

The Almanac

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

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Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Megan Keely performs with her brother Brandon and father Bert at the Brick & Mortar Music Hall in San Francisco on Jan. 27. She grew up in Ladera, surrounded by music.

Singer/songwriter makes Hunger Games track

Megan Keely also works as a landscape architect in Woodside

By **Kate Daly**
Special to the Almanac

For now, singer/songwriter Megan Keely has no intention of quitting her day job. Even after getting a taste of Hollywood with a song that made it on the Hunger Games movie extended soundtrack, the landscape architect says she loves working on high-end gardens in the area, *and* loves performing songs with her family and friends.

Ms. Keely, 28, grew up in Ladera surrounded by music. When her father, Bert, wasn't working at Microsoft, he played lead guitar in a psychedelic rock band called the Flying Other Brothers.

"He and his friends would jam a lot and started touring," she says. "Our family vacations were spent touring with them

to Alaska and London. ... I was always in the audience, dancing and listening with my mom."

Aside from a brief stint in chorus at Menlo School during high school, Ms. Keely didn't focus on music until she went off to study landscape architecture at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

There she picked up a guitar and lived in a music-themed dorm. She left to study and travel around India with a knockoff Epiphone guitar.

One summer she attended the Stanford Jazz Workshop to work on her music skills (singing, playing and composing). During the school year back at Cornell, she would visit her older brother, Brandon, at NYU, where he played guitar and trumpet for fun. They ended up recording a song for their father for Father's Day 2007.

Their father's band's producer, T Bone Burnett, heard the song and encouraged them to continue recording and keep in touch.

Ms. Keely says at first she was terrified to perform in public. She recalls playing at a monthly coffee shop event at her dorm and laughs about how she didn't even make it through two verses of one song.

"Now, I love performing," she says. "I practiced a lot and got better. At first I was technically so new I couldn't do it on autopilot. Knowing that vulnerability is a special and wonderful thing."

Critics have commented on her inviting, sincere and emotional approach to music. She describes her sound as "contemporary folk that draws upon

See **KEELY**, page 6

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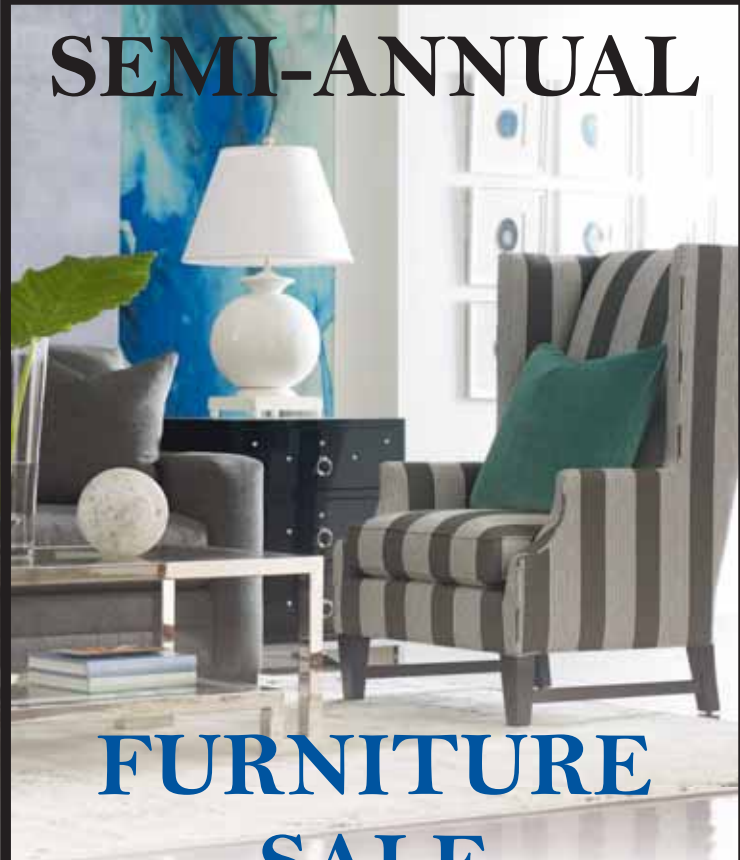


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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

New food-truck event draws about 1,000 people

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Chairs doubled as tables and curbs doubled as chairs at the launch of Off the Grid's weekly Menlo Park food-truck event on Feb. 19.

Lines at popular vendors such as burger truck Me So Hungry and chicken and waffles truck The Waffle Roost stayed long even after two hours.

Over a backdrop of live acoustic music, newcomers swapped intel about which lines moved quickest.

Dozens left with food boxes in hand, passing before a placard encouraging a post-truck visit to Kepler's Books or Cafe Borrone.

Off the Grid estimated that 1,030 customers turned out for its Menlo Park debut at the Caltrain station. "Last night was a great turnout for the first night and (we) had a great response from customers," said representative Marla McLaughlin.

Some grumbles were heard about a dearth of vegetarian or lighter fare, but overall the crowd seemed pleased. Ms. McLaughlin said Off the Grid chooses a mix of trucks and menus to provide a selection of vegetarian as well as meat items, and will keep the feedback in mind for future events.

The Menlo Park Planning Commission approved a permit for the weekly event in January. Despite protests by about 20 downtown businesses, no one appealed the decision.

Off the Grid, based in San Francisco, started organizing food-truck events nearly four years ago and now hosts gatherings at 26 Bay Area locations. The company is paying \$750 a month to Caltrain to use the corner of the train station parking lot near the intersection of Merrill Street and Ravenswood Avenue each week. Signs will ban parking within that section of the lot from 3:30 to 10 p.m. on



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Isaiah Leyva hands a Blendid organic dessert shake to Ruby Johnson on opening night of the Off the Grid food-truck gathering in Menlo Park.

Wednesdays.

Food is served for three to four hours, starting at 5 p.m.,

with live music, chairs and lighting provided along with a portable toilet. Off the Grid

must clean up the area by 10 p.m. after each event and dispose of all garbage off-site. ■

Woodside district will ask voters to approve \$13.5M bond measure

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

Voters in the Woodside Elementary School District will be asked to approve a \$13.5 million bond measure on June 3. The school board voted unanimously on Feb. 11 to place the measure on the ballot.

Should the measure pass, proceeds from the bond sales will go toward projects that include replacing portable classrooms with permanent flexible classroom space that would better accommodate modern teaching strategies; safety, security, maintenance and modernization projects; and the replacement of the Sellman Auditorium.

Officials of the one-school district estimate that if voters approve the measure, residents will be taxed at a rate of \$24.05 per \$100,000 of their property's assessed value.

The board had been discussing

the possible ballot measure for some time, and last summer the district held community meetings to discuss campus needs and possible fundraising strategies. A study had been done earlier, and the estimated cost of the identified projects was about \$17 million, according to Superintendent Beth Polito.

A team of volunteers launched a fundraising effort last year to defray part of the cost. Ms. Polito said the capital campaign leaders think they can raise about \$3.5 million for the project.

Of all the identified projects the district hopes to fund with bond revenues, the replacement of Sellman Auditorium with a building of the same size will be the most costly. The new building would include a permanent stage, added storage, connection to the campus' music room, a new food service area, and rest-

See **BOND MEASURE**, page 11

Jackson challenges M-A students

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Grandfathers may recognize the situation that faced the Rev. Jesse Jackson around 2:15 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20, as he took the stage at the Performing Arts Center at Menlo-Atherton High School. Mr. Jackson, 72, was trying to communicate with teenagers. In the darkened theater, every one of the 500 seats had an M-A student in it.

While Mr. Jackson's trademark call-and-response exchanges did not achieve the energy of a revival meeting, students did play along and gave him thunderous applause when applause was called for.

Mr. Jackson, founder and president of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, was in town to visit the organization's East Palo Alto office. The likely reassignment of all East Palo Alto children to M-A seemed an occasion to invite Mr. Jackson to speak, M-A Principal Matthew Zito told the Almanac.

Mr. Jackson arrived at M-A's podium and began in a way



Photo by Dave Boyce/The Almanac

Jesse Jackson rallied Menlo-Atherton High School students on Feb. 20 to always do their best, graduate, and go on to careers as citizens in a global family.

familiar to anyone attuned to politics and civil rights in the 1970s and 1980s. "I am," Mr. Jackson said boldly and loudly into the microphone. "I am," said the students in a unified reply. "Somebody," Mr. Jackson said, and the students echoed him.

And not for the last time. Two or three repetitions later, Mr. Jackson went into his remarks. He spoke with no notes for

about 30 minutes, his talk punctuated every few minutes by uplifting and perhaps spontaneous chants — on togetherness, on doing one's best, on thinking of oneself as a global citizen, on succeeding academically, on being a teenager.

"I'm too old — to be a child — and not old enough — to be an adult. — I'm in — a twilight zone."

The community awaiting them as adults is a global one. Distances on the planet have been "dwarfed by science and speed," Mr. Jackson said. he gave an example of two airliners taking off from New York City, one heading to San Jose, California, the other to Senegal. A mere seven hours later, the passengers deplane and are half a planet apart.

But America is special, he said. "China is for the Chinese, France is for the French, Britain is for the English," he said. "Americans are those who yearn to breathe free," he said, referring to the inscription on the Statue of Liberty. "What makes America great is our ability to

See **JACKSON**, page 11

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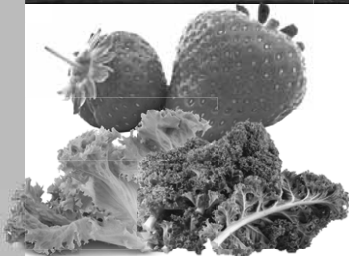
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Stacie Foreman named 2014 Youth of the Year

Stacie Foreman, 17, a junior at Menlo-Atherton High School, is the 2014 Youth of the Year for the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula.

The award is given for academic excellence, poise in public speaking, and passion for work with the BGCP.

In addition to maintaining good grades, she is a leader at the BGCP's McNeil Family Clubhouse in Menlo Park. She is a teen staff member, does community service throughout the year, is secretary of the Keystone Leadership Club, and provides weekly tutoring for a younger student at the clubhouse.

Further, Stacie completed a collaborative community project on recognizing and prevent-

ing bullying, in conjunction with Menlo Park Councilman Ray Mueller and a group of her peers.

Stacie was one of three finalists. The others were Alyssa Taylor and Josese Naivaluvou.

Stacie will represent the local clubs at the Boys & Girls Clubs of America national competition in February. She hopes to become an orthopedic doctor.

The selection committee included Mr. Mueller, Carole McNeil and Commander Dave Bertini of the Menlo Park Police Department.



Stacie Foreman

KEELY

continued from page 3

folk and Americana roots. ... I'm a pretty open and honest person, and in my songwriting I'm communicating about pretty universal things."

In October 2010, she self-released her debut album, Acorn Collection, which she says is "full of failed romances and pathetic heartbreak." For her second album, she says, she "had to find new inspiration because I wasn't going through heartbreak, so I drew on fictional sources."

That's where The Hunger Games enters into her narrative. The producer, Mr. Burnett, was involved in making the movie's soundtrack and asked her to consider writing for it. Ms. Keely and her brother spent a summer working on a bunch of songs based on characters in the book.

They recorded demos, mailed copies to Mr. Burnett's office in Los Angeles, and then arranged to drop by to play the song "Rules" for him.

The song eventually made it on the soundtrack companion album, "The Hunger Games: Songs from District 12 and Beyond." In that version, veteran singer Jayme Dee sang the vocals, Ms. Keely sang backup vocals and played ukulele, and her brother played guitar.

Other musical highlights for Ms. Keely include when she performed with her father, brother, and fiddler friend Antja Jean Thompson at the TEDxSanJoseCA Women program in December 2012. Ms. Keely's brother works at Google

and her father is retired, but they still make time to play gigs together whenever they can.

Ms. Keely recorded her second album, "Deciduous," in Nashville that same winter, and made some videos. One was inspired by her grandmother emigrating from the Philippines to the U.S. in 1960. Ms. Keely wrote and performed the song, "Dream it Now," for a pro-immigration-reform documentary, "The Dream is Now."

This year she is turning her attention "to taking strides on the business side, and learning about film and TV placement (creating songs for movies and shows)," she says. "It's an area where a musician can make money. That's very difficult to do on tour."

Most months she performs locally at places such as Brick & Mortar and Great American Music Hall in San Francisco. On Feb. 19 she's appearing at Bottom of the Hill, also in the city.

See megankeely.com for details on other upcoming appearances.

Ms. Keely splits her time living between San Francisco and Woodside, where she works for Sycamore Design, a garden design company. Sometimes she finds herself pulling off the road during her commute to write down notes about a possible song.

"There are hundreds of unfinished ideas and scraps that are ready for me to assemble," she says, giving the impression that she is just getting rolling on her musical career. ■

Ballot initiative would target large office complexes in MP

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

After Menlo Park's specific plan survived its first annual review mostly unscathed following a round of commission and council evaluation, opponents weren't ready to give up, with one grassroots coalition — Save Menlo — saying it planned “to send a very clear message to the developers who plan to cash in at the expense of the environment and quality of life in Menlo Park.”

That message appears to be taking the form of a ballot initiative, as Save Menlo is now collecting signatures to put its proposed specific plan revisions before voters. The changes could cut by about 50 percent the amount of office space allowed in two upcoming mixed-use developments along El Camino Real.

Former Planning Commissioner Patti Fry co-signed the Feb. 19 notice that informed the city of the signature drive. She said that Save Menlo tried to convince the council that the specific plan is flawed, to no avail. Rather than “passively wait” for

what the coalition thinks will be the damaging impacts of new, large office complexes along El Camino Real, she said, “residents have chosen to reach out to voters in the hopes of establishing their own remedies.”

Ms. Fry described the initiative's revisions as modest changes that would support the goal of promoting renewal consistent with Menlo Park's character.

“No one asked for huge office buildings more suited to an office park; residents asked for a vibrant and sustainable mix of uses: transit-oriented housing, retail/restaurants, hotel, and small-scale offices,” Ms. Fry told the Almanac in an email.

The revisions include changing the specific plan's definition of open space to mean only space at ground level, and not areas such as balconies; capping office space development at 100,000 square feet per project, or 240,820 square feet total; and requiring voter approval for any project that would exceed the cap or result in total non-residential development within the specific plan area exceeding 474,000 square feet.

Dissatisfaction arose once two

large proposals appeared on the planning horizon after the city, following five years of discussion and community engagement, approved the specific plan in 2012. The projects would add 409,500 square feet of office space within the downtown/El Camino Real specific plan boundaries.

Stanford University and developer John Arrillaga want to build a mixed-use project that would replace mostly vacant car lots on 8.43 acres along 300 to 500 El Camino Real. The project would involve 199,500 square feet of office space, 10,000 square feet of retail, and up to 170 apartments.

A second project, designed by Greenheart LLC, would put 210,000 square feet of office space and 210,000 square feet of apartments, with 13,000 square feet of retail included, on 7 acres located at 1300 El Camino Real at Oak Grove Avenue.

The number of signatures that Save Menlo needs to get the initiative on a ballot for the November election remains to be calculated, according to the city clerk's office. In 2010, pension reform initiative Measure L reportedly needed 2,500. ■

Daycare center opponents appeal county' decision

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Opponents of a plan to open a 24-child daycare center in a residential area of West Menlo Park say they are already in the process of appealing a decision by the San Mateo County Planning Commission to approve a permit for the center.

Peter MacDonald, who lives near the site of the proposed center in a single-family home at 3131 Alameda de las Pulgas, says the opponents will appeal the 5-0 decision to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors.

The commission on Feb. 12 approved the use permit to convert the home into a daycare center for up to 24 preschool children. Unlike whole-day facilities, Toddle LLC would require reservations and schedule drop-offs and pick-ups hour-by-hour throughout the day.

The proposal divided the neighborhood. At the commission meeting, some residents noted the benefits such childcare would bring for families with small children. Others argued that the noise and traffic would disrupt the peaceful environment.

Commissioners said they were cognizant of neighbors' concerns. To reduce noise, the permit will allow a high fence and dense landscaping, Commissioner Laurie Simonson said. The permit builds in flexibility for the center and its neighbors to work things out on their own, she said. As for traffic, the permit establishes a limit of two child drop-offs per 12-minute period and no more than 10 drop-offs per hour.

“Most of the children who use this facility will be walking to this facility,” Commissioner Frederick Hansson said. “I personally think it will be an asset to this neighborhood.”

Ms. Simonson added: “If you're bringing your kid to this facility and you're three blocks away and in a car, there's something wrong with that picture,” she said. “Hopefully, this is a neighborhood service.”

Heather Hopkins, co-owner of the childcare center and a resident who lives three blocks away, said she believes the center would be consistent with the neighborhood's character. And while there are four preschool daycare centers within a mile of the site, short-

term, reservation-based daycare is available only in San Francisco and San Jose, she said.

For parents who work at home and have varying schedules, finding a nanny or babysitter is difficult, Ms. Hopkins said. In Silicon Valley, extended family members are often not available. “It's just become a cultural need,” she said. “There's a shortage of childcare in general.”

To avoid concentrated traffic, arrivals and departures would be staggered from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Most childcare centers “have operated seamlessly for decades in their neighborhoods,” Ms. Hopkins said. “At the end of the day, these childcare centers usually go on to become beloved community institutions.”

“Of course she's going to say that,” Mr. MacDonald told the Almanac. Ten drop-offs or pick-ups per hour could add up to 80 trips per day, he noted. “That changes the neighborhood,” he said. “That's not why we moved here. ... We want a residential neighborhood to stay residential.”

Customers would avoid Alameda and use side streets because they're viewed as safer, Mr. MacDonald said. “The vast, vast majority” of opponents would support a 12-child facility, half of the size of the one approved, he added. ■

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman



Earthquake Insurance

Dear Monica: I recently bought a property in this area and am wondering if I should buy earthquake insurance. What do you advise?

Peter C.

Dear Peter: For most people, their home is their largest asset. While earthquake insurance coverage is more limited than ordinary homeowners' insurance, and has a high deductible (10%-15%), it will still protect you if your asset is a complete loss in the wake of a massive earthquake. You can think of it a lot like life insurance, which you probably will never need to use but

which you buy because it is so beneficial to have if you ever do need it. You may never have your property damaged in an earthquake either, but if it is badly damaged, you will be glad to have this insurance.

Earthquake insurance premiums are expensive but not if compared to the value of your home. If you don't have insurance and plan to rely on federal loan programs to rebuild after an earthquake, you will eventually have to pay back these loans, which can be very costly. You should weigh the cost of insurance against the potential financial damage to you if there is an earthquake and you aren't covered. Then decide what the best choice is for you.

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

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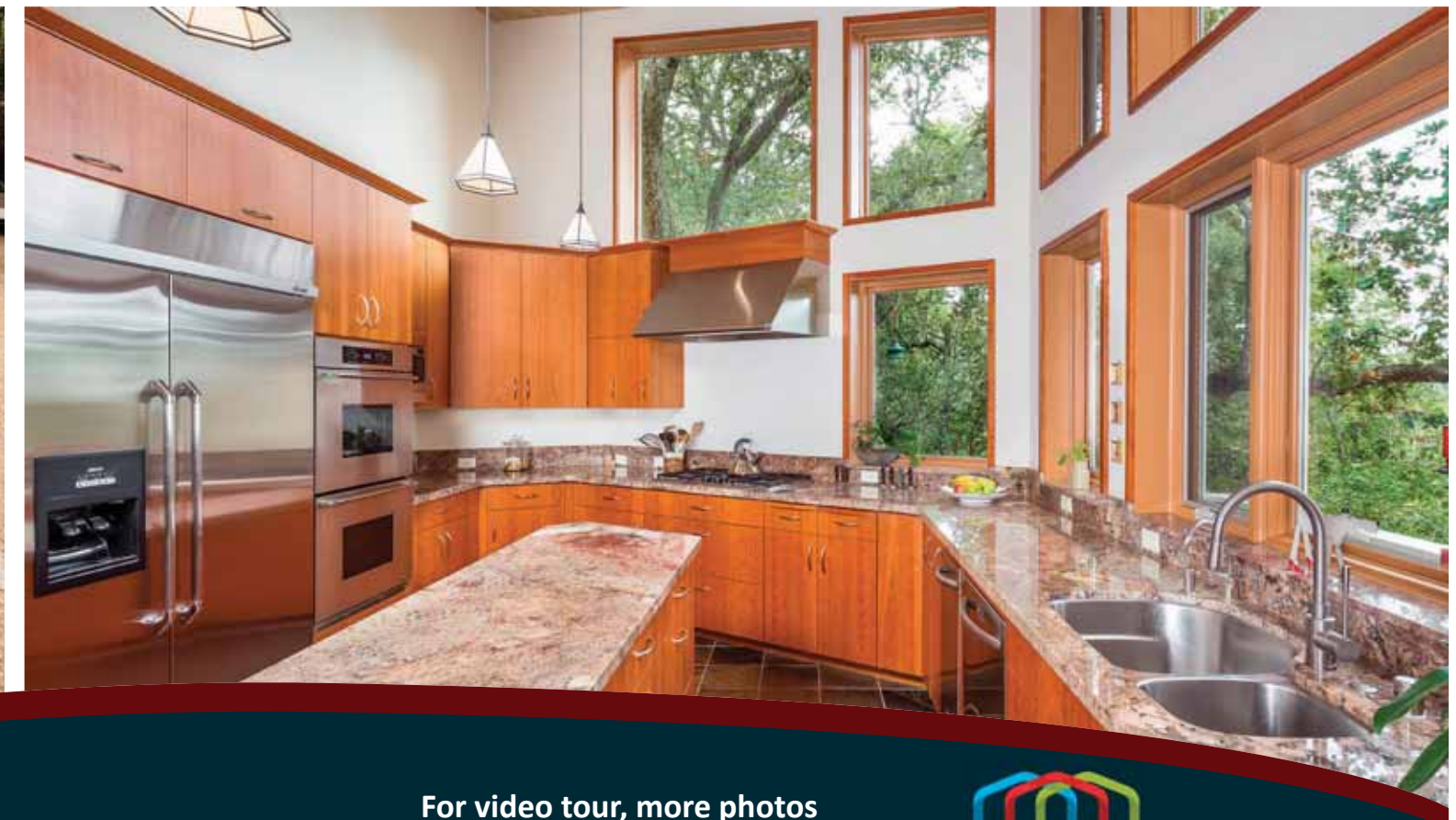
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Atherton police budget gets boost due to officer disability

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

Mounting overtime costs resulting from the number of officers out on disability, coupled with the expense of recruiting new officers, have led to a mid-year budgetary boost for the Atherton Police Department. And the ongoing building boom in town is making more spending in the building division necessary as well, although revenue generated by the robust level of activity more than covers those costs.

The City Council on Feb. 19 authorized giving the police department an additional \$70,298 to cover costs of paying four officers full salaries while they're on disability leave and for the overtime pay needed to cover those positions.

Although all four council members present that night supported the change in the building services budget, Councilman Bill Widmer objected to the request for more police spending. He argued that the council had already authorized an amount equal to \$80,000 for hiring two additional officers — positions yet to be filled — and that

money could be applied to cost overruns.

City Manager George Rodericks, however, "advised that this funding is not to be used until such time as the positions are filled on a permanent basis," according to a staff report.

The council majority agreed, voting 3-1, with Jim Dobbie absent and Mr. Widmer dissenting, to approved the additional funding.

Police Chief Ed Flint told the Almanac later that although the two additional positions in his department have been approved and funded so that recruitment can occur, he has not been authorized to hire new officers until existing positions open up.

He added that one position held now by an officer on disability is likely to be vacant soon. Officers on disability receive full pay, and have up to one year before coming back to work or leaving the force, he said.

Building permit surge

The police services budgetary adjustment is small compared with that made for the town's building services, for which an

additional \$166,389 in spending was authorized in the same council vote. But the additional spending for building services is amply covered by higher-than-projected revenue from building permits, making the approval merely a pro forma action — moving the extra funds from the "revenue" column to the "expenditure" column.

The extra building division spending is a result of provi-

sions in the town's agreement with its independent contractor that provides the building services. The contractor receives 58 percent of the first \$1 million in revenue, and 55 percent for revenue over that amount. The current fiscal budget projected building revenues to be \$1.23 million; it's now projected to be \$1.53 million, requiring the town to pay more than expected to the contractor.

The revenue is generated by fees charged for a range of permits and code-required inspections of construction projects.

The staff report on the mid-year budget also provided welcome news about property tax revenue: Initially projected to be about \$7.6 million in the current fiscal year, total property tax revenue is now estimated to come in at about \$8.5 million by the end of June. ■

Task force proposes \$265M bond measure

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

A task force of volunteers working for the Sequoia Union High School District has settled on recommending a \$265 million bond measure — up 18 percent from the initial \$225 million estimate in January — to provide capital funds for new construction on campuses to accommodate a coming surge in enrollment.

The district board meets Wednesday, Feb. 26, to discuss the recommendation and decide which election is best for a bond measure: June or

November. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. in the district office at 480 James Ave. in Redwood City.

A \$265 million measure would raise taxes by about \$16 per \$100,000 of a property's assessed value. With interest payments included, the cost to the taxpayer typically doubles.

Studies show wide support for a measure of up to \$300 million among 800 likely voters, but also show that a campaign will be necessary. But how long a campaign?

A short campaign for a June election would make funds available to meet enrollment in

2016-17, about when the surge will start, but a short campaign also makes big demands on volunteers. They must quickly devise a strategy, arrange endorsements, set up and staff phone banks, and advertise. Professional help is available, but at a cost. Will donors step forward in time, in sufficient numbers, and with sufficient contributions?

A November election gives ample time for all this, but voter turnout will be higher — not usually desirable when asking for a tax increase — and competing finance measures may complicate things. ■

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We will continue to monitor drought conditions as the year progresses. Please look for updates at calwater.com.



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Campbell seeks second term as superintendent

With the March 7 filing deadline for the June 3 election approaching, Anne Campbell, San Mateo County's superintendent of schools, has taken out papers to run for a second term.

Ms. Campbell ran unopposed for the four-year office in 2010, and replaced Jean Holbrook later that year when Ms. Holbrook stepped down several months early.

In announcing her intent to run earlier this month, Ms. Campbell listed as priorities "closing the achievement gap, expanding access to quality preschool, and ensuring all students are prepared for success

in the 21st century global economy."

Ms. Campbell's career in education before running for county superintendent included stints as teacher, counselor, principal, and district superintendent. She was serving as superintendent of the Portola Valley School District when she ran for the county post.

As of Friday, Feb. 21, no one else had taken out papers in the race for superintendent.



Anne Campbell

JACKSON

continued from page 5

take rejected stones and make of them cornerstones and build a great nation."

"We must learn to live together and learn to speak more than one language," Mr. Jackson said. "We must all learn to live together like brothers and sisters."

A French twist

Mr. Jackson recalled his own experience on speaking another language. Upon entering high school, he was accomplished enough to play on the football team, rare for a freshman. Well and good, but as a sophomore, his mother told him, he would be signing up for the choir. He resisted, but in the end joined the choir. His mother then added learning French to his load.

He fought that, too. But it was "a momocracy," he said. He signed up but decided to underachieve. He learned croissant and poulet and a few other words.

He graduated and wound up working with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on civil rights. In 1963, when Dr. King spoke in Washington, D.C., of his dream of living in a nation in which people would not be "judged by

the color of their skin, but by the content of their character," the reality was very different than today, Mr. Jackson noted.

From Texas to Maryland, he said, African Americans could not use a "whites only" public toilet. They couldn't sit at the front of a bus, he noted. They couldn't buy ice cream at a Howard Johnson restaurant, or stay in the hotel.

Mr. Jackson was on the hotel balcony with Dr. King when he was assassinated in 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee. "We decided we would not let one bullet kill a whole movement, so we kept moving," he told the M-A gathering.

The movement led him to Chicago, where he had a home. At one point, he was to host an ambassador from an African country. Mr. Jackson and friends and family were sprucing up his home and yard, he said, when a couple of big limousines pulled up. The ambassador stepped out and had a question for Mr. Jackson: "Parlez-vous francais?" To which Mr. Jackson, having been an underachiever in high school, had but one answer: "No."

"No one has the right to do less than their best," he told the students. ▀

BOND MEASURE

continued from page 5

rooms, according to the study. That project would cost an estimated \$7.67 million.

Other projects and their costs include: the demolition of the existing relocatable classroom and the construction of two new classrooms, about \$1.7 million; the demolition of the existing relocatable classroom No. 19 and construction of a new 1,000-square-foot flexible classroom space, \$711,000; and safety,

security, maintenance and modernization projects, \$5.9 million.

The ballot measure language approved by the board asks voters if the district should issue \$13.5 million of bonds "(t)o repair basic Woodside Elementary School infrastructure and protect quality academic instruction in core subjects with local funding that cannot be taken by the State, upgrade educational facilities to meet current health/safety codes, renovate heating, electrical, sewer/security systems, (and) fix leaking roofs." ▀

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Righteous Porkchop

MONDAY // May 13

Brian Fagan

AUTHOR, ANTHROPOLOGIST,
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The Attacking Ocean

SELECT SUBSCRIBERS

MONDAY // April 7

Amy Stewart

AUTHOR, GARDENER

The Drunken Botanist

Car crashes into Studio Red lobby

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Models that took “thousands of hours” to construct were destroyed, but product design and development company Studio Red was open for business the day after a car crashed into the company’s lobby at 115 Independence Drive in Menlo Park at around 7:20 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18.

The driver was a 51-year-old woman from San Bruno, according to Menlo Park police. She was uninjured and mistook the gas pedal for the brake pedal — while making a U-turn, Studio Red President Philip Bourgeois told the Almanac.

Menlo Park Police Department spokeswoman Nicole Acker confirmed Mr. Bourgeois’ account of the accident.

The building was unoccupied at the time of the crash, Mr. Bourgeois said.

Studio Red does custom work for industrial customers, and includes design, engineering and machining services. The destroyed models were of carts meant to hold surgical equipment; the cart models were made of metal and the equip-



A car crashed into the lobby of Menlo Park product design and development firm Studio Red on Tuesday night, Feb. 18.

ment models of plastic, Mr. Bourgeois said.

“They exploded,” he said. “I don’t know what I’m going to do.”

The car drove through the lobby and into a conference room, on the way destroying several windows, several internal walls, and cabinets, Mr. Bourgeois said. The damage extended 60 feet down one hallway and, overall, is likely to run into tens of thousands of dollars, he said. “We’re attempting to do a very aggressive cleaning,” he said.

Mr. Bourgeois was at home in

Woodside when he received an alert about the activation of the alarm in the Studio Red lobby. He called the Menlo Park police, went to the site, contacted a contractor and had the building boarded up and was home by 9:30 p.m., he said. ■

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Talk: 'Future of the Mind'

Michio Kaku, professor of physics at City University of New York, will discuss his new book, "The Future of the Mind: The Scientific Quest to Understand, Enhance, and Empower the Mind," at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 2, at the Fox Theatre, 2215 Broadway in Redwood City.

The talk is sponsored by Kepler's Books and Peninsula

Arts & Letters.

Mr. Kaku has local roots. He assembled a particle accelerator in his parents' garage for a National Science Fair project while attending Cubberley High School in Palo Alto.

Tickets are \$45, including the book, or \$20 for general seating. Tickets may be purchased online at Kepler's Books and at the Fox Theatre Box Office.

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Ruth B. Morrison

1920 – 2014

On January 27th, Ruth Blanchard Morrison passed away peacefully in her sleep. Our Mother—known professionally as Ruth B. Sherman, left a legacy of outstanding Interior Design and pioneered innovations way ahead of her time for over seventy years. She devoted her life to the profession of interior design and her Family.

As a third generation native of San Francisco, she adored the history and propriety of the City. Born in 1920 to Edna & Arthur Blanchard, she attended the prestigious Sarah Dix Hamlin School in San Francisco, and went on to Paris, France where she received her education in Design. Returning to the SF Bay Area when World War II broke out, she apprenticed with Robert E. Robson. Ruth opened her own Interior Design Business in Menlo Park, enabling her to provide custom designed furnishings for her clients. Ruth was well known for her abject honesty and attention to detail, rarely missing an opportunity to further enhance the living space of long term clients and associates.

Ruth B. Sherman Interiors became well known as one of the top interior design firms in the San Francisco Bay Area, and Ruth was an inaugural member of AID (Association of Interior Designers). Known later as ASID (American Society of Interior Design), she was recognized in aiding the development of ASID's first business practices handbook. Additionally, Ruth chaired the first Asilomar Conference sponsored by ASID and lectured at the University of California Interior Design Extension Program.

In 1951, Ruth and her beloved husband, John C. Morrison, moved to Los Altos Hills establishing the "Mad Manor" legacy, where they raised their four sons and two daughters. Known as their sanctuary, this historic 1916 vintage home included acres of walnut and apricot trees. Both believed this picturesque and tranquil property was the appropriate setting to raise their combined family.

As a self-proclaimed city girl, Ruth fell in love with the simplicity and tranquility surrounding their home and often shared her belief that she indeed lived in paradise. Our Mother always said she was just lucky—when in fact she was an astute and savvy business-person—always thinking outside the box to the promise and vision of the future. As a result, her property and developments will continue to be viable and worthwhile.

Ruth is pre-deceased by her son John C. Morrison, Jr. and her daughter Marilyn (Morrison) Coleman. Her husband passed away in September of 1978.

She is survived by her sisters Noyon Berg and Jere Wadsworth, her children, Roger Sherman II, Susan (Sherman) Tuttle, Michael S. Morrison, and William R. Morrison II, including numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren. We are all very proud of her lifetime accomplishments. May she rest in peace.

A "Celebration of Life" will be held in her honor at a later date.



PAID OBITUARY

Police probe vandalism targeting wealthy

By Renee Batti

Almanac News Editor

The Atherton Police Department is reviewing material on security cameras made available by residents and consulting with other agencies, including the FBI, in an effort to find the vandals who spray-painted slogans hostile to the wealthy on vehicles, garage doors and other surfaces in the Lindenwood neighborhood on Feb. 16.

Police Chief Ed Flint said the

investigation hasn't produced suspects yet, but the painted messages — about a dozen of them — have been removed. The slogans included "F--- the 1 percent" and a message advocating violence, he said.

Although no suspect has been identified, the FBI was consulted because it tracks activist movements such as Occupy Wall Street, which began making national headlines in late 2011 for staging protests against economic inequality and the degree

of corporate influence in Washington. The movement coined the term "1 percent" to refer to the country's wealthiest people.

The vandalism occurred between 6:30 and 10:30 p.m. that Sunday, according to police. The department issued an alert, and reminded residents to keep their home security systems working; property gates, doors and windows closed; exterior lights on at night; and vehicles locked with no valuables inside the passenger compartment. ■

■ POLICE CALLS

WOODSIDE

Theft reports:

■ Someone fraudulently used the credit card of a resident of Greer Road to buy \$20,500 worth of solar panels from an Oregon business and have the panels delivered to an address in Laredo, Texas. Feb. 12.

■ A woman pushed her grocery cart out to her car in the parking lot of Roberts Market and parked the cart near her vehicle's front door. She took out a bag of groceries, put it in her car, and sat inside for a while. When she got out to get a pen from her \$6,000 Hermes purse that was also in the cart, the cart and her purse were gone. Feb. 5.

ATHERTON

Residential burglary reports:

■ In a case of forced entry, someone broke into a home on Fairview Avenue and stole a Rolex Executive watch, a gold necklace, a gold Cartier Tank watch and about 100 pieces of jewelry, including rings, earrings and pendants, altogether a loss of about \$12,500. Feb. 15.

■ A house on Spencer Lane was broken into and a Lancel purse, \$1,200 in cash, a \$500 gift card and typical purse contents were stolen for a loss totaling \$2,100. Feb. 18.

Theft report: Someone stole \$145 in cash from a wallet left on the console of an unlocked vehicle parked on Maple Avenue. Feb. 11.

PORTOLA VALLEY

Auto burglary report: The owners of two vehicles parked at Alpine Road and Willowbrook Drive returned after hiking to find their windows smashed and items missing, including a small coin purse from a glove compartment and from rear luggage compartments, a purse and a large bag. Feb. 5.

LADERA

Auto burglary report: Someone smashed the window of a vehicle parked on N. Castanya Way and stole a purse from the front seat. The total loss is about \$5,000 in property and cash. Feb. 1.

WEST MENLO PARK

Prescription medicine was stolen from a mailbox on Leland Avenue, with the empty shipping bag found ripped open a couple of blocks away. Feb. 10.

MENLO PARK

Residential burglary reports:

■ Someone entered a home on Cotton Street through an unlocked rear door and stole an \$1,800 laptop computer that had been sitting on a desk. Feb. 11.

■ A \$1,700 laptop computer is missing from a house on San Mateo Drive. The rear door had been unlocked. Feb. 13.

Commercial burglary reports:

■ A woman entered the Willows Market at Middlefield and Willow roads and walked out with a bottle of beer and dog food that she had not paid for. Police arrested her nearby and booked her into San Mateo County jail on suspicion of burglary. Feb. 18.

■ A woman entered Celia's Mexican Restaurant at 1850 El Camino Real and

Storytelling event Saturday in Menlo

The storytelling duo known as Eth-Noh-Tec will perform a free program, "Asian Treasure Bag," on Saturday morning, March 1.

The program, sponsored by the Friends of the Menlo Park Library, begins at 11 a.m. in the Menlo Park City Council Chambers.

Nancy Wang and Robert Kikuchi-Yngojo of Eth-Noh-Tec perform stories for adults and children, weaving music, dance, rhythmic dialogue, facial expression and the spoken word to bring

their stories to life. The duo has performed at festivals, museums, conferences, and even presidential inauguration events, according to a Menlo Park Library press release.

Free van service to the program is available for Menlo Park seniors and people with disabilities. For more information or to schedule transportation, call 330-2512, or email rlroth@menlopark.org.

The council chambers are at 701 Laurel St. in the Menlo Park Civic Center.

Mary Catherine Cunha

Mary Catherine Cunha passed away peacefully after a short illness on Valentine's Day, February 14th. She was 87.

To those who knew and loved her, she was a firecracker with a quick wit, a friendly and all-knowing neighbor, a woman of faith, an animal lover, and the maker of a mean kale soup. Although never one to shy away from hard work, she was fun-loving and always up for a chuckle and hearty laugh.

An east coast gal, born in South Dartmouth, Mass., in 1926 and raised in New Bedford, she moved out west to California in 1950 with her husband Bill Cunha, a Menlo Park fireman to whom she was married for 60 years. She worked at Stanford's Student Health Services as an administrative assistant for nearly 17 years, always remembering those years with great fondness. A longtime resident of Menlo Park and parishioner at St. Denis Church, Mary was often found greeting folks at Sunday mass and waving hello to neighbors and friends around town.

She is survived by her three daughters Susan, Cathy, and Cindy, six grandchildren, and her brother Joe Santos. A memorial service will be held on Saturday March 1st, at 11AM at St. Denis Church in Menlo Park.

In lieu of flowers the family is requesting donations to Pets in Need - 871 5th Ave. Redwood City, CA 94063



PAID OBITUARY

Continued on next page

Menalto Corners still on the market?

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Conflicting reports are circulating regarding the possible sale of Menalto Corners, a 4,400-square-foot retail center at 1923-1929 Menalto Ave. in Menlo Park that serves as a popular community gathering spot.

Last week, the cafe's owner, Kathleen Daly, said a real estate agent for Cafe Zoe was told by the agent representing the building's owner that the building had been sold in a quick deal, and that no counter-offers would be considered.

Ms. Daly said she got a call on Feb. 11 from her agent, Adela Gildo-Mazzon, informing her of the sale. Sources at the cafe at the time the call arrived and those familiar with the situation confirmed the report.

Ms. Daly told the Almanac on Feb. 21 that the impression it had been an all-cash transaction was an assumption on her part, but that the conversation was clear that it was "a done deal."

The news came as a disappointment to community members who had asked the retail center's owner, Anatole Zelkin, to give the tenants time to make an offer for the property.

Now it appears that reported deal may have fallen through, although the retail center's tenants have gotten conflicting information last week on the property's status.

Despite repeated requests for clarification, Suheil Sahouria, the agent representing the building's owner, hasn't responded to questions regarding whether a sale failed to go through, beyond claiming nothing in the story was accurate. He also did

not answer questions about the conversation he reportedly had with Ms. Daly's agent.

Mr. Zelkin was not amenable to being interviewed and told the Almanac at the time the first story ran that he would not give out any information.

Likewise, Ms. Gildo-Mazzon said she had no comment.

The building is listed at \$1.45 million on LoopNet.

A sale could leave Cafe Zoe searching for a new home. Ms. Daly told the Almanac that she, like two other tenants — Twig and Petals and Captivating Dance by Nona — have no leases under the current owner. The fourth tenant, Habibi's Salon, was under contract.

The tenants learned that the building was up for sale in early January after negotiations over rent and utility increases fell apart.

Mr. Sahouria said the tenants turned down the offer of long-term leases.

After leaving voicemails inquiring about the sale, the tenants reportedly heard from Mr. Zelkin last week and received unclear information as to whether a deal is in progress or the building remains up for sale.

Ms. Daly has been pursuing options to purchase the building herself with help from either investors or a small business loan. During its five and a half years at the retail center, her restaurant has become a fixture in the Willows community.

Residents expressed hope that a new landlord may see the value of the community's investment in the Menalto Corners' businesses. Ms. Daly said the tenants likewise remain optimistic. ■

Continued from previous page

ordered food and an alcoholic beverage. She left with a take-out box holding the remains of her meal but without having paid for the meal. Police arrested her a short distance away from the restaurant and booked her into jail on suspicion of burglary. Feb. 19.

■ On two occasions, two suspects were seen on a video surveillance camera trying to enter DSSD Inc. on Bohannon Drive via the front door. They were unsuccessful on both occasions, and on one occasion were wearing dust masks. Feb. 9 and 14.

Auto burglary report: Someone smashed a window of a vehicle parked in the 1100 block of El Camino Real and stole a tote bag containing \$150 in personal property. Feb. 12.

Theft reports:

■ A computer accessory with a value of \$1,850 was taken from a desk in an unlocked office in the 900 block of Santa Cruz Avenue. Feb. 13.

■ Vehicle registration and insurance information was taken from the glove compartment of an unlocked vehicle parked on Stanford Avenue. Feb. 18.

Fraud reports:

■ Someone made an unauthorized use of a credit card of a resident of Carlton Avenue to buy a \$34 article of clothing. Feb. 11.

■ A resident of Trinity Drive wired \$2,000 to someone who called claiming to be his grandson and had requested \$4,000. Feb. 11.

■ A resident of Ivy Drive received a phone call from a man claiming to be a police officer who told her of an arrest warrant in her name and that she could avoid being arrested by sending him \$900. She said she did not have the money, and told the caller so. He also requested her Social Security number, driver's license number and debit card information, all of which she gave to him. Feb. 18.

■ A resident of Oakhurst Place went to her bank to arrange a wire transfer of \$7,500 in response to a phone caller who asked for the money to "free her imprisoned grandson." The bank teller refused to carry out the transaction and advised her to contact police, which she did. Feb. 4.

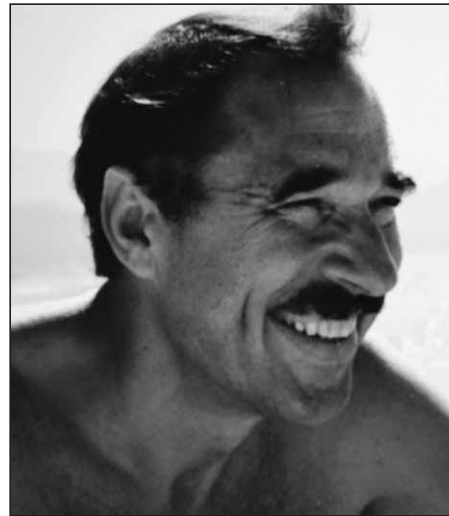
■ A man attempted to cash a fraudulent check at Wells Fargo Bank at 735 Santa Cruz Ave. When he was unsuccessful, he left the bank. Feb. 4.

Frank Henderson Barrett, Jr

January 20, 1939 – February 7, 2014

WOODSIDE, CA. On February 7, 2014 at home, with friends and family by his side, Frank Henderson Barrett, Jr. finally won a victory over his battle with Lewy Body Dementia when his soul was released from his earthly body and he entered through the gates of heaven.

Frank was born Francis Henderson Barrett, Jr. on January 20, 1939 in New York City. He was the only child of Francis Henderson Barrett and Miriam Jessamine Bliss. Frank grew up in various cities and towns throughout New England while his father served as an administrator for several VA hospitals. After high school he attended Virginia Tech, where he received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1961. He then received his master's degree in civil engineering, with a specialty in sanitary engineering, at Penn State when he graduated in 1962. Frank pursued his engineering career working in Boston, Trinidad and Guam before moving to California and starting his own engineering firm, Barrett and Associates, in 1970. (His associate was his dog Hokie.) In 1979 Frank found a human partner in his long time friend



and employee Phil Harris, and Barrett, Harris and Associates was founded. Five years later Phil decided he'd be more comfortable with a smaller firm and decided to go his own way. Frank's company then became known as Barrett Consulting Group. Initially the company focused on designing sewage treatment plants for small towns up and down the Pacific Coast. Later Frank expanded his business to offer this service to the developing islands in the Pacific.

By the time Frank and his partners sold the firm to Earthtech in 1995, there were over two hundred and fifty employees and numerous offices across California, Washington and islands in the Pacific.

In August 1966, Frank married Carol White and they had three daughters: Susan, Kathryn and Julie. Frank and Carol were divorced in 1990. In 1991 Frank met Lynn Johnson and for over 18 years they shared a life of love, laughter, adventure and travel that few ever dream of, much less experience. In 2009, when Frank's disease began to seriously impact their lives, Frank and Lynn decided it was time to "make it official." In November 2009, they were married at their home in the presence of a small group of friends and family. Six weeks later Frank was officially diagnosed with Lewy Body Dementia.

Frank is survived by his wife Lynn Johnson, his three daughters: Susan Barrett of El Dorado Hills, CA, Kathy Grieve and her husband Ben Grieve of La Jolla, CA, and Julie Barrett of San Carlos, CA; three grandchildren: Bode, Kaia and Barrett Grieve of La Jolla, CA and three first cousins: Jean Bertman of Cromwell, CT, Ken Barrett and his wife Stella of Miami, FL and Virginia Byrd and her husband Ron of Niceville, FL.

Frank was a loving husband, father and

grandfather. When he was not laughing with his family or endlessly digging into his family genealogy, he loved traveling around the world. He will be deeply missed and always remembered as a generous and compassionate husband, father, and friend.

Frank's wife, Lynn, would like to express her sincere gratitude to the following people for being there for her and Frank during his last days and hours: Lucy Dubon, a special friend and Frank's caregiver over the last two years - I would not have survived this battle without her; Alex King, who put his life on hold and literally moved into Frank and Lynn's home to as-

sist with moving Frank and monitoring his every need — his gift of understanding Frank's final words, when no one else could, was immeasurable; Kathy and Sue, Frank's daughters, who came to say good-bye when he asked for them, and then came again to stay and sleep by his side until the end; Francine and Robert Montez who were always there when I needed them; Lydia Vasquez, a special friend and gentle soul who gave of her time and caregiving talents

that she had learned over the years through her own personal tragedy; Elizabeth Rastatter who frequently was there to watch over Frank when I needed to go out, that sometimes involved more than she bargained for — but she was still a trooper; Robin Riddle, the leader of the local Parkinsonism support group who was always there with sound advice when it was needed the most; and a special thank you to Barbara Gruenwald, a glorious friend that could not physically be there because of her own husband's struggle with Lewy Body Dementia, but who has been my rock for the last two plus years.

I would also like to thank the hospice team from Pathways for helping make the last three weeks as smooth as possible. I resisted calling them, but now I wish I had called sooner.

Frank's brain has been donated to the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida. This clinic has received a special grant for the study of Lewy Body Dementia and is always in need of additional donations. They accept any brain donation, healthy or otherwise to enhance their research capabilities. Please consider making arrangements to donate your own brain to further this worthy cause. The brain can be carefully removed without otherwise harming the head and the body may be returned to your loved ones for either burial or cremation.

For more information about brain donation please contact the: Brain Support Network, PO Box 7264, Menlo Park, CA 94026, 650-814-0848, www.brainsupportnetwork.org. To find out and understand more about Lewy Body Dementia please visit www.lbda.org. If you would like to remember Frank in a special way, please consider making a financial donation to either the Lewy Body Dementia Association or the Brain Support Network.



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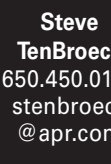
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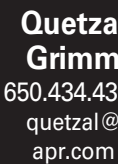
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