



Kelly brothers release
'Creative Confidence' | Page 3

The Almanac

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

OCTOBER 30, 2013 | VOL. 49 NO. 8



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This photo of the brothers (David is on the left and Tom on the right), with hats as props, was taken in a photo booth. The Kelley brothers have a tradition of sparking creativity by bringing in photo booths to birthday parties and other events.

Kelley brothers release 'Creative Confidence'

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

The whirlwind that is Tom Kelley was heading to San Francisco International Airport for "the ninth city in 10 days" on Oct. 23, another stop on the book tour for "Creative Confidence: Unleashing the Creative Potential Within Us All," which the long-time Menlo Park resident co-authored with brother David.

The two brothers are partners at IDEO, a global design and innovation firm noted for creating consumer products such as Apple's first mouse and the first stand-up, no-squeeze tube of toothpaste, as well as winning awards for innovations that have transformed business, government and health care.

David also founded Stanford University's Institute of Design school, while Tom, the best-selling author of "The Art

of Innovation" and "The Ten Faces of Innovation," sits on the faculty of the Haas School of Business at U.C. Berkeley and the University of Tokyo.

According to the book's preface, "Creative Confidence" took shape after the brothers vowed to collaborate on a project as well as take a "fun brother-brother trip" if David survived a bout with cancer. The trip took them to Tokyo and Kyoto; the collaboration led to a book about "helping people be more creative," as Tom described it.

He himself sounds nowhere close to running out of ideas.

At Kepler's: Tom and David Kelley will talk about their new work, "Creative Confidence: Unleashing the Creative Potential Within Us," at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6, at Kepler's bookstore, 1010 El Camino Real in Menlo Park. The event is free and seating is first come, first served.

Mr. Kelley applies the suggestions in his own day-to-day life, jotting down entries on a "bug list" of situations where he thinks, "Couldn't I do something about this?"

For instance: standing around the luggage carousel at the airport. "I try not to check a bag. But when I do, it's a very odd feeling — you're waiting there with 200 other people, all waiting for some black bag."

He said the greatest anxiety isn't whether your bag will appear in one minute or five minutes, but "Is my bag in this airport right now?"

A technological solution may be very close, Mr. Kelley suggested. Something that tells you "I'm your bag. I'm not there yet. I'm within 100 yards of you."

It's the lack of information that creates the anxiety, he said, whether you're waiting at the air-

See **KELLEY**, page 6

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Services set for couple killed by alleged drunk driver

■ Family requests no media.

By Sandy Brundage and Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writers

A private funeral service for Balbir and Kamal Kaur Singh will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 30, followed by a public memorial on Thursday, Oct. 31, according to Chapel of the Chimes in Hayward.

Photos, flowers and mementos have appeared on the path along Chilco Street where an alleged drunken driver killed the Menlo Park couple on Oct. 24 as they walked their dog. They leave behind three teenage children.

The driver, Marjorie Reitzell, 54, of Redwood City was arrested on two counts of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and two counts of felony driving under the influence, Menlo Park Police Cmdr. Dave Bertini said.

Convicted of a misdemeanor DUI in November 2012, she had a valid driver's license at

the time of Thursday's tragedy, according to law enforcement officials.

A preliminary screen showed that her blood alcohol on Oct. 24 was more than twice the legal limit of 0.08 percent, District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe said.

Ms. Reitzell was booked into jail over the weekend and scheduled for arraignment on Monday. However, just before court started, she complained of chest pains and was removed for medical treatment, according to the district attorney's office. The judge continued the arraignment.

Fatal collision

Streetlights but no sidewalks line the side of Chilco Street where Balbir Singh, 50, and Kamal Singh, 45, were walking their Chihuahua in the bike lane eastbound on Chilco Street, west of Constitution Drive, at around 6:50 p.m. when they were hit from behind by a 1998 Honda



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

A portrait of Balbir Singh, 50, and Kamal Singh, 45, is surrounded by candles and flowers at the site where they were killed by a suspected drunken driver, on Chilco Street, west of Constitution Drive, in Menlo Park.

accord driven by Ms. Reitzell, according to police.

Investigators said the Honda kept going, over the center median and into the west-

bound lane. It hit another car, causing minor damage and not injuring four passengers. The Honda then collided with a tree before

finally stopping.

Police arrived minutes after a 6:54 p.m. call reported see-

See SINGHS, page 8

Clarke releases answers to union questions

■ Jack Nelson is only candidate to decline to release answers.

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

How much influence the labor unions should have on the Menlo Park Fire Protection District board is the hot-button issue in this year's election, with Chuck Bernstein, Peter Carpenter and Rex Ianson running on a slate against the two candidates, Carolyn Clarke and Jack Nelson, who have accepted union support for their campaign.

The district has been embroiled in a years-long contract impasse with the firefighters union, primarily over disagreements about raises. Given that the directors will vote on any proposed contracts, does accepting union campaign support create a conflict of interest? Ms. Clarke and Mr. Nelson say no, while the other three candidates, among them a former smokejumper and a retired firefighter, say yes.

Ms. Clarke, candidate for the

■ ELECTION 2013

Check Almanacnews.com this week for information on campaign finance reports for the board election in the Menlo Park Fire Protection District.

board of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, has now released her answers to a questionnaire used by a labor union to help determine endorsements. She opted to provide her answers without disclosing the questions, as the San Mateo County Labor Council maintains those are confidential.

"Our endorsement process (is) an internal one and we ask candidates not to circulate their questionnaires. While some candidates may still (choose to) do so, out of respect for the process, we do not post or publish the responses," said SMCLC representative Julie Lind in response to the Almanac's request for copies.

Ms. Clarke's answers stated

that she and Mr. Nelson "have very similar goals and priorities" for the district, namely operational efficiency, successful labor negotiations, financial stability and increased community outreach.

As far as labor activities, Ms. Clarke said she would not cross a picket line, would support an organized labor boycott as well as binding arbitration for settling economic disputes between management and labor, and, "depending on the type of support required, if elected (she) would be willing to use public stature to support union organizing."

Three labor issues she feels strongly about are workforce diversity, standards for service excellence, and re-establishing and maintaining "normal labor relations."

Her answers stand in stark contrast with those of Mr. Bernstein, who had released his copy

See CLARKE RELEASES, page 8



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

A plaque dedicated to Catherine Fisher is located outside of Arrillaga Family Gymnastics Center in Menlo Park.

Remembering Cate Fisher

Sunshine and memories warmed the air on Saturday, Oct. 26, as about 40 family, friends and students attended the dedication of a memorial for Cate Fisher, a 19-year-old Menlo Park gymnastics instructor shot and killed two years ago. Oct. 26 would have been her birthday.

A plaque installed underneath a tree planted at the Arrillaga Family Gymnastics Center fea-

tures a haiku she wrote in the sixth grade.

Inside the facility, a play area for children now bears a sign with "Cate's Corner" written in



Cate Fisher

See CATE, page 8

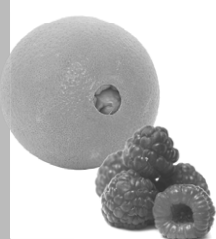
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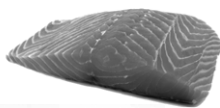
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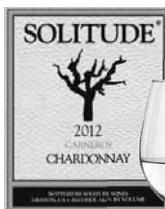
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Meetings set to discuss O'Connor campus plans

By Renee Batti
Almanac News Editor

Whether the \$23 million bond measure on the election ballot passes or fails, the Menlo Park City School District has scheduled a series of community meetings to provide information and hear ideas from residents about the building of a fourth elementary school at the O'Connor school site in Menlo Park.

The first meeting is set for Nov. 6 — the day after voters will decide on Measure W, which would raise the \$23 million district officials say is needed to build the school, on district-owned property in the Willows neighborhood. The district wants to open a new school, grades 3-5, to address the problem of a burgeoning enrollment that greatly surpassed projections from studies done in prior years, before the district's existing schools — Encinal and Laurel elementary schools in Atherton,

and Oak Knoll elementary and Hillview Middle in Menlo Park — were renovated.

Two meetings are scheduled in November: Wednesday, Nov. 6, from 7 to 9 p.m.; and Tuesday, Nov. 12, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Both are in the Laurel School multi-use room at 95 Edge Road in Atherton.

In addition to providing an opportunity for the public to comment, the district will discuss topics including the planning, design and construction schedule of the project, the initial school design options, the initial traffic design options, and the environmental review process.

Meetings to discuss the project are also scheduled for Dec. 10, Jan. 7 and Feb. 11.

The district has created a website with information and updates on the O'Connor plans at tinyurl.com/OConnorProject. Comments are also being taken through an email link at that site. ▀

KELLEY

continued from page 3

port or in the emergency room.

Waiting is a theme. Mr. Kelley wondered out loud why watches are the only everyday consumer product that requires going to a specialist to change the battery. As much as he likes the Menlo Clock Works Shop, "I wait in line behind other people getting their watch battery changed. Every time I think, 'What's wrong with this picture?' We've got busy days, we shouldn't be waiting in line at clock shops."

Also: A trustworthy program to convert spoken words to written. "I can speak much faster than I can write. We're 80 percent of the way there; it would be great if I could just say everything and trust it."

And: Discreet identification of people you run into around town. "I meet more people in a year than I think the human brain can contain. 'You don't remember me, do you?' I hate that question."

Google Glasses may be a step too far, but a little camera on a lapel that took a shot every time he shook someone's hand, and stored the person's name, that could work. "What I really want is something that whispers in my ear, 'That's Don Sanders.'"

Walking with wife Yumi — "we literally never go out without running into people she knows, and she gives me a running com-

mentary on when we met, what they wore and what they ate" — smooths over the encounters, but what to do when he's on his own? "Especially as I get older. It's a big issue. You look socially awkward when you bump into someone and don't recognize them; it's seen as rude."

Unasked questions

"Nobody's asked directly, 'Are books hard?' Absolutely," Mr. Kelley said, with emphasis. "At a minimum it's a year of your life.

This book, it was six years percolating, then writing seven days a week. I wrote on Christmas Day."

The two brothers will be speaking about their new book at Kepler's Books on Wednesday, Nov. 6.

"I almost cried the first time I went into Kepler's and saw how many thousands of books are there on the shelf. How many lives are represented, how many hours spent writing to make the books," Mr. Kelley said.

He shared a story from "Creative Confidence": While in high school, a friend got to ask legendary musician Yo-Yo Ma a question: "Isn't it wonderful not to have to practice every day?"

Mr. Ma responded: "I have bad news for you. I practice six hours a day."

"We're not saying creative work is easy," Mr. Kelley said, and paused before continuing. "It's hard. But it's hard and you love it." ▀

'We're not saying creative work is easy. It's hard. It's hard, but you love it.'

TOM KELLEY



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Bob Ward of Los Altos Hills, in the company of the CHP, leads cyclists through the intersection where Mr. Ward's wife Lauren died in a collision with a truck in November 2010. The new bike lanes incorporate green paint and other devices to alert drivers to cyclists' right-of-way.

Bike lanes open in memory of cyclist

By **Dave Boyce**
Almanac Staff Writer

Cyclists and officials from San Mateo County, the California Department of Transportation, the California Highway Patrol and the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition gathered Thursday, Oct. 24, in the parking lot of the Ladera Country Shopper mall to remember Lauren Perdriau Ward.

Ms. Ward, 47, and a resident of Los Alto Hills, died in November 2010 after her bicycle collided with a tractor trailer truck on Alpine Road as she and the truck were headed west under Interstate 280.

On Oct. 24, Ms. Ward's husband Bob and public officials gathered about a quarter mile west of the accident site to officially acknowledge sophisticated new bike lanes at the interchange. Installation was completed in mid-September.

The westbound bike lane

threads cyclists between freeway-bound and local traffic, while the eastbound lane hugs the curb. At on-ramps — where cyclists contend with merging vehicle traffic — the bike lanes are painted bright green and staggered into blocks. These alternating blocks of green and black pavement should alert motorists that they're sharing a right-of-way with cyclists, officials have said. Sets of diagonal white stripes alongside the bike lanes further demarcate them from traffic lanes.

"(Lauren's) death was the momentum that moved this project forward," Mr. Ward told the gathering of about 20. It's momentum that can be carried forward to other intersections "and really improve safety for all on the road," he added.

"I do think that this is a moment that is going to continue," CHP Capt. Mike Maskarich said a few minutes later. "These bike lanes will serve as a constant reminder that motor

vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians can co-exist safely."

Colored non-slip paint is widely used in European bike lanes and is increasingly popular in the United States, said Corinne Winter, the bicycle coalition's executive director.

Former state legislator Joe Simitian, now a Santa Clara County supervisor, recalled that Ms. Ward was among the first winners of his "There Oughta Be A Law contest," in which constituents submitted ideas for laws. "She was decent and wholesome and utterly clean of heart," Mr. Simitian said, "and sweet and determined." The bike lane can be a launching pad for similar efforts on the Peninsula, in the region and around the state, he added.

The law, adopted in 2002 and based on Ms. Ward's idea, requires antifreeze sold in California to contain a bittering agent to discourage accidental consumption by children, pets and wildlife. ■

DeGolia biggest fundraiser in Atherton race

By **Renee Batti**
Almanac New Editor

Rick DeGolia has raised far more funds — and has spent considerably more of that money — than his two competitors for a one-year seat on the Atherton City Council, the latest campaign finance reports show.

Mr. DeGolia has raised \$23,439 since July, and has spent \$8,181 through Oct. 19, the end of the current filing period.

Greg Conlon has raised \$8,950 and spent \$6,676 through Oct. 19. Diane Sandhu has raised \$5,650 and spent \$3,951 through the same period. Mr. Conlon's total includes \$4,500 in loans to his campaign, and Ms. Sandhu's

total reflects \$4,100 in loans to her campaign.

Mr. DeGolia's list of contributors includes many big spenders, and in some cases, big names. Google engineer Ross Koningstein of Atherton donated \$3,000 during this filing period, and former state controller and state chief financial officer Steve Westly of Atherton gave \$1,000 toward the campaign. B.H. Byers of Kleiner, Perkins, Caufield & Byers also gave \$1,000. E.A. Jekot contributed \$1,500.

Mr. DeGolia contributed \$950 to his own campaign. S. Byers of Woodside donated \$970.

Contributors listed in his campaign report as \$500 donors include M.G. Morris, Roslyn

Payne, H. Christensen, Laura Lauder, Barry Taylor of the Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati law firm, Elizabeth Taylor, Maryan Ackley, J. Hannay, M.A. Ladra, J. Manus, V. Gardner, and L. Freeman.

David Arscott donated \$1,000 to Mr. Conlon's campaign. Those listed as \$500 donors are: Dennis O'Brien, the Silicon Valley Association of Realtors, Richard Melbye, the Lincoln Club of Northern California, and Charles Munger.

Joe Haggarty contributed \$1,000 to Ms. Sandhu's campaign. Other donors include town volunteers and committee members Sandy Crittenden, who contributed \$300; and Joan Sanders, who gave \$200. ■

REAL ESTATE TRENDS

by *Samia Cullen*

How To Improve Your Credit Score Before Applying For a Loan



If you are planning to buy a house or refinance it's a great idea to start working on improving your credit score several months before you apply for a loan. Boosting your credit score could help you qualify for a lower loan rate.

Paying your bills on time is a must and has a big impact on your credit score. In addition here are other strategies that can make a difference:

Don't open new credit cards. Don't open or even apply for any credit cards within six months before applying for a loan. Lenders look at inquiries made within the past several months and may think that you've taken on new debt that hasn't yet been reported.

Don't close any credit cards. Lenders are very interested in the ratio of your current balance to the available limit. If you close a card that had a high credit limit but keep your balance the same on your other cards,

it will look as if you're maxing out your available credit, which can hurt your score.

Check your credit reports for errors. Checking your own credit score in advance prevents surprises when you apply for a mortgage. You can get free copies of your credit reports from each of the three credit bureaus every 12 months.

Start paying down your card balances. Paying down your cards is by far the best way to improve your scores quickly. Start early because the low balances don't always appear on your credit report right away.

Once you do start shopping for mortgage rates, try to limit that period to 30 days. Credit inquiries can affect your score if it looks to prospective lenders as if you're about to take on a lot of debt. The FICO score recognizes all inquiries for a mortgage made within a limited time period and it will count as one inquiry.

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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Clarke releases answers to union questions

continued from page 5

of the questionnaire, complete with answers, on Oct. 16.

While noting that the specific circumstances would have to be considered, in general, Mr. Bernstein said, he would likely not support a boycott, and would also not rule out crossing a picket line.

The question about crossing a picket line is inappropriate, he said. "In my opinion, it would be wrong for an official to interfere in a union matter, one way or the other."

He noted that he does not support binding arbitration at all, on grounds that "non-involved parties should not have the power to determine the outcome of disputes."

The one labor issue he would like to address if elected is settling the years-long contract dispute with the firefighters.

Nelson

That leaves Mr. Nelson as the

lone hold-over disclosing his responses to the labor council questionnaire. Asked why, he responded with the following email:

"Here is my dilemma, we all know that the questionnaire is the sole property of the Labor Council, the information contained in that document is mine, as the response. I gave them my WORD, that I would not share this with anyone, my WORD is my bond. I see no value in going back on my word as a running candidate, just for another story, the other guy's do not have a copy of it either. I cannot help with other candidates in general do, say one thing and then do something else. In addition to my word, I also have credibility and good character to live up too as well. There is way too much unnecessary drama connected to this race, why add more by comprising some one's ethics. If you look closely at the questions, some are simply

yes/no and other answer's are relative to the situations and circumstances at that time and may have exception's to them. As a reminder, I have never had/held a union card, been a union delegate/lobbyist, as most of my work career, I have been in management positions. We ask these guys to put their 'life on the line' every time they go out the door, no reason not to have 'Safety Personnel' represented. If you remember the unions (whether you like them or not) help create the 'middle class', which has shrunk over the past several years, both labor and the middle class."

"This may not be the answer you are looking for, but you have my Word," Mr. Nelson concluded.

Incumbent Rex Ianson and former fire board director Peter Carpenter, running with Mr. Bernstein, decided not to fill out the questionnaire in the first place. ▀

SINGHS

continued from page 5

was listed in stable condition.

'He loved his family'

Mr. Singh worked in materials handling since 2007, when he was hired at AngioScore, a maker of medical devices with about 100 employees headquartered in Fremont.

Human resources representative Lucy Gopinath shared a few memories. "He was a really nice guy, very hard working and friendly," she said. "Ours is a small company, so we all knew each other. We're collecting funds for his kids. ... We all observed a moment of silence for him."

Asked about his life outside work, Ms. Gopinath replied, "He loved his family, that much I know."

The company learned of the

tragedy, Ms. Gopinath said, when a couple of employees came running with the news, which the company then confirmed with the family. "We've been crying all day," she said.

Wife Kamal worked at a Walgreens in Mountain View. Customers, describing her as friendly and very helpful, said she is missed.

Relatives are reported to be looking after the couples' children — an 18-year-old daughter, a 17-year-old daughter and a 15-year-old son.

A public memorial service on Thursday will be held at 10 a.m. at the Chapel of the Chimes funeral home located at 32992 Mission Boulevard in Hayward. According to staff, the family has requested that no media attend. ▀

CATE

continued from page 5

pink, along with donated books in honor of the young teacher's reading habit.

Her mother, Michelle Sutton, thanked everyone for attending, and asked that they consider organ donation.

Although she was unaware that Cate had done so, Ms. Sutton said, her daughter had agreed to be a donor in the event of death and had provided organs to six people.

LET'S DISCUSS:

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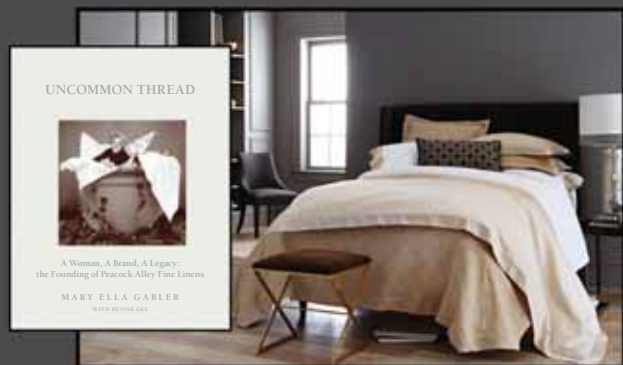
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Menlo Park man faces elder-abuse charges

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

A 51-year-old registered sex offender living in Menlo Park was held to answer Oct. 22 on multiple charges related to elder abuse after a preliminary hearing in San Mateo County Superior Court.

He has been charged with two felonies — knowingly allowing an elder or dependent adult to suffer under circumstances likely to cause great harm or death and falsifying evidence — in addition to a misdemeanor charge for obstructing an officer.

Darryl Keith Phillips is registered on the California Megan's Law website for rape and other sexual-assaults, two of which involved victims younger than 14 years old.

The district attorney's office described the latest case as a "third strike" case. Mr. Phillips allegedly was living in the Menlo Park home of a 66-year-old woman with dementia, diabetes and high blood pressure when her daughters became worried that he was not giving their mother the necessary medication.

According to the district attorney's office, in August 2012 he refused to allow police

and adult protective service representatives into the home. When police returned the following day with paramedics, the woman reportedly had "life threatening blood sugar and blood pressure levels" with severe mental impairment. She was hospitalized and survived.

Investigators allegedly found that Mr. Phillips had not bought insulin for many months, but had forged the woman's signature on \$87,000 in loans; opened investment accounts in her name; and was preparing to take out a \$150,000 loan on her house.

At first represented by defense attorney Ross Green, Mr. Phillips made a motion on Oct. 21 for a new lawyer, which the judge denied, but then requested that

he be allowed to act as his own attorney, which the judge granted. However, at the second day of the preliminary hearing, on Oct. 22, the defendant changed his mind and asked again for a lawyer. The judge agreed he would have representation during his Superior Court arraignment on Nov. 6. Mr. Phillips remains in custody on \$500,000 bail.

Mr. Green was not immediately available for comment about the case filed against his former client. ■

Registered sex offender allegedly denied insulin to 66-year-old woman, took out loans in her name.

Lester Elmore, defense engineer

Lester C. Elmore, a resident of Portola Valley with a notable engineering career that included developing advanced weaponry for the U.S. Department of Defense, died peacefully at home on Sunday, Oct. 13, after a long illness. Mr. Elmore was 90.

A native of Fresno, Mr. Elmore served as a captain in an engineering battalion in the U.S. Army during World War II and received several decorations, including the Silver Star for Conspicuous Gallantry in Action and the Distinguished Unit Badge as company commander. His unit also received the French Croix de Guerre.

After the war, Mr. Elmore graduated in 1949 with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of California at Berkeley.

During a career of research and development for the defense industry, Mr. Elmore founded Pulsepower Systems Inc. and was president of the company for 20 years. His 20 U.S. and foreign patents include liquid propellant

OBITUARY

Obituaries are based on family information.

guns and erosion jet drills. As a consultant, he helped develop advanced satellite and missile weapons systems for the Defense Department.



Lester Elmore

Mr. Elmore was a member of the American Rocket Society, the American Defense Preparedness Association, and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

He is survived by his wife Sheri of Portola Valley, daughter Paula of San Francisco, son Stephen of Austin, Texas, and two grandchildren.

Contributions "in memory of Lester C. Elmore" may be sent to the International House at UC Berkeley, 2299 Piedmont Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94720.

On November 5th Re-Elect Maryann Moise Derwin to Portola Valley's Town Council!



Sue Crane, Former Portola Valley Mayor

"Maryann has exhibited an extraordinary understanding of issues facing our Town and has extended her energy to add our voice within the County."

Randy Von Feldt, Portola Valley School District Foundation President

"Presiding over a fiscally responsible budget while continuing to maintain our historic values and develop important community assets, Maryann understands how to advocate for families."

Ann Wengert, Portola Valley Vice Mayor

"Maryann's dedication, effectiveness and commitment on issues of local importance are exemplary and her commitment to maintaining Portola Valley's rural character is steadfast."

Nate McKitterick, Portola Valley Planning Commissioner

"I support Maryann because we agree on the most important issues: open space, recreational opportunities, and our schools, including Windmill. Kudos for her efforts to ensure County Supervisors and others in government are aligned with Portola Valley."

Brook Coffee, Lead Volunteer, Portola Valley Farmer's Market

"As long as she is seated in our Historic Schoolhouse I can be confident that our Town Council will do what is best for my neighbors, my children and many generations to come."

Tina Nguyen, Ad Hoc Citizens' Committee for Noise Abatement

"Maryann has a commitment to working towards airplane noise abatement. She's gone above and beyond the call of duty and promises to continue her work towards a quieter and more environment-friendly Portola Valley."

Assemblyman Rich Gordon

"Maryann is a strong and tireless champion for Portola Valley in the region!"

The Daily Post

"Maryann's not afraid to take on difficult issues... and does yeoman's work representing the Town on regional boards." Her efforts have resulted in the FAA taking a new look at overflight noise and in stopping a traffic light in Ladera."

The Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

"Demonstrated...commitment to preserving the rural character of the Town... depths of knowledge and insight...that would be exemplary if they came from a full-time staff member rather than a part-time council member."

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Paid for by the Committee to Re-Elect Maryann Moise Derwin to the PV Town Council 2013, FPPC #1360343

New supervisorial map divides Menlo Park

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park is one of four communities in San Mateo County that will have two representatives on the Board of Supervisors when the recently approved remapping of the county's five supervisorial districts goes into effect in June 2014.

In a unanimous vote on Oct. 22, the board adopted a new map that divides Menlo Park along El Camino Real, with Supervisor Don Horsley's District 3 to the west and Supervisor Warren Slocum's District 4 to the east.

Menlo Park joins Belmont, San Bruno and South San Francisco in being divided. "Two supervisors that care about Menlo Park? I think that's an advantage," Mr. Horsley said.

The board's action concluded months of community effort that included five public meetings. A board-appointed advisory committee chose three maps for the supervisors to consider.

In settling a lawsuit by the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights that demanded an end to county-wide elections for individual supervisors — a change that voters approved with Measure B in November 2012 — the Board of Supervisors agreed to consider whether district boundaries should change and appointed a nine-person committee to engage the public on this question.

It's noteworthy that San Mateo County is now a majority-minority county. When taken together, the populations of the Asian, Latino and African-American communities constitute 53 percent of the county's population, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. But the ethnic make-up of the board, with few exceptions over the years, has been white, and that is the case for the current board.

Will the map change the board's ethnicity? When supervisors ran for election county-wide, they had to reach 350,000 voters and spend around \$500,000 or have high name recognition to win, Supervisor Dave Pine told the Almanac. With district elections (only the voters in each district will elect that district's supervisor), candidates will have a shot if they can raise \$50,000 to \$100,000, have a willingness to work hard, and a record of public service, Mr. Pine said.

Using each map the board considered, a demographer working with the committee tested hypothetical results for Measure B. "What was remarkable is that (the results in districts 3 and 4) were virtually unchanged," Mr. Pine said.

Redrawing districts

The law requires districts to be approximately equal in population, perhaps the most straightforward factor to consider when redrawing an electoral map. In deciding on district boundaries, officials have to juggle topography; geography; a territory's cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity and compactness; and its communities of interest.

Communities of interest are "building blocks," demographer Douglas Johnson said at a June 18 community meeting in East Palo Alto. "What we're looking for are building blocks that we can put together into districts. So it may be a set of cities, or it may be a couple of cities and neighborhoods from larger cities; whatever you define as your community of interest that makes sense."

The factor with the highest priority among San Mateo County supervisors, according to Mr. Pine: city limits. And the board had encouragement. "It's certainly the case that, almost without exception, the cities advocated vigorously not to be split," Mr. Pine said. But some splitting was necessary, and deciding which cities to split "is a very difficult issue to parse through," he added.

City boundaries should not have been the top priority, said attorney Robert Rubin of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights. "City boundaries are sixth or seventh on the priority list and (the board) elevated it to number 1 by not creating a coalition district of Asians, Latinos and African Americans in District 1."

Is a city a community of interest? "That's a good question," Mr. Pine said. "I believe the board felt that cities were communities of interest that we should try to preserve where possible." He added: "In their perfect world (speaking of the Lawyers' Committee) they would have tried to put everyone east of (U.S. 101) into one district."

The board did consider the Community Equity map, put forward at the last minute

Continued on next page

NOV. 2013

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Local water district may face dissolution

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

The 1,064 residents of Los Trancos Woods and Vista Verde, two unincorporated communities located in the forested slopes along the southern border of San Mateo County, have common interests in preventing wildfires, in safely channeling away storm-water runoff, in conserving fresh water, and in preserving open space.

For seven years, they've been spending money on these interests — \$290,000 in property tax revenues for 2013-14, for example — but there's been a problem: the small public agency doing the spending has departed from its original mission, in part because its original mission no longer matters.

The Los Trancos County Water District sold its water distribution system in 2006 to the California Water Service Company (Cal Water). The transaction did not dissolve the water district, which still owns about 5.7 acres of land and still spends tax revenues but on activities unrelated to water distribution. This anomalous situation has drawn the attention of the county Civil Grand Jury, which recommended the water district's dissolution, and the state's Legislative Analysts Office, which has mentioned the district in reports exploring effective allocation of tax revenues.

The water district's revenues could be redistributed to agencies that deal specifically with activities like wildfire prevention and open space preservation, including the Woodside Fire Protection District, the Mid-peninsula Regional Open Space District, San Mateo County and the town of Portola Valley, according to a report from the county's Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo). Cal Water could also play a role.

The law allows LAFCo to approve dissolution and include a requirement that the water district's tax revenues be redistributed to "successor agencies to continue services," the report says. The fire protection district, for example, could establish a "zone of benefit in which property tax transferred from the dissolved district ... could be segregated for the benefit of fire and emergency response in Los Trancos Woods/Vista Verde."

Denise Enea, fire marshal

of the fire protection district, noted in an email that the fire district already provides wildfire prevention services to these communities. "Prevention personnel spend quite a bit of time (there) because we feel it has high fire risk," she said. "Any extra funds the fire district receives from a water-district dissolution would be utilized to increase services as part of our prevention efforts across the (fire) district. We always prioritize the high-risk fire areas. The fire district would want to maintain and possibly increase the fire breaks that the water district has already been working on."

Other options for LAFCo include rechartering the water district — as a county maintenance district, for example — or allowing the district's revenues

A workshop will address the district's future and the services it provides.

to simply blend into the county's mainstream. LAFCo has discretion to act and then react if water district residents protest. Depending on the size of the protest, an election could ensue.

Eliminating the tax altogether is not listed as an option. "The record for the district and the community demonstrates severe storm-water runoff problems, the need for enhanced fire safety and a desire to maintain district owned lands in a natural state," the report says. "Reduction/refund of property tax, if possible, would reduce property tax available to address these important needs."

Go to tinyurl.com/LAFCo-123 for the complete report, which will be the basis for a LAFCo-initiated community workshop on the water district's future that begins at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 19, at the Community Hall in Portola Valley Town Center

See **TRANCOS**, page 14

INFORMATION

■ George Lee, a candidate for the board of the Los Trancos County Water District in the November election, said he supports the priorities of his fellow candidates, but that responsibilities associated with his new business "will preclude his ability to be a director." Mr. Lee asks voters to bypass his name on the printed ballot and vote for the other three candidates.

■ A community workshop on the water district's future is set for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 19, at the Community Hall at Portola Valley Town Center at 765 Portola Road.

Rick DeGolia

Atherton Council

www.rickdegolia.com

Rick DeGolia has demonstrated his skill to reach out and listen to the concerns of residents. Rick will serve the town well in helping to tackle regional issues. I strongly support Rick DeGolia for Atherton Council."

-Jerry Carlson,
former Atherton Mayor



"Rick is an intelligent, thoughtful person who will lead with integrity on the Atherton Council. He will be an excellent City Council member."

-Anna Eshoo,
Member of Congress

"Atherton needs someone with Rick's leadership abilities to join the Council. He approaches problems carefully



and is committed to a collaborative Council. I strongly support his election to the Council. He will be an excellent City Council member."

-Malcolm Dudley,
former Atherton Mayor



"Rick brings the right balance of working to make Atherton attractive to young families and respecting the needs and interests of our older residents"

-Steve Westly,
former CA State Controller

"I've worked with Rick for eight months on the Atherton Civic Center Advisory Committee. Rick is thoughtful, analytic, and most of all, he has a common sense approach to finding solutions to issues and problems. Rick truly has the best interests of Atherton at heart. He always mentions 'the history of Atherton,' and 'what Atherton is all about' as we move forward with the Civic Center project.

-Paul Tonelli,
Atherton Civic Center Advisory Committee and Planning Commission

Please join the **ALMANAC** and your neighbors in supporting Rick DeGolia for Atherton City Council. Vote for Rick on Nov. 5th and **"Let's get things done!"**

The Almanac Endorses Rick Degolia

"DeGolia stands out in this race due to his insights as a longtime business executive and corporate board member and his willingness to listen, respectfully, to all ideas and try to come up with creative solutions to problems before the council and of concern to residents... We urge voters to elect Rick DeGolia to the Atherton City Council."



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Bids must be for the entire work, and shall be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked: "Bid of (Contractor) for EVENTS MANAGEMENT SERVICES", along with date and time of bid opening. A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held at 3 p.m. on October 31, 2013 at Jennings Pavilion in Holbrook-Palmer Park.

Specifications may be obtained at the Town of Atherton's website at www.ci.atherton.ca.us under Bid Solicitation at no cost. Contractor shall be responsible for any addendums that may be posted on the Town's website. No Planholders list shall be available.

The Town of Atherton, The City, reserves the right to reject any or all bids; to make any awards or any rejections in what it alone considers to be in the best interest of the City, and waive any informalities or irregularities in the bids. The contract will be awarded, if at all, to the responsible bidder that submits the best-value bid as determined by the Town.

Each bidder shall submit with this bid a statement setting forth his/her/its experience and qualifications. By submitting a bid in response to this advertisement for bids, the bidder shall be conclusively deemed to have read, understood and agreed with all of the information and materials contained in the bid documents, including but not limited to the contract and specifications, the required nature and amount of insurance and the documentation evidencing said insurance.

Requests for Information (RFIs) may be emailed to styler@ci.atherton.ca.us. Responses shall be posted on the Town's website by the close of business at least one week prior to bid opening.

By: _____
Gordon Siebert, P.E., City Engineer

Date: _____

M-A's growth won't diminish 'excellence,' superintendent says

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

The more that enrollment grows at Menlo-Atherton High School, the more the school district and M-A administrations will be working to "build upon the academic excellence at M-A" and maintain the "positive learning environment (and) academic focus" that families in the Menlo Park and Las Lomas elementary school districts have come to expect.

That message came in an Oct. 22 letter to parents from Jim Lianides, the superintendent of the Sequoia Union High School District, in a follow up to recent community meetings Mr. Lianides held in both elementary school districts. "As enrollment grows, additional classes and sections will be added to meet student needs," the letter says. "Support staff, athletics and student activities will be expanded proportionately with growth."

The Sequoia district now has 8,300 students, but projections

show enrollment growing to 10,000 by 2020. Much of this growth will come from the Menlo Park and Las Lomas districts, so M-A will be particularly affected, officials have said. The projection does not account for growth in housing, including multi-family complexes going up in Menlo Park and Redwood City. Nor does it include the 1,200 students annually enrolled in the district's three charter schools.

In his letter, Mr Lianides clarified the district's position on what have been frequent talking points: all Menlo Park and Las Lomas graduates will be assigned to M-A, the Sequoia district intends to open two magnet schools of 300 to 400 students each to relieve enrollment pressure on the comprehensive schools, and the North Fair Oaks neighborhood known as "The Avenues" will not be reassigned away from M-A.

M-A will also become the new home high school for all students from the Ravenswood

City Elementary School District. M-A has long been the home school for Belle Haven students, but East Palo Alto students have been taking buses to Woodside and Carlmont high schools since 1983. A court-ordered consent decree required the Sequoia district to establish populations at each high school that came within 5 percentage points of reflecting the district's ethnic diversity as a whole.

Because Ravenswood's future enrollment is expected to hold steady, the effect of adding its 60 students a year to M-A will be offset by M-A households from other parts of North Fair Oaks willingly being reassigned to Woodside and Sequoia high schools, officials have said.

A task force is at work — composed of Sequoia district board members, staff, teachers and community members — on a plan to flesh out the district's facilities needs for a bond measure the board is likely to authorize for the June 2014 election. ■

TRANCOS

continued from page 12

at 765 Portola Road.

Election ahead

It so happens that the water district board is having an election with three candidates — Bill Coats, Stan Gage and Charlie Krenz — running for three open seats. They issued a statement, as a slate, on the district's future: "... It is becoming increasingly expensive and complex to run a very small district. The three new candidates hold common goals regarding the future direction of the (district) that will simplify operations, lower costs,

and preserve the maximum tax dollars in our community."

The candidates advise the community to "face up to the reality that at some time the district is going to be forced out of existence. If it is done abruptly at others' behest, we may lose much of our benefits. An orderly shutdown of the district will give us the opportunity to preserve some of the current district programs and protect the district lands."

The candidates' priorities: figure out how to maintain the community's property tax revenues to maximize benefits while minimizing management costs, convert the 5.7 acres of district-owned land to open

space, and conduct a survey to gauge community opinion.

If dissolution is the answer, the concern is what comes next. If LAFCo were to approve dissolution, there is no obligation for "successor agencies" to take on the maintenance activities the water district had been doing on its own, the report says.

"LAFCo says all this will happen, but they can't force it to happen," Mr. Krenz said in an interview. If LAFCo is unconvincing, that would "force (the water district) to stay in business. That's not something I really want to do," he said. "I'm in this (race) to wind it down and secure some of these services." ■

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6959	Pakistan Sultanabad	Beige/Red	8.3 x 10.2	\$6005	\$1500
4537	India Tabriz	Navy/Beige	8 x 10	\$5765	\$2650
6056	India Kohinoor	Beige/Red	7.11 x 9.11	\$5665	\$2950
6990	India Ottoman	Beige	7.11 x 10	\$4755	\$2275
4496	India Jaipur	Rust/Beige	7.11 x 9.11	\$4095	\$1950
4484	India Rajasthan	Beige	7.11 x 10	\$5705	\$2650
4479	India Rajasthan	Gold/Ivory	7.8 x 9.8	\$2745	\$1350
1132	India Tabriz	Blue/Ivory	7.11 x 10	\$7525	\$1990
977	India Rajasthan	Green	8.2 x 9.10	\$7630	\$2950

Stock #	Country/Design	Color	Size	Regular Price	Sale Price
1017	India Tabriz	Black/Gold	8 x 10.1	\$6860	\$1950
1248	India Agra	Ivory/Red	8.2 x 10.1	\$6175	\$1650
3764	India Kashan	Navy/Gold	7.11 x 9.7	\$5795	\$2750
2157	India Serapi	Light Gold	7.11 x 9 x 10	\$3315	\$1350
4116	Persian Baktiari	Multi	7.4 x 10	\$4805	\$2650
6991	India Soumak	Light Blue	8 x 9.10	\$2045	\$990
535	India Tabriz	Navy	7.8 x 9.10	\$3810	\$990
1266	Pakistan Peshawar	Grey	8.1 x 9.9	\$5910	\$2150
2089	India Tabriz	Navy	7.11 x 10	\$7910	\$3550

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6331	India Tabriz	Red/Ivory	6.1 x 8.11	\$4475	\$2125
6330	Iran Ardebil	Purple	6.6 x 8.10	\$5685	\$3515
1126	Pakistan Peshawar	Beige	6 x 9.4	\$4200	\$1950
6335	India Ziegler	Ivory/Yellow	6.2 x 9	\$4695	\$2525
4538	Iran Soumak	Brown	6 x 9.3	\$2285	\$1425

Stock #	Country/Design	Color	Size	Regular Price	Sale Price
4148	Persian Kelim	Red	6.9 x 9.8	\$2445	\$1450
6337	India Saroul	Navy	6 x 9	\$4865	\$2725
6328	India Sultanabad	Ivory/Yellow	6.3 x 9	\$5205	\$2750
880	India Agra	Black/Gold	5.11 x 8.9	\$3365	\$1350
4477	India Rajasthan	Red/Ivory	6.1 x 9	\$2025	\$990

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Stock #	Country/Design	Color	Size	Regular Price	Sale Price
1117	Pakistan Peshawar	Brown/Beige	6.5 x 8	\$3850	\$1250
1293	Pakistan Peshwar	Green	6.7 x 12	\$3865	\$1525
830	Peshawar Sultanabad	Black/Ivory	6 x 7.8	\$3500	\$1250
822	Peshawar Zeigler	Multi	6 x 8.3	\$3715	\$1375
5909	Iran Tabriz	Blue	5.8 x 8.3	\$3935	\$2125

Stock #	Country/Design	Color	Size	Regular Price	Sale Price
6136	Turkish Sultanabad	Beige/Gold	6 x 9	\$1385	\$650
3969	India Jaipur	Ivory	6.3 x 9	\$2815	\$1425
5373	Pakistan Sultanabad	Rose/Blue	6.7 x 8.9	\$5005	\$1550
800	Pakistan Ghazani	Rust/Gold	6 x 8.8	\$3380	\$1295
6984	India Soumak	Ivory/Gold	6.3 x 8.11	\$1455	\$850

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Stock #	Country/Design	Color	Size	Regular Price	Sale Price
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7697	Afghan Baloch	Black	3.4 x 6.1	\$705	\$350
1316	Persian Soumak	Multi	3.11 x 5.10	\$2425	\$1250
2534	Peshawar Sultanabad	Beige	4 x 6.3	\$1875	\$750
4343	Peshawar Sultanabad	Beige	4 x 6.2	\$1685	\$750

Stock #	Country/Design	Color	Size	Regular Price	Sale Price
7527	Turkish Kelim	Multi	3.5 x 5.9	\$485	\$250
7694	Afghan Baloch	Rust	3.10 x 5.10	\$705	\$350
7695	Afghan Baloch	Red/Navy	3.7 x 6.8	\$705	\$350
7124	Pakistan Floral	Multi	4.2 x 6.2	\$3000	\$1500
5060	Afghan Baloch	Red/Navy	4.2 x 6.2	\$755	\$450

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Stock #	Country/Design	Color	Size	Regular Price	Sale Price
3453	India Rajasthan	Green/Gold	15.9 x 23.7	\$67,500	\$15,500
1618	India Oushak	Green/Gold	14.11 x 19.10	\$22,125	\$8500
1195	India Agra	Red/Navy	14.9 x 16.5	\$15,005	\$8500

Stock #	Country/Design	Color	Size	Regular Price	Sale Price
774	India Oushak	Red/Beige	11.8 x 19.5	\$12,430	\$4500
884	India Agra	Red/Ivory	12 x 17.11	\$12,900	\$4950
546	Pakistan Zeigler	Burgandy	11.9 x 17.9	\$15,645	\$7500

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NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley will hold a public hearing at the stated time and place to consider the following matters:

Adoption of the California Building Code, (with modifications), which includes;

2013 California Building Code – CCR Title 24 Part 2
 2013 California Residential Code – CCR Title 24 Part 2.5
 2013 California Electrical Code – CCR Title 24 Part 3
 2013 California Mechanical Code – CCR Title 24 Part 4
 2013 California Plumbing Code – CCR Title 24 Part 5
 2013 California Energy Code – CCR Title 24 Part 6
 2013 California Historical Building Code – CCR Title 24 Part 8,
 2013 California Fire Code – CCR Title 24 Part 9
 2013 California Existing Building Code - CCR Title 24 Part 10
 2013 California Referenced Standards Code - CCR Title 24 Part 12

Date & Time: Wednesday, November 13, 2013, 7:30 p.m.

Place: Historic Schoolhouse, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA at Town Center

The Town periodically amends Chapter 15.04 of the Municipal Code to incorporate the most recent edition of the model building code that has been adopted by the California Building Standards Commission and Chapter 15.16 of the Municipal Code.

The Codes that are being considered for adoption are on file with the Town Clerk and are open to public inspection.

For further information, please call Gary Fitzer, Deputy Building Official at Town Hall (650) 851-1700 ext. 213.

Mohr leads college-district fundraising

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

■ ELECTION 2013

In the Nov. 5 election for the board of the San Mateo County Community College District, campaign finance reports show candidate Thomas Mohr, a former president of Canada College in Woodside, standing alone in terms of fundraising among the four candidates running for two open seats: Mr. Mohr amassed \$30,233 in cash contributions by mid-September.

Incumbent Richard Holober

raised just \$1,500 over that time — but the same report for this four-term incumbent showed his campaign with a cash balance of \$22,534.

Challenger George Yang raised \$620 but lent his campaign \$5,000, according to his report. The elections office did not issue a report for challenger Samuel Diaz.

In the expense category, Mr. Holober and Mr. Yang reported spending \$4,463 each on the fee

to include a candidate statement on the ballot; Mr. Mohr's report shows expenses of \$1,837 and no entry for a ballot statement fee.

Among the donations to Mr. Mohr's campaign were \$14,500 from 56 individuals or couples, and \$14,750 from 15 companies or groups. Of those companies that donated \$1,000 or more to Mr. Mohr's campaign, five also contributed \$5,000 each in 2011 to the campaign for the district's \$564 million bond measure H, which failed to get the required 55 percent voter support. ■

Hillview holds parent-education series

The Hillview Middle School PTO holds a parent education speaker series that is open to the public. Free onsite childcare is provided.

The programs are held in the Hillview Performing Arts Center on the Hillview campus, at 1100 Elder Ave. in Menlo Park.

Upcoming speakers are:

■ Lenore Skenazy, author of "Raising Free Range Kids — Raising Self-reliant Kids," Sunday, Nov. 3, at 6:30 pm.

■ Erik Burmeister, Hillview

principal, on "Raising Teens Without Losing Your Mind," Wednesday, Nov. 6, at 6:30 pm.

■ Devin Prouty, researcher, on "Sleepy Students: the Adolescent Circadian Shift," Wednesday, Jan. 8, at 6:30 pm.

■ Erica Pelavin and Gloria Moskowitz-Sweet on "My Digital TAT-2, Parenting the Media Generation," Wednesday, Feb. 12, at 6:30 pm.

■ Christine Carter, author, on "Raising Happiness, Simple Steps for More Joyful Kids and

Happier Parents," Wednesday, March 19, at 6:30 pm.

■ Katie Cotton, Apple Computer, on "The Media's Influence," with the film "Miss Representation," Wednesday, April 9, at 6:30 pm.

■ "Race to Nowhere" film and panel on the topic "Are We Pushing Too Hard?" Wednesday, May 14, at 6:30 pm.

For more information about the Hillview parent-education speaker series, email jessica.r.raines@gmail.com.

Got a warm coat to give? Drive begins Nov. 4

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

Recology San Mateo County is teaming up with Menlo Park and Atherton for its annual Coats for Kids drive, which aims to collect new and lightly used coats to donate to people in need of a warm coat during the cold-weather season.

From Nov. 4 through Nov. 8, residents of both communities may place donated coats in a clear plastic bag marked "Coats for Kids" and place the bag next to or on top of their blue recycle cart on their regular garbage collection day. Recology, the area's garbage collection company, will pick up the coats and

deliver them after the drive.

Both towns also are setting up collection containers: In Atherton, donors can deliver their donated coats to the Town Hall lobby, 91 Ashfield Road in the Town Center, from Nov. 4 through Nov. 15; in Menlo Park, people can drop off coats at the Arrillaga family Recreation Center at 701 Laurel St. or at the Arrillaga Gymnastics Center at 501 Laurel St. during the same period.

"Coats of any size, shape or form are greatly appreciated," Gino Gasparini of Recology said in an email. "It is interesting that when our program started years and years ago, the intention was 'for our kids'; however, now all types of coats are donated and it is wonder-

ful to see that all people that are 'in need' can come and select a coat."

Coats from Atherton donors will be distributed to families of Selby Lane School in Atherton, according to a press release from the town.

Recology will deliver donations from Menlo Park to local non-profit agencies for distribution to those in need, according to the city. Last year, the city said, the company collected about 1,000 coats that were distributed to families and individuals through St. Anthony's Church in Menlo Park and Samaritan House, both of which serve people in need.

For more information, contact Mr. Gasparini at 595-3900 or ggasparini@recology.com. ■

■ BIRTHS

Menlo Park

■ Yi-Ling Kao and Wei-Haw Chuang, a son, Sept. 13, Sequoia Hospital.

■ Jaclyne and Jonathan Vincent, a daughter, Sept. 28, Sequoia Hospital.

Emerald Hills

■ Christina Elven-Christensen and Evan McKinney, a son, Sept. 24, Sequoia Hospital.

June Burbick, retired employee of Las Lomas School District

June Burbick of Redwood City, a former Woodside resident, died Sept. 27. She was 88.

Ms. Burbick was born in Santa Cruz. She moved to Woodside in 1956 with husband, Roy Schweninger, and family and lived there for many years. She was a bookkeeper in the Las Lomas School District, working in the district office for more than 20 years. She retired in 1995.

A talented dancer, Ms. Burbick performed in community theater at the Chickens' Ball in

■ OBITUARY

San Carlos and with the Clay Pipers in the Gold Country. She also enjoyed painting, traveling and jazz music, say family members.

She is survived by her daughters, Sharon Humphreys of Portola Valley, Dayle Schweninger of Palo Alto, and Lori McLean of New York City; two grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.



TOWN OF ATHERTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on November 20, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at 94 Ashfield Rd. Atherton, California, the Atherton City Council will hold a public hearing on the following items:

- (1) An ordinance amending Chapters 15.02, 15.04, 15.09, 15.12, 15.16, 15.18, 15.19, 15.20, 15.22, and 15.44 in order to adopt by reference the 2013 California Building Standards Code, including the building, residential electrical, plumbing, mechanical, energy, historical building, fire (by ratification), green and existing building codes and Chapter 1 Division II of the 2013 edition of the California Building Code as the Atherton Administrative Code. A full copy of the ordinance can be obtained through the City Clerk's Office by contacting Theresa DellaSanta at tdellasanta@ci.atherton.ca.us
- (2) Adoption of new section 10.16.050 to prohibit overnight camping in motor vehicles, trailers, or similar vehicles as follows:
 "10.16.050. Camping and sleeping in motor vehicles or trailers overnight prohibited. No person shall use or occupy, or permit the use or occupancy of, any motor vehicle, recreational vehicle, camp trailer, camper, trailer coach, or similar vehicles for purposes of sleeping, camping, or habitation on any street or upon any public property, including any public parking lot, or upon any private property, between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. (Ord. §, 2013)"

All interested parties may appear and be heard at the public hearings described above. If a citizen wishes to challenge the nature of the above action in court, they may be limited to raising only those issues they or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Atherton City Council, c/o City Clerk's Office, 91 Ashfield Rd, Atherton, California 94027at or before the public hearing.

Theresa DellaSanta
City Clerk



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A Halloween story

By **Patrice Goldman**
Grandmother of John Hurlbut

They say Halloween is the most popular holiday for elementary-age children. As I trooped through a Woodside neighborhood with my three grandchildren last year, I had to agree. This special holiday rivals others in that it contains all the important ingredients: excitement, intrigue, family, friends, pretend, magic, and best of all, the gathering of treats!

While waiting for his younger siblings to collect their treats, John, 7, my oldest grandchild, and I happened

upon a U.S. soldier dressed in fatigues. The soldier sheepishly explained that his children insisted that he wear his uniform tonight.

Taking in John's costume, the soldier asked John if he wanted to be a fireman when he grew up. John replied that he wasn't sure as he stared wide-eyed at the soldier.

The three of us talked a few more minutes. Then, I leaned down and whispered in John's ear, "Say thank you for protecting our country." John did so immediately.

What happened next made me very proud of this little



7-year-old who loves candy with a passion. John quickly reached into his plastic pumpkin, pulled out a big candy bar and handed it to the soldier who graciously accepted it.

John's gesture of thanks was so spontaneous, so honest, and so from-the-heart. He showed a basic understanding that our soldiers should not only be thanked, but rewarded for their service. It was the opportunity that we all wish we had a chance to express our thanks and appreciation to all of those that protect and serve our nation. ■

Gran (Patrice Goldman) and Fireman John (John Hurlbut, 7) in Woodside on Halloween night in 2012.

Faith Goss, Darrin Lehman wed

Faith Goss and Darrin Lehman were married Oct. 13 at Forest House Lodge in Foresthill, Placer County.

The bride is the daughter of Barry and Claire Goss of Portola Valley. A graduate of Menlo School, she played water polo with the Stanford Club team. She is a graduate of UC Davis

and Samuel Merritt University, where she received her RN and master's in nursing degrees. Faith is a family nurse practitioner for Sutter Health in Roseville and Sacramento.

The son of Ed and Candy Lehman of Granite Bay, the bridegroom is a captain in the California Department of Forestry and



Faith Goss and Darrin Lehman

Fire Protection (Cal Fire). The couple is living in Roseville.

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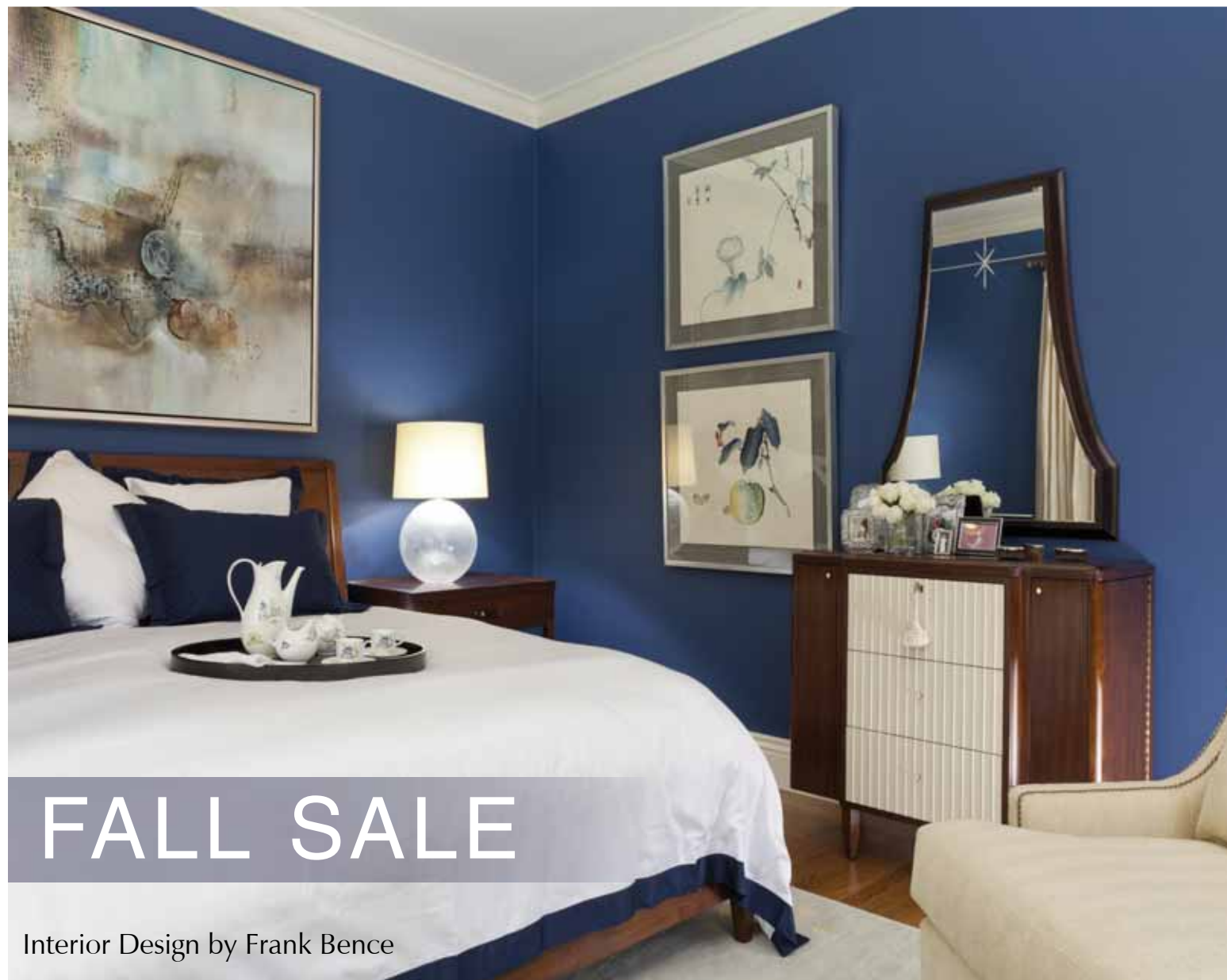
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Seminar on family history

The San Mateo County Genealogical Society, working with the Menlo Park Family History Center, will hold a seminar on Saturday, Nov. 2, in Menlo Park for people interested in learning more about family history research techniques.

Curt Witcher, former president of the National Genealogical Society, will conduct four classes from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Menlo Park LDS Church, 1105 Valparaiso Ave. in Menlo Park.

Pre-conference registration price is \$32 for members of the county genealogical society and \$42 for others (\$48 at the door).

Go to smcgs.org for more information.

Book sale

The Friends of the Woodside Library will hold a used book sale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 2, at the library, 3140 Woodside Road.

The sale will include children's books, art and coffee table books, leather-bound classics, Bibles, foreign language books and dictionaries, and cookbooks, many in pristine condition. Sheet music, books on CDs, and movies on DVDs will also be for sale.

Proceeds will benefit the Friends of the Woodside Library, which sponsors children's programs, provides computer support, and supplements the library's book, video and audio collections.

Toque of Town

The second annual "Toque of the Town" gala, featuring Michelin-starred chefs, will take place at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 9, at Rosewood Sand Hill Hotel in Menlo Park. The evening will benefit the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America.

A seated dinner will be created by Peter Rudolph of Madera restaurant at Rosewood Sand Hill, Mark Sullivan of Spruce, Dmitry Elperin of the Village Pub, and Kayvon Jordan of Mayfield Bakery & Cafe.

There will also be silent and live auctions. The evening will honor Bob and Orene Karn. Individual tickets for the event are \$200. For more information, contact Amira Schultz at 415-356-2231.

Michelin stars

Madera at the Rosewood Sand Hill in Menlo Park and the

Continued on next page

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Playing urchins in the Menlo School musical are, from left, Maya Donato, Anika Padwek and Jesse Guthrie.

Menlo School stages 'Little Shop of Horrors'

Menlo School's drama department will present the musical "Little Shop of Horrors" on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 1, 2 and 3, in the school's Florence Moore Theater, 50 Valparaiso Ave. in Atherton.

"Little Shop of Horrors" is the story of Seymour Krelborn (played by John Horsley in the Menlo School production), a nerdy employee at Mr. Muchnik's Skid Row Florist Shop; his coworker and love interest, Audrey (Tara Saha), and a mysterious plant that attracts business to the shop.

Mr. Muchnik is played by Sean Morgenthaler. Jordan Vasquez plays multiple roles, including Orin the dentist.

The musical is directed by Menlo School's new drama department director Steven Minning, who recently moved to Portola Valley. A former Broadway director and choreographer, Mr. Minning brings more than 30 years of professional experience to the school.

In New York., Mr. Minning was resident director for such productions as "Billy Elliot," "The Lion King," and "Showboat." He will direct Menlo School's three major productions for the school year.

Tickets to "Little Shop of Horrors" are \$8 for adults and \$5 for students, and are available at the Menlo Bookstore or by emailing tickets@menloschool.org.

Continued from previous page

Village Pub in Woodside once again have been named to the one-star list in the 2014 edition of the annual Michelin restaurant guide. Chef TJ in Mountain View also received one star, which indicates "a very good

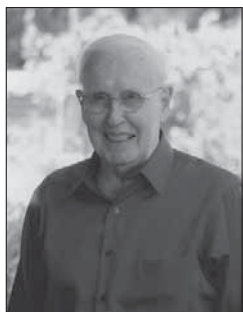
restaurant in its category."

Baume in Palo Alto received two stars, which denotes "excellent cuisine, skillfully and carefully crafted dishes of outstanding quality." Each restaurant is also rated on ambiance, comfort, specialties, wine and more.

Oral M. Weldon

Oral Marion Weldon, age 93, was born on January 25, 1920 in Iowa to Harve and Florence Weldon. His childhood was spent on a farm outside of Barnard, Missouri. He passed away on October 18, 2013 in Palo Alto, California. He was married to his wife, Mary Margaret Kimple (deceased in 2006), for 64 years and lived in Wichita, Kansas and with his daughter, Dee Weldon White, in Portola Valley, California.

The funeral service was held at Alta Mesa Cemetery in Palo Alto, California at 11:00 a.m. on October 25, 2013. Memorial donations to benefit aeronautic students can be sent to the: Oral M. Weldon Memorial Fund, C/O Wichita State University Foundation, 1845 Fairmount, Wichita, KS 67260-002. For more detailed obituary information, please refer to www.altamesafuneralhome.com



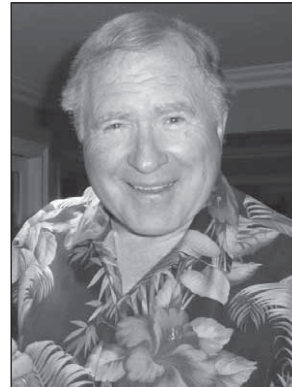
PAID OBITUARY

Michael Zarcone

Dec. 15, 1949-Oct. 19, 2013

Mike Zarcone was a loving and fun husband, father, brother, and friend. Mike was born and raised in Saratoga, California. He received his bachelors degree and PhD in Pharmacy from the University of Pacific. He worked as a pharmacist at Stanford Hospital which led him to start a home IV business called Stanford Home Treatment Services in 1981. He sold that business in 1986 and bought Saratoga Place, a convalescent hospital which he turned in to a pediatric subacute hospital which is now Subacute Saratoga Children's Hospital. He championed for legislation at the state level to recognize pediatric subacute care and pediatric day health care. He opened a daycare for medically fragile children called Scribbles and Giggles, and founded another pediatric subacute hospital called Children's Recovery Center in Campbell. Serving medically fragile children and their families was Mike's passion and life's devotion. Despite being diagnosed with Parkinson's Dis-

ease in 2009, Mike continued to live life undeterred and to the fullest, hosting parties, playing games, and traveling, even if it meant by scooter.



Mike will be remembered by many, Margarita in hand in front of the stove fixin up his famous quesadillas surrounded by close friends wearing a brightly colored Aloha shirt with loud music on. To Mike nobody remained a stranger for long. He had a way of putting anyone at ease through his gifts of humor and hospitality. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Mike is survived by his beloved wife of 34 years Julie, his daughter Lindsay, son Zack and wife Karli, and his siblings Jan and Ken.

A service celebrating Mike's life will be held Tuesday, October 29th, at 2 p.m. at Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, 950 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park. Bright colored attire requested.

Memorial donations may be made to The Medically Fragile Children's Foundation of Northern California.

PAID OBITUARY

Carolyn Elizabeth Backer Grant

Feb. 24, 1921 – Oct. 14, 2013

Carolyn Elizabeth Backer Grant, beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend, passed away peacefully on Monday, October 14, 2013, at home surrounded by her family. A sweet southern belle and an orchid whisperer, Carolyn filled all that she touched with light and love, and was adored by everyone who knew her.

The eldest of three girls, Carolyn was born in Southern Pines, North Carolina, and had a childhood filled with wonderful memories. She loved to ride her horse, Muggins, and often spoke fondly of playing with her sisters Bo and Barbara, tending the animals on her family's small farm, helping her father garden and create bouquets in his flower shop, and going peach-tasting in her aunt's orchard.



After studying at Greensboro College, she worked at a small inn in Pinehurst, North Carolina, where she met Gerald "Gerry" Grant. Following a whirlwind romance, the pair married in 1942 and had six children, finally settling in Menlo Park, California, in 1965. They were married 59 years until Gerry passed away in 2001. In addition to raising her children, Carolyn volunteered much of her time to Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, where for many years she cooked dinners for the 50 Plus pro-

gram, prepared communion for services, and arranged flowers for the sanctuary.

Carolyn loved life and wielded an impressive green thumb, never hesitating to stop and smell the roses. She showered her family and friends with unconditional love and kindness, and reminded them to always follow their hearts. Her legacy will live on for generations to come, and she will be dearly missed.

Carolyn is survived by her children Jennifer (Terry) Sorensen of Folsom, CA, Jim (Lynda) Grant of Lake Forest, CA, Scott (Susan) Grant of Austin, TX, and Patricia (Wally) Buch of Atherton; her sister Barbara Vandiver of Melbourne, FL; 15 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband Gerald Grant, her daughters Carolyn Sorensen and Suzanne Arbour, her sister Betsy Jean "Bo" Kendrick, her brother Robert Backer, her grandson David Buch, and her great-granddaughter Julia King.

In accordance with Carolyn's wishes, her family will hold a private celebration of her life. Her family asks that any memorial contributions please be made to Autism Speaks, 1060 State Road, 2nd floor, Princeton, NJ 08540 or www.walknowforautismspeaks.org under the team name Michael's Muppets.

PAID OBITUARY

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Snafu leads to reissue of 120 ballots

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

The failure of the county to officially authorize school boundary changes approved by government agencies and voters over the last two years has led to a snafu in the San Mateo County Elections Office, which has had to reissue ballots to 120 residents of four areas, including 38 in the Pacific Parc area of Menlo Park.

The problem came to light

when a resident of the Pacific Parc area at 600 Willow Road, which had been annexed to the Menlo Park City School District in 2011, noticed that the ballot mailed to her didn't include the school district's Measure W bond measure.

She notified the county, and an investigation showed that ballots for the Nov. 5 election were issued based on old boundaries involving four county areas because the boundary changes had never gone before the Board

of Supervisors for finalization.

As a result, the supervisors held a special meeting on Oct. 23 to order the boundary changes, allowing the Elections Office to send out new ballots.

After that Wednesday vote, correct sample ballots and official ballots were hand-delivered to the post office, according to Mark Church, the county's chief elections officer. "All affected voters are being notified by phone and email," Mr. Church said in an email the next day. Votes already mailed in won't be counted twice, he said, because "all ballots are bar-coded, and incorrect ballots will be set aside."

In addition to the 38 voters in Pacific Parc, 80 voters in the Fairmont Drive area in the mid-county, one voter of the Langley Hill area of Woodside, and one person from the Jackling Drive area of Hillsborough were affected. Fairmont Drive transferred from the Belmont-Redwood Shores elementary and the Sequoia Union High School districts to the San Mateo/Foster City and San Mateo Union High School districts in late 2011.

Mr. Church noted that Education Code Section 35765 "requires the Board of Supervisors to render an order to change the boundaries of the affected school districts" when a transfer occurs.

"I can only take action (to update boundaries for balloting purposes) upon proper notice and authorization as prescribed by the code," he said in his email.

Approval by the supervisors typically happens shortly after a transfer is approved by the appropriate agency or by voters, and it's not clear where the breakdown in the process occurred. ■

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Menlo Park hunts yellow fever mosquitoes door-to-door

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

The county has stepped up efforts to eradicate a species of mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*, known for carrying yellow fever, from Menlo Park.

On Nov. 2, community volunteers and workers from San Mateo County health services plan to go door-to-door to distribute information to Menlo Park residents on how to eliminate the mosquito from their properties.

Aedes aegypti is a 1/4-inch black and white mosquito, more commonly found in the southeastern United States than in California. It typically bites during the day and can potentially transmit several viruses, including yellow fever.

The goal is to get rid of eggs in

Officials say species is attempting to establish itself in area.

containers that can hold water, such as saucers, buckets, jars, and pots, the San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District said.

The *Aedes aegypti* species can survive as eggs in dry containers over the winter, then hatch as temperatures warm in the spring, according to the district.

Officials said the eggs may be destroyed by scrubbing with bleach or another household cleaner; adding sand to the container; or drilling holes in the bottom of the container to prevent water build-up.

Yellow fever and other illnesses associated with the mosquito have not been reported in California to date.

“While the current risk of disease transmission from this mosquito remains low, it’s important to make every effort to eradicate this population and prevent the possibility of any future disease transmission,” Dr. Scott Morrow, county health officer, said in a press release.

“The public can help by surveying around their house and neighborhood and eliminate even the smallest amount of standing water, since these mosquitoes lay eggs in water, just above the water line.”

Three adult *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes and 14 larvae have been trapped in Menlo Park since late August, according to the Mosquito and Vector Control District, suggesting that the invasive species is

attempting to establish itself in the area.

Inspectors have searched more than 1,000 homes, collecting 246 larvae samples. Yellow fever mosquito eggs were found at four additional locations after the first egg was found on Aug. 23 at Holy Cross Cemetery off Santa Cruz Avenue.

Call the San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District at 344-8592 to schedule an inspection. ■

**TOWN OF WOODSIDE
2955 WOODSIDE ROAD
WOODSIDE, CA 94062**

**PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
November 6, 2013
7:30 PM**

PUBLIC HEARING

SV Projects LLC

SDES2013-0004/XMAX2013-0001/XHGT2013-0001360

360 Mountain Home Road

Planner: Sage Schaan, Senior Planner

Review and recommendation of a proposal to construct an addition to an existing single-family residence, and additions to three different accessory structures (“West Dependency” Structure, “East Dependency” Structure, and “Pool Cabana”) on a 8.74-acre site adjacent to a scenic corridor (Mountain Home Road). The property is located within an RR zoning district. The project requires a Maximum Residence Size Exception and Height Exception.

Craig and Margaret London

CUSE2013-0009

1 Vintage Court

Planner: Sean Mullin, Assistant Planner

Annual review of Conditional Use Permit No. CUSE2012-0007 for a commercial winery on a 4.1-acre site.

Additions to Nonconforming Structures

ZOAM2013-0001

Town-wide

Planner: Jackie Young, Planning Director

Review and recommend approval, conditional approval, or denial to the Town Council of an ordinance to amend Woodside Municipal Code Chapter 153 to allow minor additions to main residences with nonconforming floor area.

All application materials are available for public review at the Woodside Planning and Building Counter, Woodside Town Hall, weekdays from 8:00 – 10:00 AM and 1:00 – 3:00 PM, or by appointment. For more information, contact the Woodside Planning and Building Department at (650) 851-6790.

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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.

Las Lomas misses point on kindergarten

The Las Lomas School District is ignoring a state law that requires all school districts to provide a transitional kindergarten program, claiming that it would give 25 percent of its students a free year of school. The district is one of only 4 percent of schools statewide that does not offer transitional kindergarten.

The Kindergarten Readiness Act, passed by the Legislature in 2010, changes the date by which a child must turn 5 in order to enter kindergarten from Dec. 2 to Sept. 1, a shift designed to make sure children are better prepared for kindergarten and to conform to the cut-off date in other states. The Las Lomas district is basing its position on the interpretation of its attorney, Deputy San Mateo County Counsel Eugene Whitlock, who does not believe the program is mandatory. This interpretation is contrary to that of Joe Simitian, a state senator in 2010 (and now a Santa Clara County supervisor) who was instrumental in the law's passage. Mr. Simitian told the Almanac: "The clear intent and expectation is that TK (transitional kindergarten) is required in every K-12 school setting. That is borne out by the clear direction on the California Department of Education website."

Richard Ginn, the Las Lomas board president, clearly does not agree, citing the county counsel's opinion, which runs counter to virtually every other school district in the state. Mr. Ginn apparently decided not to bring the transitional kindergarten decision before the board again as requested by some parents, possibly for another vote. A link to transitional kindergarten on the district's website did not work, one parent told the Almanac.

The Las Lomas position differs from that of several neighboring districts, although the Menlo Park City district has plans to reconsider its adoption of transitional kindergarten early next year. But other local districts, in Woodside and Portola Valley, have welcomed the new kindergarten project.

A major problem with Las Lomas' decision is that it did not state its intention to ignore the Readiness Act on its website or anywhere else prior to making its decision. As a result, parents

deciding where to live and when their children could start kindergarten made irrevocable decisions that counted on Las Lomas offering transitional kindergarten.

It appears that Las Lomas may be more interested in shrinking the number of kindergarten students at its elementary school campus by holding off on offering space for children who were born between Sept. 1 and Dec. 2. The result, some parents say, is that they are forced to send their child to daycare for another year at great expense, while the district, which is facing a huge growth in enrollment, is able to delay that bulge for three years.

Not all districts are trying to skirt the law. Beth Polito, superintendent of the 451-student, one-school Woodside Elementary School District, has embraced the two-year kindergarten program. She sees it as a way for the district to save money by reducing the number of children who repeat a grade and who may require expensive special services. Even if a judge said the program is not legally required, Ms. Polito said, her district would continue with transitional kindergarten. Why? "Because it is the right thing to do for kids."

It is odd that Las Lomas and Mr. Ginn have chosen to stiff-arm this new law just as the district is going out to get voter approval for a \$60 million bond issue, whose mantra is "More classrooms for our kids."

Las Lomas should reconsider its misguided approach and implement the transitional kindergarten program for the next school year. Not only is it the right thing to do, but it very likely will pay off in future years by reducing the number of students repeating a grade, and give school staff time to work with children experiencing difficulties earlier.

In addition, the state Department of Education should obtain a legal ruling to reinforce the declaration made on its website: "Each elementary or unified school district must offer transitional kindergarten and kindergarten classes for all children eligible to attend."

The language should be ironclad, and not subject to the whim and interpretation of school districts or their attorneys.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS

Our readers write

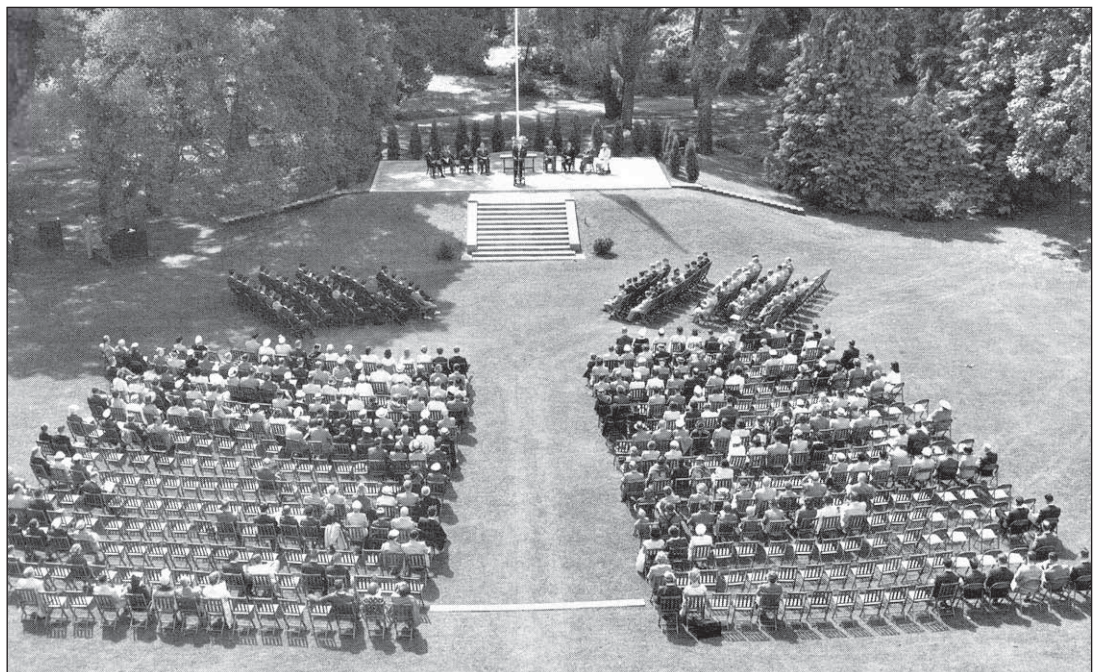
Mayor's visit sparks ties with Galway

Editor:

They came, they spoke and they left... but not without making a significant contribution to the quality of life for Menlo Park citizens.

The recent visit to Menlo Park by Padraig Conneely, mayor of Galway, Ireland; Ciaran Hayes, deputy city manager of Galway; and Gerry Hayes, a citizen of Galway has helped to set in motion a friendship agreement between our city and their city. During their visit the group had the opportunity to visit our beautiful Civic Center and meet Mayor Peter Ohtaki, and join in and speak at the annual State of the City event and celebrate the 150th anniversary of Caltrain

Continued on next page



Menlo Park Historical Association/Earl Douglass Jr.

Our Regional Heritage

The 1953 graduation from Menlo School was held on the lawn of the former estate of Leon Douglass, then the campus for the institution.

LETTERS

Our readers write

Continued from previous page

last week.

I want to thank the Menlo Park City Council for supporting the efforts of many Menlo Park civic-spirited citizens, including, among many others, Fran Dehn from the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce and Jym Clendenin from the Menlo Park Historical Association along with myself as co-chairs of the newly formed Two Menlos.

We are excited and pleased with this new-found link, which may provide in the days ahead a unique opportunity for both cities to enhance education, sports, dance, other cultural ties, as well as business and industry along with the potential of many other Irish connections to promote world peace and understanding. The possibilities are limitless as our lives are enriched in ways that a solid relationship can help foster.

*Jim Lewis, co-chair
Two Menlos*

Elderly drivers need more testing

Editor:

Ten months ago, I wrote a letter following a tragic accident on Highway 280 involving an elderly driver (83 years old) that claimed the lives of three people.

Last week brought a fresh tragedy as a 90-year-old driver ran his SUV into the Walgreens in Menlo Park, pinning twin six-year-old boys in front of the car. At last report, one of the boys was said to be in stable condition after suffering massive internal injuries.

These incidents are a result of the very lax rules governing the licensing of

elderly drivers. Unless you have been dealing with an elderly family member on

Clarification

Last week's editorial endorsing Rick DeGolia for Atherton City Council noted that that he was not endorsed by any members of the City Council. That is correct: His publicized endorsement list does not include any current council members. Some residents contend that Mayor Elizabeth Lewis did endorse Mr. DeGolia when she, along with 19 other residents, signed his nomination papers. We do not agree, and we stand by our statement and our endorsement of Mr. DeGolia for the Atherton City Council.

the question of when they should stop driving you probably are unaware that so long as the driver has a clean record the DMV only requires that a driver pass the written exam and an eye test. No driving test is required.

I believe it is time to rethink our driving laws. Let's test drivers more thoroughly and more frequently. Lets encourage family members to approach their loved ones with an open and honest discussion when it is time for them to quit driving.

I would also like to encourage our state representatives to look into making some necessary changes.

*Mark Gilles
Sharon Park Drive, Menlo Park*

Council member shares election choices

Editor:

I urge my friends and neighbors in Portola Valley to vote in the Nov. 5 election and in particular, I want to ask you to join me in supporting Mayor John Richards, Maryann Derwin, and Craig Hughes for the Portola Valley Town Council.

I have now served Portola Valley as a volunteer for five years. For three years, I was a member of the Architectural and Site Control Commission (ASCC), and for the past two years I have served on the Town Council. I have worked with John, Maryann, and Craig throughout that time and have found them to be dedicated, responsible, and thoughtful participants in our town's governance. While we don't agree on every question, I have always respected their opinions, and we have always been able to work together, even on subjects where we have disagreed.

Portola Valley was founded on a set of cherished, and unique, principles. We have always recognized that the value of our community is intertwined with our respect for our local environment, even as we modify that environment, judiciously, to serve our needs and desires. To maintain this delicate balance, we have relied on the volunteer efforts of our citizens over the last 50 years, to remember Portola Valley's founding values, to modify and extend them to the present and future, and to use both restraint and vision to preserve the Town we all love. I have worked beside Maryann, John, and Craig to play a minor part in the governance of Portola Valley; I look forward to continuing to work them.

*Jeff Aalfs, member
Portola Valley Town Council*

High-speed rail legal problems near climax

By Morris Brown

On Thursday, the plaintiff's in the Tos et. al vs. the High-Speed Rail Authority filed their reply brief to the Attorney General's brief in this highly watched case. (Sacramento Superior Court #34-2011-00113919).

The court hearing on these issues is set for Nov 8, and the judge will rule within 90 days thereafter.

Judge Kenny had ruled in August that the Authority's funding plan for the Central Valley construction did not conform to requirements mandated in Prop 1A. He then ruled that the attorneys for both sides must file briefs on the issue of what remedies for these ille-

galities should be imposed.

The state Attorney General, representing the authority, in her brief, did not contest the judge's ruling. Rather, she claimed that construction could start using only federal grant money, and that Prop 1A would not be violated, since none of those funds were to be used.

The first construction, on which a contract has been awarded, is from Madera to Fresno, about 29 miles. The total cost of this section is about \$2 billion. The total federal grant funds amount to about \$3.2 billion, and consists of two grants, the ARRA grant, about \$2.4

billion, and the FY-2010 grant, about \$930 million.

A key section in the plaintiff's reply brief, just filed, notes the authority seems to have overlooked in its plan that the ARRA grant funds are geographically restricted to construction in the Central Valley from Fresno south. Thus they cannot be used to fund the current construction contract awarded to Tutor-Perini for Madera to Fresno, all of which is north of Fresno. Thus, under the authority's proposed plan, only the FY-2010 funds amounting to \$930 million are available for funding this \$2 billion segment.

So at best, without the use of Prop 1A funds, it appears the authority is more than \$1 billion short of the funds needed to complete this short 29-mile segment. However, they have already awarded a contract. Where is an additional \$1 billion going to be obtained?

Morris Brown lives on Stone Pine Lane in Menlo Park



Happy with Portola Valley endorsements

Editor:

The Almanac got it right in endorsing Maryann Derwin, John Richards and Craig Hughes for Portola Valley Town Council.

Maryann and John should be re-elected to the council and Craig should be elected to it on Nov. 5. Through their thoughtful comments at public meetings and also their voting history, these three have shown commitment to upholding Town values as expressed in our General Plan. This is important. They also understand how Portola Valley does, and should, fit in regionally.

I agree with the Almanac endorsement that these three will keep Portola Valley going the in right direction.

Maryann Derwin, John Richards and Craig Hughes are the candidates who deserve everyone's vote. We are fortunate to be able to have the opportunity to keep these gifted volunteers working for us.

*Bev Lipman
Favonio Road, Portola Valley*

Support for early kindergarten classes

Editor:

I am writing in response to the recent Almanac article on transitional kindergarten (TK). Transitional kindergarten has become an integral part of our education system here in California and we at Early Edge

California are excited to see the program continue to grow. It is great to see parents like the Kiekhaefers who know the value of TK in giving children a strong start in school.

Transitional kindergarten bridges the path between preschool and kindergarten for young learners and will yield crucial benefits for future academic success. In 2010, when the new law changed, the kindergarten entry date so that children must be 5 years old before September to begin kindergarten, TK was created to given children born in the fall the gift of time to develop the skills they need and deserve to succeed in school. We owe it to all of our

young learners to give them the time and the strong foundation they need to succeed in the early elementary grades and beyond?

We have heard countless stories from parents whose children have blossomed in TK, and we have heard from parents who are saddened that their children were not eligible for TK or don't have that opportunity in their area. One thing is clear: Californians value this opportunity for their children.

We're excited to see transitional kindergarten continue to roll out and serve more children.

*Molly Tafoya
Director of Communications
Early Edge California, Oakland*

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