



Camp Connection:
Guide to summer camps for kids
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The Almanac

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

MARCH 28, 2012 | VOL. 47 NO. 31



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Photo by Eric A. Young

Ryan Young: "Lots of families have used musical instruments that their children have outgrown or no longer use. Now they can give another child the joy of music."

Student leads drive to collect musical instruments for kids

Inspired by his experiences working with under-privileged kids whose schools don't have enough money to offer music classes or buy instruments, Woodside Priory senior Ryan Young has launched a drive to donate musical instruments to benefit local students in need.

Ryan is partnering with the nonprofit Music in the Schools Today (MUST) in the instrument donation campaign, which is accepting new and used musical instruments of any kind.

As a guitar teacher at the Bridge summer program for under-privileged middle school students, Ryan encountered kids who had never played an instrument, but who were so enthusiastic and dedicated "that I wanted to enable more

students (to have) the opportunity to learn to play music," he wrote in a press release.

"Lots of families have used musical instruments that their children have outgrown or simply no longer use, and they are just taking up space," he said. "Now they can give another child the joy of music and themselves a tax deduction."

The instruments will be distributed by MUST, which funds and facilitates music programs in K-12 schools in the Bay Area.

Learning to play an instrument helps develop "life-long attributes including strong self-esteem, discipline, creativity and focus," MUST executive director Meg Madden noted in the press release.

"Additionally, these skills can enhance a child's capacity to learn other academics like math and science."

The instrument drive ends on April 15. People interested in donating a new or used instrument can drop it off at any of three sites: Woodside Priory School's main office, 302 Portola Road in Portola Valley; Stanford Shopping Center's concierge office, next to the Polo-Ralph Lauren store; or Peninsula Music and Repair, 4335 El Camino Real, Suite 201, in Palo Alto.

Donors can also contact Ryan at ryan@ryanyoung.com to arrange for an instrument pick-up.

MUST will mail donation receipts for a tax deduction to donors.

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Local News

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Principal pushes for year-round school

■ School leaders examine how to shrink student “achievement gap.”

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

The discussion was lively and at times electric in the district office of the Sequoia Union High School District in Redwood City Thursday, March 21, when the board met in a study session to consider the dimensions of the academic achievement gap and what might be done to reduce it.

“Our success (with the underperforming kids) depends on how bold and innovative we are willing to get,” Woodside High School Principal David Reilly told the group. “These kids need to be in school year-round. By moving to a trimester, they don’t get caught in the undertow. ... Until we change

the calendar, we’re going to have a modicum of success.”

Lower-income students tend to lose momentum during the summer while affluent students tend to gain it, Linda Darling Hammond, a widely respected professor of education at Stanford University, said in her remarks that opened the discussion.

Year-round school also benefits teachers in great need of time together for professional development, Mr. Reilly said. Four nine-week periods of intense classroom work would be punctuated by four three-week open periods, when students can catch up or take electives and teachers can get better at

what they do.

U.S. teachers typically receive less intense professional development than they need, Ms. Darling Hammond said. Seminars of 14 hours or less don’t affect the achievement gap. What’s needed,

Equal access to good teachers translates to “huge” reductions in the achievement gap, she said.

And students in severe academic trouble need to be made aware, to be told that they’re not cutting it, said Jenna Carson, a Menlo-

Atherton High School math teacher and the director of Compass, a program to help incoming ninth-graders adjust to high school realities.

The focus on remedial classes with-

out electives for these kids is “sucking the life out of them,” Ms. Carson said. Electives could change their lives, but everyone needs to wake up to how to help them succeed. “Tell them it’s going to be a five-year plan. Be bold,” she said.

Ms. Carson added that at the

end of the freshman year, she could “almost tell you who are going to be the dropouts.”

Great ideas, board members said, but one key is finding the money to pay for them. The changes need to be cost-neutral, the members said.

Another key for the year-round school that Mr. Reilly proposed: negotiating with the district’s teachers union. In no way unaware of the contentiousness among parents and teachers of what he was proposing, Mr. Reilly said in an interview that Woodside may need a waiver that allows a calendar other than that used by the district.

“I’ll be the first one over the hill with a grenade in my mouth,” he added in explaining his willingness to take on the controversial proposal. “I will always err on the side of what’s best for the kids.” ■

Equal access to good teachers translates to ‘huge’ reductions in the achievement gap, said Linda Darling Hammond, a Stanford education professor of education.

Menlo Park woman wins \$22M malpractice verdict

By Sue Dremann

Embarcadero Media

A Menlo Park woman who suffered a stroke while undergoing treatment for migraines won a \$22 million jury verdict March 19 in her malpractice suit against the Palo Alto Medical Foundation.

Robyn Frankel, who was 43 years old in 2006 when the treatment paralyzed her, won the verdict from the jury of six men and six women.

The verdict includes \$2 million for past economic losses in earnings and past medical expenses, \$14 million for future economic losses and medical care, and \$6 million for pain and suffering.

The pain and suffering award would immediately be capped at \$250,000, however, as required under the Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act of 1975, said Summer Woodson, one of her attorneys.

Ms. Frankel had suffered from migraines her entire life, Ms. Woodson said. She went through several non-invasive imaging procedures, such as magnetic resonance imaging,

In 2006, doctors decided to give her a cerebral angiogram. The procedure involved injecting a dye into a vein to inspect what doctors believed could be causing her headaches. But according to the lawsuit, Ms. Frankel was not told that the procedure was invasive and risky. The jury found she was not given informed consent, Ms. Woodson said.

Jury finds Palo Alto Medical Foundation negligent in treatment of woman’s migraines.

“She had a reaction to the procedure and stroked out,” she said. “Nobody talked to her about why she is having it or the risks.”

Expert witnesses testified that the cerebral angiogram was not medically necessary, and it did not provide any benefit. Nothing could be seen that wasn’t already visible in the non-invasive tests. Looking at the vein as a cause of her headaches was “baloney,” Ms. Woodson said the experts testified.

Ms. Frankel had two small children and a lucrative career as a property manager in her family’s business, Frankel Prop-

See VERDICT, page 8



Almanac photo by Michelle Le

Debbie Devoto helps Brenda, a Hillview School sixth-grader, with her homework.

College Bound engages at-risk students

By Suzanne Sutherland

Long before the push for “No Child Left Behind” made headlines, Hillview Middle School teachers and staff in Menlo Park began working with students who performed poorly on standardized tests.

From mentoring programs and individualized instruction, to group counseling and

About the author: Suzanne Sutherland of Menlo Park was asked by the Menlo Park City School District to write about the College Bound program for the district’s website. Here is her story.

one-on-one tutoring, some programs worked for certain

students and some didn’t.

For at-risk students, just keeping pace with the curve is critical. Bridging the achievement gap between their knowledge and skills and those of their peers can be a challenge — and the sooner the gap is lessened the better their chances are of excelling in high school and beyond.

See COLLEGE, page 19

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or During the month of March, get a **15% Discount Off** your order when you purchase a mixed case with 4 bottles each of 2010 Sonoma Coast Blend, 2010 Rodgers Creek Vineyard, 2010 Sangiacomo Vineyard.

Two local men are arrested in child pornography sweep

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Detectives from a regional Internet-crimes task force have arrested nine men, including Portola Valley resident Stephen Wolf, 64, and Menlo Park resident Charles Vela Reyes Jr., 46, on felony charges of possession of child pornography, the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office reported.

The nine men were booked into county jail on the possession charges March 22 after a sweep of 11 homes in San Mateo County.

A March 22 account of the arrests from the Sheriff's Office had Mr. Reyes as a resident of San Jose, but a March 26 statement from the District Attorney's Office notes a search of Mr. Reyes' "home in Menlo Park."

In the sweep, detectives seized computers containing pornographic images "and other evidence linking the men to the distribution and/or possession of child pornography," the Sheriff's Office said in a statement.

The Silicon Valley Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force detected "a cluster of suspected child pornography users" in San Mateo County and employed the services of over 100 investigators from more than 20 law enforcement agencies.

The agencies include the Sheriff's Office, the Menlo Park Police Department, the FBI, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and a "homeland security" investigative arm of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Task force investigators used decoys in Internet chat rooms to identify suspects, and tracked them based on the sharing of "hard core images involving pre-pubescent children," the Sheriff's Office said.

Internet addresses of individual computers were the basis for the subsequent search warrants.

The task force has a mobile forensics lab in a van that enables a rapid evidence search of a computer's hard drive on the spot, a search that would normally take months if done in a Department of Justice lab, the statement said.

The other suspects arrested on possession charges are Gordon Lee of Daly City, Christopher Winans of East Palo Alto, Paul Tazbaz of San Mateo, Steve Wilson of South San Francisco, and Cruz-Martin Caseiro-Rosas of South San Francisco. Paul Ambler and Samnang Chun, both of San Mateo, were charged with both possession and

The task force has a mobile forensics lab that enables a rapid search of a computer's hard drive.

distribution of child pornography.

These arrests bring to 40 the task force's total child-porn-related arrests since November 2011, including in Marin, Sonoma, Monterey and Alameda counties, and in San Jose and Oakland.

"Investigators have found significant links between the possession and trading of child pornography and the actual victimization of children, including a progression by some suspects from fantasy (Internet child porn) to reality (sexual crimes against actual child-victims)," the statement said. "Frequent operations such as these help keep our communities safe."

Go to meganslaw.ca.gov for information on where convicted sex offenders live.

For information on how to keep children safe on the Internet, do a web search for "A Parent's Guide to Internet Safety."

Go to netmartz.org/Parents to visit the website of the National Center for Missing or Exploited Children. ■

Woodside invites walkers to event

Woodside organizers are inviting others to put on their walking shoes and help raise funds for fresh-water wells in a drought-stricken region of Kenya by participating in the Woodside Walk for Water on April 1.

The third annual event is being organized by the Woodside Elementary School community as part of a community effort called the "Woodside Wishing Well," according to Doretta Bonner, one of the organizers.

The walk begins at 3 p.m. on the kindergarten field at Woodside

School.

The effort supports the Samburu Project, which drills wells in the Samburu region of Kenya.

According to the organization, founded in 2005 by Kristen Kosinski, women and children of the region walk up to 12 miles every day in search of water that they must carry on their backs. The water is often contaminated by animals using the same water holes, and cholera and other illnesses are an ongoing problem.

Go to tinyurl.com/Water-401 for more information.

Youth accused of trying to run over deputy

Deputies from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office are on the lookout for a young man accused of theft and of trying to run over a deputy sheriff at the Ladera Swim & Tennis Club at about 2 p.m. Sunday, March 18.

Club staff had been detaining the man on suspicion of stealing from the lockers there, but he escaped and ran outside, according to the Sheriff's Office. The club is at 3249 Alpine Road, just west of the intersection with La Mesa Drive.

A deputy arriving on the scene saw him and tried



Deputies provided this photo of the suspect.

to stop him, but the youth got into his car — a tan or salmon colored sedan, perhaps a Nissan Maxima or Toyota Camry from the early 2000s — and “intentionally attempted to run over the deputy,” before heading east on Alpine Road and then north on Interstate 280, deputies said.

There were no injuries. Deputies describe the suspect as Caucasian, 5-foot, 6-inches tall, with brown hair and weighing about 140 pounds. He was wearing a white long-sleeve T-shirt and black pants.

Deputies are asking anyone with information to contact Detective Ben Hand at 363-4192 or bhand@smcgov.org.

Big donor may alter ballfield fundraising

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

A fundraising plan to raise \$540,000 — including \$200,000 from a major donor in town — is now in place to renovate Portola Valley's Ford (baseball) Field at the corner of Alpine Road and Westridge Drive.

The plan, with roots in 2009, includes deadlines, objectives and task assignments. But a potential second major donor is complicating the picture.

This unnamed donor proposes to “fund, design and construct the project himself,” with possible support from the \$200,000 donor, according to a report by Jon Myers of the town's Parks & Recreation Committee. The report was delivered to the Town Council on March 14.

This unnamed donor, whose

■ PORTOLA VALLEY

identity during a council discussion seemed known to everyone involved, has a tendency to attach his name to his projects, one council member said. That tendency appears to have played out satisfactorily in Menlo Park, the town attorney added.

The Portola Valley field, of course, already has a name.

Under the plan laid out to the council by Mr. Myers, funding for the project includes \$232,212 from state grants and an expected \$75,000 from the Little League, the field's only organized user, plus \$32,000 from individuals in the community. The potential \$200,000 donor has “expressed support, but (is) not yet committed,” the

report says.

Based on three community workshops, the plans called for changes that included shade trees along the first- and third-base lines and new “social space,” including picnic tables, bleachers and a grassy knoll behind left field.

The batting cage and pitcher warm-up area would be smaller, and there would be permanent bathrooms and a snack shack. The field would be rotated a few degrees to the east to improve the bank of Los Trancos Creek.

Any significantly new design would be subject to re-analysis by town government, including the Architectural and Site Control Commission and the Town Council, Interim Town Manager Barbara Powell said in a staff report. ■

Firefighters plan wildfire drills in PV

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Firefighters from all over San Mateo County will converge on the Spring Down open space just south of the Portola Valley Town Center in the second week of April to engage in a series of wildfire control exercises, Battalion Chief Kevin Butler of the Woodside Fire Protection District said.

The exercises will run from Monday, April 9, through Friday, April 13.

On Thursday, April 19, residents will participate in an evacuation drill of the Brookside Park neigh-

borhood — the area west of Portola Road between Alpine Road and Willowbrook Drive. Town staff and volunteers will participate in this drill, which will be directed from the town's emergency operation center at Town Center, Mr. Butler said.

In the weeklong Spring Down open space drills, there will be one exercise in the morning and one in the afternoon on all five weekdays, but traffic disruption on Portola Road should be minimal, Mr. Butler said.

Firefighters will lay out several hundred feet of hose, use hand tools, protect a structure from a

wildfire, and shelter on the ground from an out-of-control fire, Mr. Butler said.

Firefighters participating include those from the county, Redwood City, San Carlos, Belmont, San Mateo, Foster City, Millbrae and San Bruno, Mr. Butler said. The Woodside district is hosting the event because “we're considered the wildland experts,” Mr. Butler said.

Firefighters from the Menlo Park Fire Protection District were not invited because they are on a “different training calendar,” though they may show up anyway, Mr. Butler said. ■

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Keeping a Reliable Market

Dear Monica:

I am going to put my house on the market soon and want your opinion as to whether it is best to have my realtor list it on the Multiple Listing Service or keep it as an “off-market” listing. My agent would show the property to interested agents and buyers but it will not be listed on a public data base. What would you advise?

Lisa M.

Dear Lisa:

Unless there is a compelling reason for not doing so, it is better to list your home on the open market using the Multiple Listing Service (MLS). The only way to really know whether you have achieved the highest price for your home is to expose it. Listing it on

the MLS is the best way to do this. The MLS is a well-organized, regulated and reliable data service that maintains information that is vital to the integrity of the market. The MLS is transparent and this is good for everyone: buyers, sellers, agents, lenders and appraisers.

If you sell your home off the MLS, you can never be sure you received fair market value for it, and it will be too late to do it over again. If you limit the exposure to only your agent and whoever he/she markets your property to, you are relying on one person rather than the collective efforts of hundreds of agents who won't know about your property if you don't put it on MLS. You have nothing to lose by listing your home on the MLS, and possibly a lot to lose by not doing so.

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



Presented by
Mark Schmidt
Licensed Optician



MAKING THE MOST OF IT

The term “low vision” refers to a level of vision that is 20/70 or worse that cannot be corrected with conventional lenses, surgery, or medication. While those affected still have some seeing ability, low vision interferes with the performance of daily activities. This inability to recognize images at a distance, differentiate between colors or similar tones, and even read may be due to eye diseases such as age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, or diabetic retinopathy. Fortunately, on the basis of having undergone a comprehensive eye

exam, low-vision individuals can avail themselves of a variety of devices and strategies provided by the eye professional that can help them live independently and make the most of the vision they have left.

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P.S. A person is legally blind when the best corrected central acuity is less than 20/200 in his or her better eye, or his or her side vision is narrowed to 20 degrees or less in the better eye.

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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Menlo Park woman wins \$22 million malpractice verdict

VERDICT

continued from page 5

erties, prior to the stroke. She was in a coma for six weeks and woke up unable to use her right side and with limited use of her left. She requires full-time, round-the-clock care, Ms. Woodson said.

Ms. Frankel said by email that she could not speak or move for months after the procedure. "I was bedridden. I used to participate in all my children's activities in and out of school. I used to ride horses and be involved with vaulting, which is gymnastics on horseback. I can no longer do any of these activities.

"I have since been going to physical therapy, massage therapy, horse therapy, personal trainer, swim therapy, speech therapy and need 24/7 care.

"Thanks to the financial

assistance from my mother and father, I was able to recover enough that I can now speak slowly, I have use of my left arm, I can stand with help, and I can sit in a wheelchair, but still need 24/7 care and need to be turned every 2 hours at night," she said.

The case was originally filed in 2008 but was dismissed in May 2010 with prejudice, which meant it could not be reopened, Ms. Woodson said.

Stanford University Medical Center, which was also a defendant, had petitioned the court for a summary judgment. Ms. Frankel's previous attorney felt he would have difficulty opposing or winning the summary judgment and dropped the case, Ms. Woodson said.

Ms. Frankel then hired David Bovino of Aspen, Colorado, and co-counsels Emison Hullverson Mitchell LLP of San Francisco. The firms were able to get the case reopened by showing there were "triable issues of fact," Ms. Woodson said.

Stanford settled the case for an undisclosed sum on Feb. 21, the first day of the trial, she said.

The jury found Palo Alto Medical was negligent in Ms.

Frankel's treatment and care and that negligence was a substantial factor in causing her harm.

There aren't many medical malpractice cases in California, due to the pain and suffering cap, Ms. Woodson said. The large verdict is probably because of Ms. Frankel's young age and the long life she is expected to live with her disabilities.

Ms. Frankel's medical care costs between \$300,000 and \$350,000 per year, Ms. Woodson said.

Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Carol Overton is expected to enter the final judgment on the verdict in a few weeks. Ms. Woodson said an appeal by the Medical Founda-

tion is expected and is standard in such cases. It could be filed in about two to three months after the final judgment is

The patient, Robyn Frankel, says her children are now 8 and 16 years old. 'I am so proud of them, as they have been by my side for the past 6 years

entered.

Dr. Richard Slavin, CEO of the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, said in a statement March 22:

"We deeply sympathize with Ms. Frankel and her family. While we respect the jury process, the medical group is presently considering its legal options. We believe that the care provided by the Palo Alto Foundation Medical Group was appropriate. We appreciate the trust that the community has placed in us for the past 80 years to provide the best possible care for our patients. The safety and health of our patients has always been, and will continue to be, our highest priority."

Ms. Frankel said her children are now 8 and 16 years old. "I am so proud of them, as they have been by my side for the past 6 years.

"I am so grateful to my attorneys and family for their support, and I am elated with the award of \$22 million. I thank the jury for their understanding of what actually occurred and the generous award, which will allow me to take care of myself and my children for many years," she said. ■



Menlo-Atherton dance team members are preparing for their annual fundraiser.

Showtime for M-A dance team

Hip-hop, jazz, lyrical and ballet performances will highlight the ninth annual Menlo-Atherton High School dance team show and fundraiser to be held at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 21, in the school's performing arts center.

Tickets at the door are \$12 for adults and \$7 for students. Tickets may be purchased in advance from dance team members.

Proceeds from the event help underwrite scholarships, team uniforms, camps and

competition expenses, says dance team parent Pat Carson, whose daughter, Destiny Carson, is a member of the team.

The girls require four or five different dance costumes for performances. Funds are also used for a week at dance camp, held this past summer on the UC-Santa Cruz campus.

The team's coach is Nona Ybarra, owner of Captivating Dance. The 11-member team rehearses three times a week and performs at Menlo-

Atherton High School football and basketball games. The team also presented a holiday dance show at Haven House in Menlo Park. The dance team is coached by Nona Ybarra, owner of Captivating Dance.

Dance team members include: Destiny Carson, Elisa Cabral, Caroline Hayse, Miranda Alfano-Smith, Kimmie Glass, Anna Argente, Brooke Warren, Gracie Culhane, Sami Gaston, Lauren Smith and Devon Smith.

Community events back in Atherton park

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

The unintended consequences of the Atherton City Council's vote in December to prohibit weddings and other special events in Holbrook-Palmer Park prompted the council last week to modify the ban to allow special community events — such as the annual Easter Egg Hunt, ice cream socials and birthday parties.

The council, at its March 21 meeting, revisited its December decision at the request of Mayor Bill Widmer and Vice Mayor Elizabeth Lewis. In a memo written to their colleagues, they noted that the decision, intended to address large events not related to the town that were preventing residents from enjoying the town's only park, was also adversely affecting residents.

"In late December 2011 a resident requested the use of Jennings Pavilion at the park for a small, 80-person memorial service for a loved one," they wrote. The denial of the request due to the newly enacted ban "highlighted the unintended

A spirited discussion nevertheless took place, one that included Councilman Jerry Carlson's preferred method of managing outside special events through higher pricing rather than banning them outright.

It concluded with a unanimous council vote allowing certain events to return to the park: those sponsored

Weddings and 'outside' events are still banned.

consequence of the ... decision to eliminate all rentals at the park," they added.

Although the discussion began broadly, with a staff report analyzing potential revenue generated should the council allow weddings and corporate events in the park again, council members Kathy McKeithen and Jim Dobbie insisted that the topic be limited to allowing only community events to be held at the park — the focus of the memo that led to the matter being placed on the agenda.

by town-designated committees and organizations, as well as classes, community meetings, birthday parties and other small celebratory events hosted by residents.

December's 3-2 vote to ban events in the park, with council members Carlson and Lewis dissenting, was in response to residents' complaints that they could no longer enjoy their park, particularly on weekends, because large weddings and other outside events monopolized parking and created other problems. ■

Menlo Park proposes higher fees, new fees

■ Community services see most increases.

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Spring is in the air, which means local governments start hunting for ways to whip their budgets into shape for the next fiscal year. The annual city fee adjustment debate begins March 27, when the City Council reviews new proposed price tags for various services.

Perennial budget adjustment favorites — child care services, recreational programs, and facility rentals — would see the most increases.

Fees at the Menlo Children's Center and Belle Haven's Child Development Center would go up 3 to 8 percent, with new charges for seasonal programs, kindergarten preparation, and miscellaneous items such as late pickups.

A Menlo Park family with one child going to Belle Haven's preschool program, for example, would now pay \$854 a month. If that child is a toddler, an entirely new monthly fee of \$1,086 would apply.

Celebrating a birthday at the Arillaga Family Gymnastics Center, after it opens in April, would cost 42 percent more than it did at the old facility, jumping from \$123 to \$175 for up to 20 children. So will renting space at the facility; city staff recommended implementing new charges of \$35 to \$200 per hour, depending on which room, with non-residents paying higher rates than residents. Renting Bedwell Bayfront Park for a day would cost \$100.

The after-school volleyball program would cost \$517 for residents, an increase of 15 percent. Basketball would go up 5 percent, while gymnastics classes would cost 4 to 6 percent more depending on how many hours a week a child attends. Adult sports programs would also see a modest 3 to 5 percent increase.

Recent rumors confirm that sometimes people go the library after visiting the gym. Let's hope they take care of the library books. Staff wants to replace the \$10 maximum charge for damaged materials with the actual cost of replacement, plus a \$5 service fee.

Sometimes Menlo Park developers want to chop down heritage trees or appeal traffic-impact fees. Staff has suggested charging \$25 to \$50 more for doing so.

Raising fees for plan review of projects as small as 250 square feet has already drawn fire. Henry Riggs, an architect who serves on the Planning Commission, asked the city to concentrate on cutting red tape instead by reducing the amount of time needed for inspections and approvals.

"I have two concerns that we are discouraging compliance in two key desired areas by further burdening minor residential projects which are already heavily burdened by fees. As it is, all too many home owners are driven to 'after hours' work to avoid these fees, resulting in unlicensed and un-inspected work in our city," Mr. Riggs wrote in an email to the council on March 22.

He told the Almanac that while some feel the cost and time of reviews isn't out of proportion, project costs are pressing the limits of what even two-income households can

afford, and added fees may be the "straw that broke the camel's back."

Each project is different, Mr. Riggs said, and his issue with the changes, which add up to relatively small dollar amounts, isn't the total cost, but that it's one more nudge for small projects to dodge the permitting process and for others to get cancelled.

Once plans and permits get the green light, construction can start — but that generates debris. City staff would like to hike the cost of making sure disposal occurs in compliance with code by 100 percent to \$300.

Staff expects the fee changes, if approved, to add \$177,172 a year to city coffers. The council meeting starts at 7 p.m. in council chambers at the Civic Center at 701 Laurel St.

Go to tinyurl.com/d3f6nlp to review the staff report. ■

Clarification on entrepreneur camps

In a Dec. 14, 2011, story about SRI International in Menlo Park, the Almanac inaccurately described SRI as running the entrepreneurial boot camps for students at the Girls Middle School, a private school in Palo Alto.

The school does run entrepreneurial boot camps, but SRI is not involved. SRI does offer innovation workshops for entrepreneurs, academics, students and executives in business and government, CEO Curt Carlson said in an email. "SRI did not develop any part

of the Girls Middle School curriculum and we have not run any boot camps there."

Mr. Carlson wrote that he has visited the school and admires the boot camp program.

"I love to talk about the school because it is a beautiful example of exactly the kind of educational experience our young people need to thrive in the global innovation economy," he said. "I can only say that I wish we had developed their curriculum. It is an inspired educational innovation."



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Caltrain's hopes ride on new rail compact

By Gennady Sheyner

Embarcadero Media

Caltrain long-deferred dream of electrified tracks could finally become reality under a proposal between the California High-Speed Rail Authority, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and several Bay Area transportation groups.

The agreement, which the MTC announced last week and which the various parties are scheduled to take up in the next two months, is one component of what rail authority officials referred to as the "new vision" for high-speed rail. That vision calls for the new rail system to share tracks with Caltrain on the Peninsula and for "early investment" of high-speed rail funds in the northern and southern segments of the San Francisco-to-Los Angeles rail line.

The proposed "memorandum of understanding," which the MTC board is scheduled to discuss on March 28, allocates \$1.5 billion in funding for electrification and advance-signal-system elements of the blended system, MTC Executive Director Steve Hemminger wrote in a memo to the board.

"The sustained level of support for the electrification project reflects the critical nature of this project as it will usher in modern passenger rail service on the Peninsula that will lead to cost savings, faster service, operational efficiencies, quieter trains and fewer emissions," Mr. Hemminger wrote. "Electrification of the corridor will also pave the way for a future when California's high-speed trains can operate from downtown San Francisco to the greater Los Angeles basin."

About half of the funding for electrification would come from Proposition 1A, a \$9.95 billion bond measure state voters approved in 2008 for the high-speed-rail system. The proposed funding plan calls for about \$700 million to come from state funds. Caltrain would be expected to contribute close to \$200 million and two regional agencies, including the MTC and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, would chip in another \$31 million. The rest of the funding, roughly \$500 million, is expected to come from federal sources.

Caltrain has long promoted

electrification as a critical component to increasing ridership and becoming financially sustainable. The agency is facing structural budget deficits and has been relying on one-time funding sources over the past two years to avoid having to dramatically cut services. Mike Scanlon, executive director of Caltrain, called electrification an "essential improvement that is critical to the future of the system."

"This is an enormous step forward that prioritizes these improvements and delivers early benefits to the Caltrain system,

resources we have at the local and regional level for significant statewide resources that would help make this project happen," he said.

The proposed agreement involves the rail authority, the MTC, the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (which operates Caltrain), the San Francisco County Transportation Authority, the San Mateo County Transportation Authority, the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, San Francisco, San Jose and the Transbay Joint Powers Authority.

The proposal specifies that the high-speed rail system will rely on the "blended approach" -- using the existing Caltrain right-of-way along the Peninsula -- as opposed to the rail authority's original but controversial four-track design.

The "blended approach" was first proposed a year ago by three Peninsula legislators, state Sen. Joe Simitian, U.S. Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Palo Alto, and Assemblyman Rich Gordon, D-Menlo Park.

Though the rail authority had initially resisted the proposal to run high-speed rail and Caltrain on the same tracks, the agency has since embraced the proposal. At a public hearing in Mountain View recently, the rail authority's board Chair Dan Richard and board member Jim Hartnett said the agency's soon-to-be-released business plan will focus on the blended approach, which Mr. Richard said would bring down the cost of the \$98.5 billion project.

Mr. Gordon and Ms. Eshoo both released statements March 22 applauding the rail authority and the various transportation agencies for reaching an agreement to electrify Caltrain.

"The \$1.5 billion investment detailed in the MOU will drastically improve service time for the hundreds of thousands of Caltrain commuters, reduce emissions from existing diesel engines, and put in place a plan ensuring the use of the existing Caltrain right-of-way for the potential future of high-speed rail operations," Mr. Gordon said in a statement.

Ms. Eshoo also expressed enthusiasm about the new proposal and said that modernizing Caltrain "has and will continue to be one of my highest priorities for our region."

"It is the spine of our transportation system and it must be brought into the 21st century," she said in a statement. "Now the regional agreement to fully fund the electrification of Caltrain and positive train control will make this a reality." ■

Caltrain's long-awaited electrification project wouldn't be implemented until at least 2018.

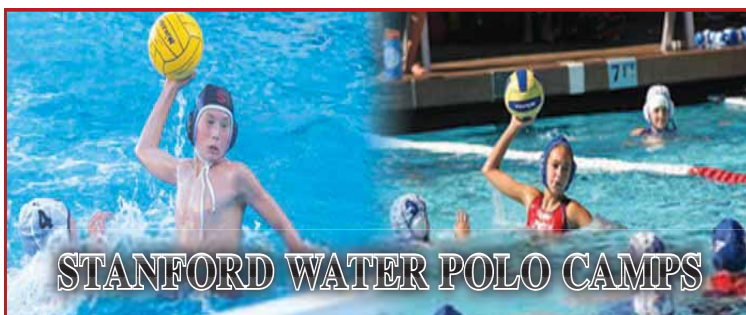
its riders and surrounding communities," Mr. Scanlon said in a statement.

But even under the best-case scenario, Caltrain's long-awaited electrification project wouldn't be implemented until at least 2018. Seamus Murphy, Caltrain's manager of government affairs, said that once the funds for the project come in, it would take about six years to complete the electrification. He also noted that future investments would be required to make the Caltrain corridor compatible with the high-speed rail system.

Before anything happens, however, the state Legislature would have to approve the rail authority's and the transportation agencies' request for bond funding, which is far from a sure thing. The project has been heavily criticized in Sacramento, with Republicans in the state Capitol overwhelmingly opposing it.

Some cities on the Peninsula have also been viewing the new agreement with skepticism. Members of the Palo Alto City Council, which last year officially adopted a position calling for termination of the high-speed rail project, discussed the proposed document Thursday morning and expressed concern about the speed with which the agencies are proceeding with the agreement.

Mr. Murphy said Caltrain strongly supports the memorandum of understanding and its proposal to electrify the corridor. "This is a huge opportunity for Caltrain to leverage the



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Dumbarton Bridge to close May 25-29

The entire Dumbarton Bridge will be closed during Memorial Day weekend for seismic retrofit work, bridge officials announced March 22.

Effie Milionis, a spokeswoman for the Dumbarton Bridge Seismic Safety Project, said that during the three-day closure Caltrans will replace a major expansion joint on the western side of the bridge across six lanes of traffic.

The bridge will be closed from 10 p.m. Friday, May 25, to as late as 5 a.m. Tuesday, May 29, she said.

During the closure, motorists are encouraged to take public transit or use alternate driving routes.

Motorists should allow extra time for travel and use other bridges, including state highways 237 and 92 via the San Mateo-Hayward Bridge, she said.

The closure over Memorial Day weekend will be the first time the Dumbarton Bridge will be closed for a full weekend for seismic safety work, Ms. Milionis said.

Seismic retrofit work began in the fall of 2010 and is scheduled to be completed early next year, she said.

Until now, crews have been working underneath the bridge's deck and their work hasn't affected traffic.

The Dumbarton Bridge is 1.6 miles long and connects the cities of Menlo Park in the west and Fremont in the east. About 60,000 vehicles cross the bridge every day.

The existing structure opened in 1982, replacing the bridge that was completed in 1927.

Visit dumbartonbridgeinfo.org for more information.

— Bay City News Service

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Registration packets for the 2012-2013 school year are available at the Woodside School office at 3195 Woodside Road in Woodside.

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Academics

(continued from previous page)

iD Teen Academies

Learn different aspects of video game creation, app development, filmmaking, photography, and more. 2-week programs where ages 13-18 interact with industry professionals to gain competitive edge. iD Gaming Academy, iD Programming Academy, and iD Visual Arts Academy are held at Stanford, and other universities.

www.iDTeenAcademies.com **1-888-709-TECH (8324)**

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ISTP Summer Camp is designed to give participants a unique opportunity to spend their summer break having fun learning or improving in a second language. Students are grouped according to both grade level and language of proficiency. Our camp offers many immersion opportunities and consists of a combination of language classes and activities taught in the target language. Sessions are available in French, Mandarin, Chinese and English ESL and run Monday through Friday, 8am-3:30pm, with additional extending care from 3:30-5:30pm.

www.istp.org

Stanford

Mid-Peninsula High School Summer Program

Mid-Peninsula High School offers a series of classes and electives designed to keep students engaged in learning. Class Monday-Thursday and limited to 15 students. Every Thursday there's a BBQ lunch. The Science and Art classes will have weekly field trips.

www.mid-pen.com

Menlo Park

Summer at Saint Francis

Summer at Saint Francis provides a broad range of academic and athletic programs for elementary through high school students. It is the goal of every program to make summer vacation enriching and enjoyable!

www.sfhs.com/summer

Mountain View

Synapse School & Wizbots

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synapseschool.org/curriculum/summer **650-866-5824**

Menlo Park

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www.headsup.org

Palo Alto

Arts, Culture and Other Camps

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www.imagineerz-learning.com

Mountain View/Los Altos

Castilleja Summer Day Camp

Castilleja Summer Day Camp (grades 2-6, CILT grades 8-9) offers age-appropriate activities including athletics, art, science, computers, writing, crafts, cooking, drama, music classes and field trips. Two and four week sessions available.

www.castilleja.org

Palo Alto

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www.arts4all.org

650-917-6800 ext. 0

Creative Kids Camp

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www.mppc.org

650-323-8647

India Community Center Summer Camps

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www.indiacc.org/camps

408-934-1130 ext. 225

Palo Alto Community Child Care (PACCC)

PACCC summer camps offer campers, grades kindergarten to 6th, a wide array of fun opportunities! K-1 Fun for the youngest campers, Nothing But Fun for themed-based weekly sessions, Neighborhood Adventure Fun and Ultimate Adventure Fun for the more active and on-the-go campers! Swimming twice per week, periodic field trips, special visitors and many engaging camp activities, songs and skits round out the fun offerings of PACCC Summer Camps! Registration is online. Open to campers from all communities! Come join the fun in Palo Alto!

www.paccc.com

650-493-2361

TechKnowHow Computer & LEGO Camps

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www.techknowhowkids.com

650-638-0500

Theatreworks Summer Camps

In these skill-building workshops for grades K-5, students engage in language-based activities, movement, music, and improvisation theatre games. Students present their own original pieces at the end of each two-week camp.

www.theatreworks.org/educationcommunity **650-463-7146**

Woodside eyes country club renovations

The town of Woodside is considering a proposal to renovate the golf course and tennis facilities at the Menlo Country Club at 2300 Woodside Road in Woodside.

The Woodside Architectural and Site Review Board met Monday, March 26, after the Almanac's deadline, to review the project and provide a recommendation.

Visit AlmanacNews.com for news updates.

The country club is proposing to relocate two tennis courts to be adjacent to the other two courts, and to add a tennis court building.

With about 5,000 trees on the property, the club is asking to remove 53 native significant trees, 166 non-native

'Menlo Country Club plans renovation of golf course, tennis facilities.'

significant trees, and 126 non-significant trees. In Woodside, a significant tree is one that measures 9.5 inches in diameter at 48 inches above the ground.

The project would include 180,000 cubic yards of grading.

The Woodside Planning Commission plans to meet at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 25, to consider adopting a "mitigated negative declaration" and associated permits for the project. The meeting will be held in Independence Hall at 2955 Woodside Road in Woodside.

Under the California Environmental Quality Act, a mitigated negative declaration is a determination that a project will not cause a significant adverse effect on the environment, or that the potential effect can be reduced to a level of insignificance.

Visit tinyurl.com/Golf-425 to see information about the proposed mitigated negative declaration and related documents.

In addition, the public can review the mitigated negative declaration and related documents at the Woodside Town Hall, 2955 Woodside Road in Woodside, from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.; and at the Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Road in Woodside, between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Thursdays, and between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.



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www.paloaltojcc.org/camps

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youth@paloaltojcc.org | (650) 223-8622



Study shows big traffic impacts from proposed library in park

By Renee Batti
Almanac News Editor

■ ATHERTON

A traffic light will be needed to address the increased traffic congestion at Middlefield Road and Watkins Avenue if a new library is built in Atherton's Holbrook-Palmer Park, but there's no feasible way to fix the traffic headache that would develop at Watkins and El Camino Real, according to the environmental study of the planned library project.

The draft environmental impact report (EIR) released March 23 described air quality, noise, water, transportation and other impacts that would result from building a two-story library of up to 13,500 square feet in Atherton's only park.

The public has until May 7 to comment on the document, which must be certified by the City Council before the planned project can move forward.

Although other environmental impacts were found to be insignificant, or less than sig-

nificant after mitigations are put in place, the intersections of Watkins, where the park is located, and the two main thoroughfares were flagged in the report.

According to the draft EIR, if the library is built in the park, the town must install a traffic signal at Middlefield and Watkins, which would solve the existing problem of delays at that intersection, and make the traffic flow tolerable even if the library is built nearby.

The current "level of service," or LOS, at that intersection is rated F. LOS ratings range from A to F, with F indicating the worst level of delays for vehicles navigating the intersection.

The draft EIR also identified a mitigation measure for the Watkins/El Camino Real intersection, but added that the measure is likely to be found infeasible: It requires a dedicated right-turn lane from Watkins onto northbound El

Camino, but that would involve the taking of residential property in the right-of-way. As a result, the traffic impact at that intersection is "significant and unavoidable," the EIR says.

Study: No feasible way to fix traffic headache at Watkins and El Camino.

The town might be able to lessen the impact of additional traffic at the intersection by providing more police enforcement of a left-turn ban from Watkins onto southbound El Camino. The existing ban covers 4 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, but a number of drivers ignore the restriction, according to the EIR. Nevertheless, "the effectiveness of additional monitoring cannot be quantified, and therefore it is unknown whether the impact would be fully mitigated by the measure," the report says.

The LOS at the intersection is

already rated F for peak morning traffic. For peak afternoon traffic, it is now rated D, but is expected to drop to E even without the library in the park. But if the library is built in the park, peak afternoon traffic is expected to cause delays at the intersection that will earn an F rating, the EIR says.

Parking demands would increase in the park to a significant level if the library is built there, the report says. But with mitigation, it would be a "less than significant" impact.

The mitigation measure listed in the report would require the town to count heads at events in the park's Pavilion, restricting attendance to 92 people for weekday events and 58 on weekends.

If an event is expected to draw more people, the town must see to it that there are no other special events during that time, and that the event doesn't take place during peak library hours, the EIR says.

Also, the event coordinator would be required to submit a trip-reduction plan to the town, which could include off-site parking and shuttling.

The report also studied alternatives to building the library in the park, including a project, supported by a number of resi-

dents, to renovate the library in its current location in the Town Center. It also looked at environmental impacts of a library at the proposed location, where the Main House now sits, but reduced to a maximum of 10,000 square feet; and of a library built instead on the North Meadow site in the park.

The draft EIR will be reviewed by the Planning Commission on April 25.

Go to <http://tinyurl.com/brcvvh9> to read the document. It is also available to read at Town Hall, 91 Ashfield Road in the Town Center.

Comments on the draft EIR can be mailed to Lisa Costa Sanders, deputy town planner, at 91 Ashfield Road, Atherton, CA 94027. The public may also submit comments during the April 25 Planning Commission meeting. ■

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Scientist sees dire climate-change impacts

By Chris Cooney

Bay City News Service

If worldwide carbon emissions continue at the present rate, rising temperatures could cause the Sierra Nevada

to lose 80 percent of its winter snowpack in just 40 years, a U.S. Geological Survey scientist said in a talk March 22 at the Menlo Park USGS campus.

The decrease in snowfall is among several grim impacts that climate change could have if current carbon emissions go unabated, said Tom Suchanek, USGS climate change coordinator.

He said that some effects of climate change are already impacting life in the Bay Area

and across the country, such as year-round high temperatures that are “breaking records right and left.”

“Temperatures are climbing all the time and climbing rapidly,” he said.

Higher temperatures — between 3 and 6 degrees higher depending on projection models — carry a barrage of side effects, including heat waves that are longer-lasting and more intense, increased fire danger, and winter storms that are stronger, more

violent and more frequent.

Mr. Suchanek said that “1,000-year storms” are already 10 times more frequent now than they were in the 1920s. “We now have multiple 1,000-year storms per decade,” he said.

Climate change is also expected to usher in a significant rise in sea levels, he said. With no change in current carbon emissions, sea levels are projected to rise at least 1.4 meters in Northern California by the year 2100.

Higher sea levels will bring higher wave heights, which will lead to increased beach erosion, cliff failures and coastal flood-

ing, he said.

There is still hope to curb carbon emissions if countries that burn the most fossil fuels — China, the U.S., India and Russia — continue to develop alternative energy sources and work through the United Nations Framework on Climate Change to draft a treaty that would reduce emissions worldwide, he said.

But for the U.S. to join any treaty, it first has to be ratified and approved by both houses of Congress, which in the current political climate does not seem likely at all, Mr. Suchanek said. ■



Peninsula Easter Services

Journey to Easter

You Are Invited

11:00a.m. Sunday, April 1st Palm Sunday
11:00a.m. Sunday, April 8th Easter Service



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Rev. Karen Paulsen



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at 650-326-8210
ext. 6596 or email
byoc@paweekly.com



celebrate HOPE this easter



Menlo Park Presbyterian Church
950 Santa Cruz Avenue in Menlo Park
Saturday, April 7 at 5 p.m.
Sunday, April 8 at 6, 8, 9:30, & 11 a.m.

The Cafe'
700 Santa Cruz Avenue in Menlo Park
(behind Ace Hardware)
Sunday, April 8 at 9:32 a.m. & 11:05 a.m.

mppc.org/easter

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541 Melville Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94301
650-838-0508

The Most Reverend Robert S. Morse, Vicar
Reverend Matthew Weber, Assistant

HOLY WEEK

Sunday, April 1	Palm Sunday	11 am	Distribution of Palms & Choral Eucharist
Thursday, April 5	Maundy Thursday	7 pm	Choral Mass
Friday, April 6	Good Friday	3 pm	The Way of the Cross
		7 pm	Good Friday Liturgy
Saturday, April 7	Holy Saturday	8 pm	Easter Vigil
Sunday, April 8	Easter Sunday	11 am	Choral Eucharist



Join Us For Easter

The great question of Easter is about us: where are the tombs in our life that God is inviting us to leave and where is new life rising in us? Join us at Trinity as we celebrate the promise and possibility of new life.

Palm Sunday, April 1: 8:00 am, 10:00 am*, 5:05 pm

Maundy Thursday (The Last Supper)
April 5, 6:00 pm* (with simple meal)

Good Friday, April 6
7:00 am, Noon, 7:00 pm

The Great Vigil of Easter
Baptisms & First Easter Communion
Saturday, April 7, 7:00 pm*

Easter Sunday, April 8
6:30 am in the Memorial Garden
8:00 am* & 10:00 am* in Church with Festival Choir

*Indicates child care available.

Woodside Village Church

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

April 1 Palm Sunday Worship – 9:30 a.m.
April 5 Maundy Thursday Service “Living the Passion” – 7:00 p.m.
April 6 Good Friday Service – 7:00 p.m.
April 8 Festival Service – 9:30 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt and Celebration Reception immediately following service

Reverend Michael E. Harvey, Pastor
Reverend Dorothy Straks, Minister of Music



Woodside Village Church

3154 Woodside Road, Woodside, CA 650.851.1587 www.wvchurch.org

Beechwood School set to buy Menlo Park land

■ Council announces intent to sell.

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

The future of 1.5 acres of land on Terminal Avenue in Menlo Park may, finally, be set after 11 years of discussion.

Menlo Park intends to sell the property to Beechwood School, a private Belle Haven school for

grades K-8, along with the land the school currently sits on, for \$1.25 million, according to a staff report released March 22.

Habitat for Humanity planned to build 22 affordable homes on the parcel since 2001, but the nonprofit pulled the plug on the development after 10 years of community opposition and financial difficulties.

In contrast, the Belle Haven community has been vocal in its support of the school's acquisi-

tion of the land, which would allow Beechwood to expand and replace temporary buildings with permanent structures, the staff report said.

Representatives of the Belle Haven Neighborhood Association have said at previous council meetings that they'd support housing development along Hamilton Avenue if the city lets the school buy the Terminal Avenue property.

Previously the school's efforts

to buy the Terminal Avenue property ran into a roadblock — council members had stated that the school wasn't offering a fair price. Now it seems the city and school have agreed that \$1.25 million makes the deal worthwhile.

The proposed contract would let the city buy back the land for the purchase price if a new school "is not substantially completed" within five years, and also gives Menlo Park the

right of first refusal should the school decide to sell the land for a non-educational use.

If the City Council approves the intent to sell, the community can protest from now until after a public hearing on April 27. At least four council members would need to vote in favor of the sale to override any protest.

The intent to sell is on the council agenda for Tuesday, March 27; the meeting starts at 7 p.m. in the council chambers at the Menlo Park Civic Center, 701 Laurel St. ■

Peninsula Easter Services



ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH PALO ALTO

Maundy Thursday— April 5

*Monastic Supper & Liturgy of the Word followed
by Holy Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar*

Good Friday — April 6

❖ 6:15pm

❖ Noon to 2:00pm *Stations of the Cross with Reflections*

❖ 2:00 to 3:00pm *Labyrinth Stations: A Walking Meditation*

❖ 7:30 to 8:30pm *Tenebrae: The Office of Shadows*

Easter — April 8

❖ 5:30am *Easter Vigil, Eucharist & Baptism*

❖ 8:00 to 9:30am *Festive Breakfast & Family Easter Activities*

❖ 10:00am *Festive Holy Eucharist*

600 Colorado Ave, P.A. (650) 326-3800

www.saint-marks.com



CHRIST CHURCH

The Episcopal Parish of Portola Valley & Woodside

Saturday April 7: Children's Eucharist @ 4 p.m.

Sunday April 8: Sung Eucharist @ 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.

815 Portola Road, Portola Valley; tel. (650) 851-0224

www.ccpvw.org www.facebook.com/ccpvw



Grace Lutheran Church ELCA

Celebrate Easter

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday
4/5 | 7:30 pm

Good Friday
4/6 | 12 pm & 7:30 pm

Saturday
Easter Vigil
4/7 | 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday

April 8 | 8:30 am and 10:45 am
Easter Breakfast: 9:00 - 10:30 am

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Easter Worship 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

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www.valleypreschurch.org

Alleluia!

Holy Week Services

April 5 6:00 pm

April 6 Noon & 7:00 pm

April 8 9:30 am

Seder Dinner

Good Friday Services

Easter Festival Service

Children's Easter Egg Hunt
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Bethany Lutheran Church

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April 5 ❖ MAUNDY THURSDAY

12 noon Foot Washing

12:10pm Holy Eucharist &
Healing Rite

7:15pm Foot Washing

7:30pm Holy Eucharist

April 6 ❖ GOOD FRIDAY

12 noon Service of music,
reflection, and prayer

7:30pm Meditation on the
Passion of Christ

April 7 ❖ HOLY SATURDAY

9:00pm Great Vigil of Easter,
Holy Baptism &
Eucharist

April 8 ❖ EASTER SUNDAY

8:00am Eucharist with Hymns

10:15am Sung Eucharist

11:30am Easter Egg Hunt

Nursery available 10-11:30am



ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN the Town of Atherton is accepting proposals from qualified firms to perform comprehensive Architectural and Engineering Services (Consultant) for the programming, design and construction of a new library in accordance with the included specifications, terms, and conditions shown in this Request for Proposals (RFP).

Request for Proposal documents can be found at: www.ci.atherton.ca.us under the "RFP/ Bid Solicitations"

Proposal Format:

The Town of Atherton seeks a proposal for Architectural and Engineering Services for the programming, design and construction of a new library. Responding individuals or firms must have demonstrated experience in managing the public process, design, and permitting of buildings for public entities. The Proposal should include the following:

1. **FIRM OR PERSONS INTRODUCTION:** including information such as length of time in business, office location(s), number of staff and a general summary of qualifications documenting the strengths of the firm or persons, areas of expertise and licensing.
2. **SUB-CONSULTANTS INTRODUCTION:** including information such as length of time in business, office location(s), number of staff and a general summary of qualifications documenting the strengths of the firm or persons, areas of expertise and licensing. Include what area of the project the sub-consultant will be providing services for and the percentage of overall project for each.
3. **UNDERSTANDING AND APPROACH TO SCOPE OF WORK:** demonstrate understanding of the tasks and services requested and describe the approach to accomplish the services described in this RFP.
4. **PROJECT EXPERIENCE:** listing specific design experience that is related to the type of service required by the Atherton Library project. Project experience should list the type of work provided with the client contact information for each project. Project experience should not be limited to Library projects and should include other civic design projects.
5. **DETAILED WORK PLANS** with estimated hours by task or project stage.
6. **BUDGET and SCHEDULE:** describe methods to be used to maintain work product within budget and schedule and methods used to bring budget and schedule into compliance when they are out of compliance.
7. **KEY STAFF:** including the identification of the Principal-in-Charge and key staff, including sub-consultants. This section should identify the qualifications and related experience of key staff assigned to the project; and includes their resume showing experience providing similar design services.
8. **SOFTWARE:** List the software planned for use for scheduling, budget management and the schematic and construction documents.
9. **LITIGATION:** A list of any current litigation to which the firm or person are parties by virtue of their professional service, in addition to a list of any such litigation from the past ten years.
10. **DISCLOSURE:** of any past, ongoing, or potential conflicts of interest that the firm or person may have as a result of performing the anticipated work.
11. **COMMENTS OR REQUESTED CHANGES TO CONTRACT:** The Town of Atherton standard professional services contract is included as an attachment to the RFP. The proposing firm or persons shall identify any objections and/or requested changes to the Standard contract.
12. Proposals shall be printed double sided, submitted on 8-1/2" x 11" paper, with font size 11 pt minimum. Pages shall be numbered, tabbed, and presented in a three (3) ring binder or other bound format. Proposals shall not exceed fifty (50) pages (i.e., sheets of paper), including an organization chart, staff resumes, and introductory letter. Divider tabs do NOT count toward the 50 page limit.

Submittal of Proposal:

Proposals are due no later than **4:00 p.m. Monday, April 27, 2012.**

Submit one signed original, six (6) letter-sized copies, and a CD of the technical proposal to:

Atherton City Clerk
Town Of Atherton
91 Ashfield Road
Atherton, CA 94027

Community group hosts 'Meet Your Neighbors'

■ ATHERTON

To launch its series of activities in 2012, the Atherton Civic Interest League (ACIL) is hosting a "Meet Your Neighbors" gathering at 7 p.m. Friday, March 30, in Holbrook-Palmer Park.

The event is designed to showcase and introduce various social and community organizations in town, organizers say.

The nonprofit organization is planning additional activities this year in the hope of ramping up community involvement. "Because of recent cuts to government, we wanted to support the power of community involvement in our town," ACIL co-president John Davey said in a press release. "So we're starting by providing opportunities for Atherton residents to meet one another and to have fun in Atherton."

Co-president Cat Mikkelsen added that the organization is "working to put on some good parties this year in an effort to bootstrap good feeling and community involvement."

The organization is also looking for more volunteers to help with classes and events, and plans to offer activities such as Mahjong, bingo, poker, and resident-hosted cooking classes, said Mr. Davey.

In addition to the March 30 event, the ACIL has scheduled a town block party in the park on May 20; a spaghetti dinner on July 21 to benefit Atherton police and local fire services; a "mixer" on Sept. 20 that will spotlight some of the town's nonprofits; and an Oct. 4 candidates' forum, according to the press release.

Residents interested in teaching or taking an ACIL-sponsored class, or in volunteering to organize and host social events can email Mr. Davey at johndavey@sbcglobal.net.

■ INFORMATION

Go to athertoncivicinterestleague.org to learn more about the organization.

New Dining for Women chapter in Portola Valley

■ AROUND TOWN

The Portola Valley chapter of Dining for Women will hold its first potluck dinner and meeting on Wednesday, April 11, at the home of Ginger Creevy in Portola Valley.

Dining for Women consists of more than 250 chapters, where members meet to enjoy a get-together, learn about an urgent women's project, and then donate to that cause what they would have spent dining out. The amount will be whatever the member wishes to donate.

Ms. Creevy, Meghan Sweet and Karen Vahtra, who have initiated the new chapter, report that 25 women have signed up for the first potluck. Feroza Unvala of the Afghan Friends Network will be the speaker.

For more information on the new chapter or to attend the April 11 potluck, e-mail Ginger Creevy at gcreevy@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Dining for Women meetings include May 9 (Children of Vietnam) and June 13 (Maasai Girls Education Fund & Hutu International).

Meghan Sweet, a Portola Valley

resident for two years, says many have learned about Dining for Women through the new Portola Valley Women's Club. The club, offering such activities as hiking, biking, mah jong, cooking, and bridge, was formed last June as a social outlet for newcomers, as well as longtime residents. It now has 166 members.

Nativity School third in academic decathlon

Nativity School in Menlo Park came in third in the Academic Junior High Decathlon for the San Francisco Archdiocese held March 14 at St. Pius School in Redwood City. Nativity School was one of 17 schools taking part in the 13th annual competition.

The Nativity team placed third overall: second in a super quiz with 50 multiple-choice questions on five broad academic themes, and fourth in logic, a quiz with 20 rigorous thinking problems. The 10-event competition was for students in grades 6 to 8.

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College Bound program at Hillview School engages at-risk students

COLLEGE

continued from page 5

To address this need, in the fall of 2010, counselor Debbie Devoto collaborated with teachers in the newly formed eighth-grade academy to create the College Bound program.

The idea was to:

- Focus on building a peer community among students who scored below proficient on the standardized STAR tests.

- Give them incentives to become excited about going to college, and an understanding of what it takes to get there.

- Challenge them to go for it.

The program evolved into a three-pronged approach.

The first component was to engage families and educate them about how they could help. Once a month, "Family Dinners" were held to update parents on student progress, introduce them to community support programs, and inform them of what was going on at school.

As momentum for the program built, more and more families regularly attended with their students. By May, the family dinners typically included more than 50 people.

The second component of the program was "in the field." Ms. Devoto arranged for field trips to local colleges, including Stanford, UC Berkeley, USF and San Francisco State. The trips got the kids interested and excited about the prospects of some day being a part of a four-year institution.

Tours of a fraternity and sorority on the Cal campus were especially of interest to the students.

The third and most important part of the program became "doing what it takes."

Each day, after school, Ms. Devoto would spend one and a half to two hours with students in a homework support program. Academy teachers were available to give extra instruction, and no student left without finishing the homework.

"What was amazing to me was that after the first field trip, the students *wanted* to come in and get their homework done," Ms. Devoto noted. "These were stu-

dents who would typically come to school unprepared.

"Suddenly, they were doing their homework, studying for tests, asking for help, and participating in class," she said. "Only one of the students in the program opted out."

In the end, of the 21 students in the program, 20 graduated from Hillview in 2011. Fifteen students showed a marked improvement in their standardized test scores by rising one level in at least one area.

Ms. Devoto plans to follow up with the high schools at the end of the first semester to get information and feedback on how the transition to high school has been for these students.

Program expands

With the first cohort now in high school, Ms. Devoto has expanded the College Bound program this year to begin with sixth-graders. She has assembled a steering committee — made up of one teacher from each grade level and co-counselor Robyn Watts — to look at ways to develop a three-year program. Activities at all grade levels are under way.

The focus for at-risk sixth-graders is to take advantage of the after-school peer tutoring program, started four years ago by Ms. Watts. Ms. Devoto has matched 30 sixth-graders with a seventh- or eighth-grade peer tutor, who works with them every day after school, answering questions, showing them good organizational skills, and teaching them how to study for tests and quizzes.

The field trips for this group are rewards for students who earn the required GPA. This first trimester, 21 of the 30 students reached the bar. These students were also recognized at our December Family Dinner, attended by 66 people.

Seventh-grade at-risk students are being encouraged to look ahead to high school. These students are visiting the four schools in the Sequoia Union High School District, as well as several private schools in the area.

The November Family Dinner



Courtesy of Dale Walker Photography

F. Gabriel Morgan in action on squash court at Harvard University.

Menlo Park boy wins squash title

F. Gabriel Morgan, 14, of Menlo Park was crowned National Champion at the U.S. Junior Squash Championships held March 18 at Yale University.

Playing at Yale's Brady Squash Center, he competed in the Boys under 15 division and was undefeated in five straight matches en route to his first national title. During the weekend at Yale, 320 U.S. junior squash players competed in the tournament.

An eighth-grader at St. Raymond School in Menlo Park, Gabriel is the first junior from California to be crowned a national champion in squash. He first played squash at age 6, but "became serious about it when he was 9," says his dad, Reynolds Morgan.

The youth plays at the Olympic Club, Stanford University, the Pacific Athletic Club, and the Squash Club of Los Gatos, where he trains three times a week with Gareth Webber,

former associate head squash coach at Yale.

"It gets a little crazy because he's also an elite tennis player," says Gabriel's dad.

This summer Gabriel will travel to Capetown, Africa, to train with his original squash coach, Mark Allen. He also works with Richard Elliott, assistant squash coach at Stanford University.

Gabriel, son of Wendy and Reynolds Morgan, will enter Menlo School in the fall.

was held at Summit Preparatory Charter High School, where both Summit and Everest school staffs presented their programs. Seventh-graders also attend a homework support program — headed by Ms. Watts and teacher Brenda Keith — that also includes a few peer tutors who help with individual questions and organization.

The eighth-grade College Bound program remains as it was last year, with the focus on looking at and getting excited about colleges. In addition, a field trip is planned to the Career Center at Menlo-Atherton High School, where college counselor Alice Kleeman will lead the students through an interest inventory and career search.

It is hoped that by encouraging these under-achieving students to look ahead to the possibilities of college and careers, they will

find incentives to overcome and embrace the struggle that comes with loving to learn.

It is never too late to bridge the achievement gap and never too early to focus on the future — be it high school or college. The College Bound program pulls together students, families, teachers and the community to give our at-risk students the motivation and support to change their educational trajectories.

Ms. Devoto is passionate about making an impact with the students in the program. "The most rewarding part of this program for me has been to see the smile that appears when a student realizes that he or she *can* do it; sometimes that smile is a shy, hidden one, and sometimes it's worn all over their body," she said. "I love this job. I wake up every day, and can't wait to get to school." ■

Workshops on creative writing

Author and columnist Phyllis Butler will present a series of four Thursday creative writing workshops, starting April 5, at Little House, located at 800 Middle Ave. in Menlo Park.

The classes will include weekly exercises in personal memoir, family history and short stories.

Ms. Butler has taught at Foothill College, written for the Los Angeles Times, the San Francisco Chronicle, and the San Jose Mercury News, as well as The Almanac.

Classes will run from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. on four Thursdays from April 5 to April 26. Cost for the series is \$40-45. Drop-in is \$12. For more information or to pre-register, call 326-0723.

Ellen Mathews Wachhorst

Ellen Wachhorst died peacefully in her sleep on March 13 at the Vi retirement residence in Palo Alto. Born June 28, 1918 in Susanville, California, Ellen graduated from the University of Oregon a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority, became a WAVE during World War II, worked in Los Angeles, and later for McCann-Erickson Advertising in San Francisco before marrying Dr. Newton Wachhorst in 1956. Residing in Atherton for 35 years, she raised twins, was a Pink Lady volunteer at Stanford Hospital, and a long-time member of the Peninsula Volunteers and the Menlo Circus Club.

Forever lovely and fashionable, Ellen ("Ellie" to her brother) always appeared much younger than her years. She loved late nights, good novels, and romantic films (*An Affair to Remember* was her favorite). Warm-hearted, and unassuming, she was great company, relating easily to all ages. She loved to laugh, to listen, to have a good talk, tell a good story, and share the good times with family and friends. Truly sweet and naturally funny without really trying, Ellen was feminine in every way compassionate, understanding, and interested in the details of everyday life. It was her way to let things go without a fuss, without opinion, advice, or a critical word. In her expressions of sympathy, of gratitude, of genuine interest in others there was an open honesty, a perennial good nature that was ever in balance: unassertive while knowing her own mind, deeply connected while self-contained, impeccable about her appearance yet reacting

to compliments with tickled surprise. With Newt, her late husband of 34 years, she loved to dance (their song was "Fascination") and enjoyed days in the sun, Circus Club parties, and dental-group trips. Family and friends will miss Ellen and her many priceless stories. Their world will always seem a bit brighter for having been touched by the warmth of this exceptional woman.

Ellen was predeceased by her husband, Dr. Newton Wachhorst, her sister Marcella Searles, and parents Arthur and Lena Mathews. She is survived by her brother Arthur Mathews of San Carlos, her son Jeffrey, daughter Wendy Hurley (Kevin), and granddaughter Gina Ramirez, all of Palo Alto, step-son Wyn Wachhorst (Rita) of Atherton, step-grandsons Brian Wachhorst (Marisa) of Burlingame and Scott Wachhorst (Sydney) of Menlo Park, two nieces: Melinda Kaewert (Doug) of Atherton and Sally Porter of Maui, four nephews: Scott Searles of Oakland, Allan Mathews (Kathleen) of Placitas, NM, Joe Mathews (Donna) of Calistoga, and Mike Mathews of Jamul, CA, and six grand- and a great-grand niece and nephew. Donations may be made to the American Heart Association or the Peninsula Volunteers.

PAID OBITUARY



Robert Gordon Stewart

Robert Gordon Stewart, age 64 of San Francisco died peacefully with family at his side at Stanford University Hospital in the early morning of February 17, 2012, from the result of injuries suffered from a fall the evening before. Bob was a loving and loyal husband, brother, nephew, uncle, coworker, friend and neighbor. He had a deep love and affection for animals, particularly his wonderful Golden retrievers. His sincere interest in people and his great sense of humor will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Bob was born on November 20, 1947 in Vernon, British Columbia, Canada the son of Gordon Turnbull Stewart and Bernice Rhoda Beardall both of whom preceded him in death. He was also preceded in death by his devoted aunt, Kathleen Fisher.

On June 23, 1984, in Los Altos, California Bob married his best friend Carol Tooker. In addition to his wife Carol, Bob is survived by his sister Patricia Ann (husband Steven) McNeely of Sacramento; uncles Weston Clifford Fisher of Palo Alto and James Beardall (wife Liliaine) of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada; his cousin Weston Arnold Fisher (wife Shirley) of Stow, Massachusetts; parent-in-laws Edwin and Pauline Tooker; sister-in-laws Jean Elizabeth (husband Ted) Stephens of Palo Alto, Christine Ruth (husband Roger) Thomas of Lake Oswego, Oregon; nephews Matthew Wilson Stephens of Palo Alto, Brian Keith (wife Dianne) Stephens of Redwood City; nieces, Megan Elizabeth Thomas, and Jacqueline Marie Thomas both of Lake Oswego, Oregon and Brenda Kay

(husband Scot) Smithee of Hollister.

Bob graduated from Arizona State University in 1973, was an owner of Enzo's Ristorante in the Embarcadero Center and was most recently employed as a Sales Representative for Southern Wine & Spirits of Northern California. Bob had many friends in the restaurant and food industry. He was a stanch Stanford, San Francisco Giants, and 49's fan and loved walking his Golden Retriever, Button, in his North Beach neighborhood of San Francisco. Bob was a member of the Teamsters Union, Local # 853.

The family greatly appreciates the compassion and caring of the staff at Stanford University Hospital's Intensive Care Unit and Neurology Department.

Memorials on behalf of Bob may be given to the Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue and Sanctuary www.homewardboundgoldens.org/donating/howto or any other charity of your choice.

A memorial gathering of family and friends will be held at a later date. Online condolences may be left for the family at almanacnews.com/obituaries or by leaving an e-mail for the family at rgsmemorial@aol.com.

PAID OBITUARY



Warren Slocum ballot revised after complaint

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer



Candidates for political office are expected to sing their own praises in hopes of swaying voters, but there are rules regarding what they can say, rules that county Board of Supervisors candidate Warren Slocum recently got a refresher lesson on.

Ballot statements and designations are meant to briefly summarize a candidate's qualifications for office. Once the 10-day public review of the statements and designations commenced on March 9, a couple eagle-eyed Menlo Park residents spotted a mistake in Mr. Slocum's, and wasted no time before protesting.

Apparently Mr. Slocum's original language may have created the impression that he was still the county's elections officer by stating, "As your Chief Elections Officer and Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder..." an error the candidate described as unintentional.

Although elsewhere in his statement he included the abbreviation "ret." for "retired" — the complaint stated that voters might overlook or not understand the shorthand.

"Mr. Slocum attempted to file a ballot designation that was not permitted under the law," said Menlo Park Mayor Kirsten Keith, who is also running for the Board of Supervisors, in a press release. "I raised objections with San Mateo County and they agreed that his ballot designation was improper. Mr. Slocum was forced to change it. Additionally, I objected to some of the language Mr. Slocum used in his ballot statement to describe his former position with the County and San Mateo County Counsel agreed with that objection also and went to court to get this language changed."

The county's current election officer, Mark Church, filed the complaint in San Mateo County Superior Court on March 19. A judge agreed with the concerns and ruled that the language should be tweaked to insert the word "former" where appropriate.

The changes also addressed

another error. Mr. Slocum's initial ballot designation described his former position as "retired San Mateo County Chief Elections Officer and Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder," which exceeded the three-word limit, according to Mr. Church. The revised ballot designation now reads "retired San Mateo County Clerk." San Mateo County counts as one word under the election code.

Mr. Slocum, who was first elected to public office in 1986 and served until January 2011, said he didn't feel the new designation was entirely accurate, and also that it certainly was not his intent to try to

make anyone think he was still in office. "I did put the abbreviation for retired in there," he said. "If I'd had the intent of being sneaky I certainly wouldn't have put 'ret' up top in the very first line."

Ms. Keith described the incident as very disturbing and commented in a press release, "This was either a deliberate act or a negligent oversight, and either is very troublesome for someone who was in charge of enforcing election laws and is now a candidate for Supervisor."

For his part, Mr. Slocum said he's been around long enough to know that during a campaign, people try to divert other campaigns away from the main issues.

"It's unfortunate that my opponents are focused on semantics, words on a paper and not on the serious issues facing our county," he said. "I am working to share my vision for the future and my solutions for problems like the budget — so that San Mateo County can be a better place to live for all of our residents. I'm continuing to talk and listen to people and it's time to move on."

He is one of eight candidates for termed-out Supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson's seat. The district she represents includes Menlo Park, Redwood City, East Palo Alto and unincorporated North Fair Oaks and Oak Knoll. ■

**Opposing candidate
Kirsten Keith
challenged the
language.**

Work starts on tunnel to save 'Granny'

"Granny," the centuries-old North Fair Oaks tree spared by a utilities commission after neighbors protested plans to cut it down, now sits between two pits.

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission dug the pits in preparation for boring a tunnel underneath the tree during the next few weeks. The commission originally planned to chop Granny down to make way for a new Hetch Hetchy pipeline, but changed its mind in the face of staunch opposition by the tree's advocates.

Charles Berkstrasser owns the property that shelters the tree. He said the construction is going well. "Personally I am relieved they are finally doing the work. No chance now they can change their minds!"

Kaygetsu owner now cooks for Apple

When Menlo Park's Kaygetsu restaurant closed in September, owners Keiko and Toshi Sakuma weren't quite sure what would come next for them.

But according to the San Francisco Chronicle, Steve Jobs didn't let them wonder for long. Before his death, the entrepreneur convinced Mr. Sakuma to take a job in Cupertino as a sushi chef at Apple headquarters.

Author tells story of Capitol dome

Noted author and journalist Guy Gugliotta will visit Christ Episcopal Church at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 3, to talk about his new book, "Freedom's Cap: The United States Capitol and the Coming of the Civil War."

The story turns on the contrast between the rising of the dome, a symbol of unity, at the time that the country is on a fateful trajectory toward disunity.

MENLO BRIEFS

Ms. Sakuma said in an online forum post that Mr. Jobs made the offer while eating lunch at Kaygetsu, after somehow finding out that the restaurant was for sale. "Steve has been very good to us, being one of our regular customers for many years. We didn't treat him any different from other customers; and I regret that I had to turn him away many times when we didn't have seats for him and his guests. But, I think he liked the fact that he wasn't getting any special treatment," she wrote.

Union, HSR, fees on council agenda

The Menlo Park City Council returns after a week off to tackle topics as varied as high-speed rail and National Library Week.

The agenda for the March 27 meeting includes a closed session discussion of the city's high-speed rail lawsuits at 6:15 p.m.

The regular meeting then commences at 7 p.m., with the council expected to discuss a proposed contract with the Service Employees International Union that would get benefits in line with pension reform

legislation passed in 2020, as well as potential fee increases for city services.

The council is also scheduled to vote on whether to move forward with selling land on Terminal Avenue to Beechwood School.

Go to tinyurl.com/bn2atp6 to review the agenda for Tuesday's meeting. The regular meeting will be held in council chambers at the Civic Center at 701 Laurel St.

John S. Dore

September 12, 1938-November 22, 2011
Atherton, California

John died unexpectedly at home in Atherton on Tuesday, Nov 22, 2011. Born near Broadway in the Cotswolds, he was educated in England where he received degrees in Chemistry and Geology. He worked as a Geologist in England and Canada before emigrating to the USA with his wife Janet where he became a consulting geologist at AMAX Coal and later SRI International. In 1984, John joined his wife Janet to become a successful husband and wife real estate partnership. John was an avid tennis player, historian and artist. John is survived by his wife Janet, son Jonathan, daughter-in-law Patrizia, grandchildren Jack and Juliana, and brother-in-law John Spiller and the Spiller family. His warm, generous spirit will be fondly remembered.

PAID OBITUARY

Eric Salvatierra

Eric Cristian Salvatierra, age 39, passed away on Friday, March 9th in Menlo Park, California.

Eric was a devoted father and husband who will forever be remembered for his compassion, humility, intellect, kindness, fun-loving wit, and unwavering loyalty to family, friends, and colleagues.

Eric was born in Tucson, AZ on March 29th, 1972, the son of Hector and Joan Salvatierra. He grew up as the youngest of five children in a close family. He graduated from Brophy College Preparatory School in Phoenix in 1990, where he was voted most likely to succeed.

Eric attended college at Georgetown University, graduating Summa Cum Laude with a B.S. in Business Administration and Finance in 1994. He was President of Beta Gamma Sigma and received the Dean's Citation for his leadership in 1994. Eric was also a member of the Georgetown Varsity Lightweight Crew team.

Eric met his wife Meredith Ackley when they both worked as camp counselors during college and were married in Sonoma County in 1999. At Meredith's 40th birthday party, Eric described her as "his star, his ever bright and guiding light."

Eric worked as an equity analyst for Goldman Sachs in New York before moving to California with Meredith in 1998 to attend Stanford University's Graduate School of Business. But before Eric was due to start at Stanford, his life changed course when he took a summer internship with a little known Internet company called eBay. Drawn by eBay's innovative business model, Eric soon decided to defer his Stanford studies to stay at the company.

As one of eBay's earliest finance employees in 1998, Eric helped build the foundation for the company's long-term success. Over the 14 years that Eric was an employee of eBay, PayPal and Skype, he held numerous high level leadership positions that made a lasting impact on the company, most recently serving as Paypal's Vice President for Customer Advocacy and Operational Excellence. In the words of eBay's CEO John Donahoe, "Eric was one of those unique and special colleagues who was loved and admired by all."

Although Eric was a successful business

leader, his true passion was his family: his wife Meredith and their three daughters, Lia (age 10), Eva (age 8) and Elena (age 3). His wife and children meant the world to Eric and his priority was to be present for his family. All three of his beautiful daughters inherited Eric's soulful blue eyes and gracious spirit.

Eric snowboarded throughout the winter and road biked in the summer. He never missed a concert by his favorite artist and was well known for his DJ skills that kept the dance floor hopping.

Eric served the community in many ways through his generosity with his time, business skills and finances. He was on the board of Peninsula Bridge for two years and he was an active member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto.

Sadly, Eric struggled with Bipolar II, an invisible illness that can be as deadly as cancer or heart disease. Since his diagnosis in the summer of 2011, he worked tirelessly with mental health professionals to manage his illness. In the end, he lost his fight with this debilitating disease.

In addition to his wife and children, Eric will be forever loved and missed by his devoted parents, Hector & Joan Salvatierra and his loving siblings: John Salvatierra, his wife Wilma and their children: Isabella & Mary Grace; Stephen Salvatierra, his wife Heather, and their children: Madeline & Natalie, Mary Salvatierra and her husband Doug Lively, and Marc Salvatierra; his uncle Dr. Oscar Salvatierra, his wife Pam; and numerous uncles, aunts, and cousins.

He is also loved and grieved by his beloved in-laws, Molly & Harry Ackley, and his sister-in-law Julia Ackley and her husband, Cameron Burks and their children, Sadie and Hannah.

In lieu of flowers, the Salvatierra-Ackley family has asked that donations be given in Eric's name to three organizations:

NAMI Santa Clara

(<http://www.namisantaclara.org/>),

DBSA (<http://www.dbsalliance.org/>), or

Kara (<http://www.kara-grief.org/joomla/>).

PAID OBITUARY

Brad Hampton

Brad Hampton passed away unexpectedly from a heart attack on March 1, 2012. He was 40 years old. Brad grew up in Atherton and graduated from Menlo-Atherton High School in 1990 and Southern Methodist University in 1994.

Brad is survived by his parents Wade and Nancy Hampton of Meadow Vista; sister Laurie Hampton Sweeting and brother-in-law Mike Sweeting of Granite Bay; nieces Ashley and Kelsey Sweeting of Granite Bay; and grandmother Doris Sweeney of Auburn. He will be greatly missed by his entire family.

There will be a private service in Lake Tahoe.

Memorials in Brad Hampton's name may be made to the Placer SPCA, 150 Corporation Yard Road, Roseville, CA 95678; or your local SPCA



PAID OBITUARY

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Viewpoint

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

Coming to grips with greenhouse gas

When will the world, or the U.S. or California, begin to panic about climate change?

As this slow-moving freight train heads inexorably for the abyss, the numbers that many politicians continue to ignore or dispute keep rising. Just last week, at a talk in Menlo Park, U.S. Geological Survey scientist Tom Suchanek told it like it is: If worldwide carbon emissions continue to rise at the current rate, rising temperatures could cause the Sierra Nevada to lose 80 percent of its winter snowpack in the next 40 years, which would wipe out the source of water for most Bay Area homes.

Mr. Suchanek had some other scary news: Projection models show average temperatures will keep climbing, between 3 and 6 degrees higher, producing more heat waves, more intense fire danger, and more frequent and violent winter storms. Sea levels could rise at least 1.4 meters in Northern California by 2100.

There is hope, but only if the biggest users of fossil fuels — the U.S., China, India and Russia — work to develop more alternative energy sources and sign on to a treaty that would lower worldwide emissions. Such a treaty would need Congressional approval, an unlikely prospect as long as the current gridlock continues.

On the positive side, there is little hesitancy in Menlo Park about adopting greenhouse gas reduction programs, although not all council members agree on the urgency. Peter Ohtaki and Andy Cohen dissented on a measure calling for the city to reach the ambitious 27 percent greenhouse gas reduction by 2020 recommended by staff. The quibble came over the estimated cost of up to \$400,000 to reach the higher goal, which staff appropriately suggested be covered by raising the utility

EDITORIAL*The opinion of The Almanac*

users tax. To reach the 27 percent goal would require the city to cut 330,938 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020.

The city will achieve some emission reductions from actions taken by the state, such as new standards to reduce residential and commercial energy use by 20 and 10 percent respectively. Utilities must obtain 33 percent of their energy from renewable sources by 2020 and vehicles sold in the state must reduce greenhouse gas emissions 22 percent this year and 20 percent by 2016. And the city is offering up to \$4,000 in PG&E rebates to homeowners who participate in a statewide energy upgrade program.

Another green initiative being considered by Menlo Park is eliminating carry-out plastic bags from grocery stores, joining 14 other cities in the county. Shoppers would be encouraged to bring their own reusable bags or pay a small fee for paper bags. A similar initiative is being mounted by the county in unincorporated areas.

And finally, the initiative aims to prohibit polystyrene (also known as Styrofoam) containers, which are popular for take-out food at local restaurants. Alternative, biodegradable products are available and could be accepted into the recycling program in the future. By eliminating bags and utensils, the city will be able to meet a new mandate from the Regional Water Board to reduce trash in storm drains by 40 percent by 2014 and a goal to divert 75 percent of trash from landfills by 2020.

In our view, it is the grass roots work undertaken by Menlo Park and similar cities that eventually will lead to at least a leveling off of greenhouse gas production before it is too late. Federal, state and local governments all need to play a role in solving this problem. Much more needs to be done, but we hope the continuing pressure to further reduce emissions here will spread elsewhere and hopefully, begin to make a difference.

LETTERS*Our readers write***High-speed wrecking ball headed for state***Editor:*

High-speed rail is a devil's bargain for California. Discussions about how to fund it, which segment to start with, and how great it will be, are like assurances of the safety of the Titanic. This project would put our state under water for decades to come.

But it seems that the specter of \$3 billion in federal money is so enticing to our Legislature that, in spite of the fact that California is teetering on the brink of insolvency, our state government has pledged to match the federal funds for building the bullet train, knowing that we'll have to come up with another \$89 billion to complete the project. That's right: \$89 billion.

The fiasco looks like this: Our bankrupt federal government offers taxpayer dollars

to our bankrupt state government, which offers more of our taxpayer dollars to, no doubt,

some well-greased palms, and a few high-bidding construction unions, for a needless project

that can only end tragically,

Continued on next page

Atherton Heritage Association

Our Regional Heritage

In the 1930s, this establishment along El Camino Real in Atherton offered a miscellaneous selection of goods for sale, including rustic garden furniture, cactus bowls and sheepskin rugs (only \$2.95).

What they're saying on Town Square

Scientist sees dire climate-change effects

■ Posted by Bradley

With the constant expansion of the universe, the earth's climate has been in constant change for 100s of millions of years. Humans are surprised every time a natural disaster occurs, because we have built things in Mother Nature's way. We are the fly on the bull's horn in Aesop's fable.

■ Posted by Steve

Bradley: Aside from the fact that expansion of the universe has nothing to do with the earth's climate, your prognosis that any efforts to limit global warming are doomed to failure is way too defeatist for both me and my kids — especially my kids, the ones who will have to live with all the negative effects that a warming climate will produce. To give up and do nothing is not only unacceptable, it's practically un-American. If the greatest generation had rolled over and played dead in the face of German and Japanese aggression, where would we be now? They didn't and neither should we, especially when this country, as the second biggest user of fossil fuels, could have a significant impact in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and in encouraging other countries to follow our lead.

LETTERS

Our readers write

Continued from previous page

ruining California's economy beyond all recognition for generations to come. Think austerity measures and worse.

Governor Brown, rather than admitting this is a time-bomb for the state, has said he'll try to get the money from China. China? Do we really want the Communist Chinese holding and controlling part of California's infrastructure? What are the implications of that for our sovereignty? Our bankrupt state now seems ready to sell its soul for a "free" government lunch.

Of course there are no free lunches. That is the concept that has bankrupted most of the Third World, and seduced European countries such as Greece into financial ruin. It takes wisdom and courage to turn down "easy" money, which always comes with strings attached. We need our senators and other decision-makers to turn down this gigantic wrecking ball that is aimed squarely at California.

Cherie Zaslawsky
Menlo Park

TOWN SQUARE

Our readers online

Caltrain's hopes ride on new rail agreement

■ Posted by Martin Engel

Here's their argument. Every year, Caltrain has projected a "fiscal emergency." Nonetheless, year after year, they somehow manage to bail themselves out. Now we hear (actually we've

been hearing about it for over a decade) that the solution to all their financial problems are an electrified rail-line. Although the trains won't go any faster, they will start and stop faster. Fasten your seatbelts, Caltrain customers!! And that will increase the run-time from SF to SJ by 10 minutes. They tell us that the costs for electrification will be around \$1.5 billion. Rest assured that this will not be the final cost. It will at least double.

How's the Market...

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Portola Valley and
Menlo Park.**

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NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF MENLO PARK PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING OF APRIL 16, 2012

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

Use Permit Revision, Architectural Control and Environmental Review/German American International School/275 Elliott Drive:

Request for a use permit revision and architectural control to allow 1) an increase student enrollment from 300 students per day to 315 students per day (a net increase of 15 students per day); and, 2) facility improvements including a new playground, lunch area with canopy shade structure, lockers, outdoor storage sheds, and revisions to the building color scheme (window trim) for property located in the PF (Public Facilities) zoning district. A Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared to review the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project.

The proposal requires the preparation of a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). The Initial Study prepared for the project identifies less than significant impacts for the following categories: Aesthetics, Agriculture and Forestry Resources, Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Mineral Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Noise, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation/Traffic, and Utilities. The Initial Study for the project did not identify environmental impacts that are significant and unavoidable. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires this notice to disclose whether any listed toxic sites are present at the location. The project location does not contain a toxic site pursuant to Section 6596.2 of the Government Code.

Copies of the project plans and Mitigated Negative Declaration will be on file for review at the City Library and available for distribution at the Community Development Department, Civic Center, 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025, on **Wednesday, March 28, 2012**. The review period for the Mitigated Negative Declaration has been set from **Wednesday, March 28, 2012** through **Monday, April 16, 2012**. Written comments must be submitted to the Community Development Department no later than 5:30 p.m., Monday, April 16, 2012. Comments may be submitted by email (dmchow@menlopark.org), letter (Community Development Department, 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park CA 94025), or fax (650-327-1653).

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that said Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on this item in the Council Chambers of the City of Menlo Park, located at 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, on **Monday, April 16, 2012**, 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 these items 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.

Documents related to these items may be inspected 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 Deanna Chow, Senior Planner, if there are any questions or comments on this item. She may be reached at (650) 330-6733 or email at dmchow@menlopark.org.

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

DATED: March 22, 2012 Deanna Chow, Senior Planner
PUBLISHED: March 28, 2012 Menlo Park Planning Commission

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



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