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The Almanac

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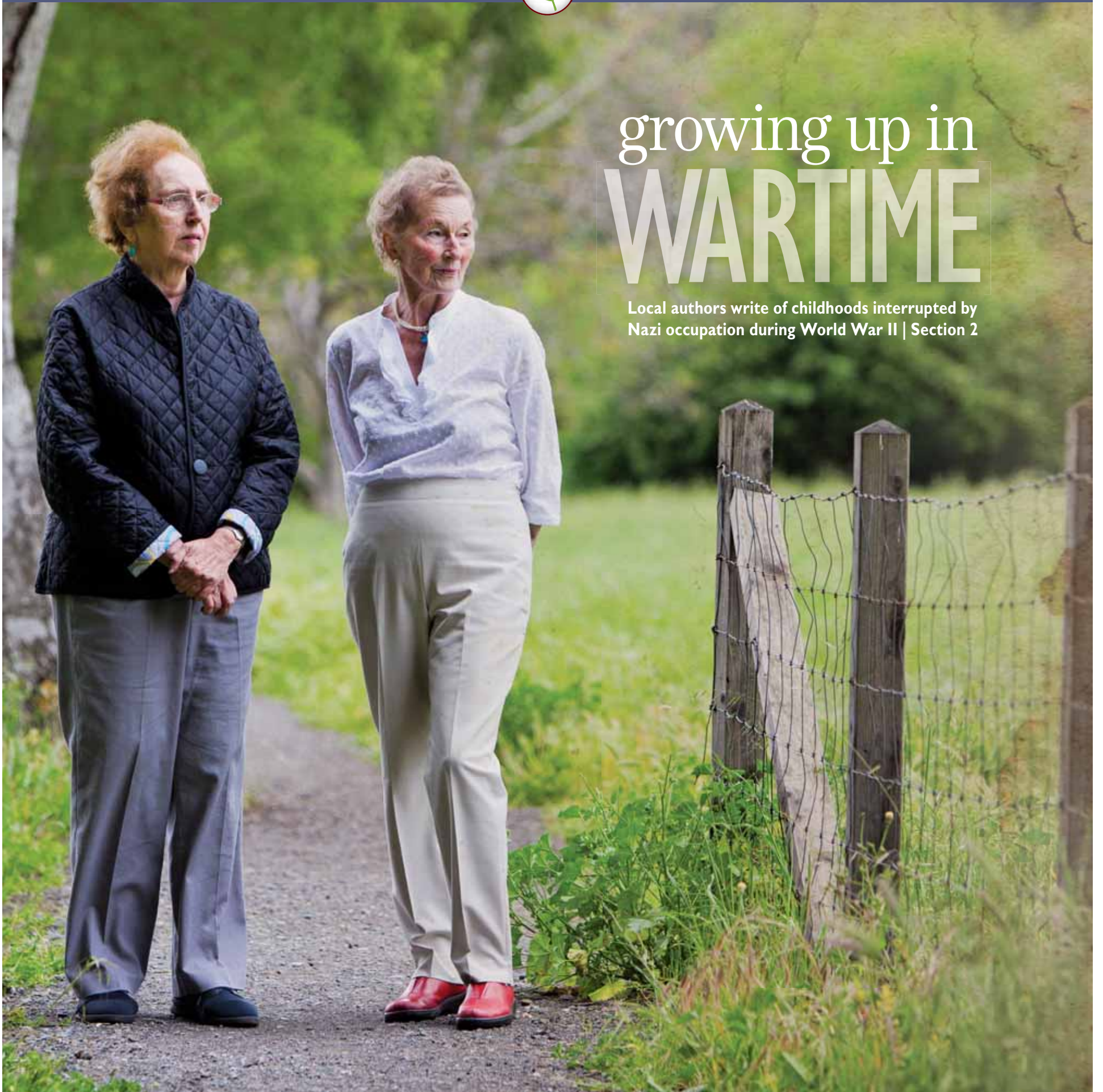
APRIL 30, 2014 | VOL. 49 NO. 34



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Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Volunteers with Rebuilding Together paint the historic Latham-Hopkins Gatehouse in Menlo Park on Saturday, April 26. From left, the volunteers are Teal Geiger, Patrick Gold, Kirsten Crum and Sara Hollister.

What's old looks new again

Volunteers refresh Latham-Hopkins Gatehouse in Menlo Park

By **Sandy Brundage**

Almanac Staff Writer

A Menlo Park landmark got a fresh coat of paint on April 26, when volunteers participating in the 25th National Rebuilding Day worked on the historic Latham-Hopkins Gatehouse, as well as two Belle Haven homes and the Boys & Girls clubhouse in Menlo Park.

The gatehouse, located at 555 Ravenswood Ave., now serves as headquarters for the Junior League of Palo Alto-Mid Peninsula, which founded the local Rebuilding Together Peninsula (then called Christmas in April) a couple decades ago.

"We are thrilled to be working with the Junior League this year," Seana O'Shaughnessy, executive director of Rebuilding Together Peninsula, said in an email. "It means a lot since yes, indeed, we were started 25 years ago by the League. It was an amazing group of women who pulled together the right board and laid a tremendous foundation for us."

The historic building, constructed in 1864, has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1986. It got its start as the entrance to a 280-acre estate owned by William Eustace Barron, according to the Junior League's records.

'It was an amazing group of women who pulled together the right board and laid a tremendous foundation for us.'

SEANA O'SHAUGHNESSY,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
REBUILDING TOGETHER PENINSULA

The estate changed names several times as new owners entered the picture until finally in 1942, when Stanford University took over. All buildings on the property except for the gatehouse were demolished; remnants such as pieces of the

mansion were sold for use on movie sets. The gatehouse went on to serve as living quarters for soldiers during World War II.

Eventually the league renovated the property in 1996. Now, nearly two decades later, about 40 volunteers dedicated nine hours to refreshing the gatehouse from top to bottom, scrubbing cabinets, rearranging furniture and collecting detritus for disposal.

Their preparations actually began long before Saturday, from powerwashing the entire facility to gathering paint and other supplies. The work isn't over yet — the bathroom, foyer and trim still need paint, and the carpets await steam cleaning, according to volunteer co-captain Brooke Lopez.

The league plans to host a painting party to help finish the refurbishment. If anyone has some to spare, the gatehouse could use a new rug for the foyer — something with a touch of blue — and buffet tables for the living room, according to Ms. Lopez. ■

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THE ALMANAC (ISSN 1097-3095 and USPS 459370) is published every Wednesday by Embarcadero Media, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Periodicals Postage Paid at Menlo Park, CA and at additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation for San Mateo County, The Almanac is delivered free to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside. Subscriptions for \$60 per year or \$100 per 2 years are welcome. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Copyright ©2012 by Embarcadero Media, All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Big ambitions for Hawthorns estate

■ Portola Valley's Yvonne Tryce sees the potential for a nature and history center.

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

■ PORTOLA VALLEY

Near the corner of Alpine and Portola roads in Portola Valley, there sits an unoccupied estate that dates from 1867. Upon its 79 acres are a rundown mansion, a rundown garage, a rundown cottage, a rundown barn, and estate grounds that, while not rundown, are not being put to productive use.

Frederick N. Woods III, who died in April 2008 at the age of 93, bequeathed the \$11 million Hawthorns estate and a \$2 million endowment to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, which took possession in 2011.

The open space district "does not have the expertise or capacity to renovate the structures and is interested in teaming with a partner (or partners) to develop, refurbish and/or reuse the historic complex," according to an April 3 statement to potential partners.

The estate is a jewel in the estimation of Yvonne Tryce, the longtime chair of Portola Valley's Nature and Science Committee. The committee has composed a draft letter to the open space district suggest-

ing what could be done:

■ The garage could serve as a nature and interpretative center, with the upstairs serving as an apartment for a caretaker.

■ The first floor of the main house could become a local history museum with rotating art exhibits, while the upper floors could be used for temporary storage of Portola Valley archives, or as below-market-rate housing.

■ The cottage could be a gathering place for youth groups such as scouts or 4H.

■ A restored barn could house horses and possibly an artists' studio.

■ The grounds could include a native garden near the interpretative center, a Victorian-era garden near the main house, and a vegetable garden "as befits the gentleman's farm" it used to be. Picnic tables could go up near the creek.

There may be other ideas; the open space district has set a deadline of June 20 for letters of interest.

A fully defined plan

For the Nature and Science



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

The first floor of a refurbished main house at the Hawthorns estate in Portola Valley might serve as a local history museum. Yvonne Tryce of the town's Nature and Science Committee is proposing such uses to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, which is pondering what to do with the property.

Committee to realize its vision without partners, a fundraising group, acting on its behalf, would need to raise \$6 million to \$8 million, Ms. Tryce told the Town Council at its April 23 meeting.

Comparisons were made to the Town Center project. With the Silicon Valley Community Foundation serving as banker, the council encouraged and thanked resident-donors who, over four years, gave \$17 mil-

lion for the building of the Town Center. Then-councilman Ted Driscoll, as Mayor Ann Wengert pointed out, "gave up a year of his life" to manage the project.

Resident Bernie Bayuk urged another such effort. "How about viewing this science and nature project in the same light and making the town part of it directly?" he said.

Mayor Wengert replied that the town's current priorities

are water conservation and fire prevention. Portola Valley runs a lean government and must be careful of staff time. The Hawthorns project "is not right in the core arena of what we're dealing with," she said.

Councilman John Richards noted Town Hall's full plate of residential development projects. "I would love it if the town

See HAWTHORNS, page 8

Menlo Park mayor plans summer visit to China

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

It's not quite on the same historical scale as President Richard Nixon's visit, but Menlo Park Mayor Ray Mueller is pretty excited about plans to spend nearly two weeks in China this summer — provided the Fair Political Practices Commission bestows its blessings on the endeavor.

If all goes smoothly, Mr. Mueller and possibly nine other Silicon Valley mayors will depart June 16 for a working tour of Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen and Wuhan.

Last year, \$1 billion in high-tech investment came to the United States from China, according

to Mr. Mueller. This year the figure could reach \$6 billion. The trip will include meeting with government officials, high-tech business leaders and investors as well as workers.

After meeting with other mayors and Chinese Consul General Yuan Nansheng on April 17, Mr. Mueller said, he's heard from entrepreneurs interested in fostering investment and other opportunities in Menlo Park.

With the area's reputation for venture capital development, "it



Ray Mueller

See MAYOR, page 6

Menlo debates Caltrain electrification

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

About 20 people attended a meeting in Menlo Park on April 24 to chime in on the draft environmental impact report for Caltrain's electrification project, voicing comments both in favor of and against the project.

With a budget estimated at \$1.5 billion, the switch to electrified trains running from San Francisco to San Jose could bring environmental as well as financial benefits for the transit agency and surrounding communities, according to Caltrain.

However, the project's goal of sharing tracks with high-speed rail worries some residents that electrification will provide a

Traffic delays, loss of trees are among concerns of opponents.

piecemeal way for HSR to circumvent further scrutiny, and that the combined impacts of both projects won't be considered.

A council subcommittee, composed of Rich Cline and Kirsten Keith, is charged with finalizing Menlo Park's comments on the draft impact report.

While proponents anticipate the possible benefits of electrification, including less air pollution and expanded service, community members also debate the drawbacks, particularly with

regard to the projected loss of thousands of trees and creation of traffic delays near the tracks.

At the meeting on Thursday (April 24), speakers raised additional points to make in the city's comment letter, according to Menlo Park Senior Transportation Engineer Nicole Nagaya. While acknowledging the positive environmental impacts electrification could have on air quality and greenhouse gas emissions, the speakers said Menlo Park should ask Caltrain to:

■ Consider improving the efficiency of its diesel trains instead of electrifying its tracks.

■ Look at other options for electricity, such as running a third rail as BART does instead of installing

See ELECTRIFICATION, page 8

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All voting is online. Vote for at least five categories by Sunday, June 1.

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Results will be published in a special edition of the Alma-



nac on July 23.

If you can't find your favorites in the drop-down menus, submit them as write-in votes. Write-in votes help new businesses qualify for next year's ballot.

Authors Salon in Menlo Park set for Sunday, May 4

The 23rd Annual Authors Salon will be held Sunday, May 4, at the Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club at 2900 Sand Hill Road.

Paul Goldstein, winner of the Harper Lee Prize for Legal Fiction, will moderate. Other speakers include historical novelist Margaret George, new author Tracy Guzeman, Dr. Susan Shillinglaw and Ron Hansen.

Go to tinyurl.com/Author-054 for more information on this Peninsula Volunteers event. General admission tickets cost \$125.

Preparing children for kindergarten

Annye Rothenberg, a child/parent psychologist, will give a

■ BRIEFS

talk on Tuesday, May 6, at the Roberts School in Menlo Park about how parents can prepare their children for kindergarten.

The free program, which is for parents only, will run from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at the school, located at 641 Coleman Ave.

Ms. Rothenberg is a parent and author of six books for young children and their parents, including "Why do I have to?" and "I'm getting ready for Kindergarten." She will give guidance to parents of 3- through 5-year-olds.

Roberts is a private preschool. Call 322-3535 for more information.

MAYOR

continued from page 5

seems to me that it makes sense to try to promote our city and our region as a place that capital can flow to for these kinds of investments," he said. "If there's money in China that wants to go and invest in the U.S. and go and invest in tech, it's going to go somewhere. So I'd like to have that discussion so we can all prosper from it."

Organized with the assistance of China Silicon Valley, the estimated \$50,000 trip for the 10 mayors would be paid for by the American Asian Economic and Cultural Association, a 501(c)3

nonprofit, and the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, based in China.

FPPC Communications Director Jay Wierenga said the commission does not comment on specific cases, but pointed to a section of the Political Reform Act that appears to allow travel expenses to be paid by 501(c)3 nonprofits and foreign equivalents.

Will this spark a new Menlo Park tradition of globe-traveling mayors? "Peter got to go to Ireland," Mr. Mueller noted, referring to fellow councilman and then-mayor Peter Ohtaki's trip to Galway in 2013. ■



Photo by Virginia Bacon

Portola Valley pioneers

Residents who have lived in Portola Valley for 50 years or more gathered for a party at The Sequoias retirement community on April 3. The event was part of the town's year-long celebration of the 50th anniversary of its incorporation. Town historian Nancy Lund described the assembled as "pioneer residents who came for the beauty and rural qualities of the valley and who stayed on to pass on the values of respect for the land and a spirit of volunteerism."

Town seeks quick analysis of cut-through traffic

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

■ PORTOLA VALLEY

The Portola Valley Town Council is moving to address the problem of cut-through traffic on Corte Madera Road and its tributaries as parents from elsewhere in town seek out ways to more quickly transport their children to and from Corte Madera School. For now, the issue is in the hands of the town's Bicycle, Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Committee.

With the cut-through traffic an issue of some urgency, the Town Council at its April 23 meeting stressed the need for the committee to expedite its analysis of a traffic-calming policy for Portola Valley. The new policy would be based on a draft policy obtained from the town of Los Altos Hills.

Students who live in the neighborhood use Corte Madera Road to walk to and from school, but like the other roads in this area, it is narrow and has no sidewalks or paths.

Residents complained to the council in March about par-

ents from other neighborhoods using Corte Madera to bypass the major Alpine Road intersections at Portola Road and Indian Crossing. Avoiding those intersections is also convenient for parents who have children across town at Ormondale Elementary School, residents said.

Traffic on Corte Madera Road is a driving factor.

Working from the Los Altos Hills draft, the council commented on where that policy did not quite fit with Portola Valley's circumstances. One example: Los Altos Hills includes an escalating three-level response to a traffic-calming issue.

At Level 1, a town's options would include educating the public and collecting speed data. If the problem rises to Level 2, the town could address the problem with new land-

scaping or Botts dots on the road surface. At Level 3, the options include median strips, raised crosswalks and speed bumps.

There's some overlap in there as far as Portola Valley is concerned, said Councilman Craig Hughes, who proposed collapsing the three levels into two. His colleagues agreed.

In previous discussions, the council has appeared to coalesce around a simple solution: a temporary sign to regulate access to Corte Madera Road at specific times of day.

A sign would be inadequate, said Dean Asborno, a resident of Canyon Drive. He advised using a "forcing" mechanism such as speed bumps to strongly discourage drivers from bad behavior behind the wheel.

The issue is important enough to tolerate speed bumps in front of his house, Mr. Asborno said. "I don't think there's anything else that will be effective," he said. "It would slow people down and save somebody's life."

Since Portola Valley also has a problem with people parking along Portola Road when the Windy Hill Open Space Preserve parking lot fills up, Mr. Hughes suggested that perhaps the policy on traffic calming could take on parking as well. ■

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Menlo Park debates train electrification

continued from page 5

overhead power lines.

■ Evaluate other power companies besides PG&E as potential suppliers.

■ Improve pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure at train stations.

■ Examine grade separations as part of the project.

Councilman Cline noted some community concern that issues raised regarding the environmental impact analysis could lead to a lawsuit down the road.

Atherton recently approved a comment letter that broached some of the same issues surfacing in Menlo Park, such as not considering design alternatives and not analyzing HSR alongside electrification, which could be “grounds for litigation.”

At least one person hopes a lawsuit doesn't materialize. “Electrification provides strong benefits to Menlo Park and the Peninsula, and as a resident I would not want to see our city challenge and seek to halt or delay this beneficial project,” said Adina Levin.

Others hope electrification doesn't materialize.

Jack Ringham, who serves on Atherton's rail committee, presented a detailed report at the April 24 meeting that made an argument for optimizing diesel engines as a better choice than

electrification. Caltrain's draft impact report says that electric trains can be quieter, emit less air pollution and increase the trip frequency, while diesel alternatives, in addition to being incompatible with high-speed rail, would not decrease trip times or operating expenses, and therefore discourage the type of service expansion that could increase ridership.

Citing low ridership on the current trains and the loss of aesthetic environments that can accompany transit upgrades, Menlo Park resident Eileen Lehman told the city in an email that there “is no demand for better public transportation that justifies destroying a middle class (for Menlo Park) neighborhood of young working couples, couples with small children, single people and a few retired people. The area between Ravenswood and Glenwood is where a lot of people get introduced to Menlo Park. Keep it nice. And of course, I cannot attend the meeting, because like most people in my neighborhood, I have to work, and can't make a meeting at 6 p.m.”

The public comment period for the draft environmental impact report ended April 29. Ms. Nagaya said the final version of Menlo Park's letter will be posted on the city's website (<http://tinyurl.com/n6chpc3>). ■



Photo by Doretta Bonner

Members of the May Day court, from left, Prince Case, Princess Mia, King Leo, Queen Sophia, Prince Anthony, and Princess Cherie join parade grand marshal Elianne Frenkel-Popell.

May Day festivities set for Saturday

By Barbara Wood

Special to the Almanac

In the spirit of its “Home-town Hero” theme, Woodside's 92nd annual May Day parade grand marshal Elianne Frenkel-Popell will lead the parade on Saturday, May 3, in a Lexus convertible disguised as a “batmobile.”

The car will be provided by Bo Magnussen, who is also a parade master of ceremonies.

The May Day festivities will start at 7 a.m. with a pancake breakfast put on by the Rotary Club of Woodside-Portola Valley at the Woodside Village Church, followed at 7:30 a.m. with registration for the annual 2.25-mile fun run and walk, organized by the Wood-

side Recreation Committee. Pancake breakfast proceeds go to the Rotary's Larry Wenrick Scholarships.

Coffee and doughnuts will be available at parade check-in in the school parking lot from 8 to 9 a.m. The parade starts at 10 a.m.

As usual, a royal court of kindergarteners has been chosen at random from the Woodside Elementary kindergarten class. The Woodside Elementary class of 1964 will be celebrating their 50th reunion at May Day.

Following the parade, third-graders under the direction of Kara D'Ambrosio will perform the traditional May Pole dance, and the Woodside Citizen of the Year award will be

given in the school's outdoor amphitheater.

A carnival and barbecue, catered by Alice's Restaurant, will run from noon to 3 p.m. on the school grounds.

Race day entry fees for the fun run are \$18 for adults and \$12 for children 14 and under. A family of four can register for \$45.

Local business Emily Joubert Home and Garden, at 3036 Woodside Road, will be having an open house on May Day to celebrate 10 years in business, serving complimentary crepes and champagne after the parade and featuring a photography exhibit by Katherine Westerman.

Kassia Kingsley and Kerri Stenson are the parade chairs. ■

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HAWTHORNS

continued from page 5

had the bandwidth to take on this entire project,” he said. Staff would have to be hired, he said: “We're really just barely scraping by.”

Sally Ann Reiss, a co-chair

of fundraising for the Town Center project, said that getting the Silicon Valley Community Foundation involved requires a business plan, including a budget. “It would have to be, actually, about fully defined,” she said. As for council backing: “It's really important to have

you as partners (and have your blessing,” Ms. Reiss said.

The project needs a group to represent it and someone to drive it, Ms. Wengert said. “That's really the heart of it.”

In an email, Ms. Tryce said she is planning a meeting to clarify the committee's proposal. ■

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Tips on water-wise gardening

By Kate Daly

Special to the Almanac

A local group of garden lovers is offering fresh plants and fresh ideas on water-wise gardening at its biennial plant sale in Woodside on Saturday, May 10.

The Woodside-Atherton Garden Club is selling hundreds of drought-tolerant natives at the Woodside Library Native Plant Garden from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Janet Larson of Atherton and Sheree Shoch of Woodside are co-chairing the fundraising event.

"We are excited to have such a wide selection of unusual plants that are drought-resilient, yet still grow well in our Mediterranean climate," Ms. Shoch says. "Our sale presents a great opportunity for people to replace their water-guzzling plants and pick up some tips from experts at the same time."

The sale takes place every other year, giving club members a chance to propagate and grow plants from seeds in their own yards.

This year varieties include: salvia, ceanothus, mimulus, pentstemon, spirea, sedum, cactuses, roses, irises, and vegetables.

Woodside-Atherton Garden Club members will also run a boutique filled with Mother's Day gifts, such as miniature flower arrangements in teacups, succulent potted plants, hand-painted straw hats, and books on gardening.

In addition to the sale, informational tables will be set up with landscape designer Lori Morris advising on water efficiency, beekeeper Mike Vigo sharing insights



Photo by Kate Daly

Co-chairs Janet Larson, left, and Sheree Shoch show some of the drought-tolerant native plants they will be selling in Woodside on May 10.

on pollination and the honey business, and Save The Bay's Jack States explaining the group's plant restoration work.

In cooperation with the Woodside Library, the Woodside-Atherton Garden Club will be introducing the new Woodside Seed Library, which member Barbara Tuffli of Atherton says is "part of a large, significant, national movement" to preserve local plants.

Seed packets of flowers, fruits and vegetables that members have collected will be stored in a chest of drawers at the library. Anybody is welcome to come in and check out the seeds, grow plants, let a few go to seed, and ideally return those seeds to the library so someone else can "borrow" them.

"We're going to encourage heirloom varieties because of

open pollination, and encourage natives," Ms. Tuffli says. "We're trying to make (the seed library) sort of educational, make it a community resource, and multi-generational."

Founded in 1929, the garden club is a nonprofit charitable organization associated with the Garden Club of America. Proceeds from the sale benefit the library garden and other civic projects.

Woodside-Atherton Garden Club members maintain the garden and use it as a showcase to illustrate what natives grow well in the area. The garden is behind the library at 3140 Woodside Road.

Go to woodsidthertongc.org for more information.

Freelance writer Kate Daly is a provisional member of the Woodside-Atherton Garden Club.

Board says time isn't right to add Mandarin immersion

By Barbara Wood

Special to the Almanac

A standing-room-only crowd of parents and supporters of a Mandarin-immersion program for the Menlo Park City School District next fall failed to get the support of the district's school board at its meeting April 23.

Board members heard a presentation by Carol Cunningham, a district resident who has organized backers of a program in which students would have at least half their classes in Mandarin, similar to the district's existing two Spanish-immersion programs. Ms. Cunningham said she represents 120 families and 160 students. They asked to have one Mandarin kindergarten class begin next fall.

Only one parent, Todd Bra-

hana, spoke against the program, asking that it be put off until problems with hiring and teacher support for the existing Spanish-immersion programs can be worked out.

"Adding Mandarin before the Spanish is stable is going to put the entire program at risk," he said.

Board members did not vote on a Mandarin-immersion program, but clearly do not support starting one this fall.

"I would like nothing better than to say go," said board member Terry Thygesen. "But I know it's simply not something that the district can do at this point in time."

Ms. Cunningham said research has found multiple benefits of a bilingual education, including preparing "our children to thrive in the complex global

economy." Research also shows "bilingualism is very good for the brain," she said.

Immersion programs are better than enrichment programs, she said, because "language is the tool, not the subject." Students in immersion programs develop fluency, literacy, multi-cultural competence and increased academic achievement, according to her research.

But Superintendent Maurice Ghysels said the district needs to "step back and take a really good look at what we want to do with foreign languages," including a close look at the existing Spanish-immersion programs, before launching a new one.

The district also has a number of projects under way right now, including moving to the Common Core curriculum and opening a new school. "When it comes to time and energy and money, you only have so much,"

See **MANDARIN**, page 18

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Two killed as car fails to negotiate off-ramp

Alcohol and speed appear to have played roles in a car crash that left two people dead off of U.S. 101 in Menlo Park early Saturday morning (April 26), according to the California Highway Patrol.

The San Mateo County Coroner's Office has identified the victims as Gaudi Salgado Barrios, 26, of East Palo Alto, and Taufa Toutai Pupunu, 27, of Redwood City.

The crash was reported at 1:42 a.m. on southbound U.S. 101 near the Willow Road off-ramp, the CHP said.

The preliminary investigation indicates that the car, a Toyota sedan, was traveling at a high rate of speed and failed to nego-

tiate the off-ramp's right turn, Officer Art Montiel said.

The car struck a tree, which launched it into the air and into another tree, the CHP said.

Ms. Salgado Barrios, the driver, and Mr. Pupunu were pronounced dead at the scene.

The Willow Road off-ramp was closed until about 3:30 a.m. while the CHP investigated the crash.

The preliminary investigation indicates that alcohol may have been a factor in the crash, according to the CHP.

Investigators continue to probe the circumstances surrounding the crash. Witnesses are asked to call Officer Vincent Pompliano at (650) 369-6261.

Teen arrested in connection with strong-arm robberies

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

A fake gun, a purse and several stolen cellphones led police to arrest a Menlo Park teenager April 21 on suspicion of robbery.

Police were investigating two recent strong-arm robberies — one on April 17 in the 1300 block of Hill Avenue and another on April 19 at the corner of Ivy Drive and Almanor Avenue — when they identified one potential culprit.

Based on witness descriptions, officers started looking for a 17-year-old boy, who was on probation for robbery, and located him around 9:45 p.m. on April 21, according to the report.

A search of the vehicle he was in and a nearby yard turned up a replica gun resembling the weapon used in the April 19 crime, cellphones from the

victims of both robberies and, inside a garbage can, a purse belonging to the woman robbed on April 17, police said.

The teen was arrested on suspicion of robbery and assault with a firearm. Investigators continue to look for a second suspect who participated in the April 19 robbery; the pair allegedly demanded that a 44-year-old pedestrian hand over his belongings as they approached him on two bikes. When the victim tried to call for help on his cellphone, one teen pulled out what looked like a black semi-automatic handgun and beat the man with it, while the other assailant pointed a can of pepper spray at him, according to the police report.

Police ask that anyone with information about these cases call 330-6300 or anonymous tip line at 330-6395. ■

Board hikes sewer rates 9 percent

Sewer rates for homes and businesses served by the West Bay Sanitary District will be rising by 9 percent starting July 1.

In a unanimous vote on April 23, the district's five-member board approved the increase, most of which will go to pay off bonds and low-interest loans for a \$527 million capital improvement program, District Manager Phil Scott told

the Almanac.

The district serves Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and areas of Woodside, East Palo Alto, and unincorporated San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

For all but 60 homes in Portola Valley, the current \$820 annual residential rate will rise to \$893. The \$1,042 rate in parts of Portola Valley would rise to \$1,136.

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Photos: Scott R Kline

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Pacific Union opens new office

Menlo Park Mayor Ray Mueller joined Pacific Union executives to cut the ribbon April 24 on Pacific Union Real Estate's new office at 1706 El Camino Real in Menlo Park.

The company had been operating temporarily at 3500 Alameda de las Pulgas in Menlo Park.

Pacific Union brought on five new real estate agents last week for the new office: Tom LeMieux, Kristin Cashin, Shane Stent, Doyle Rundell and Carolyn Rianda, according to spokesperson Terri Tiffany.

Other agents in the Menlo Park office are: Carol McCorkle, Nathalie de Saint Andrieu, Katharine Carroll, Deanna Tarr, Jennifer Pollock, Amy Sung, Elyse Barca and Ginna Lazar.

Pacific Union CEO Mark McLaughlin and Vice President David Barca participated in the ribbon-cutting event, when the company gave a check of \$5,000 to each of 11 nonprofit organizations in Menlo Park and Palo Alto.

The organizations are: Menlo Park-Atherton Education Foundation, the Las Lomitas Education Foundation, Music@Menlo, Peninsula Volunteers Rosener House, Jennifer Kranz Fund/Lucile Packard Foundation, East Palo Alto Tennis and Tutoring, One Million Lights, Palo Alto Partners in Education, Collective Roots, Sequoia



Photo by Moanalani Jeffrey Photography

At the ribbon-cutting, from left, are David Barca, Pacific Union Silicon Valley vice president; Ray Mueller, mayor of Menlo Park; and Mark McLaughlin, CEO of Pacific Union.

Hospital Foundation and St. Raymond School.

Pacific Union has 27 offices in the Bay Area. The Menlo Park and Burlingame offices are headed by Mr. Barca.

Local market

Pacific Union recently released a report on home prices and inventory in Atherton, Menlo Park, Portola Valley and Woodside.

The median sales price for a single-family home in those four towns averaged \$2.02 million in 2013, and buyers paid an average of \$886 per square foot, Pacific Union said.

Meanwhile, the combined

months' supply of inventory in the four communities declined from 3.5 in 2011 to 3.1 in 2013.

An influx of foreign buyers may be further constricting inventory, Pacific Union said. Such buyers often purchase properties as an investment without returning an existing home to the market.

"The continued constraint of supply against the velocity of existing demand, if sustainable, could drive single-family-home median prices to approach \$1,300 per square foot in 2016," said Mr. McLaughlin, CEO of Pacific Union.

Go to tinyurl.com/Real-403 to read the report.

Celebration of life of Lee Lewis Harwood

A celebration of the life of Lee Lewis Harwood, who died March 2 at The Sequoias in Portola Valley, will be held there at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 10. She was 96.

Born in Evanston, Illinois, she graduated from Evanston Township High School in 1934 and followed in her father's footsteps to Stanford University, graduating in 1938 as a member of the women's honorary society, Cap and Gown.

She met her future husband, Wilson Franklin Harwood, at Stanford and they were wed on Dec. 31, 1938, in Winnetka, Illinois. They were married for 69 years.

Their pioneering spirit, and Wilson's consulting career, kept them traveling internationally into their 90s. During their first 50 years together, she set up 25 households all over the world, including in Puerto Rico, the Philippines, Iran, Peru, England, Kuwait, Egypt, and both coasts of the U.S.

She lived by the motto, "Think Globally, Act Locally." Her paid positions were as a social

OBITUARY

Obituaries are based on information provided by the family.

worker, secretary to the Turkish ambassador to Kuwait, and poll worker in Portola Valley.

During the 1940s and 1950s in Washington, D.C., she worked with the League of Women Voters to win the right to vote for residents of the District of Columbia. She also volunteered with her daughters' Girl Scout troops, and successfully lobbied for a music program in the D.C. elementary schools.

Overseas, she started a band at the American School of Manila, helped establish a new orphanage in Tehran, and assisted in launching a mobile railroad car health clinic for the wives of railroad workers in Peru.

After returning to the U.S. and settling in Portola Valley in 1965, she rejoined the League of Women Voters, played in the Mid-Peninsula Recorder Orchestra, and reported on international subjects to her

"Current Events" women's club.

She served as president of the Community Committee for International Students at Stanford and "adopted" foreign students each year, many of whom remained lifelong friends.

During her 26 years at The Sequoias retirement community of Portola Valley, she actively volunteered on numerous resident committees. As editor of The Sequoian newsletter in the late 1980s, she initiated the transition from typewriter to desktop publishing.

She is survived by her three children, Margaret "Peg" Harwood Milledge of Palo Alto, Sara Harwood Arnold of Lexington, Massachusetts, and Lewis Harwood of Bethesda, Maryland; her sister-in-law, Sara "Sally" Harwood de Bivort of Portola Valley; five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Donations may be made to KQED, the League of Women Voters, or The Sequoias' Tomorrow Fund. The Sequoias is located at 501 Portola Road in Portola Valley.

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CALENDAR

Go to AlmanacNews.com/calendar to see more calendar listings

Special Events

Menlo Park Kite Day Participants can bring own kite or buy one. \$6 pays for a kite, hot dog, drink and chips or apple. May 3, 12-3 p.m. Free. Bedwell-Bayfront Park, Marsh Road and Bayfront Expressway, Menlo Park.

Wingding Family Fest Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District hosts event. Activities: birding, hiking and exploring nature. May 10, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve, one mile south of the intersection of Page Mill Road, Alpine Road and Skyline Blvd.. Call 408-252-3740. www.scvas.org/index.php?page=text&id=cal

M-A Big Bear Run 5K 5 km run/walk supports M-A High athletic teams. Course starts at high school, winds through Lindenwood, and finishes on track. Register by May 1 on website. May 4, 9 a.m. \$15 students; \$25 adults. M-A High School, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. Call 207-8869. www.active.com/atherton-ca/running/distance-running-races/m-a-big-bear-run-2014?int=

Mother's Day Garden Brunch Cancer Prevention Institute of California holds brunch at private home in Atherton. Garden event includes breakfast and silent auction. May 4. \$175 adult; \$60 child. Address provided with ticket purchase. Call 510-608-5003. www.cpic.org/get-involved/events/mothers-day-brunch.aspx

Re-engineering Journalism John S. Knight Journalism Fellows discuss ideas they explored and tested during year at Stanford. Reception follows. May 5, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Li Ka Shing Center for Learning and Knowledge, Stanford University, 291 Campus Drive, Stanford. Call 725-1190. knight.stanford.edu

Art Galleries

'Open Studio Saturdays' Seven artist workshops and galleries will participate in "Open Studio Saturdays" at Allied Arts Guild. Saturdays, May 3 and 10, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Allied Arts Guild, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park. Call 321-0220. www.portolaartgallery.com

Open Studios in Menlo Park Six Peninsula artists — Alice Weil, Teresa Silvestri, Julia Munger Seelos, Lynn Montoya, Kim Holl and Frances Freyberg — exhibit paintings, jewelry, textiles and photography. May 3, 4, 10 and 11, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. SVOS Group Site, 856 Partridge Ave., Menlo Park. www.francesfreyberg.com

Silicon Valley Open Studios Local artists open studios to public. See website for directory. May 3, 4, 10 and 11, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. www.svos.org

"In the Company of Animals" watercolor paintings Portola Art Gallery presents exhibit of animal paintings in watercolor by Belmont resident Teresa Silvestri. May 1-31, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Portola Art Gallery, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park. Call 321-0220. www.portolaartgallery.com

Classes/Workshops

Interfaith Choral Workshop Students of all faiths explore music of Mack Wilberg. That evening, group performs at Stanford Memorial Church. Register on website. May 10, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$35 (includes lunch). Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1105 Valparaiso Ave., Menlo Park. interfaithchoral-workshop.eventbrite.com

Musical Theater workshops for ages 10 to 19. Singer's Circuit Training workshops are one-afternoon sessions. May 4, 1-6 p.m. \$240. Bridgepoint Music, 657 Oak Grove Ave., Menlo Park. Call 454-9125. www.performancesinging.com

Watercolor with Alisan Andrews, member of Society of Western Artists. Class on basic techniques. Wednesdays, May 7-June 25, 10 a.m.-noon. \$120. Little House, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. Call 326-2025 ext. 222. www.pervol.org/littlehouse

Community Events

Health Matters Free community event hosted by Stanford Medicine explores advancements in medicine and health topics. May 10, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Li Ka Shing Center, 291 Campus Drive, Stanford. Call 497-7589. healthmatters.stanford.edu

Life's Myths: What Really Leads to Happiness Lifetree Cafe hosts hour-long conversation. April 30, 7-8 p.m.; May 1, 9:15-10:15 a.m. Free. Bethany Lutheran Church, 1095 Cloud Ave., Menlo Park. Call 854-5897. www.facebook.com/LifetreeCafeMP

County History Museum. Admission

free on first Friday of month. At 11 a.m., pre-school children learn about lighthouses. May 2 p.m., docents lead free tour for adults. May 2, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. San Mateo County History Museum, 2200 Broadway St., Redwood City. www.historysmc.org

Peninsula Rose Society holds 57th annual Rose Show. May 4, 1-5 p.m. Free. Redwood City Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood City. Call 465-3967. www.peninsularosesociety.org

Kids & Families

2014 Summer Camp Fair provides information on camps for kids ages 3 to 15. Attendees can enjoy family games, a jumble, raffle and free pizza. May 9, 6-8 p.m. Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, 700 Alma St., Menlo Park. Call 330-2200. www.menlopark.org

Fratello Marionettes perform three classic fairy tales. May 3, 2-3 p.m. Free. Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside. Call 851-0147.

Free Comic Book Day Visitors drop by to pick up free comic. Graphic novels available to be checked out. May 3, 1:30-5 p.m. Free. Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside. Call 851-0147. www.freecomic-bookday.com

Live Music

Juliet Green CD release concert Concert celebrates release of CD "Think About That," and includes musicians Greg Murai, Ben Flint, Fred Randolph, Marc van Wageningen, Phil Hawkins, Jeff Buenz, Anton Schwartz, David Brigham, Marc Eaman. May 3, 7:30 p.m. \$20 general; \$15 student/senior. Lane Hall, Valley Presbyterian Church, 945 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 539-4321. julietgreen.com

Menlo Park Chorus performs "Traveling Music," songs about trains, cars, planes and balloons. May 10, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$15 adults; \$12 student/senior; free for children under 10. Trinity Episcopal Church, 330 Ravenswood Ave., Menlo Park. Call 391-5382.

On Stage

'Lilith the Night Demon' Story of Lilith, the bawdy alternate Jewish story of creation, presented as magical folk opera by instrumental group Veretski Pass with San Francisco Choral Artists. May 4, 4 p.m. \$30-\$39 in advance; \$39-\$49 at the door. Performing Arts Center, M-A High School, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. brownpapertickets.com/producer/6139

'Smash' play Political comedy features groom who abandons bride on wedding day so he can overthrow British government. April 10-May 4, Thursday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. \$30. Dragon Theatre, 2120 Broadway St., Redwood City. Call 493-2006 ext. 2. www.dragonproductions.net/

'Pirates of Penzance' Menlo School performance. Chairs provided but attendees can bring lawn chairs and blankets. See website for tickets. May 2-4, 9 and 10, 8-10 p.m. \$5 students; \$10 adults. Menlo School Quad, 50 Valparaiso Ave., Atherton. Call 408-268-1927. store.menloschool.org

Murder mystery plays Woodside Priory Middle School holds audience participation performances of "Murder on Mystery Island" and "Tommy Two Toes." See website for tickets. May 1-3, 7 p.m.; May 4, 2 p.m. \$5 student; \$15 adult. Woodside Priory, 302 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 851-6102. priory.ticketleap.com/murder/

Talks & Authors

'Impact of Sea-Level Rise on San Mateo County' Hosted by League of Women Voters, talk by county supervisor Dave Pine deals with potential impacts of sea-level rise in the county, and what is being done to address them. April 30, 7-9 p.m. Free. San Mateo County Government Center, Room 101, 455 County Center, Redwood City. www.lwvsmc.org

'Who's in Your Teen's Village?' M-A Parent Education Series talk by Kent Pekel, CEO of Search Institute, deals with importance of teens building supportive non-parent relationships. May 1, 7-9 p.m. Free. Center for Performing Arts, M-A High School, 555 Middlefield Road, Atherton. Call 868-0590. teensvillage2014ma.eventbrite.com

Christopher Moore discusses new book, "The Serpent of Venice." May 14, 7:30 p.m. \$15 general; \$35 premier (includes copy of the book). Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park.

Panel discussion: Fracking in California May 7, 6-8:15 p.m. Free. Sunset Magazine HQ, 80 Willow Road, Menlo Park. thefern.org/join-fern-at-sunset-magazine-for-a-panel-on-fracking-in-ca/

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- Talks from top Stanford doctors and medical experts about brain and cognitive health, how to get a good night's sleep, why genomics should matter to you, and breakthroughs in mental illness prevention and treatment

Interactive Health Pavilion

- Research health topics with librarians from the Stanford Health Library
- Take an up-close look at Stanford's Life Flight helicopter and meet the flight crew
- Build an origami microscope and learn about its amazing potential
- Pick up tips on keeping your family healthy and safe during an emergency
- Learn about construction of the new Stanford Hospital
- Meet the furry friends of Pet-Assisted Wellness at Stanford (PAWS)
- Listen to live music while enjoying a farm fresh lunch created by nationally known organic chef Jesse Cool
- Visit other interactive health exhibits and much, much more

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Board says time isn't right to add Mandarin immersion

continued from page 9

he said. "One of the things I want to do really well is the things we've already committed to."

Ms. Thygesen and other board members said one problem they have with a new immersion program, as well as with the existing Spanish program, is that it's not available to all students who want it.

"We have an obligation to move toward equity of access for all students," said Ms. Thygesen. A lottery, she said, is not equitable. Her goal, she said, is "if it's a choice program, it's a choice that's available to all students."

That argument did not appease parents. "It's more important to at least provide for some than provide for none," said Jennifer Yeh, a district resident with three young children. "There's no way we can provide equal access to all."

Sharon Fendrich, whose daughter is in the Spanish-immersion program at Laurel School, argued that inequality is built into the public schools.

"Every child in our district has access to a better education than children in thousands of

surrounding districts," she said. "Hundreds of families in our district have made it obvious that they want a Mandarin-immersion program."

One reason for the sense of urgency by some backers of the program is that immersion programs usually start in kindergarten and older children can't join later. But board members said they need to do more work before starting a new program, including completing a project to identify the core principles of the district.

After the meeting, Ms. Cunningham said she was "very disappointed by the board's response." Ms. Cunningham said that the fact that the district had so many other projects underway seems to be "the showstopper."

"The compelling merits of a Mandarin immersion program were not debated at the meeting, and other challenges are solvable," she said.

"Despite the outcome of last week's meeting, we are optimistic that we will be able to collaborate with the district to find a win-win solution in the near future," Ms. Cunningham said. ■

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■ POLICE CALLS

This information is from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office and the Menlo Park Police Department. Under the law, people charged with offenses are considered innocent unless convicted. The dates that the reports were received by police are shown.

WEST MENLO PARK

Animal cruelty report: The owner of a 3-year-old female cat on Lucky Avenue told sheriff's deputies that her cat came limping home on or about April 9, her left front leg apparently injured. An X-ray by a veterinarian showed a bullet fragment that had "completely crushed" the bones in the cat's shoulder, with the result that her leg will have to be amputated. April 17.

WOODSIDE

Disorderly conduct report: Deputies arrested and booked into jail a San Mateo man on suspicion of having entered a women's restroom in Huddart Park on Kings Mountain Road, where he allegedly peered over a stall wall and photographed a girl. Witnesses detained the man until deputies arrived. April 20.

Prowler report: A resident of Moore Road claimed to be have been awakened after midnight by a banging noise at the front door. When she went to the door, she saw a slim man dressed in black running toward her front gate. April 19.

Fraud report: A resident of Oakhaven Way claimed that when he tried to file his federal tax return online, he received an error message. He said the Internal Revenue Service told him that his tax return had already been filed under the correct Social Security number — but from an address that hadn't been his residence for 18 months. April 18.

PORTOLA VALLEY

Fraud report: Someone opened credit card accounts for a resident of Portola Road using the resident's name, Social Security number, date of birth and home address. When she received the cards, she had them canceled. April 18.

ATHERTON

Fraud reports:

■ A resident of Greenoaks Drive paid \$10,150 over eBay for what turned out to be a fake Hermes Birkin blue Togo purse. Since the eBay posting originated in Plano, Texas, the police department there has taken the case. April 23.

■ A Tuscaloosa Avenue resident recently scheduled for jury duty called police to say that she received an anonymous phone call about having to pay a fee related to jury duty. No payments were made. April 23.

MENLO PARK

Residential burglary reports:

■ Someone forced open rear doors to two houses under construction and stole tools. Stolen from a home on White Oak Drive were four saws and a drill set, a value of \$3,160. Stolen from a house on Oakdell Drive were a saw and a compressor, an \$850 value. April 23.

■ A \$1,000 bicycle was stolen from the open garage of a resident of Morgan Lane. April 20.

Theft reports:

■ Two unattended empty soft-drink vending machines were stolen from a parking lot on Haven Avenue. Estimated loss: \$1,800. April 21.

■ Someone stole a delivered package containing a dress and a hat, together worth \$380, from the front porch of a house on White Oak Drive. April 24.

■ A \$325 camera was stolen from the trunk of an unlocked vehicle sometime in early April, and the trunk lid left not fully closed. April 24.

■ A woman who owed fees to the Menlo Park Public Library on Alma Street left the library and fled with a book she had not checked out and without having first settled her debt. April 24.

■ Someone stole a locked bicycle from a bike rack in the 800 block of El Camino Real. April 24.

Reckless vehicle report: Police cited a woman driving the wrong way on the Bayfront Expressway near the intersection with Chilco Street at about 3:20 p.m. April 20.

Network helps low-income moms

The Women's Achievement Network and Development Alliance (WANDA), which aims to increase the economic self-sufficiency of low-income, single mothers in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, is participating in the community-wide Silicon Valley Gives Campaign on May 6, a one-day online fundraiser hosted by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

WANDA has been given a dollar-for-dollar challenge grant of up to \$25,000, which could mean as much as \$50,000 for the organization. WANDA's objective is to help 25 more women finish college.

To date, the organization says it has helped 134 low-income single mother heads of households move toward financial

independence for themselves and their children. Women in the program have saved close to \$500,000, which they have invested in first homes, college education, retirement savings and new businesses.

Members of the WANDA Leadership Circle include: from Atherton, Dianne Giancarlo, Anne Gunderson, Paula Hurd, Susan Hyatt and Libby Taylor; from Menlo Park, Susan Kokores; from Portola Valley, Sue Levy; from Woodside, Liz Korman, Mary Henry, Susan Breyer, Vaciliki Papademetriou and Christina Kamra; and from Palo Alto, Barbara Jones, Chris Kenrick, Glowe Chang, Patty Raleigh and Elizabeth Ronn.

Go to tinyurl.com/Give-506 to join the May 6 campaign.



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Emil Real, longtime Menlo resident

Emil Vincent Real, a resident of Menlo Park for nearly 60 years, died April 20 at the age of 90.

A memorial Mass will be held at St. Denis Catholic Church in Menlo Park at a date to be announced.

Born in San Pedro, he graduated from San Pedro High School in 1941. During World War II, he entered the V12 Naval College training program at University of Southern California, graduating with a degree in electrical engineering.

At USC, he was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity, and met his future wife, Kay Wood. After graduation, he was commissioned as a Naval officer.

His entire business career was as an industrial engineer with Continental Can; he spent

OBITUARY

Obituaries are based on information provided by the family.

30 years with the company before retiring. The family lived in Manhattan Beach and Sacramento before moving to Menlo Park in 1956.

While his four children attended St. Raymond School, Mr. Real was active in the Men's Club. In his younger days, he was an enthusiastic golfer and bridge player.

In retirement, he and his wife traveled to almost every continent, including memorable trips

to Australia and Africa.

A genial host, Mr. Real enjoyed nothing more than entertaining friends and family in his home. He was especially loved by his grandchildren and had a particular affinity for all small children, say family members.

He is survived by his wife Kay of Menlo Park; children Christopher of Costa Mesa, Vincent of Manhattan Beach, Angela of Menlo Park, and Tony of San Carlos; his twin brother, Manuel Real of San Pedro, a federal judge; and five grandchildren.

Memorials in his name may be made to St. Anthony Padua Dining Room in Menlo Park or Ovarian Cancer Research Fund, 14 Pennsylvania Plaza Avenue, Suite 1710, New York, New York, 10122.



Emil Real

Jessie D. Longacre

April 20, 1923-March 7, 2014

Jessie D. Longacre passed away on March 7, 2014 of complications of a chronic neurodegenerative disease. She was 90 years old.

The daughter of Chester Rollin Damon and Laura Jones, Jessie was born in Guthrie, Oklahoma, in 1923. She grew up in Oklahoma during the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression.

After graduating from Guthrie High School, Jessie attended Oklahoma State University, where she majored in music and played in the marching band. During these formative years Jessie developed a lifelong love for music (particularly jazz), dogs, and women's sports. Shortly after the war, Jessie met her husband, Walter (Walt) Jr. Longacre, in Los Angeles, where they started their family. The couple had three children, Casey, Teri, and Maureen. After the birth of their third child, the family moved to Colorado, where Jessie and Walt lived most of their married life, eventually moving to Seattle after their second child had entered college. When her husband retired, she and Walt lived in Oklahoma for a brief period. Shortly after his death, Jessie moved to Menlo Park to be near her older daughter. Jessie, always a women's sports enthusiast, quickly became an avid fan of the Stanford Women's Basketball and could quote statistics for each of the players, each of whom she referred to on a first name basis – including Tara – as if they were her personal friends.

She is lovingly remembered by all her children and grandchildren, but perhaps especially so by her granddaughter, Danielle, who had the great fortune to be still young enough to need Jessie to chaperone her to and from school and to her various after-school activities. One of Danielle's most cherished memories is that of her grandmother turning on the heat in the car "full blast" as they drove the short block to school in the California winter. She also fondly remembers the Snickers bars grandmother Jessie would buy her every afternoon after swim practice.

Jessie is survived by her three children and numerous grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Walt and their beloved dog, Babe. Her daughter and son-in-law were with her during her last days.

A private memorial service celebrating Jessie's life will be held in Santa Fe, New Mexico in the fall.

Donations can be made in Jessie's name to Pets In Need, 871 5th Avenue, Redwood City, CA, 94063.



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AlmanacNews

Richard "Fritz" Snideman II

May 9, 1938-April 14, 2014

RICHARD LAWRENCE "FRITZ" SNIDEMAN II 1938-2014

Earlier last week under a beautiful full moon on a clear, warm spring evening, Fritz Snideman passed away. He was 75. While there is sadness, there is also relief knowing he is now at peace. Fritz was a loving husband, a good father, and a dear friend to many. He will be missed enormously.

"They no longer hear the call of the watches, or the falling of the storm rain at night. Seas shall weary them no more, for they have reached their final haven—their further shore."

PAID OBITUARY

Notice of Public Hearings

The Woodside Elementary School District will hold two separate public hearings on the proposed Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) and the proposed budget for fiscal year 2014-15 on Tuesday, May 13, 2014 at 3:30 p.m. at the Woodside Elementary School District Office, located at 3195 Woodside Road, Woodside, California. A copy of the LCAP and the proposed budget will be available for public examination at the above location from May 8, 2014 through, May 13, 2014 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Any stakeholder affected by the LCAP or the Woodside Elementary School District budget may appear before the Woodside Elementary School District Board of Trustees and speak to the LCAP or the proposed budget or any item therein.

4/30/14
CNS-2614745#
THE ALMANAC

Sequoia Hospital opens new health care facilities

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Sequoia Hospital unveils its latest health care facility on Friday, May 2. The \$275 million, four-story "pavilion" adds 104 beds and 148,270 square feet to the Sequoia campus, located at 170 Alameda de Las Pulgas in Redwood City. The facility will house a heart institute, joint replacement center, and cardiac catheterization lab.

The opening celebration continues during the weekend, with a teddy bear clinic, music, food and facility tours planned for Sunday, May 4, from 1 to 5 p.m.

Facebook grants

Nonprofits with "a history of proven success" in Belle Haven and East Palo Alto can now apply for \$3,000 to \$5,000 grants available through Facebook's community foundation.

The nonprofits must be registered as 501c(3) organizations. In East Palo Alto, applicants should be programs that give kids access to and training in computers and social media, run weekend learning-based

BRIEFS

activities for teens, or support high school seniors heading to college.

Public agencies and schools are not eligible, although a non-profit may apply if it provides services on a school campus.

Go to tinyurl.com/m4kqa5b for more information. Applications are due May 1, and grant recipients will be notified by June 1.

May 3: Kite Day

Come fly a kite with the city of Menlo Park on Saturday, May 3. You can bring your own and fly it for free, or pay \$6 to get a kite and a hot dog meal.

The annual event will be held from noon to 3 p.m. at Bedwell-Bayfront Park, found at the intersection of Marsh Road and Bayfront Expressway.

ABBA sing-along

Break out the 1970s wardrobe: Mamma Mia!, an ABBA sing-along, is coming to the Menlo-Atherton Performing Arts Center on Saturday, May 10, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. In celebration of Mother's Day, moms get in free. Everyone else will pay \$5 per person.

Fathers get their chance for free admission on Saturday, June 15, when the center hosts The Princess Bride "quote-along" from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Non-dads can get tickets for \$5.

Go to tinyurl.com/k7dhgdc to buy tickets in advance. The PAC is located at 555 Middlefield Road in Atherton.

Fun run

Las Lomas School is sponsoring a fun run on Saturday, May 17, featuring three events: a short course on the Las Lomas playground for the youngest participants; a 1-mile road course for adults and children; and a 5K run/walk through Atherton.

Walkers and strollers are welcome. Race-day registration opens at 7:30 a.m. with the short course race at 8:45 a.m., the mile at 9 a.m. and the 5K at 9:30 a.m.

Participants who register by May 7 will receive a race T-shirt. Registration is \$25 for adults and \$20 for children in advance and \$35 for adults and \$25 for children on race day.

The event raises money for the Las Lomas Education Foundation.

Go to tinyurl.com/LL-517 to register and for more information.

Joan 'Jody' Fork of Woodside, 85

A memorial service for Woodside resident and outdoors-woman Joan "Jody" Fork is set for 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 31, at the Valley Presbyterian Church at 945 Portola Road in Portola Valley.

Ms. Fork, 85, died peacefully at home March 17 while surrounded by her family.

Born in New Jersey, she moved West after some college in Vermont. She acquired a bachelor's degree in zoology from the University of Colorado, then did graduate work in molecular biology at the University of California at Berkeley, where she met David Fork. They married in 1958.

The couple moved to La Jolla, where Mr. Fork was employed at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and Ms. Fork

OBITUARIES
Obituaries are based on information provided by the family.

at the Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation. They later moved to Europe, where Mr. Fork worked as a post-doctoral fellow.

In 1963, they moved to Portola Valley, and in 1974, to Woodside, where they lived for 40 years. They raised three daughters.

Ms. Fork was an enthusiastic skier, rock climber, mountaineer, backpacker and hiker and founded the Wednesday



Photo by Laurie Peterson
Jody Fork

Walkers, a group that met for hikes in Woodside and Portola Valley. She liked to explore canyons and climb rocks in Yosemite National Park and in the southern Sierra Nevada.

"She will be remembered with great affection for her caring nature, her quiet courage, her dry sense of humor, and her love of adventure," the family said.

Ms. Fork is survived by her husband; her daughters, Laurie Peterson, Patricia Orlando and Susanne Fork; and five grandchildren.

The family prefers donations to the American Parkinson Disease Association (www.apdaparkinson.org) or the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research (www.michaeljfox.org).

Barbara Buzza of Ladera

An open house to remember Barbara J. Buzza, for "family and friends to honor a life well lived," is set for 2 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 7, at the family home in Ladera. Ms. Buzza died April 1. She was 84.

Ms. Buzza was born, grew up and went to school in San Francisco, where her family had deep roots. In college at San Jose State University, she joined the Delta Gamma sorority and met Glenn, her future husband

and a member of the Theta Chi fraternity. The couple were married for 59 years.

As newlyweds, they moved to Ladera and raised two children "in an eclectic neighborhood surrounded by responsibility and social engagements." The couple loved entertaining at home.

Ms. Buzza was devoted to children. Through the Allied Arts Guild in Menlo Park, she worked to benefit the Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hos-

pital in Palo Alto.

On the day before her last, Ms. Buzza said, "Well, I guess the party's over!" according to family members, who added that the party will "go on in the hearts of those whose lives she touched."

Among Ms. Buzza's survivors are her daughter Christi Pearce, her son John, and grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations in Ms. Buzza's name be made to the Allied Arts Guild or a charity of their choice.

Locals join Lyme Foundation

Gib and Susan Myers of Atherton have joined the Bay Area Lyme Foundation's board of advisers, while Woodside resident Lisa Arone has become the organization's marketing and communications director, and Portola Valley resident Linda Giampa has become its development director.

The foundation does research and public education on Lyme disease and education.

Mr. Myers was a general partner at Mayfield Fund, a venture capital partnership, from 1970 until his retirement in 1998. He is the founder of the Entrepreneurs Foundation and is vice-chariman of American Prairie Reserve, whose mission

BRIEFS

is to establish a three-million-acre wildlife reserve on the high plains of Montana.

Ms. Myers currently serves on the board of American Prairie Reserve and is a member of Impact Partners, a fund that invests in documentary films that aim to have a social impact.

Ms. Arone is the founder and principal of LAB Consulting, an independent management and marketing consulting practice serving clients in retail, non-profit and education.

Ms. Giampa most recently ran her own executive team of business consultants, help-

ing entrepreneurs develop their strategy and business plans to bring emerging technologies to market.

Go to bayarealy.me.org for more information on the Bay Area Lyme Foundation.

Walkathon

Portola Valley's Corte Madera School students and employees participated in a Walkathon event at the school on April 25 to raise funds for the eighth-grade students' annual trip to Washington, D.C.

The money raised will go for this year's trip and future eighth-grade trips to Washington.

Students were fueled for the event with a lunchtime barbecue sponsored by the district's Parent Teacher Organization.

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Published every Wednesday at
**3525 Alameda De Las Pulgas,
Menlo Park, CA 94025**

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The Almanac, established in October 1965, is delivered each week to residents of Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside and adjacent unincorporated areas of southern San Mateo County. The Almanac is qualified by decree of the Superior Court of San Mateo County to publish public notices of a governmental and legal nature, as stated in Decree No. 147530, issued December 21, 1969. ©2014 by Embarcadero Media Company. All rights reserved.

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Call the Viewpoint desk at 223-6507.

Cities challenge Caltrain electrification

If the reaction of Menlo Park, Atherton and Palo Alto are any indication, Caltrain is in for some rough sledding in its effort to win approval of the draft environmental impact report on the electrification of its rail service between San Francisco and San Jose.

Each community has specific concerns about Caltrain's plan to retire most of its diesel locomotives and replace them with cleaner-operating electric powered trains that would start and stop faster and ultimately enable the system to ramp up to 69,000 passengers a day in 2020 from 47,000 today. Caltrain forecasts a huge increase to 111,000 riders a day by 2040.

But Midpeninsula communities have major concerns about Caltrain's long-awaited upgrade to electric power, including:

■ A huge loss of trees in the Caltrain right-of-way, which would total 2,200 along the Peninsula, with another 3,000 pruned, all to make way for the 30-to-50-foot-tall poles on either side of the tracks that would carry electric wires the length of the corridor. Atherton would lose 142 heritage trees, Menlo Park, 188, and Palo Alto, 177. Many more would have to be pruned, a worrisome task for cities that have an especially high regard for all the trees inside their borders.

■ Atherton in particular questions Caltrain's claim that electrifying the system will reduce the greenhouse gases released by diesel engines, saying an analysis should be done on the environmental impact of generating electric power for the trains. The comment added that Caltrain should consider an alternative — running cleaner diesel engines that can substantially reduce the amount of pollution caused by present equipment.

■ The impact report frequently mentions that a goal of electrification is to make Caltrain compatible with high-speed trains, when, and if, they arrive in the future. Atherton claims that such a linkage would require Caltrain to fully analyze the environmental impact of the entire high-speed-rail project. Menlo Park says it will only accept an underground plan or a two-track blended system for high-

speed trains within the existing Caltrain right-of-way.

Atherton's comments were particularly pointed, and implied the threat of litigation if Caltrain did not consider alternate designs and did not cite high-speed rail as a major reason for moving ahead with electrification.

Menlo Park resident Adina Levin, a supporter of electrification, said she hopes that neither Atherton nor Menlo Park resort to a lawsuit that would halt or delay the electrification project.

Questions also were raised about the \$1.5 billion in funding that local legislators managed to pull out of the 2008 high-speed-rail bond issue. Atherton says a pending challenge to all high-speed-rail funding could wipe out whatever is left of the electrification funding.

Palo Alto, in addition to its concerns about pruning the some 3,000 trees on the route, also worries that its historic tree, El Palo Alto, would be damaged in the trimming process. The 1,000-year-old redwood is a registered historical site and sits on the Menlo Park-Palo Alto border.

More questions were raised by the three cities about noise, traffic impact around stations, and the backup when intersections are blocked when a train passes by. More riders and more trains will increase trips to and from stations and could cause backups.

The environmental impact report process requires Caltrain to answer all questions raised by those commenting on the DEIR, and lay out ways for any concerns to be mitigated if possible. Menlo Park, Atherton and Palo Alto have raised serious questions that need to be answered before electrification can go ahead.

We believe it is a good thing for Caltrain to electrify its trains, making them faster, quieter and less polluting. At the same time the railroad should give serious consideration to reducing the number of trees that would be lost or pruned, perhaps by installing power poles in the center of its right-of-way. That would go a long way to making the electrification plan more palatable to Peninsula cities.

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS

Our readers write

Moving from the 'what' to the 'why'

Editor:

I read Jerry Hearn's recent letter in the Almanac and it inspired me to say my piece about the new "common core" state standards that are being introduced in our schools this year.

Jerry and I have served as members of Environmental Volunteers for many years, perhaps 30 or more. During that time, I became a fanatical proponent of hands-on learning, of the Socratic method of exploration of truth.

I watched very young children reason out the answer to complex questions such as why do you get the smell of rotten eggs when you apply hydrochloric acid to a rock? It was a fourth-grader who reasoned that the acid reaction indicated that the rock was composed of limestone, or calcium carbonate, as opposed to other types of rock. I waged that neither she nor I will ever forget that revelation.

The common core standards



Portola Valley Archives

Our Regional Heritage

James "Sunny Jim" Rolph, at the wheel, summured in Portola Valley while he served five terms as mayor of San Francisco starting in 1912 and was elected governor of California in 1931. He owned what is today the Pony Tracks Ranch as well as several thousand more acres. In this photo, his wife is in the backseat at left. The Rolph children and the Pryor family of Menlo Park are also aboard the car.

that the state Department of Education adopted in 2010 are designed to help children learn in just this way, through experi-

mentation and questioning ... the way we all really love to learn. I have watched children say "Yuck" when presented with

an owl pellet and then exclaim, "Wow, this is so cool!" once they have used their tweezers

Continued on next page

LETTERS

Our readers write

Continued from previous page

to extract the bones from the pellet and reassemble them to form the rat that the owl had eaten. This is the excitement of discovery and revelation, of true learning.

I wholeheartedly believe that the new common core standards will bring the excitement of learning back into our school classrooms, helping our children become life-long learners, thrilled by discovery and understanding.

They will learn critical thinking and be able to identify and claim their personal values as they defend their positions on things such as nuclear power, entitlements, arms agreements, and so on. We have for too long depended upon rote memorization as a measure of knowledge when all that really measures is the ability to memorize a fact.

Common core standards will produce deeper thinkers who will strengthen our democracy through the intelligence and knowledge they bring to the process.

We all need to support the implementation of this approach in our schools, and support our children and our teachers as they work to teach and learn in a style that fell out of favor 30 years ago and is coming back now.

*Margot Rawlins
Arden Road, Menlo Park*

Forum invites comments on specific plan

By Dana Hendrickson

I am a 30-year resident of central Menlo Park who shares my community's strong interest in the future well-being of our city, its residents, businesses, service-providers, workers, guests and visitors.

Yet, like many residents, I have not invested the time necessary to fully understand what is happening with planned commercial development in Menlo Park. However, recent events have motivated me to become better informed and more actively involved in the civic processes shaping the future of our city.

As a first step, I have created an online community forum (mpcdforum.com) with two objectives in mind. First, I aim to become well informed about the Menlo Park specific plan, which governs the commercial development permitted downtown and in the El Camino Real corridor; the multi-use project Stanford has proposed for the 500 block of El Camino; and an initiative proposed by a group of residents who oppose Stanford's current plan.

SaveMenlo is currently circulating a petition that would put their proposed changes to the specific plan on the November 2014 ballot and, if approved, mandate that further changes could not be made without voter approval.

I also want to share what I learn with other residents. Ultimately, residents can disagree simply because they have different val-

ues, wants and expectations. However, all residents should feel responsible for not only making well-reasoned and well-founded decisions but also discussing important issues in a civil, honest and constructive manner.

At this time I neither strongly support nor oppose the specific plan, the Stanford project or the SaveMenlo initiative. However, if I had to decide today, I would

support both the specific plan and Stanford project as both were subjected to extensive, rigorous and transparent public review and what I believe are trustworthy city planning processes.

Therefore, I would oppose the initiative because it implies the opposite. That said, I remain open to learning more about all three before taking any firm positions and believe there is sufficient time to do so.

I do intend to form strong opinions about each of these subjects and will share my progress and personal assessments in my personal blog. Public comments are welcomed. There is also a public forum that enables registered users to submit posts, comments and replies. Hopefully, we will learn a lot from each other and Menlo Park will benefit from our discussions.

Dana Hendrickson lives on Ambar Way in central Menlo Park.

**GUEST
OPINION**

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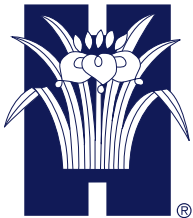
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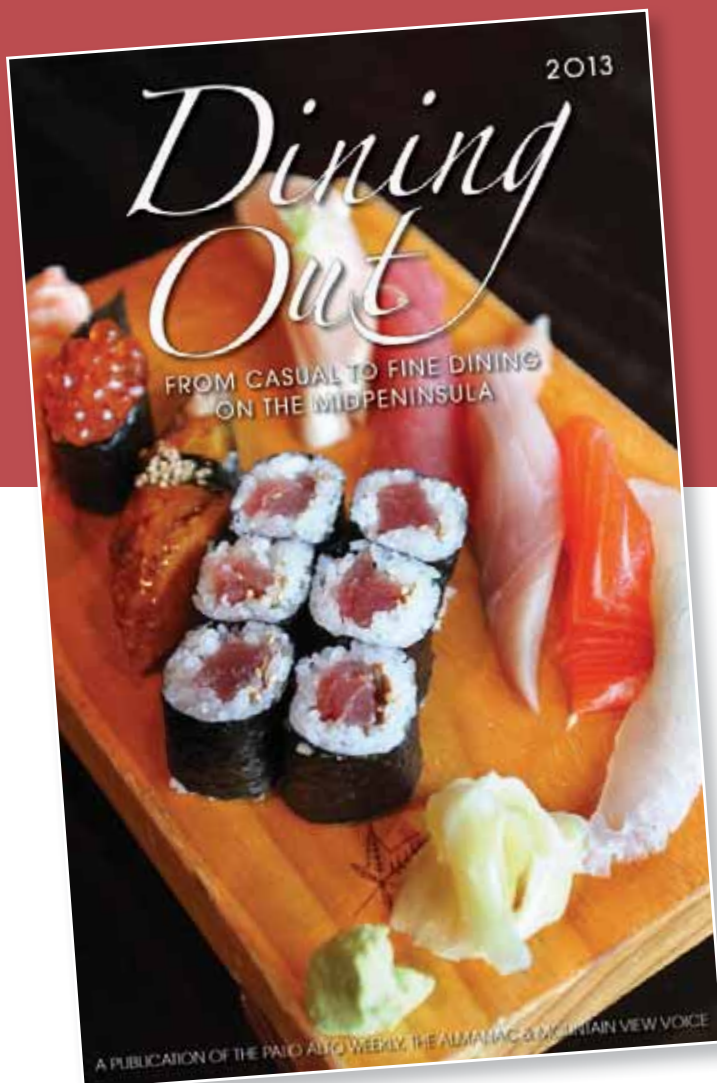
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