



**New farmers' market  
to open in Woodside** | Page 3

# The Almanac

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

MARCH 20, 2013 | VOL. 48 NO. 29



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Photo by Barbara Wood/The Almanac

**Organizers** of the new Woodside farmers' market, which will open Sunday, April 7, at Woodside Elementary School, say they are working to allow produce from the school's gardens (here being watered by second-grade student Pilar V., wearing a garden gnome hat that she knitted herself) to be certified and available for sale at the market.

## New farmers' market in Woodside

By **Barbara Wood**  
Special to the Almanac

**W**oodside residents interested in purchasing locally produced food directly from its producers will soon have one more option very close to home: a weekly farmers' market right in the middle of town, at Woodside Elementary School, 3195 Woodside Road.

The plan is to operate the market from noon to 4 p.m. every Sunday afternoon, starting April 7.

The school's governing board on March 12 approved allowing a market to open on its grounds while the town tries to figure out if it can approve the market operators' original request to site the market in the Town Center public parking lot near Town Hall.

The request for the new market came from Maggie Foard, who is managing the Mountain Goat Farmers' Market, which opened last fall in the Skylonda Four Corners shop-

ping area, at the intersection of highways 84 and 35.

For those unable to wait until April 7 and willing to make the drive up the hill, the Skylonda market will reopen on Wednesday, March 20, and be open weekly on Wednesdays from 2 to 6 p.m., with hours lengthening to 7 p.m. in the summer.

**The market would operate from noon to 4 p.m. Sundays, starting April 7.**

Ms. Foard said her first choice for a market day in central Woodside is Saturday, but competition for parking with youth sports and the Woodside Library made the Sunday time slot preferable. The market day may move to Saturdays when school is out for the summer, she said.

The market will be certified by the San Mateo County Agriculture Department, which requires that farmers' market food be sold by its producers.

Ms. Foard said that produce from the school's garden may also be sold at the market, with the Agriculture Department offering to waive its fee for certifying the gardens.

The Woodside Farmers' Market at the school will have a maximum of 16 vendors, with choices such as organic produce, honey, nuts and nut butters, organic olive oil, chocolates, grass-fed beef, pastured chicken and eggs, fair-trade coffee, local wild and sustainable seafood and oysters, and a weekly rotation of cheeses from producers who make their own cheeses from milk produced on their farms.

A few other specialty food items such as empanadas and baked goods from the Flour Chylde gluten-free bakery will also be available, as will a selection of native plants, Ms. Foard said.

The Mountain Goat market was originally shut down by the town soon after it opened last fall. It was soon allowed to reopen once a way was found to modify the use permit for the parking lot where it is held. ■

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# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

## Board OKs firing of special education director

By Renee Batti  
Almanac News Editor

The school board approved the removal of the Menlo Park City School District's director of special education from her job on March 12, but not until the defiant director publicly accused Superintendent Maurice Ghysels of bullying staff members and creating a "traumatic, hostile workplace" since he took the district's top post in July 2011.

Olivia Mandilk, the district's director of the Student Services Department for the last eight and a half years, will no longer hold her current post after the end of the school year, but will be reassigned within the district, said Mr. Ghysels.

Board President Terry Thygesen said the board voted

unanimously in closed session to approve Mr. Ghysels' recommended change in the department's leadership.

Ms. Mandilk, members of her staff, and a number of parents whose children are or have been served by the department attended the emotional meeting, speaking during the public comment period before the board went into closed session to make its decision.

Most speakers supported Ms. Mandilk's leadership of the department, which provides instruction and other services for students with developmental and other disabilities and special health needs. But two parents encouraged the board to support the change, saying Ms. Mandilk and most of the department

staff were unresponsive to the needs of some children in the program and resisted parents' attempts to communicate and work for improvements.

During the comment period, there were some tears on

her dismissal to Superintendent Ghysels' leadership.

Holding up photocopied images of leadership staff members who have left their jobs since Mr. Ghysels came on board, she spoke of each departure or extended sick leave, alleging they were the result of the superintendent's bullying and other forms of mistreatment. Six of 12 members of the district's leadership team, she said, were "targeted victims" of Mr. Ghysels' "unprofessional conduct and bullying behavior" before they

either agreed to retire or became too ill to continue working.

Responding to the comments, Mr. Ghysels said the next day: "It's hard to be a leader and make difficult personnel decisions. I know that people are

not always going to be happy with those decisions." He said he wouldn't comment on the charges of bullying.

"I want to make sure that parents and their kids rest assured that we're going to continue to provide outstanding service" in the program, he told the Almanac.

In response to Ms. Mandilk's accusations, board President Thygesen told the Almanac: "I am fully confident that Dr. Ghysels is leading our district effectively."

Ms. Mandilk told the Almanac before last week's meeting that she had received no warning or indication that her job performance was a problem before Mr. Ghysels called her into his office on Feb. 22 and told her that he

**'It's hard to be a leader and make difficult personnel decisions.'**

SUPERINTENDENT MAURICE GHYSELS



the part of Student Services staff who showed up to support their boss, and applause from the audience, mostly by Ms. Mandilk's supporters. But high drama prevailed when Ms. Mandilk expanded the discus-

## Woodside shifts focus in road-repair program

By Barbara Wood  
Special to the Almanac

It's been more than a decade since residents of Old La Honda road repeatedly lobbied the town of Woodside to do something about the dangerous condition of their steep and winding road.

Since acknowledging the problems, the town has annually put

a good chunk of its road budget into repairs and maintenance of Old La Honda Road. On March 12, however, the residents were back, this time because the town's efforts have apparently made enough

difference in the condition of Old La Honda that it is no longer a top priority for road funds.

The road budget the council was asked to approve allocated \$42,750 for Old La Honda Road projects, with even more money going to projects on Jefferson Avenue (\$180,158), Kings Mountain (\$86,026), Woodside Drive (\$57,934) and Skyline area roads (\$58,702).

More than two dozen Old La Honda Road residents showed

up at the council meeting asking for the \$70,000 they've been used to getting each year.

But council members, after hearing from Deputy Town Manager Paul Nagengast that other town roads needed to be fixed now before completely breaking down and requiring very expensive repairs, voted unanimously to leave the allocations as proposed.

The town will change the type of work it does on Old La Honda this year, and devote most of the money to working on the swales that provide drainage on the roadsides.

"Our problem is, how do we allocate a finite amount of money each year?" said Councilman Ron Romines. "If we increase the allotment (for Old La Honda) that means we take money away from some other project."

Mary Zvirblis, a 20-year resident of Old La Honda, brought the council and town employees the traditional prop of her

**'If we increase the allotment (for Old La Honda) that means we take money away from some other ... project.'**

COUNCILMAN RON ROMINES

See **WOODSIDE ROADS**, page 8

## Menlo council supports five housing sites

By Sandy Brundage  
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park's race to identify potential sites for new housing moved forward on March 12 as all five council members supported staff's selection of five out of 14 sites for rezoning.

State law requires cities to assess and plan to meet their fair share of regional housing needs, which includes affordable housing, every seven years. Menlo Park hasn't met the state requirements since 1992.

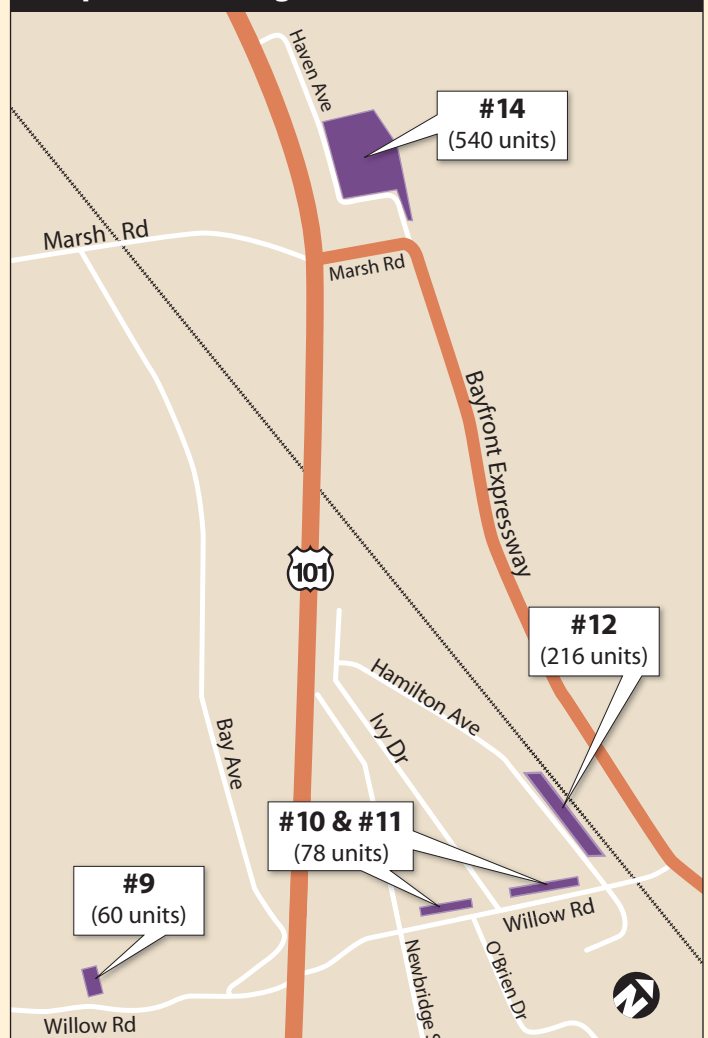
As part of a lawsuit settlement for noncompliance, the city now needs to finalize by May a selection of sites where zoning changes would allow a maximum of 900 housing units to be built. While the city is not required to actually build the units, it must provide incentives for developers to do so, according to the settlement.

The sites must include high-density zones — defined as 30 units per acre — for affordable housing. Once that's done, Menlo Park will then need to start hunting for new sites to comply with the next update cycle.

The five sites for this cycle tend to lie toward east Menlo

See **MENLO HOUSING**, page 8

### Proposed housing sites in Menlo Park



The five sites for new housing — 9, 10, 11, 12 and 14 — lie toward east Menlo Park, a fact that did not escape comment during the March 12 meeting.

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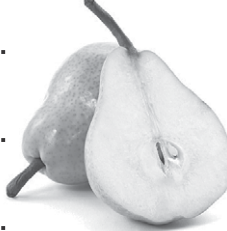
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**Commissioner resigns from traffic subcommittee**

By Sandy Brundage  
Almanac Staff Writer

**MENLO BRIEFS**

Transportation Commissioner Penelope Huang, saying that personal attacks were distracting from a review of Menlo Park's neighborhood traffic-management program, resigned from the review subcommittee on March 15.

Ms. Huang came under fire during the past few months from some residents who questioned her intentions in calling for a review of a program that, in their minds, doesn't need changing.

The program allows a resident to request traffic-calming measures for their neighborhood, but requires signatures from at least 60 percent of their neighbors before staff will study the issue. Installing a mitigation measure such as a speed bump on a trial basis after a study then requires 51 percent approval of a surveyed group of residents,

with non-responses counting as a "no" vote.

According to Ms. Huang, the process needs to be revisited in light of upcoming development projects, such as Facebook's expansion to a second campus and the proposed Stanford-Arrillaga mixed-use complex on El Camino Real

**Environmental awards**

Five community members earned awards from the Menlo Park Environmental Quality Commission this year. The winners are: Facebook (Climate Action); Menlo Business Park (Climate Action); Carolyn Dorsh (Environmental Education); Pacific Biosciences (Resource Conservation); and Hillview Middle School-Menlo Park City School District (Sustainable Building). ■

**Katherine Moore is Zider finalist**

Katherine Moore of Atherton also is a finalist in the Chris Zider Scholarship 2012 competition. Unfortunately, her name was omitted in the article that was published in the Almanac's March 13 edition.

Katherine played water polo both her freshman and sopho-

more years at St. Francis High School and was on the school's swim team both years. She is a member of the National Charity League, serves on the student council at St. Francis, and sings in her church choir.

She has been a Girl Scout member since the first grade.

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# Menlo Park hires investigator to review gymnastics program

By Sandy Brundage  
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park has hired an independent investigator to review the city's gymnastics program, multiple sources told the Almanac on March 15.

City Manager Alex McIntyre did not answer questions from the Almanac about the reasons for hiring an investigator. The move comes weeks after a popular gymnastics instructor, Michelle Sutton, was fired and allegations of a toxic workplace environment within the program arose.

Mr. McIntyre had previously said in a letter to the community that he had reviewed the circumstances of the firing to his satisfaction. However, his review didn't include talking to instructors who said that a manager within the gymnastics program allegedly bullied and harassed staff, including Ms. Sutton.

Six days before she was fired, Ms. Sutton had asked the city's human resources department and union representatives about filing a harassment complaint against her supervisor, Karen Mihalek.

However, the instructor said she was told that a parent's complaint led to her termination on

Feb. 12. The complaint, sent to program management and to the City Council's public email log, described her as unprofessional in how she had asked the parent to step away during a child-only class.

The Almanac's review of Ms. Sutton's personnel file at the city found no documentation of any reprimands or other performance

intimidated, and/or otherwise bullied by her."

Had Mr. McIntyre's review included speaking to staff who had witnessed this behavior, Mr. Ortez wrote in his email, "maybe then I'd feel that you'd actually exercised the due diligence that you purported to using in your letter to the concerned parents."

Mr. Ortez told the Almanac that he loved and respected both Ms. Mihalek, whom he considered a second mother, and Ms. Sutton, who serves as godmother to his youngest child.

The city directed questions regarding the allegations to the human resources director, who said she could not comment on personnel matters.

Ms. Sutton told the Almanac that she had been informed about the independent investigation, but had not yet been contacted.

Before the city hired an outside investigator, several Menlo Park council members made inquiries of their own after outraged parents demanded Ms. Sutton's reinstatement.

"It pleases me to finally say, after spending so many hours on this issue, that for the time being I have no further comment," said Councilman Ray Mueller. ■

The move comes weeks after popular gymnastics instructor Michelle Sutton was fired.



issues — only a note about a pay raise awarded in 2009.

Although Menlo Park isn't legally required to document disciplinary actions for at-will employees such as Ms. Sutton, many employers do so as a safeguard.

Gymnastics instructor Chris Ortez quit in protest over the firing and later told the city manager and the council that Ms. Mihalek held "none-too-discreet contempt" for Ms. Sutton and reportedly had a history of complaints filed by at least two female staff members "who have been harassed,

## Neighbors and developers battle over driveway permit

By Sandy Brundage  
Almanac Staff Writer

■ MENLO PARK

Charges of misrepresentation and fraud are flying from both developers and Louise Street residents after the Menlo Park council voted to revoke a driveway permit.

The council voted 3-1, with Cat Carlton dissenting and Ray Mueller recused, on March 5 to revoke Sam Sinnott's permit to build a driveway on Louise Street. Now the developer and his business partner, Mircea Voskerician, want a rehearing.

The pair purchased a home at 1825 Santa Cruz Ave. last year, planning to demolish it to build a new single-family house to sell. The rear of the lot could exit on Louise Street via a driveway. The proposed exit would have partially paved over some land and greenery in the public right-of-way. A couple living next door currently use part of the space for unlicensed parking.

Louise Street couple Michael Schwarz and Kiki Kapany, along with neighbors, appealed the driveway permit to the council and won. They also got the council's agreement to start an "abandonment process" to grant the public right-of-way to adjacent homeowners. The neighborhood group is now drafting an agreement to preserve the green space in perpetuity with easements for pedestrian access, according to Ms. Kapany.

Building the driveway would've bolstered Mr. Sinnott's desire to switch the address of the home from Santa Cruz Avenue to Louise Street. Although city staff said no when he asked twice during the past 12 months if they'd support changing the address, the property is being advertised as a future Louise Street home

on Craigslist and other online outlets.

One ad for the planned \$5.5 million, 5-bedroom house appeared on Craigslist four days after the council said no to the driveway:

"Access to Louise Street is expected after development will be complete: 1100 Louise St. Frontage of house will be on Louise (cul de sac) since the property always had a Drive way and access to Louise through existing gates. To all neighbors on Louise St. Thanks for participating to the public hearing. Hope you will be able to make it at the rehearing. Stay tuned."

Mr. Sinnott told the Almanac he neither knew about nor condoned the ad, which his partner posted.

Mr. Voskerician told the Almanac in an email that his "craigslist statement is based on the Law. What is the issue?? The Law provides the option of Rehearing and if that is not met then the last resort is Legal action which will be unfor-

See **DRIVEWAY PERMIT**, page 9



## REAL ESTATE TRENDS

by Samia Cullen

### The Danger of Overpricing your Home

I received a call from a buyer who was surprised to read online about a price reduction for a house on a desirable street in Palo Alto. I confirmed that the property had recently experienced a price reduction. The fact of the matter is that even in Palo Alto and in our competitive market, a home typically will not sell unless the list price is in line with the fair market value.

While some sellers are tempted to list their property at a high price to test the market and then negotiate down the price, this strategy often is counterproductive. As the house stays longer on the market, it can develop a stigma that the house is not selling because there is something wrong with it. The seller will start getting lowball offers and may end up eventually selling at a price

below fair market value.

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This strategy works very well when, like now, the market is hot. By avoiding the temptation to overprice your home, you can sell your home quickly and increase the amount you receive for your home.

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# Portola Valley seeks bids on Ford Field renovation

By Barbara Wood

Special to the Almanac

Plans to renovate Portola Valley's Ford Field youth baseball park, put on hold last year after all the bids came in over budget, have been modified to reduce the costs and sent back out for bids.

The Portola Valley Town Council on March 13 agreed on new plans that split out parts of the project, such as a batting cage and special material for the dugout roof, to be bid on separately so they can be removed if the cost is, once again, too high.

Work on the field, located at 3399 Alpine Road, includes new irrigation, re-grading, a back-stop, dugouts and bleachers.

Even with the changes, the town does not have enough money to pay the projected costs of the renovations. The Alpine-West Menlo Little League has

promised to pay half of any shortfall in funding, up to \$40,000, if the town pays the other half.

Money for the renovations comes from a state grant, public donations including \$100,000 from the Sand Hill Foundation on behalf of Susan Ford, and donations from the Little League.

The town will pay its share of any shortfall with part of the \$60,387 it gained by selling stocks donated to the town in 2008 by Laird Cagan.

If all goes according to plan, the town will award the contract by late

April so construction can begin June 1 (after the Little League season has ended) and be completed by September so the new sod can grow over the winter.

"We'll have a whole new ball field soon," said Jon Myers, chair of the town's Parks and Recreation Committee, after the Town Council's unanimous vote to approve the project. ■

**'We'll have a whole new ball field soon.'**

JON MYERS

## SPECIAL ED

continued from page 5

and the school board want to "change the direction" of the program she leads.

She said she was offered three options: to retire, to resign, or to request a teaching position if something becomes available. "I can't afford options one or two, so I selected option three," she said, adding that in addition to work in the special education department she is also credentialed to teach social sciences at Hillview Middle School. She won't know whether there will be a job for her for months, she said.

To retire now, she added,

would mean "financial disaster" because she will be only 59 by the end of the school year, and retiring before she's 61 or 62 would shrink her pension by about \$36,000 a year.

After Ms. Mandilk's comments during the board meeting, Ms. Thygesen told those present that board members are restricted by law from commenting on personnel matters.

Mr. Ghysels said he wanted parents to be assured that services for their children will continue even as the direction of the program shifts — a direction "based on collaboration" that will involve teachers and staff. ■

## WOODSIDE ROADS

continued from page 5

group, Rocky Road candy bars, and a plea. "Please finish the Old La Honda Road project before moving on," she said, referring to a study she said the town did in the mid-1990s which concluded the road needed nearly a million dollars in work.

"We were told we will chip away at this program over time. Well, finish the program please," she said.

Old La Honda area resident Jeff Lee said that with the improvements in road conditions, even more people use it as a shortcut back and forth from Skyline Boulevard, especially bicyclists. "It's a safety

issue," he said.

Another major component of the \$1.59-million road program for the 2013-14 fiscal year is \$50,000 budgeted for a study of the condition of the town's aging storm-drain system. Mr. Nagengast also asked the town to budget \$100,000 for repairs to the storm drains annually for at least the next five years once the study has been completed.

The roads program also includes \$20,000 to study the condition of the town's aging bridges on Kings Mountain, Mountain Home and Portola roads to see if repairs or changes can be made to stretch the lives of the bridges without replacing them. ■



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Contractors work on removing a collapsed stone pine tree on Continental Drive in Sharon Heights.

## Huge stone pine tree falls in Sharon Heights

A huge stone pine tree fell early Wednesday morning, March 13, on Continental Drive in Sharon Heights.

It fell into the street, away from the home on the property, and no one was injured. City workers were sent out to clear the road for traffic.

However, removing the tree is the responsibility of the homeowners, since it is on private property, says city arborist Brian Henry.

A year ago, on March 10, 2012, another large stone pine fell at the corner of Sharon Park Drive and Warner Range

Avenue in Sharon Heights.

In the 1960s, when Sharon Heights was first developed, many homeowners planted stone and Monterey pines because they grew quickly. The trees bear shallow roots, however, and can also be stressed by drought and attacks of pine beetles.

## Menlo council supports 5 housing sites

### MENLO HOUSING

continued from page 5

Park — a fact that did not escape comment during the March 12 meeting.

"I'm really concerned about some of the selections," said Belle Haven resident Vicky Roblede. East Menlo Park fears traffic jams and overcrowded schools as much as the rest of the city, she pointed out, "but we don't have the money, the power, to fight it. ... People are ready to cut their hand off to not have affordable housing on the west side, but they're eager to put it on the east side in Belle Haven."

She finished by asking the council to "really consider the impact on the Belle Haven community."

Development Services Manager Justin Murphy, perhaps making the understatement of the evening, said, "I'm not certain anyone is excited by change in their neighborhood."

Residents of Sharon Heights and Linfield Oaks, earlier in the update process, mounted successful opposition to proposed sites in their neighborhoods — for now. It remains to be seen whether the next update cycle will revisit those areas.

Some Middle Avenue resi-

dents, on the other hand, want their neighborhood on the list. Elizabeth Houck asked the council whether that area could be upzoned. The answer, according to staff and Councilwoman Cat Carlton, is not at this time — but there won't be long to wait for consideration.

**The sites must include high-density zones (defined as 30 units per acre) for affordable housing.**

"So we can put it on the list for the next round, which starts almost immediately after this one," Ms. Carlton noted.

Mayor Peter Ohtaki said he shared Belle Haven's concerns, and said that Hamilton and Haven avenue sites were realistic projects that were already in the works prior to the update.

Proposing developments that include grocery stores and pharmacies for the Belle Haven area could help garner community support, but staff noted that the state doesn't tend to approve mixed-use zones as counting toward a city's housing quota.

Secondary units, mixed-use

development, particularly for the Belle Haven sites, and exploring the potential for developing a neighborhood in partnership with Redwood City — which apparently has the capacity to absorb more students within its school districts than Menlo Park does — will be discussed further, according to staff.

The five sites the city will continue to evaluate for rezoning, as numbered on the map, are:

■ Site 9: Department of Veteran's Affairs campus, located in the 700 block of Willow Road (60 housing units).

■ Sites 10 and 11: Gateway Apartments, located in the 1200 block of Willow Road and also in the 1300 block of Willow Road, both owned by the Mid-Peninsula Housing Coalition (78 units total).

■ Site 12: Hamilton Avenue East, located in the 700 and 800 blocks of Hamilton Avenue (216 units).

■ Site 14: A site in the 3600 block of Haven Avenue (540 units).

Go to [tinyurl.com/MP-heu](http://tinyurl.com/MP-heu) to review the proposed changes as well as the update process. The City Council and Planning Commission will hold a joint meeting on April 9 to formally review the sites, and public hearings will be held throughout the spring. ■

## Deputy DA 'reproved' by state bar

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

A prosecutor in the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office has been "privately reprovved" for misconduct by the California State Bar, according to a letter sent to a victim's advocate who filed a complaint with the agency in 2010.

Following a state bar investigation into the complaint, Deputy DA Melissa McKowan "stipulated to committing an act of professional misconduct," and the state agency has ordered her to attend a one-day state bar ethics school, according to the letter.

The victim's advocate who filed the complaint, Victoria Balfour, said she is making the March 6 letter from the state bar public despite the sender's admonition that the correspondence and the information it contains must remain confidential.

"I did it out of service to the public," she told the Almanac, adding that she believes she isn't violating any laws in releasing it.

Ms. Balfour's complaint stemmed in large part from

Ms. McKowan's handling of the prosecution of Dr. William Ayres, a child psychiatrist accused of molesting boys who were his patients. Dr. Ayres was arrested in 2007 and tried in San Mateo County Superior Court; the case, prosecuted by Ms. McKowan, ended in a mistrial in 2009.

In her complaint, Ms. Balfour accused the prosecutor of a range of unethical and inappropriate behavior, including lying about her contact with potential witnesses who could have successfully challenged Dr. Ayres' defense that, rather than molesting his patients, he was performing appropriate physical examinations.

She also cited examples in her communications with the state bar investigator of other incidents of alleged misconduct involving two other cases of sexual molestation Ms. McKowan handled for the DA's office, including bullying the families of victims and lying about a victim's willingness to testify.

Ms. McKowan did not return phone calls from the Almanac seeking comment for this story.

The letter from the state bar cited violation of the Business and Professions Code Section 6106 as cause for the sanction. That section addresses "the commission of any act involving moral turpitude, dishonesty or corruption."

The letter did not specify which of the accusations in Ms. Balfour's complaint were supported in the investigation, and which, if any, were found to have no merit.

According to a report from the state bar, the agency's disciplinary actions for violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct or the State Bar Act range from disbarment for the most serious offenses to warning letters for lesser offenses. A "private or public reprovval" is a mid-level sanction, and can be imposed "for misconduct not warranting a suspension

or disbarment," and as "part of a stipulation and settlement before the filing of disciplinary charges," according to the report.

County DA Steve Wagstaffe told the Almanac that he was aware the state bar was investigating a complaint against Ms. McKowan, and his office "looked into the matter" on its own.

"We took appropriate action" as a result of the DA office's investigation, which was concluded last year, but he is legally precluded from saying what the action was, he said. "We don't wait to see what the state bar decides" when there is a complaint against a prosecutor, he added.

Ms. McKowan is still working for the DA's office, he said, and continues as the prosecutor in charge of retrying Dr. Ayres, whose case was to begin last week but has been postponed while his attorney seeks

a change in venue.

Mr. Wagstaffe said Ms. McKowan was the right choice to prosecute the case because she is already familiar with the "massive amounts of documents" already generated by the previous trial and numerous court hearings over the years.

Ms. Balfour continues to challenge the DA office's handling of complaints against Ms. McKowan, and noted that she turned to the state bar to investigate the prosecutor after Ms. Balfour and victims' families were "stonewalled" in 2010 when they complained to Mr. Wagstaffe's office.

She said her concerns were primarily with victims of abuse and how they are able to seek justice in San Mateo County's court system. "This isn't about punishing a prosecutor," Ms. Balfour said. "It's about victims' rights." ■

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## Battle over driveway permit

DRIVEWAY PERMIT

continued from page 7

tunate but on the table. Every city council member will do the same to protect their rights. ... I want people to understand one thing and one thing only.. WE HAD THE RIGHT OF ACCESSING from Louise from day one and by the time we are done we will ensure the entire street will be Legally Compliant with city regulations with their parking right away. That is what the neighbours want and that is what City Council will want too, right? We all have to respect MP city regulations, no Exceptions."

Saying he was done "being the nice neighbor," Mr. Voskerician said this was a matter for the police and district attorney because the petition submitted by Louise Street neighbors to the city was fraudulent.

Ms. Kapany said after she realized 17 to 18 signatures were added without permission, she deleted them and turned in a revised petition with 214 signatures remaining. A petition started online has now gathered 295 signers and counting.

Whether invalid signatures invalidates the council's deci-

sion appears moot. City Clerk Margaret Roberts told the Almanac that the petition "is not a petition in the true sense of a legal petition that the city would be required to take action on. A petition such as this is really a letter of support submitted by whoever signs the document."

No guidelines exist about whether a decision would need to be reconsidered if signatures are invalid, she explained.

Mr. Sinnott challenged the notion that deleting unauthorized signatures fixed the problem. "Gee, maybe it is ok to rob a bank if you give the money back," he said in an email. "The fraud is a symptom of general misrepresentation. They had a motive — secure public land to be incorporated into a private front yard. Saving their illegally obtained extra parking. Even the language in the petition is misleading. The parking is described as 'a wooded buffer zone.' Borderline fraudulent."

That allowed the neighbors to get away with claiming this was "a developer destroying a green belt," Mr. Sinnott said, despite his documentation to the contrary. "Many people fell for it." ■

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or email [Events@AlliedArtsGuild.org](mailto:Events@AlliedArtsGuild.org)



## SRI sets public meetings on its renovation plans

SRI International, as part of its plan to renovate its Menlo Park campus, is holding a series of public informational meetings about the project.

Meetings are scheduled for Thursday, March 21, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., and Saturday, March 23, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

The 63-acre campus currently has 38 buildings and

approximately 1,500 employees on site. The modernization project would demolish 33 structures to replace them with 13 new buildings that could hold double the number of workers.

Go to [tinyurl.com/cjm4mj5](http://tinyurl.com/cjm4mj5) to learn more. The meetings will be held in Building G at 333 Ravenswood Ave. in Menlo Park.

## Imogene Woodruff, 94, longtime dance instructor

By Barbara Wood

Special to the Almanac

Imogene Woodruff, who taught ballroom dance and cotillion classes to generations of Midpeninsula residents, died on March 14, one day short of her 95th birthday. She had been ill a short time, but had struggled with Alzheimer's disease for several years.

Ms. Woodruff, who had lived in Woodside for more than 50 years, was living in Belmont at the time of her death. Family members say a memorial service will be announced later.

Born in Corbin, Kentucky, the youngest of five children, she moved to the small town of Kiowa, Colorado, as a very young child. The family moved to Fort Collins, Colorado, when she was 9, and there, in a gym class, she discovered a natural talent for dance.

"When she was 12 she was teaching tap ... on the porch at Grandma's house," says son Barry Woodruff, head of the theater arts program at Woodside High who took over the cotillion classes when his

### OBITUARY

mother retired at the age of 82.

Imogene's mother worked at all kinds of odd jobs in other people's homes and her father was a custodian at the college her brother attended.

Young Imogene's dance classes were so successful that she moved them to the local armory and by the age of 13 she had saved enough money from the 25-cent lesson fees for a down payment on the home her family had been renting, Barry Woodruff says.

Another of Imogene Woodruff's talents was baseball, which her older brother had taught her from a young age. In high school the local dry-goods store promised free nylon hosiery for each home run, and Imogene supplied the entire family with nylons.

Imogene also loved horses, especially Star, a black mare with a white star on its forehead that had been with her since she had watched its birth. "People came from all over to see this horse with her," Barry Wood-



Photo courtesy Barry Woodruff  
Imogene Woodruff in her early 20s.

ruff said. The horse showed up at the front door each school day and gave her a ride to school, reappearing for the ride home as the school day ended.

Imogene also competed in "Roman races," standing astride two racing horses. "She was a great athlete," Barry Woodruff said.

She attended Colorado State University, and dated Byron White, who later became a Supreme Court justice. "She

See **WOODRUFF OBITUARY**, page 15

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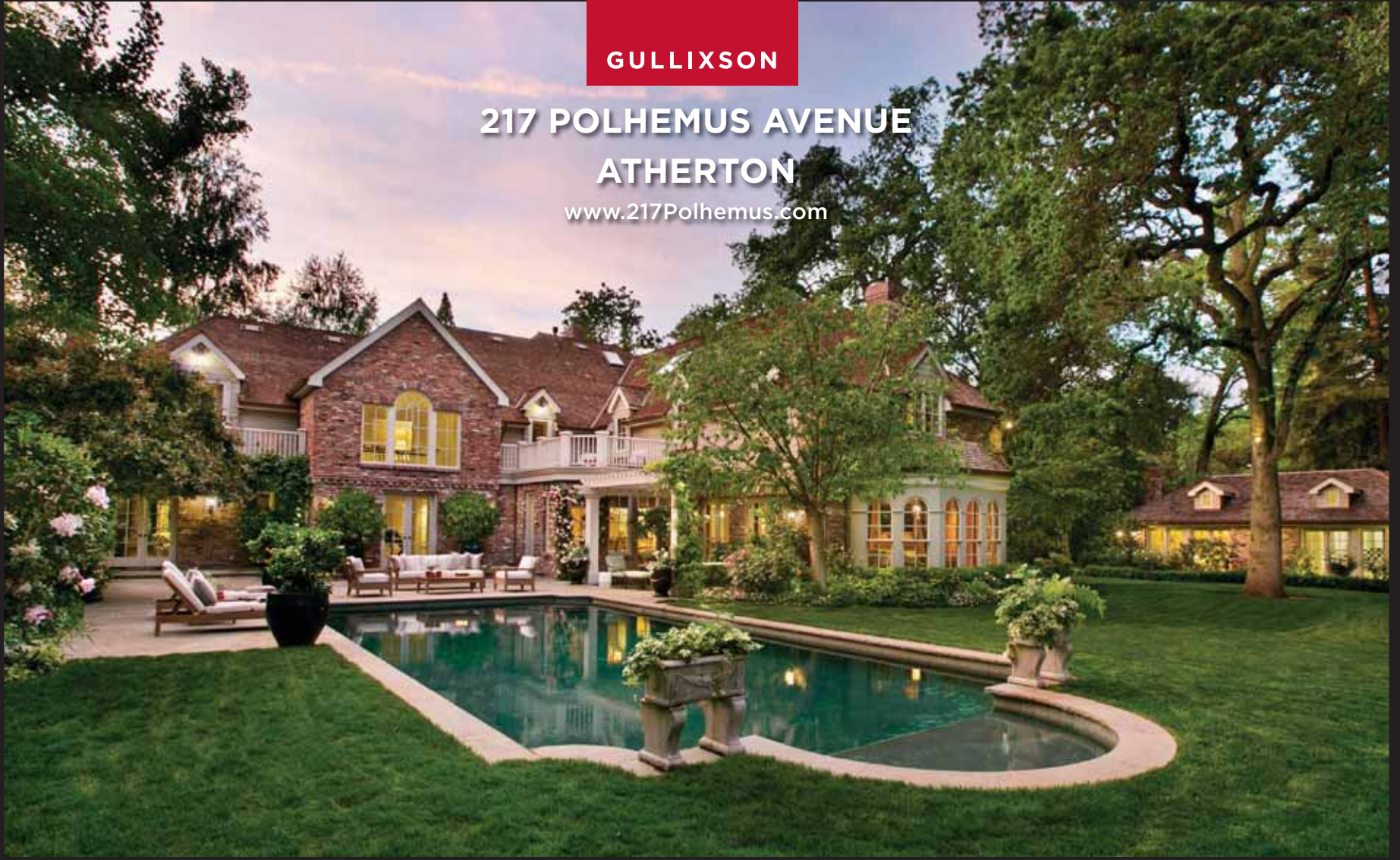


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## Boys & Girls clubhouse wants room to grow

■ The youth organization seeks permit to enlarge the second floor.

By **Sandy Brundage**

Almanac Staff Writer

There may be room to teach a few more kids at the Menlo Park clubhouse of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula. The nonprofit has asked the Planning Commission for permission to build an addition to the second floor of its facility at 401 Pierce Road in Menlo Park.

The 747 square-foot of new space would be used for office

work during the day and tutoring in the evenings, according to Executive Director Peter Fortenbaugh. "We plan to complete in April," he told the Almanac.

The club, which provides academic support and after-school activities for kindergartners through high school seniors, currently serves about 250 community members, with 28 employees, according to the planning staff report. The report said the nonprofit does not plan to add staff, so

parking needs will remain steady despite the increase in floor space.

The requested addition would exceed the maximum allowed floor-area ratio by approximately 1 percent, but the permit being asked for would allow the construction of another 4,288 square feet in the future with only architectural review by the Planning Commission.

Go to [tinyurl.com/auz48gh](http://tinyurl.com/auz48gh) to review the agenda and associated staff reports. ■

## Woodside seeks heritage tree award candidates

Woodside will once again honor a local resident with its annual Heritage Tree Award on Saturday, April 27. Deadline to apply for the award is April 2.

The award isn't just about age, size, or prominence of a tree, says Debbie Mendelson, who first conceived the idea for the award in 1994. What sets the tree apart, says Ms. Mendelson, a member of the town's Sustainability and Conservation Committee, "is to find outstanding trees owned by people, who show great concern

**'Often we find the owners love the tree almost like a family member.'**

DEBBIE MENDELSON

and have gone to special efforts for their tree."

"Often," says Ms. Mendelson, "we find the owners love the tree almost like a family member."

The award will be given on

Saturday, April 27, at the Woodside-Portola Valley Earth Fair at the Runnymede Sculpture Garden property.

Ms. Mendelson says Woodside residents can nominate a well-loved tree in their own back yard, or a tree they have admired on a neighbor's property. Applications are available at the Woodside Town Hall. The Heritage Tree Committee will review applications, visit the sites, and select this year's award winning tree.

— Barbara Wood

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## CALENDAR

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

## On Stage

**'Oklahoma!'** The Portola Valley Theatre Conservatory presents Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Oklahoma!" March 21-23. This musical is about love and life in Oklahoma territory in 1901. 7-10:30 p.m. \$15-50. Portola Valley Theatre Conservatory, 945 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 851-8282 ext.105. [www.pvtc-ca.org](http://www.pvtc-ca.org)

**Comedy Club** Comedy nights on Sundays through May 26, 8-9:30 p.m. \$30 (includes 2 free drinks). Dragon Theatre, 2120 Broadway, Redwood City. [www.premiercomedyclub.com](http://www.premiercomedyclub.com)

**TheatreWorks presents 'The Mountaintop'**, winner of the 2010 Olivier Award for best new play. The play re-imagines events on the night before the assassination of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. March 6-31, Tues.-Sun., \$23-\$73. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-463-1960. [www.theatreworks.org](http://www.theatreworks.org)

## Talks/Authors

**'Sex & Dating After 60'** Dr. Eric Shapiro explores Dating 101 as well as the significant psychological and biological changes specific to couples over 60. March 19, 6-7:30 p.m. \$9. Little House Activity Center, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. [www.penvol.org/littlehouse/](http://www.penvol.org/littlehouse/)

**Carly Fiorina** Former HP CEO Carly Fiorina speaks on the financial outlook for the U.S. in terms of innovation, job creation and economic growth. March 21, 7-8 p.m. \$12-\$20. Oshman Family Jewish Community Center, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Call 408-280-5530. [www.commonwealthclub.org/events/2013-03-21/carly-fiorina](http://www.commonwealthclub.org/events/2013-03-21/carly-fiorina)

**Ellen Sussman** discusses and signs her new Bali-set novel, "The Paradise Guest House." March 26, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. [www.keplers.com/event/ellen-sussman-0](http://www.keplers.com/event/ellen-sussman-0)

**Jonathan and Margaret Kathrein** The pair discuss and sign their book "Surviving the Shark: How a Brutal Great White Attack Turned a Surfer into a Dedicated Defender of Sharks." With marine biologist Wallace "J" Nichols and photographer David McGuire, who will screen his short film "Swim for Sharks." March 21, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321.

**Natalie Goldberg** discusses and signs her latest book, "The True Secret of Writing: Connecting Life with Language." March 28, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. [www.keplers.com](http://www.keplers.com)

**Navi Radjou** discusses and signs his business book "Jugaad Innovation: Think Frugal, Be Flexible, Generate Breakthrough Growth." March 27, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321.

**UC Botanical Garden Asian Collection** UC horticulturist Elaine Sedlack presents slides of camellias, rhododendrons and other shrubs and trees over the course of the seasons in the botanical garden's Asian Collection. Sponsored by the San Francisco Peninsula Camellia Society. March 25, 7-9 p.m. Free. Veterans' Memorial Building, 1435 Madison Ave., Redwood City.

## Art

**Nora Reza** Nora Reza exhibits abstract paintings of squares and rectangles, with light inspired by California and Provence. The exhibit will be up through April 28. Free. Cafe Borrone, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. [www.norareza.com](http://www.norareza.com)

**'Classic California' exhibit** The Portola Art Gallery presents Kristen Olson's "Classic California" landscapes exhibit throughout March. Portola Art Gallery, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park. [www.portolaart-gallery.com](http://www.portolaart-gallery.com)

**'Public Discourse'** The Department of Art & Art History at Stanford University presents "Public Discourse: Photographs by Robert Dawson." This exhibit features work from more than 30 years of photography. Open every day but Monday through April 21. Free. Thomas Welton Stanford Art Gallery, 419 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. Call 650-725-0143. [art.stanford.edu](http://art.stanford.edu)

## Kids &amp; Families

**'Oliver!'** Classic Lionel Bart musical adaptation of Charles Dickens' novel, with songs including "Food, Glorious Food" and "Consider Yourself." March 21-30. \$12 adults, \$10 children. Palo Alto Children's Theatre, Castle Stage, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-463-4970. [www.cityofpaloalto.org/gov/depts/csd/theatre/productions.asp](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/gov/depts/csd/theatre/productions.asp)

**Atherton Library Preschool Storytime** Children ages 3-5 are invited for stories and activities every Monday morning. Through May 20, 11 a.m.-noon. Free. Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 650-328-2422. [www.smcl.org](http://www.smcl.org)

**Summer Sports Camps** Redwood City sports camps at The Sports House: lacrosse, soccer, flag football, cheerleading, volleyball and basketball. June 17-Aug. 16, weekdays 9 a.m.-3 p.m. \$189/week. The Sports House, 3151 Edison Way, Redwood City. Call 650-362-4100. [www.sportshouseonline.com](http://www.sportshouseonline.com)

## Outdoors

**Four Preserves Ride** Mountain-bike ride encompassing a four-preserve circuit of Skyline Ridge, Russian Ridge, Coal Creek and Monte Bello Preserves. Ride encompasses approx 2,000 feet of climbing and about 12 miles. For experienced technical riders in good physical condition. Reservations required. March 24, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve. [www.openspace.org/activities](http://www.openspace.org/activities)

## Religion/Spirituality

**'Getting the Most Out of Holy Week'** Attendees will set aside the day before Palm Sunday for a retreat designed to focus hearts & minds upon the Passion of Christ and the events of Holy Week. March 23, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$50 including lunch. Vallombrosa Center, 250 Oak Grove Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-325-5614. [www.vallombrosa.org](http://www.vallombrosa.org)

**Lenten Prayer Service / Vallombrosa Choir** Prayer, reflection and music with the Vallombrosa Choir under the direction of Patrick Feehan. Donations will be collected during the prayer service for the Multiple Sclerosis Memorial Fund in memory of Diane Ciardella. The service will begin at 2 p.m. and is open to the public. March 24, 2-4 p.m. Vallombrosa Center, 250 Oak Grove Ave., Menlo Park. [www.vallombrosa.org](http://www.vallombrosa.org)

## Teen Activities

**Cassandra Clare's 'Clockwork**



Photo courtesy of The Undertones in concert

## In concert

The Undertones, an a cappella singing group from Northwestern University, will perform at 7 p.m. Friday, March 22, in the Performing Arts Center at the Woodside Priory School at 302 Portola Road in Portola Valley; and at 12:30 p.m. Monday, March 25, at the Menlo Hub restaurant at 1029 El Camino Real. The events are free but donations are welcome.

**Princess' Bus Tour** Cassandra Clare, author of "The Mortal Instruments" and "The Infernal Devices" series, will discuss the final book in The Infernal Devices trilogy, "Clockwork Princess." March 23, 7 p.m. \$12. Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. Call 650-324-4321. [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/312711](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/312711)

## Et Alia

**'Downton Abbey-Inspired Dining Event'** Unusual dining event with foraged greens, wild nettle, local Dungeness crab, cultured butter, duck confit, Earl Grey chocolate mousse and other dishes to toast the hit drama "Downton Abbey." Guests must register by phone by March 25 to attend. March 30, 6:30-9 p.m. \$95. Location: Somewhere in Menlo Park/Palo Alto (exact location sent after registration). SVUnderground.com, 700 Alma St., Menlo Park. Call 408-505-9816. [SVUnderground.com](http://SVUnderground.com)

**'Grease: An Interactive Sing-along' Experience** The sing-along event is interactive and has a "Fun Pack" for advance ticket buyers. March 24, 1-3 p.m. \$8 per

person. Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. Call 650-330-2223. [www.menlopark.eventbrite.com](http://www.menlopark.eventbrite.com)

**'Gluten free: Risotto-making workshop'** Attendees learn the basics of making authentic risotto and explore the possibilities. After class participants will enjoy the fruits of their labors. Wines included. March 25, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. \$49. IEI (Italian Educational Institute), Menlo College, 1000 El Camino Real, Atherton. Call 650-868-5995. [thefinestitalian.com/food/cook-italian/](http://thefinestitalian.com/food/cook-italian/)

**'If I Knew Then What I Know Now'** Panel discussion with consultants, all members of Women in Consulting Leaders Network. March 21, 6-8:30 p.m. \$45-65. Quadrus Conference Center, 2400 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park. Call 408-266-9658. [www.womeninconsulting.org](http://www.womeninconsulting.org)

**Peninsula French Fair** Vendors, artists, a fashion show, French charcuterie, crepes, cheeses, gourmet food and pastries are planned. March 23, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Free. Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Call 469-463-3605. [www.frenchfair.org/](http://www.frenchfair.org/)

## WOODRUFF OBITUARY

continued from page 10

never graduated college — she was just too busy working," Barry Woodruff says.

She met her husband-to-be, Walter "Woody" Woodruff, when she was teaching dance at a military base in Cheyenne, Wyoming. He was a pilot, and that day had flown a military bigwig to the airbase. To make amends for being overdue returning for the flight home, the man introduced him to the pretty dance teacher on the base. They were married on Oct. 3, 1943.

Mr. Woodruff, a test pilot for United Airlines for 30 years, and Imogene were married for 68 years until he died last year.

Ms. Woodruff started her dance business, Imogene Woodruff Ballroom Dance Studio, when they moved to the Bay Area, and it grew to be one of the largest dance studios in the United States, Barry Woodruff says. "Mom had a thriving dance business in the 50s. She was making more than most men," he says.

She taught dance in San Mateo, Menlo Park and Redwood City, and taught cotillion at countless local middle schools, where children learned manners as well as ballroom dance. Barry Woodruff says she had 42 annual recitals at the Burgess Gym in Menlo Park. He joined his mother in teaching the cotillion classes and took them over after her retirement.

"Watching her teach, that's how I learned to teach," he says. "I just do the same things she did."

She is survived by her three sons, Sterling Woodruff of Belmont, and Barry and Dirk Woodruff of Woodside.

Visit [tinyurl.com/dance-318](http://tinyurl.com/dance-318) to see a Facebook page started by alumni of her dance classes.

Visit [tinyurl.com/dance-349](http://tinyurl.com/dance-349) to see an Almanac article from 1999 about her cotillion classes.

## Woodside ignores SugarDaddie offer

By Barbara Wood

Special to the Almanac

A recent offer by a dating website to pay Woodside \$11.65 million to rename the town SugarDaddie.com was meant to generate a lot of free publicity for the site and perhaps some outrage from the town over the offer's terms, which included erecting a statue of Hugh Hefner near Town Hall.

While the offer did grab

some media attention, in Woodside it generated mostly, well, yawns.

The offer was made to the town in a press release on Feb. 27. In return for the cash, the company asked to rename not only the town, but also town hall, the library and the Kings Mountain Art Fair. It also asked for a key to the town for the website's CEO.

No one in the town bothered to officially respond, even when a representative of

the website showed up at the March 12 council meeting and spoke during the public comment period.

"I have no 'yes,' 'no' or 'maybe' or counter proposal," said company spokesman Darren Shuster. "If you want to deliver that message I'm here to listen."

"There is no official town response," said Town Manager Kevin Bryant after the meeting. "The council's disinterest in addressing the matter effectively ends it."

Even Jamis MacNiven, the owner of Buck's Restaurant

who normally is good for a comment on anything going on in town, was non-characteristically terse. "I think the whole thing is a poor joke and I don't want anything to do with it," Mr. MacNiven said. ■

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## OBITUARIES

### John Harris Stewart

62-year USGS career

John Harris (Jack) Stewart of Menlo Park, an authority on the geology of the Great Basin and Colorado Plateau regions of Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Arizona, died March 1. He was 84.

Mr. Stewart was born in Berkeley. He graduated from Berkeley High School and the University of New Mexico with a degree in geology. In 1951, he began his 62-year career with the U.S. Geological Survey. He later obtained a doctorate in geology from Stanford University.

In 1962 he was married to Sally Dwight and they had two children, Ed and William. The family spent many summers in Nevada, where he performed extensive field work.

For his achievements in the field of geology in western North America, Mr. Stewart was granted the Distinguished Service Award by the Department

of the Interior in 1994.

In 1990 Mr. Stewart married Joyce Colbath, who survives him. He is also survived by his sons, Ed and William; sister Jill Evenson; stepchildren Mary McCurdy, John Plungy, Elizabeth Ramaley, and Mark Plungy; two grandchildren, and eight step-grandchildren.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Truckee-Donner Land Trust.

### Ronald Ferrando

Las Lomitas bus driver

Ronald Rio Ferrando, a school bus driver for the Las Lomitas School District for 30 years, died Feb. 18 in Menlo Park. He was 59.

Mr. Ferrando, son of Ezzio and Rita Ferrando, grew up in Menlo Park. An avid drummer, he spent much of his retirement perfecting his drumming skills. He also had a passion for restoring muscle cars.

He is survived by his son, Mark, and brothers Bob and Randy.

Donations in his name may be made to the American Cancer

Society. Remembrances may be mailed to P.O. Box 831 Menlo Park, CA 94026.

### William Harrison Heflin

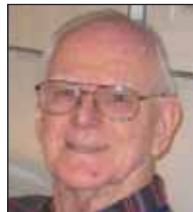
Instrumental in development of the Almanac

William Harrison Heflin, whose wife, Jean, was one of the Almanac's three founders, died March 2 in Mount Vernon, Washington. He was 86.

The Heflins lived in Portola Valley from 1960 to 1971. In 1965, Jean Heflin, Hedy Boissevain and Betty Fry founded the Country Almanac as a community newspaper for residents of Woodside and Portola Valley.

All members of the three women's families played a part in the early days of the fledgling weekly. Mr. Heflin was pressed into service collecting outstanding advertising accounts. The Heflins left Portola Valley in 1971, moving first to Ottawa and then the Dominican Republic.

See OBITUARIES, page 18



John Stewart



Ronald Ferrando



William Heflin



## An accurate financial snapshot includes your home's value.

Whether you are a potential seller or updating your financial profile... a current assessment of your home's value is an important component.

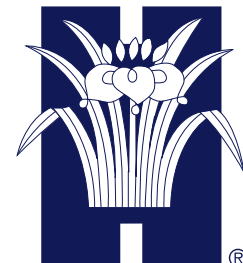
Please give me a call for more information.

**STEVE GRAY** REALTOR

650-743-7702 DRE# 01498634

[sgray@cbnocal.com](mailto:sgray@cbnocal.com)

[PeninsulaSpecialist.com](http://PeninsulaSpecialist.com)



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Design+Build

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

**Due to popular demand we have added another workshop!**

**9:30-11:30am and 1:00-3:00pm**

Registration and light snacks:  
15 minutes prior to start of each class.

Call us or go online to register today!  
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Planning Your Perfect Kitchen & Bath Remodel

1954 Old Middlefield Road, Mountain View, CA 94043  
[harrell-remodeling.com](http://harrell-remodeling.com)

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Most classes are held at the award-winning Harrell Remodeling Design Center and are all taught by industry experts. Our class topics are designed to share our experience and knowledge of the remodeling process. We will provide you with the educational tools you need to get started on your successful remodel or custom home project.

- Learn about the budget, permit and planning process, before you get started.
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- Get answers you need about design, space planning and learn a few secrets to create a home that fits your lifestyle, today and everyday.
- Get excited about your home remodel as our designers take you through a journey of ideas, photos, materials and product options available to transform your home today!

# FINAL WEEK

before closing

New merchandise  
brought in daily

Wednesday - Saturday  
each week  
10 am – 5:30 pm

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850 Santa Cruz Avenue  
Menlo Park  
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# USGS cancels lecture due to budget cuts

The U.S. Geological Survey has canceled its March 28 lecture, "Preparing for California Climate Change," because the speaker is unable to travel to Menlo Park due to budget cuts implemented after the federal budget sequestration, according to Justin Pressfield, USGS western states chief of communications.

New travel restrictions at the agency prohibit all but mission-critical travel, he said. Additional budget cuts include a hiring freeze; elimination of most participation in scientific conferences; and non-critical training. The USGS is also reviewing contracts and grants, and may furlough employees for an undetermined

amount of time.

The lecture series began in 1990 and has only been canceled twice before, in September 2001, immediately after the terrorist attacks, and in November 1995 when the federal government shut down and employees were furloughed, Mr. Pressfield said. The future of the lecture series is not clear.

Visit [usgs.gov/calendar](http://usgs.gov/calendar) for updates that will be posted once more is known, he said.

—Barbara Wood

## OBITUARIES

continued from page 16

Mr. Heflin was born in Lincoln, Nebraska. In 1941, the family moved to Redwood City. After graduating from Sequoia High School in 1943, Mr. Heflin joined the Naval Reserve and was sent to the University of Colorado, graduating in 1946. He received an MBA from Stanford School of Business in 1948.

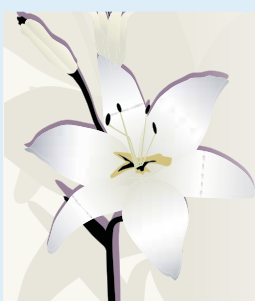
Active in the electronics business in Canada and the

United States for years, Mr. Heflin served as president of the Western Electronics Manufacturers Association in 1965. His working life was spent in the telecommunications industry, both in the manufacturing and operating sides, say family members.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Jean of Mt. Vernon; daughter Sue Ellen Heflin of Samish Island, Washington; son William James Heflin of Victoria, B.C.; one grandson; and two great-grandsons.



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# Peninsula Easter Services



*Holy Week & Easter*  
 at  
**St. Bede's Episcopal Church**  
 2650 Sand Hill Rd., Menlo Park  
[www.stbedesmenlopark.org](http://www.stbedesmenlopark.org)

**March 28** ♦ MAUNDY THURSDAY  
**12 noon** Foot Washing & Holy Eucharist  
**6:30pm** Agape meal & Holy Eucharist  
**8:00pm-midnight** Vigil in the church

**March 29** ♦ GOOD FRIDAY  
**12 noon** Communion from reserved sacrament & music *approx. 1 hr*  
**7:30pm** Tenebrae *approx. 1 1/4 hr*

**March 30** ♦ HOLY SATURDAY  
**7:30pm** Great Vigil of Easter *approx. 1 1/4 hr*

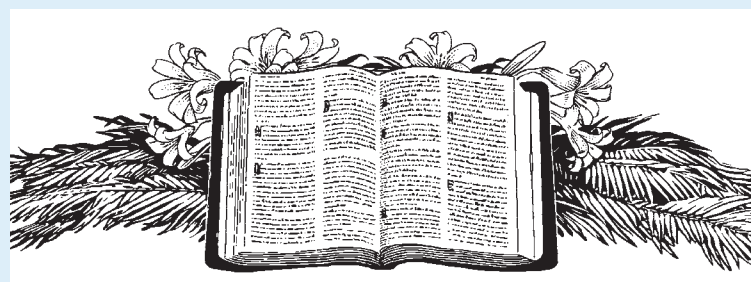
**March 31** ♦ EASTER SUNDAY  
**8:00am** Eucharist with Hymns  
**10:15am** Sung Eucharist w/choir  
**11:30am** Easter Egg Hunt  
 Nursery available 10-11:30am

**ST. ANN ANGLICAN CHAPEL**  
 A TRADITIONAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
 541 Melville Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94301  
 650-838-0508

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

**HOLY WEEK**  
 Child Care Provided

|                     |                 |         |  |
|---------------------|-----------------|---------|--|
| Wednesday, March 27 | Palm Sunday     | 12 Noon | Distribution of Palms & Choral Eucharist |
| Thursday, March 28  | Maundy Thursday | 7 pm    | Choral Eucharist                         |
| Friday, March 29    | Good Friday     | 3 pm    | The Way of the Cross                     |
|                     |                 | 7 pm    | Good Friday Liturgy                      |
| Saturday, March 30  | Holy Saturday   | 8 pm    | Easter Vigil                             |
| Sunday, March 31    | Easter Sunday   | 11 am   | Choral Eucharist                         |



**CHRIST CHURCH**  
 The Episcopal Parish of Portola Valley & Woodside

**Saturday March 30: Children's Eucharist @ 4 p.m.**  
**Sunday March 31: Sung Eucharist @ 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.**

815 Portola Road, Portola Valley; tel. (650) 851-0224  
[www.ccpvw.org](http://www.ccpvw.org) [www.facebook.com/ccpvw](http://www.facebook.com/ccpvw) Egg hunts on both days!

**ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH PALO ALTO**

**Maundy Thursday— March 28**  
 ♦ 6:15pm *Monastic Supper & Liturgy of the Word followed by Holy Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar*

**Good Friday — March 29**  
 ♦ 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 — March 31**  
 ♦ 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](http://www.saint-marks.com)

**Grace Lutheran Church ELCA**  
**Celebrate Easter**

**Holy Week**

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Maundy Thursday</b><br>3/28   7:30 pm | <b>Good Friday</b><br>3/29   12 pm & 7:30 pm | <b>Saturday Easter Vigil</b><br>3/30   7:30 pm |
|--|--|--|

**Easter Sunday**  
 March 31 | 8:30 am and 10:45 am  
 Easter Breakfast: 9:00 - 10:30 am

3149 Waverley Street • Palo Alto, CA 94306  
[www.gracepa.org](http://www.gracepa.org) | 650.494.1212  
 Staffed child care available at all services.

**Woodside Village Church**

**HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

March 24 Palm Sunday Worship - 9:30 a.m.  
 March 28 Maundy Thursday, Last Supper re-enactment - 7:30 p.m.  
 March 29 Good Friday – 7:30 p.m.  
 March 31 – Easter Worship 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 650.851.1587 [www.wvchurch.org](http://www.wvchurch.org)

# Open house at astrophysics institute

The public is invited to attend "A Celebration of 10 Years of Discoveries" with the Kavli Institute for Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 24, in the Fred Kavli Building at SLAC, 2575 Sand Hill Road in Menlo Park.

The day's events will include talks about black holes, dark energy, and extra solar planets, plus 3D movies of the universe, demonstrations, telescopes, and an "Ask the Astronomer"

## AROUND TOWN

session.

The event is free.

Visit [tinyurl.com/SLAC-324](http://tinyurl.com/SLAC-324) to register.

## Three to be inducted into Hall of Fame

Three local women leaders — Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, former Assemblywoman Fiona Ma, and former San Mateo

County supervisor Rose Jacobs Gibson — will be inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame at a reception and museum exhibit launch at 5:30 p.m. Friday, March 22, at the San Mateo County History Museum in Redwood City.

For 29 years, the ceremony has been presented by the Board of Supervisors and the Commission on the Status of Women. The Hall of Fame will now have a permanent home

at the history museum with a continuing digital exhibit that will incorporate past acceptance speeches, historical context, and updates on honorees, according to Christine Padilla, president of the Commission on the Status of Women.

## Bill's Books award

Ruby Moreno, a freshman at Stanford University and alumna of the Peninsula Bridge Program, is the first winner of the Bill's Books award.

Ms. Moreno will receive up to \$500 to use toward the cost

of books in her freshman college year. The award is named in honor of former Atherton resident Bill Shaw, who organized the Circle of Champions group of donors for the annual Valpo Bowl football game between Sacred Heart Prep and Menlo School benefiting Peninsula Bridge.

Peninsula Bridge is a non-profit that builds partnerships between public and private schools to provide learning opportunities for middle school youth at private schools for four consecutive summers.



# Alleluia!

## Holy Week Services

|          |                |                         |
|----------|----------------|-------------------------|
| March 28 | 6:00 pm        | Seder Dinner            |
| March 29 | Noon & 7:00 pm | Good Friday Services    |
| March 31 | 9:30 am        | Easter Festival Service |

Children's Easter Egg Hunt after the service!

**Bethany Lutheran Church**  
1095 Cloud Avenue, Menlo Park  
Bethany 650.854.5897 [www.bethany-mp.org](http://www.bethany-mp.org)

## Journey to Easter

You Are Invited

|           |                    |                |
|-----------|--------------------|----------------|
| 11:00a.m. | Sunday, March 24th | Palm Sunday    |
| 11:00a.m. | Sunday, March 31st | Easter Service |

**WESLEY UNITED METHODIST**  
470 Cambridge Ave (one block off California)  
Rev. Jerry Fox

## Celebrate the Resurrection

Sunday March 31

9:15 am Light Brunch and Egg Hunt  
10:00 am Family Worship

First Baptist Church • 1100 Middle Ave Menlo Park  
(650) 323 8544 • [www.firstbaptist.com](http://www.firstbaptist.com)

**Peninsula Easter Services** is a resource for ongoing religious services and special events. To inquire about or to reserve space in Peninsula Easter Services, please contact Blanca Yoc at 223-6596 or email [byoc@pawekly.com](mailto:byoc@pawekly.com)

**VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
*Risk for the Journey*

## Join Us on Easter Sunday!

|                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Easter Sunrise Service | 6:15am         |
| Easter Services        | 9:00 & 11:00am |

Valley Presbyterian Church  
945 Portola Road, Portola Valley  
[www.valleypreschurch.org](http://www.valleypreschurch.org)  
650-851-8282

## Join Us For Holy Week & 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, March 24:            | 10:00 am*  |
| Maundy Thursday (The Last Supper) | March 28, 6:00 pm* (with simple meal)              |
| Good Friday, March 29             | 7:00 am, Noon, 7:00 pm                             |
| The Great Vigil of Easter         | Baptisms & First Easter Communion                  |
|                                   | Saturday, March 30, 7:00 pm*                       |
| Easter Sunday, March 31           | 6:30 am in the Memorial Garden                     |
|                                   | 8:30 am* & 10:30 am* in Church with Festival Choir |

\*Indicates child care available.

**330 Ravenswood Ave., Menlo Park (650) 326-2083**  
[www.trinitymenlopark.org](http://www.trinitymenlopark.org)





## Do you Snore? Are you Often Tired? Find out your Risk for Sleep Apnea!



Dr. Gerald Reaven and associates at Stanford University are seeking volunteers for a research study on pre-diabetes and risk for obstructive sleep apnea.

### Volunteers must:

- Be between 30 and 70 years of age
- Be in general good health
- Be overweight to moderately obese
- NOT have diabetes and NOT have previously received treatment for sleep apnea



### Eligible participants will receive:

- Diabetes screening, insulin resistance test, cholesterol panel, screening questionnaires for sleep apnea

### Qualified participants will receive:

- Overnight sleep study
- 2 months of study medication (or placebo) to test effect on diabetes risk and sleep apnea

Monetary compensation for study participation available  
For more information please contact Dr. Alice Liu

**Phone: 650-723-7024**

For general information about participant rights, contact 1-866-680-2906.

## Atherton parcel tax renewal on City Council agenda

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

The City Council will consider hiring a consultant to help out with a likely effort to renew Atherton's parcel tax, and examine other potential revenue sources for the town when it meets on Wednesday, March 20.

The parcel tax will expire in June 2014, and the town is considering a renewal measure for the November 2013 ballot. With one exception, Atherton residents have supported the tax in the past, which must receive a two-thirds vote to pass.

Parcel tax revenue goes to police services (60 percent) and capital projects (40 percent). Tax revenue for this fiscal year is expected to come in at about \$1.86 million, providing about \$1.1 million to the police department and about \$744,000 to public works projects, according to the staff report.

With a budget of nearly \$5.5 million this fiscal year, the police department accounts for

just over half of the town's \$10.9 million budget.

City Manager George Rodericks said in his report that if the council chooses to ask voters to renew the parcel tax, it should consider hiring a consultant to help with public education and logistical support for putting the measure on the ballot. "Staff does not have the resources to conduct this sort of effort and it is important that public outreach and education from the town be consistent, clear, and objective," he wrote.

The council may also discuss other revenue-generating measures, such as a sales tax, increased business license tax, a utility users tax, and a real estate transfer tax, the report said.

Also on the agenda, the council will review a report on the financial ramifications of once again allowing the public to rent Holbrook-Palmer Park facilities for weddings.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at 94 Ashfield Road in the Town Center. ■

## School board sets study session on O'Connor School site

A study session is set for 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 20, to further examine the Menlo Park City School District's option of pushing a private school off the former O'Connor School site to open a public school there.

The special school board session will be held in the district office board room, 181 Encinal Ave. in Atherton.

The district has strongly suggested that terminating the lease with the German-American International School early to open a fifth public school campus might be the best way to address burgeoning enrollment. The GAIS lease expires in 2016, but a provision in the lease agreement allows the district to

terminate it early.

In a letter to the board, GAIS board president Thomas Siegel asked the district to reschedule the study session for later in the day, noting that "1:30 p.m. is almost exactly when GAIS parents pick up kids or are at work, thus precluding many of them from being present." The district held to its original schedule, however.

The district must terminate the lease by April 10 if it wants the private school out by the end of the school year. District officials have said the O'Connor site, at 275 Elliot Drive in Menlo Park, could be ready to open as a district school by the 2014-15 school year.

## Local coaches are finalists for award

Two local coaches, Jeff Phillips and Matt Lai, are among the 50 national finalists for the Positive Coaching Alliance's Double-Goal Coach Award presented by Liberty Mutual Insurance.

The award will go to 20 winners from the list of finalists. The award honors coaches who pursue the goal of winning while using sports to teach life lessons and develop character

in youth.

Jeff Phillips is the head coach of the Threshers in the Menlo-Atherton Little League. He is also an AYSO soccer coach. Matt Lai is cross country coach and track and field coach at the Woodside Priory in Portola Valley.

The Positive Coaching Alliance was founded in the Stanford University athletic department in 1998.

### PENINSULA



Discover the best places  
to eat this week!

#### AMERICAN

##### Armadillo Willy's

941-2922

1031 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos  
www.armadillowillys.com

##### The Old Pro

326-1446

541 Ramona Street, Palo Alto  
www.oldpro.com

#### STEAKHOUSE

##### Sundance the Steakhouse

321-6798

1921 El Camino Real, Palo Alto  
www.sundancethesteakhouse.com

Read and post reviews,  
explore restaurant menus,  
get hours and directions  
and more at ShopPaloAlto,  
ShopMenloPark and  
ShopMountainView

#### CHINESE

##### Chef Chu's

948-2696

1067 N. San Antonio Road  
www.chefchu.com

##### Ming's

856-7700

1700 Embarcadero East, Palo Alto  
www.mings.com

##### New Tung Kee Noodle House

947-8888

520 Showers Drive, Mountain View  
www.shopmountainview.com/luunoodlemv

#### INDIAN

##### Janta Indian Restaurant

462-5903

369 Lytton Ave.  
www.jantaindianrestaurant.com

##### Thaiphon

323-7700

543 Emerson Ave, Palo Alto  
www.ThaiphonRestaurant.com

powered by



# Camp Connection

For more information about these camps, see our online directory of camps at <http://paloaltoonline.com/biz/summercamps/>  
To advertise in a weekly directory, contact 650-326-8210

## Academics

### Early Learning Camp Connection listing

Palo Alto

Write Now! Summer Writing Camps  
Emerson School of Palo Alto and Hacienda School of Pleasanton open their doors and offer their innovative programs: Expository Writing, Creative Writing, Presentation Techniques, and (new!) Test-Taking Skills. Call or visit our website for details.  
[www.headsup.org](http://www.headsup.org)

Emerson (650) 424-1267  
Hacienda (925) 485-5750

### Foothill College

Los Altos Hills

Two Six-Week Summer Sessions Beginning June 10. These sessions are perfect for university students returning from summer break who need to pick up a class; and high school juniors, seniors and recent graduates who want to get an early start. 12345 El Monte Rd.  
[www.foothill.edu](http://www.foothill.edu)

650.949.7362

### Harker Summer Programs

San Jose

K-12 offerings taught by exceptional, experienced faculty and staff. K-6 morning academics - focusing on math, language arts and science - and full spectrum of afternoon recreation. Grades 6-12 for-credit courses and non-credit enrichment opportunities. Sports programs also offered.  
[www.summer.harker.org](http://www.summer.harker.org)

408-553-0537

### iD Tech Camps - Summer Tech Fun

Held at Stanford

Take interests further! Ages 7-17 create iPhone apps, video games, C++/Java programs, movies, and more at weeklong, day and overnight programs held at Stanford and 60+ universities in 26 states. Also 2-week, teen-only programs: iD Gaming Academy, iD Programming Academy, and iD Visual Arts Academy (filmmaking & photography).  
[www.internaldrive.com](http://www.internaldrive.com)

1-888-709-TECH (8324)

### iD Teen Academies

#### Gaming, Programming & Visual Arts

Stanford

Gain a competitive edge! 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](http://www.iDTeenAcademies.com)

1-888-709-TECH (8324)

### ISTP's Language Immersion Summer Camp

Palo Alto

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](http://www.istp.org)

650-251-8519

### Stratford School - Camp Socrates 17 Bay Area Campuses

Academic enrichment infused with traditional summer camp fun—that's what your child will experience at Camp Socrates. Sessions begin June 24 and end August 9, with the option for campers to attend all seven weeks, or the first four (June 24-July 19). Full or half-day morning or afternoon programs are available.

[www.StratfordSchools.com/Summer](http://www.StratfordSchools.com/Summer)

(650) 493-1151

### Summer at Saint Francis

Mountain View

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](http://www.sfhs.com/summer)

650.968.1213 x446

### TechKnowHow Computer

Palo Alto

& Lego Camps  
Fun and enriching technology classes for students, ages 5-14 Courses include LEGO and K'NEX Projects with Motors, Electronics, NXT Robotics, 3D Modeling, and Game Design. Many locations, including Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Sunnyvale. Half and all day options. Early-bird and multi-session discounts available.  
[www.techknowhowkids.com](http://www.techknowhowkids.com)

650-638-0500

### YMCA of Silicon Valley

Peninsula

What makes Y camps different? We believe every child deserves the opportunity to discover who they are and what they can achieve. Y campers experience the outdoors, make new friends and have healthy fun in a safe, nurturing environment. They become more confident and grow as individuals, and they learn value in helping others. We offer day, overnight, teen leadership and family camps. Financial assistance is available. Get your summer camp guide at [ymcasv.org/summercamp](http://ymcasv.org/summercamp). Youth camps (ages 5 - 17) run June 17 - Aug. 16. Half-day and full-day options. Fees vary. 1922 The Alameda 3rd Floor, San Jose

[www.ymcasv.org](http://www.ymcasv.org)

(408) 351-6400

## Arts, Culture, Other Camps

### Busy Bees & Astro Kids Summer

Mountain View

#### Adventure Camps

Join us for these half-day camps designed for 3-8 year olds as we have fun, participate in games and crafts, and go on fun field trips! Mountain View Community Center, 201 S. Rengstorff Avenue  
<http://mountainview.gov>

### Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA)

Mountain View

50+ creative camps for Gr. K-8! Drawing, Painting, Ceramics, Sculpture, Musical Theater, School of Rock, Digital Arts, more! One- and two-week sessions; full and half-day enrollment. Extended care available. Financial aid offered.

[www.arts4all.org](http://www.arts4all.org)

650-917-6800 ext. 0

### DHF Wilderness Camps

Rancho San Antonio

#### Open Space Preserve

Children ages 6-14 can meet the livestock, help with farm chores, explore a wilderness preserve and have fun with crafts, songs and games. Older campers conclude the week with a sleepover at the Farm. Near the intersection of Hwy 85 and Hwy 280  
[mountainview.gov](http://mountainview.gov)

### Palo Alto Community Child Care (PACCC)

Palo Alto

PACCC summer camps offer campers, grades kindergarten to 6th, a wide variety of fun opportunities! K-1 Fun for the youngest campers, Neighborhood Adventure Fun and Ultimate Adventure Fun for the more active and on-the-go campers! New this year: Sports Adventure Camp for those young athletes and Operation Chef for out of this world cooking fun! 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.org](http://www.paccc.org)

650-493-2361

### Theatreworks Summer Camps

Palo Alto

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](http://www.theatreworks.org/educationcommunity)

650-493-7146

### Western Ballet

Mountain View

#### Children's Summer Camp

Students attend ballet class and rehearsal in preparation for the recital of either Peter Pan or The Little Mermaid at the end of the two week session. Separate Saturday classes are also offered. Ages 4-9. 914 N. Rengstorff Ave, Mountain View  
<http://westernballet.org/documents/summerchildrens.html>

<http://westernballet.org/documents/summerchildrens.html>

### Western Ballet

Mountain View

#### Intermediate Summer Intensive

Students obtain high quality training in ballet, pointe, character, jazz, and modern dance, while learning choreography from the classical ballet Paquita. The students dance in featured roles in a final performance. Ages 9-12. Audition required 914 N. Rengstorff Ave, Mountain View  
<http://westernballet.org/documents/summerpre-intermediate.html>

### Western Ballet

Mountain View

#### Advanced Summer Intensive

Students obtain high quality training in ballet, pointe, character, jazz, and modern dance, while learning choreography from the classical ballet Paquita. The students dance in featured roles in a final performance. Ages 13-23. Audition required. 914 N. Rengstorff Ave, Mountain View  
[http://westernballet.org/documents/summer\\_int\\_adv.html](http://westernballet.org/documents/summer_int_adv.html)

### Summer at Peninsula School

Menlo Park

This is a child's delight with trees to climb, rope swings, and unpaved open spaces. Our engaging and creative program includes time to play and make friends. Peninsula School, 920 Peninsula Way. Visit website for class listings.

[www.peninsulaschool.org/pensummerschool.htm](http://www.peninsulaschool.org/pensummerschool.htm) (650) 325-1584, ext. 39

## Athletics

### Alan Margot's Tennis Camps

Atherton

Alan Margot's Tennis Camps provide an enjoyable way for your child to begin learning the game of tennis or to continue developing existing skills. Our approach is to create lots of fun with positive feedback and reinforcement in a nurturing tennis environment. Building self-esteem and confidence through enjoyment on the tennis court is a wonderful gift a child can keep forever! Super Juniors Camps, ages 3-6; Juniors Camps, ages 6-14.  
[www.alanmargot-tennis.net](http://www.alanmargot-tennis.net)

650-400-0464

### City of Mountain View

#### Recreation Division

Discover fun with us this summer through the many programs available with the City of Mountain View Recreation Division. From sports to traditional day camps, to cooking camps, dance camps and art camps... we have it all! Mountain View Community Center, 201 S. Rengstorff Avenue  
<http://mountainview.gov>

### City of Mountain View Swim Lessons

Mountain View

#### Rengstorff and Eagle Parks

We offer swim lessons for ages 6 months to 14 years. Following the American Red Cross swim lesson program, students are divided into one of the 11 different levels taught by a certified instructor. Rengstorff Park Pool, 201 S Rengstorff Ave and Eagle Park Pool, 650 Franklin St.  
<http://mountainview.gov/>

### Club Rec Juniors & Seniors

Mountain View

Club Rec Juniors and Seniors is open for youth 6-11 years old. These traditional day camps are filled with fun theme weeks, weekly trips, swimming, games, crafts and more! Monta Loma Elementary School, 490 Thompson Ave.  
<http://mountainview.gov>

### Foothills Day Camp

Palo Alto

What will you discover? Foothills Day and Fun Camps, for youth ages 8-10 and 5-7 respectively, includes canoeing, hiking, animal identification games, crafts, and more- all for less than \$5 an hour. Registration begins February 15th for residents. (February 22nd for non-residents.) Hurry, spaces are limited!  
[cityofpaloalto.org/enjoy](http://cityofpaloalto.org/enjoy)

650-463-4900

### J-Camp

Palo Alto

Exciting programs for kindergartners through teens include swimming, field trips, sports and more. Enroll your child in traditional or special focus camps like Surfing, Archery, Animal Adventure, Circus Camp and over 50 others! Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way  
[www.paloaltojcc.org/jcamp](http://www.paloaltojcc.org/jcamp)

650-223-8622

### Kim Grant Tennis Academy & Summer Camps

Palo Alto

Fun and Specialized junior camps for Mini (3-5), Beginner, Intermediate 1&2, Advanced and Elite Players. Weekly programs designed by Kim Grant to improve players technique, fitness, agility, mental toughness and all around tennis game. Camps in Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Redwood City. Come make new friends and have tons of FUN!!  
[www.KimGrantTennis.com](http://www.KimGrantTennis.com)

650-752-8061

### Nike Tennis Camps

Stanford University

Dick Gould's 43rd Annual Stanford Tennis School offers day camps for both juniors & adults. Weekly junior overnight & extended day camps run by John Whittinger & Lele Forood. Junior Day Camp run by Brandon Coupe & Frankie Brennan.  
[www.USSportsCamps.com/tennis](http://www.USSportsCamps.com/tennis)

1-800-NIKE-CAMP (645-3226)

### Spartans Sports Camp

Spartans Sports Camp offers multi-sport, week-long sessions for boys and girls in grades 3-6 as well as sport-specific sessions for grades 6-9. There are also strength and conditioning camps for grades 6-12. Camps begin June 10th and run weekly through August 2nd at Mountain View High School. The camp is run by MVHS coaches and student-athletes and all proceeds benefit the MVHS Athletic Department. Lunch and extended care are available for your convenience. Register today!  
[www.SpartansSportsCamp.com](http://www.SpartansSportsCamp.com)

650-479-5906

### Spring Down Camp Equestrian Center

Portola Valley

Spring Down Camp teaches basic to advanced horsemanship skills. Ages 6-99 welcome! Daily informative lecture, riding lesson, supervised hands-on ski-II practice, safety around horses, tacking/untacking of own camp horse, and arts/crafts.  
[www.springdown.com](http://www.springdown.com)

650.851.1114

### Stanford Water Polo Camps

Stanford

Ages 7 and up. New to sport or have experience, we have a camp for you. Half day or Full day option for boys and girls. All the camps offer fundamental skill work, position work, scrimmages and games.  
[StanfordWaterPoloCamps.com](http://StanfordWaterPoloCamps.com)

650-725-9016

### Summer at Saint Francis

Mountain View

Sports & Activity Camp (ages 6-12): This all-sports camp provides group instruction in a variety of field, water and court games. Saint Francis faculty and students staff the camp, and the focus is always on fun. The program is dedicated to teaching teamwork, sportsmanship and positive self-esteem. After camp care and swim lessons available.  
[www.sfhs.com/summer](http://www.sfhs.com/summer)

650.968.1213 x650

### Summer at Saint Francis

Mountain View

Advanced Sports Camps (5th-9th grades): We offer a wide selection of advanced sports camps designed to provide players with the opportunity to improve both their skills and knowledge of a specific sport. Each camp is run by a Head Varsity Coach at Saint Francis, and is staffed by members of the coaching staff.  
[www.sfhs.com/summer](http://www.sfhs.com/summer)

650.968.1213 x650

**EDITOR & PUBLISHER**

Tom Gibboney (223-6507)

**NEWSROOM**

**Managing Editor**  
Richard Hine (223-6525)

**News Editor**  
Renee Batti (223-6582)

**Lifestyles Editor**  
Jane Knoerle (223-6531)

**Staff Writers**  
Dave Boyce (223-6527),  
Sandy Brundage (223-6529)

**Contributors**  
Marjorie Mader, Barbara Wood, Kate Daly

**Special Sections Editors**  
Carol Blitzer, Sue Dremann

**Photographer**  
Michelle Le (223-6530)

**DESIGN & PRODUCTION**

**Design Director**  
Shannon Corey (223-6560)

**Designers**  
Linda Atilano, Lili Cao,  
Diane Haas, Rosanna Leung,  
Paul Llewellyn, Scott Peterson

**ADVERTISING**

**Vice President Sales and Marketing**  
Tom Zahiralis (223-6570)

**Display Advertising Sales**  
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Alicia Santillan (223-6578)

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**Newsroom:** (650) 223-6525  
**Newsroom Fax:** (650) 223-7525

**Advertising:** (650) 854-2626  
**Advertising Fax:** (650) 223-7570

**Email news** and photos with captions to:  
Editor@AlmanacNews.com

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**WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?**

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

**Town Square forum**

Post your views on the Town Square forum at www.TheAlmanacOnline.com

**Email** your views to:  
letters@almanacnews.com and note this it is a letter to the editor in the subject line.

**Mail** or deliver to:  
Editor at the Almanac,  
3525 Alameda de las Pulgas,  
Menlo Park, CA 94025.

**Call** the Viewpoint desk at  
223-6507.

## Superintendent's actions roil school district

For a superintendent who is reputed to be fond of applying the latest business techniques to improve the performance of local school districts, Maurice Ghysels seems to have missed the seminar on human relations.

At least that is what it sounded like last week when the Menlo Park City School District's director of special education angrily addressed district trustees, who were about to rule on Mr. Ghysels' decision to fire her, with no warning, from the position she has held for eight and a half years. Livid upon being dismissed, Olivia Mandilk let loose with a barrage of charges about the superintendent, including a claim that six of his 12 top staff members have left or are leaving their positions since he took over from Ken Ranella less than two years ago. (At least one of the people who is away from her job is apparently on sick leave, and says she has no quarrel with the superintendent, and the others have not been willing or available to comment.)

But this case and Mr. Ghysels' dismissal of other employees, some of whom had been with the district many years, calls into question whether his management style is right for the high-performing school district, whose annual standardized test scores have often placed its four schools among the best in the state. Recent developments and a flood of comments on the Almanac's Town Square website provide a snapshot of a leader who Ms. Mandilk claims uses bullying or other forms of mistreatment when managing his top employees. Mr. Ghysels refused to comment on the bullying charge, but did say, "It's hard to be a leader

and make difficult personnel decisions. I know the people have not always been happy with those decisions."

And after the school board upheld the decision to fire the special education director in a closed session last week, president Terry Thygesen said, "I am fully confident that Dr. Ghysels is leading our district effectively."

Ms. Mandilk told the trustees that she had no indication that a change was in store for her when she got the news from Mr. Ghysels. And, she said that as far as she could tell, no staff members

or parents were asked to provide input regarding changes in the department, which she says deals with more than 1,000 of the district's approximately 3,000 students. "I have not been informed regarding what direction the superintendent intends to take and what the implications are for the students," she said.

Although the human relations practices of business and professional organizations can vary, it is common for an underperforming employee to be told that he or she needs to improve in particular categories before being let go, a protocol not followed in Ms. Mandilk's case. Employee reviews are a good way to get a message across so employers can set deadlines for employees to meet various goals. In some cases lower-ranking at-will employees are let go without cause, but top school executives should not be dismissed in a way that causes widespread concern in the department.

**EDITORIAL**

The opinion of The Almanac

Continued on next page

**LETTERS**

Our readers write

### Will new pope become champion for animals?

Editor:

I was delighted to learn that the newly elected pope chose for himself the name of St. Francis of Assisi, generally known as patron saint of the animals. Indeed, Catholic and Anglican churches hold ceremonies blessing animals on his feast day of Oct. 4.

On one of his nature walks, Francis reportedly preached to the birds and is often portrayed with a bird in his hand. On another occasion, Francis concluded a pact with a ferocious wolf that was terrorizing local townsfolk, whereby the wolf would quit preying on the town's sheep in exchange for being fed regularly.

He even persuaded local dogs to stop harassing the wolf. He freed a rabbit from a trap, returned caught fish to their stream, and fed half-frozen bees in winter-time.

I hope that Pope Francis will inspire Catholics and all persons of goodwill to show non-human animals the respect and compassion they so richly deserve, par-



Courtesy, Menlo Park Historical Association

### Our Regional Heritage

Menlo Park Grammar School† was built in 1893 to serve residents of Fair Oaks (now Atherton) and Menlo Park on El Camino Real near Glenwood Avenue. It lasted until 1912, when workmen removing paint with a blowtorch started a fire that burned it to the ground.

ticularly when it comes to subsidizing their abuse and slaughter for food at the checkout counter. Joining the Meatless Mondays trend may be a good start.

Malcolm Davidson  
Encinal Avenue, Menlo Park

### Worried about impact of LED streetlights

Editor:

A few nights ago I went out at midnight and saw that new LED streetlights had been installed

on our block on Pope Street. I was shocked to see how bright they were — with a sickly, electronic light — and immediately wondered about the health

Continued on next page

**EDITORIAL**

*continued from previous page*

Trustees also should act quickly to make sure the superintendent is not bullying his subordinates, as Ms. Mandilk charged. If it is true, it is a practice that destroys morale among employees and could lead to the exodus of good people. School officials across the country are concerned with bullying among students, but it is a terrible situation if employees are feeling bullied by their boss. Just the number of people who have unexpectedly left their positions or left the district altogether should be of great concern to the trustees.

After completing a massive facilities rebuilding project last

year that was largely planned and executed under Mr. Ranella, the district is poised to continue a long, successful run of providing an excellent elementary and middle school education for Menlo Park and Atherton students. A stable and caring superintendent and top-quality principals have been the keystones of the district's success. We hope the embarrassing and very public dismissal of Olivia Mandilk and the loss of other top school officials is not the beginning of a housecleaning that could set back the district's performance for years. Mr. Ghysels may fancy himself an innovator, but the latest example of his management style deserves a grade of "F" in our book.

**LETTERS**

*continued from previous*

impact on sleep cycles of people, animals, and even plants.

A quick look online showed at least one study that shows that these lights are potentially very disruptive of human sleep cycles. I am going to do a thorough investigation, and plan on bringing this up first with the city's engineers and then later the City Council.

My feeling is that the health, environmental, and light pollution impacts of these new LED streetlights were probably inadequately studied, and that we should start thinking about mitigations (dimming them, shielding them so they don't light up front lawns and houses). I understand that LEDs save electricity and money, but at what ultimate cost?

*Jordan S. Gruber  
Pope Street, Menlo Park*

## Burton Lynn Dupree

Burton Lynn Dupree, 80, passed away February 18 in Menlo Park. Burton was born in Pioneer, Texas to Burton Jacob Dupree and Lydia Augusta Anderson Dupree on May 24, 1932. He married Sabra Harding Wiseley on January 28, 1956, in Clovis, New Mexico. He received a B.A. in design. He soloed in a Piper Cub after three hours. After R.O.T.C. at Texas Tech, he flew 1956-1966 with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, serving 1959-1962 in its mapping support of the InterAmerican Geodetic Survey and in 1965-1966 flying a Huey in Viet Nam. As a civilian, during 1966-1992 he flew for Pacific, Air West, Republic and Northwest Airlines. He volunteered at St. Anthony's Dining Hall and Second Harvest. He was widely known for his painting, his cartoons, and for drinking coffee daily with friends at Peets Coffee. Burton was preceded in death by his parents, his sister Karen Ann Dupree Westbrook, and a son John Marc Dupree.

Burton is survived by his wife Sabra Harding Wiseley Dupree; their children and spouses James Burton Dupree and Wanda Dupree, Virginia Ann Dupree Waik, and David Jacob Dupree; and 12 grandchildren. Memorials may be given to the art department at Willow Road School, 620 Willow Road, Menlo Park 94025.

The family of Burton Dupree wishes to extend its sincere thanks to the professional and very loving staff of the Veterans Administration Community Living Center, Building 360 in Menlo Park.

The memorial was held March 16 at Trinity Episcopal Church in Menlo Park.

PAID OBITUARY

## Clarence 'John' Ahern

Oct. 17, 1930 – Jan. 28, 2013

Clarence 'John' Ahern, a lifelong resident of Redwood City died at his home on Jan 28th. He was 82 Born in San Francisco, John lived his entire life in Redwood City and attended Our Lady of Mt Carmel and Sequoia High School. He had worked at Pan American Airlines and later retired from Varian Associates after a 30 year carrier in the Microwave Tube Division. After retirement, John became a founding member and volunteer docent at the Hiller Aviation Museum.

John's passions included the 49ers, Little League baseball and military & naval aviation.

He spent many years coaching in Highlanders Little League and led several of his teams on to win the City Championship.

John was preceded in death by his wife of 51 years, Nancy Ahern He is survived by his two sons Michael (Cherie) Ahern & Gary (Connie) Ahern and his two grandchildren, Michelle & Meagan Ahern.



PAID OBITUARY

## Maxine Nathanson

Maxine (Elston) Nathanson of Menlo Park, CA passed away peacefully on March 13, 2013 at the age of 97.

Born in Kirksville, Missouri, she and her family moved to a farm near Pierre, South Dakota during the Depression, before moving to Spokane, Washington. In 1947, she married Norman Jesse Nathanson, whom she met in San Francisco, where he was president of a bank. In 1960 he became Mayor of Cupertino where they owned and operated a ranch for 28 years, growing cherries and apricots. In the mid 1970's, the land was sold to build the Homestead School and they moved to Menlo Park. Maxine enjoyed socializing with her many friends, traveling, and watching golf on television. Maxine is predeceased by her father, Jake Andrews Elston and mother Cassie Elizabeth (Eddy) of Kirksville, MO,

her brother, Cecil Elston of Spokane, WA, her husband Norman J. Nathanson of Menlo Park, her step-daughter Barbara (Nathanson) Connolly of La Jolla, CA, family members Frieda "Fritzie" Joest of Omaha, NE, and Lois Schank, of Central City, NE.

She is survived by her cherished grandson, William Norman Miller, his wife Nancy Bals, and son Wade Jess Miller of Huntington, MA, dear friend and family member Patricia Schank and husband Larry Hamel, of Menlo Park, and close friend of seventy years Eleanor Tiffany-Miller of Mesa, AZ.

Friends and family are invited to gather at Alta Mesa Memorial Park at the main chapel at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 19th, 2013. The family would like to extend their gratitude to Olivia Dunham, for the care and attention she showed Maxine during her last years.



PAID OBITUARY

## John (Jack) Harris Stewart

August 7, 1928 - March 1, 2013

John Harris Stewart (Jack) passed away on March 1, 2013. Jack was born on August 7, 1928 in Berkeley, California to George and Theodosia Stewart. The family, including his older sister Jill, travelled extensively as Jack's father, a noted author, conducted research for numerous books. Jack graduated from Berkeley High School in 1946, then studied at the University of New Mexico, obtaining a degree in geology in 1950, with minors in math and anthropology. In 1951 Jack began his 62 year career with the US Geological Survey. Jack obtained a doctorate in geology from Stanford in 1961.

In 1962 Jack married Sally Dwight and they had two children, Ed in 1964 and William in 1966. The family spent many enjoyable summers in Nevada where Jack performed extensive field work.

Jack was the preeminent authority on the geology of the Great Basin and Colorado Plateau regions of Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Arizona. His work in Nevada led to the preparation of the first comprehensive geologic map of Nevada. Jack's findings had significant impact on strategies in the

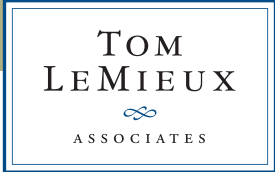
search for, and identification of, new mineral resources. For his outstanding achievements and extensive contributions to knowledge regarding the geology of western North America, he was granted the Distinguished Service Award by the Department of the Interior in 1994. Jack was respected by colleagues for his dedication to his profession. He was a scientist at heart, who loved to walk, and study the environment.

In 1990 Jack married Joyce Colbath, and they spent 22 years together, hiking and exploring throughout the world. Jack is survived by his wife Joyce Stewart, sister Jill Evenson, sons Ed (Tracy) and William, his stepchildren Mary McCurdy (Kevin), John Plungy (Cheri), Elizabeth Ramaley (Lee), Mark

Plungy (Lisa), his grandchildren Samuel and Teddie Stewart, and his step-grandchildren Emilie Plungy, Helen and Brigid McCurdy, Claire, Stephen and Madeline Ramaley, and Julia and Matthew Plungy. Jack is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews. Jack's family appreciates donations to the Truckee-Donner Land Trust.



PAID OBITUARY



**FOR SALE**



**100 Baywood Avenue, Menlo Park**  
Charming vintage 3-bedroom, 2-bath home and studio cottage on a corner lot  
OFFERED AT \$1,049,000

**FOR SALE**



**76 Ridge View Drive, Atherton**  
Pinnacle location with magnificent Bay views; multi-level 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths with pool and spa  
OFFERED AT \$4,695,000

**FOR SALE**



**95 Fleur Place, Atherton**  
7 bedrooms, 9 full-, 2 half-baths, gorgeous grounds; guest house and pool  
OFFERED AT \$11,750,000

**FOR SALE**



**24 San Juan Avenue, Menlo Park**  
New construction, Mediterranean with modern interior design, 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 1 half-bath  
OFFERED AT \$3,450,00

**NEW PRICE**



**196 Selby Lane, Atherton**  
Craftsman with 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, glorious gardens, pool & spa; private cul-de-sac  
OFFERED AT \$3,295,000

**PENDING SALE**



**459 Walsh Road, Atherton**  
4-bedroom, 3.5-bath home with resort-like amenities; pool, spa & tennis; Las Lomitas schools  
OFFERED AT \$3,495,000

**SOLD**



**187 Byrant Street, Palo Alto**  
Remodeled condo with amazing outdoor living, two-story, 4-bedroom, 3-bath end unit  
OFFERED AT \$1,795,000

**COMING SOON**



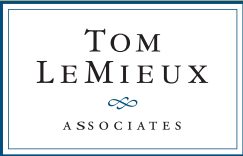
**Central Menlo Park**  
3-level, 6-bedroom, 5-bath custom Craftsman; premier location on cul-de-sac lot

**COMING SOON**



**396 Atherton Avenue, Atherton**  
Brand new construction, 6-bedroom, 7-full, 2-half bath estate home on over one acre  
OFFERED AT \$14,500,000

For virtual tours of these properties, please visit [www.tomlemieux.com](http://www.tomlemieux.com)



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650 329 6645  
tlemieux@cbnorcal.com  
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