

The Almanac

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

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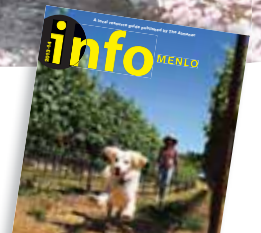
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SECTION 2



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Former school official must pay Woodside district \$2.67 million

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

Tim Hanretty, the former superintendent of the Portola Valley School District now serving a two-year prison term for embezzlement from that district and other financial crimes, must pay the Woodside Elementary School District about \$2.67 million in restitution because of crimes he committed while working there, a judge has ruled.

Judge Mark Forcum issued his ruling on Sept. 10 during a restitution hearing in San Mateo County Superior Court. Mr. Hanretty last year pleaded guilty to charges of filing fraudulent papers to take out a loan of \$2.6 million for construction work on the Woodside School campus, although the school board had authorized a loan of only \$632,000.

Mr. Hanretty's attorney, Michael Markowitz, said he is likely to file papers soon to allow his client to appeal the ruling. He also will request that the court appoint an attorney to defend the appeal because Mr. Hanretty is unlikely to have the funds to pay for the legal challenge.

Serving his sentence at High Desert State Prison in Susanville, Mr. Hanretty is likely to be released by the end of the year, Mr. Markowitz said.

The court had ordered Mr. Hanretty last October to reimburse the Portola Valley School District for the nearly \$101,000 he embezzled from it when he served as superintendent from summer 2010 to early 2012, plus associated costs of investigating the theft, for a total of nearly \$182,000. So far, he has repaid almost \$121,000, according to Karen Lucian, the district's administrative coordinator.

But Mr. Hanretty's crimes involving the Woodside district weren't so cut and dried. He had served as financial officer for that district before becoming superintendent in Portola Valley, and oversaw the financ-



Booking photo

Tim Hanretty is serving his sentence at High Desert State Prison in Susanville.

ing of construction projects. After the district launched an investigation in late 2011 into the unexpectedly high debt it was carrying, Mr. Hanretty was charged with three felony counts that included misappropriation of public funds.

The investigation determined that the additional funds obtained by the unauthorized loan were spent on other school projects.

Tim Hanretty ultimately pleaded guilty to fraud, embezzlement and related charges.

Mr. Hanretty was later arrested and charged with additional crimes, including embezzlement related to his work in Portola Valley schools. After fighting the charges, he ultimately pleaded guilty to fraud, embezzlement and related charges.

Although he agreed to pay restitution to the Portola Valley district, he and his attorney, Michael Markowitz, argued that the Woodside district had benefited from all the loan proceeds, and fought the district's attempt for restitution based on the unauthorized debt that it was saddled with.

According to District Attorney Steve Wagstaff's report on

the ruling, the court calculated the restitution total on the following: \$1.968 million, which is the difference in principal on the actual loan amount and the amount that was authorized; \$856,553, which accounts for the difference in the interest rate on a loan for the authorized \$632,000 and a loan for \$2.6 million, after the school district's attorney "renegotiated the interest to reduce it by \$700,000"; \$76,220 in attorney fees; and \$35,788 in forensic audit fees.

That total — nearly \$2.937 million — was reduced to reflect the \$20,000 Mr. Hanretty has already paid toward restitution and the \$250,000 from insurance payments.

Deputy District Attorney Kimberly Perrotti, who prosecuted the case, maintained that the school district could not be "made whole" unless Mr. Hanretty paid the interest debt resulting from his fraud. The district last year had asked for about \$3.63 million, but since then the renegotiation of the loan and other factors lowered that amount, she said, making the judge's \$2.67 million ruling acceptable.

The restitution hearing was originally scheduled over three days, but Judge Forcum made his ruling within only a few hours. That's because the legal argument made by Mr. Hanretty's attorney for a lower amount of restitution was fairly quickly rejected, Ms. Perrotti and Mr. Markowitz said.

Mr. Markowitz used a legal premise often used in civil lawsuits known as comparative negligence, or comparative fault, whereby damages awarded to a victim would be reduced if it was shown that the victim's own negligence played a role in his or her losses.

In the Hanretty case, school district board members neglected their fiduciary duties by not paying close enough attention to

See HANRETTY, page 6

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

City examines sites for homeless shelter zoning

■ City working on second housing plan update.

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

As Menlo Park starts work on a second update to the city's housing plan, staff has earmarked three goals: identify sites that could be zoned for homeless shelters; develop an amnesty program for secondary, or "granny," units built before the city legalized such units in June; and adopt policies for what home improvements someone with a disability may make.

Homeless shelters must be located within a quarter-mile of

a bus stop that provides service seven days a week, according to the city.

The five areas under consideration are between Marsh Road and Haven Avenue; on the Veterans Affairs campus on Willow Road; on the St. Patrick's Seminary campus on Middlefield Road; an area bordered by El Camino Real, Menlo Avenue, University Drive and Roble Avenue; and an area bordered by El Camino Real, Glenwood Avenue, San Antonio Avenue and Oak Grove Avenue.

Go to tinyurl.com/Zone-913

Menlo Park is developing an amnesty program for secondary, or "granny," units built before the city legalized them.

to download a PDF map of potential homeless shelter zoning sites. It may take a minute to download the document.

According to city staff, a count taken in Menlo Park in January found 16 homeless people living in the city and 142 homeless residents who had found shelter through motel voucher

programs and other assistance. The housing plan update, therefore, needs to identify sites that could be zoned for shelters with at least 16 beds.

Granny units

Developing a secondary unit amnesty program entails determining what criteria to use in evaluating units, such as how old the unit is and the original purpose of the building.

Menlo Park could require that all existing granny units be brought into compliance with safety and sanitation codes and then restrict units from being sold until all other building stan-

dards are met.

Approximately 30 people, including residents, business owners and homeless advocates attended a Sept. 10 workshop to examine the proposed housing plan updates.

The city's last housing plan update, finalized in May, rezoned four sites as high-density housing development: the 1200 and 1300 block of Willow Road; the 700 and 800 blocks of Hamilton Avenue; and a site in the 3600 block of Haven Avenue. A fifth site, on the Department of Veterans Affairs campus in

See **HOMELESS SHELTER**, page 18

Commissioners 'favorably disposed' toward plan's height, density allowances

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

■ MENLO PARK

The Menlo Park Planning Commission signaled its confidence in the provisions of the city's new downtown/El Camino Real specific plan, during the first of what's expected to be a multiple-meetings review.

While taking no formal action, after hearing public comment, the commissioners took a series of straw votes on Sept. 10 to assess what aspects of the specific plan merited further consideration for modification. The straw votes indicated that a total revamp of the specific plan is very unlikely, given the five years' of analysis that went into its construction.

"This is a review," Commissioner Katie Ferrick said. "We're not necessarily going to make any changes. We'll see what we come up with."

Five commissioners said they were "favorably disposed" toward the density and floor area ratios — the scale, in other words — of buildings allowed under the specific plan. Katherine Strehl and John Onken abstained since they are recused from voting on certain zones of the specific plan.

The two areas that might need

refinement, the commissioners said, were control over proposed projects and the proportion of specific uses, such as housing versus office space.

Four commissioners — John Kadvany, Ben Eiref, Katie Ferrick and Vince Bressler — thought more control beyond architectural review may be needed. Ms. Ferrick said her concern involved a lack of funding mechanisms for certain aspects of the plan, such as a pedestrian and bike undercrossing of the railroad tracks.

The commission unanimously agreed to consider whether the city needed more ways to guide the selection of uses proposed for a site.

A group of residents citing traffic and housing impacts has led the charge against the current specific plan after Stanford University and developer John Arrillaga proposed building an eight-acre mixed-use complex along 300 to 500 El Camino Real that met the plan's baseline criteria without triggering public benefit requirements.

Several spoke against the specific plan during the Sept. 10

The commission will take up the specific plan review again during its Sept. 23 meeting.

See **COMMISSION BEGINS**, page 8



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Workers lay down redwood for a winding path leading to the wedding site on Mountain Home Road in Woodside.

Structures rise for Woodside wedding

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

The wild creatures that normally inhabit the grassy pasture and scattered trees in the 500 block of Mountain Home Road in Woodside may wonder what's going on. Two redwood boardwalks are winding their way into the property, crews have been seen hauling in construction materials and, in the distance, structural framing is rising from the ground. It's all to accommodate a wedding on

Saturday, Sept. 28.

Several structures are being built, including a large dining hall, a stage for the ceremony, a sound-proof room for music, and bathrooms.

The property owner is the Donald G. Fisher Trust, according to county records. Mr. Fisher, who died in 2009, was the founder of The Gap clothing stores. A spokesperson for Fisher Development Inc., a contractor on the project, said: "The family does not wish to comment and appreciates your understanding and

respecting their privacy."

Although the construction involves a slab of concrete and structural framing, because the project is temporary, it did not fall under regulations that would have required a building permit, Town Manager Kevin Bryant said. The Town Council will be looking into ways the town can have oversight in cases such as this, where the construction is temporary.

Upon learning of construction activity going on, town

See **STRUCTURES RISE**, page 8

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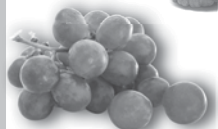

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Former financial officer sues Menlo College

A former chief financial officer of Menlo College filed a lawsuit Sept. 9 against the college, claiming he was terminated after he complained that the college misused funds in violation of state and federal laws.

In the suit filed in San Mateo County Superior Court, Nilo Ventura alleges that the college improperly used federal financial aid money and the college's tax-exempt housing for students and family members, and falsely reported the college's expenses and revenues. He also claims unlawful employment discrimination based on race.

In a statement, the college said: "We unequivocally deny the allegation. We believe the suit to be completely baseless

and we intend to vigorously defend ourselves."

According to the suit, Mr. Ventura had been chief financial officer reporting directly to the president, James J. Kelly. But in January, the college created the position of executive vice president and appointed Steven Weiner to that post.

Mr. Ventura said he was offered the job of budget director, reporting to Mr. Weiner, "at substantially less pay, authority" and responsibility than he had in the chief financial officer position.

When Mr. Ventura refused the new position, he was terminated, he said in the suit.

Mr. Ventura is seeking reinstatement and compensation for his losses.

Suspect pleads not guilty to assault, vandalism

Alexander Stefan Dombovic, a 21-year-old Palo Alto man, pleaded not guilty Sept. 12 to charges of assault with a deadly weapon, vandalism, auto burglary and reckless driving, all related to a series of incidents in Portola Valley in April.

A jury trial for Mr. Dombovic in San Mateo County Superior Court is set for 8:45 a.m. on Dec. 16, prosecutors said. He is out of custody on \$50,000 bail.

In the April 21 incident, a man hit a 13-year-old Portola Valley boy on the shoulder with a baseball bat after being discovered at about 10 p.m.

rummaging through a vehicle belonging to the boy's father, deputies said.

The man allegedly fled in another vehicle, encountered sheriff's deputies on Westridge Drive and a car chase ensued. After the vehicle plunged down an embankment, the man was arrested.

Deputies found about 129 pieces of mail from 18 local addresses in the vehicle, according to prosecutors.

Three charges of vandalism and a charge of robbery were dismissed by the judge for lack of evidence, prosecutors said.

HANRETTY

continued from page 3

Mr. Hanretty's handling of the loan, Mr. Markowitz said. "They knew, or should have known, that more than what they authorized was borrowed," he said.

He noted that Mr. Hanretty admitted the fraud, but the money was used to benefit the district. "He gained nothing financially from it. Why should he reimburse the district for what he didn't take?"

Mr. Markowitz acknowledged that there might be no precedent for using the comparative negligence argument in a criminal case, but had hoped to convince the judge that it could be properly applied in the Hanretty case.

"In all fairness, Judge Forcum ruled that (the comparative fault) argument didn't apply to fraud cases, but I disagree," Mr. Markowitz said, adding that he believes an appeal of the decision is worth pursuing. ■

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School district studies enrollment options for East Palo Alto kids

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

■ HIGH SCHOOLS

At a recent school board meeting for the Sequoia Union High School District, a thread emerged from the tangle of systemic problems the district is facing over school-choice policies and a looming jump in enrollment: Find a quick fix establishing a default high school for most if not all of the eighth-graders from East Palo Alto in the Ravenswood City Elementary School District.

The five board members did not agree on exactly how to craft this fix, but a draft policy will be forthcoming on Sept. 25 that would ease school-choice options for East Palo Alto families who want to attend nearby Menlo-Atherton High School. For decades, East Palo Alto students have been assigned to Woodside and Carlmont high schools, which they travel to by bus, while students from the Belle Haven neighborhood in the eastern portion of Menlo Park are assigned to M-A.

The district now has 8,300 students, but reliable projections show at least 10,000 by 2020, a 22 percent increase. A policy revision on school choice is a first shot at what promises to be a very difficult knot to untie. Among the district's priorities:

■ The district will probably have to build more classrooms, which would require putting a bond measure on the June 2014 ballot. To make a credible case to voters, the district will have to determine what to build and where to build it on built-out campuses, and building up rather than out will be necessary, officials have said. A fifth comprehensive high school is out of the question, given the lack of sites and the approximate \$200 million cost of a new school, Superintendent Jim Lianides has said. And construction on classrooms must start by the 2014-15 school year to meet the coming demand, he said.

■ Will school-neighborhood connections change as enrollment rises? Proximity makes M-A the natural destination for the East Palo Alto community, which has endured decades of riding the bus to Woodside and Carlmont, 11 miles away.

Will increased enrollment affect families in the Las Lomas Elementary School District and North Fair Oaks neighborhood who bought their houses so as to attend M-A, noted for its high academic performance? About 10 Las Lomas households are assigned to Woodside High but have guaranteed access to M-A, while other communities must participate in an annual lottery. Revisions to the map that assigns neighborhoods to schools are likely.

The board's goal is to ease school-choice options for East Palo Alto students who want to attend nearby Menlo-Atherton High School.

■ Should East Palo Alto kids have automatic entry to M-A, or should they have to make that choice? If they have to choose, who will speak for uninformed students who may be homeless, living in extreme poverty, or living with addicted or mentally ill parents — “kids of chaos” who don't plan their lives — board member Carrie DuBois wanted to know. East Palo Alto kids should have automatic entry, said board member Olivia Martinez. Board President Chris Thomsen agreed, if there is room. Automatic entry would address inequities associated with the Las Lomas guarantee, said Ellen Mouchawar, an advocate for East Palo Alto kids. In dissent, board members Alan Sarver and Allen Weiner argued that such a scheme could over-subscribe M-A.

■ The Sequoia board is running out of time. Family deliberations on choosing a high school for the 2014-15 school year begin in mid-October and conclude in January.

Board comments

“For decades, many kids in East Palo Alto have not been well served,” said Ms. DuBois. She said she wants to hear from

more of the community, such as teachers and community groups that work with kids, including foster children. Quoting Stanford University education authority Linda Darling-Hammond, Ms. DuBois said that the United States is known for making education decisions without talking about poverty.

As for Las Lomas households with guaranteed attendance at M-A, the Almanac asked Ms. Martinez about the likelihood of a change to that policy, on a scale of 1-10. “Zero,” she said. “I just don't see that happening. I believe in choices for our parents. ... As more and more Las Lomas parents realize how close Woodside is and how great it is, more and more of them will choose it.”

Regarding North Fair Oaks households south of 5th Avenue who expressed concern about being reassigned away from M-A, the Almanac asked Ms. Martinez if the district might assign those families to M-A and those north of 5th Avenue to Woodside or Sequoia. “It seems to me very reasonable,” she said.

Priority one, said Mr. Weiner, has to be open enrollment as it affects East Palo Alto families. The superintendent should have the discretion “to make M-A as full as an egg, but not fuller,” Mr. Weiner said.

As for map revisions, it is “very hard (and) a ticking clock,” Mr. Weiner said. Community outreach has to be much more effective such that informed decisions can emerge from the community meetings to be scheduled for the weeks ahead, he said.

The district should look into creating a couple of smaller schools, Mr. Lianides said, an idea that Ms. DuBois said she supported in that kids who are at high risk for academic failure need small-school environments to make real progress.

The superintendents from the Ravenswood and Sequoia districts should work together over the next two weeks to hammer out an open-enrollment fix, board President Thomsen said.

Any changes to enrollment policies would not affect current students or their siblings, Mr. Lianides noted. ▀



REAL ESTATE TRENDS

by Samia Cullen

Reality Check For Buyers

The end of the year is approaching fast, and some buyers are still on the sidelines wondering if they are better off waiting until 2014 to buy. Here are some adjustments that buyers may need to explore to land a home.

1. **Preparation is more important than ever.** Buyers have to be prepared and ready to jump in when they find the right house. They need to have an intimate knowledge of the market where they are considering buying so they have the confidence to write the offer. They also need to be preapproved for a loan.

2. **Get a real estate agent that is knowledgeable and skilled in your market.** Make sure that you are communicating with your agent on a regular basis and let your agent know about your deal makers and breakers to help you write a winning offer. Many buyers rely on the internet for sales prices and market information which usually lags a month behind

the reality of the market.

3. **Learn from prior experience and from watching the market.** You need to be realistic about your wants and needs and what you can afford.

4. **You can beat the competition if you're smart.** Finding your dream house may be just a matter of smartly identifying the right property hidden behind a few small flaws.

5. **Keep an open mind on where to buy a home.** The low inventory does not mean that you cannot find the right house. We have many wonderful communities in our area to choose from. The low inventory is creating pressure on some neighborhoods more than others.

6. **Time is money. The market appears to be heading only one way and that is up.** Buyers are likely better off buying this fall than waiting for 2014 in the hope that prices will settle down. All fundamentals point toward another robust year with prices increasing further.

If you have a real estate question or would like a free market analysis for your home, please call me at 650-384-5392, Alain Pinel Realtors, or email me at scullen@apr.com. For the latest real estate news, follow my blog at www.samiacullen.com

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Commission begins review of specific plan

continued from page 5

meeting, saying that it allows so much density and traffic that it would ruin the quality of life in Menlo Park.

“Scuttle the specific plan instead of spending months rearranging the deck chairs pretending this plan won’t sink the city,” resident Cherie Zaslowsky urged.

Save Menlo, a grassroots coalition that has criticized the Stanford project and the specific plan, told the Almanac the group seeks “reasonable growth that enhances the quality of life and neighborhoods in Menlo Park and maintains the village character.”

While the group supports the Planning Commission’s efforts to improve the specific plan, Save Menlo spokesperson Perla Ni said, it believes the plan will allow “the ‘manhattanization’ of Menlo Park” via “monstrously large developments” with ensuing traffic gridlock, hazards to bicyclists and pedestrians, and damage to the city’s village character.

“We want human-scale buildings, neighborhood retail, housing for seniors and significant revenue-generating development that will enhance the high quality of living in Menlo Park,” Ms. Ni said in an email.

Other speakers at the meeting included developers such as Steve Pearce of Greenheart Land Company. His company bought parcels on El Camino Real and the former Derry project site because of the specific plan’s passage, he said, which was supposed to provide certainty for both developers and the community regarding what could be built.

Changing the specific plan now “sends the message that the goalposts are moving and may keep moving,” Mr. Pearce commented, which in turn suggests that Menlo Park is not a good place to invest in.

The Planning Commission will take up the specific plan review again during its Sept. 23 meeting. Once the commission concludes its review, it will provide recommendations for the City Council to consider. ■

Las Lomas school board to interview candidates

Applicants for appointment to a vacant seat on the Las Lomas School District board will be interviewed by board members on Tuesday, Sept. 24. The time had not yet been determined by the Almanac’s Monday press time.

As of Monday morning, Sept. 16, only one district resident — Christy Heaton — had returned an application to the district office, although a number of others had taken out forms, according to Leticia Gomez of the district office. The application deadline was noon Wednesday, Sept. 18.

Whoever is appointed to the seat, which was held by Ann

Jaquith until she resigned last month, will serve until November 2014 and must stand for election that month if he or she wishes to continue serving on the board.

The board has the option of making an appointment at the Sept. 24 meeting, but may choose to wait for a future meeting, Ms. Gomez said. Board members also may schedule a second meeting for interviewing candidates if many apply, she said.

The meeting will be held in the district office board room at 1011 Altschul Ave. in Menlo Park.

Go to www.llesd.k12.ca.us to find out when the meeting begins.

SamTrans seeks a few good citizens

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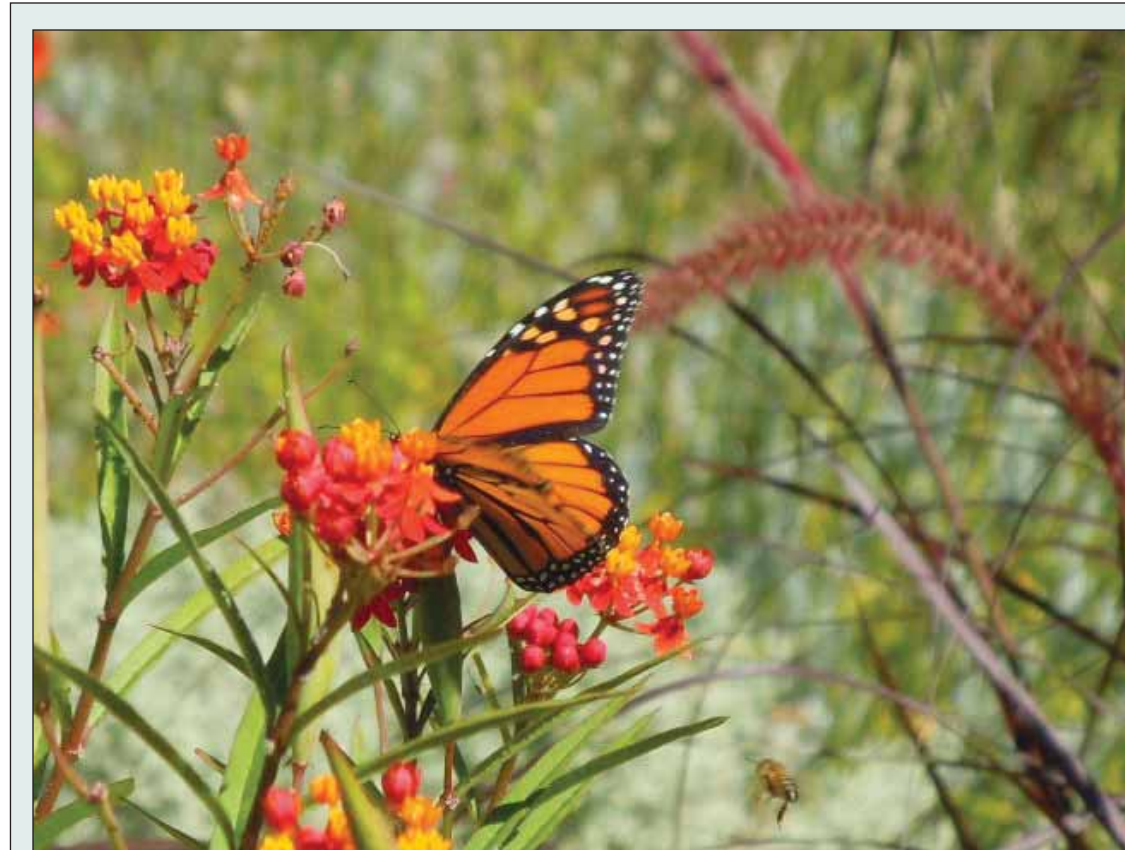
The board provides input on the needs of transit users and advises the agency’s board of directors. It meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the San Mateo County Transit District headquarters, located at 1250 San Carlos Ave. in San Carlos.

■ BRIEFS

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Sept. 19: Councilman to hold office hours

Menlo Park Councilman Ray Mueller will hold a second round of “office hours” on Thursday, Sept. 19, at the Oasis Beer Garden,



Monarch spotted in Portola Valley

Anne Hillman of Portola Valley emailed us this photo taken of a monarch butterfly at her home on Saturday. “Look who showed up today on our milkweed!” Anne said in her email. “(S)he’s been here all afternoon. I’m totally thrilled. We haven’t had any monarchs for years.”

Structures rise for Woodside wedding

continued from page 5

staff visited the site and issued a stop-work order to provide time to deliberate over how to respond, Mr. Bryant said. Staff gave its approval to continue the work, and issued a demolition permit to Fisher Development. That permit requires the property to be returned to its original condition when the ceremony is over, Mr. Bryant said.

“When someone is going to hold a wedding, you don’t want to tell them that they can’t hold a wedding,” Mr. Bryant told the Almanac.

Members of the council agreed. The wedding came up for discussion at the council’s Sept. 10 meeting.

“We want people to enjoy their property,” said Councilwoman

Deborah Gordon. An ordinance regulating such activities should establish a reasonable time frame for setting up and tearing down temporary structures, council members said.

“It’s the preparation for the party that is the inconvenience,” said Mayor Anne Kasten. “To my mind, that’s a little bit of a burden on the town. ... All of us regard the land as sacrosanct around here.”

The applicant has been “very cooperative,” Mr. Bryant said. The entire project — from the laying of the boardwalk and concrete to restoring the site to untended grasslands — began in mid-August and is expected to span between six and seven weeks, he said.

The ceremony is expected to draw about 400 to 500 guests,

Fire Marshal Denise Enea of the Woodside Fire Protection District said. Classic Party Rentals, based in Burlingame, obtained a tent permit from the fire district and there will be a couple of firefighters on hand during the wedding, Ms. Enea said. The temporary complex is governed by the same fire-code regulations that apply to permanent structures, she said.

The guests will arrive and depart by shuttle, she said.

Asked if this wedding was unusual in terms of size and complexity, Ms. Enea said that it was not. “People throw some extravagant parties here in town. We’ve had quite a few of them,” she said. “There’s actually, I think, very little impact to the site. ... It takes months of planning and it’s over in one night.” ■

safety month, according to Caltrain. The transportation agency will host a thematically relevant film festival on Thursday, Sept. 26.

In cooperation with Fresh Takes, a local group of teen filmmakers, Caltrain said it developed a series of video vignettes about safe behavior near train tracks. The vignettes will be shown during the free film festival, which starts at 3 p.m. at Cinemark 20, located at 825 Middlefield Road in Redwood City.

Caltrain staff said the film festival is being held in memory of 16-year old Donae Johnican, who died in March while attempting to cross the tracks in San Jose while wearing headphones.

Funding for the film festival came from an \$18,875 grant awarded by rail safety education organizer Operation Lifesaver and matched by Caltrain for a total of \$25,250; the agency is using the money to launch a campaign to increase safety awareness.

Sept. 26: Rail safety film festival

September equals railroad

Students named semifinalists for National Merit scholarships

Thirty-two high school seniors in the Almanac circulation area have been named semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Fifteen of the seniors are at Menlo School, seven at Menlo-Atherton, six at Sacred Heart Preparatory, two at Woodside High School, and two at Woodside Priory.

The semifinalists are:

■ **Menlo School:** Hidehiro Anto, Kai M. Banks, Niles N. Christensen, Jack D. Ferguson, Kelsey E. Flower, Ryan Hammar-skjold, Pooja Kathail, Darren S. Mei, Kate J. Park, Samuel Redmond, Abigail F. Schmitt, Sienna T. Stritter, Christina H. Wadsworth, Katherine L. Weingart and Maxim B. Zats.

■ **Menlo-Atherton:** Paul A.

DeTrempe, Robert F. Gordan, Angela Y. Lai, Scott W. Morris, Zoe G. Pacalin, Daniel J. Propp and Valerie A. Taylor.

■ **Sacred Heart Preparatory:** Juan R. Grau, John C. Kremer, Katherine Lim, Julia Mok, Selby C. Sturzenegger and MacKenzie A. Walter.

■ **Woodside High:** William J. Chargin and Alexander T. Yuen.

■ **Woodside Priory:** Melanie K. Biles and Sarah N. Reid.

On Sept. 11, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation announced the names of approximately 16,000 semifinalists in this 59th annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

The semifinalists can continue in the competition for some 8,000 National Merit Scholar-

ships worth about \$35 million that will be offered next spring, the corporation said in a news release.

To be considered for a scholarship, the semifinalists must meet requirements to advance to the finalist level. About 90 percent of the semifinalists are expected to attain finalist standing, and more than half of the finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship.

Scholarships are underwritten by the corporation with its own funds and by approximately 440 business organizations and higher education institutions that share its goals of honoring the nation's students with exceptional academic ability.

Go to nationalmerit.org for more information.

Little League asks for more time with ball park proposal

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

The Atherton public and City Council members are likely to call it an early night on Wednesday, Sept. 18, after two potentially lengthy agenda items — approval of a plan for Little League facilities in the park and a public hearing on an amendment to a Sacred Heart Schools' conditional use permit — were dropped from the agenda late last week.

The Menlo-Atherton Little

Stolen Porsche is recovered

A silver Porsche 911S, reported stolen from a Portola Valley home on Sept. 11, was recovered in Belmont later that day, according to deputies from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.

In an incident that deputies said involved stolen property with a total value of \$140,000, a resident of Hillbrook Drive reported the loss of firearms, knives, jewelry and a computer in addition to the car. All the missing items were recovered, deputies said.

Deputies identified the Porsche at about 6:30 p.m. after checking the license plate, then located and arrested Juan Ortega-Ramos, 24, of Redwood City on suspicion of possessing stolen property.

Deputies said they also recovered property allegedly associated with other burglaries on the Peninsula.

ATHERTON

League officials who are working on the ball park plans asked for a postponement of the item after the agenda was posted last week, said City Clerk Theresa Della-Santa. The Little League plans to build a covered grandstand and make a series of improvements to the existing ball field in Holbrook-Palmer Park, an idea that was approved in concept by

voters last November.

The Sacred Heart conditional use permit item is being continued, at Sacred Heart's request, to the Dec. 18 meeting.

Go to tinyurl.com/Atherton-Council18 to see the now-shorter agenda, which includes a discussion of a staff recommendation to direct between \$1.1 million and \$2 million of the town's surplus toward paying down the town's unfunded long-term liabilities resulting from post-employment employee benefits.

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

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screening, then your dog may be the animal we're looking for! You would also have to meet volunteer guidelines.

Stanford Hospital and Clinics, in conjunction with Pet Partners (formerly Delta Society), is holding a free orientation (about one hour) on Saturday, September 21, 2013 at 2 p.m. in Palo Alto. No pets please – humans only. For more information, please contact Lyn Belingheri at labsite@sbcglobal.net and see the Stanford PAWS website: <http://stanfordhospital.org/forPatients/patientServices/pawsGuestServices.html> RSVP required for the orientation

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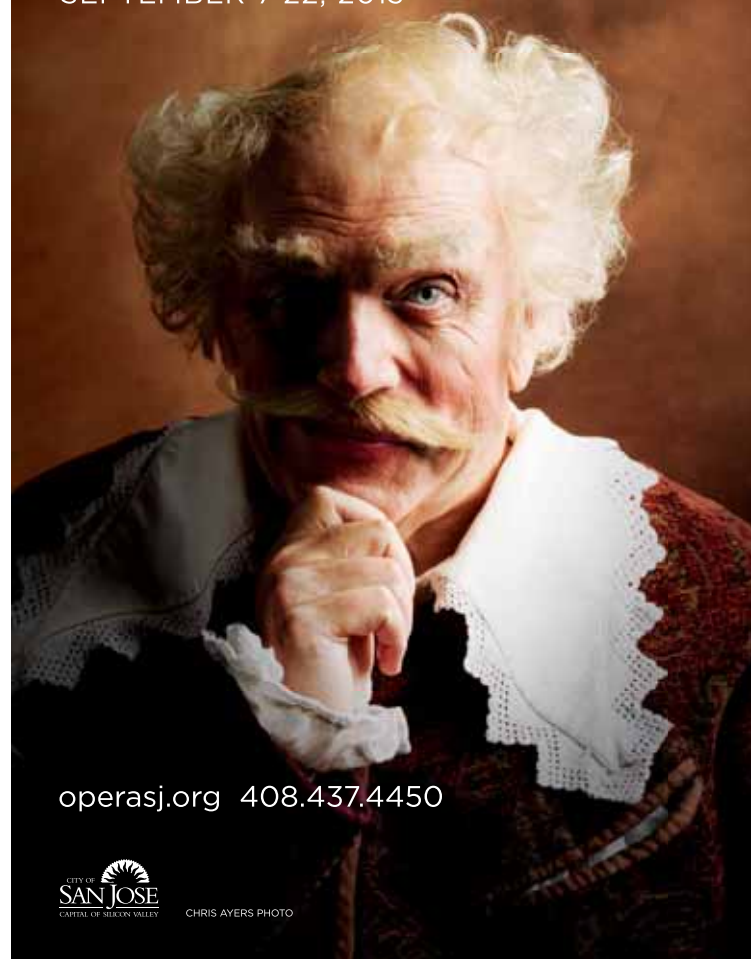

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New superintendent comes with memory of her own assimilation

Gloria Hernandez aims to build on strength of Ravenswood district

By Chris Kenrick
Palo Alto Weekly

Although she's the U.S.-born daughter of a U.S.-born Air Force employee, Gloria Hernandez — the new superintendent of the Ravenswood City School District (with schools in Menlo Park and East Palo Alto) — spoke Spanish at home throughout her childhood.

She didn't master English until second grade, and she'll forever remember the teacher — Rose Prieto in Albuquerque, N.M., — who helped her do so.

"Mrs. Prieto really communicated with my parents so they'd understand the system," Ms.

Hernandez recalled in a recent interview.

"I was the oldest child — six came later — so she helped steer our whole family in terms of academics. Sometimes teachers don't know how great an impact they have on families."

At Ravenswood, where nearly 70 percent of Hernandez's students are considered "English learners," the new superintendent arrives with her own experience in the landscape of assimilation.

The 4,100 children in the K-8 — 81 percent of whom are Hispanic — "have all the challenges you find up and down the Central Valley, Coachella Valley and San Bernardino area," she said.

"But this is right here in the heart of Silicon Valley."

After the Air Force moved her own family from Texas to New Mexico and then California, Nevada and Mississippi, they landed back in California, where she graduated from high school in south Los Angeles and earned multiple degrees, including a doctorate, from California State University at Sacramento, with a specialty in teaching English learners.

She taught in migrant camps and Catholic schools. Later, after earning a public-school teaching credential, she launched a program for English learners, working as a teacher, principal and assistant school superintendent in the Sacramento area.

She said she was attracted to this area by the challenge of educating English learners in an urban community surrounded by affluence.

"That's what drew me — just being right here with Facebook and all the other IT companies that are so wildly successful and also being surrounded by very wealthy communities — Menlo Park, Atherton, Palo Alto.

"The dichotomy is interesting for me," she said.

Barely a month into the job, she is meeting with teachers and community groups, as well as officials from charter schools and surrounding school districts to get the lay of the land.

She estimates her district loses 800 to 900 students whose parents have chosen alternatives to Ravenswood, including private schools, charter schools and



Photo by Veronica Weber/Palo Alto Weekly

Gloria Hernandez is the new superintendent of the Ravenswood City School District.

the Tinsley Voluntary Transfer Program, in which Ravenswood students attend schools in other districts, including in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside.

Her main message to those parents: "I think we can provide a high-quality education right here in Ravenswood. We have people who are committed, and we have principals who are working very hard to provide that consistency and support for the teachers so they're doing the best job possible."

Though Ravenswood's Academic Performance Index has jumped nearly 100 points in the last five years, to 712, it still falls short of the statewide goal of 800. But Ms. Hernandez maintains that a focus on that single metric can be misleading.

"Parents want the best for their children so when they see a nicer facility and they see some of the things provided in our surrounding districts based in large part on the fact that the community is wealthier, they believe their child will receive a better education there," she said.

"However, we've had other superintendents and people who do the data in surrounding districts tell us that they have huge challenges in working with our students, a lot of it being around English learning and the fact that, when they're bused, they can't participate in after-school activities.

'Sometimes teachers don't know how great an impact they have on families.'

SUPERINTENDENT
GLORIA HERNANDEZ

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Park to be dedicated in North Fair Oaks

Submitted by Sandy Stafford-Cecil, park committee chair, and Kathi Peregrin, community volunteer.

A small pocket park at Bay Road and 18th Avenue in North Fair Oaks will be dedicated at 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21. The project, located on a parcel of Hetch Hetchy land owned by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), was a collaboration between the Fair Oaks Beautification Association (FOBA), SFPUC, local businesses and neighbors.

Planning and fundraising for the park began once the new Hetch Hetchy pipeline was completed in the area over two years ago. Funds for the park, which cost approximately \$50,000, were raised through donations from neighbors in the community where the park is located, the Arrillaga Foundation, Westmont Real Estate Services, LLC, David D. Bohannon Organization, and San Mateo County.

In-kind donations of materi-

als were received from Horizon Irrigation, Peninsula Building Materials, Ewing Irrigation, Heavenly Greens, Lyngso Garden Materials, Netafim USA, landscape architect Mara Young and Janet Bell and Associates, landscape contractor.

San Mateo County Supervisor Warren Slocum and Juliet Ellis from the SFPUC plan to attend the dedication ceremony.

FOBA is an all-volunteer, non-profit community organization established in 1996. Its mission is to improve the quality of life for residents in the North Fair Oaks neighborhood. Community volunteer efforts have included planting and caring for over 400 street trees, installing traffic-calming devices to make streets safer, building and maintaining a playground and open space area at the corner of Edison and Fair Oaks and producing "Avenues," a neighborhood newsletter.

For more information, contact Sandy Stafford-Cecil, park committee chair, at (650) 323-6003 or sstaffordcecil@gmail.com.

HERNANDEZ

continued from page 14

"So it doesn't necessarily guarantee them a better education — it just maybe seems better," she said.

One of her short-term goals is to spruce up facilities on Ravenswood's eight campuses, including playgrounds. She'd also like people to know about the district's comprehensive preschool, the Child Development Center, serving kids ages 3 to 5.

She wants to expand small programs that have shown success on one campus, such as the Readers and Writers Workshop at Costano, to other schools.

She also wants to do more with self-paced, computerized instruction. At the same time she insists: "No matter what program you have, you really have to have a quality teacher to guide students and lead them in their learning."

Though the details are still up for grabs in Sacramento, she anticipates that Gov. Jerry Brown's newly enacted "local control funding formula" will add significantly to Ravenswood's coffers.

She hopes to — literally — start broadcasting the news to parents, in English and Spanish. "We've been told which radio station most parents listen to,

and we're looking for a time conducive to that," she said.

"We'd like half-hour radio spots each week where there will be information from the district on upcoming events and things like the A-G (college entrance) requirements, how to work with your child, how to support them even if you don't speak English, things to ask your teachers when you go to parent conferences so parents can come in and feel more secure," she said.

Her ideal program would include an "ask the teacher" segment to which parents could call in questions. "We did this at my old district (Twin Rivers Unified School District near Sacramento)," she said, noting that federal funds targeted for English learners and parent involvement can be used to pay for it.

"It's a very effective way to use it, and it really works," she said.

She also plans to use the San Jose public relations firm Ford and Bonilla, hired by her predecessor Maria De La Vega, to get the word out about Ravenswood.

"My goal is to make sure we're utilizing all our strengths and providing a very consistent academic environment across the board and that we're able to guarantee all our children are getting a quality education. And I want parents to know that," she said. ■

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STANFORD
MEDICINE

Fall book fair benefits MP Friends of Library

By Jane Knoerle
Almanac Lifestyles Editor

The Friends of the Menlo Park Library will hold a fall book fair on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 21 and 22, at the library in the Menlo Park Civic Center at 800 Alma St.

Adult categories, such as history, biography, fiction, mystery, cooking, classics and collectibles, will be for sale in the library's downstairs meeting room. Books for young readers, DVDs, films, and sets of books will be displayed in the grounds around the library entrance.

The Saturday sale hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.. On Sunday the sale begins at noon with a bag sale (fill up a bag for \$5). All items will be half price until the sale closes at 2 p.m.

For more information, call Tim Goode at 325-3001.

There With Care benefit event

There With Care, a Menlo Park-based organization that provides services to children and families during a medical crisis, is holding its first benefit on Sunday, Sept. 22, at a

home in Atherton.

The sold-out event will include a wine reception, silent and live auctions, dinner and program. More than 100 guests are expected to sample the culinary art of Dominique Crenn of Atelier Crenn in San Francisco and Stephen Durfee of the Culinary Institute of America at Greystone in the Napa Valley (previously of the French Laundry).

Since launching its Bay Area chapter in 2012, There With Care has served more than 170 families referred by Lucile Packard Children's Hospital.

Cooking classes at Iberia

The first fall Spanish cooking class at Iberia restaurant in Menlo Park will feature paella on the patio. Owner/chef Jose Luis Relinque says the class is designed to make paella experts of even the most novice cooks. He will create both traditional and non-traditional paellas outdoors at the restaurant and guests will enjoy tapas and sangria while they work.

There are two classes: 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 28, and 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 19.

AROUND TOWN

Guests meet next door at the Rock of Gibraltar specialty food store (associated with Iberia) at 1022 Alma St. Cost is \$115.

The Basque Country's culinary traditions will be featured in a class at 11 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 6. A sweet pepper casserole, pimiento peppers stuffed with salt cod, and lamb braised in vinegar with paprika and garlic are dishes Chef Jose Luis Relinque will prepare. Cost is \$125.

Iberia, at 1026 Alma St. in Menlo Park, will also feature classes on tapas, holiday meals, and guisos (one pot meals) and the art of braising.

Visit iberiarestaurant.com for more information.

Workshop on Japanese tea

A Japanese tea ceremony will be featured in "The Way of Tea" workshop to be held from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5, at the San Mateo County History Museum, 2200 Broadway in Redwood City. Led by Aki Mori, the workshop will include the etiquette,

history and philosophy of the way of tea. Fee is \$15. To reserve, call 299-0104.

Ride for Ravenswood

The fifth annual Ride for Ravenswood to benefit the Ravenswood Family Health Center will be held Sunday, Oct. 6, beginning and ending at 210 Park Lane in Atherton.

The event is for cyclists looking for the challenge of a 50-mile coastal route or a milder 30-mile Portola loop ride. A short 2-mile walk is available to families. Cyclists check-in time is 7 a.m. Riders depart at 8 a.m. Walkers check-in at 7:30 a.m. and depart at 8:30 a.m.

Registration is \$100 for cyclists and \$25 for walkers and includes breakfast and a light lunch.

Go to ravenswoodfhc.org to register.

'One from the Heart' breakfast

More than 650 guests are expected to attend the annual "One from the Heart" awards breakfast to be held from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 10, at

the Crowne Plaza Cabana Hotel in Palo Alto. The event, a benefit for Pathways Hospice Foundation, honors individuals and organizations that have made an enduring contribution to Pathways and end-of-life care.

Tony Mendez, co-author of the book "Argo," will be guest speaker. Mr. Mendez and his wife, Jonna, both retired CIA agents, will tell the story behind the book and the movie.

Seats for the breakfast begin at \$100. Over the past 23 years, One from the Heart awards breakfasts have raised more than \$4 million for Pathways hospice and home health care.

Go to pathwayshealth.org/oftoh or call 408-730-1200 to make reservations.

Rancho Day Fiesta

The San Mateo Historical Association will hold the annual Rancho Day Fiesta from noon to 4 pm. Saturday, Sept. 21, at the Sanchez Adobe, 1000 Linda Mar Blvd. in Pacifica.

The family-friendly day will feature early California music

See **AROUND TOWN**, page 17



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Local teen organizes literacy drive

By Emma Marsano
Special to the Almanac

It all started when a friend and I entered a Reading Rainbow contest in third grade," says Emerald Hills teen Ryan Traynor of his efforts to spread literacy in the Redwood City and North Fair Oaks area.

Ryan, now 14, has been promoting local literacy since 2008, when he won the Bay Area's Reading Rainbow Young Writers and Illustrators Contest for his age group. Entrants submitted stories they had written and illustrated, and winners were selected for their creativity.

One of Ryan's friends entered the same contest, and took third place in the same age group despite his ADHD and dyslexia. According to Ryan, this success motivated his friend to devote more time to schoolwork. His friend's renewed interest in academics helped Ryan appreciate the importance of reading and writing in all young students' lives.

A member of Boy Scout Troop 149, Ryan focused his



"I realized that I was the only one reading to them," says Ryan Traynor of his volunteering to read books to preschoolers in North Fair Oaks.

interest in the power of literacy toward attaining his reading merit badge by working with the Redwood City Public Library's Traveling Storytime program, starting at age 11. Ryan didn't stop when he earned his badge. He's continued working with Traveling Storytime for the past three years, volunteering to read books aloud to preschoolers in North Fair Oaks.

"I realized that I was the only one reading to them," says Ryan of the children he worked with, many of whom

didn't own a single book.

Earlier this year, he created the Redwood City Youth Literacy Council as part of the Redwood City Library Foundation. He contacted six local high schools besides his own (St. Francis High School) and selected eight students to form the council, which recruits volunteers to help with literacy fairs, fundraisers and other events.

Ryan's latest effort, backed by the Youth Literacy Council, is a book drive from Oct. 1 to 15. People and organizations are invited to contribute new or gently used books for kids, ages 6 to 18.

A list of about 20 drop-off locations includes Woodside High School and Menlo School. Ryan's goal is to collect at least 3,000 books over the two-week drive. The books will be distributed to underprivileged kids through outreach programs run by the Redwood City Library Foundation.

Visit redwoodcitybookdrive.blogspot.com for a list of drop-off locations. ■

AROUND TOWN

continued from page 16

and dancing, crafts for children, and demonstrations of bygone trades. Rancho style refreshments will be served. There will be a \$1 suggested donation in addition to charges for food and crafts.

Francisco Sanchez, owner of Rancho San Pedro (present day Pacifica), built the adobe between 1842 and 1846 at the end of the Mexican period of California history.

Taylor Eigsti

Taylor Eigsti, a Grammy-nominated jazz pianist and composer, will play at the benefit for Ability Production from 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21, at Palo Alto Children's Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road in Palo Alto.

"We are very happy that

Taylor, who grew up in Menlo Park, is donating his talent and time to support our fundraising efforts," says Jeramy Hale, co-founder of Ability Production. Tickets start at \$50 and are available at the door.

Ability Production is a non-profit organization providing support and education for those dealing with spinal cord injuries. Founded in 2004 by Molly and Jeramy Hale, Ability Production is located in Menlo Park.

Free yoga classes

Menlo Pilates & Yoga is offering a number of free classes during September, National Yoga Month. Located at 1011 El Camino Real in Menlo Park, the studio offers a wide range of yoga, pilates and zumba classes.

Go to menlopilatesandyoga.com for a list of free classes and the regular class schedule. ■



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Real-world learning for Summer Academy students

Submitted by Joel Kriner of Santa Rosa, a charter school teacher who focuses on real-world and project learning.

I taught this summer at the Summer Academy of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula, which held classes in Menlo Park, Redwood City and Palo Alto. My goal was to provide real-world learning opportunities for my fifth- through eighth-grade students. The best way to do this was to reach out to the com-

munity around us in hopes of extending our classroom.

The students' final summer project was to write a one-page document about a topic of their choice. Students wrote recipes, play scripts, letters, songs, news articles and more.

Their page needed to be edited and written in proper format. From there, students followed through on the "go public" portion of their project by bringing their page to life.

Many times students work

GUEST ARTICLE

hard on projects but they do not have the opportunity to share their efforts and ideas outside the classroom. The Summer Academy students enjoyed sharing their projects with the public. They cooked and shared their recipes, performed their play scripts, sent letters and emails to companies, produced and recorded songs, and sent news articles to local media outlets.

From the experience, students understand how they can be part of the community, that

their opinions matter, and that their community will embrace them positively.

Here is a small glimpse into the mind of one of my students, a sixth-grader, who writes on a topic she feels passionate about. 'Air Pollution' by Yaritza

Air pollution is a big problem, with effects that include global warming and lung cancer.

Many industrialized countries have tried to reduce sulfur dioxide, smog, and smoke to improve people's health, but recent studies indicate that lower sulfur dioxide levels can make global warming worse. Sulfur dioxide from volcanoes can cool the planet by blocking the sunlight.

Otherwise, governments are taking measures to limit the emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. One way is through the Kyoto Protocol,

an agreement between countries to cut back on carbon dioxide emissions. Another way is to tax carbon emissions or raise taxes on gasoline, and then people and companies will have more incentives to conserve gas and pollute less.

We can reduce air pollution by following these tips:

- Reduce your food miles by growing your own garden and not buying many prepacked food.

- Use paints and cleaning products that give out less smog-producing particles.

- When you refuel your car, be careful not to spill fuel and close your gas cap tightly.

- Take advantage of natural energy.



Joel Kriner



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY NOTICE OF A PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS X7D-151 AND X7D-169 AND PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION SPRING RIDGE LLC 555 PORTOLA ROAD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission of the Town of Portola Valley will conduct a public hearing at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 2, 2013 to consider proposed amendments to the subject Conditional Use Permits (CUP) which regulate winery and other agricultural uses and building floor area and impervious surface limitation relative to the 229-acre parcel located at 555 Portola Road (APN: 067-340-110), owned by Spring Ridge LLC. The requests for CUP amendment have been filed by Dr. Kirk Neely and Ms. Holly Myers on behalf of Spring Ridge LLC. The amendments specifically request that CUP X7D-169 be modified to allow for up to 6.5 acres of other agricultural uses, including potentially up to 5.5 acres of new vineyards, for the northerly portion of the approximately 14 acres of town general plan "Meadow Preserve" area located on the subject property. Within the 6.5 acres area, CUP X7D-169 already allows for an agricultural building with new service road access, haying and, at the northern and western edges of the Meadow Preserve area, orchard and fruit and vegetable uses. The amendment to CUP X7D-151 would recognize the new vineyard area as part of the Winery CUP and allow for processing of grapes from the proposed "Meadow Preserve" vineyard at the existing winery facilities operated under the provisions of CUP X7D-151. These provisions and those of X7D-169 do not allow for sale of agricultural products or wine at the site and these limitations would not change with the proposed amendments.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the October 2, 2013 public hearing will be continued to the October 16, 2013 Planning Commission meeting and then to the November 6, 2013 Planning Commission meeting for circulation of the proposed Negative Declaration for the CUP amendment project. All reports, plans and documents associated with the project will be available for review in the Portola Valley Planning Department at 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, California on September 27, 2013.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the proposed Negative Declaration regarding the above described project will be available for public review from September 27, 2013 to October 28, 2013. The Planning Commission will initiate consideration of the proposed project and Negative Declaration at its meeting on October 2, 2013 at 7:30 p.m., in the Historic School House meeting room at the Town Center at 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, California. Project consideration will be continued as noted above to allow time for circulation of the proposed Negative Declaration and response to comments that are received on it. Before taking action on the project and proposed Negative Declaration, the Planning Commission will consider all evidence, written and oral, pertaining to the project and proposed Negative Declaration. All interested persons are invited to appear before the Planning Commission at the times above-mentioned.

Dated: September 12, 2013
Signed: Tom Vlasic, Town Planner

Visit bgcp.org for more information about the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula.
Email Joel Kriner at joelkriner@gmail.com for more information on project-based learning.

Menlo Park Friends of the Library

Book Sale

Saturday, September 21st
10am – 2pm

Sunday, September 22nd
12pm – 2pm - \$5 Bag Sale



Book Sale reminders



friendsmpl.org/bse

Featuring a wide selection of gently used books for everyone in your family!

Art & collectible, biography, children's, cooking, fiction, history, literature, mystery, science-fiction/fantasy, religion & philosophy, young adult books, and much more!

2 Areas at the Library!

All funds raised support Menlo Park Library programs and events

HOMELESS SHELTER

continued from page 5

the 700 block of Willow Road, was also included as a potential housing site, but didn't require rezoning.

The May update came as part of a lawsuit settlement over the city's failure to comply with state housing law for the past 10 years. Menlo Park had to find sites where zoning changes could allow construction of about 900 new housing units, with 454 units dedicated to affordable housing. The settlement also requires the city to provide zoning incentives for developers to build affordable housing, including within the new downtown/El Camino Real specific plan.

Go to tinyurl.com/MP-heu to review the workshop materials and other documents for the city's housing plan update. Staff will present a report on community feedback to the Housing Element Steering Committee at its Oct. 17 meeting. Serving on the committee are council members Peter Ohtaki and Rich Cline; housing commissioners Carolyn Clarke and Sally Cadigan; and planning commissioners Katie Ferrick and Katherine Strehl. ■

BIRTHS

Menlo Park

- Jama Adams and Brian Fishman, a son, Aug. 17, Sequoia Hospital.

- Evan and Curt Herberts, a son, Aug. 27, Sequoia Hospital.

Emerald Hills

- Kristen and Benjamin Potter, a daughter, Aug. 28, Sequoia Hospital.

Calendar

MEETINGS, MUSIC, THEATER, FAMILY ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Visit AlmanacNews.com/calendar to see more calendar listings

Special Events

2nd Alarm Chili Cook-off and BBQ This benefit for the Woodside Fire Protection District will feature firefighter demos, live music, an auction, kids' games, a prize drawing, food and drink. Tickets available online. Sept. 29, 4-7 p.m. \$35/adult; \$15/children under 12. Runnymede Farm, 980 Runnymede, Woodside. Call 650-851-1594. www.FireDistrictFoundation.org

Artistry in Fashion The Canada College fashion department hosts its 22nd annual "Artistry in Fashion" event that features 60 designers selling clothing, jewelry and other fashions. Visitors can tour the fashion department's open house from noon to 3 p.m. Sept. 28, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$10 entry donation, free parking. Canada College, 4200 Farm Hill Blvd., Woodside. Call 650-306-3370. www.ArtistryinFashion.com

On Stage

'And Miss Reardon Drinks A Little' This dark comedy explores the lives of the three Reardon sisters, who have recently lost their mother. Thursday-Saturday, Aug. 29-Sept. 22, 8 p.m. \$15-\$35. Dragon Theatre, 2120 Broadway St., Redwood City. Call 650-493-2006 ext. 2.

'Cabaret' Broadway by the Bay presents "Cabaret," the musical. Friday-Sunday, Sept. 13-29, 8-10 p.m. \$40-\$60. Fox Theater, 2215 Broadway St., Redwood City. Call 650-369-7770. www.foxrwc.com

Authors & Talks

Art & Poetry Reception Persian artist and poet Fariba Raisi will be at the Woodside Library to celebrate her "Room with a View" art collection, which is on display through September. Sept. 21, 2-3 p.m. Free. Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside. www.smcl.org/

David M. Kennedy: 'The Modern American Military' The advent of the all-volunteer force and the evolving nature of modern warfare have transformed the military, says David Kennedy, who edited this volume. Sept. 24, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com/event/david-m-kennedy

Jennifer duBois will discuss her new book, "Cartwheel," a novel about an American foreign exchange student arrested for murder and a father trying to hold his family

together. Oct. 2, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321.

Khaled Hosseini in conversation with Tamim Ansary Two writers (Khaled Hosseini, author of "The Kite Runner," and Tamim Ansary, of "West of Kabul, East of New York") provide insights about Afghanistan and U.S. involvement. They will also talk about Hosseini's personal journey from an immigrant to a doctor, a bestselling novelist, and then a human-rights advocate. Sept. 27, 7:30 p.m. \$20. Fox Theatre, 2215 Broadway St., Redwood City. Call 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com/event/khaled-hosseini-tamim-ansary

Nick Taylor: 'Father Junipero's Confessor' In his new book, Nick Taylor captures the atmosphere of early California and the politics of the era. Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com/event/nick-taylor

STEM Guest Lecture The Foothill College Science Learning Center presents its first science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) guest lecture featuring bioengineering research scientist Jonathan Trent, Ph.D. He will speak about his research with algae to produce energy. Sept. 19, Foothill College Physical Sciences & Engineering Center, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills. Call 650-949-6232. www.foothill.edu/SLI/speakers.html

Community Events

Left Bank Beer Pairing Event Left Bank Menlo Park hosts "La Fete de la Biere" with \$30 four-course prix fixe tasting menu paired with 21st Amendment Brewery beers. Available lunch and dinner. Also special prices on pints of beer and four-beer sampler flights. Additional beer pairing event scheduled in October. Sept. 21-22, 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Left Bank Brasserie, 635 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-473-6543. www.LeftBank.com

Lifetree Cafe Conversations Twice a week, Lifetree Cafe will host an hour of stories and conversation about life and religion. Wednesdays from 7 to 8 p.m. and Thursdays from 9:15-10:15 a.m. Sept. 25-Oct. 31, 7-8 p.m. Free. Bethany Lutheran Church, 1095 Cloud Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-854-5897. www.facebook.com/LifetreeCafeMP

Redwood City Salsa Festival Multiple stages featuring a variety of Latin music, including salsa and jazz. Amateur and professional salsa chefs will compete for prizes at

the Salsa Tasting and Competition. Sept. 28, Noon-8 p.m. Free. Courthouse Square, 2200 Broadway St., Redwood City. www.redwood-city.org/events/salsafest.html

Kids & Families

Vered's Music Concert Vered's music is about the connection between parents and their babies. Oct. 1, 1:30 p.m. Free. Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 650-328-2422. www.smcl.org

Youth Event: Ally Carter will read from her latest book, "United We Spy." Sept. 19, 7 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park.

Youth Event: Jonathan Stroud will read from his new book, "The Screaming Staircase," a supernatural thriller set in London. Sept. 18, 7 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park.

Live Music

Classical Music on the Square with Bay Shore Lyric Opera Bay Shore Lyric Opera Company was founded in 1996 by a group of musicians and singers in order to bring opera to all ages and all communities, as well as to educate and entertain. They will perform selections from various opera arias and ensembles. Sept. 22, 5 p.m. Free. Courthouse Square, 2200 Broadway St., Redwood City. www.redwoodcity.org/events/musiconthesquare.html

Redwood Symphony's 'Don Quixote' will launch the 2013-14 season of the Redwood Symphony in Richard Strauss's production based on the Cervantes classic. The program will also include "Rumanian Rhapsody No. 1" and Riegger's "Dance Rhythms." Soloist will be Dahna Rudin, cellist. Sept. 28, 8-10 p.m. \$10-\$30. CaOada College Main Theatre, 4200 Farm Hill Blvd., Redwood City. www.redwoodsymphony.org

Teen Activities

Young Adult Event: Fierce Reads Tour This event will feature readings from Marissa Meyer ("Cinder and Scarlet"), S.A. Bodeen ("The Fallout," the sequel to "The Compound") and Alexandra Coultts ("Tumble and Fall"). Oct. 1, 7 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. www.keplers.com

Young Adult Event: Kendare Blake, Anna Carey, and Michelle Gagnon This event will feature readings from "Anti-goddess" by Kendare Blake; "Rise: An Eve," by Anna Carey and "Don't Turn Around"

Submitting items for the Calendar

Submit information online. Go to TheAlmanacOnline.com and on the green navigation bar on the left, click on "Calendar Event." That will take you to the Palo Alto Online Master Community Calendar page with a form to enter your information. If the event is of interest to a large number of people, also e-mail a press release to Editor@AlmanacNews.com.

Et Alia

29th Annual Moonlight Run and Walk The Palo Alto Weekly and the city of Palo Alto's 29th Annual Moonlight Run and Walk will be held under the full Harvest moon. There will be a 5K walk, 5K run and 10K run. Sept. 20, 7-10 p.m. \$20-\$30. Baylands Athletic Center, 1900 Geng Road, Palo Alto. Call 650-326-8210. www.moonlightrun2013.eventbrite.com/

Meet a Visionary & Pitch Your Ideas with VC Ann Winblad At this talk, work-

shop and pitch session with venture capitalist Ann Winblad, she will share her story and listen to business ideas from girls (ages 12-18). Parents are invited. This is a small event (maximum 20 girls) and the top two pitches will receive \$100 cash prizes. Sept. 24, 4-6 p.m. \$5/\$12; Free for volunteers. Bay Area College of Nursing, 824 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto. Call 617-755-3848. www.gjwinblad.eventbrite.com/

Atherton Library Family Movie Night "Rise of the Guardians" (97 minutes, rated PG). Refreshments provided by the Friends of the Library. Sept. 27, 7-8:45 p.m. Free. Atherton Library, 2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane, Atherton. Call 650-328-2422. www.smcl.org

Martha Stevens

September 15, 1923 – September 1, 2013

Martha Stevens, a resident of Menlo Park, was called to the welcoming arms of Jesus on Sunday, September 1st, after a long-term battle with cancer. She was 89.

She is survived by her husband of 56 years, Charles Stevens, sons Paul and Mark, daughter Teresa, daughter-in-law Kathleen and two granddaughters Reina & Mia in addition to her sister Mary, brother Rudy and sister-in-law Shirley Stevens.

Martha was born in Tampa, Florida, moved to San Francisco in the 1930s and settled in Redwood City in 1941.

She worked for White Motor Company in San Francisco, Towne Ford in Redwood City and at Tools & Gages in San Carlos for 30 years as a bookkeeper.

Among other activities, she also volunteered at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Menlo Park.

Martha loved her garden and the flowers that bloomed in every season. In addition, she loved to prepare wonderful meals for her family and friends and enjoyed taking vacations on cruise ships with other family members.

She often expressed great joy in her three children and especially in her two granddaughters. A memorial service was held Saturday, Sept 14, at 10:30 a.m. at the Church of the Nativity, located at 210 Oak Grove Ave. in Menlo Park.

Martha will be interred at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Los Altos.

PAID OBITUARY

Phyllis Marie Ullman

July 14, 1921 – September 9, 2013

Menlo Park, California

Phyllis Marie Ullman, 92, passed away peacefully Sept 9 at her Menlo Park home.

Ms. Ullman, native of Iowa; graduated from Clarke College, Dubuque, in dietetics and from Stanford Univ with a MA in Education. Her career as a Registered Dietitian spanned over 50 years. After serving 2 years as a Staff Dietitian in the US Army, the Palo Alto Medical Foundation hired her as their first outpatient dietitian, when it opened in 1949. During her 20 years at PAMC, she taught many people to live healthful lives through better nutrition. She was a nutrition researcher for the Stanford Research Institute, ICCND nutrition survey in Nigeria, US Ten State Nutrition Survey and Stanford Heart Disease Prevention Program. She was a mentor to many dietitians in California. She served as President of the California Dietetic Association and in 1985 was awarded the Distinguished Service Award.

Her brother William Ullman lives in Portland Oregon with his wife. She was a loving aunt to 27 nephews and nieces. She will be missed by her many friends and colleagues.

Her husband, Ralph Blom, brothers John, Paul and Gerald Ullman and sister, Bernice Greig, preceded her in death.

A Christian Memorial Service will be held at St. Raymond Catholic Church, Menlo Park on September 20 at 10 am followed by interment at Skylawn Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to CA Dietetic Assoc, 7740 Manchester Ave. #102, Playa del Rey, CA 90293.

PAID OBITUARY

Alan Bruce Miller

July 9, 1931-September 3, 2013

Alan B. Miller passed away at age 82 after a long and bravely fought battle against multiple cancers and COPD with the same brave determination and zest for life that he manifested during his entire lifetime. His favorite saying was "it might have kept an ordinary man down!"

As a long time resident of the Bay Area, he owned and operated Heart Construction Company for 32 years. He was one of the founding fathers of Bay Area Bank in Redwood City, which is now a Wells Fargo Branch. He was a long time Board member and President of the Peninsula Builders Exchange, and a past exalted Ruler of the Elks Club in Redwood City.

He raised 3 daughters with his wife Mary Jean Miller of 30 years in Atherton CA. He enjoyed being a little league baseball coach during their childhood.

He was a great father, wonderful friend, had a great sense of humor and enjoyed time with his kids, skiing, fishing, playing tennis and cards.

Later he was involved in the Evangelical Church in Redwood City and volunteered construction of

a Recreation Center. One of his life changing opportunities was teaching bible classes to children throughout India. He discovered his passion for travel with retirement in 1985. He remarried Ursula

Von Brun in 1987; they built a beautiful house together in Woodside and shared their passions for travel, skiing, tennis and golf. Their love of golf led the two of them to Lake Las Vegas for the winters and Truckee, CA for the summers.

He is survived by his wife Ursula, his 3 daughters, Kathy Sarrett, Patricia Brodie, and Julie Magness, and his 4 grandchildren, Alan Sarrett, Sara Sarrett, Keegan Brodie, and Kelsey Brodie.

Services will be private.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be sent to Peninsula Outreach Programs, 2995 Woodside Road, Suite 400-429, Woodside, CA. 90642: a scholarship fund has been set up in his memory to provide Conductive Education to low income families with motor challenged children in Calif. and Nevada.



PAID OBITUARY

The Palo Alto Art Center, Bay Area Glass Institute, and the Palo Alto Art Center Foundation present

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Midnight Munchies offers late-night cookies

By Jane Knoerle
 Almanac Lifestyles Editor

Do you get those late night sweet tooth cravings? You're not alone, says Mark Sherry, whose Midnight Munchies Bakery now provides late-night cookie delivery service to Menlo Park, Atherton and Palo Alto on Friday and Saturday nights from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Although Stanford students are his best customers, pregnant women, new mothers and families who don't want to venture out late at night, are also experiencing the "midnight munchies," he says.

The cookies, which go by such fanciful names as Double Rainbow, Peanut Butter Jelly Time, Chocolate Rain, Boom Goes the Dynamite, and Annoying Orange, sell six for \$7.50 and are baked to order. If you want

milk, that sells for \$1.75 for an 8-ounce container. A minimum order is \$12. Estimated delivery time is 45 to 60 minutes.

The bakery, which opened in November of last year, has been providing catering service to residents and businesses, as well as nationwide shipping. Its kitchen is located in space leased from Studio Cakes at 104 Gilbert St. in Menlo Park.

Midnight Munchies owner, Mark Sherry, a 2009 graduate of Carnegie Mellon University with

a degree in economics, says he fills orders for Facebook, Google, and Hewlett-Packard, as well as for college students and families.

Moving to Palo Alto after college, he was struck by the fact that so few food services made late-night deliveries. That, and his interest in baking from the time he was a kid, led him to the Midnight Munchies Bakery concept.

"After all, why not do something that makes you happy for the rest of your life," he says.

Go to MidnightMunchiesBakery.com or call (650) 479-4447 for more information. ■

EVs hold classes for junior naturalists

Environmental Volunteers, a nonprofit that promotes environmental education in the schools, is holding Junior Naturalist classes for students in grades 3 through 5.

Kids interested in Bay Area marine science can attend four Wednesday classes, from Oct. 16 through Nov. 6, at the EcoCenter, 2560 Embarcadero Road in the Palo Alto Baylands. The classes run

from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. each day.

The cost of the classes is \$75. Participants receive a T-shirt and daily snacks, and engage in activities such as catching and studying fish and invertebrates from the San Francisco Bay, and interacting with live birds of prey.

Visit EVols.org or call 493-8000, ext. 345, for more information or to register.

PENINSULA

DINE OUT

Discover the best places to eat this week!

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

The Old Pro

326-1446
 541 Ramona Street, Palo Alto
www.oldpro.com

ITALIAN

Cucina Venti

254-1120
 1390 Pear Ave, Mountain View
www.cucinaventi.com

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

Thaiphoon

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www.ThaiphoonRestaurant.com

Read and post reviews,
 explore restaurant menus,
 get hours and directions
 and more at [ShopPaloAlto](http://ShopPaloAlto.com),
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Collision sends 3 cyclists to hospital

A collision on Sept. 5 in Woodside involving three bicyclists and a vehicle sent the cyclists to the hospital with major injuries, according to the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office.

The driver, heading south on Canada Road, had

stopped shortly after 6:10 p.m. at the intersection to the western entrance to Canada Community College, deputies said.

The driver made a left turn onto the college grounds and three northbound cyclists riding in a bike lane in a tri-

angular formation broadsided the vehicle, deputies said. All three were thrown from their bikes, deputies said.

After a detailed investigation, deputies said they determined that the driver was talking on a cell phone at the time of the collision.

■ POLICE CALLS

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

WOODSIDE

Exhibit-of-weapon report: A student at Woodside High School brought a folding pocket knife to school and allegedly brandished it, with the blade open, at another Woodside student "in an aggressive and threatening manner," police said. The knife's owner is reported to have denied being aggressive or threatening, but deputies cited him, released him to the care of his mother, and booked his knife as evidence, Sept. 10.

Trespassing report: A resident of Hacienda Drive witnessed a man scaling the residence's 8-foot iron security gate and walking down the driveway. Upon being discovered, the man ran back to gate, climbed over it and fled in a Mercedes-Benz SUV, Sept. 7.

ATHERTON

Theft report: A resident of Barry Lane sold an item on eBay for \$50 to someone in Philadelphia, but has yet to receive payment, Sept. 8.

MENLO PARK

Residential burglary reports:

■ Someone entered a house under construction on Santa Cruz Avenue through an unlocked sliding rear door and stole six door handles for a loss estimated at \$400, Sept. 11.

■ By forcing open a window, someone entered a house on Van Buren Road, but took nothing. Police arrested a suspect on burglary charges, Sept. 12.

Commercial burglary reports:

■ Three doors of businesses in the 200 block of Middlefield Road were found to have pry marks on them, but no evidence of anyone having gained entry to the buildings, Sept. 10 and 11.

■ Police arrested a Redwood City man on suspicion of burglary, saying that the man allegedly absconded from the Safeway supermarket at 525 El Camino Real with three bottles of alcoholic beverages that he had not paid for, Sept. 10.

■ Police are looking for three women who abandoned a shopping cart in a store in the 500 block of El Camino Real and fled after being seen by a store manager. The manager spotted them attempting to leave the store with baby formula and baby wipes that had not been paid for, Sept. 12.

Auto burglary report: Someone broke a rear passenger window of a vehicle parked in the 2900 block of Sand Hill Road and stole a backpack containing a laptop computer and a carry-on bag containing clothing for an estimated loss of \$3,150, Sept. 8.

Theft reports:

■ Police are investigating accusations by a resident of Morey Drive that an acquaintance borrowed \$20,000 for a business investment and has yet to pay it back, Sept. 9.

■ A \$470 bicycle locked at a residence in the 900 block of Santa Cruz Avenue is missing, Sept. 11.

■ Someone stole a blue newspaper rack with a \$400 value from the first block of Middlefield Road, Sept. 11.

■ A \$225 cell phone inadvertently left in a public restroom in the 1300 block of Willow Road was missing when its owner returned to retrieve it, Sept. 6.

■ A woman left a \$200 Apple iPhone on a bench in the 500 block of Laurel Street and when she came back, it was gone, Sept. 11.

■ Four packages and an envelope with a total value of \$195 are missing from the front porch of a home on Marmona Drive, Sept. 7.

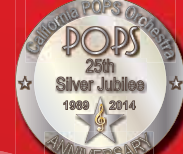
■ Medications bought by mail were found missing from a mailbox on Laurel Avenue, Sept. 12.

■ Police are looking for two suspects in the theft of a case of beer from a storage area behind the Safeway supermarket on Sharon Park Drive. A store employee interrupted the thieves in the act of stealing three cases of beer and recovered two of them, Sept. 12.

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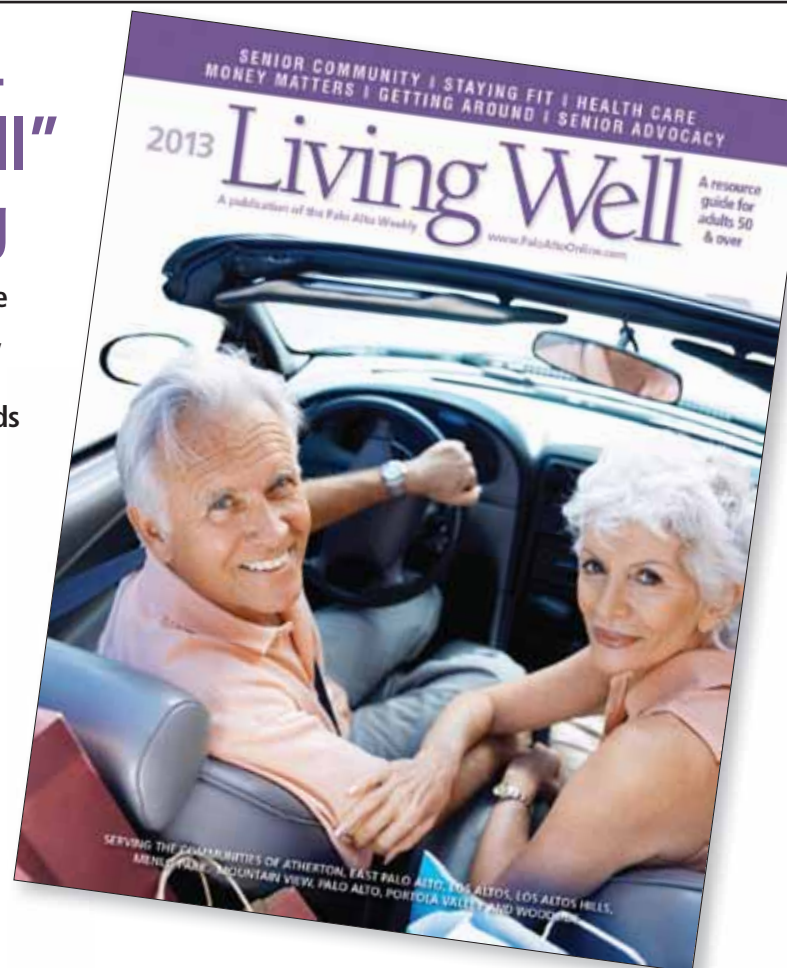
Tickets: Single \$37 to \$42, Youth \$15 Season: (all 6 shows) \$205 to \$260
Sept 22nd FREE Parking Lots 1 & 5 - FREE Shuttle to Theater from Lot 1

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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.

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Call the Viewpoint desk at 223-6507.

Viewpoint

IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES FROM PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY. EDITED BY TOM GIBBONEY

High school board tackles enrollment surge

The overseers of local high schools are now moving beyond the preliminary stages in confronting a very tough problem — how to squeeze an additional 1,700 students into its four high schools, some of which are already at or near maximum capacity.

At their meeting last week, board members of the Sequoia Union High School District (Menlo-Atherton, Woodside, Sequoia and Carmont) talked about this issue, the solutions to which will probably please some and not others.

Pleasing East Palo Alto students should be high on their agenda, and it is. These students are essentially neighbors of Menlo-Atherton but ride a bus to school, whether to Woodside High or Carmont, 11 miles away. Busing is a legacy from the 1980s and a court-ordered consent decree to the Sequoia district to diversify the ethnic makeup of its schools. For decades, the Ravenswood City Elementary School District students have been the sacrificial lambs for this diversity initiative. They are saying that they've had enough, and justifiably. They want to have the option to go to M-A.

To provide this option, the board may have to either add more classrooms to M-A or revise the attendance boundaries for other areas of the district, which might upset whatever neighborhood is chosen to attend another high school. With 2,000 students now at M-A, the district might have to enlarge the school to accept another 200 or 300 from Ravenswood.

Rather than wreck a long tradition of M-A attendance by students from North Fair Oaks and the Las Lomas district, as some parents fear might happen, a much better solution would be adding

classrooms — as long as they can be positioned in a way that will not disrupt the school.

In our view, the Ravenswood students should be given automatic entry to M-A in making the transition from busing them to other schools. Automatic entry would bring with it the significant benefit of looking after Ravenswood students who lack advocates to speak for them when choosing a high school. With open enrollment, they could still choose a school other than M-A.

It will be a challenge for the district to assess each high school and decide how and where to build new classrooms. Some will have to be added as second stories; others may fit on campuses at ground level. With a complete assessment, voters will have to approve a bond issue to pay for the added capacity. But the amount should be far less than the estimated \$200 million cost of a new high school, if a site could even be found.

It is heartening to see the board recognize that East Palo Alto students have borne the brunt of a moldering and out-of-date desegregation policy imposed on the district in the 1980s. Students have spent hours on buses every day just to get to school when they could have walked or biked just a few miles to M-A.

Now the Sequoia board members must craft a new open-enrollment policy that includes M-A privileges for Ravenswood students. With that accomplished, the board can then embrace another series of community meetings to be held this fall. On their collective plate are revisions to attendance boundaries and finding the money for capital improvements, particularly at M-A. A significant part of the coming jump in enrollment originates in Menlo Park.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS

Our readers write

Hieronymus Bosch and Jellich Ranch

Editor:

I read in the Sept. 4 issue the fine story about Ed Jellich and Jellich Ranch.

It put me in mind of an incident back in 1970 which caused a good deal of alarm in the neighborhood. It seems Walter got talked into renting the farm to a film crew for a movie. The Disney folks had shot some of Darby O'Gill and the Little People a few years back at the Folger Estate in Woodside and that worked out alright.

Walter was just a bit amazed, then shocked to see three school buses of hippies from UC Berkeley show up one Saturday morning along with a helicopter and three camera crews.

Walter stood forlornly looking on as 125 hippies took off their clothes and recreated the scene of Hieronymus Bosch's Garden of Earthly Delights. This was a film called Roseland (not the 1977 one) and, for the time, a big budget art film. It



Portola Valley Archives/Mimi Breiner

Our Regional Heritage

Developer Joe Whelan won approval to develop 205 homes on 453 acres in Portola Valley Ranch in 1973, an idea that Town Planner George Mader said was an experiment, not a precedent. The homes were clustered around cul de sacs and built to fit unobtrusively into the hills of the former Bovet Ranch. Here a herd of deer slips past two homes in the Ranch.

was racy 43 years ago but pretty tame by today's standards.

In the end there were more people in it than saw it and

I can't find a copy. Bosch's painting, though, is still pretty ahh ... fast, even today. I got a pretty good look at the whole

thing. I was one of the students on the bus.

Jamie MacNiven
Woodside

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