

The Almanac

THE HOMETOWN OF MENLO PARK, ATHERTON, PORTOLA VALLEY AND WOODSIDE

AUGUST 13, 2014



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Photo by Sofia Biros/The Almanac

Bikers participating in the 2013 Tour de Menlo.

500 expected for Tour de Menlo

About 500 bicycle riders from all over the Bay are expected to participate in the 10th annual Tour de Menlo bike ride on Saturday, Aug. 23, organizers said.

The ride, which starts and finishes at Menlo-Atherton High School, is a benefit for the Rotary Club of Menlo Park scholarship fund and the Almanac's Holiday Fund. The Rotary Club and the Almanac are co-sponsors.

Riders can choose from 35-,

45- and 65-mile routes, with modest elevation gains on the two shorter courses and more than 3,000-foot elevation on the 65-mile (100-K) route.

Riders on the longer route go north to Belmont before turning south and heading for Portola Valley. The 35- and 45-mile routes cover much of the same terrain minus the hills.

All riders will find fully stocked rest stops and SAG support for those who need

assistance out on the course. A lunch catered by Lutticken's Deli awaits riders at the finish at M-A High.

Veteran riders, please note: Due to a scheduling conflict, registration and lunch for the ride will be held outside the M-A gym, off Ringwood Avenue. Riders should park in the M-A Performing Arts Center lot, also off Ringwood.

Visit TourdeMenlo.com for more information and to sign up.

City closing Santa Cruz for fitness event

By **Tiffany Lam**

Special to the Almanac

As part of its efforts to attract more people downtown, the city of Menlo Park is hosting a "Family Fitness Extravaganza" from 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 13, along Santa Cruz Avenue.

Most of downtown Santa Cruz Avenue — between University Drive and Doyle Street — will be closed to vehicle traffic for the event, the city says.

"Our goal is to have enough types of events that will generate the foot traffic our downtown

merchants need," said Amanda Becker, Menlo Park economic development specialist. "What better way than to host an event that encourages people to walk and ride their bikes?"

The city aims to connect fitness service providers with the community, she said. In organizing the event, the city worked with Yuhui Chen, owner of the Menlo Park fitness business SBM Fitness.

Attendees, who are encouraged to wear their workout outfits, will participate in fitness activities, such as running and Zumba, Ms. Becker said.

At 6:30 p.m., the Menlo Park

sports shoe shop Fleet Feet Sports will kick off its 12-week, 5K training program with a short training session and run.

About 30 fitness businesses are expected to participate with information booths and activities, the city says. Among the vendors: Vibe Yoga, Studio Rincon, Menlo Park Fitness and Menlo Velo Bicycles.

There will be a children's obstacle course, and Menlo Park Jazzercise at the main stage at 6 p.m.

Go to tinyurl.com/fit813 to see the event's Facebook page for more information. ■

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Plans for Mandarin immersion charter school

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

Supporters of a Mandarin-language immersion program who were turned down by the Menlo Park City School District now want to open a charter school, with ambitions to launch the school in fall 2015.

According to district resident Carol Cunningham, who had led the effort to start the program within the Menlo Park district, the goal is to open the school with two classes of kindergartners and two classes of first-graders. The school would eventually have classes for students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

In the lower grades, up to 90 percent of classes will be taught in Mandarin, she said, with the percentage gradually lessening in upper grade levels to about 50 percent by fourth or fifth grade.

"We want to equip our children with the 21st century skills that will be demanded by an increasingly competitive and global society," Ms. Cunningham said.

The founding families want to "create innovative learning opportunities, based on sound educational models, because we believe that families should have a choice when it comes to public education."

The group has some hurdles to leap, and according to the California Charter Schools Association's website (calcharters.org), charter school organizers usually need "a total of 1-3 years to complete the entire process, depending on whether they have an established team and vision at the outset, their authorization environment, and a number of other factors."

Ms. Cunningham said that because the group has been working with the district for so long, they have already done much of the background work needed to start a charter.

The group plans to present its charter school petition to the Menlo Park district within four to six weeks, Ms. Cunningham said. The district will then have 30 days to hold a public hearing.

The petition must be signed by at least 80 district families

interested in enrolling children in the kindergarten and first-grade classes for the 2015-16 school year, Ms. Cunningham said.

If the district turns down the charter school, the group can appeal to the San Mateo County Board of Education.

A meeting to provide information about the proposed charter

2013 Nobel laureate in physiology or medicine and Stanford University professor; and Amado Padilla, a Stanford University professor whose research includes "studies involving second language learning and teaching, and strategies for achieving bilingual proficiency."

Those planning to attend are asked to send an email with the number attending and the name of their home school district to mmics2015@gmail.com by Aug. 15. Space is limited.

In April, the Menlo Park City School District board declined to take any action on a request to start a Mandarin immersion program by fall 2014. "I know it's simply not something that the district can do at this point in time," board member Terry Thygesen said then.

The planned charter school will, according to the school's website, "integrate the development of bilingual and biliteracy skills in English and Mandarin with a Common Core-aligned STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) curriculum, using an interdisciplinary, collaborative,

and experiential approach that nurtures the whole child."

Among the details still to be worked out are what the class sizes would be and where the school would be located, although it would be within the district, according to Ms. Cunningham.

If children from within the school district do not fill all the available slots in the school, children from outside the district would be admitted, according to the charter organizers.

The school has 13 founding members who span a variety of disciplines, including education, high-tech, finance, legal, marketing and neuroscience, Ms. Cunningham said.

A quote from founding member Thomas Sudhof is prominently featured on the charter school's website: "Immersing a child in multiple languages is more important for a child's development in the first 10 years than learning math or science because the structure and content of the languages a child speaks become part of the person's intellectual repertoire." ■

Supporters of a Mandarin-language immersion program were turned down by the Menlo Park City School District.

school will be held on Sunday, Aug. 24, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Parents Place, 200 Channing Ave. in Palo Alto. Child care and activities for children will be provided.

Scheduled speakers are Grace Mah, a member of the Santa Clara County Board of Education; Ling-Chi Wang, University of California at Berkeley professor; Thomas Sudhof, a biochemist and

Investigators probe crash that killed JobTrain worker

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

The investigation into an Aug. 5 crash that killed a 24-year-old worker when a car veered off U.S. 101 near Marsh Road continues. Mark Santos was part of a nine-person crew from the JobTrain nonprofit program in Menlo Park that was picking up litter along the right shoulder.

He was pronounced dead at the scene. A second worker, Jimmie Lee Ballard, 63, of East Palo Alto, was severely injured and is being treated at Stanford Hospital, the CHP said.

The driver, Dee Di Benedetto, 38, of San Jose, was taken to Stanford Hospital for treatment of minor injuries, CHP Officer Art Montiel said.

She was driving a black Mercedes that veered off southbound U.S. 101 south of Woodside Road for unknown reasons, according to the CHP. The crash was reported at 11:05 a.m.

JobTrain issued a statement after the accident: "We are shocked and saddened about the tragic accident that took place

The nonprofit has a contract with San Mateo County to deploy work crews to assist Caltrans with roadside work.

this morning on Highway 101. We extend our deepest sympathies to the families of those involved and we will be working to provide counseling and support."

The nonprofit has had a contract with San Mateo County since 2012 to deploy work crews to assist Caltrans with roadside work, according to JobTrain Executive Director Nora Sobolov. Two crews, usually consisting of eight workers and two supervisors each, go out Monday through Friday to perform weed control, litter cleanup, graffiti abatement and other tasks.

No further information was available for release due to the ongoing investigation, according to the CHP. Witnesses are asked to contact Officer H. Barker at 369-6261. ■



Photo by Natalia Nazarova/The Almanac

What the lawn looked like after the artificial turf was installed.

Athertonian installs artificial turf

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

Peter Carpenter, a resident of Atherton's Lindenwood neighborhood, said he hopes his recent installation of artificial turf to replace a water-hogging lawn will be an inspiration to others.

Mr. Carpenter, who is a member of the governing board of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District, said he and

his wife, Jane Shaw Carpenter, began thinking about replacing their 8,500 square feet of lawn a few years ago.

"Our water bills were about \$600 a month more when we were watering the lawn than when we weren't," he said.

The worsening of the drought prompted them to "look for a long-term solution," he said.

Research led them to choose artificial turf over alternatives, such as low water-use plant-

ings, which wouldn't provide the flat surface they needed for activities, such as croquet, and a play area for their five grandchildren.

Gravel was an option, but "we thought that looked relatively unattractive," and would be hard to maintain, he said.

They chose a company recommended by neighbors after checking out its work.

"It looks magnificent," he

Continued on next page

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Photo by Natalia Nazarova/The Almanac

The Carpenters' lawn was suffering from the drought before artificial turf was installed.

Carpenter replaces lawn with artificial turf

Continued from previous page

said recently, with the project 80 percent completed. "I think it will look even better when they get finished."

Mr. Carpenter said the company he chose offers a 15-year, full-replacement guarantee and has done a meticulous job, even rolling croquet balls across the croquet court area to make sure the ground was completely flat before putting down the turf.

Because they chose such a high-end installation, however, spending about \$90,000 in total, it won't save the couple much money.

"It will take us probably 10 to 15 years to pay back with what we're saving," he said. But if water gets more expensive, which he hopes it will, then they will recover their investment more quickly.

Mr. Carpenter said that he thinks local water providers

should make their tiered pricing more steep, with low-priced water only at a "lifeline" level.

"If you want more water than that, then you should pay substantially more than that," he said.

Asking all customers to cut back by a certain percentage only penalizes those who already have cut back, he said.

"Our neighbors who are aware of what we're doing are really pleased with how it's turning out," he said. "The only reason you can tell it's not regular lawn is because it's all the same color." The product they installed, he said, does have brown "thatch" with the green.

And if neighbors happen to notice Mr. Carpenter shaking leaves out of his oak trees, there's an explanation for that, too. "What actually makes it look really good is when it has a few fallen oak leaves on it," he said. ■

Man pleads not guilty to assaulting officer

A 65-year-old Menlo Park man pleaded not guilty Aug. 7 to assaulting a code enforcement officer with a deadly weapon — in this case, his 1966 Chevy.

Jerry Aaron Jenkins was arrested on July 9 after he allegedly backed his truck into the officer on purpose. The officer was treated at Stanford Hospital for minor injuries.

The officer had gone to a home in the 1300 block of

Henderson Avenue around 4:22 p.m. to look into reports that Mr. Jenkins was working on vehicles in his yard, police said.

He maintains that he didn't see the officer before backing up, according to the District Attorney's Office.

Mr. Jenkins is out of jail on a \$25,000 bond and represented by attorney Tom Kelley. A jury trial in San Mateo County Superior Court is scheduled to start in November.



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Humane Society offers \$1,000 in shooting of dog in Menlo

The Peninsula Humane Society is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person responsible for shooting a dog in Menlo Park on or just before Aug. 1.

The 4- to 5-year-old male, brown Chihuahua was paralyzed from the waist down as a result of the injury, said Scott Delucchi, spokesman for the

humane society. The dog had been shot "with some kind of projectile," according to the society's medical team.

The dog was "humanely euthanized" on Aug. 1 "after tests confirmed his dire condition," Mr. Delucchi said.

Residents of 1300 block of Henderson Avenue in Menlo Park found the dog in front of their home unable to walk and

in pain.

X-rays confirmed the dog had a severed spine, Mr. Delucchi said.

The humane society is looking for leads in what "would most certainly be a felony animal cruelty case," he said. Anyone with information is asked to call the society's lead investigator, Christina Hanley at (650) 340-7022, ext. 384.

Six candidates for three open seats

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

■ MENLO PARK

A familiar name popped on to the list of contenders for the 2014 Menlo Park City Council election: Kelly Fergusson, who lost a bid for a third council term in 2012, is running again.

"I am running because current council members are poised to turn El Camino Real into a monolithic office park," Ms. Fergusson told the Almanac on Aug. 7. "Residents need a responsive voice on City Council, and a council member that will stand up to profit-hungry developers."

Save Menlo, the grassroots coalition backing the November ballot initiative that would change the downtown/El Camino Real specific plan approved in 2012, has given Ms. Fergusson its blessing. The initiative would, among other things, restrict the amount of

office space per project and require a citywide vote to change the regulations or permit projects that would exceed the cap.

Ms. Fergusson was on the council when the specific plan was approved. She had argued for setting the trigger for public benefits at a lower floor area ratio than the proposed plan called for, a fight she lost.

She was recused from voting on portions of the plan related to Stanford University, which owns property in the area regulated by the specific plan, because her husband worked for Stanford. Stanford now plans to develop its 500 El Camino Real site into a mixed-use complex of office, housing and retail.

Her two terms on the council were not without controversy, including a Brown Act viola-

tion that led to her resignation as mayor in 2010.

When the filing period closed on Aug. 8, the final roster of candidates stood at six. Campaigning this year for reelection are incumbents Rich Cline, Kirsten Keith and Peter Ohtaki. All three have stated that they don't support the initiative, for reasons that include the inflexibility of requiring a citywide vote to make changes.

Environmental Quality Commissioner Kristin Duriseti and Planning Commissioner Drew Combs also qualified.

Mr. Combs said that he plans to keep an open mind during the campaign season, but right now feels inclined to vote for the initiative.

So far Ms. Duriseti has declined to comment on where she stands on the initiative. She would also be recused from voting on any issues related to Stanford, as she works for the university. ■

Four candidates for three council seats

With the close of the filing period on Aug. 8, Atherton has an official roster of City Council candidates for the Nov. 4 election: incumbents Bill Widmer and Rick DeGolia will be joined by challengers Rose Hau and Mike Lempres.

Mr. Widmer is completing his first four-year term and Mr. DeGolia was elected to a one-year term last year to fill

■ ATHERTON

the seat left vacant when Jerry Carlson moved from Atherton.

The two other candidates have experience in Atherton town government. Ms. Hau, an architect, is vice chair of the Civic Center Advisory Committee and Mr. Lempres, an

attorney, is a member of the town's transportation and rail committees.

The council now has only four members. Jim Dobbie, whose term was to expire in November, resigned earlier this year due to poor health, and his unfilled seat is one of the three that voters will fill this fall. Mr. Dobbie died July 24.

City seeks riders for van service

Calling more riders — the city of Menlo Park's free van service is looking for more patrons.

The 20-passenger van will pick up passengers at their homes on Wednesdays and Saturdays starting at 9:30 a.m. and makes return trips at

noon and 1 p.m. Stops are in downtown Menlo Park, at the Sharon Heights Safeway, at the Stanford Shopping Center, and at other destinations.

Call the transportation department at 330-6770 to find out how to schedule a pickup.



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REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman

Good Transportation Systems Increase Real Estate Values



Dear Monica: I am moving to the Peninsula from a large, east coast city with a good transportation system. I have never had to own a car because I could get almost anywhere I needed to go by public transportation. Now that I am moving here, I am struck by how difficult it is to get around without a car and traffic is terrible. Given this situation, where should I live: close to work? (what if I change jobs); in the larger cities where there is at least some public transportation available?; and, should I rent or buy? Mara C.

Dear Mara: You have identified a problem that cities in the region have talked about for years but have never successfully joined forces to solve. Every new office building and housing complex is asked by local planning commissions to mitigate the impact on traffic, and public services such as schools. But this piecemeal approach hasn't done anything to affect

problems in the larger area and sometimes has even made them worse. Good transportation systems do affect real estate values as shown in San Francisco where properties near company bus sites have increased in value compared with those properties in areas not served by the private buses.

There is no one system of transportation that rings the Bay. BART doesn't serve the Peninsula and Caltrain only serves the main Peninsula corridor. You would do best to live a convenient distance from your job unless you don't like the housing there. You can rent for the first 3-12 months to give yourself a chance to explore the area before settling into a specific place. This will also give you a chance to see if you like your job or if you want to change.

Job growth in the Bay Area has been great but now it is time to build the transportation infrastructure to support it.

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Con men scam local author and physician

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

It can happen to the best and the brightest, apparently. Physician, author, speaker and world traveler Walter Bortz of Portola Valley was duped out of thousands of dollars by con men in a crafty telephone scam.

Dr. Bortz is the author of six books, including “Dare to be 100” and “Living Longer for Dummies.” He and his wife, Ruth Anne Bortz — their bank account now lighter by \$5,000 — sat down with the Almanac at their Westridge area home on Aug. 7 to talk about the scam.

Between 7:30 and 8 a.m. on Monday, July 28, the phone rang, Dr. Bortz said. On the line was a sobbing male voice claiming to be the couple’s grandson.

This “grandson” apologized for the early hour, then told a tale of a beer-drinking escapade the night before that, through no fault of his own, ended badly. Dr. Bortz, who is 84, said the voice sounded authentic, as did the location. His grandson lives in San Francisco, surfs in the area and enjoys Santa Cruz, Dr. Bortz said.

“It had verisimilitude to it,” he said. “For him, hanging out and having some drinks in Santa Cruz is totally valid.”

The circumstances painted a picture of a victim caught up in events. The grandson had

been in a taxicab being driven recklessly by a cabbie under the influence, the story went. When police stopped the cab, they found drugs and a gun in the trunk.

Both cabbie and passenger (the grandson) were arrested. While in jail, the grandson had been beaten, leaving him with a broken nose, Dr. Bortz said he was told.

He said he thought he had recognized his grandson’s voice. “I was completely taken in,” he said. “Everything he said had a viability to it and they pulled that off adequately. I like to think that I am worldly wise (and yet) I got snookered into this one. But I guess it shows that I’m a nice grandfather.”

The grandson turned the phone over to a “police officer,” Dr. Bortz said. The officer said a judge had set aside 10 a.m. that same morning to make a decision in the case. To save his grandson from the negative consequences of appearing in court, Dr. Bortz needed to follow a specific procedure to arrange a \$5,000 bond, the officer said.

Dr. Bortz was told to go to his bank and withdraw \$5,000 in cash, then go to the Safeway supermarket in Sharon Heights and buy \$5,000 in prepaid cash cards, then call the officer back and read him the card numbers to complete the money transfer.



Photo by Michelle Le

Dr. Walter Bortz and Ruth Anne Bortz at their home in Portola Valley.

Dr. Bortz said the bank teller asked him why he was withdrawing \$5,000. Why would she have asked that question? “She was just trying to be protective of me (in) the situation,” he said. But instead of answering truthfully, he lied, he said. The officer had told him that “it would influence the court if any of this got out,” Dr. Bortz said he was told.

After transferring the money, Dr. Bortz called back and received a surly response. After more calls, he got the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office

involved, his daughter Gretchen Lieff said.

If he could craft a warning, how would he word it? “I don’t think any warning would have protected me from this,” he said. “My grandson is in jail and they beat him up and broke his nose? They represented it to a degree that I bought it.”

“It bothers me, I guess in the abstract, that there’s that segment (of the population) out there roaming,” he said. “Their antennas are up to every opportunity. ... Nice guys finish last.”

That segment defrauds people

out of millions of dollars every year, often combining “age-old tricks” with new technology, according to the Federal Trade Commission.

“People don’t ask enough questions,” said Nicole Acker of the Menlo Park Police Department. “I don’t know how to really word (a warning),” she said. “The only thing we can do is continue to put out the information. If it doesn’t sound right, it probably isn’t right.”

Go to consumer.ftc.gov/scam-alerts for more on the latest scams. ▀

Mansion’s owner appeals to council

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Palo Alto attorney John Hanna, representing the owner of a mansion at 360 Mountain Home Road in Woodside, has filed an appeal asking the Town Council to rule on whether the partial demolition of the mansion can continue as a remodeling project.

The appeal follows the July 31 meeting of the seven-member Planning Commission, which tied in 3-3 votes on two resolutions. One would have allowed the remodel of the 7,423-square-foot mansion to continue, but with amendments and conditions. The other would have forced the applicant to submit a new proposal due to actions not authorized by the commission that resulted in the removal of the first floor and its framing. Commissioner Aydan Kutay

was absent, but sent letters in support of accepting an amended plan. Mr. Hanna noted Ms. Kutay’s support in the appeal.

Mr. Hanna is asking the council to accept the current state of the demolition and allow a little more demolition as necessary, such as when installing differently shaped windows, Senior Planner Sage Schaan told the Almanac.

Town documents identify the owner as SV Projects LLC at the Palo Alto address of Hanna & Van Atta, Mr. Hanna’s law firm.

The council meets twice in September and is likely to hear the appeal at one of its meetings, Mr. Schaan said.

Town inspectors visited the site in mid-May and saw the second and third floors and roof of the main house sitting on horizontal steel beams above an empty space where

the basement and first floor used to be, according to staff reports. The town gave the owner permission to remove the basement’s floor and the walls, but not the first floor or its walls and framing.

Planning Director Jackie Young issued a stop-work order on July 3, a day after the Planning Commission recommended that she send the project back to the Architectural and Site Review Board.

With exceptions allowed to make the work site safe, the stop-work order remains in effect. ▀

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Jack Byrne, grocer, carpenter

■ OBITUARY

John (Jack) Hayden Byrne, a resident of Portola Valley and once the co-owner of a family grocery store in San Francisco, died peacefully on Aug. 1. He was 92.

Mr. Byrne grew up and went to school in San Francisco, including the University of San Francisco. He worked with his father and brother in a Divisadero Street market that came to be known as Byrne’s Fine Foods.

Mr. Byrne and his brother, Bill, went on to co-own the store and later brought in Jack’s sons John and Will. “Byrne’s Fine Foods was a San Francisco grocery institution for over 44 years,” the family said. The store closed in 1983.

The family would pass summers at a cabin on Old La Honda Road in Woodside, until they bought a property

in central Portola Valley. Mr. Byrne was an “amazing” carpenter and built the family home. “His happiest moments were with family, and he was immensely proud of all his children and grandchildren,” the family said.

Mr. Byrne is survived by his wife, Mary Alice Byrne; daughter Bernadette Byrne of Hopland, California; sons John of Pleasanton and Will of Cupertino; and nieces, nephews and grandchildren.

Donations in his name may be made to the Hanna Boys Center, 17000 Arnold Drive in Sonoma.

Obituaries are based on information provided by the family.



Photo by San Mateo County Sheriff's Office

Good omen

An I-beam, painted white, draped with flags and signed by workers and dignitaries, carried a young tree to the top of the framing for the new San Mateo County jail at a recent "topping off" ceremony. The tree is supposed to "ward off bad spirits," according to a Sheriff's Office statement. The ceremony at 1300 Maple Street in Redwood City celebrated the placing of the last beam on the building. The jail is expected to open in 2015

Fire district sued over crash

By **Sandy Brundage**
Almanac Staff Writer

A collision between a fire vehicle and car last fall has led to a lawsuit filed against the Menlo Park Fire Protection District and the firefighter who was behind the wheel.

The suit, filed in San Mateo County Superior Court on Aug. 1, by two people who were in the car — Jose Cardosa and Feliciano Curup — asks for compensation related to unspecified injuries, loss of wages and property damage resulting from alleged negligence on the part of the defendants.

The collision occurred on Aug. 20, 2013, at the intersection of El Camino Real and Raven-

swood Avenue at about 10:19 p.m., based on police and fire district records.

Battalion Chief James Stevens, responding to a shooting in East Palo Alto, was driving a 2008 Chevrolet Suburban with lights and sirens activated when he made a left turn on a red light onto Ravenswood Avenue, according to the records. The driver of the other car, a 1998 Volkswagen Jetta, reportedly heading north on El Camino Real at 35 miles per hour, was unable to stop before entering the intersection, and the two vehicles collided.

Mr. Stevens was found at fault for failure to yield, according to Menlo Park police.

Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman said the battalion chief

is a 32-year veteran with an exceptional driving record.

"The fire district regrets any situations negatively involving the general public when responding to emergency incidents, since our primary mission is to protect life and property," Chief Schapelhouman said. "Each year our personnel safely respond to over 8,000 calls for service all over the fire district."

Additional fire personnel responded to the accident scene and provided medical treatment to the occupants of the car, he said. The two occupants of the fire vehicle were not injured.

Juan Simon, the attorney for the plaintiffs, did not respond to a request for comment. ■

School board filing deadlines extended

The filing deadline for school board elections in the Las Lomas and Menlo Park City school districts was extended to Aug. 13 because an eligible incumbent in each district did not file as a candidate by the initial deadline of Aug. 8.

Go to AlmanacNews.com for updates since this issue went to press Monday.

If no one else files by Aug. 13, each district will have the same number of candidates as it has open board positions and may choose to not hold the election.

In the Las Lomas School District, two incumbents filed by the Aug. 8 deadline: Richard

Ginn and Christine Heaton. John Earnhardt, director of corporate communications at Cisco and a district parent, filed his nomination papers and was approved as a candidate at the last minute. Current Las Lomas board president Jay Siegel did not file, and will not be eligible to do so during the extended filing period.

In the Menlo Park City School District, incumbents Terry Thygesen and Joan Lambert are both candidates, as is Stacy Jones, who is co-chair of the district's advisory council and has three children in district schools.

Incumbent Scott Hinshaw, who was appointed to fill the remainder of Laura Rich's term in February, did not file, and will not be eligible to do so during the extended filing period.

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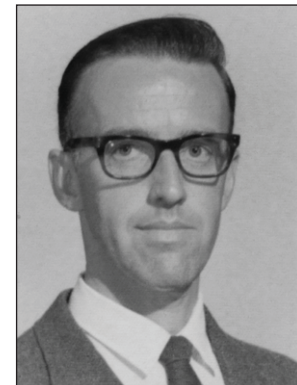
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Harold Dan Morris

Farewell to Hillview Teacher, Mr. Harold Morris

Harold Dan Morris, 91, died in his Menlo Park home on June 17. Born in Pierre, South Dakota on September 26, 1922 to the late Olga and Richard Morris, he left home at 19 and decided on California as his "real" home after being stationed on Treasure Island to train for his service as a medic during World War II. Harold and his beloved wife, DeLora, married at St Paulus Lutheran Church in San Francisco following the war.



Before finally relocating to his revered California and teaching Eighth Grade English at Hillview School in Menlo Park, he taught in Washington, Oregon, and Alaska. An accomplished speaker, Mr. Morris was an active member of Toastmasters and Bible Study Fellowship and although outwardly unassuming, he would frequently surprise family and students with his sharp, dry wit, deadpan delivery and keen memory for poetry and scripture. To that end, he established the first eighth grade graduation speech contest, a tradition that held during his thirty-two years of teaching at Hillview and continues today. DeLora preceded him in death by nine years, and Mr. Morris became an active volunteer for Pathways Hospice while continuing to write, read, garden and walk.

Harold is survived by four children: Dann Morris of Branson, Missouri; Susan Gertz of Pinole, CA; Laurel Morris Wessler of Menlo Park; and Joel Morris of Woodside. He is also survived by six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren and many beloved neighbors, students and friends.

Services have been held. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations be made to Pathway's Hospice or the American Heart Association.

PAID OBITUARY

Greenheart complex draws kudos, questions

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

During their recent discussion of the environmental impact report and architectural features of Greenheart's proposed 420,000-square-foot mixed-use project on El Camino Real, several Menlo Park planning commissioners said they thought the project demonstrated that the city's controversial specific plan is working the way the community wants it to.

Greenheart's project includes two three-story office buildings with 210,000 square feet of commercial space, and up to 220 apartments, with some below-market-rate housing, on its nearly 7-acre site at 1300 El Camino Real, off Oak Grove Avenue.

The commercial space would include at least 188,000 square feet of offices and 22,000 square feet set aside for commercial use, preferably retail, but that depends on the market, according to the developer. One option would be more offices. The resi-

dential building would dedicate 7,000 square feet to retail.

Ninety-five percent of the on-site parking would be provided by an underground garage with entrances off El Camino Real and Garwood Way.

The underground parking arose as a point of discussion during the Planning Commission meeting on Aug. 4. An initiative to change the specific plan is going before voters in the Nov. 4 election. If adopted, the initiative would cut the amount of office space allowed in the Greenheart development to 100,000 square feet, about half of the current plan.

The commissioners asked how that would affect the garage as well as transportation demand management for the project.

Greenheart representative Steve Pierce replied that the parking would likely have to shift to above-ground, given that the expense of building a garage would not be offset by the remaining office space, which brings in the highest

■ MENLO PARK

rent among the possible uses (retail, housing and office). He estimated that it costs more than twice as much to put the parking underground.

That leaves less open space for a 2-acre public plaza in the complex, he said, and leads to fewer potential on-site patrons for the retail. "We wouldn't be

Two three-story office buildings, 220 apartments and retail spaces are planned at El Camino and Oak Grove Avenue.

tweaking the project. We'd be reinventing the project" if the initiative passes, Mr. Pierce said.

The company may then look at larger, regional-type retail or look at building more, larger housing units, both of which change impacts to traffic and

schools, he said. As for encouraging public transit, he said, "People don't take trains to retail."

Commissioner Drew Combs, who is running for a seat on the City Council this year, asked whether sticking to the base level of development instead of going for the bonus level would make losing half the office space feasible.

"Probably not," Mr. Pierce said, adding that without the bonus level, Greenheart would likely move the parking to the surface.

Commissioner Katie Ferrick said she thought the project demonstrated that the specific plan "got it right" in terms of bonus levels and public benefit, as the revenue generated for Greenheart by developing at the bonus level allows construction of the underground garage, which in turn leads to the large public plaza.

According to the city staff, a third-party consultant will analyze various mixed-use scenarios to estimate the value to

both the developer and Menlo Park. This analysis will be used in negotiating the public benefits to be derived from allowing the bonus level. Commissioner John Kadwany encouraged the city to consider negotiating for revenue from the developer as the public benefit in light of the possibility that the commercial portion of the site could include less retail.

Commission Chair Ben Eiref pressed Greenheart to not make that portion flex space. "(The amount of) retail should not be variable ... my perception is that the market for retail is on fire right now."

The commission, while praising the site plan and architecture, emphasized that the project is going to have to sell itself to the public.

"We kind of have to pat the specific plan on the back and say job well done," Commissioner John Onken said, but noted that the "lump of office," while necessary, will be disagreeable to some members of the public. ▀

Heated ballot measure exchange at Menlo council meeting

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

Remarks were heated during a recent Menlo Park council meeting to discuss the procedure for writing a ballot argument against the downtown/El Camino Real spe-

cific plan initiative, and the rising temperatures had little to do with the busted air conditioning at city hall.

The council held a special meeting on Aug. 6 to determine whether to allow Mayor Ray Mueller and Councilman Rich Cline to write and sign the anti-

initiative ballot arguments on behalf of the entire council.

That portion of the meeting was short and to the point, with a 3-0 vote agreeing that was an acceptable process. Council members Kirsten Keith and Cat Carlton were absent. The ballot argument is due Aug. 15.

During public comment, former councilman Heyward Robinson offered his take on an analysis conducted by Lisa Wise Consulting, hired by the city to examine the impacts of the initiative. Part of a grassroots group that produced a lengthy critique of the analysis, he said he took "strong issue" with characterizations of the critique as political rather than substantive.

"It's very, very detailed. ... You should be thankful, be grateful to have residents in Menlo Park that are willing to pick apart a study the city paid good money — taxpayer dollars — for. Your own staff should have done something similar." Mr. Robinson urged the city to "pull the report from the public domain and fix the errors."

Mayor Mueller, in return, took strong issue with the characterization of the critique as substantive rather than political.

"I've reviewed those issues and I frankly believe that most of those 40 points, if not all of them, are argument," he commented.

A letter the city received Aug. 6 from a law firm representing the pro-initiative coalition could only point to one purported deficiency, he said. "And we have spent consultant money following up on all 40 other items of argument. ... I am extremely disappointed right now that we

'I am extremely disappointed right now that we are wasting money chasing what I believe to be a PR effort.'

MAYOR RAY MUELLER

are wasting money chasing what I believe to be a PR effort."

If there are items in need of correction, the mayor concluded, the consultant will respond accordingly.

The letter, written by Olson Hagel & Fishburn LLP, asks the city to refrain from saying passage of the initiative could impact traffic in its ballot argument and impartial analysis. The attorneys contend that the traffic analysis conducted by Lisa Wise Consulting used a flawed methodology.

Council election

The mayor appears to find the timing of the Wise report

critiques interesting in light of the upcoming contested council election.

Three incumbents — Mr. Cline, Peter Ohtaki and Ms. Keith — are running for re-election. The challengers are Planning Commissioner Drew Combs, Environmental Quality Commissioner Kristin Duriseti and former council member Kelly Fergusson.

"It's frustrating for me to be placed in a position where I must speak critically of the tactics employed by my neighbors and friends in Save Menlo, for whom I have personal respect," Mr. Mueller said after the Aug. 6 meeting. "But given the circumstances, I can't help but believe much of the recent charges that have been leveled against the very balanced consultant's report are but a political pretext for the announcement of the anti-incumbent slate's last City Council candidate."

And indeed, Ms. Fergusson announced on Aug. 8 that she is running, with the blessings of the pro-initiative faction. ▀

The United States Department of
Energy/SLAC Site Office

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

The Final Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) that evaluates the potential impacts from the Linac Coherent Light Source-II Project at the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory (SLAC), Menlo Park, California, has been issued.

After considering all comments received during the formal comment period (June 6, 2014-July 7, 2014), the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has completed the decision-making process and is rendering its decision. Based on the results of the impacts analysis documented in the EA, DOE has determined that the proposed action is not a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the context of NEPA. Therefore, preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required, and DOE is issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Copies of the final EA and the FONSI are available for public reading at the Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma Street, Menlo Park, California, and an electronic copy of the document is available for viewing on the SLAC NEPA website at:

www-group.slac.stanford.edu/esh/groups/ep/epg/nepa.htm

Any questions and requests for hard copies of the final EA and FONSI may be directed to Mitzi Heard, NEPA Document Manager, at (650) 926-5704, or submitted in writing to the DOE SLAC Site Office, 2575 Sand Hill Rd., MS8A, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

express

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Portola Valley: Deputies nab theft suspect

A 39-year-old Fremont man was arrested Thursday morning in Ladera after a Portola Valley resident called 911 to report seeing a suspicious person in a driveway in Westridge. The man, the caller said, drove away in a dark-blue Lexus.

A short time after the 7:40 a.m. call on Aug. 7, San Mateo County Sheriff's Office deputies stopped a car fitting the description on Alpine Road in Ladera and arrested Chester Brown. He was booked into San Mateo County jail on \$25,000 bail on charges of auto burglary, possession of stolen property, and prowling. He was also charged with violating parole, deputies said.

The initial call came from a resident in the Westridge neighborhood. Around the time of the arrest, dispatchers received calls from two Westridge residents who reported thefts from their vehicles, deputies said.

The Lexus was searched and deputies found jewelry, wallets, a laptop computer and clothing, all determined to have been stolen from vehicles in the Portola Valley area, deputies said. They also found items believed to have been stolen but that have not yet been reported stolen.

Deputies are asking anyone with information about this case, including those discovering that they have been victims, to call Detective Scott Berberian at (650) 363-4051. The anonymous-witness line is 1-800-547-2700.

Evening walks at Filoli estate

The historic Filoli estate in Woodside will be open until 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 21, so visitors can take a docent-led sunset hike or an orchard walk, or just enjoy the historic house and garden.

Sunset hikes begin at 6 p.m. Reservations are recommended; drop-ins are also taken. The two-hour tour covering approximately three miles of trails can be strenuous. Children ages 5 and older are welcome.

Orchard walks in Filoli's 6.8-acre orchard are also docent-led. Visitors will be able to taste fruit right off the tree, when available.

Admission is \$18 for adults, \$15 for seniors and \$8 for students.

Go to filoli.org for more information.



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Stanford
HEALTH CARE

'Extreme cowboy' racing in Woodside

By Kate Daly
Special to the Almanac

Extreme cowboy racing is coming to the Horse Park at Woodside on Saturday, Aug. 23, thanks to local organizer and competitor Michael Raynor.

The Woodside Challenge is open to the first 25 male and female contestants, ages 7 and up, who sign up to ride Western and test their horsemanship and speed over courses of man-made and natural obstacles "that you would find in a ranch, cowboy-style situation," Mr. Raynor explains.

Horseman Craig Cameron originated extreme cowboy racing in Texas about 10 years ago. The Extreme Cowboy Association (EXCA) is based there and governs the sport.

The Woodside Challenge is an



Photo by Louis Raynor

Current state champion
Michael Raynor competes in an Extreme Cowboy Race in Rosamond, California, last spring.

official EXCA event that is open to non-association members. The competition is divided into eight divisions with courses designed to different degrees of difficulty, ranging from beginners to pros.

Gary Lubben is coming from Southern California to design and judge. Riders will be awarded points, prize money, ribbons, and belt buckles.

Mr. Raynor says competitors are coming from as far away as Elko, Nevada, and Los Angeles. He is the leading regional champion right now, and plans to compete in the world championships in Texas in October.

A member of the Bay Area Ravine and Ridge Riders, San Mateo County Horseman's Association, and Mounted Patrol, Mr. Raynor keeps his competition horse, Flash Gordo, in Woodside. Since 2007 they

have been practicing tackling obstacles. For them, the winning combo is to make sure "it's a team effort" between horse and rider. One of his quarter horse's special talents is kicking a soccer ball through a goal.

The Woodside event will be held in and around the Horse Park's water complex. Typical courses can have rough terrain such as boulders and down-banks to negotiate, man-made bridges or curtains to pass through, cones to work around using dressage-like moves, and

cowboy activities such as throwing bales of hay over fences or sorting live cattle.

The entry fee for contestants ranges from \$50 for young riders to \$85 for pros, and includes two rides per division.

To register, contact Mr. Raynor at (650) 722-2112 or mike@raynorbuilders.com.

Spectators are welcome. Admission is free. Food and horse-related items will be for sale during the event, which is scheduled to run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 3674 Sand Hill Road. ▣

George Bull, Ladera pharmacist

OBITUARY

George Bull Jr., the longtime owner and pharmacist of Bull's Ladera Pharmacy in the Ladera Country Shopper mall, died July 17 in Scottsdale, Arizona. He was 90.

Mr. Bull served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and

was the son of a pharmacist. When he opened in the Country Shopper mall, Mr. Bull was one of the first businesses to rent space there. He retired and sold his pharmacy in the mid-1990s.

"He was always super friendly to all his customers," his niece said, adding that she used to hang out there when visiting from Chicago. At the time, the pharmacy included a soda fountain, she said. "He made many longtime friends in Ladera and Portola Valley."

Mr. Bull had a lifelong interest in Native American culture.

He was preceded in death several years ago by his wife Edith. Mr. Bull is survived by his son George Bull III of Santa Rosa; and daughters Cathy and Barbara of Scottsdale.

Obituaries are based on family information.



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Welcome to Webster house, Palo Alto's most gracious senior living community, now a member of the not-for-profit organization that owns and operates Canterbury Woods, Los Gatos Meadows, San Francisco Towers, Spring Lake Village, and St. Paul's Towers. Here, you'll enjoy the rare combination of ideal location, dedicated staff, amenities, and services, all within walking distance of downtown Palo Alto, where you'll find a mix of shops, restaurants, and art galleries. You'll also find peace of mind and a welcoming community offering the advantages of continuing care. To learn more, or for your personal visit, please call 650.838.4004.



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The online guide to Menlo Park businesses

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ShopMenloPark.com

■ POLICE CALLS

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

WOODSIDE

Residential burglary report: Residents of two homes, on Brookwood Road and Woodside Drive, found sliding glass doors smashed and evidence of someone having gone through the homes without taking anything. Investigators detected partial fingerprints at one home. Aug. 1 and 2.

Grand theft report: Someone stole three rings from a home on Moore Road. No evidence and no signs of forced entry. Estimated loss: \$25,000. Aug. 4.

Theft report: A bicycle sitting outside and unlocked was stolen from a Montelena Court residence. Estimated loss: \$800. Aug. 4.

Accident report: A bicyclist traveling east on Woodside Road east of Highway 35 suffered minor injuries after crossing a double yellow line and striking a westbound vehicle. The bike frame had major damage and the vehicle minor damage.

Stolen mail reports:

■ A resident of Martinez Road reported that his mailbox had been broken into and the mail stolen. Aug. 7.

■ A resident of Moore Road reported missing mail after returning from three weeks out of town. July 31.

PORTOLA VALLEY

Residential burglary report: Someone entered a house on Granada Court via an open front window and rummaged through several rooms. It's not known if anything was taken, and investigators found no fingerprints. Aug. 5.

Fraud report: A resident of Golden Oak Drive reported that someone tried to get a refund of \$46,696 using his tax information. July 31.

WEST MENLO PARK

Stolen vehicle report: Corner of Ash-

ton Avenue and Alameda de las Pulgas. Aug. 7.

MENLO PARK

Residential burglary reports:

■ Someone stole a bicycle from an unlocked garage on Hobart Street. Estimated loss: \$3,000. Aug. 3.

■ Someone kicked in a garage door of a residence on San Mateo Drive and ransacked the house, though nothing appears to have been taken. July 31.

■ Someone pried open the rear window of a vehicle parked in the 2100 block of Santa Cruz Avenue. Nothing taken. July 31.

Commercial burglary report: A plasma cutter was stolen from a locked construction site on Merrill Street. Estimated loss: \$2,000. Aug. 6.

Auto burglary report: Someone broke into a vehicle parked on Sharon Park Drive and stole comic books, sunglasses and a hair brush. Estimated loss: \$310. Aug. 6.

Theft reports:

■ A man entered the Cheeky Monkey toy store on Santa Cruz Avenue and stole two Lego sets. Estimated loss: \$784. Aug. 4.

■ Someone stole a bicycle from in front of a home on Curtis Street. Estimated loss: \$650. Aug. 7.

■ Five pieces of jewelry were stolen from an unlocked vehicle parked in the 700 block of Willow Road. Estimated loss: \$500. Aug. 4.

■ A man entered the Safeway supermarket on Sharon Park Drive, stole four bottles of champagne and fled in a waiting red pickup truck. Estimated loss: \$385. Aug. 5.

■ Someone stole shoes, sandals and a bag from an unlocked vehicle parked in an Atkinson Lane driveway. Estimated loss: \$180. Aug. 7.

Stolen vehicle reports:

■ An unlocked 1997 cream Honda Prelude with the keys inside was stolen on Haven Avenue. Aug. 5.

■ A locked 1991 blue Honda Accord was stolen from a Hedge Road driveway. Aug. 7.

Dr. William Fry, advocate of humor for health

Dr. William Finley Fry Jr., an emeritus associate clinical professor of psychiatry at Stanford University and a Portola Valley resident for about 25 years, died May 16 at his home in Nevada City, California.

Dr. Fry moved to Nevada City in the 1980s with his wife, Almanac co-founder Elizabeth "Betty" Fry," said Stephen Fry, the couple's son.

Dr. Fry was 90. Ms. Fry died in 2011 at the age of 85.

Dr. Fry was known for his lifelong investigation into the health benefits of laughter. In a 1979 paper, "Using Humor to Save Lives," he discussed humor's positive effects on three life-threatening illnesses: heart attack, stroke and cancer, the

■ OBITUARY

latter for which humor could act as a palliative.

Among his many papers on the subject and several books is "Sweet Madness: A Study of Humor," first published in 1963 and republished in 2010 by Transaction Publishers. Included on the back of a card celebrating Dr. Fry's life is a drawing of a harlequin above a joke: "How many psychiatrists does it take to change a light bulb? Just one, but only if the light bulb wants to be changed."

In addition to his work at Stanford, Dr. Fry had a private practice "where he combined a

consistent professionalism with an appreciation for the individual experience of each patient," the celebratory card says. "Life ran rampant in his nature, his manner, his activities and his thinking. There was vibrancy, enthusiasm, (and) curiosity."

The couple liked to travel and had many friends around the world. Dr. Fry was lauded as a friend, scientist, wine enthusiast, historian and patriarch.

He is survived by his daughter Susan Fry Van-Rheenen in Nevada City; and sons Stephen in Nevada City and Peter in Corbett, Oregon.

In his memory, his friends suggest enjoying your meals slowly and laughing often.



Dr. William Fry

■ BIRTHS

Menlo Park

■ Mengnan Hong and Yang Song, a son,

July 8, Sequoia Hospital.

■ Maureen Feeny and Daniel Berkenstock, a daughter, July 10, Sequoia Hospital.

■ Anna and David Bragg, a daughter, July 11, Sequoia Hospital.

■ Wendy and Eric Altman, twin daughters, July 21, Sequoia Hospital.

Emerald Hills

■ Kimberly and Ryan Caldbeck, a daughter, July 8, Sequoia Hospital.



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The Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees

...is seeking applicants to serve on the District's Construction Bond Oversight Committee



This committee will meet four times per year to monitor expenditures for the building projects of the recently approved Measure A school construction bond. Periodically, the committee will report bond expenditures to the community.

APPLICATIONS

Applications may be downloaded from the Sequoia District web site at www.seq.org departments/administrative/construction or may be requested from the district office by calling Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services Enrique Navas at 650-369-1411, ext. 22218.

Send completed applications to
Enrique Navas
Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services
Sequoia Union High School District
480 James Avenue
Redwood City, CA 94062

TIMELINE

- Application filing period – **July 31, 2014, to August 29, 2014**
- Committee membership announced by the Board of Trustees on September 17, 2014

For further information, contact Enrique Navas at 650-369-1411, ext. 22218.

■ PEOPLE

People in business

Misun Kim, who makes her own lotions, oils, scrubs and pedicure soaks, has joined Virtual Image Salon in Portola Valley as a manicurist, according to salon manager Barbara Tallon. Karen Xu is the other manicurist at the salon, located at 104 Portola Road.

Todd Roberts

Atherton resident Todd Roberts, a partner at the Ropers Majeski Kohn & Bentley law firm in Redwood City, has been re-elected to the board of the Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel.

Mr. Roberts has been the resident director of his firm's Redwood City office since 2000 and chairs the firm's commercial litigation practice group.

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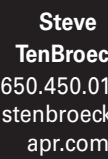
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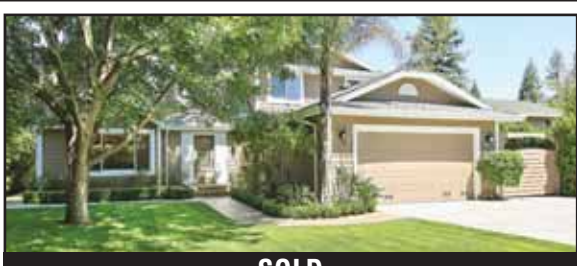
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