



**President taps Silicon Valley
ATM at Atherton event.** | Page 8

The Almanac

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

MAY 30, 2012 | VOL. 47 NO. 40

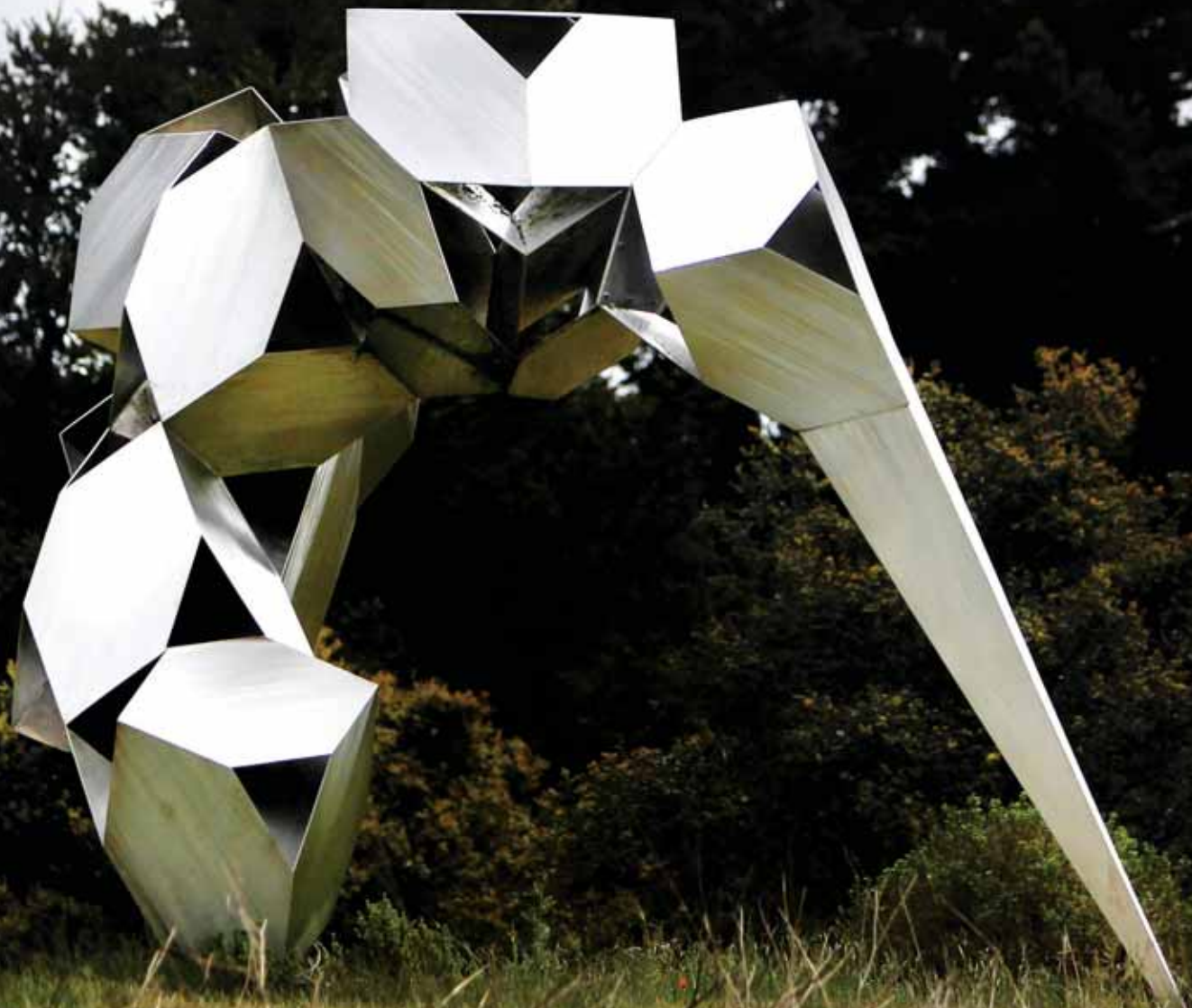


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See Section 2



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Local grad makes it to Broadway

By Kate Daly

Special to the Almanac

When Sacred Heart Prep alum Nic Rouleau started performing at age 8 in a Peninsula Youth Theatre production in Mountain View, he had dreams of making it to Broadway. Little did he know he would achieve that goal by age 24.

Now 25, Mr. Rouleau is working six days a week as the standby for one of the lead roles in the Broadway hit "The Book of Mormon." Since July, he has appeared as Elder Price more than 40 times at the Eugene O'Neill Theater.

The Tony award-winning musical is an irreverent take on Mormon missionaries working in Africa, as portrayed by the creators of the television show, "South Park."

The musical is sold out through the rest of the year, and Mr. Rouleau expects it to run in New York for many more years.

His contract extends through September, and after that he's hoping "to do the role more full time" in New York. A nationally touring company will be bringing the show to San Francisco in November, and include one member of the Broadway cast, he says.

The blond, 6-foot tall tenor says, "I love performing for people," but acknowledges "it's a tough business; you have to put in a lot of hours."

Mr. Rouleau sang a capella with the quartet Pulse at Sacred Heart Preparatory during his four years there. After graduat-

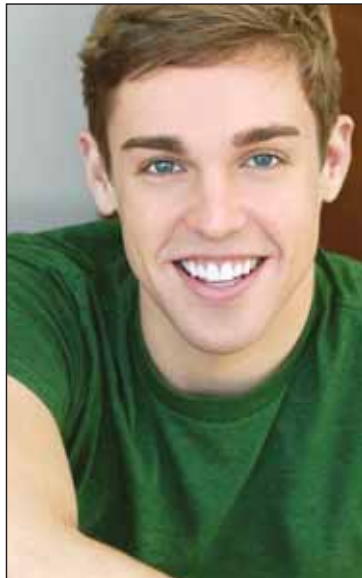


Photo by Robert Mannis

Sacred Heart Prep alum Nic Rouleau has a role in "The Book of Mormon."

'It really happened quickly. I was in the right place, at the right time, and knew the right people.'

NIC ROULEAU

ing in 2005, he went on to study musical theater at New York University's Steinhardt School. An agent signed him on after seeing Mr. Rouleau in a student production his junior year.

He then worked in summer stock theater in New London, New Hampshire, where he recalls, "We made \$40 a week,

we built all the sets, made all the costumes, rehearsed during the day, and performed at night."

After college, Mr. Rouleau spent a year playing Woody in "Toy Story" for Disney Cruise Line. The following year he toured the country playing Emmett in "Legally Blonde."

A year ago he won a ticket lottery to go see "The Book of Mormon," and remembers walking out and telling a friend he wanted to be in the show someday.

Then, he says: "It really happened quickly. I was in the right place, at the right time, and knew the right people." He auditioned and landed the part of standby.

"I always have to be alert and ready to go on," he explains.

One night he learned at 11 p.m. that he was going to be making his Broadway debut the next day. He notified his parents and they took a red-eye flight cross-country to make it there in time.

Last month when Menlo School drama teacher Beth Orr took a group of 30 students to see the show, Mr. Rouleau played the starring role.

"He was really, really entertaining," says freshman Rebecca Shoch of Woodside. "The best part about him was his facial expressions. They were very exaggerated."

As she prepared for her own part in Menlo School's production of "The Taming of the Shrew," she says she found the musical "different but inspirational." ■

June 2: Menlo Park talk on mobile travel guide to gardens

Travel writer and photographer David Laws will discuss his Android and Apple application, "California Gardens North," a mobile travel guide exploring publicly accessible gardens in Northern California, at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 2,

at the Menlo Park City Council Chambers, 701 Laurel St. in Menlo Park.

The app, published by Sutro Media, offers descriptions of more than 200 gardens with 1,600 photos and landscapes. It includes interactive location

maps, opening hours, and links to related websites.

The talk is presented by the Menlo Park Library. Free wheelchair accessible van service is available for Menlo Park seniors and people with disabilities. Call 330-2512 for van reservations.

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Reports for:
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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Almanac photo by Dave Boyce

Los Altos Hills resident Lauren Ward, 47, died Nov. 4, 2010, on this section of Alpine Road, at a spot about midway between the two cyclists shown in this photo, when her bike collided with a tractor-trailer truck.

Lawsuit settled in cyclist's death on Alpine Road

■ Truck driver had been involved in two other fatalities but was found not at fault.

Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

A settlement is at hand in a wrongful death lawsuit over the November 2010 death of bicyclist Lauren Ward, 47, of Los Altos Hills. She was killed when her bike collided with a tractor-trailer truck at Alpine Road and Interstate 280.

There are a few details to be worked out, but “there’s a con-

fidential settlement between the trucking company and the family,” David Levy, San Mateo County deputy counsel, told the Almanac.

The county was involved because Ms. Ward’s family had sued the trucking company, Randazzo Enterprises Inc. of Castroville, and Randazzo had turned around and sued San Mateo County and the state Department of Transportation on the grounds that the intersection was unsafe, Mr. Levy said.

Pending is the county’s motion for a summary judgment -- a resolution that would bypass a trial -- and Randazzo

withdrew its suit, Mr. Levy said. “There’s no way this case should be heard by a jury,” Mr. Levy said. “They settled and they agreed to cut (the county and Caltrans) loose. We were likely to prevail.”

While the state of California is responsible for the design of this intersection, the county is responsible for its upkeep, including striping and pothole repair, Mr. Levy said. “There was absolutely zero evidence that there was any problem with the surface of the roadway,” he said.

The Ward family had filed its own suits against the county

and Caltrans, but had no objection to the summary judgment — in effect withdrawing their suits when Randazzo did, Mr. Levy said.

Such lawsuits tend to go after defendants with deep pockets, Mr. Levy said. The county fought back, in part to burnish its image. “We didn’t cause this accident. We don’t want people to keep on suing us, (to get the impression) that we’re a soft touch.”

Driver’s record

The California Highway Patrol found the man driving the truck, 44-year-old Gabriel

Manzur Vera, to be not at fault for the accident. In two other fatal accidents, Mr. Vera was also found not to be at fault by law-enforcement authorities.

In December 2003, a woman died after her vehicle crossed the center line on Highway 1 near Moss Landing and collided head-on with Mr. Vera’s truck, according to a California Highway Patrol account.

In August 2007, a bicyclist died as a result of a collision with the right side of Mr. Vera’s truck as it was making a turn at an intersection in the city of Santa Cruz, according to another CHP account. ■

Willow Road complex turns into affordable housing

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

Veterans facing a tough search for housing in San Mateo County just caught a break. During its May 22 meeting, the Menlo Park City Council unanimously agreed to a deal that turns a

Willow Road apartment complex into affordable housing with a preference for veterans as tenants.

Menlo Park will give HIP Housing, a nonprofit specializing in finding affordable housing for county residents, a 55-year, interest-free loan of \$1.85 million to buy the 12-unit

complex, located at 1157-1161 Willow Road. An appraisal conducted in March valued the complex at \$2 million, although the nonprofit will need to complete renovations.

Nine units at the complex will be reserved for people earning less than 50 percent of the regional median income

of \$81,300, and three units for those making less than 30 percent. Rent at the complex would fall in the range of \$610 to \$1,016, according to the staff report.

Kate Harr, the executive director of HIP Housing, told the council that the location was particularly desirable because of its proximity to the Veterans Affairs hospital in Menlo

Park. “I think the thing always to remember is that affordable housing isn’t scary. It creates balance in a community,” she said.

Affordable housing remains a hot topic in Menlo Park. Expressing outrage, the council also voted 5-0 to settle a lawsuit brought against the city for not com-

City of Menlo Park loans nonprofit \$1.85 million to help house veterans.

See **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**, page 6

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Volunteers needed to identify diseased trees

Environmental leaders in Atherton, Woodside and Portola Valley are hoping to enlist volunteers to participate in a June 2 and 3 survey of trees to measure the spread of sudden oak death (SOD) in their communities.

The survey relies on volunteers to collect leaves from possibly infected trees for analysis by a lab at U.C. Berkeley.

A 45-minute training program with Matteo Garbelotto, director of the U.C. Berkeley Forest Pathology Laboratory, will be conducted for volunteers at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 2, at Woodside Town Hall, 2955 Woodside Road.

Participants can pick up their SOD collection packages at that time, and receive instructions on how to collect samples and where to deliver them.

Atherton volunteers can also pick up sampling packets and instructions at the Carriage House in Holbrook-Palmer Park

at 1:30 p.m. June 2. They will have until 6 p.m. the following day to drop the samples off at Atherton Town Hall.

Volunteers will sample bay laurel trees because they are the most effective spreaders of the disease, according to Ted Haynes, a member of the Atherton Tree Committee. By the time the disease is detected in oak trees, it is often too late to save them, he said.

Last year, the survey, known as the SOD Blitz, found that six out of 41 samples collected in Atherton tested positive for the disease, Mr. Haynes said, adding that the affected trees were found near Walsh Road, west of Knoll Vista and Reservoir Road.

Go to suddenoakdeath.org for more information about the disease.

Email sodblitz@gmail.com for more information about the weekend survey.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

continued from page 5

plying with state housing laws, which include meeting a target number of affordable housing units.

The city now has until March to identify sites for adding 1,975 housing units, both market-rate and affordable housing, to its current stock of 12,500. One of the first steps will be an inventory of local housing, existing capacity for additional homes within current zoning, and any new housing built since 1998, which could be deducted from the preliminary number.

The settlement states that Menlo Park will also identify potential sites for affordable housing, create zoning that provides incentives for developers to build affordable housing at those locations, and set aside a portion of local below-market-rate funds for nonprofit development of affordable housing on those sites.

Menlo Park will pay \$114,000 in attorney fees for the three housing advocacy groups that filed the lawsuit: Peninsula Interfaith Action, Urban Habitat, and Youth United for Community Action.

City Attorney Bill McClure said that fighting the suit in court could easily run the price up to \$2 million, with little prospect for a victory based on cases filed in other jurisdictions. The court could also halt all

nonresidential building permits, a move that would have left the Facebook campus expansion and the Bohannon Gateway project in limbo.

Staff presented four strategies for squeezing more housing into Menlo Park: increase the density in existing apartment complexes; rezone properties from nonresidential to multi-family residential; create an affordable housing overlay district; and allow in-law units.

Complying with state law will cost the city about \$1.15 million, staff said, on top of the attorney fees.

Councilman Rich Cline called the juxtaposition of the lawsuit with the Willow Road project ironic. The need for affordable housing was motivating the city to approve the deal with HIP Housing, he said, not the "gun to the head" of a lawsuit.

"I never had a phone call (while serving) as mayor from any of these organizations — none," he commented. "The first I heard of them was when someone told me they were going to sue. ... I don't think that's the best way to partner on this stuff."

Council members Andy Cohen and Peter Ohtaki were selected to sit on the steering committee responsible for overseeing the process of getting Menlo Park's housing policies in line with the state mandate. The city will hold community workshops this summer to solicit public input. ■



Photo by Michelle Le

A driver being chased by police crashed his car into the sidewalk in front of Pacific Inn on El Camino Real in Redwood City on Wednesday night, May 23, moments before President Obama's motorcade drove by.

Driver crashes car minutes before Obama motorcade speeds by

by Michelle Le
Almanac Staff

Minutes before President Barack Obama's motorcade headed down El Camino Real in Redwood City on Wednesday night, May 23, an apparent drunken driver being chased by local police sped south on El Camino, after taking out an intersection light at Center Street.

The car crashed about a block further south in front of the Pacific Inn at 2610 El Camino Real near Carlos Avenue in Redwood City.

The car nearly struck Redwood City police cadet Kylie Brandyberry, who was stationed near the Pacific Inn as part of the Obama motorcade security detail. She said she saw the car speeding toward her and people were shouting for her to run. She managed to move out of the way fast enough to avoid getting hit by the car.

Before the crash, El Camino Real was lined with people waiting for President Obama's motorcade to pass by on its way to the Fox Theatre in Redwood City.

Local law enforcement had worked with Secret Service agents to secure and close down the route.

At the intersection of Center Street at El Camino, many in the crowd held out their cameras and cell phones anticipating the arrival of the motorcade.

At the same time, the apparent drunken driver had come off Woodside Road heading north on El Camino, according to a witness. She said she saw the car make a U-turn at the Chevron gas station and head south on El Camino, with cop cars in the

chase.

The crowd at Center Street and El Camino watched the vehicle hit the divide and take out the intersection light, which was carried on the roof of the car until the vehicle rode up on a

sidewalk and crashed into some foliage near the Pacific Inn.

Police detained the driver. Moments later, President Obama's motorcade drove by, heading in the other direction, toward the Fox Theatre. ■

Obituary: Robert John Stewart

Memorial services will be held at 4 p.m. Friday, July 27, at Valley Presbyterian Church, 945 Portola Road in Portola Valley for Robert John Stewart who died May 16 of complications from prostate cancer. Mr. Stewart, an Atherton resident for 47 years, was 84.

Born in Portland, Oregon, Mr. Stewart moved to San Francisco with his family in 1939. He attended Lowell High School and later served in the U.S. Army as part of the security detail in charge of the Manhattan Project at Los Alamos in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He

earned a bachelor's degree and a MBA from Stanford University.

As a business executive, Mr. Stewart worked at West Coast Life Insurance Company and Acacia Van & Storage in Merced. He was a member of the Menlo Circus Club and an honorary member of the Metropolitan Club in San Francisco.

He and his late wife, Verna,

regularly attended the San Francisco Opera for more than 25 years. A consummate gardener, he was known for his impeccable manners, kind spirit, graciousness, generosity, and sense of humor, say family members.

He is survived by his daughter, Ellen Stewart Moore; brother Don Stewart of Merced; and two granddaughters. He was preceded in death by his wife, Verna, and daughter, Nancy.

Donations may be made to Filoli, 86 Canada Road, Woodside, CA 94062 (www.filoli.org). Please include "In memory of Bob Stewart."



Robert John Stewart

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Gloria Darke



Rental war

Dear Gloria, We just had an offer on our house which has been on the market far too long. It is a good offer, not great, but good. It does require us to turn the property over to the buyers in a very short time and since we have no place to go we will have to find a rental. I have heard the rental market is tight. What are our chances for finding a rental house for our family?

Bernice K. Menlo Park

Dear Bernice, If you thought you had a hard time selling your house, you will find it at least as challenging to find a rental. A friend of mine needs to move in June and has been looking; she told me that she went to an open house posted on Craigs List and there were 100 people there, all looking to rent this particular

property. She asked the owner how he was going to decide on the right applicant and she was told that he would choose the top 5 and let them make their highest bid. SFGate recently published an article stating that rents in San Mateo County are up over 15% from a year ago. We recently sold a property to a client who had to vacate their current rental. They are not able to move in to the house they bought for a month and with nothing else available, had to take a 2 bedroom apartment with their 4 children! It is brutal out there. In order to be the prevailing bid on a rental property you will need to have a high credit score with good references - even a "small, well behaved dog" is going to be a negative.

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

President Obama visits Peninsula, dines in Atherton, to raise funds for re-election bid

President Barack Obama was entertained by musicians David Crosby and Graham Nash during a \$35,800-a-head campaign fundraising dinner at the Atherton home of Doug and Lisa Goldman on Wednesday night, May 23.

Doug Goldman is a software company founder, retired emergency physician, philanthropist and heir to the Levi Strauss fortune.

Among the guests at the Atherton fundraiser: Jan Brandt, vice chair emeritus of AOL; Dennis Troper, Google product management director; Tim Westergren, Pandora Media founder; and Susan Wojcicki, Google senior vice president.

President Obama and Doug Goldman made remarks in a large outdoor tent at around 8 p.m.

Mr. Goldman, who said the property has been in his family since 1906, noted that he and his wife decided to welcome the president with an Hawaiian decoration theme: floral arrangements, tablecloths, potted palms, hurricane lanterns, leis.

Mr. Goldman said the Recovery Act was a “brilliant” move, “saving more than one million jobs.”

“It worked so well,” he told the president, “some of your opponents are trying to take credit for it.”

Mr. Goldman also credited President Obama for ending the Iraq war, killing Osama bin Laden, and voicing support for same-sex marriage. The last point drew the loudest cheers and applause from the audience.

President Obama said of the



President Obama greets those gathered to welcome him at Moffett Federal Airfield on May 23.

Photo by Michelle Le

Goldmans: “They have had my back from the get-go, and at a time when not many people knew who I was.”

He thanked David Crosby and Graham Nash, who performed at the event. “It’s not every day you get Rock and

Roll Hall of Famers strumming the guitar for you,” he said.

And he thanked actor Don Cheadle for his presence and support, but promised not to talk about their recent basketball game. Mr. Cheadle

responded: “Thank you.”

President Obama said he’s proud of his administration’s educational reforms, and said the nation must continue to make scientific advancements in order to remain globally competitive.

The motorcade left the Goldman residence in Atherton around 9 p.m. and headed for the Fox Theatre in Redwood City, where the president gave another talk.

Pool reporting
by Josh Richman.

Obama ahead in local fundraising in April

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Donors in April contributed \$96,424 to presidential campaigns from ZIP codes in the Almanac’s circulation area, according to the Center for Responsive Politics, which tracks money in politics.

April results from Atherton, Menlo Park, Portola Valley and Woodside add \$65,924 to Mr. Obama’s coffers, bringing his local year-to-date total to \$919,916 for this election cycle,

as compiled by OpenSecrets.org, the website of the Center for Responsive Politics in Washington, D.C. Former Gov.

The totals do not include political action committee fundraising

Mitt Romney received \$30,500, bringing his overall local total to \$537,490.

Mr. Obama led the month with 59 donors versus Mr. Romney’s 19.

The totals do not include political action committee fundraising, including the unlimited fundraising by super PACs, nor do they note any clustering of donations from Peninsula fundraising parties.

Under the law, individuals are limited to giving \$2,500 per campaign per election. Since there are two elections this year — the primary in June and the general in November — an individual’s total gift can reach \$5,000.

Because Mr. Obama is unop-

Local presidential campaign donations in April

	Atherton	Menlo Park	Portola Valley	Woodside	Candidate totals
Barack Obama	\$32,100 from 11 donors	\$17,750 from 27 donors	\$12,850 from 8 donors	\$14,824 from 13 donors	\$65,924 from 59 donors
Mitt Romney	\$12,750 from 8 donors	\$3,750 from 3 donors	\$12,000 from 5 donors	\$2,000 from 3 donors	\$30,500 from 19 donors
Community totals	\$44,850	\$21,500	\$24,850	\$16,824	\$96,424

Source: Center for Responsive Politics: OpenSecrets.org

posed, his donors can give now for both the primary and general elections. Eleven donors gave \$2,500 for the primary; 10 of them gave another \$2,500 for

the general, the report showed.

With the general-election donations factored out, Mr. Obama’s total for April drops to \$40,924. ■

Kleiner Perkins lawsuit spotlights difficulties of proving discrimination

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

When a woman filed a lawsuit against a high-profile venture capital firm, it sparked a storm of discussion inside and outside the tech industry.

Industry website TechCrunch broke the news that Ellen Pao, a partner at Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers in Menlo Park, had filed the lawsuit on May 10 after working at the firm for seven years. The suit alleges that the firm discriminates against women for promotions and compensation, and retaliated against Ms. Pao after she complained about sexual harassment.

Ms. Pao graduated with both a law degree and MBA from Harvard, as well as a degree in electrical engineering from Princeton. The suit alleges that a year after she started working at Kleiner Perkins in 2005, a peer with longer tenure pressured her for sex. She initially rebuffed him for eight months before engaging in a brief relationship. After she



Kleiner Perkins website

Ellen Pao alleges women were targeted at Menlo Park venture capital firm.

ended it, the suit claims, he cut her out of the loop on business projects. He left the firm in 2011 after it conducted an independent investigation into allegations made by other women, according to the lawsuit.

The complaint alleges that a senior partner made an inappropriate advance to Ms. Pao

and later participated in her performance reviews to her detriment. After hearing of complaints from three administrative assistants about harassment and discrimination in 2007, she repeatedly approached upper management for help without success, according to the lawsuit. Instead Ms. Pao perceived a pattern of retaliation as she was passed over for promotion, networking events and raises, and given delayed or biased performance reviews.

The complaint details specific instances, including a men-only company ski trip in January 2012, and quotes the host of an all-male business dinner as saying that inviting women would “kill the buzz.” In March, three men who had been employed for less time at Kleiner Perkins than Ms. Pao were promoted while no women received similar advancement, according to the lawsuit.

Neither Ms. Pao nor her attorney,

See **LAWSUIT**, page 20

Election 2012: Video assertions vary with Romero's account of his education

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

A few seconds from a video of a candidates forum in the 2008 election for City Council in East Palo Alto offers a conflicting account of the educational background of Carlos Romero, a candidate in the June 5 election for San Mateo County supervisor.

In the video, Mr. Romero is seen saying, “I have a degree in economics from Stanford in urban planning and an advanced environmental design degree from Harvard.”

In responding to an Almanac request for biographical information from all the candidates running for the District 4 seat — a district that includes much of Menlo Park — Mr. Romero described his education as follows (semi-colons added):

“Stanford University, International Relations and Economics; Loeb Fellow, Harvard University, Graduate School of Design-Urban Planning/finance; Fannie Mae Fellow, Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government”

The Almanac subsequently erred in describing Mr. Romero as having a bachelor's degree from Stanford.

In an interview to ask Mr.

Romero to clarify the facts around his period at Stanford, he said he does not have an undergraduate degree from Stanford. He spent four and a half years there, but said he left lacking the credits for a degree so he could pursue his work in urban development in communities of color, particularly East Palo Alto.

In another interview subsequent to the discovery of his assertions on the video of having degrees to his credit, Mr. Romero acknowledged the statements as mistakes by “a neophyte candidate.” He repeatedly noted that his current campaign materials do not make such assertions.

“Obviously, the video certainly states what I said,” Mr. Romero said, noting that he heard the audio of the forum but has not seen the video. “I think it's unfortunate that that was stated in that forum. ... Being a first time candidate at that time, this is not an excuse.”

Go to tinyurl.com/Romero-123 or tinyurl.com/Romero-124 to approximately the 16-minute mark to see the video.

In such forums, where a candidate's time at the microphone is

measured in seconds, he said he was trying “to hone and refine the message and the amount of time it takes you to deliver the message.”

“I would definitely consider it a mistake, one I must certainly own up to,” he said. “I consider it an unintentional mistake.”

His lack of an undergraduate degree has not been a stumbling block to pursuing graduate-level work, he said. He completed two fellowships at Harvard University, one to which he was invited and the other for which he applied and was accepted, he said.

As a Fannie Mae Fellow at the Kennedy School of Government, he studied housing policy, and as a Loeb Fellow, he worked on urban policy, including applying it to affordable housing, he said.

His two fellowships — which Harvard has confirmed — resulted in certificates. Asked why he described his accomplishments at Harvard as degrees in the 2008 forum, Mr. Romero replied: “I don't know about the interchangeability of that. I don't believe it was purposely misleading.”

Does he plan to stay in the race? “Yes, categorically, absolutely,” he said. “I have no intention of not completing this race. I stand by my accomplishments professionally, politically and legislatively.” ■



Carlos Romero

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Atherton, Menlo Park continue talks on Facebook EIR dispute

By Renee Batti
Almanac News Editor

Oh, the irony of it all: The very same company that has encouraged millions of “friends” to get all warm and fuzzy online — whether they know each other or not — is now at the heart of a disagreement that could drive a wedge in the long-standing friendship between next-door neighbors, Atherton and Menlo Park.

The dispute stems from an environmental report identifying significant impacts on Menlo Park from Facebook’s operation in that city, but, according to Atherton officials, giving the city’s neighbor to the north short shrift. That report, the environmental impact report (EIR), is

on the verge of being certified by Menlo Park.

In a strongly worded April 26 letter to Menlo Park Mayor Kirsten Keith and City Manager Alex McIntyre, Atherton urged Menlo Park to reconsider mitigation measures identified in the EIR for the impacts that built-out Facebook campuses will have on the Marsh and Middlefield roads intersection, saying that the “traffic analysis performed for the ... EIR is flawed and inadequate.”

The letter, written by Interim City Manager Theresa DellaSanta, said that if the issues raised by the town aren’t resolved, the town “must explore all options including legal challenges to the mitigation measures to effect a more reasonable and responsible position by Facebook and the City

of Menlo Park.”

Although some observers have interpreted the letter as a threat to sue Facebook as well as Menlo Park, Atherton City Attorney Bill Connors said last week that Atherton “has not ever ... considered the possibility of a lawsuit against Facebook. I don’t know of any cause of action to sue Facebook.”

Because Menlo Park has legal oversight over the EIR, that city would be the party to dispute with, or take legal action against, if Atherton has a disagreement over the findings, he said.

But, he added, Atherton is hoping to resolve its issues over the EIR with its neighbor without litigation — a sentiment echoed by Ms. DellaSanta. “We prefer to work with Menlo Park and have it be a

win-win situation,” she said. “Our main concern is the safety of our residents. And it (the planned roadway mitigation) is just not safe.”

The dispute

Atherton staff asserts that one of the EIR’s key mitigation measures proposed to address traffic impacts at Marsh and Middlefield is not feasible because it requires widening lanes into private right-of-way. In addition, they say, it understates cumulative traffic impacts that will occur once Facebook builds out its current campus at Willow Road and Bayfront Expressway and the land it owns across the expressway on Constitution Drive, resulting in inadequate mitigation measures.

The EIR suggests that Facebook pay about 30 percent of the cost for adding another turning lane westbound on Middlefield and a merging lane northbound on Marsh, in addition to other roadway changes.

Chip Taylor, Menlo Park’s pub-

lic works director, said the information city staff and the EIR consultants were working with indicates the area needed to widen lanes is in the public right-of-way.

Mr. Taylor, Mr. McIntyre and other staff members met with Atherton staff on May 22 to discuss the matter, and Mr. Taylor said afterward that they are reviewing some of the information and concerns raised at that meeting.

He and Mr. McIntyre said in interviews that the city believed Atherton had signed off on proposed mitigation measures discussed prior to the completion of the draft EIR, saying that Menlo Park staff had met with Atherton staff and the town’s Transportation Committee, and had met with agreement.

Ms. DellaSanta noted, however, that people in city government “should know that a (citizen advisory) committee ... doesn’t have the authority to approve anything.” ■



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Facebook IPO leads to lawsuits

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

■ FACEBOOK

The anticipation over Facebook’s May 18 IPO quickly nosedived into dissatisfaction, judging by the multiple class action lawsuits the social networking company now faces.

The suits allege that Facebook provided false and misleading statements in documents filed with the Securities Exchange Commission and made available to the public prior to the stock offering. In addition, according to the lawsuits, the company allegedly gave a private heads-up to lead underwriters, including Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs, who then decreased their revenue projections. The lawsuits allege that the underwriters told a handful of select investors about the change, but not the public.

The class action suits, two of which were filed in San Mateo Superior Court, call for compensatory damages. Case management conferences have been scheduled for July 25 and Oct. 4.

Facebook’s stock continued to decline as news of the lawsuits circulated. By Friday the price had dropped to \$31.75 per

share, after opening on May 18 at \$42.05 on NASDAQ.

May 29: Final hearing on Facebook expansion

Bucking its trend of taking Tuesday night off after a holiday weekend, the Menlo Park City Council convenes on May 29 to review the final environmental impact report for Facebook’s planned campus expansion.

The report examines the potential community effects of Facebook’s plan to hire up to 6,600 employees at its 1 Hacker Way “East” campus and make improvements to all its properties, including those on the Constitution Drive “West” campus. The report also proposes mitigations for traffic and other concerns.

The Planning Commission voted unanimously on May 7 to certify and forward the report and associated documents to the council for approval.

The regular meeting starts at 7 p.m., following a closed session to discuss unidentified potential litigation at 6 p.m., in council chambers at the Civic Center at 701 Laurel St.

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Belle Haven after-school program buys time

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

Where Menlo Park staff saw a win-win, parents saw a lose-lose. The Menlo Park City Council decided on May 22 to give parents a year to make their case as to why the city shouldn't let a nonprofit take over its Belle Haven after-school program.

The merger would save the city about \$192,000 next year, making it an enticing proposition in tough budgetary times. Although the subsidized Belle Haven program wasn't funded by the city's dissolved redevelopment agency, it does tie up general funds that Menlo Park now needs to pay four police officers, according to staff.

Parents relying on the Belle Haven program outlined what the merger would cost them: transportation of children from bus stops to the program's home at the Onetta Harris Com-

munity Center; hot snacks; children separated by age; a low adult to student ratio; and a family atmosphere appropriate to younger children instead of one skewed toward the older teens who go to the nonprofit, the Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula.

One speaker listed three reasons for the council to keep the Belle Haven program. Beechwood principal Dave

Laurence praised the program's "safe and productive environment" and the number of students who return after graduation to help give back to the program that helped them.

"Lastly, any time you take the ratio of adults to students and increase that to the point where there's just supervision, you lose the relationship," he said. "Forming a bond equals a positive thing."

Parents also criticized the city's lack of outreach. Staff sent out one survey about the clo-

Council challenges parents to find solutions.



Teacher aide Paula Sanchez helps students with their homework during Belle Haven's after-school program on Thursday, May 24.

Photo by Michelle Le

sure, they said, but that was it.

Mayor Kirsten Keith said she thought the city could do better by sitting down to talk with the parents.

After discussing the finer points of the proposed budget, council members asked staff to

give the Belle Haven program another year — time enough for the parents to either figure out how to lower costs or make other arrangements for their children.

"I want to extend a challenge to the parents of the afterschool

program and teachers — you've got to help us with that solution," Councilwoman Kelly Fergusson said, and noted that the program is in direct competition with public safety for funding. "We've got to keep those police services up!" ■

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William D. Wagstaffe, executive, professor

OBITUARY

William D. Wagstaffe, a longtime resident of Menlo Park, died May 14. He was 89.

Mr. Wagstaffe was a business executive for 40 years before embarking on a second career as a professor of business at local universities.

Born in Alameda, Mr. Wagstaffe was a graduate of Belarmine College Preparatory, Menlo College and Stanford University. During World War II, he served in the 7th Fleet of the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific. One of his happiest memories was returning to San Francisco under the Golden Gate Bridge on the USS Randall at the end of the war and being greeted by his parents, say family members.

Mr. Wagstaffe served in the Naval Reserve Officers' Organization at Treasure Island for 29 years until he retired as captain. He worked at Del Monte Foods in San Francisco for 40 years, his final role being director of transportation.

His love of education inspired him to accept the position of professor of business at the University of San Francisco, St. Mary's College and, more

recently, Golden Gate University, where he was professor of operations management.

He met his wife, Marjorie, as a member of Old St. Mary's Center in San Francisco. They were married at Old St. Mary's Church on Feb. 11, 1956.

A job as a caddy at the Burlingame Country Club when he was 12 inspired Mr. Wagstaffe's lifelong love of golf. Many happy days were spent golfing with friends at Moffett Field, culminating with his first hole in one at age 81, say family members. When the 49ers formed in 1946, he was an original season ticket holder and many Sundays were spent with his family enjoying football.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Marjorie; children Paul, Ann, Rosemary, Skip and Eileen; and 12 grandchildren.

Funeral services have been held. Donations may be made to the Ballarmine Alumni Association, Stanford University Alumni Association, Golden Gate University, and American Ex-Prisoners of War.

Hotel tax hike heading to Menlo Park ballot

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

If you hear nothing else tonight — your city budget is balanced,” new City Manager Alex McIntyre told the council on May 22. The \$65 million spending plan for fiscal year 2012-13 maintains quality of life and services, he said, and even has a small \$296,000 surplus for Menlo Park’s general fund despite the loss of redevelopment agency funding.

That balance depends on increasing the hotel guest tax from 10 percent to 12 percent, however, which means voters get the final say. All five Menlo Park council members agreed to put the “transient occupancy tax” (TOT) on the November ballot. According to staff calculations, passing the higher tax would raise more than \$560,000 annually for the city, and bring local rates in line with neighboring cities, including Palo Alto and Redwood City.

But the proposed budget avoids increasing another tax that already has the voter stamp of approval. The utility users tax (UUT) remains at 1 percent, a reduced rate passed by the 2007 city council after voters approved a higher rate in 2006. Staff argued

that since the budget doesn’t draw on general fund reserves, and raising the tax would require substantial administrative time, there’s no reason to change it right now. Given that the higher 3.5 percent rate would add about \$2.3 million in annual revenue, at least one council member — Kelly Fergusson — found staff’s reasoning unconvincing. The UUT will return to the council for reconsideration in October.

No discussion of Menlo Park’s budget would be complete without mention of Facebook, the company that “saved us,” according to Mr. McIntyre. Thanks to the city’s developer agreement with the social networking giant, Menlo Park will see a bump of at least \$800,000 in annual revenue.

Between Facebook and the anticipated hike to the hotel guest tax, the budget avoids service reductions for the next fiscal year. It does propose some cost-cutting measures such as eliminating paper council agenda packets to save \$10,000 a year, sharing vehicle and median maintenance services with other city entities, and delaying the replacement of \$100,000 worth of police cars for one year.

The budget returns to the council for approval on June 12. ■

Two percent hike would help balance budget

Thinking about running for local school board?

Residents of the Menlo Park City School District who are thinking of running for one of two school board seats that will be filled in the November election are invited to an informational event at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 29, in the district office board room at 181 Encinal Ave. in Atherton.

Current board members Joan Lambert and Laura Rich, whose terms expire in 2014, will talk about the roles and responsibilities of school board members,

district initiatives, and the candidacy filing process, according to a district announcement.

They will also answer questions from participants.

The terms of Jeff Childs and Maria Hilton expire in December.

The filing period for running for the board is July 16 through Aug. 10. Information about filing papers to run for office may be obtained by calling the county elections office at 312-5222.

Correction

An article in the May 23 issue said that resurfacing Atherton’s six tennis courts could cost as much as \$350,000. Interim City Manager Theresa DellaSanta said the projected cost is only \$7,500 per court, which would bring the total resurfacing cost to only \$45,000. She said the town is considering resurfacing two courts per year at an estimated yearly cost of \$15,000.



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June 2012

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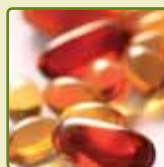
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The Buzz on Hepatitis B

Friday, June 15, 1 – 2 p.m.

Northwest YMCA

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Presented by Sanjeev Tummala, M.D.

PAMF Gastroenterology

408-257-7160

Information about the prevention and treatment of Hepatitis B. Find out what hepatitis B is, who is primarily affected and what you can do to lower your risk.

Memory and Aging

Monday, June 25, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

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Presented by Christina Lee, M.D.

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Las Lomas district names superintendent

By **Renee Batti**
Almanac News Editor

Lisa A. Cesario, an assistant superintendent of the Santa Clara Unified School District, will pick up the reins at the Las Lomas School District as its new superintendent on July 1.

The school board voted unanimously on May 21 to hire Ms. Cesario, culminating a search that began in December, when Eric Hartwig announced his retirement after serving as the two-school district's superintendent since 2007.

Ms. Cesario, 48, has served as assistant superintendent of educational services in the Santa Clara district for six years. Before that, she was the district's director of educational services.

In her current position, she directly oversees three middle schools and two elementary schools, she said in an interview. But she also works with administrators of all 24 schools in the K-12 district, she said.

Earlier in her career, Ms. Cesario taught third-, fifth-, and sixth-grade students, and was an elementary school principal for six years. She also served a three-year stint as a K-12 coordinator of curriculum and instruction. Except for one year of teaching in a private school, Ms. Cesario has spent her entire career with the Santa Clara district, she said.

"It's very exciting to me that (the Las Lomas district) is small, (which) will allow me to be in classrooms, at school sites, at events," she said, adding that her connection with the schools "will be more than just a drive-by."

School board President Maria Mascaro Doktorczyk said in an interview that she and the other board members believe Ms. Cesario will be a "terrific fit for us" as the district embarks on implementing its new strategic plan. That plan, she said, addresses the "what" of student learning, including a curriculum with "a focus on 21st century skills."

During her tenure as superintendent, Ms. Cesario will also help implement the second phase of the strategic plan, now



Lisa Cesario

Continued on next page



Pets are wonderful

Members of the Girl Scout Daisies troop at Phillips Brooks School in Menlo Park recently gathered 100 days of food and toys for pets, which they donated to Pets are Wonderful Support (PAWS), a volunteer organization that provides for companion animals for low-income seniors and people with disabling illnesses. Standing by decorated donation boxes, which they had made themselves, the Daisies (Girl Scouts in kindergarten) encouraged people to donate to PAWS at the Pet Place and Bow Wow Meow in downtown Menlo Park.

Woodside native is finalist in handbag design competition

By **Barbara Wood**
Special to the Almanac

Fame, if not fortune, could be just around the corner for Woodside native Mary Spenser Poletti, a 2009 graduate of Sacred Heart Preparatory in Atherton, whose design for a lambskin and rabbit fur backpack is a finalist in the 2012 Independent Handbag Designers Award competition.

If Ms. Poletti wins enough online votes for her backpack to become the “Audience Fan Favorite,” it will be featured in the September issue of InStyle Magazine.

The Woodside Elementary School graduate is attending the Savannah College of Art and

Design, in Savannah, Georgia, where she is working on a bachelor’s of fine arts in accessory design.

“I am studying under top cobblers and handbag designers, in order to actually design, pattern, and hand produce my own creations,” she said. Her white-pearlized lambskin and rabbit fur backpack, is in the French modern style, Ms. Poletti says, and is a finalist in the Best Student Made Handbag category.

Visit tinyurl.com/Bag-602 to view the handbag designs and vote before June 8.

Ms. Poletti, whose parents are Susan and Paul Poletti of Woodside, says she will be in New York City at the awards ceremony on June 13.

Visit tinyurl.com/Bag-603 to see a YouTube video about the competition. ■

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Continued from previous page

being developed to address the “how” of the district’s educational goals outlined in the first phase.

“She really seemed to understand where we were trying to go with our plan, and was thrilled with the focus” on the plan’s learning goals, Ms. Doktorczyk said.

Ms. Cesario said implementing the plan “will be one of my major functions — to make sure the plan comes alive, that it’s not just something on paper.”

The district’s strategic plan, she said, “is about learning in the classroom,” whereas in some districts, it’s more about budgets and facilities. “Those things are important, but the main thing is

about kids.”

Seventeen people applied for the position, and the board interviewed five finalists, Ms. Doktorczyk said.

Ms. Cesario’s annual salary will be \$185,000. Mr. Hartwig is making \$198,000 per year.

A resident of Redwood City, Ms. Cesario earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a master’s degree in educational administration from Santa Clara University. She has served as an adjunct professor in the master teacher leadership program at San Jose State University.

The district oversees Las Lomas School (K-3) in Atherton, and La Entrada School (4-8) in Menlo Park. ■

Ivory Coast student among grads

By Sylvia Loran
Special to the Almanac

Among Menlo College graduates this year is 23-year-old Djouka Emmanuelle Mpike Yvette Ayobiah, a native of the Ivory Coast, on the west coast of Africa.

Emmanuelle, as she is called here, said she chose Menlo College because she feared if she stayed in the Ivory Coast she would get stuck and not move forward in her education.

It took her awhile to appreciate the small campus of Menlo College, she admits. "I didn't like it at first, but now I do, mainly because of the school's 'we are family' spirit," she said prior to her graduation on May 5. "I like that it's a small school because you can easily approach the faculty and staff members who are really about helping you succeed."

A member of the Delta Mu Delta international honor society, she was on the dean's list many times and was a member of the 2011-2012 Competitive



Emmanuelle aims to get a CPA license and eventually earn a master's degree in information systems.

Cheer Squad at the college.

Both of her parents hold doctorates. A younger sister, who graduated from Georgia

GRADUATION 2012

State in December with a degree in finance, is pursuing a master's degree. Two younger brothers are in high school. "I miss my family, my culture, but I think it's worth it," she said about attending college in California.

Her post-graduation goals are to get two years of work experience, a CPA license, and eventually, a master's degree in information systems. She had a double undergraduate major in finance and accounting.

As part of her Menlo College requirements, she is serving as an intern in the Menlo Park office of Les R. Koonce, who runs a financial services company.

Menlo College, which specializes in business education, had a total enrollment this year of 596 students. Eighty of them were international students, including three from the Ivory Coast, according to Virginia Spinelli, the international student adviser. ■

Robert John Stewart

July 4, 1927 – May 16, 2012

Robert John Stewart died on May 16, 2012 at age 84 of complications from metastatic prostate cancer. Preceded in death by his wife, Verna, and eldest daughter Nancy, he is survived by his daughter, Ellen Stewart Moore, son-in-law, Warren Moore, two granddaughters, Hathaway and Katherine Moore and his brother Don Stewart of Merced, CA. Born in Portland, Oregon, Bob moved to San Francisco from Seattle, Washington in 1939 with his father, Harry Stewart, mother Clara and brother Don. He attended Lowell High School and later served in the army as part of the security detail in charge of the Manhattan Project at Los Alamos in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He earned a B.A. in economics from Stanford University in 1951 and his MBA from Stanford Business School in 1953.

After graduation, Bob joined West Coast Life Insurance Company and worked as a vice president for a number of years before meeting his future wife, Verna at the wedding of his best friend. She was the maid-of-honor and he was the best man. They were married within a year in December of 1957 and soon moved to Saint Francis Woods in San Francisco, and then down to Atherton in 1965. Bob later joined his father managing family financial and business matters at Stewart & Company. In 1981 one of these businesses, Acacia Van & Storage located in Merced required his management full time. He ultimately sold the business in 1994

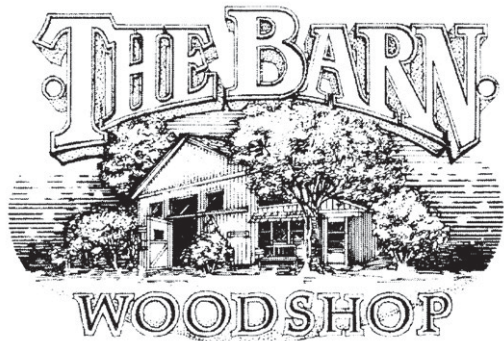
and retired to Atherton where he has been a resident for over 47 years. At the time of his death, Bob was a member of the Menlo Circus Club and an honorary member of the Metropolitan Club in San Francisco.

Bob's family remained the focal point and his deepest love throughout his life. He savored his time with his family most of all. Having a passion for music, Bob and his late wife, Verna, regularly attended the San Francisco Opera for more than 25 years. The truest of gentleman, Bob had impeccable manners, and a kind and gracious spirit. He was also a consummate gardener with roses as his specialty. Dearly loved for his thoughtfulness, generosity, and witty sense of humor, Bob will be remembered for being a devoted husband, father, grandfather, uncle, and friend.

Memorial services will be held at Valley Presbyterian Church, 945 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA on Friday, July 27 at 4pm with a reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his memory to Filoli, 86 Cañada Road, Woodside, CA 94062 (www.filoli.org). Please include "In memory of Bob Stewart" on your donation.



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League of Women Voters of South San Mateo County, 713 Santa Cruz Ave., Suite 9, Menlo Park CA 94025 or info@LWVSSMC.org.

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'The Help' actor returns to school

By Chris Kenrick
Embarcadero Media

Fortune favors the prepared, but luck and connections also have plenty to do with success in Hollywood, Ahna O'Reilly told students at Menlo School on April 30.

Ms. O'Reilly, best known for her role in last summer's Academy Award-winning movie "The Help," returned to the school where she graduated in 2003 to discuss her experiences as an actress.

She credited her friendship with Octavia Spencer — who won the Oscar for best supporting actress as the outspoken maid Minny in "The Help" — for getting her an audition that led to her first role in a major motion picture.

"To get into a room like that is incredibly difficult, and only something you can do if you have a big powerful agent, which I didn't have," Ms. O'Reilly told more than 200 Menlo students who packed a school lecture hall during their Monday lunch hour.

"Octavia snuck me in because she was friends with the casting director."

She said she and fellow cast members studied the 1990s PBS civil-rights series "Eyes on the Prize" and the documentary "Yes, M'am" to prepare for their roles in "The Help," an adaptation of Katherine Stockett's 2009 novel about black maids working for white families in Jackson, Mississippi, in the 1960s.

Of her character, the anxious, socially aspiring Elizabeth Lee-folt, she said "many would say she was a despicable woman, but it was up to me not to judge her so that I could portray that woman. It was trying to look at that human being from a different angle and see what in them is human."

"In that case, I hugely identified — and I think anyone in this room can identify — with just desperately wanting to try to fit in."

Ms. O'Reilly, who took acting lessons in San Francisco during her high school years, said she has aspired to an acting career

since the age of 8, never considering anything else.

After Menlo, she attended the University of Southern California for a year before leaving to pursue acting, where she found small television and movie roles including a movie called "Herpes Boy," in which she met Spencer.

One of her biggest challenges in the business, she said, is staying motivated and productive between jobs.

"I really don't have a typical day — they're annoyingly all over the place," she said. "Some days it takes a lot to just not sleep in and watch TV. When you're not on a job you just have to keep going to class and working on those emotional and technical muscles."

She counts herself lucky to

have settled early in life on a career she loves.

"If you know what you love and it doesn't seem like a practical thing to do, it's worth examining, but that passion you have could turn into hard work and that hard work could turn into a successful career as an actor, or musician or poet," she told the students.

"If you don't love what you do, you might succeed in certain ways but you won't be a success."

She spoke with student interviewer Samantha Bergeson in Menlo's monthly, student-led Coat of Arms Speaker Series, whose previous guests have included former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and former CIA director James Woolsey. ■



Courtesy of Menlo School
Ahna O'Reilly says preparation, luck and friends helped her snag a role in Oscar-winning movie.

Dogs get second chance

Jail inmates might understand better than anyone what it's like to need a second chance, which could be why a program pairing dogs in need of training and socialization with San Mateo County jail inmates has been such a success.

Five dogs recently graduated from the TAILS program after eight weeks of intensive work with inmates at the Redwood City jail, according to Peninsula Humane Society spokesman Scott Delucchi.

TAILS, which stands for Transitioning Animals Into Loving Situations, is a partnership between the humane society and the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office. Since July 2009, the program has helped 42 dogs with behavioral issues and limited adoption potential find new homes.

Inmates participating in the program take weekly formal training classes and are responsible for the dogs' exercise, socialization, grooming, feeding

and overall care.

Dogs get off-leash play time, group interactions with the other dogs in the program, individual work on obedience training, and plenty of socialization with inmates.

The recent graduates included three Chihuahuas, a Chihuahua-pit bull mix, and a mixed breed male that resembles a border collie.

"Our biggest challenge is finding new, permanent homes as good as the one these dogs have enjoyed the past eight weeks," Mr. Delucchi said. "Whoever adopts a TAILS dog will be bringing a real treasure into their home and life."

Anyone interested in adopting a TAILS graduate should contact Maria Eguren at meguren@peninsulahumane-society.org or call (650) 340-7022, ext. 306.

The next TAILS class will be selected with a few weeks, Mr. Delucchi said.

— Bay City News Service

Program pairs pets with inmates.



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PLANNING COMMISSION
June 6, 2012
7:30 PM

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

3. Town of Woodside Townwide	ZOAM2010-0009 Planner: Licia McMorrow, Senior Planner
Review and recommend approval, conditional approval, or denial to the Town Council of an ordinance to amend Municipal Code Chapter 153 as it applies to average lot slope, lot yield, and slope density standards in accordance with the May 18, 2005, Planning Commission interpretation.	
4. Jim Caldwell 121 Fox Hollow Road	CEQA2012-0003 & CUSE2012-0005 Planner: Jackie Young, Planning Director
Review and consider adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration; and approve, conditionally approve, or deny a Conditional Use Permit to legalize unpermitted improvements (erosion control, bank stabilizations, and patios) within the stream corridor of Bear Gulch Creek.	
All application materials are available for public review at the Woodside Planning and Building Center, Woodside Town Hall, weekdays from 8:00 – 10:00 AM and 1:00 – 3:00 PM, or by appointment. For more information, contact the Woodside Planning and Building Department at (650) 851-6790.	

Woodside: New owner for Salon beauty shop

By Jane Knoerle
Almanac Lifestyles Editor

■ BUSINESS

Emily Nessi Kelley is back in her old hometown with a new venture. Well, not exactly new. She is now proprietor of The Salon beauty shop in Woodside, once owned by her mom, Charlene Nessi

(from 1985 to 2002). In those days, the shop was known as Images. After graduating from college, Ms. Kelley worked in several small businesses on Santa Cruz Avenue in downtown Menlo Park, including Calla, Runners High and Peet's Coffee and Tea. "I hung around that street for quite a while, but I got tired of working for others," she says.

Out of the blue, she wrote a letter to The Salon's last owner, Irene Quitson, asking her if she would ever be willing to sell. Ms.

Quitson replied she was interested in selling, had many offers, but was looking for just the right person. Emily Nessi Kelley filled the bill.

Ms. Kelley grew up in Woodside and graduated from Woodside Elementary and Woodside High. Now she and her daughter Teagan (means fair and beautiful in Irish), are living in the Glens with her mom,

Charlene. Teagan is following family footsteps and attending Woodside Elementary.

Emily coaxed her mom out of retirement and back to The Salon to cut hair a day or so a week. She is busy re-connecting with longtime patrons, some of whom have been coming to the shop since the day it opened.

Ms. Kelley is enthusiastic



Photo by Michelle Le

Charlene Nessi, left, with her daughter Emily Nessi Kelley at The Salon in Woodside.

about running a salon. "My background is small business. I don't do hair, but I'm getting this place back to being busy and

fun," she says. "We've brightened the place up and we're offering full service: waxing, facials, nails, extensions, even

Brazilian Blowouts."

The Salon is located at Canada Corners, 3040 Woodside Road, in Woodside. ■

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LAWSUIT

continued from page 9

Alan Exelrod — known for winning a landmark sexual harassment case in 1994—responded to requests for comment.

The venture capital firm intends to fight back and has hired Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, a law firm with a track record of defending corporations against discrimination claims. Kleiner Perkins lists 12 women among its 49 investment partners and appears to carry a reputation in the media for being one of the more numerically gender-balanced firms in the venture capital world.

Kleiner Perkins spokesperson

Christina Lee said in a written statement that following an independent investigation, the firm believes the lawsuit is without merit and intends to vigorously defend the matter. "The firm regrets that the situation is being litigated publicly and had hoped the two parties could have reached resolution, particularly given (Ms.) Pao's 7-year history with the firm."

Discrimination law attorney Michelle Heverly, of San Francisco-based Littler Mendelson, said the filing looks pretty standard, albeit more detailed than most. She pointed out that although the lawsuit includes claims of sexual harassment, those complaints are not for adjudication,

as the one-year statute of limitations has passed.

Drawing upon more than a decade of experience defending employers, the attorney said that a case like this almost never goes to trial. Ms. Heverly suggested that failing to reach a settlement might be due to the amount of money requested or the company's feeling exploited if it believes it hasn't done anything wrong.

She questioned why so much time elapsed before Ms. Pao filed a lawsuit. "The one thing I find really odd is that she alleges the sexual harassment happened six years ago and did nothing about it. She's obviously a very bright woman who chose to work in a

man's field," Ms. Heverly said. "Unless she was beholden to a paycheck, it's hard to believe she would have suffered that silently for so many years. And to bring it up now when the claims are stale only looks suspicious to me."

Ms. Pao's husband, Alphonse "Buddy" Fletcher Jr., has some experience with sexual harassment allegations—he reportedly settled claims filed against him by two employees in 2003 and 2006 while denying the accusations. The Harvard graduate and philanthropist currently faces a Securities and Exchange Commission investigation of the investment company he founded, Fletcher Asset Management, according to the Wall Street Journal, as well as lawsuits filed by three Louisiana pension systems that had invested \$100 million with him, but were unable to withdraw their money. The Wall Street Journal also reported that a judge petitioned by the pension systems declared a hedge fund run by Mr. Fletcher's company insolvent and ordered it liquidated in April.

Mr. Fletcher was unavailable for comment. His own situation has no relevance on his wife's discrimination lawsuit, according to Ms. Heverly, the discrimination law attorney.

"No bearing at all," she said. "It would never be admissible at trial." ■

J. McLaughlin

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Eagle Scouts honored

Boy Scout Troop 222 has honored Jordan Petersen, Zach Plante and Varun Tolani at a recent Eagle Scout Court of Honor at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church.

Jordan, son of Cathy and Gary Petersen, joined Troop 222 in 2005. He has earned 24 merit badges. His project was installing a fenced teaching garden and raised planter beds at Ronald McNair Academy in East Palo Alto. He is involved in the leadership of high school ministries at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church and with Pursuit, the high school worship band. He is a senior at Menlo-Atherton High School.

Zach is the son of Tom and Lori Plante. He has earned 25 merit badges. His project was creat-

ing a drainage system for Dear Hollow Farm. A sophomore at Menlo-Atherton High School, Zach runs varsity cross-country and track and plays guitar in the jazz band. He also works as an assistant music teacher at his synagogue, Congregation Beth Am, in Los Altos Hills.

Varun, son of Nisha Advani and Arun Tolani, has earned 29 merit badges. As his project, he led a crew to refurbish a playground area in the Redwood Family House Shelter in Redwood City. A junior at Sacred Heart Preparatory, he plays tennis on the high school team, is a member of the improv comedy group "Kitsch," and plays guitar with the band. He also has a second-degree black belt in taekwon do.



Eagle Scouts, from left, are Varun Tolani, Zach Plante and Jordan Petersen.

■ POLICE CALLS

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

ATHERTON

Residential burglary report: Window forced open and theft of miscellaneous guns, Holbrook Lane, May 6.

Theft reports:

■ Four Apple iPads stolen from locker room, Menlo School at 50 Valparaiso Ave., May 15.

■ Laptop computer stolen during school play, Menlo School at 50 Valparaiso Ave., May 18.

MENLO PARK

Theft reports:

■ Loss estimated at \$8,800 in theft of earrings and four rings, including two wedding bands, Hedge Road, May 17.

■ Losses estimated at \$4,800 in theft, allegedly by family member, of gold coins, jewelry and watches from safe and dresser drawer, Madera Ave., May 10.

■ Loss estimated at \$1,650 in theft of bicycle from open garage, Iris Lane, May 10.

■ Loss estimated at \$650 in theft of cardigan sweater from business, Chestnut St., May 12.

■ Unknown loss in witnessed theft of cardigan sweater by "elderly Asian woman" who returned to store after incident, was confronted and fled on foot, Alys Grace at 899B Santa Cruz Ave., May 21.

■ Unknown loss in theft of unattended scooter from Civic Center duck pond, 800 Alma St., May 21.

Residential burglary reports:

■ Losses estimated at \$7,800 in break-in through unlocked front door

and theft of three laptop computers, Apple iPad, video camcorder, camera, miscellaneous jewelry, three passports and \$500 in cash, Wallea Drive, May 7.

■ Loss estimated at \$420 in entry through rear bathroom window and theft of miscellaneous jewelry, sunglasses and two cameras, Oak Court, May 14.

Auto burglary reports:

■ Loss estimated at \$1,500 in window smash and theft of laptop computer, Concord Drive, May 8.

■ Losses estimated at \$3,350 in theft of 12 spools of cable and three generators from Comcast trucks after cutting through fence, Haven Ave., May 21.

■ Unknown losses from smashed window and theft of tools, Willow Road, May 21.

Fraud report: Loss of \$1,900 when victim wired funds to someone claiming to be his nephew, reported at main police station at 701 Laurel St., May 15.

Animal reports:

■ Dog owner advised of animal cruelty laws on occasion of leaving dog unattended in vehicle for three hours on hot day, Curtis St., May 11.

■ Vehicle owner advised of animal cruelty laws on occasion of leaving four dogs in unattended vehicle without food or water on warm day, but owner said it was only 20 minutes, Merrill St., May 11.

WOODSIDE

Theft report: Loss estimated at \$800 in theft of locked bike from corner of building, Roberts Market on Woodside Road, May 11.

WEST MENLO PARK

Theft report: Loss estimated at \$1,000 in theft of mountain bike from apartment complex carport, 3000 block of Alameda de las Pulgas, May 17.

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541 Ramona Street, Palo Alto
www.oldpropa.com

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



WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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Critique of Athertonians blog is off base

One of the cornerstones of our democracy is the free exchange of ideas, no matter how upsetting those ideas might be to another person or institution. Unless it is defamatory or libelous, citizens of this country are permitted to write or say just about anything they please, without prior restraint, even though it may be untrue or outrages local government officials.

A good lesson in First Amendment rights is playing out now in Atherton, where some members of the City Council are livid about a local blog and email message group that calls itself "Athertonians," which they say is too similar to "The Athertonian," the title of the city's official newsletter. A majority of the council wants the blog to change its name. But to us and many others in Atherton, the name is a red herring. The real problem the blog presents to the council majority is its strident opposition to the town's plan to build a new library in Holbrook-Palmer Park.

Athertonians is hardly an upstart, single-minded enterprise. It has been around for eight years, but did not attract much attention until its members started to strongly oppose the library project, which the council majority is attempting to push through despite many calls for a city-wide vote.

The disagreement between the anonymous bloggers and the town has reached a boiling point. But the majority of council members, and the city's lawyer, insist that the effort "...to go ahead and get started in shutting it down," as Councilman Jim Dobbie put it a few weeks ago, is not about the blog's content but about the confusion caused by the similarity of the names "Athertonians" and "The Athertonian." Town officials say they have had numerous residents question whether the Athertonians, a Yahoo group, was an official publication of the town. Even current Mayor Bill Widmer said he has taken part in the group since before he was elected to the City Council several years ago, and initially thought the site was sponsored by the town.

This "tempest in a teapot" might easily be resolved with a

simple name change or explanation in the heading of Athertonians, except for the underlying feud between some town leaders and what appears to be a sizeable number of town residents who are using the blog to criticize the effort to build the library in the park.

Strong words have been published on the blog, and library supporters say their views are not posted. The council majority of Mayor Widmer and members Jim Dobbie and Kathy McKeithen seems determined to make life as painful as possible for the Athertonians, directing city staff to urge its anonymous moderators to change the group's name, and if they don't, prepare to take legal action. At the council's April 18 meeting, Mr. Dobbie said, "It's high time we do something."

But from the looks of it, the blog moderators are not going to back down, telling the Almanac that the Athertonians is "distinct from the name used by the town for its infrequent newsletter, 'The Athertonian.' As such, we have no hesitation in assuring you that we are not discontinuing our use of a name we have held for eight years."

In this case, the First Amendment rights of the Athertonians clearly trump any upset felt by the council members or city officials about the blog's content or the possible confusion from the similarity of names to The Athertonian. Any judge would want to know why the city is just now objecting to the confusion, eight years after the blog was created. In this situation, it appears that the council majority is rowing upstream against an increasingly vociferous group of residents who in the Athertonians have an effective communications tool.

It may be time for the majority to back off, agree to put the library move to a vote and end the efforts to smother the ever-growing band of critics. We think a good case can be made to build a new library in the park with funds that are not available for any other use than the library. It is remarkable how Atherton can tie itself in knots over such a simple project. But continuing this fight makes no sense for either side.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS

Our readers write

City should turn down housing settlement

Editor:

To the Menlo Park City Council members: Please do not bow to the extortion of \$1 million to \$2 million from the city's general fund.

You do not have to mount an active defense. You can simply proceed to update the housing element so that there is no further remedy necessary. At that point, you can settle the attorney's fees through the judge assigned to the case. It is outrageous to think that \$114,000 has been spent so far filing the suit and there is no reason to think that much more would be spent between now and the presenta-

Continued on next page



Portola Valley Archives

Our Regional Heritage

Domenico Grosso, known as the hermit of Jasper Ridge, entertains friends in this undated photo. He died in 1915 after a stroke.

LETTERS

Our readers write

Continued from previous page

tion of the case to the judge.

Further, I urge you to spend as little time as possible on the housing element. There is no reasonable way that 3,000 units of housing can be added to the city, so why try to be reasonable?

I have a plan that I will donate to the city for \$1, the cost of duplicating 20 copies for tonight's meeting:

1. Zone three acres of land near the railroad tracks, either downtown or the Bay, for three 100-story buildings.

2. With a footprint of 12,000 to 15,000 square feet for each building, 10 units can be constructed on each floor. That will accommodate 3,000 units of housing.

3. Require that the buildings meet the most stringent LEEDS requirement in effect at the time of construction.

4. Require that the units be sold to ensure compliance with all relevant laws regarding income levels.

5. Provide no parking, but lots of bike trails and full access to public transportation to ensure minimal impact on the environment.

The end. The city saves \$1 million to \$2 million, less \$1, not to mention lots of staff and resident time and acrimony. I promise to support the plan and to urge fellow residents in Menlo Park who care about our quality of life to support it.

Charles D. Bernstein
Menlo Park

Pall of lawsuit hangs over Downtown Plan

By Henry Riggs

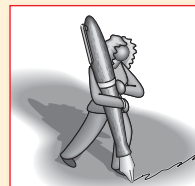
Many of us are excited about the possible renewal of a tired Menlo Park business district — a dozen vacant storefronts and the El Camino vacant lots.

Of course, the Downtown Specific Plan was never going to please everybody (nothing in Menlo can do that). Still, it's disappointing that the familiar, vocal few who don't like the results of five years of community discussion would rather hire lawyers than see the plan go forward with best wishes.

I think of all the residents who attended the workshops, trudged around downtown with the planners, attended the speaker series and spoke (and listened to others) at the many, many, detailed public hearings. It's not easy to come to consensus in an educated and outspoken town like ours, yet we got there — consensus being a collective opinion where the dissenting minority gains respect, if not agreement, with the majority. It took five years and many thousands of volunteer hours.

Most disappointing is that there will be

costs to all of us to defend the plan against these legal maneuvers. And why? Those who claim to represent the shop owners say they "haven't been heard," yet the plan was revised for every comment the merchant leaders made — to the credit of everyone



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involved, in my view: Loss of parking for improved sidewalks, scaled back. Housing above potential parking structures, ruled out. Allowed height of parking structures, reduced to match adjacent buildings. Optional location for the parking structure,

added. Small park areas to pause for a moment, now subject to trial installation and merchant review. Two covered areas and a "paseo" to supplement the farmers market, subject to trial installation and farmers market review. Buildings on Santa Cruz Avenue can be all of 12 percent bigger than current rules — and that only through a public hearing. In fact the only

allowances for tall buildings were carefully located on El Camino, away from existing residences.

I've spoken with developers who also live in Menlo Park. They worry that the carefully fussed and compromised zoning changes are not enough to entice investment in old buildings and vacant lots; two friends in Linfield Oaks worry that it's too much enticement. And yet, both sides are willing to see, and hope, that it will work. Something has to.

Change isn't easy, especially for those who have not seen it for five decades. There were cries of doom when the Keplers/Borrone building was proposed, when the Stacks building was proposed, and of course the Derry project was killed outright (and remains a derelict site today).

This zoning update called the Specific Plan goes to council on June 5. In the next few weeks, our council can adopt these painstakingly vetted new rules and, with luck, investment will return to Menlo Park's downtown.

Henry Riggs is a planning commissioner who lives on Callie Lane in Menlo Park.

Atherton needs to OK widening Marsh Road

Editor

In response to your May 23 article "Atherton threatens to sue Menlo, Facebook," I am convinced now more than ever that the town of Atherton is a bad neighbor.

We live in the North Fair Oaks neighborhood in Menlo Park and have seen traffic and speeding increase on our residential streets because Atherton has refused to even consider widening Marsh Road based on a survey conducted in 1977.

Recently, due to outcry from the community, including Atherton residents and legal issues, Atherton was unable to block Holbrook Lane to through traffic and instead has limited right-hand turns from Holbrook onto Middlefield Road with Atherton police ticketing drivers. As a result, the Holbrook traffic has moved to 14th, Fair Oaks, Palmer/15th and San Benito — adding to existing traffic.

If Atherton thinks keeping Marsh Road to two lanes keeps additional traffic out of their town, they are delusional. What it causes is frustrated drivers

delayed on Marsh to speed through North Fair Oaks, Fair Oaks in Atherton and north and south on Middlefield Road with three school zones nearby and increased pollution from drivers idling on Marsh. We can't even encourage safe bike riding to reduce car traffic on Marsh as there are no bike lanes!

Atherton residents, please ask your City Council and Transportation Committee to widen Marsh Road to be a good neighbor and enter this century.

Jade Dahl, 14th Avenue
North Fair Oaks/Menlo Park

Masur for supervisor

Editor:

Residents of the town of Portola Valley, Ladera and Vista Verde enjoy a quality of life that is second to none. Maintaining and improving upon that quality of life, however, requires working with partners at all levels of government, especially our own county government.

Our county representatives play a vital role in providing us with our police protection, public health and animal control services, as well as influencing funding priorities for local transportation and local parks enjoyed by us.

Now, more than ever before, it is important that our community have strong south county advocates on the county Board of Supervisors. That is why I am supporting Shelly Masur in the June 5 election for county supervisor.

Shelly Masur is an experienced local elected official with a commitment to effectively leveraging limited dollars to promote efficiency and improve services. Shelly has spent a great deal of time getting to know the important issues and building relationships with city, school and community leaders and will be an effective voice for those of us living in South San Mateo County.

Kent Mitchell, former mayor
Town of Portola Valley

Trail dedicated to Valley pioneer

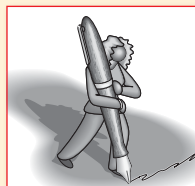
By Nancy Lund

For decades the Dwight Crowder Memorial Trail has hugged the Portola Valley town boundary in a narrow strip of land between Alpine Road and Los Trancos Creek. It begins at the Town border at Ladera Oaks and ends near Portola Road, two miles away. Lately it's been in the news as the C-1 Trail, the construction term used as major repairs and upgrades have been underway.

These renovations, made in accordance with the wishes of the town, cost Stanford around \$2 million. This project is one part of the university's required mitigations for permission to add a great deal of new development on campus. The creek banks have been stabilized. The trail, which was essentially straight, has been partially realigned as a gently meandering path further from the road in places and with incursions beyond the town border in three places to bring it closer to the creek. Newly planted natives are taking root between the trail and the road.

So who was Dwight Crowder and why was a trail named for him? He was a geologist and first chair of the Portola Valley Conservation Committee. Shortly after incorporation in 1964, he began deluging the Town Council and planners with memos and reports: open space zoning, landscaping with natives, retention of natural views, standards for building and maintaining trails, creek-side protection, and outdoor classrooms in schools, among others.

Early on Dwight recognized the dangers of building on landslide-prone ground in a major earthquake fault zone. The council wrote the concept of varying density into the 1965 General Plan, but they were busy with the voluminous details of creating a town, and geology wasn't a high priority in



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land-use planning in that era. But Dwight recognized its importance. He foresaw the need for mapping and creating carefully constructed ordinances in earthquake country. He was the first to speak of the need for engineering and geologic studies, geologic maps, and restricted development on steep slopes. It was his vision and persistence that provided the impetus for building safely in the San Andreas Fault valley. In subsequent years, Portola Valley's pioneering studies of how to develop land in unstable earthquake country have become known throughout the world.

He died as the innocent victim of a traffic accident on Portola Road in 1970, but his legacy lives on in the core values town residents hold today. Take a walk along the newly refurbished trail, enjoy the ambiance, and give a thought to the man whose name it bears and to the power of one person to make a difference.

Nancy Lund is historian for the town of Portola Valley.

Editor's Note: The Dwight Crowder Memorial Trail will be rededicated at ceremonies during the annual town picnic on June 9.

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PROPERTY SHOWCASE BY HUGH CORNISH



FOR SALE

ENCHANTING HILLTOP ESTATE 150 La Sandra Way, Portola Valley

4-bedroom, 4.5-bath home on over 2.5 acres with tremendous views
Offered at \$5,250,000



FOR SALE

EXQUISITE WOODSIDE ESTATE 1000 Mountain Home Road, Woodside

4 bedrooms, 4 full and 3 half baths with cottage, pool & pool house
Offered at \$7,975,000 Co-list with Natalie Comartin



FOR SALE

EXCEPTIONAL HOME, LAS LOMITAS SCHOOLS 36 Parker Avenue, Atherton

4 bedrooms, 3 baths on desirable cul-de-sac
Offered at \$2,495,000



FOR SALE

ENGLISH COUNTRY ESTATE 160 Phillip Road, Woodside

Central Woodside on approx. 2.7 acres, with pool, guest house, studio
Offered at \$6,495,000



NEW PRICE

EXCLUSIVE HIDDEN VALLEY 140 Farm Road, Woodside

Contemporary home on over 3.6 acres, with guest house
Offered at \$7,250,000



PENDING SALE

MID-CENTURY GEM ON A CUL-DE-SAC 95 Mercedes Lane, Atherton

With guest house, pool, spa and sportcourt
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