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The Almanac

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A ride to remember

John Tarlton tackles the Race Across America

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

As anyone who's flown to California from the East Coast knows, the daytime view of fly-over country west of Kansas reveals the meaning of the term "earth tones." The arid foothills, range upon range of them, seem upholstered in shades of brown velvet when seen from 30,000 feet. It's different on the ground, of course.

By Wednesday, June 11, John Tarlton, president of Tarlton Properties in Menlo Park, should be passing through those brown lands, bicycling rapidly along State Route 78. Accompanying him will be a crew of nine, two motor vehicles, and two other bicycles identical to the one he's riding and designed for 18 to 20 hours in the saddle, day after day. Mr. Tarlton, 45, is cycling in the 2014 Race Across America.

The race begins in Ocean-side, midway between Long Beach and San Diego, and ends 3,000 miles and 170,000 vertical feet of climbing later in Annapolis, Maryland. Accounting for riders of varying ages and fitness, participants have up to 14 days to finish the race, though some are expected to take just nine. Compared with the Tour de France, this race is about 30 percent longer, and racers must finish in about half the time, the site says.

The Race Across America resembles a time trial in that riders race against the clock, but it's without the discomfort of a time-trial bicycle and the continuous full-out effort. There are other discomforts.

Rest, if you want to

Solo riders and team riders check in at each of 55 time stations along the way. The



John Tarlton is racing to benefit the Stanford Cancer Institute.

solo-rider race starts at noon, and riders leave individually. Unlike on the Tour, they stay at least 100 yards apart. Drafting — the practice of reducing one's wind resistance by closely following another rider — is not allowed. "It's all you," Mr. Tarlton said in an interview.

The first time-station is Lake Henshaw, 49 miles to the east, where men under 50 are expected between 6:40 and 8:15 p.m. Then it's on past the Anza Borrego Desert State Park to Brawley, 88 miles away, where they're expected between midnight and 4 a.m. Then an 89-mile trip to Blythe, California, arriving sometime between 6 a.m. and noon, and so on.

Notice the relentless ticking of the clock. This is another departure from the Tour de France. The Tour has a timed stage, but just one. In all the Tour's stages, when the riders reach the day's finish line, they're no longer racing and can go off to their hotels.

In this American race, the clock is running as riders

arrive and as they're checking in. It's running as they go to the bathroom and stop to eat. It's running as they sleep. The sooner a rider gets to sleep, the better rested he or she will be and the sooner back on the bike.

Some riders can't get to sleep, Mr. Tarlton said. He's trained on shorter but similar races. A rider will lie down, but if he's not feeling sleepy in 20 minutes, he'll often get up and get back on the bike, he said. "I'm pretty good at falling asleep after I've been on the bike for 20 hours," he said.

The source of his motivation? "I'm doing this to raise money for the Stanford Cancer Institute," he said. Cancer killed his sister and his mother, but both lived considerably longer than their prognoses and both were treated at Stanford. Investigators there are "on the leading edge of primary research in cancer" and by supporting SCI, he hopes to spur more fundamental research and accelerate the race to stop cancer, Mr. Tarlton writes on his website teamtarlton.com.

Mr. Tarlton's crew — in a motor coach and a van — will be staying close, maintaining his bikes and keeping him on the assigned route via a receiver in his bike helmet. The motor coach is a traveling dormitory, he said.

Will he be stopping at stop signs? "Absolutely," he said. "We follow every traffic rule." The letter of the law in California says that cyclists are not stopped unless they have a foot on the ground. He's going to do that? "Yup. You bet."

Go to raceacrossamerica.org for more information, including links covering the race. ▀

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Bond measure pays for more classrooms

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

Plans to add many more classrooms at local public high schools can now move into a more detailed phase with the passage on June 3 of Measure A, a \$265 million bond measure.

The measure won the approval of 64.9 percent of the voters, with 19,670 voting yes and 10,640, no, according to the latest tally.

The board of the Sequoia Union High School District proposed a bond measure in response to a predicted enrollment surge of at least 22 percent by the 2020-21 school year. The projections reflect higher enrollments in elementary school districts, with much of the growth coming from the Menlo Park and Las Lomas districts and the districts serving Belmont and San Carlos.

At Menlo-Atherton High, where the impact is expected to be felt most strongly, officials see enrollment growing by as much as 25 percent by 2020-21. At Woodside, projections show around 19 percent growth.

At these two schools, the effect of Measure A will be most noticeable in the appearance of second stories atop single-story classroom buildings. All the Sequoia district campuses are built out, so the

reasonable direction to go was up, officials said.

A tentative project list shows M-A receiving a total of 22 new classrooms. In addition to 17 regular classrooms, there would be two for science, one for chemistry and two for the arts or career technical education. (Five new regular classrooms are already funded.)

Woodside would get 15 new classrooms: 12 regular and one each for science, chemistry and art or career technical education.

The additions include bathrooms, staff offices and food service areas as well as upgrades to physical education facilities.

The need for expansion had been the subject of community meetings in the spring and fall of 2013. The idea of a new comprehensive campus was broached but went nowhere, given the \$200 million cost and the scarcity of sites.

To lighten the impact at M-A, the district plans to build "in the Menlo Park area" one of two new magnet high schools for 300 to 400 students.

The small schools will have focused curriculums, such as art or science, to attract students away from the comprehensive schools. A district task force has been evaluating schools in the Bay Area that could serve as a model, Superintendent Jim Lianides told the Almanac.



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

Pride Hall at Menlo-Atherton High School looks brighter after a \$2 million renovation, paid for by a 2008 bond measure. Voter approval of Measure A on June 3 adds up to \$265 million in new funding to the high school district for new classrooms and other facilities, including at M-A and Woodside High.caption

Measure A would allocate about \$21 million to Redwood School, a continuation school that gives students at risk of not graduating another chance at a diploma. Redwood has no computer lab, library, multi-purpose room, art or multi-media rooms, counseling spaces and hot water, Redwood High Principal Miguel Rodriguez told the board in January.

■ Go to seq.org/?id=15 for more

information on Measure A.

■ Go to tinyurl.com/SEQ221 for the tentative project list.

Opposition

Among the concerns of the opposition, as expressed on the Almanac's Town Square online forum:

■ Does the district have a big-picture understanding of all its obligations, and is the district on a sound financial footing?

■ Has it competently managed its funds from earlier school construction bond measures?

■ Did district and campaign officials make a solid case or were they counting on reliable majorities and sentiments such as "It's for the kids"?

Measure A is the fifth bond measure from the Sequoia district since 1996, and raises the

See **HIGH SCHOOLS**, page 6

Voters approve bond measure for Woodside Elementary

Voters in the Woodside Elementary School District approved a \$13.5 million bond measure in June 3 election.

The count on election night showed 63 percent of voters supported Measure D, with 491 voting yes and 289, no. To pass, the measure needed the approval of 55 percent of the voters.

Measure D will authorize the one-school district in Woodside to issue bonds for up to \$13.5 million. The district wants the funds for modernization and repair projects, including replacement of Sellman Auditorium, estimated to cost \$7.67 million.

The nonprofit Woodside School Foundation has launched a capital campaign to raise

another \$3.5 million for elements of the campus project that are considered desirable but not essential.

To pay off the bonds, annual property taxes in the district will increase by \$24.05 per \$100,000 of the assessed value. This is in addition to what property owners pay annually for previously approved bond measures: a total of \$34.50 per \$100,000 of assessed value for bonds passed in 1999 and 2005, according to Robin Wasco, the district's chief business official.

The timeline for the modernization project, including when the bonds will be issued, will be decided over the next two board meetings, said Superintendent Beth Polito.

Driver charged with murder in double fatality

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

An extensive history of driving under the influence and an earlier car accident the same day led to the filing of second-degree murder charges against a driver who struck and killed a Menlo Park couple out for a walk, according to the San Mateo County district attorney.

After a preliminary hearing in San Mateo County Superior Court on June 5, a judge agreed that the evidence supports the two additional charges against 54-year-old Marjorie Ann Reitzell of Redwood City. Last fall the defendant pleaded not guilty to earlier charges of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and felony

driving under the influence.

She was arrested on Oct. 24 after a car crash killed Balbir Singh, 50, and Kamal Kaur Singh, 45, as they walked their Chihuahua along Chilco Street.

Early that evening, a 1998 Honda Accord driven by Ms. Reitzell struck the couple from behind, according to police. Investigators said the Honda kept going, over the center median and into the west-bound lane. It hit another car and then collided with a tree before stopping.

The Singhs left behind three teenage children; their eldest daughter is scheduled to start college this year.

Testing reportedly determined that Ms. Reitzell's blood alcohol level on Oct. 24 was

more than twice the legal limit of 0.08 percent, District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe said.

Convicted of a misdemeanor DUI in November 2012, Ms. Reitzell had a valid driver's license at the time of the fatal collision, according to law enforcement officials.

Mr. Wagstaffe said that her probation officer had warned the defendant that she could kill someone by drinking and driving. Ms. Reitzell allegedly engaged in a "lengthy pattern of drinking on the day of the offense," he told the Almanac, and had reportedly caused a non-injury collision earlier in the day on Oct. 24.

Prosecutors said they aren't suggesting she intended to kill

See **DRIVER**, page 6

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Supervisor Don Horsley cruises to re-election

By Renee Batti
Almanac News Editor



Don Horsley

District 3 Supervisor Don Horsley was easily re-elected last week to a second four-year term on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Horsley, an Emerald Hills resident who was a longtime sheriff of San Mateo County, received 78.5 percent of the vote. The count on election night was 14,805 for Mr. Horsley and 4,048 for his challenger, Michael Stogner.

District 3 includes Atherton, Portola Valley, Woodside, parts of Menlo Park and Belmont, San Carlos, and large coastal and unincorporated areas.

Michael Stogner, a San Carlos businessman and victim's advocate, ran against Mr. Horsley in 2010, and ran for the District 1 seat in 2011. He has never held public office, but has gained attention in the county as a government watchdog.

This is the first by-district

supervisor race, which means only residents of District 3 can choose the district representative.

In a recent interview, Mr. Horsley told the Almanac that during a second term, priorities would include upgrading farmworker housing, which would improve the lives of many migrant workers "who really aren't migrant anymore" but whose presence is critical to the county's agricultural sector; improving facilities and services of the Cordilleras Mental Health Center in unincorporated Redwood City to "help the mentally ill people (served) there deal with their illness and be reunited with their families"; and traffic management on the Coastside.

He said he will also continue to work on resolving traffic problems for bicyclists, pedestrians and motorists on Alpine Road in the South County. ■



HIGH SCHOOLS

continued from page 5

annual cost to district taxpayers for high school bond measures to \$46 from the current \$33 per \$100,000 of assessed property value.

Proposition 39, adopted by voters in 2000, lowered the threshold for passage of school bond measures to 55 percent of voters from two-thirds. It has had a significant impact on school construction, according to state records.

Majorities of 55 percent or better approved 624 of 757 bond measure elections from 2001 through November 2013, a success rate of 82.4 percent. Among the 941 elections that required a standard two-thirds majority, just 55 percent passed from 1986 through November 2013.

Officials comment

The Almanac requested post-election comment from district and school officials.

Principals Matthew Zito of M-A and Diane Burbank of Woodside said they were looking forward to the details of plan-

ning the work on campus. Mr. Zito said he is "excited to begin master planning an updated version of the campus that can accommodate five hundred more students and better organize our support and administrative services, among other goals."

Sequoia board President Allen Weiner said he is "proud to live in a community that has acted in way that is consistent with what I believe about it — that (it is) committed to education."

And complaints about financial management? The district has legal limits on its debt load and was well within them, he said. The board could legally have asked voters for more, and some on the board wanted to, he noted.

Superintendent Jim Lianides said that architects will be formally chosen at the June 25 meeting, and that master planning will begin immediately. The search for parcels to accommodate the new magnet schools would start in the summer. Evidence of Measure A spending should be apparent on campuses as early as the 2016-17 school year, he said. ■

DRIVER

continued from page 5

anyone, but "taken together, it demonstrates the legal requirement for second-degree murder — callous disregard for

the safety of others resulting in death," Mr. Wagstaffe said.

Ms. Reitzell remains in custody on \$2 million bail. The court scheduled her arraignment on the murder charges for June 20. ■

Facebook plans to buy 59 acres next to its 'west campus' in Menlo

■ Social media company finalizing agreement to buy property from TE Connectivity

By **Sandy Brundage**
Almanac Staff Writer

Facebook's domination of Menlo Park is not yet over: After the social media company moved into a new 57-acre headquarters off Willow Road, it announced plans to redevelop 22 acres within walking distance into a "west campus" off Constitution Drive designed by renowned architect Frank Gehry. And now, it plans to buy an additional 59 acres

right next door from TE Connectivity, as first reported by the Silicon Valley Business Journal on June 6.

"The adjacent property we've agreed to purchase is an investment in our future. We have no immediate plans to develop the property," a Facebook spokesperson told the Almanac.

TE Connectivity, an electronic components manufacturer based in Switzerland, currently has 600 employees and 10 buildings on its Menlo Park campus,

located at 300 Constitution Drive. The campus was originally built in 1966 by Raychem.

Spokeswoman Jane Crawford said the agreement includes a multi-year lease back provision, although the company is looking at other locations, too, including within Menlo Park.

"TE has had deep roots in Silicon Valley for close to 50 years. Let me emphasize that this region is important to our future growth and is an innovation hub for TE Connectivity," she said in an email.

The company declined to release other terms of the sale. ■

Open space measure 'yes' vote exceeds 2/3rds threshold required for passage

By **Barbara Wood**
Special to the Almanac

The ballot measure authorizing the issuing of \$300 million in bonds for the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District appears to have barely squeaked past the two-thirds margin it needed for victory.

But, predicts Larry Hassett, the open space district board member whose district includes Atherton, Menlo Park, Portola Valley and Woodside, being able to spend that money will have a major impact on public access to, and preservation of, open space for the whole Bay Area.

"This significantly changes the amount of funding that the district has to work with," Mr. Hassett said. That money will be spent on projects prioritized following a year and a half of research and talking to the public, he said.

"One of the clearest things that came out was to provide more access," he said. "Forty percent of our preserves were basically closed to the public." Open space properties such as the Driscoll Ranch, the La Honda Preserve and Mt. Umunhum will soon have more public access, he said.

Locally, Mr. Hassett said, trail improvement for Corte de Madera and Purisima Creek are also planned, as are stream improvements that could make it easier for salmon and other fish to thrive. "It's access and it's also helping to preserve and protect what is there," Mr. Hassett said.

More trails that allow dogs and bikes are also planned, he said, as is closing gaps in the Ridge

Trail, which will allow bikers and hikers to eventually circle the Bay Area, and completing trails that lead from Skyline to the coast.

"The direction that the district is heading is to improve access to most user groups - to almost all user groups," Mr. Hassett said.

The district will also work to close a few gaps in the Bay Trail, which is also meant to eventually circle the Bay, on district properties at Cooley Landing in East Palo Alto and near Moffett Field.



A total of \$774K is raised for 'Yes for Open Space' campaign.

Having the additional funding "will take some adjustments. We're going to have to gear up for this," Mr. Hassett said. "The agency has had a fixed budget for a while and that has not always been adequate to open up some of these preserves quickly."

Mr. Hassett said he offers "thanks to the public for the support of this measure, thanks to our partners like POST and Sempervirens and to everybody who supported this." Those supporters, he said, "really want to see open space access and preservation. I think this measure's going to really solidify that for the Bay Area."

Vote count, finance

On Monday afternoon, as the Almanac was about to go to press, the yes vote on the mea-

sure amounted to 67.8 percent of the vote, about 1,093 votes over the two-thirds approval needed. The measure had 64,881 yes votes and 30,801 no votes.

According to campaign finance reports, as of May 17, backers of the bond measure spent \$687,563 campaigning for its passage.

The latest finance disclosure form filed by the "Yes for Open Space" campaign shows that \$773,845 was raised for the campaign since January, with an additional \$53,973 in non-monetary contributions, most of that from the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), headquartered in Palo Alto, for donated staff time.

POST also donated more than half of the campaign funds — \$405,723, which includes the in-kind donations.

Other major donors included the Sempervirens Fund, \$149,980; Save the Redwoods League, \$50,000; Facebook advertising director Andrew Bosworth of Menlo Park, \$50,000; Patty Quillin of Santa Cruz, \$50,000; Charlene Kabcenell of Portola Valley, president of the Dirk and Charlene Kabcenell Foundation, \$30,000; Christopher Espinosa of Portola Valley, a manager at Apple, \$15,000; Brad O'Brien of Menlo Park, a partner at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, \$10,000; and Karie Thomson from Woodside, \$10,000.

Most of the donations were spent on campaign mailings and consultants. TBWB Strategies of San Francisco, a firm that helps public entities pass ballot measures, received \$474,990, which included reimbursements

See **OPEN SPACE**, page 9



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Motorcyclist injured in El Camino Real crash

A motorcyclist was taken to the hospital with major injuries on June 3 after he struck the rear of a car traveling in the same direction on El Camino Real near Fifth Avenue in Atherton.

Brian Deming, 28, of Redwood City was traveling at a high rate of speed in the fast lane of southbound El Camino Real at about 11:30 p.m. when his motorcycle collided with a Volvo driven by Christopher Bowman, 45, of Menlo Park, according to Atherton Police Lt. Joe Wade.

Mr. Bowman, who was the only person in the car, wasn't injured, Lt. Wade said. Mr. Deming's condition is unknown.

Atherton police are investigating the incident.

Want to run for school board?

A candidate information night will be held at 6 p.m.

BRIEFS

Wednesday, June 11, for district residents interested in running for the Menlo Park City School District Board of Education in November.

The meeting will be held in the district office TERC building at 181 Encinal Ave. in Atherton. The election is Nov. 4.

Board members Maria Hilton and Jeff Child will talk about the roles and responsibilities of school board members, discuss district initiatives and challenges, and respond to questions from those considering a candidacy.

The filing period for candidates is July 14 through Aug. 8. Candidates should submit documents to the San Mateo County's registration and elections division, 40 Tower Road, San Mateo, CA 94402.

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Photo by Diana Gerba

Abandoned

Deputies from the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office say they are investigating what happened to this 2003 Lincoln LS, reported stolen from East Palo Alto and found on June 3 along the south side of Alpine Road between Rural Lane and Junipero Serra Boulevard. The car, with its front end pushed in, was found resting against a pole located deep inside a bike/pedestrian path. The car was towed from the scene. Deputies said they have no suspects yet.

OPEN SPACE

continued from page 7

for some other campaign costs; EMC research of Oakland, a polling firm, received \$33,000; Campaign Grid, which targets online advertising, received \$56,100; and Cornerstone Printing in San Francisco received \$121,297 — all in the last reporting period of March 18 to May 17.

The district covers southern and central San Mateo County from the Bay to the ocean, and northern and western Santa Clara County, as well as a small area in Santa Cruz County.

Cities in the district include

Atherton, Menlo Park, Woodside, Portola Valley, East Palo Alto, Half Moon Bay, Redwood City and San Carlos in San Mateo County; Palo Alto, Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Cupertino, Sunnyvale, Saratoga, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno in Santa Clara County.

Open space district manager Steve Abbors said that passage of the measure means the district will get to work immediately on some of the projects the money will be used for. "The work to create the structure for prioritizing and project managing the (bond) improvements is underway and will be considered by the board in August or September," he said.

ber," he said.

At the same time, the board will set up the community oversight committee the measure calls for.

"I anticipate on-the-ground progress late this year, early next year," Mr. Abbors said. "We are poised to deliver on the promises we made to the public."

The measure gave the district authority to issue up to \$300 million in bonds to finance improving, preserving and restoring its properties as well as purchasing land needed to connect trails and preserve plant and animal habitats.

Check AlmanacNews.com for updates on the vote totals. ■

Graphic Designer

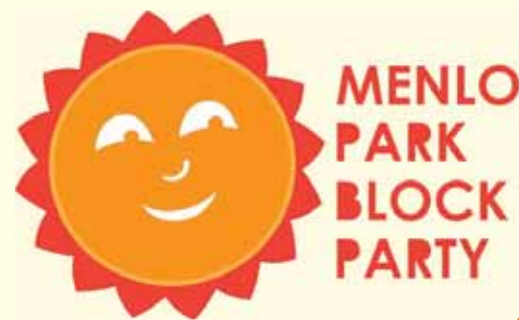
Embarcadero Media, producers of the Palo Alto Weekly, The Almanac, Mountain View Voice, Pleasanton Weekly, PaloAltoOnline.com and several other community websites, is looking for a graphic designer to join its award-winning design team.

Design opportunities include online and print ad design and editorial page layout. Applicant must be fluent in InDesign, Photoshop and Illustrator. Flash knowledge is a plus. Newspaper or previous publication experience is preferred, but we will consider qualified — including entry level — candidates. Most importantly, designer must be a team player and demonstrate speed, accuracy and thrive under deadline pressure. The position will be approximately 32 - 40 hours per week.

To apply, please send a resume along with samples of your work as a PDF (or URL) to Shannon Corey, Creative Director, at scorey@pawebly.com



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WEST BAY
SANITARY DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 1884 (2014)

RESOLUTION OF INTENTION TO ANNEX CERTAIN TERRITORY TO THE WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT ON-SITE WASTEWATER DISPOSAL ZONE

Lands of Ciancutti

The District Board of West Bay Sanitary District finds and determines as follows:

A. This Resolution of Intention is adopted pursuant to the District's "Zone Master Annexation Resolution" ("ZOMAR"), which was adopted by the District Board August 12, 1996. The provisions of ZOMAR are incorporated by reference into this Resolution of Intention.

B. The District has received an application to annex a parcel of real property (the "Parcel") to the District's On-Site Wastewater Disposal Zone (the "Zone"). The Parcel is described in Exhibit "A" attached to this Resolution of Intention and the description contained in the Exhibits are incorporated by reference. The name and address of the applicants and the number, type, volume and location of on-site wastewater disposal systems which are proposed to operate on the parcels to be annexed are described in Exhibit "B" attached to this Resolution of Intention and the information contained in the Exhibit are incorporated by reference.

C. The applicants have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the District Board that the Parcel constitutes "real property" for the purposes of Section 2(b) of ZOMAR in that:

- X All of the conditions described in Subsections i., ii., iii., iv. and v. of ZOMAR Section 2(b) are satisfied; or
- Other conditions exist which demonstrate that the Parcel will benefit directly or indirectly from the activities of the Zone. If applicable, those conditions are also set forth in Exhibit "B" and are incorporated by reference.
- D. All of the conditions and requirements of ZOMAR Sections 2(a), 2(c), 2(d) and 2(e) have been fully satisfied.

In consideration of the foregoing findings and determinations,

IT IS RESOLVED by the District Board as follows:

- It is the intention of the District Board to annex the Parcel to the Zone pursuant to the provisions of ZOMAR and applicable provisions of law.
- In conjunction with a meeting of the District Board to be duly and regularly called and conducted, the Board will conduct a Public Hearing for the purpose of considering all matters pertaining to this Resolution of Intention.

The time, date and place of the Public Hearing are:

Date: July 9, 2014

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: West Bay Sanitary District Offices

500 Laurel Street

Menlo Park, CA 94025

At the Public Hearing, all interested persons will be heard.

- This Resolution of Intention shall be published and copies shall be delivered to the persons and entities as specified in ZOMAR Section 2(e)(i).
- A true copy of this Resolution of Intention shall promptly be filed for record in the office of the County Recorder of the County of San Mateo.
- The District Manager shall cause the matters set forth in Sections 3 and 4 of this Resolution of Intention to be completed as directed.

Exhibit A

ANNEXATION TO WEST BAY SANITARY DISTRICT

Being Lot 26 and a portion of Lot 27 as designated on the map entitled "TRACT NO. 608 STONEGATE SUBDIVISION OF A PORTION OF CORTE MADERA RANCHO SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA," which map was filed in the Office of the Recorder of the County of San Mateo, State of California on September 29, 1948 in Book 20 of Maps at Pages 31, 32, and 33. Said property lies within the Rancho Corte De Madera.

Beginning at a point in the northeasterly line of lands annexed to West Bay Sanitary District by Resolution No. 1137 (LAFCO File No. 09-11), said point also being on the line of Grove Court and lying North 24°43'42" East, 40.00 feet from the center of the cul-de-sac

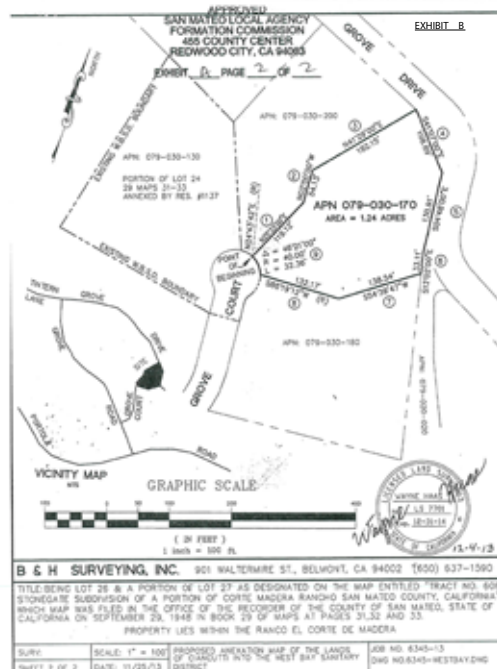
- Thence (1) North 25°33'00" East, 119.12 feet;
 Thence (2) North 2°00'00" West, 54.13 feet;
 Thence (3) North 41°29'00" East, 1 92.1 5 feet;
 Thence (4) South 41°07'00" East, 1 08.89 feet;
 Thence (5) South 4°48'00" East, 130.91 feet;
 Thence (6) South 12°02'00" East, 33.11 feet;
 Thence (7) South 54°39'47" West, 138.54 feet;
 Thence (8) South 88°19'12" West, 132.17 feet to the easterly line of Grove Court;

Thence (9) northwesterly along a curve, cprca'e...:the southwest center of which bears 88°19'12 West, having a radius of 40.00 feet, a central angle of 46°21'00", and length of 32.36 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Containing 1.24 acres, more or less.

For assessment purposes only. This description of land is not a legal property description as defined in the Subdivision Map Act and may not be used as the basis for an offer for sale of the land described.

Wayne Haas
12-4-13

**Exhibit B**

Dismissal of defamation lawsuit may be appealed

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

■ MENLO PARK

Once all the legal maneuvering is over, this may wind up being the most expensive campaign sign in history: John Woodell has filed a court notice that he intends to appeal a judge's dismissal of the defamation lawsuit he brought against two Menlo Park fire board directors.

San Mateo County Superior Court Judge Lisa Novak tossed the suit in May on the grounds that Mr. Woodell deliberately destroyed key cellphone evidence in the case.

The lawsuit, filed nearly two years ago, relates to a Virginia Chang Kiraly campaign sign found uprooted during the 2011 Menlo Park Fire Protection District board race. Chuck Bernstein said he'd found the sign in his yard lying next to a cellphone that turned out to belong to Mr. Woodell.

Mr. Woodell, married to Menlo Park Councilwoman Kirsten Keith, who is up for re-election this year, alleged that the defendants spread rumors that he'd vandalized that sign and others. He said he would never do such a thing.

In the notice filed on June 5, Mr. Woodell's counsel, which now includes an attorney specializing in appeals, argued that the judge's dismissal of his lawsuit was against the law, and that procedural irregularity and legal error as well as an abuse of discretion violated his right to a fair trial.

Seth Rosenberg, lead attorney for Mr. Woodell, was not avail-

able for comment by the Almanac's deadline.

According to Harmeet Dhillon, who represents Ms. Kiraly, her client has already spent more than \$230,000 on legal expenses. The defendants filed requests that the plaintiff pay approximately \$50,000 in court fees as a result of the dismissal at the same time that Mr. Woodell submitted his notice that he intends to appeal.

Ms. Dhillon said the notice may be an attempt to delay the final resolution of the case, given that the dismissal mandates that the plaintiff pay the court costs. She said she expects the judge's "thorough, well-reasoned" ruling to be upheld on appeal.

"A judge has the right under the civil procedure code to mete out this remedy when a litigant's behavior has been as egregious, and as damaging to the other side as John Woodell's in destroying critical evidence after he planned to file a lawsuit, hiding the fact that the evidence had been destroyed for well over a year, and giving several different and contradictory explanations for his behavior," Ms. Dhillon said. "A result is not improper (or beyond the court's authority) just because the loser doesn't like it."

Mr. Bernstein said he was just waiting to see what happens. "The notice could simply be a 'warning,' meant perhaps to encourage us not to proceed with collecting the costs to which we are entitled," he told the Almanac. ■

Ex-employee gets jail sentence for stealing gas

A former Menlo Park public works employee charged with stealing gas from city-owned pumps has been sentenced to 60 days in county jail and three years of supervised probation.

Juan Gonzales Alvarez, 52, who worked for the city for about 25 years at the time of his arrest in July 2013, pleaded no contest on June 5 in San Mateo County Superior Court to one

count of felony embezzlement.

He was charged with taking 503 gallons of gas, worth approximately \$1,800, for personal purposes during a four-month period in 2012, according to police.

Investigators searching his home allegedly found a police badge and jacket that had been stolen from the department one week earlier, the report said.



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Atherton parcel tax reduction unlikely

By Renee Batti
Almanac News Editor

The Atherton City Council is poised to approve a full-rate parcel tax for the 2014-15 fiscal year at its regular meeting later this month, although one councilman argued during a June 4 study session that the rate be reduced 25 percent as a gesture to taxpayers during a period of robust revenue.

Councilman Bill Widmer said that even with conservative projections on the town's surplus revenues — which this year are estimated at about \$6 million and projected to grow as high as \$11 million in five years — the town should be able to give property owners some relief this coming year without promising reductions in the future.

His colleagues' reactions varied: Councilman Rick DeGolia said he is "sensitive to the idea" of reducing the tax rate for one year; Mayor Cary Wiest said he believes it's "premature" to discuss a reduction; and Councilwoman Elizabeth Lewis said it is "irresponsible to suggest that we (reduce) it at this time."

In the end, Mr. DeGolia joined Ms. Lewis and Mayor Wiest in

directing the city manager to return to them on June 18 with a resolution to charge the tax at its maximum rate in the coming fiscal year. All three indicated, however, that they'd be open to discuss a reduction in the future.

Voters in November renewed the annual parcel tax, which costs most property owners in town \$750 per parcel. It raises some \$1.86 million a year, and through the years the town has relied heavily upon its revenue along with property tax revenue because Atherton has no commercial tax base.

The council must approve charging the tax each year, and can set its rate lower than the voter-approved maximum.

Parcel tax revenue can be used only for operational costs of the police department, and for drainage and roadway capital improvement projects. For the last few years, 60 percent of the revenue has gone toward police services, and 40 percent for capital improvement projects. This year, the council is supporting a plan that gives 80 percent to capital projects, and 20 percent for police services, which will pay for two new police officers.

City Manager George Rod-

ericks presented two spending scenarios for the council to consider at the study session: One was based on reducing the tax by 25 percent, the other on charging the tax at its maximum rate. If the council had favored a reduction, it would have affected only the revenue that would fund capital projects.

Drainage projects

Before the parcel tax discussion, the council heard a summary of the town's new five-year capital improvement program, and made some adjustments to the plan. The study that identified projects the town needs to focus on put a \$20 million price tag on needed drainage projects alone.

The three council members who support keeping the tax at its maximum rate cited, among other things, needed drainage and other infrastructure projects as justification. "I haven't personally heard a lot of clamoring for a reduction of the parcel tax," Councilman DeGolia said. On the other hand, he said, he has heard from residents pushing for the town to undertake long-deferred infrastructure projects.

See **PARCEL TAX**, page 21

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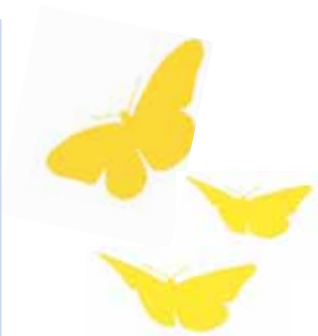
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Light refreshments and snacks
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M-A grads begin new journey

Graduation for Menlo-Atherton High School's Class of 2014 began at 4 p.m. on Thursday, June 5, with three celebratory musical numbers this year — "America the Beautiful," "Amparito Roca" and "Pomp and Circumstance" — before getting to the usual opening ceremony of the presentation of the flag by U.S. Marines, the pledge of allegiance and the national anthem.

The M-A bands and orchestra, under the direction of Kent Kurrus, performed at the ceremony, with vocals by the M-A choir, directed by Patrick Maier.

Six seniors were scheduled to give six speeches: Xochilt Silva with "Start of a New Beginning," Jacob Bassin with "What We Make of It," Graciela Alvarez with "Just Keep Swimming," Diquan Richard with "The Journey," Constance Carrasco with "Being Different is Great," and Dylan Esperance with "Maroon and Gold: The Class of Legends."

There were 410 candidates for graduation in the Class of 2014, according to information provided by the school.



Left: Menlo-Atherton grad Annie Rainer is embraced by her cousin, Dorothy Cook, prior to the June 5 commencement. **Above:** Another embrace. This time M-A grad Daniela Aguilar hugs social studies teacher Diane Martinelli.

Rachel Leif Fosnough, Nicholas Austin Fratt, Rachel Danielle Freed, Alexander Leon Freeman

G Joshua Aaron Gabriel, Katelyn Gaherty, Jill Josephine Galbraith, Ramon De Jesus Gamez, Nicholas Michael Garcia, Rico Ramon Garcia-Hamilton, Samantha Sunshine Gardiner, Jesus Angel Garnica Jr., Eleanor Frances Geballe, Mark Edward Gerhart, Mathew Njoroge Gichane-Bell, Christina Monique Godinez, Viridiana Gonzalez, Michele Gonzalez-Jauregui, Ricardo Gonzalez-Rivera, Jordan Leanna Good, Robert Fernand Gordan, Nikhil Goyle, Ashli Nicole Grady, Gabriela Coelho Grant, Jenna Nicole Griffin, Emily Clara Grose, Markus Karl Guegler, Ana Cristina Guerra Martinez, Stephanie Guido Moreno, Laura Angelica Guizar, Christopher Ivan Guizar Rodriguez, Rose Elysa Gurman, Angeles M. Gutierrez Cruz

H Sarah Reynolds Hagadone, William Kenneth Hanley, Edwin James Hannay Jr., Michael Joseph Hansen, Emma B. Heath, Amir Hossein Heidari, Jessica Laine Heilman, Helmi Emma Anastasia Henkin, Grant Larson Henninger, Samantha Lynn Henze, Guadalupe Hernandez Gil, Rosemary Isabel Hernandez, Brandon Hernandez Pantoja, Esmeralda Hernandez-Jimenez, Dimitri Greco Herr, Jose Andres Herrera, Ricardo Rafael Herrera, Nicholas Alexander Hidalgo, James William Hoffman, Meghan Kelly Hom, William King Hooper III, Natasha Marie Hoover, Sarah Loraine Hoover, Lisanne Rachel Thalen Horwitz, Catalina Jessica Huerta, Jonesha Renee Hughes, Scott Hurn, Amanda Rose Hutchison

Candidates for graduation

A Louisa Meimei Aaron, Elvis Cristofer Abarca Cervantes, Mikyle Butt Abdullah, David Alexander Charles Addicott, Daniela Aguilar, Alaa Aissi, Michael Alarcon, Chad Denver Allen, Sigfredo Antonio Alvarado Carranza, Graciela Alvarez, Marilyn Alvarez, Kailin T. Ambwani, Erik Stewart Amundson, Anthony Bruno Andrighetto, Rubi Aragon Ramirez, Alexandra Guadalupe Aranda, Maria Arias Martinez, Jenipher Joanna Arias-Chaves, David Arroela, Wesley Tucker Arrington, Brisa Arroyo, Andrew James Aufdemberge

B Forrest Thomas Baffico, Katy Kristhel Bailon Leon, Vanessa Aide Balcasar, Veronica Barraza-Ramirez, Robert Jake Barry, Jacob Palmer Bassin, Toni Marie Battaglia, Rachel Beth Bayersdorfer, Russell Fajardo Bernardo, Thomas Peter Berquist Jr, Carlos Ivan Betancourt Bousiequez, Manojna Bhamidi, Christopher Scott Blank, Saniya Sanjay Bonde, Brooks Anderson Bowden, Coral Ann Brady, Kylie Elizabeth Brandyberry, Royce Thomas Branning, Johan Caleb Brouwer, Oliver Lawrence Bucka, Madison Catherine Burger, Joshua Charles Buttram

C Charles John Cain, Leland Anthony Calahan, Camilla Calmasini, Samuel McLanahan Calvert, Elizabet Cano Rodriguez,

William Whitfield Carhart, Constance Marie Carrasco, Ernesto Carriel, Victor Carriel Aguilar, Sofia Eleni Caryotakis, Marcos Flavio Casillas, Jose De Jesus Castellanos, Angelica Marbella Causor, Angelica Inez Cervantez-Ochoa, Sarina Rebecca Chaikin, Asenette Semjase Chapa Espino, Berenice Ramirez Chavez, Joanne Euno Cho, Jacob Carmen Choplin, Leslie Cisneros, Andrew James Connell, Verence Contreras, Adam Luke Cook, Jasmine Guadalupe Cordoba-Perez, Eduard David Cornew, Thomas Marc Cornew, Maria Laura Correa Martinez, Danna Katherine Correa Rosas, Jessica A. Cuevas

D Sally Nhi Tuyet Dang, William Russell Davis, Robert Benjamin De Geus, Justin Earl Manzano De Jesus, Annalise Brittainy Deal, Olivia Rosalyn DelRosso, Matthew David DeTrempe, Paul Alexander DeTrempe, Selena Marisol Diaz, Lorena Diaz Ramirez, Tessa Michelle Dignum, Olivia Iris Dobberstein, Devan R Dutta

E Kelley Elizabeth Eason, Jenine Renee Edwards, Dylan Joseph Esperance, Oscar Eduardo Espinoza Ramirez, Lisette Espinoza Garnica, Cecilia Estrada Perez, Mark Tyler Evans, Alexander R.D. Everett

F Juan Fernandez, Tameem Fezzani, Esteban Figueroa, Tony Ofa Ki Vahava Filiiai, Salvatore Florese, Angela Tania Florez, Archie Lamar Flowers III, Connor Buckman Foody, Taylor Michelle Fortnam,



M-A algebra teacher Nick Michaels hands flowers to his students, including Ana Valverde.

I, J

Luis Ibarra Jr., Nicholas Carlo Ivy, Paul Iwashita, Brian Kennedy Jagggers, Caitlin Donya Jalali, Ernesto Dario Jasso, Alejandro Jimenez, Eduardo Jimenez Gonzalez, Anthony Johnson, Grant Audet Johnson, Thomas George Chandler Johnson, Kelley Annette Jones, Ursula Anne Jongebloed, Lawson David Joos

K

Arian Kashaniamin, Aaron Samuel Katzman, Brian Hamilton Keare, Carson Andrew Kelley, Katherine Elizabeth Kelly, Paulina Elizabeth King, Sabrina Maria Kinney, Sophia Claire Kivelson, Kimberly C. Klustner, Koto Stan Kuboi, Brandon Scott Kurtz, Megan Elizabeth Kurtz

L

Angela Yu-Jun Lai, Marissa Jean Lai, Jonathan Kwok-Kien Lam, Nicholas Charles Landolfi, Virginia Campbell Lane, Mattias Graham Lange-McPherson, Lupe Rose Langi, Lindy MacLaurin LaPlante, Lindsay Margaret Lattin, Tanya Lazaro, Charlotte Emma Jiyeon, Lee, Nicholas Jasper Lee, William Logan Lee, Liviera Arystya Maharani Leebong, Jason Leon, Samuel Leznik, Riley Ann Lico, Julio Humberto Lima, Eduardo Lombera, Jennifer Lombera, Maria Lombera Mendoza, Jordan Webster Long, Randy A. Lopez, Juan Lopez, Diana Luviano Lopez

M

Christopher Macrae, Areli Lisette Magana, Kevin Brandon Magana, Virginia Magana-Fierro, Kevin Maravilla, Agustin Marinovic Sfeir, Colin Martell, Jaime Martinez Roman, Manuel Eduardo Martinez-Bringas, Kai Olbers Mashima, Lakai Grace Mataele, Andrew Tucker Mathews, Leo William McCabe, Marilena Teresa McCarty, Evan Reed McClelland, Anna Patricia McDermott, Baylee E. McDonald, Ruth Louise McGee, Duncan J. McGinnis, Lukas Mckay, Zoe Alexandra McKenna, Kimberly Medina, Jennifer Melendez, Isaac Alberto Melgoza, Jesus Mendoza, Luis Angel Mendoza, Roman Adrian Mendoza, Ruben Mendoza, Vanessa R. Mendoza, Bryant Saul Menjivar-Pena, Linus A. Meyer-Teruel, Ariana Rose Meyers, Brizeth Y. Millan Medina, Betty Marie Moala, Amirteymour Moazami, Marleya Natasha Mohler, Everett W. Moiseff, Julio Eduardo Montesinos Cordova, Mariah Tapri Moore, Geovanna Moreno, Brett Koji Moriarty, Scott William Morris, Ryan R Mostofi, Nicole Anne Mouchawar, Amanda Lauryn Muir, Melissa Louise Murphy, Spencer Pao Murphy

N

Isiah Lamar Nash, Lauren Elizabeth Nathan, Nitza Valeria Nava, Christopher Navarro, Josef Andrew Nevigato, Taue-langi Ofahelotu Ngalu, Hector Daniel Nieblas, Andrew Charles Nisbet, Tera Mayumi Noguchi, Karen Neyvit Nunez

O

Caleb Thomas O'Neel, Janet Mayela Ochoa, Elizabeth Anne Ocon, Selomit Ojeda Apolonio, Mark Taylor Opeta, Jonathan Thomas Oppenheimer, Miguel Orellana, Daniela Ortega, Angel Ortiz Anguiano, Maria Rosario Ortiz Bautista, Adriana G. Ortiz, Eliza Hale Ozden

P

Zoe Gabrielle Pacalin, Spiro Papadakis, Anton Manosa Paquin, Samantha Joelle Parish, Katherine Elizabeth Grace Patch, Jayana Patel, Tatiana Palangi Pauga,

Justin Edward Paulin, Christopher Ryan Peck, Brianna Pena, Jorge Antonio Peraza-Vasquez, David William Perez, Ivana Matija Petani, Kendall Harris Peters, Charlotte Victoria Philp, Amanda Lea Plante, Zachary Thomas Elias Plante, Madeleine Newhall Pont, Avin K. Prasad, Daniel Joshua Propp

R

Joseph Henri Rabinovitsj, Julia M. Rafael, Annie Mae Rainer, Andreas Burns Ralston, Havens Elizabeth Ratchye, Cybele Siobhan Reed, Georgia Mackay Reid, Madeline Karla Reyes, Joel Reynada, Diquan Lamar Richard, Ryan Andrew Roberts, Luisa Mayela, Rodriguez Parra, Brenda Liset Rodriguez-Silva, Jennifer Maria Rodriguez-Garcia, Annika Lynn Roise, Lucero Betzabe Romero, Soto, Uziel Romero Valencia, Madeleine Roya Rostami

S

James Ignatius Salach, Louis Sanchez, Jerson Sanchez Cruz, Sandra Sanchez-Jimenez, Christopher Manuel Sandoval Ayala, Enzo De Bruym Santos, Nicholas Benjamin Schlein, Noah Jacob Schneider, Neil Schott, Jacqueline Serna Gomez, Harrison Turner Shane, Sierra Timery Shepper, Elizabeth Anne Shelton, Jackson Riley Sheppard, Xochilt Silva, Jonathan Charles Simonian, Azune Emanuella Simpson, Dominique Allie Simpson, Aditya Sinha, James Edward Smith V, Kori Alex Smith, Morgan Elizabeth Smith-Boeck, Eric Daniel Snyder, Jacqueline Solis, Nadia Solis, Elizabeth Cory Sommer, Martin Antonio Soria, Wesley Eduardo Soriano, Talmi Soto Abarca, Sophia Spurlock, Mayetta Ruby Louise Steier, David Nicholas Stern, Grant Montgomery Stewart, Cayla K. Stillman, Julia, Shepard Stoner, Jesse Andrew Strober, Sam Jose Stroud, Thomas David Suesser, Quinn Burke Sweetnam, Emily Byrne Sykes

T

Raymond Taione, Christopher Tam, Patrick Tam, Valerie Ann Taylor, Natavia Tianna Thomas, Karina Torres Maldonado, Cynthia Dynalie Torres Ochoa, Naomi Julieta Tovar Bedolla, Sophie Lemieux Tregon

U, V

Stephanie Valencia, Alexander Paolo Valiante, Santos Valle, Ana Isabel Valverde, Erik David Valverde, Samantha Jewel Van Dyke, Kindle Elkins Van Linge, Gustavo Vargas Solis, Erika Vasquez, Gabriela Vazquez, Evelyn Samantha Velazquez, Joana Deyanira Velazquez-Magana, Steve Homer Villalobos-Cuellar, Patrick Lorin Viruel, Sabiha Jean Viswanathan, Alexandra Vlassova-Kudrevatykh

W

Henry Gates Walker, Nathaniel Robin Walker, Danielle Brooke Walsh, Kristen Paige Walsh, Anders Seth Ward, Hailey Marie Warren, Allen Paige Washington, Griffin James Waymire, Joshua Brennan Weiner, Gillian Grace Weisenfluh, Austin Hunter Wensko, Nathaniel Dietrich Westfield, Lisa Diana Margriet Willis, Austin Bennett Wilson

X, Y, Z

Tiffany Ellen Yang, Juan Alfonso Renato S. Yap, Ryan C. Young, Nicole Curnen Zanolli, Angelica Zapata, Sianna Capri Zelaya, Jordan Zuk

Woodside's Class of 2014 says hello to the future

Orange and white, the colors of Woodside High School, once again decorated the football field at 10 a.m. on June 6, a bright spring morning with good weather to accompany the graduation of the Class of 2014.

Makaila McLeod, the senior class president, welcomed the audience of family and friends and introduced two student speakers: Nicole Adler, with her speech "Thank You Class of 2014," and Forest Sill, with "Aren't You Glad You Came to Woodside?"

The valedictorians were Amanda Arena, William Chargin, Susannah Holm, Danya Kafai, Alison McBride, Christina Patton, Megan Pockalny, James Power, Lindsay Ringman, Heather Seybert, Forrest Sill, Sebastian Song, Olivia Stangvik and Connor Swan.

Woodside has another tradition that involves taking turns — in reading the names of the graduates. Scheduled to participate this year are Christine Alftin, Samantha Arreola, Tommy Cook, Oscar Costantini, Emily Dunlap, Zulema Garibo, Haili Hoef, Christina Llamas, Makaila McLeod, Emily Moffat, Denise Mora, Ana Oropeza and Jade Vaughn.

There were 363 candidates for graduation in the Class of 2014, according to information provided by the school.



Above: Woodside High grads walk off the football field after their commencement ceremony June 6. **Below** Woodside High grad Harrison Conor Patino hugs campus security guard Rosie Zepeda.

Candidates for graduation

A

Melissa Elaine Abarca Chavez, Mitri About Syriani, Nicole Margarite Adler, Stephanie Marie Agostini, Jose Angel Aguila Lopez, Maria E. Aguilar, Rachel Ann Aguilar, Mayte Aguilar Cruz, Gabriela Aguilar Villacana, Enrique Aguirre, Christine Ann Alftin, Christopher Alvarado, Stephen Alvarado, Kevin A. Amaya, Christian Charles Anagnostou, Veronica Nicole Anderson, Kristopher Ricardo Aparicio, Jose Miguel Arana, Amanda Elizabeth Arena, Isabel Susana Arias, Shayna Angelica Arreguin, Adrian Arreguin Arenas, Alexander Arreola, Samantha Nicole Arreola, Jazmin Arroyo, Brittney Maria Asaro, Richard Avalos, Maria De La Cruz Ayala

B

William Douglas Ballinger, Jennifer Barajas, Juan Pablo Barajas, Michael Barragan, Cesia Barrera, Frank Ernesto Barrientos, Manuel Benitez-Rodriguez, April Recto Bennett, Rachel Anne Blanton, Caitlin Alice Bohaboy, Luis Felipe Borbolla, Stephanie Bravo Vazquez, Travis Scott Briggs, John G. Bueno, Autumn Vada Bujtor, Baran Brian Bulutoglu, Carlo Bustamante

C

Roxana Aranzazu Cabrera Villar, Trey Jordan Calvillo, Colby Kelly Campbell, Jordan Campos, Roberto Geovanne Campos, Gerardo Castaneda Prieto, Mario Castillo, Roger Anthony Castillo, Cody Hagen Cattaneo, William James Chargin, Kiara Shawntrece Clayton, Daniel M. Collier, Samantha Marie Contreras, Adrian A. Contreras Valencia, Tommy Joseph Cook, III, Arath Essau Corona Gil, Isaac Cortes, Estefani Viridiana Cortez Valenzuela,



Woodside High grad Salvador Herrera-Farias has his photo taken with his sister, Gabby, left, and best friend Ashley Madrigal, after the June 6 commencement ceremony.

Katherine Nathalia Cortez Pena, Oscar Ramon Costantini, Gabrielle A. Couch, Danielle L. Cougoule, Tania Maricela Cruz Diaz, Ingrid A. Cruz Nampula, Lizette Cuevas, Genaro Cuevas Aviles, Ashlin Elisabeth-Mae Curci, Sarah Cziska

D

Anthony Oscar De La Cruz, Bradley James Degnan, Noeli Del Rio, Walter Del Rio Veliz, Juliette Louise Del Selva, Amparo Leticia Delgado Gutierrez, Christian Delos Santos, Madison A. Diamos, Jocelyne Jazmin Diaz Morales, Kristine M. Diedrich, Emily Dunlap

E

Daniilo Ivan Eguizabal, Renna Chita Marie Payte Esmabe, John F. Esplana, Angelica Esquivias, Elizabeth Estrada, Maria De Los Angeles Estrada

F

Diana Cabrera Fernandez, Francesca Emily Fiorese, Jeffery Michael Fisher, Jonathan Osvaldo Fortes, Justin Michael Fortes, Jehigo Francisco, Jose Luis Franco Landaverde, Francisco J. Franco Millan, Chanelle Antonia Fuentes, Elias J. Funes

G

Elizabeth Arely Garcia, Jaquelinee Garcia, Sylvia Garcia, Jesus Garcia Arteaga, Jose Adan Garcia Romero, Zulema Lizbeth Garibo Gonzalez, Ethan George Clifford Gentry, Wyatt Nicholas Giampa, Alexandra M. Gilbert, Karen Jazmin Giron Mendoza, Luc Christian Gnamien, Guadalupe Rosana Godinez, Jordan Gomez, Jencie Gomez Morales, Angel Gonzalez, Lourdes Gonzalez Garcia, Juan Jesus Gonzalez Zavala, Orlando Grajeda-Arellano, Mathew Grandov, Yolanda Grandov, Melanie Ann Greene, Brigitte Nancy Gutierrez, Randall Jacob Guy, Edgar A. Guzman

H

Damian Machuca, Eduardo I. Maciel, Flor Vanessa Maciel, Scott Adam MacKenzie, Elsa Stefania Magana, Eric J. Magana Mendoza, Phillip A. Magee, Jr., Heather Magrin, Robin Magrin, John Mahoney, Veronica E. Maldonado Jimenez, Jennifer Mancilla, Luis Fernando Mancilla, Oscar Alejandro Mancilla Calvillo, Matthew Marshall, David C. Martinez, Jennifer P. Martinez, Alison I. McBride, Makaila Drew McLeod, Marlen Medina, Jorge Javier Medina-Sanchez, Sarah Mejia, Justin D. Mendes, Alondra Mendez, Monica Mercedes Mendez, Roberto Mendieta, Febronio Alexander Mendoza, Jesus O. Mendoza, Salvador Mendoza, Kibet Mendoza, Liliana Mendoza Vasquez, Austin R. Merrill, Jesus Dario Meza, Allison Busch Miller, Christian Miranda, Steve Miranda, Emily Jane Moffat, Kimberly Maribeth Mondragon, Cristal Montes, Juliana Mora Cabrera, Daniel Andres Mora, Denise Mora, Katherine Morales, Francisco J. Moran

I

Courtney Ann Nahmens, Erika Elizabeth Negrete, Ty Campbell Newcomb, Noah Nousiainen, Luis A. Nunez

O

Damien Ocampo, Ana Angelica Oropeza, Michael Orozco, Sandy Orozco, Alejandro Ortega, Florence Liliana Ortiz, Kevin E. Ortiz Arias

P

Jasmin Padilla, Jovanni Palafox, Joseph Nicholas Palomarez, Jessica Palominos-

H

Eric Daniel Habjan Eaton, Nimrod Hajaj, Robert Lee Harper, Jason Harris, Lindsay Harrison, Megan Christine Healy, Daniel Hernandez, Patrick Hernandez, Yonatan Fernando Hernandez, Daniel Hernandez Gamez, Hector Herrera, Salvador Herrera-Farias, Kinsley Higgins, Lucas Tyler Hill, Haili Liana Hoef, Monica D. Holden, Susannah Holm, Joshua Justin Holman

I, J

Celso Iglesias, Kasey Cole Inglis, Rehman Irshad, Khasah Ahmed Jennings, Sitora Beverly Jennings, Diann Jimenez, Jose P. Jimenez

K

Danya Kafai, Savannah Kaufman, Easter Emanuela Kena, Amanda Nycole Kirley, Bryan Kirwan, Bayley Takao Kitaura, Zachary Krampert

L

Jose De Jesus Larios, Melemoala Latu, Omer Antonio Laval, Kristina Marie Lennen, Laura Rose Leslie, Brenda Licon, Angelica Teresa Llamas, Christina Llamas, Edwin Ivan Lombera, Isela Ruby Lomeli, Alex Lopez, Isbet Yanet Lopez, Jorge Luis Lopez, Susana Alejandra Lopez, Vanessa Maricela Lopez, Alejandro Lopez Solano, Stephanie Lopez Zaragoza, Jonathan Lucero, Martin Luna, Katherine Frances Luttrell

M

Damian Machuca, Eduardo I. Maciel, Flor Vanessa Maciel, Scott Adam MacKenzie, Elsa Stefania Magana, Eric J. Magana Mendoza, Phillip A. Magee, Jr., Heather Magrin, Robin Magrin, John Mahoney, Veronica E. Maldonado Jimenez, Jennifer Mancilla, Luis Fernando Mancilla, Oscar Alejandro Mancilla Calvillo, Matthew Marshall, David C. Martinez, Jennifer P. Martinez, Alison I. McBride, Makaila Drew McLeod, Marlen Medina, Jorge Javier Medina-Sanchez, Sarah Mejia, Justin D. Mendes, Alondra Mendez, Monica Mercedes Mendez, Roberto Mendieta, Febronio Alexander Mendoza, Jesus O. Mendoza, Salvador Mendoza, Kibet Mendoza, Liliana Mendoza Vasquez, Austin R. Merrill, Jesus Dario Meza, Allison Busch Miller, Christian Miranda, Steve Miranda, Emily Jane Moffat, Kimberly Maribeth Mondragon, Cristal Montes, Juliana Mora Cabrera, Daniel Andres Mora, Denise Mora, Katherine Morales, Francisco J. Moran

N

Courtney Ann Nahmens, Erika Elizabeth Negrete, Ty Campbell Newcomb, Noah Nousiainen, Luis A. Nunez

O

Damien Ocampo, Ana Angelica Oropeza, Michael Orozco, Sandy Orozco, Alejandro Ortega, Florence Liliana Ortiz, Kevin E. Ortiz Arias

P

Jasmin Padilla, Jovanni Palafox, Joseph Nicholas Palomarez, Jessica Palominos-



Salas, Jarid Julien Paradan, Giovanni Pascasio, Harrison Conor Patino, Christina Nicole Patton, Jack Elvis Paye, Oscar E. Paz, Fredy Penaloza Cabrera, Alba Perez, Luis Diego Perez, Connor Perfumo-Smith, Michael Julius Perla, Kristina Chantal Perrone, Samantha D. Place, Megan Pockalny, Noah Tucker Polek-Davis, James E. Power, Jose Prado, Brianna Justine Prentice, Vaughn Proctor, Elijah Albert Pryse

Q, R

Frances Bethany Quandt Jones, Rosario Quinones, Gregory J. Ramies, Benjamin Ramirez Barragan, Emilio Ramirez Hernandez, Cesar Ramos, Kristin Ramos-Trujillo, Adriana Rebuella, Jesus Anjel Resendiz, Samantha M. Richardson, Lindsay K. Ringman, Marguerite Robertson, Isabelle Guadalupe Robles, Bleivis Izabel Robles Lopez, Jose Rocha, Adrian Alexander Rodriguez, Angila Lynne Rodriguez, Brenda Rodriguez, Christopher Rodriguez, Jesse K. Rodriguez, Juliana Rodriguez, Maria Fernanda Rodriguez, Mario Avel Rodriguez, Monika Lynne Rodriguez, Gabriel Rodriguez Escalante, Bianca Marie Romeo, Diego Romero, Emmile Mae Romero, Alexandra Gail J. Rosal, Gianna G. Rosati, Bairon Ivan Ruiz Aguilar

S

Jamie Sanchez, Victor Alan Sanchez, Kathleen E. Sandoval, Sergio De Jesus Sandoval Ibañez, Matthew James Scardino, Benjamin O. Schaff, Dani K. Schneider, Bailey Nicole Seagraves, Heather Ann Seybert, Forrest R. Sill, Alexa Silvestri, Sebastian Bai -Yong Song, Engracia Marcela Sotelo Casillas, Erika Sotelo Moreno, Cody Lynne Springmeyer, Olivia Mercedes De Nardi Stangvik, Adam Stockford, Peter H. Storum, Spencer Michael Stucky, Brandyn Estiven Suchite Morales, Connor James Swan

T

James Tuungasipa, Jr. Takapu, Roberta L. Taufouu, Kaitlyn Aileen Teele, Carlos Andres Tellez, Michael Forrest Thompson, Nathaniel Scott Thompson, Timothy Robert Sebastian Thoreson, Alec Torres, Alejandro Torres, Alice Zamanda Torres, Jennifer Torres, Raul Torres, Sonia Elvira Torres, Damian Torres Palafox, Diego Alejandro Trabanino, Alexander M. Triveno Castrillon, Karla Tronco Salgado, Bianca L. Trujillo

U, V

Adam Javier Ugarte, Losimani Ulukivaiola, Haley Dawn Vacchieri, El Shaddai Nofu Henry Vae, Gerardo Valencia, Israel Valencia, Luis Valencia Torres, Joseph Thomas Valentino, Silvana Claudet Valle, Zoe Valletta, Malik Isaiah Vallo, Maykeline Icel Valverde, Ramon Valverde, Alexandra Vanegas, Candice Shay Varga, Irania Dalila Vargas, Elizabeth Alejandra Vasquez, Eugenia Vasquez-Flores, Jade Morales Vaughn, Adrian Anthony Veliz, Bronson Villacorta, Jennifer Villar

W

Danielle Rose Walsh, Dareon T.J. Walton, Jacob Dylan Weller, Patrick John Wendt, Ross Whitehill, Tiianna Lynn Williams, Xixi Wu

X, Y, Z

Erik Xocoxic, Ryan P. Yedinak, Joshua Javier Yee, Qian Amy Yu, Alexander T. Yuen, Ramzey Munib Mazon Zabaneh, Cynthia Zapata, Jose Zavala

On the cover: Woodside High graduate Ty Campbell Newcomb seems pleased to get his diploma at the June 6 commencement ceremony.

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New group forms to fight specific plan initiative

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

An election season without opposing factions is like throwing a party no one is invited to. As it turns out, Menlo Park doesn't have to worry about that this year.

Besides the three council seats up for election in November, a new grassroots coalition has now formed to combat the specific plan initiative proposed by another grassroots group. Save Menlo, meet Menlo Park Deserves Better.

The assortment of residents taking a stand at the forefront of Menlo Park Deserves Better includes several familiar faces, among them former council members John Boyle and Mickie Winkler; planning commissioners Katie Ferrick, Katherine Strehl and former colleague Henry Riggs, also a veteran of the successful Measure L pension reform initiative; and Menlo Park Fire Protection District board member Peter Carpenter of Atherton.

Menlo Park Deserves Better has banded together “to express our collective commitment to defeat the ill-conceived, misguided and severely flawed initiative advanced by Mike Lanza and Patti Fry on behalf of Save Menlo,” the group announced on June 3.

According to the city's summary, the initiative restricts the amount of office space in any individual development to 100,000 square feet; limits total new office space to 240,820 square feet; and caps overall new, nonresidential development to 474,000 square feet within the specific plan's boundaries.

The initiative would also redefine open space to mean only areas no higher than 4 feet off the ground, thereby preventing balconies from counting as open space.

Voters would have to approve revisions to the ordinance, including actions to exceed the size limits for office and nonresidential development, according to the city's analysis.

The initiative would impact two mixed-use development proposals already in the works by cutting the amount of office space allowed in each project by about 50 percent.

Menlo Park Deserves Better representatives said that the initiative, drafted behind closed doors that prevented any professional analysis or environmental review, was an attempt by a small group of residents to subvert the expressed desires of the

rest of the community.

During public comment at the June 3 council meeting, Mr. Riggs said the group was there to defend the hundreds of residents who participated in years of “open and honest” process that went into building the consensus that generated the specific plan.

As did other speakers that evening, he questioned the integrity of how the initiative is being presented, calling it “dishonestly sold, badly written, unvetted and not surprisingly rank with unintended consequences that even its writers will regret.”

In broad strokes, Menlo Park Deserves Better representatives outlined what they see as some of those unintended consequences — vacant lots on El Camino Real for the foreseeable future; the potential for projects that would generate more traffic and overcrowded schools than those proposed under the current rules; and a dangerous lack of flexibility, since the initiative would require a city-wide vote for most future changes to the specific plan.

Mr. Carpenter told the council that the initiative would delay construction of a new fire station by requiring a city-wide vote before the fire district could merge two parcels, one inside the specific plan zone and one outside, into a large enough lot.

The group also raised questions about the process used by Save Menlo to gather the estimated 1,780 registered voter signatures needed to qualify the initiative for the November ballot.

Ms. Strehl said the people who signed didn't necessarily get a clear explanation of what the 12-page initiative was about. The paid signature gatherers “came and asked for my signature and what they stated in terms of what the initiative would do was just flat out wrong; it was a total distortion.”

Other people had that experience as well, she said, and signed thinking it had to do with open space, and not with the downtown/El Camino Real specific plan.

Adina Levin, who serves on the Transportation Commission, said she agreed with the validity of some of the concerns underlying the initiative. Large mixed-use projects may take up space that could otherwise be used for housing, and add traffic, she said, but this initiative isn't the right way to address

See **PLAN INITIATIVE**, page 22

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Hanretty: Superintendent complicit in misappropriation

By Renee Batti
Almanac News Editor

Tim Hanretty, who served time in prison for embezzlement and misappropriation of public funds from local school districts, has asserted that his former boss, now deceased, was complicit in some of the illegal deeds in a document filed recently in the California Court of Appeal. The legal action challenges the amount of restitution he was ordered to pay the Woodside Elementary School District.

The legal brief was submitted to the First Appellate District on May 21, and asks that the \$2.67 million restitution order issued by a San Mateo County Superior Court judge last year be overturned and a new restitution hearing be held.

Mr. Hanretty in 2012 pleaded guilty to stealing nearly \$101,000 from the Portola Valley School District while he was superintendent there — from mid-2010 to early 2012 — and to misappropriating funds in the Woodside district by forging paperwork to take out a much larger loan for construction projects at Woodside Elementary School than was authorized by the school board in 2007.

In the brief, Mr. Hanretty asserts that he and the late Dan Vinson, who was superintendent of the Woodside district when Mr. Hanretty served as its financial officer, “felt that the ‘dysfunctional’ school board

pressured them to complete a modernization project that the board had undertaken. When the board only approved a \$632,000 loan over ten years for the project, (Hanretty) and Vinson falsified documents to obtain a (\$2.6 million) loan payable over 21 years.”

An investigation of the crime by the San Mateo County District Attorney’s Office concluded that the money was spent entirely on the school project, unlike the money taken from the Portola Valley district, which Mr. Hanretty used to remodel his home.

Mr. Hanretty is not challenging the restitution he has been ordered to pay to the Portola Valley district.

Basis for the challenge

Mr. Hanretty’s attorney, J. Wilder Lee of San Francisco, argues in the brief that the trial court failed to account for the “time value” of money in ordering restitution of \$856,553 in loan interest in addition to the amount of the loan principal.

In ordering that the restitution be paid immediately, he asserts, the court should have considered that, “were the (principal) paid off today, then years of interest payments would not be due.” Therefore, the interest calculation was excessive and would result in “the district receiving a windfall.”

Mr. Lee declined to comment for this story.

Deputy District Attorney Kimberly Perrotti, who pro-

secuted the case in Superior Court, said the “time value” argument wasn’t raised at the trial court level.

Because attorney Michael Markowitz of Danville, who represented Mr. Hanretty in Superior Court, didn’t make that argument, he “rendered ineffective assistance,” the Appeals Court brief asserts.

Mr. Markowitz could not be reached for comment for this article.

The Appeals Court brief also argues that restitution to the school district must be based on “the monetary loss on the unauthorized portion of the loan offset by the value to the district of the improvements acquired through the modernization project.” That offset wasn’t factored in, which “resulted in the District getting a double benefit from the use of the upgraded facilities and by having Hanretty pay for the entire amount of the unauthorized loan used to pay for those upgrades,” the brief asserts.

Ms. Perrotti said that argument was raised in Superior Court, and she continues to refute it. “Simply put, the district has no choice but to live with the consequences” of the construction project. “You can’t undo the work and recoup the costs,” she said, because the school can’t be sold to get the district out of its unwanted and unauthorized debt.

A responding brief by the state attorney general’s office is due June 20. ■

Sheriff Greg Munks wins third term

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

A third term as San Mateo County’s top law enforcement officer is ahead for Sheriff Greg Munks. It was unlikely to have worked out any other way: Mr. Munks was the only name listed for that office on the ballot, as was true when he ran for re-election in 2010.

But Mr. Munks was not unopposed this time. Juan Lopez, a deputy with 26 years in the same Sheriff’s Office led by Mr. Munks since 2006, ran a last-minute write-in campaign against his boss.

Mr. Munks received 60,857 votes, according to the count as of June 9. County elections official David Tom said write-in votes are tallied at the end of the counting process, and that

could take two or three weeks.

Priorities

Asked to comment on his re-election, Mr. Munks replied in an email that he did not take “running unopposed on the ballot for granted and I consider it an acknowledgment of the outstanding work by the men and women of the Sheriff’s Office and the leadership that I have provided.”

He said his priorities include completing the new jail on time and under budget, using a \$25 million state grant to establish a “sheltered living” dorm for mentally ill inmates, focusing on programs to help inmates



Greg Munks

successfully re-enter the community, and continuing work with educators, mental health professionals and law enforcement to “prevent, respond to and recover from violent intruders on school campuses.”

Write-in

Asked for a comment, Mr. Lopez, the write-in candidate, replied: “They haven’t counted the absentee ballots yet. ... Whatever is going to happen is going to happen.”

He had not planned to run as a write-in candidate, but the logistics of acquiring 20 signatures on his nomination papers in the last hour of the last day of the filing period proved his undoing. He arrived at the Elections Office after it had closed. ■

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Rowers qualify for title event

Eight local high school students qualified this year to compete in the USRowing Youth National Championships, to be held June 13-15 at Lake Natoma near Sacramento.

The students, who are rowers with Norcal Crew, based out of Redwood City, qualified by competing in the district championships May 2-4 at Lake Natoma.

The men's boat that qualified was the Lightweight Four with Coxswain, manned by Christopher Skokowski, Misha Nelson Hindery and Marcelo Buxton (all juniors at Palo Alto High School); Will Carhart (a senior at Menlo-Atherton High School); and coxswain Miles Bowman (a senior at Aragon High School).

Two women's boats qualified: a Single rowed by Katie Kelly, a senior at Menlo-Atherton, and a Lightweight Double, crewed by Alex Warner (a senior at Palo Alto High School) and Janet Titzler (a senior at Gunn High School).

College grads

Six local students graduated from the University of San Diego on May 25. They are: **Audrey Bullwinkel** of Portola Valley, bachelor's degree in architecture; **Melina Delis** of Woodside, cum laude, bachelor's degree in marketing; **Alisa Rhodes** of Woodside, bachelor's degree in communication; **Phillip Goupille** of Menlo Park, bachelor's degree in marketing; **Jordan Denecour** of Emerald Hills, bachelor's degree in international relations; and **Kathryn Neckowitz** of Emerald Hills, bachelor's degree in international business.

Marine Corps 2nd Lt. Kevin A. Flaherty recently graduated with a bachelor of science degree from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis and was commissioned to his current rank. He is the son of John and Carol Flaherty of Atherton and a 2010 graduate of Menlo School.



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Division of Gynecologic Oncology
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Last Movie: The Icemen

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Bike: LeMond Tete de Course



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Rita Williams honored

Veteran television news reporter Rita Williams of Portola Valley will receive the Governor's Award, the highest honor of the San Francisco/Northern California chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

The award will be presented at an Emmy Awards Gala at the

San Francisco Hilton hotel on June 14.

Ms. Williams retired last year after working for decades at KTVU in Oakland, and before that at KQED in San Francisco.



Rita Williams

Priory graduates 62

Sixty-two seniors received their diplomas May 31 at Woodside Priory's 54th commencement. Venture Capitalist Ray Rothrock was the commencement speaker.

The Priory is a private, Catholic college preparatory school in Portola Valley.

The valedictorians are Lingbo (Mary) Jin, Kira Patterson, Andrew Christensen and Amanda Lee.

The salutatorian is Sarah Reid. This recognition is given to the student who embodies the five core Benedictine values of spirituality, hospitality, integrity, individuality and community.

Graduates

A-G: Alice Alvarez, Charlotte Beriker, Leo Berez, Melanie Biles, Conor Bonfiglio, Sarah Brown, Conrad Cassente, Paolo Castro, Andrew Christensen, Shivani Dayal, Riley Gallivan, Will Gallo-way, Lexie Garrity, Max Goumas,

GRADUATION 2014

Chris Gregory, Michael Guthrie
H-M: Marine Hall Poirer, Briggsy Hamren, Madison Hughes, Sophie Hulme, Mary Jin, Sabina Kariat, Alex Klein, Sasha Korey, Michaela Koval, Non Kuramoto, Tom Latta, Will Latta, Katey Laubscher, John Le, Amanda Lee, Rachel Leiter, Hayden MacArthur, Sarah MacPherson, James McDaniel, Mara McLean, Austin Mirabella, Emily Moreton, Howard Mu

N-Z: Andrew Naclerio, Camille Nohra, Kira Patterson, Damian Perez, Jeffrey Perez, Bianca Rapp, David Reichert, Sarah Reid, Aaron Reiss, Margaret Shields, Ilana Skikos, Chris Stiles, Matthew Surber, Caitlin Teoman, David Theis, Charlie Tidmarsh, Johnny Trudelle, Victor Wan, Christian Wookey, Laura Wu, William Xu, Clayton Young and Brandon Zarringhalam.

Filoli celebrates nature days

"Discover Nature" days at the Filoli estate in Woodside will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday and Saturday, June 20 and 21. There will be informative walks and demonstrations, hikes in the nature preserve, discoveries in the garden, and hands-on learning for all ages.

Filoli's beekeeper, Mason Harris, will be on hand Friday and Saturday at the end of guided walks to talk about how bees are kept and their important role in nature. Visitors will be able to taste honey right from the honeycomb.

Visit filoli.org for a complete program schedule. Admission is \$18 for adults; \$15 for seniors; \$8 for students ages 5 through 17; and free for children, 4 and under.

Memoir writing

Phyllis Butler will teach a class on memoir writing in four Thursday sessions, from June 12 through July 3, at Little House Activity Center in Menlo Park. The classes will run from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Little House is at 800 Middle

AROUND TOWN

Ave. in Menlo Park. The cost is \$50 for the series, and \$15 for a drop-in session.

Ms. Butler has taught at Foothill College and UC Extension venues, and is the author of "The Valley of Santa Clara."

To pre-register, call 326-2025, ext. 222. For more information, call 326-0723.

Wags & Whiskers

Pets in Need will hold a music festival and "adoptathon" from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, June 21, on the main concourse at Canada College in Woodside.

The festival will feature animals ready for adoption, music, events for kids, prizes, food trucks, and beverages. Dozens of dogs and cats from the Pets in Need shelter will be available at no charge. All animals will have been spayed or neutered and will be up-to-date on vaccinations.

Entrance fee is \$10 for adults; \$5 for children ages 3 to 13; and free for children under 3. For more information, call 367-1405.



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Election: Low turnout, high mail-in percentage

A total of 85,537 votes were cast in the June 3 election in San Mateo County, 24 percent of the registered voters, according to data from the elections office at noon Monday, June 9. Seventy-seven percent of the votes were cast by mail.

County officials re-elected without opposition are Treasurer-Tax Collector Sandie Arnott, with 64,050 votes; District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe, with 62,384 votes; and County Superintendent of Schools Anne Campbell, with 60,211 votes.

County officials re-elected with opposition are Assessor-

County Clerk-Recorder Mark Church, with 62,907 votes; Sheriff Greg Munks (who was opposed by a write-in candidate), with 60,857 votes; and Coroner Robert Foucrault, with 59,806 votes.

In the contested race for the vacated seat of county controller, Juan Raigoza was elected with 45,350 votes.

Two Superior Court judges were elected: Susan L. Greenberg, with 49,655 votes; and Stephanie Garratt, with 43,546 votes.

The county Elections Office will be updating vote tallies at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 11.

Ex-clerk pleads not guilty

A 48-year-old man who collected program fees at the front desk of the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center in Menlo Park has pleaded not guilty to misdemeanor embezzlement.

Michael Benjamin Thulander is charged with diverting approximately \$200 in drop-in class fees, according to the

police report. He worked for the city from June 1999 until April 2014 as a part-time night clerk.

The San Mateo resident faces a maximum of six months in county jail if convicted. After his arraignment on May 26, the San Mateo County Superior Court scheduled his trial for Aug. 18.

City names interim director

Transportation Manager Jesse Quirion will now serve as interim public works director, the city of Menlo Park announced June 6.

Mr. Quirion will step into the new role on June 20 after Chip Taylor departs the position for

a similar one in Millbrae.

Hired as transportation manager in 2013, Mr. Quirion has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and a master's in public administration from Nova Southeastern University.

PARCEL TAX

continued from page 11

They also argued that master plans are in the works that may identify needs that could be costly to meet, and that the town has begun studying alternative revenue sources, making a tax reduction premature.

Calling a discussion of reducing the tax rate "irresponsible," Councilwoman Lewis asserted that Mr. Widmer's position was understandable, given he opposed renewing the parcel tax. Mr. Widmer challenged

that assertion as inaccurate and unfair, and noted that the council vote to place the measure on the ballot was unanimous.

When Ms. Lewis began to contest her colleague's response, City Attorney Bill Connors called, "Time out." He then reminded council members that town code prohibits "personal attacks back and forth, and I've got to say it's uncomfortable at this point."

The council will vote on the tax and set its rate at the regular council meeting on Wednesday, June 18. ■



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| 7/18 Sachal Vasandani | 8/2 Heath Bros. |
| 7/19 The Yellowjackets | 8/3 Fred Hersch Trio |
| 7/20 Ndugu Trio | 8/4 Kenny Burrell Quartet |
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POLICE CALLS

This information is from the Menlo Park Police Department. Under the law, people charged with offenses are considered innocent unless convicted. Police received the reports on the dates shown.

PORTOLA VALLEY

Theft reports:

■ A resident of Westridge Drive said a necklace is missing and believed to be stolen. Estimated loss: \$50,000. May 30.

■ Someone stole a purse and cell phone from inside an unlocked vehicle in the 700 block of Portola Road. Estimated loss: \$1,500. May 24.

■ Someone broke a metal piece used to keep a kitchen side door shut at a residence on Wayside Road, then entered the residence and stole two guitars and a Kindle tablet. Estimated loss: \$900. May 18.

WOODSIDE

Commercial burglary report: Menlo Park man arrested and booked into jail on burglary charges after allegedly walking into a convenience store in the 1700 block of Skyline Boulevard, cutting a security lock from a camera case, and leaving the store with the

camera without having paid for it. Deputies contacted him and said the suspect admitted to the burglary. No losses. May 29.

Auto burglary report: The right rear window on a vehicle parked in the 700 block of Canada Road was found smashed and property taken from inside. Estimated loss: \$1,900. May 22.

Theft report: Someone took property from inside an unlocked vehicle parked in the 1000 block of Canada Road. Estimated loss: \$600. May 22.

Traffic accident report: A vehicle heading west in the 1000 block of Canada Road crossed the white fog line on the right shoulder of the road and went down an embankment, where it struck two fences and came to rest against the front porch of a residence. Medics took the driver to a hospital for evaluation. May 22.

MENLO PARK

Commercial burglary report: Someone smashed a front window of the Lenscrafters store at 700 El Camino Real, entered the store and stole sunglasses. Estimated loss: \$10,000. June 6.

Residential burglary reports:

■ A set of skis, a set of golf clubs, a set of walkie-talkies and a phone charger were stolen from a storage unit inside a carport of a condominium complex on Monte Rosa Drive. Estimated loss: \$1,675. June 6.

■ In an attempted burglary on White Oak Drive, someone cut a lock and a wire cord that secured a the gate of a chain-link fence, but nothing was reported missing. June 3.

■ Someone smashed a window at the rear of a garage of a residence on Iris Lane, but nothing was reported missing from the home. June 3.

Theft reports:

■ Construction and power tools were stolen from a locked toolbox in the back of a pickup truck on Monte Rosa Drive. Estimated loss: \$1,760. June 5.

■ A locked bike was stolen from a bike rack in the 1100 block of El Camino Real, but the bike was recovered and returned to its owner. June 1.

■ Someone stole a bike that had been locked to a stop sign post on Oak Grove Avenue. Estimated loss: \$639. June 5.

■ The cash drawer was broke into at Honeycombers lice-treatment salon at

441 El Camino Real. Estimated loss: \$452.60. June 5.

■ A woman eating in a restaurant with her purse hanging on the back of her chair had her wallet stolen, with her driver's license and credit cards inside. Estimated loss: \$60. June 4.

■ A man left his vehicle unlocked on Felton Drive and had his wallet stolen. Estimated loss: \$59. June 3.

■ Someone stole a registration tab from the license plate of a vehicle parked at University Drive and Santa Cruz Avenue. Estimated loss: \$50. June 3.

■ A cell phone was stolen from an unlocked locker in the men's locker room of Burgess swimming pool on Laurel Street. No estimate on losses. June 1.

■ A man described as Hispanic and in his 30s reached into the open window of vehicle parked in the 1900 block of Santa Cruz Avenue and stole three debit cards, that were later canceled. The vehicle owner chased the man, but he got into a waiting white SUV and fled the scene. No losses. May 30.

PLAN INITIATIVE

continued from page 16

those concerns. Requiring a vote of the people to change tiny little zoning rules "is just an absurd way to run a city government."

Right now the city is waiting for Lisa Wise Consulting Inc. to analyze the initiative. The \$148,420 contract includes projecting how the changes would affect the feasibility of development within the specific plan boundaries, along with infrastructure and financial impacts. A preliminary report is expected by the end of June.

Save Menlo says

When asked for its take on Menlo Park Deserves Better's remarks, Save Menlo reiterated what it sees as the benefits of the initiative. According to spokeswoman Perla Ni, the initiative has widespread support, with more than 3,000 Menlo Park residents, drawn from across the city's neighborhoods, and nine former council members signing the petition.

Initiative co-sponsor and former planning commissioner Patti Fry said it lets Menlo Park voters decide the future of their small town and closes what she described as loopholes in the specific plan.

"Our community created a vision of balanced retail, hotel, housing, restaurants, and small-scale offices," she said. "No one asked for large office buildings. This initiative gives Menlo Park residents a voice in their future." ■

Daniel Jerome Murphy

January 8, 1926 – May 21, 2014

Daniel Jerome Murphy, a former resident of Menlo Park, died peacefully in Oberlin, Ohio, on May 21, 2014, at the age of 88.

Jerry, as he was known to his family and friends, was born in San Antonio, Texas, in 1926, the youngest son of Col. Edward A. Murphy and Alice Coughlin Murphy.

After graduating from Monterey High School, in Monterey, California, Jerry attended the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

He married Charlotte Mansfield of San Francisco, and together they had seven children.

Jerry saw combat during the Korean War, and he received a Purple Heart for injuries during that conflict.

Following his Naval service, Jerry and his family settled in Menlo Park, where he worked as an electrical engineer in the aerospace industry.

Jerry and Charlotte divorced in 1985, but they remained on good terms, connected through their love of family, including their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

After retiring, Jerry moved to Ohio to be near two of his sons and their families. He moved into the retirement community at Kendal, in Oberlin, Ohio, in 2002.

Jerry enjoyed hiking and camping with his family and friends. He loved reading, especially biographies, historical novels, mysteries, and his beloved Bible. He also loved traveling in his Saturn station wagon all over the country to visit his family.

Jerry is survived by his sister, Beatrice, and her husband Bernard Barmann, his seven children (and spouses/partners) Kathy Stoner (Mickey), Lindy Stevens (Jim), Dan Murphy Jr. (Candy), Pierce Murphy (Mary Anne), Liz Schmidt (Steve), Drew Murphy (Michael), Miles Murphy (Martin); 13 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and numerous other beloved relatives, including nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A memorial service will be held at Ladera Oaks Club, 3249 Alpine Road Portola Valley, CA 94028, on Monday, June 16, 2014, at 11:30 a.m.

The family suggests donations to the Kendal residence assistance fund. Checks payable to the Kendal at Oberlin RAF fund may be mailed to Teresa Maynard, Kendal at Oberlin, 600 Kendal Drive, Oberlin, OH 44074. Please note that the donation is in memory of Jerry Murphy.



PAID OBITUARY

Dr. Peter Kasenchak

October 17, 1934 – May 29, 2014

Peter's wonderful life came to an end when he passed away in his home on Thursday morning, May 29th, with his two sons Kevin and Kris caring for him.

Peter exemplified what it means to have a positive attitude and a commitment to serving others. It was most apparent through the last 14 months, as he did not miss a family function or opportunity to serve others as he fought pancreatic cancer. His most cherished friend, Geralyn Cole, was always by his side during that time.

Peter is survived by his two sons, Kevin and Kris, their wives Erin and Liza, and his four grandchildren, whom he adored.

Peter grew up in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, the only child of an immigrant family from Eastern Europe. He graduated from Hanover High School, put himself through college and graduated from the Temple University School of Dentistry in 1960.

He then joined the U.S. Navy as a dentist and was on active duty from 1960 to 1969. During that time, he was stationed on the USS Forrestal and spent a year in Antarctica.

He married the love of his life, Andrea Vogler, in New York on April 1, 1967. They created a life for themselves in Palo Alto, where Peter was a dentist for the Palo Alto Dental Group from 1969-2005.

He never remarried after losing Andrea to brain cancer on July 2, 1992.

After retirement, Peter's commitment to helping others increased. He was a board member for the Woodside Priory School and he served food for those in need three days a week at the St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room in Menlo Park, as well as acting as the chairman of the advisory council.

When Peter was not serving others, he enjoyed pursuing his passion for travel, scuba, and cooking.

Peter will be remembered for his kindness, his unselfish service to others, and the love he gave his many friends and family. He will not be forgotten but he will be missed tremendously.

Memorial donations in memory of Peter may be made to the St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room, Attn: Barbara Edwards, 3500 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025-3099, or online at - www.paduadiningroom.com



PAID OBITUARY

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Viewpoint

IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

Downtown Menlo withstands retail turnover

With rents running to \$5 a square foot and possibly more, it is no wonder that small retail businesses are cautious about settling into storefronts on Santa Cruz Avenue, in the heart of Menlo Park's downtown.

And though the vacancy rate is holding steady at below 2 percent, there has been turnover, caused by any number of issues, but probably the most maddening for business owners is the city's uber vigilant parking enforcement officers, who swarm the downtown plazas and have been known to write a ticket (including for a City Council member) just for having a wheel on (not over) the white line marking the parking space.

One of the most popular destinations for disgruntled Menlo Park businesses is the recently renovated downtown area of Los Altos, which is attractive to youth-oriented retailers. Karla Oliveira, owner of the Build It Again Lego store, which she recently moved to Los Altos after a short stint on Santa Cruz Avenue, says her rent has decreased from more than \$6,000 a month to less than \$4,000. And as a retailer who caters to families with young children, she likes the Los Altos ambiance created by similarly focused businesses like Forest on First, a restaurant where children can play while their parents have lunch, a hobby shop, museum and new bookstore that specializes in titles for the younger set.

All of this doesn't mean that Menlo Park's downtown is wasting away. Far from it, Jim Cogan, Menlo Park's economic development manager, told the Almanac recently. For example, the Lego store may have found greener pastures in Los Altos, but Cheeky Monkey and Flegel's Home Furnishings continue to thrive in longtime Santa Cruz Avenue locations.

Mr. Cogan said factors working against Menlo Park is the high property values and the uncertainty caused by challenges to two major development projects proposed by Stanford and Greenheart on large downtown parcels. A petition drive for an initiative to change the city's downtown specific plan that could go on the

November ballot already has spooked investors who may pass up the commercial property market until after the election.

On the other hand, developers could learn from former Menlo Park tenants who are happily relocated, including a financial planner, who moved to Redwood Shores in September and said he is saving \$50,000 a year on rent. He also enjoys many amenities in his new space, including an employee gym, picnic areas and a free shuttle to Caltrain. And he said he doesn't miss paying — or seeing his customers paying — for parking tickets, a longstanding complaint from even the most established merchants on Santa Cruz Avenue.

Menlo Park has tried several ways to ease the parking burden downtown, adding to its traditional two free hours in selected parking plazas and one-hour spaces on Santa Cruz Avenue to create more turnover. And in one plaza there is the option to buy up to seven more hours of parking. But a review by the City Council of recent downtown parking data shows that while Menlo Park averages 5.9 tickets per parking place a year, about average, the rate on Santa Cruz Avenue is nearly twice as high in the one-hour spaces — 11 tickets per space per year. Compare that to Los Altos, where the average is 1.21 tickets per space per year, although some merchants there are wishing for a more aggressive enforcement team like Menlo Park's. Often, Los Altos merchants must call for parking enforcement, rather than seeing officers making the rounds looking for shoppers who have overstayed their time limit.

In addition to widening downtown sidewalks, Los Altos has plans for a new boutique hotel, taller commercial buildings, and a few mixed-use projects that will be completed in the next year or two.

Until the issues raised by the initiative process are resolved, it could be a year or more before additional development can take off in downtown Menlo Park. Until then, the city will rest on its laurels, and hopefully be ready for a rejuvenating lift next year when the parameters of downtown specific plan will be known. ■

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS

Our readers write

Keep city's water away from golf course

Editor:

If you believe that climate change is a real and serious if not a crisis issue — as I do — and that California is in the grip of a major water shortage for agriculture, industry and residential use, then you have no choice but to reject the Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club's request to seek water from the aquifer by drilling in Nealon Park.

Nealon Park is public. That is, it is the property of all of us taxpayers. The golf club is a private organization. If we allow drilling for water, shouldn't we also allow drilling for oil or fracking for natural gas for private consumption in Nealon Park? What's the difference?

Golf courses have many acres of grass, which, as we all know, demand intensive water use. At the same time, we all are being asked to reduce our water con-



Menlo Park Historical Association

Our Regional Heritage

In the 1880s, the Palo Alto Trotting Stables, near Menlo Park, was the home of hundreds of valuable horses owned by Leland Stanford. His farm was said to attract horse-loving visitors from around the world, with stable space for up to 750 horses.

sumption, including reducing the watering of our lawns. Why are private golf courses a higher priority than every person's garden and lawn? Indeed, we are all being urged to remove our lawns and replace them with very low-water-use vegetation, or gravel.

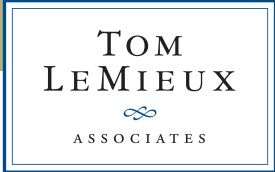
Do you not see the irony, the hypocrisy and the gross unfairness in the Sharon Heights Club's request?

California's historically worst drought highlights the arrogance of the demand upon a severely shrinking state aquifer for purpos-

es of private golf course watering.

The city should reject this Sharon Heights request and provide a scolding for the golf club's flagrant abuse at a time of a critical state water shortage. ■

Martin Engel
Stone Pine Lane, Menlo Park



FOR SALE



81 Adam Way, Atherton

European-inspired; 5 bedrooms, 6 full baths, 2 half-baths; 1-bedroom guest house; approx. 1.08 acres
OFFERED AT \$7,195,000

FOR SALE



850 Cambridge Avenue, Menlo Park

Just completed in Allied Arts; 3 levels with 5 bedrooms, each with en suite bath, plus 2 half-baths
OFFERED AT \$3,998,000

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301 Yale Road, Menlo Park

Fully remodeled, 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths; 3-room guest house and bath; Allied Arts neighborhood
OFFERED AT \$3,495,000

PENDING SALE



43 Sneckner Court, Menlo Park

Tuscan villa; 3 levels with 4 or 5 bedrooms, 5.5 baths; home theater, office, loft library/study
OFFERED AT \$3,950,000

SOLD



1080 Lassen Drive, Menlo Park

Sharon Heights home with views; 4 bedrooms, office, and 4.5 baths; Las Lomas schools
OFFERED AT \$4,950,000

SOLD



279 Park Lane, Atherton

Heart of Circus Club; 5 bedrooms, 7 full baths, 2-half baths; 1-bedroom cottage; approx. 2.5+ acres
OFFERED AT \$16,500,000

SOLD



180 Heather Drive, Atherton

Lindenwood neighborhood; 1 level with 4 bedrooms, 4 baths; pool, spa; approx. .92 acre
OFFERED AT \$3,795,000

SOLD



31 Fairview Avenue, Atherton

Private estate; 3 levels with 6 bedrooms, 7.5 baths, elevator; pool, spa, sport court; approx. 1.1 acres
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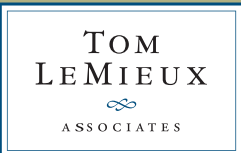
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295 Gloria Circle, Menlo Park

Classic Vintage Oaks; 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths; pool, spa, fireplace, barbecue center, level lawn
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