small group races to try to stop the madness of the Salem Witch Trials before it spirals out of control into murder.

"This is a play with powerful language and themes as relevant today as when it first premiered," said John Sugden, chair of the Performing Arts Department at the Priory. "Due to some rough language and scary situations, it is recommended for audience 10 years and older."

Tickets are \$5 for students and \$12 for adults.

Residents question city's plan to drill well

By Barbara Wood

Special to the Almanac

■ MENLO PARK

Menlo Park residents invited to give the city feedback on their preferred spot for an irrigation well requested by the Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club had little to say about the location, but lots of questions about the project during a community meeting Nov. 3.

The club has offered to pay for drilling the well and installing a pipeline so they will have plenty of water for the golf course. According to city staff, Menlo Park could save as much as \$68,000 a year by using the well water to irrigate Nealon Park, Jack Lyle Park and Sharon Park, plus another \$13,000 by not paying wholesale for the water now used by the country club. It would also allow more than 60 million gallons of drinking water that now keeps landscaping alive to be used for other purposes.

But neighbors who live near the two parks see it differently and expressed those views during the meeting at Arrillaga Family Recreation Center in the Menlo Park Civic Center.

Two sites proposed for the well

were criticized as being too close to homes, so the city returned with six other sites farther away. The amount of space needed for the well would be between 10-by-15-feet and 10-by-30-feet, according to Matt Oscamou, Menlo Park's interim engineering services manager. It would be surrounded by landscaping and the pump would be located nearly 600 feet underground.

At the meeting, Mr. Oscamou offered to take off the table the two potential sites in Nealon Park that are nearest to homes.

Residents at the meeting questioned whether the project really had much public benefit, as 60 million gallons of water would go to the country club and only about 8 million gallons would be used by the city.

Mr. Oscamou said the city has promised to try to find ways to use local water resources such as groundwater or recycled water. The proposed pipeline could be designed so that if a source of recycled water became available in the future, homeowners could

tap into the pipeline and use the water for their own landscaping, he said.

Some of those at the meeting asked why all the proposed well sites are in parks. Mr. Oscamou said that the city looked at other properties, but none had both available underground water and access where the water could easily be used for the city's irrigation.

Many of the neighbors' questions don't yet have answers because it is too early in the process, Mr. Oscamou said. Putting the well in a city park would first have to be approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission and then the City Council. Once given the go-ahead by the council, the city would negotiate with the country club, design the project and undertake any required environmental review.

That review would address issues such as noise and traffic caused by the construction process and any noise associated with the well.

A group of residents has hired environmental attorney Craig Breon to scrutinize the plan and request documents under the public records act. ▀

UNION

continued from page 5

The staff report states that the city has aligned the wording of Measure L, the pension reform initiative passed by voters in 2011, with the CalPERS "2 percent at 60" plan.

However, the initiative remains under fire in the court system, because of a clause requiring voter approval for all benefit increases, a decision that used to rest with the City Council.

That policy is the foundation of the lawsuit filed by Olson, Hagel & Fishburn, the firm representing Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and AFSCME.

In May, the council had imposed pension benefit limitations on SEIU employees that raised the retirement age for new non-police city employees from 55 to 60, and decreased pension benefits from a maximum of four-fifths of annual salary to

Atherton sets date for 'master plan' meeting

By Barbara Wood
Special to the Almanac

A special meeting of the Atherton Town Council will be held Tuesday, Nov. 8 with a single topic: discussion of a request by the public for a master plan for all town facilities and buildings, including the library.

The meeting begins at 6 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 94 Ashfield Road in Atherton.

Petitions bearing at least 300 signatures asking for the master plan were presented to the council at its Oct. 19 meeting by former councilwoman Didi Fisher, who is part of the Atherton Town Center Task Force, a volunteer group studying options for building a new civic center.

The petition requested a study

to include sizing and location of all town facilities, including administration, finance, building, public works, police and library, before making any decisions to move the library to Holbrook-Palmer Park.

The topic of where to put a new library has split the residents of Atherton. At the Oct. 19 City Council meeting, the council voted 3-2 to make town-owned Holbrook-Palmer Park the "preferred site" for a new library.

The town's Parks and Recreation Commission had recommended to the council in early October that a decision on a library site be postponed until a town-wide survey of residents could be conducted.

The council declined to ask for a survey, so a group of Atherton

residents, again headed by Ms. Fisher, emailed a survey to 1,800 town residents, she said. Of the 155 first responses, provided to the Almanac by Ms. Fisher, about half opposed putting the library in the park.

The current 4,790-square-foot library is housed in a former private residence built in the late 1920s and twice remodeled, and which does not meet current building standards. It is located at 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, near the other town administrative buildings.

Funding for the new library will come from property tax revenues that can only be spent on the library. The fund currently has about \$5.6 million, and is expected to grow by about \$750,000 each year. ■

School board to meet on Ladera School site

By Barbara Wood
Special to the Almanac

The governing board of the Las Lomas Elementary School District is scheduled to make a decision Wednesday, Nov. 9, on the process for leasing the Ladera School site that has been home to the private Woodland School for the last 30 years.

The meeting starts at 7 p.m. at the La Entrada School Multi-Use Room, 2200 Sharon Road in Menlo Park.

The district has said it will use an open bidding process rather than a request for proposals (RFP), which might have given it more flexibility in choosing a tenant for

the school site. The open-bid process requires, with few exceptions, that the highest bid be accepted.

The district proposes to put into the bidding prospectus certain restrictions on the school site that have been requested by its Ladera neighbors. The prospectus would be sent to all interested bidders.

A proposed timetable would have the district signing a lease with a tenant by July 2012.

The school site was purchased by the district in 1952 but has not been used as a district school since Ladera School closed in 1979.

Woodland, which now has 275 students, currently pays \$650,000 a year for the site. The Woodland

lease originally expired in July, but the district has extended it twice, through July 2013.

The school operates under a conditional use permit from San Mateo County because Ladera is an unincorporated neighborhood and the site is zoned for residential use.

Among the leasing conditions requested by Ladera residents are that the school site be used only by a pre-school to eighth-grade school, not by a high school or for other non-school use; that the number of students allowed be capped by the district; and that the campus remain open for neighbors' use during non-school hours. ■

Menlo College students arrested

Two Menlo College students were arrested last week after a security guard said he saw them stealing backpacks at neighboring Menlo School in Atherton.

Raphael Daniel Bettan and Ryan Goodman, both 18, were arrested Nov. 1 on suspicion of grand theft after a security

guard saw them take backpacks left unattended at Menlo School, Atherton police Sgt. Sherman Hall said.

The college students were seen picking up the unattended bags and taking them to a nearby grove of trees, Sgt. Hall said.

Security officers apprehended

the suspects and called police.

Two iPads and other electronic items believed to have been stolen were later found in the college students' dormitory, Sgt. Hall said.

Police are investigating whether the suspects are responsible for other thefts recently reported on campus.

— Bay City News Service

Flood Park to reopen Saturday

Funding approved to keep park open for six months

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

On Saturday, Nov. 12, Flood Park reopens with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and celebration complete with food trucks, live music, and healthy outdoor activities like scavenger hunts.

The park, located at 215 Bay Road in Menlo Park, closed while

the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission installed a water pipeline, but for several months this summer, it looked like it might never reopen.

Faced with a demand to cut 10 percent from the county's operating budget, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors at first recommended permanently shutting down the 21-acre park, which costs a minimum \$205,000 annually.

The board later reversed course in June and approved

enough funding to keep the park open for another six months after asking Menlo Park to take over its operation. That option remains on the table.

A new nonprofit, the Friends of Flood Park, is also working to save the park. According to the county, the nonprofit has already sent hundreds of volunteers to spruce up the park with paint and pruning.

The party starts at noon with a ribbon-cutting led by Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson and Assemblyman Rich Gordon, D-Menlo Park. No entrance fee will be charged. ■



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When José isn't teaching he loves to read, explore the diversity of San Francisco neighborhoods, and stays active in French, Italian and Portuguese.

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"Persistiré y persistiré hasta alcanzar el éxito" which means, "I will persevere and will persevere until I reach success." - Anonymous

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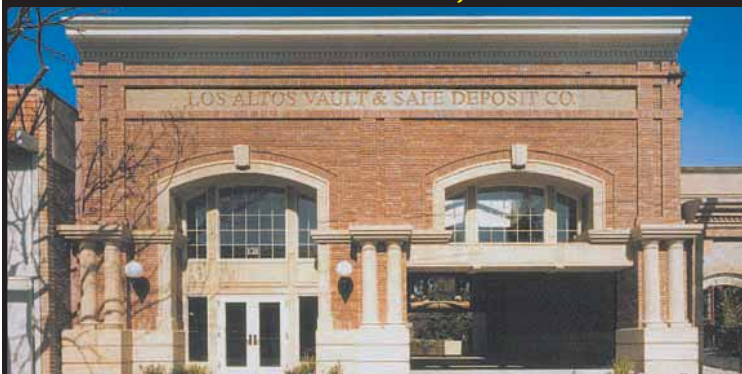
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Get election results online

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 8, and the polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Check your county voter information pamphlet for the location of your polling place.

The Almanac went to press Monday night and will report election results online.

There are several important local races, including for seats on the governing board of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, which covers Atherton, Menlo Park, East Palo Alto and unincorporated areas.

Three school districts have board races: Woodside Elementary School District, the Sequoia Union High School District, and the San Mateo County Community College District.

The community college district is also asking voters to approve a \$564 million bond measure.

Visit AlmanacNews.com for more election information.

No contest for council seats

Woodside has a Town Council election Tuesday, Nov. 8, but there is no contest. All four candidates will be elected.

The Woodside council decided to hold an election instead of appointing the unopposed candidates to give residents an opportunity to file as write-in candidates.

However, no write-in candidates filed by the Oct. 25 deadline. Votes for write-ins who are not registered are not counted, said David Tom, San Mateo County elections manager.

Woodside has a district election system: Each council member must reside in a particular district but is elected town-wide. Each of the candidates on the ballot is running unopposed in his district (they are all men).

The four Woodside candidates, and soon to be councilmen, include three incumbents — Dave Burow (District 5), Peter Mason (District 7) and Ron Romines (District 1) — plus a newcomer, Tom Shanahan (District 3).

Navy seaman completes training

Navy Seaman recruit Lualala J. Naufahu, a 2011 graduate of Menlo-Atherton High School, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Illinois.

The eight-week program included training in first-aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety.

10 ■ The Almanac ■ November 9, 2011



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Burst pipeline likely caused by backhoe

BURST

continued from page 7

Menlo Park, and last month a line ruptured in Bakersfield during hydrostatic testing.

A faulty seam on Line 132 ruptured in San Bruno on Sept. 9, 2010, causing an explosion that killed eight people and damaged 38 homes.

A driver detected Sunday's incident and contacted the Woodside Fire Protection District, saying that a water geyser was dowsing vehicles on both sides of the freeway, Battalion Chief Kevin Butler said.

PG&E, which owns the pipelines, has been testing them in the area since early July.

Moments later, someone reported an explosion in the same area and a large volume of flowing water. Witnesses reported the water shooting 30 to 100 feet into the air, Battalion Chief Bob Bender of Woodside Fire said in a phone interview.

When firefighters arrived, they found mud, rocks and debris from the hillside east of the freeway scattered across the northbound lanes, along with a faint smell of natural gas, Mr. Butler said.

The hydrostatic tests involve diverting gas service around the section of 32-inch diameter steel pipeline to be tested so as not to interrupt service to customers, then purging gas from that section and infusing it with water at much higher pressure than ever experienced in normal operation, PG&E spokesman Jim Cogan told the Woodside Town Council in June.

This particular set of tests involves 158 miles of pipeline, Mr. Cogan said. The tests include running a remote-controlled camera through the purged pipes, he said.

The last time these pipes were hydrostatically tested was in 1955, when they were installed, said Rick Salaz, a PG&E gas superintendent who attended the June council meeting. The pipes

are regularly monitored above ground for methane leaks, Mr. Salaz added.

In the incident on Sunday, after the explosion and after the area tested safe for gas levels, fire crews searched the hillside and found the crater in an easement running behind homes, with the closest house about 100 yards away, Mr. Butler said.

The mudslide shut down northbound freeway traffic initially, and the far right lane remained closed while crews removed debris from the road, a California Highway Patrol spokesperson said.

While there were no injuries, flying dirt and rocks did damage one vehicle, Mr. Butler of Woodside Fire said. ▀

— Reporting by Dave Boyce of the Almanac and Bay City News Service.

Nationwide emergency alert test Wednesday

When you hear that emergency alert system tone on the radio on Wednesday, Nov. 9, at 10 a.m., don't panic. It's the first test of a nationwide emergency alert system by federal, local, and state authorities. The test takes place via radio and televi-

sion, and should last about four minutes.

Go to smcalert.info to sign up for text message emergency alerts from the county. For more information, call the San Mateo County Office of Emergency Services at 363-4955.

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Price tag for high-speed rail swells to \$98.5 billion

By Gennady Sheyner
and Sandy Brundage

Embarcadero Media

The cost of California's high-speed-rail system, originally pegged at about \$36 billion, has nearly tripled since the project was presented to voters in 2008, according to a business plan released Nov. 2.

The estimated price for the rail line, which would stretch from San Francisco to Los Angeles, now stands at \$98.5 billion, and could reach \$118 billion, the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) concluded.

Those numbers exceed the rail authority's earlier estimates, and projections from rail watchdogs and the state Legislative Analyst's Office, which expected the price tag to exceed \$60 billion. The 230-page document supplements the rail authority's 2009 business plan, panned by state legislators and nonpartisan analysts as incomplete and optimistic.

Although the CHSRA's ridership and revenue projections got more conservative, the biggest change is the cost. Changes in California's landscape during the last decade caused the price hike, the authority argues. The state added almost 5 million people between 2000 and 2010, the plan states, and previously vacant land has developed into "bustling communities, suburbs and roadways."

In addition, the timeline for completion was extended by 13 years — to 2033 — adding \$27.5 billion in inflation costs and \$16 billion in contingencies, the report states.

To justify the price tag, CHSRA asserts that other transportation infrastructure — including 2,300 miles of new highway lanes and airport improvements needed over

the next 20 years — would cost more than \$170 billion.

The plan calls a phased approach, paid through public investment upfront and private investment later, "the prudent course to build a foundation that allows for greater efficiency in the use or private investment once the initial segments of the system are in place."

'Blended system'

The revised plan incorporates some elements of a proposal by U.S. Rep Anna Eshoo, D-Menlo Park, state Sen. Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, and state Assemblyman Rich Gordon, D-Menlo Park, for a "blended system" that uses Caltrain tracks for high-speed rail on the Peninsula.

The business plan integrates high-speed rail and Caltrain. Initially, after the "Bay to Basin" system is completed, ending in San Jose, passengers would hop onto Caltrain to finish the trip. After a later segment to San Francisco is done, passengers would have a "one-seat ride" without needing to change trains.

Train coming

"I think the implications are that the project is still moving ahead, the (aerial tracks) are still on the table, there is little to help residents understand impacts, and it will cost much more," commented Menlo Park Mayor Rich Cline, who serves on the Peninsula Cities Consortium. The group of representatives from Atherton, Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Burlingame and Belmont, has alleged that the authority focuses more on meeting deadlines for federal-stimulus funding than on building a system that works.

See tinyurl.com/HSR-346 for an expanded story online. ■

■ BRIEFS

Blanket drive for veterans Nov. 12

It's time to appreciate the country's veterans. The Menlo Democrats Club, in association with the North Peninsula Democrats, is collecting new blankets for veterans with post-traumatic stress syndrome on Saturday, Nov. 12.

Drop new blankets off in the parking lot behind Trader Joe's (720 Menlo Ave.) in Menlo Park between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. Saturday. The club also encourages people to give handwritten cards expressing their appreciation for the veteran's service.

Email menlo.commish.muel-ler@gmail.com to arrange pickup if you want to donate, but

can't make the Saturday event.

Philz Coffee shop comes to Facebook campus

Employees clocking long hours at Facebook's new Menlo Park campus require fuel in the form of caffeine, of course, so Philz Coffee plans to open up shop later this year, according to an announcement posted on the franchise's (where else?) Facebook page.

The micro-kitchens on campus already stock Philz, which is based in San Francisco, making the shop a natural fit. A Facebook representative said the social networking company continues to look for vendors for its new headquarters, and will be talking to a few Menlo Park businesses.

The Friends of the Menlo Park Library

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EYE CARE NEWS



Presented by
Mark Schmidt
Licensed Optician



BASIC FACTS

The lens "blanks" used to make prescription lenses have a frontal curvature referred to as the "base curve". The total power of the lens is equal to the sum of the front surface curvature and the back surface curvature of the lens. Thus, the lens curvatures can be varied, but the power of the lens can be kept constant. For any prescription, the lens can be made with different base curves; however, if the curve of your new eyeglass lens is different from what you

are used to, it can make the world look curved or bowed. If this is a problem with your new eyeglasses, it may necessitate a change back to your more familiar base curve.

Modern lenses come in a variety of materials. The key to a successful lens prescription is the proper location of the optical centers of the lenses. Bring your eyewear prescription to MENLO OPTICAL at 1166 University Drive, on the corner of Oak Grove Avenue and University Drive. You will find a variety of fashion eyewear in the latest shapes, sizes, and temple designs. Call us at 322-3900 if you have questions about eyewear, or bring us your prescription.

P.S. A fundamental element that makes wraparound eyewear look so sleek is the steep 8-base curve of the lenses.

Mark Schmidt is an American Board of Opticianry and National Contact Lens Examiners Certified Optician licensed by the Medical Board of California. He can be easily reached at Menlo Optical, 1166 University Drive, Menlo Park. 650-322-3900.



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Mary Josephine Sjostrom

Sept. 1, 1916-Oct. 9, 2011

Mary Josephine Sjostrom, a 65 year resident of Menlo Park, died peacefully October 9th in Palo Alto at the age of 95. Her family was by her side. Mary Jo (as she was called) was born and raised in Lordsburg, New Mexico, where her father, Dr. Edwin Demoss, built and ran the only hospital. At that time Lordsburg was truly "The Wild West" and Mary Jo was exposed to the danger, adventure and fun of that remote environment near the Mexico border. Her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren never tired of her vivid and humorous stories, recounting her colorful childhood in Lordsburg. As wild as Lordsburg was, Mary Jo was always a dedicated student and an avid tennis player. She graduated from Lordsburg High School where she was a star tennis player, qualifying for the State Championships. She left the Southwest to attend Stanford University where she obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1936. Following her graduation from Stanford, she traveled extensively in Europe. Upon returning from her European travels she married Elmer John Sjostrom, a fellow Stanford student, who went on to practice law in Everett, Washington and San Francisco. Mary Jo and Elmer raised their 4 daughters Susan, Sally, MaryAnne, Melissa and grandson, Eric, in Menlo Park. Mary Jo was a residential real estate agent for 25 years working in the Menlo Park and Palo Alto area. She enjoyed golf, the opera, and had a great love of gardening. Her beautiful Menlo Park garden was, indeed, a "showplace". However, the greatest of joy in her life, as Mary Jo often said, was "my wonderful family". She is survived and will be greatly missed by three daughters; Susan Magallanes of San Anselmo, Sally Jones of Palo Alto, Melissa Vynne of Friday Harbour, Washington; Eric Gutierrez of Prunedale; and 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her beloved daughter, Mary Anne Smith of Charleston, South Carolina. Donations may be made to Pathways Hospice of Sunnyvale. A family memorial will be held.

PAID OBITUARY

Kevin John Aoyama

Jan. 3, 1960-Oct. 27, 2011

Kevin was the son of Akira Aoyama and Susie Aoyama. He graduated from Salinas High School in 1978 where he was a varsity tennis player. He graduated in 1982 from Stanford University with a degree in Economics. He was active at Stanford in the Phi Delta Theta fraternity, and in student government as Senior Class President. Kevin was a registered stockbroker for several years after graduating from Stanford.

He married Leslie Sullivan in 1989, after being diagnosed with cancer, and in 1998 was blessed with the birth of his daughter, Katelyn (13), the second love of his life.

Despite Kevin's courageous 26 year struggle with debilitating health issues, he actively supported friends and family with his unique capacity for empathy. Kevin touched the lives of many people with his loyal friendship, sense of humor, zest for life, and his commitment to fight the cancer for his wife and daughter's sake. Kevin enjoyed skiing, running, movies, and visiting with friends. He is survived by Leslie and Katelyn, his parents; his siblings, Stephanie and Doug; and five nephews.

The memorial service will be held at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, 950 Santa Cruz Ave, Menlo Park 94025 on Wednesday, November 9 at 3:00 pm.

Knowing of Kevin's devotion to Katelyn and his desire to provide for her education, his Stanford friends have established a college fund for Katelyn as Kevin's living legacy to her. Should you wish to contribute to this fund, please designate your gift to Charles Schwab, c/o Dr. Tom Robinson, PO Box 7719, Menlo Park, CA 94026

PAID OBITUARY

Marjorie Irene Kuhlman

May 4, 1911-Oct. 31, 2011

Marjorie "Marge" (Soderling) Kuhlman of San Carlos, CA died peacefully in her sleep Monday, October 31, 2011.

She was born May, 4 1911 to Albert Soderling and Alma (Johnson) Soderling. She was raised and schooled in the Swedish Lutheran community of Swaburg near Uehling, NE and later attended Uehling High School. After graduation she attended Omaha Secretarial School and following that graduation she married Arthur (Ray) Kuhlman. She and Ray lived many years in the communities of Uehling, Scribner and Hooper, NE. In the mid-1960's they moved to Menlo Park, CA to be near their only daughter, Marlene Kuhlman Wesson.

Marjorie was a faithful member of Grace Lutheran Church in Hooper and taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School there for many years. Her friends and family remember her for her warm loving smile. She loved supporting and following the progress of her two grandchildren and three

great-grandchildren. She was very happy to have them help her celebrate her 100th birthday last May.

Survivors include her daughter, Marlene (Kuhlman) Wesson, her son-in-law, Richard Wesson; grandchildren Paul Reyff, Jr. (Denise), Lisa (Reyff) Riemann (Michael); great-grandson, J.P. Riemann, and twin great-granddaughters, Natalie and Nicole Reyff.

A private memorial service will be held at Alta Mesa Memorial Park 695 Arastradero Rd, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

Memorials may be sent to Pathways Hospice Foundation, 385 Oyster Point Blvd. Suite 128, South San Francisco, 94080 or Alzheimer's Association, P.O. Box 96011 Washington, DC 20090-6011.



PAID OBITUARY

Robert M. Ward

Robert M. Ward, 93, a longtime resident of Portola Valley, passed away peacefully at home on Oct. 28, 2011 of natural causes.

Born in Philadelphia in 1918, he graduated from Case Western Reserve University in 1941, majoring in Mechanical Engineering. After graduation, he went to work for TRW as an engineer and Division Manager, taking a leave of absence to serve in the Navy during WWII.

In 1957, he moved to Northern California with his family to head up the Berkeley division of Beckman Instruments. Later, he would become President of the Ultek division of Perkin-Elmer in Mountain View, President of Shafer Electronics, and President of Ward Associates, an executive outplacement firm he founded. He served as President and Chairman of the Western Electronics Manufacturing Association, Chairman of the American Electronics Association, and on the Board of Directors of Dionex, Computer Equipment Corporation and Electro Scientific Industries.

Bob was active in philanthropy with Case Western Reserve and the Woodside Priory, acting as a Trustee for both. He also served as Chairman of Schola Cantorum.

He was an avid sailor and pilot, enjoyed skiing and tennis, and traveled extensively, with a special fondness for the South of France.

He was known to his family, friends and colleagues as a man of great compassion, generosity and keen intellect, with an irrepressible sense of humor. His abundant energy and goodwill were an inspiration to everyone who knew him.

He is survived by his two sons, Robert and David, stepchildren Julie, Tamara and Sam, two grandchildren and six stepgrandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to the Cancer Research Institute (cancerresearch.org).

PAID OBITUARY

Hazele Tiemann Jelich

November 20, 1914 – October 17, 2011

Hazele Tiemann Jelich passed away on October 17, from complications due to a fall. Hazele was the daughter of John and Amalie Witt Tiemann and one of 7 children. Hazele was born on November 20, 1914, in Petaluma, California. Both of her parents were from Germany, met and married in San Francisco and later moved to Petaluma, where they owned and operated a chicken ranch. Hazele loved to share her many happy memories of growing up on the ranch with her 5 sisters and brother. She went to Liberty School and Petaluma High School, where she enjoyed playing basketball.

Hazele moved to Menlo Park and co-owned Hazele and Ethel's Creamery from 1936 to 1939. The young entrepreneur met her husband, George Jelich, in the Creamery and they married in 1940 and lived in Portola Valley. Hazele loved Portola Valley and often said it was like living in the Wild West during those early years. She loved to hike and was seen walking all over the hills and orchards with one of her beloved dogs at her side. George had often commented about her spoiling his hunting dogs. They would rather stay home with Hazele than go off hunting deer with George. Before she started her family, Hazele worked at Searsville Lake selling tickets at the little entrance booth. She enjoyed greeting

everyone who came to the lake.

Hazele's greatest pride was her family. She loved to be surrounded by family and friends. Hazele's door was always open and you were sure to end up at the kitchen table enjoying fresh baked cookies or a piece of one of her famous homemade pies. Hazele was active in the PTA and 4-H in the 1950's and 60's, and loved being a part of the close and friendly community of Portola Valley.

Hazele is survived by her children, George Walter Jelich (Patti) of Los Altos and Sandi Jelich Anderson (Don) of Scottsdale, Arizona; her grandchildren Brian Jelich (Anastasia) of Sunnyvale, Craig Jelich (Janine) of Mountain View, Brittney Anderson Hollenbach (Shawn) and Eric Anderson both of Scottsdale, Arizona; her great-grandchildren Danielle and Ryan Jelich; and Baby Hollenbach due in April. Hazele is also survived by one sister and many nieces and nephews.

From Petaluma to Portola Valley, Hazele Jelich had a fabulous long life. She was the center of our family, and will be greatly missed and forever in our hearts.

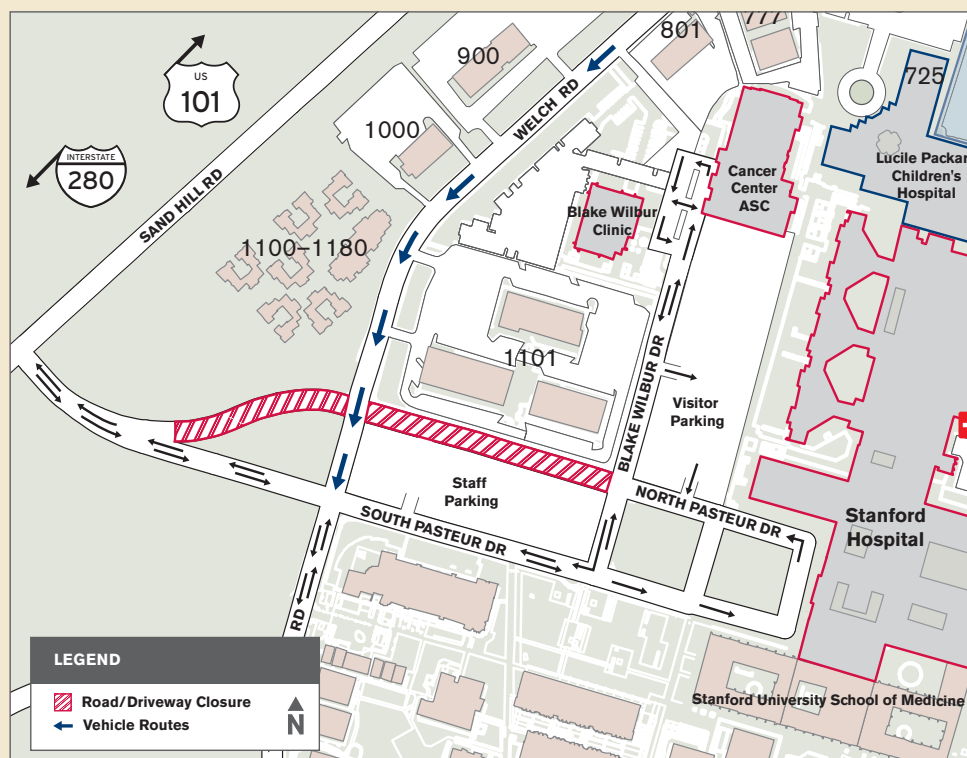


PAID OBITUARY

STANFORD UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER
project:renewal



CONSTRUCTION ZONE AHEAD



Stanford University Medical Center is beginning construction work to rebuild and expand its medical facilities in Palo Alto. Please be advised of traffic changes around the medical center due to construction.



NOTE: Traffic Changes to Pasteur Drive

Effective Monday, November 7th, South Pasteur Drive will become a two-lane, two-way road. North Pasteur Drive will no longer be accessible due to construction activities. Stanford Hospital & Clinics will continue to be accessed via South Pasteur Drive.

Please also note that Welch Road will continue to be a one-lane, one-way road going West between Quarry Road and South Pasteur Drive.

Thank you for your patience during construction.

MORE INFO: SUMCRenewal.org | info@SUMCRenewal.org | 24-Hour Construction Hotline: (650) 701-SUMC (7862)

Woodside-Portola Valley Rotary observes anniversary

By **Kenneth R. Broome**
Woodside-Portola Valley Rotary Club

The Woodside-Portola Valley Rotary Club is different from many other such clubs because it is representative of the whole community, rather than mostly local businesses.

Our members, for example, include professional engineers, an architect, a financial adviser, and a manager in an information technology company. We have members who spend only part of each year in the local community and the rest of the time in other countries, such as Indonesia and Guatemala, where they become very much aware of the needs of people in less-developed countries and are able to ensure that any financial support is used as intended.

Locally, we help feed the hungry

and provide book scholarships to graduating seniors. Dictionaries are provided for third-grade children in disadvantaged schools. In addition, we hold the Larry Wenrick Pancake Breakfast for people watching the May Day Parade here in Woodside. Proceeds from the breakfast go to our educational scholarship fund.

We have initiated some major projects internationally, such as helping a young woman engineer from UC Berkeley develop a method of purifying drinking water in rural areas of Baja California by using ultra-violet light bulbs in the lids of plastic water buckets. We also worked with a nonprofit organization called Neighbors Abroad to build a farmers' training school in Oaxaca, Mexico, to teach the locals how to raise more profitable crops than the traditional corn and beans.

We are preparing an application for a Rotary Foundation matching grant of \$40,000 to provide equipment for a birthing center in the Palestinian West Bank village of Al Aqaba, with support from the Rotary Clubs of Ramallah in the West Bank and Nazareth in Israel. Pregnant women now have to travel many hours through check-points on their way to hospitals in Ramallah or Nablus.

Fortunately, we have been able to obtain financial support for all these good works from members of our community attending our annual Taste of Woodside event (TasteOfWoodside.com) that showcases local wineries and restaurants and is held in the courtyard of the

Woodside Village Church. The next Taste of Woodside event is set for Sunday, Sept. 9, 2012.

We hold our weekly breakfast meetings in the Guild Hall of this church at 7.30 am every Wednesday.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the Rotary Club of Woodside/Portola Valley is welcome to come as a guest for up to three weeks before deciding whether to apply for membership. Men and women of all races, religions and political outlooks are most welcome.

Rotary International, of which we are one of more than 30,000 clubs, with more than a million members worldwide, has been instrumental in nearly eliminating polio, with the generous support of the Gates Foundation.

Visit WPVRotary.org for more information about our club.

About the author: Kenneth R.

Broome is world community service chair of the Woodside-Portola Valley Rotary Club.

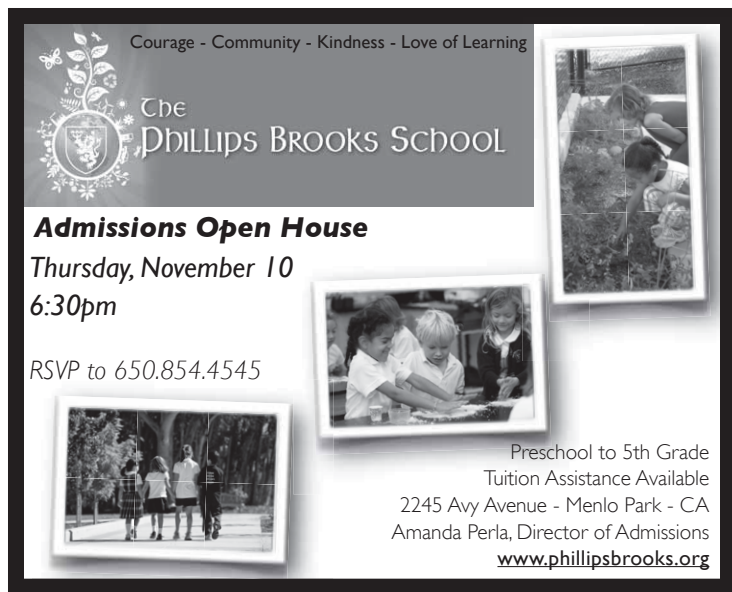
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Go online for more news

Visit AlmanacNews.com for more about these items.

■ Persis S. Drell, director of SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory in Menlo Park since December 2007, plans to resign the post and return to research and teaching.

■ Two Menlo-Atherton Vikings teams face their Redwood City Junior 49ers counterparts Sunday, Nov. 13, at Andrew Hill High in San Jose in the Pop Warner Peninsula Conference Football Championships. Visit mapopwarner.com for the times.

■ Anyone wanting to recycle unwanted electronic items while helping a local school can bring their old computer equipment and other e-waste to Woodside Elementary School, 3195 Woodside Road, on Tuesday, Nov. 15, from 7:30 to 10:30 am.

■ Ragtime/boogie-woogie pianist Bob Milne will give a free concert at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 11, in Hanson Hall at The Sequoias, 501 Portola Road in Portola Valley. The public is invited to attend.

■ The Brooklyn-based Rohr Jewish Learning Institute has begun offering classes on the Midpeninsula in Jewish heritage, thought and tradition. Courses start this month and will be held at Congregation Beth Jacob at 1550 Alameda de las Pulgas in Redwood City. Go to myjli.com or call Rabbi Levi Potash at 274-2908 for more information.

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OBITUARIES

Suzi McCloskey

A memorial service will be held Nov. 19 in Skylonda for Suzi McCloskey (aka Suzanne Lewis), a 28-year resident of Woodside, who died at home Oct. 19. She was 66. The service will start at 1 p.m. at the Mountain Terrace, 17285 Skyline Boulevard.

She battled cancer off and on for six years.

Born in Alameda, she attended schools in Southern California. She raised her daughter, Dina, in San Jose, by herself after her first marriage ended, the family said.

She worked at Shappell homes and during this time, approximately 1980, she met her future husband, Jack McCloskey. They worked together at Pim Electric in Alameda and Foster City, and bought their home in Woodside in 1984.

In 1988, when Jack formed McCloskey Electric, she got her license and went to work at Skywood Realty in Skylonda, which later became ReMax. She specialized in mountain properties and loved showing off the mountain to her clients.

She loved to travel, and took trips to Cabo, Costa Rica, the Inland Passage in Alaska, Jackson Hole,



Suzi McCloskey

grandchildren.

Kevin John Aoyama

Kevin John Aoyama, a resident of Menlo Park, died Oct. 27 after a 26-year struggle with debilitating health issues. He was 51.

A memorial service will be held at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, 950 Santa Cruz Ave. in Menlo Park, at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 9.

Born in Redwood City, he graduated in 1978 from Salinas High School, where he was a varsity tennis player. In 1982, he graduated from Stanford University with a degree in economics.

He was active at Stanford in the Phi Delta Theta fraternity, and in student government as senior class president. He was a registered stockbroker for several years.

He married Leslie Sullivan in 1989, after being diagnosed with cancer, and in 1998, his daughter, Katelyn, 13, was born, "the second love of his life," the family said.

"Kevin touched the lives of many

Florence, Venice and Tuscany, Italy. Just before she died, she toured Ireland and Paris.

She is survived by her daughter, Dina; husband Jack; and six

people with his loyal friendship, sense of humor, zest for life, and his commitment to fight the cancer for his wife and daughter's sake," the family said.

He enjoyed skiing, running, movies, and visiting with friends.

Survivors include his wife and daughter; his parents; his siblings, Stephanie and Doug; and five nephews.

His Stanford friends have established a college fund for Katelyn. Those who wish to contribute are asked to designate a gift to Charles Schwab, c/o Dr. Tom Robinson, P.O. Box 7719, Menlo Park, CA 94026.



Symphony concert in Menlo Park

"Fall for Brahms-again" is the theme of a concert to be presented by the Silicon Valley Symphony at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 19, at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 330 Ravenswood Ave. in Menlo Park.

Stephen Waarts will be violin soloist, with Michael Paul Gibson

as conductor. The program will include "Academic Festival Overture, Op. 80" and "Symphony No. 4 in E Minor, Op. 98" by J. Brahms.

Tickets at \$20 general, \$15 for students/seniors, and free for children age 12 and under, will be available at the door.

Library Quiz

PART VI. Answer All Questions TRUE FALSE

1. Libraries are busier during hard economic times. TRUE FALSE
2. Five times more people visit U.S. public libraries each year than attend U.S. professional and college football, basketball, and hockey games combined (1.1 billion vs. 204 million). TRUE FALSE
3. In fiscal year 2011, the Menlo Park Library circulated approximately 13 books per Menlo Park resident. TRUE FALSE

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- Saturday, December 3: 10:30 am – 12:00 pm
- DADS OF DAUGHTERS**
Julie Metzger, RN, creator of our "Heart to Heart" program, hosts an evening for fathers who seek better understanding and open communication with their pre-teen and teenage daughters.
- Wednesday, December 7: 7:00 – 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, December 10: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
- 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

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

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

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



WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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

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

CALL the Viewpoint desk at 223-6507.

Supervisors play hardball on Alpine trail

San Mateo County supervisors did the right thing last week when they once again voted to turn down Stanford's inflation-adjusted \$10.4 million offer to build a new pedestrian/bicycling trail along Alpine Road unless the university accepts consideration of three new options, two of which would move part of the trail to the north side of the road at Piers Lane. A deadline of Dec. 13 was set for Stanford to respond.

Twice before this contentious issue has been before the supervisors, and both times they turned it down due to the trail's impact on residents of Stanford Weekend Acres, which is not affiliated with Stanford. At least two supervisors said they would vote to turn down the offer yet again unless Stanford accepts the three new alternatives as viable. Although the supervisors did not include more details about those alternatives, it is likely that a stop light at Piers Lane would allow walkers and recreational cyclists to cross Alpine. Stanford spokesman Larry Horton would not comment on the offer except to say, "We'll see in December."

During the lead-up to the critical supervisors meeting Nov. 1, battle lines over the trail had generally pitted residents of Ladera and Portola Valley, many who favor building a trail on the south side of Alpine Road, against residents of Stanford Weekend Acres, whose homes are located off the south side of Alpine, and who have consistently opposed any trail that they believe would further erode safety along busy Alpine Road.

A 12-foot-wide trail would not fit in the narrow confines of the frontage road where Weekend Acres residents queue up to turn on to Alpine, which is choked with traffic bound for or leaving Stanford every morning or evening. It has been the specter of a trail design that would not conquer that problem that has stymied its approval for some five years.

Given the complexity of the traffic and safety issues, includ-

ing stabilizing the bank of San Francisquito Creek, it almost certainly will take more than \$10 million to build an alternative that would be acceptable to all stakeholders. And even if more funds were provided, we doubt that residents of Stanford Weekend Acres would approve of any trail improvement unless it was located on Stanford lands south of the creek. Some SWA residents see the trail as a precursor to a Stanford effort to win approval for widening Alpine Road, perhaps to four lanes, especially after the huge hospital improvements now under way at Stanford are completed in a few years.

We would urge Stanford to take a look at the three options provided by the supervisors, or better yet, agree to build a trail on Stanford land that would move it away from the busy Alpine Road traffic. That would create a truly scenic and safe pedestrian and biking trail and end this contentious discussion once and for all.

EDITORIAL
The opinion of The Almanac

The Almanac recommends...

There are several important local races in Tuesday's election. Here is a recap of the Almanac's endorsements in these contests:

Sequoia Union High School District

Carrie DuBois, Larry James Moody and Allen S. Weiner

Menlo Park fire district board

Bart Spencer and Scott Barnum

Measure F

Vote yes to permit the Menlo Park fire district board to spend revenues it collects.

Woodside Elementary School board

Rudy Driscoll and Kevin Johnson

San Mateo County Community College District board

Patricia Miljanich, Karen Schwarz and Dave Mandelkern

Measure H, Community college bond measure

We grudgingly endorse this measure.

Fatal HSR financial plan

The state's High-Speed Rail Commission is making a noble effort to bring some veracity to the business plan they hope will guide development of a high-speed train project between

ism does not lead to financial viability.

Outside the \$10 billion in state bonds and \$3.4 billion in federal grants, very little of the remaining funding needed has been identified. The plan is counting on up to \$11 billion in private capital that is little more than wishful thinking.

Just over two months ago, we said that high-speed rail was in deep trouble due in part to its funding challenges at the federal level, where it faces the almost impossible task of seeking major support from a Republican-controlled Congress that is not eager to pass anything that can be seen as raising the federal deficit.

the Bay Area and the Los Angeles Basin.

Major changes were made to the previously published and highly criticized plan, including the admission that the ultimate cost of the project will more than double to nearly \$100 billion, a number that could go as high as \$117 billion if certain scenarios take place. Under this plan, the system will not be complete until 2033, 13 years later than previously forecast.

But this newfound cost real-

The new business plan only makes this challenge more formidable. How can Californians responsibly support this gargantuan project when the state is borrowing just to finance day to day operations?

In its 230-page revised business

plan, the commission did scale back its ridership projections, although we still have a hard time understanding how the trains can possibly carry 28.9 million passengers a year — more than 80,000 a day.

And the report abandoned plans for adding a parallel set of tracks on the Peninsula, which means that the high-speed trains would share Caltrain tracks between San Jose and San Francisco.

But the bottom line is that high-speed rail is inevitably dependent on mostly government financing, and is simply not affordable. There is nothing wrong with the vision of high-speed rail, which could reduce pollution and the need to build or expand new roads and airports. But with the economy struggling at the state and national levels for the foreseeable future, legislators must act to end this project, either by simply not approving the sale of the bonds, or sending the issue back to the voters.

EDITORIAL
The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS
Our readers write

Owls are man's second-best friend

Editor:

Here are some reasons to start thinking about working with Mother Nature, rather than killing her children with pesticides.

Did you know that a family of Barn Owls can eat between 3,000 and 5,000 rats in one year? Here in Woodside and Portola Valley, many barns and stables suffer from rats, while up in Marin County their handsome Civic Center had been overtaken by rats, as had many of the vineyards in Marin.

So, instead of putting out rat poison, the Civic Center in Marin County installed six barn owl boxes this month, hoping to copy the success of the 25 vineyards in Marin that have installed boxes. Studies in Canada, the United States and Europe have shown that rat poisons

See **LETTERS**, next page

Approve trail now or pay for it later

By Christine Martens

I must take issue with your headline on last week's article by Lennie Roberts, suggesting that "nobody" wants the Alpine Trail. This assertion is patently false.

Many people who actually use the path, including me, do emphatically want this unsafe, crumbling trail to be improved, and we know that this project will be necessary within a short time one way or another. Ms. Roberts asserts so many falsehoods in her article, rehashing wrongheaded ideas that have been utterly discredited; yet she and others have continued to promote them — now for over 10 years. Some people have even come to believe what she says.

The question to consider is, do you love Alpine Road as it is now? Because this is as good as it will ever be, if no changes are made. Residents of Stanford



Weekend Acres are opposed to Alpine Road being widened and straightened, fearing that vehicle speeds will increase and their access will decrease.

Let's be clear: that is not what the path improvement project is about. But is it wonderful now? Left as it is,

access onto Alpine Road from SWA will get much worse as traffic grows. Cyclists and walkers on a path — a handful of people, relative to the 25,000 cars on the road — will have a negligible impact on SWA's access to Alpine Road, but they are being held hostage to the problems with cars on the road! SWA residents realize that changes are needed **now** — they already have access problems, and they will get worse, but they keep wishing the

traffic would just go away.

Traffic on Alpine Road **will** increase dramatically yet again when the Stanford Hospital expansions are done. That is already under way; it will happen sooner than you think. Without question, the physical condition of the path and the road will continue to deteriorate. As a result, if no changes are made, the road and the path will be in complete disrepair in five years, while carrying tens of thousands more cars per day.

At that time, dramatic changes will be made to the road and path — this project will happen. But we, San Mateo County taxpayers, will have the privilege of paying for the work, rather than having an outside agency pay for it. Yet somehow, now, SWA argues against a path that would have a few people walking in front of their houses.

Anyone who pays taxes in San Mateo County should be clamoring — no, screaming — for the Board of Supervisors

to accept the offer from Stanford. Think about it: if the supervisors walk away from the trail improvement project, who will have a great victory? Will SWA celebrate that they get to keep all the problems they have right now, and watch them worsen? Who wins? In a very short time, fewer than the 10 or 11 years that we've been arguing about this, San Mateo County taxpayers will be asked to pay for a project very much like what is currently offered by Stanford. It will happen, and it will be soon.

Turning down the money from Stanford does not hurt Stanford, and does not buy us any clout or leverage with them as they continue to expand and increase traffic on our roads. All San Mateo County residents should be pressuring their supervisors to accept this offer to complete a project that is both necessary and desirable.

Christine Martens
lives on Erica Way in Ladera.

Endorsements

Larry Moody for Sequoia board

Editor:

As a chaplain and community activist, I'm pleased to support and endorse Larry James Moody for the Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees.

Mr. Moody has a proven track record in caring for, teaching, coaching, and advocating for students. He has a clear vision and the skills to advocate for a better life and quality education for all students.

As a parent of a Sequoia High School student-athlete, director of a local nonprofit organization and clergy member, I've watched Mr. Moody literally give his life and resources to care for students from all backgrounds. He backs up his words with action and has a first-hand knowledge of the challenges our high school students face.

I'm confident that Mr. Moody is the right leader for the Sequoia Union High School District board at this time, and I'm honored to endorse him.

Rev. John Liotti
East Palo Alto

Former member backs Moody for Sequoia board

Editor:

I have worked with Larry Moody during the years when I was a member of the Sequoia Union High School District board and that is why I am supporting and voting for Larry Moody for the Sequoia board



in this election.

The Sequoia board needs a member to represent the community of East Palo Alto. Larry lives there and works with and contributes to the community. He knows its problems, concerns and needs, and works with others to solve them.

Larry is concerned about the achievement gap and can help solve the issue because he brings his experience from East Palo Alto and Menlo Park with his willingness to work with other board members for solutions.

I urge you to vote for Larry Moody on Nov. 8.

Sarah D. "Sally" Stewart
Los Charros Lane, Portola Valley

College bond is too much to ask

Editor:

I never expected to see an education measure I could not support, but I will be voting no on Measure H because I have no confidence that the money will be spent wisely.

A case in point. In its mission statement, the San Mateo Community College District says it is committed to supporting "green" areas of study and careers. Nothing could be more "green" than the 60-year-old CSM Horticulture program (the study of all things related to living plants).

Recently, the plan was to invigorate this program, but now we learn it is being eliminated and the valuable facilities bulldozed, to

be replaced by a parking lot. This short-sighted and wasteful decision was made at a trustees meeting last summer with only short notice, but nevertheless many knowledgeable, thoughtful, and eloquent citizens showed up to speak to the longstanding importance of the CSM Horticulture program to the Peninsula community, and its value in a world facing the threats of climate change.

Interestingly, the college avoided the legal requirement for a public review period where possible impacts of such a decision could be examined by simply declaring that this decision had "no environmental impact." And when that was appropriately challenged, instead of doing the required environmental assessment and public review, the college tried another avoidance tactic. But that also was challenged and now has resulted in a lawsuit.

How much better if the college had followed an open process, so they would have had the benefit of dialogue with the larger community before making such a far-reaching decision — that is the purpose of environmental review.

Garden space is usually seen as an easy target by those bent on new construction and its required acres of parking lots. The current financial crisis will pass, but climate change and its effects are permanently with us. Now is not the time to destroy greenhouses, established gardens and trees, and eliminate a critically important area of study.

It is time for the college district trustees and administrators to take a break from the headlong rush to build new, expensive buildings. And it is past time for them to comply with the grand jury report calling for more open, honest communication, and to start listening to the citizens who have much wisdom to share about the future direction of our community colleges.

Maybe a **no** vote on Measure H will get their attention.

Virginia Warheit
San Benito Avenue, Menlo Park

Mandelkern for college district board

Editor:

Please vote for Dave Mandelkern for re-election to the San Mateo County Community College District board. Under Dave's leadership, our three local community colleges (Canada College, College of San Mateo and Skyline College) are working very efficiently and effectively, which is amazing given the huge budget cuts that our schools have faced over the past three years.

Dave has the proven experience of balancing the district's \$100 million budget year after year, as well as managing the district's capital improvement program that has revitalized all three campuses. He's got proven leadership and management skills from his successful Silicon Valley business career.

I know that Dave will spend our tax dollars as if they were his own money, and make sure that our local community colleges serve as many students as possible with the best educational programs possible.

Please vote to re-elect Dave Mandelkern as a San Mateo County Community College District trustee.

Kathy Engelmann
Menlo Park

College board: Best choices are incumbents

Editor:

I support Dave Mandelkern, Patricia Miljanich, and Karen Schwarz for re-election to the board of the San Mateo County Community College District, overseeing Canada College, College of San Mateo, and Skyline College.

The college district's recent accomplishments reflect their leadership skills. Despite state funding cuts of over 20 percent in the past three years, they have been able to avoid any layoffs of full-time teaching staff and have increased enrollment significantly, providing quality higher education and job training to thousands of local residents who have been shut out — or priced out — of the University of California and Cal State University systems.

The three colleges are consistently ranked very high in student success as measured by rates of transfer to four-year colleges and job certificate completion. There are serious challenges ahead for community colleges, given the likelihood of additional cuts in state funding.

We need to retain experienced trustees who can effectively manage our three local community colleges. I hope you will look at the impressive record of leadership of Mandelkern, Miljanich, and Schwarz and vote to re-elect them on Nov. 8.

Susan Alvaro
Half Moon Bay and President,
San Mateo County Board of Education



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LETTERS

Continued from previous page

have contributed to the deaths of mountain lions, foxes, deer, squirrels, possums, bald eagles, golden eagles, hawks and vultures, among others.

Portola Valley Ranch has installed

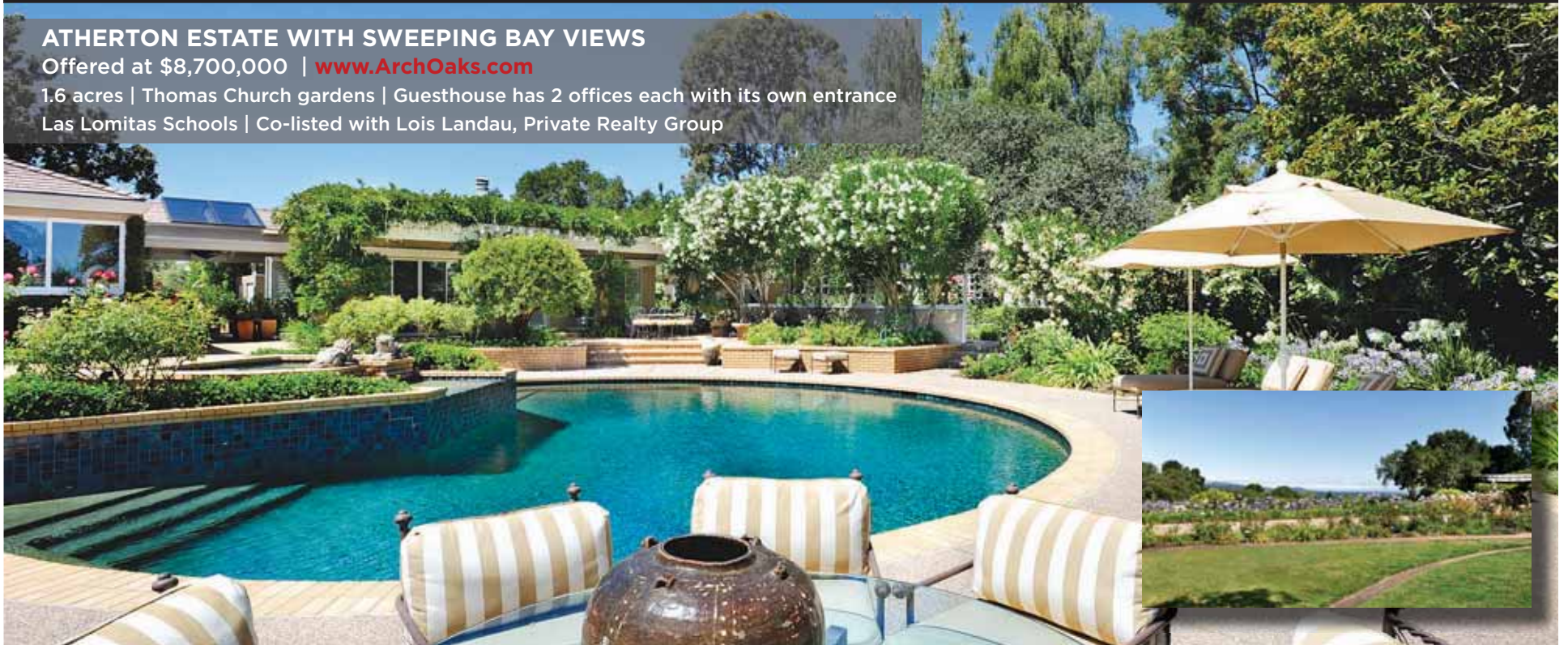
one of the Audubon Society's recommended owl boxes near its garden plots, and plans for the approved model can be found by contacting the Santa Clara Audubon Society. Happy hunting!

Marilyn Walters
Coyote Hill, Portola Valley



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