

The Almanac

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

AUGUST 20, 2014 | VOL. 49 NO. 50



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Abigail's story

'I saw a little fear, but also courage and determination'

By Abigail Krenz

It was a warm September evening. There was a light breeze, and the frogs, birds and crickets were all pleasantly buzzing about, chittering and chattering among themselves.

All seemed well, but some surprising news was coming, sneaking up on me like a tiger catching its prey, just about to pounce.

In my family we have a dinnertime tradition. Some people say prayers or gather hands and chorus "Happy family," but in our family we call them high-lights and low-lights.

My family and I sat down for dinner. Dad set the table and we were ready to eat. As soon as we were seated, we started our highlights and lowlights. Mom started to speak.

"I need to tell you two something that is very important, and you need to know." She pointed at me and my brother Liam. She spoke slowly and carefully as if she was telling us something scary and trying not to worry us.

Could this something be that we were going to remodel our house or get a puppy? I would jump to the ceiling with happiness if we actually got a dog.

Very curious, I looked down at my brother. He looked confused as well. Then Mom broke the news. It was something I will never forget.

"I have a little breast cancer in my body." She pointed toward her chest.

She stated it so calmly I didn't realize at first what she had said. I had to play it like a movie clip about five times before I got the full picture. Then I started to get super worried. Mom had begun to explain to us her surgeries and procedures, about chemotherapy, how her hair will



Abigail Krenz, age 10, lives in Portola Valley and will be in the fifth grade at Corte Madera School this fall.

'I knew it was going to be a long, hard journey, but at least we'll stay together. As a family.'

fall out, the stinky tea she will have to drink.

I couldn't stand it any longer. I told my parents how worried I was. "Was Mom going to be all right?" Will she be the same afterward? Will she be tired and stressed the whole way through?

I wasn't sure. Liam started giggling at the fact that Mom was going to be bald. I didn't like the idea that Liam thinks Mom's cancer is a laughing matter, even though it put a smile on my face. Today I didn't even mention it. I was too shocked to get mad at Liam.

Dad kept comforting me. "It's going to be all right, perfectly fine." That made

me feel a little better but not by much. I looked into my mom's eyes, to see the truth, her real feelings inside. I saw a little fear, but also courage and determination.

Once I saw that, it reassured me. I felt warm and brave inside. I stood up taller in my chair, grasped mom's hand, and felt the hope rise into my heart. I knew it was going to be a long, hard journey, but at least we'll stay together. As a family.

Together we watched the sun disappear on the horizon, and the first star appeared, smiling down on me like a mother or father watching over me from the heavens.

I knew right then and there that I was going to stand by Mom and help her, no matter what. We all were. ▣

Abigail Krenz, is the granddaughter of Wagner Krenz, who occasionally writes a "Woodside Memories" column for the Almanac.

You can quote me...



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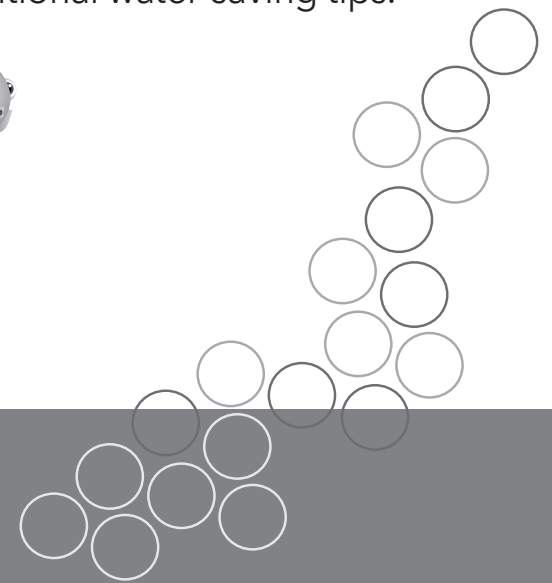
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THE ALMANAC (ISSN 1097-3095 and USPS 459370) is published every Wednesday by Embarcadero Media, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Periodicals Postage Paid at Menlo Park, CA and at additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation for San Mateo County, The Almanac is delivered free to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside. Subscriptions for \$60 per year or \$100 per 2 years are welcome. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Copyright ©2014 by Embarcadero Media, All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Volunteers rebuild plane-crash victim's home

By Sue Dremann

Palo Alto Weekly

Four years after a Tesla employee's plane plummeted into an East Palo Alto neighborhood, destroying Lisa Jones' home and child care center, residents of Atherton and dozens of community volunteers have stepped forward to rebuild Jones' home — and life.

Ms. Jones' family members barely escaped when the twin-engine Cessna slammed into their bedrooms on the morning of Feb. 17, 2010. Since then, she has struggled while others in her Beech Street neighborhood have been able to recover.

When a lawsuit that settled in July 2013 did not give her enough money to rebuild, Maryan Ackley, a longtime friend and Atherton resident, started to raise funds to rebuild her home.

Now the project, which began in November, is nearly completed. On Aug. 11, Ebcon Corporation construction workers were putting the finishing touches on the neat, beige-and-white home.

"I've known Lisa since our kids were in kindergarten together 12 years ago," Ms. Ackley said. "Our kids were friends, and we were friends. When the accident first happened, I stayed close to Lisa. When it became apparent that the settlement wouldn't be enough, I reached out to the Sacred Heart Schools community" for help.

Pacific Peninsula Group, a real-estate development firm cofounded by Ms. Ackley's husband, Stephen, became a corpo-

Volunteer efforts and donations will help get an East Palo Alto woman back into her house.

rate sponsor for the effort, which tapped into subcontractors who supplied in-kind donations.

Dollinger Properties executive David Dollinger put up a \$125,000 matching grant, which gave impetus to the community fundraising, according to Ms. Ackley.

The nonprofit Rebuilding Together Peninsula, with which Ms. Ackley has been active for many years, agreed to get involved. Scads of local businesses and contractors also donated money, materials and time.

"It really was a labor of love for a lot of people," Ms. Ackley said.

Chalk messages on the pavement in front of Jones' home attest to that affection.

"Lisa, You are loved!" student volunteers wrote. The students added words of encouragement at the driveway: "Audacity. Safety. Joy. Peace. Strength. Courage. Hope. Grace. Happiness. Community. Security. Care."

Ms. Ackley said she first understood Ms. Jones' impact on her community when she visited Ms. Jones' day care center years ago.

"She did such amazing work," Ms. Ackley said. "She really provided very high-quality early education. She provided such a needed service in her



Photo by Veronica Weber/Palo Alto Weekly

A chalk message that reads "Lisa you are loved!" is written on the sidewalk in front of Lisa Jones' recently rebuilt house in East Palo Alto.

neighborhood."

But it all changed when the plane struck. Three Tesla employees — Brian Finn, Andrew Ingram and pilot Douglas Bourn — died in the accident, which was caused by pilot error, National Transportation Safety Board investigators determined. When Ms. Jones' family fled the burning home, they left everything behind. The home was boarded up and red tagged.

Ms. Ackley said students helped the family clean out their belongings last November before demolition. Construction began in April.

The project went far beyond the usual scope of Rebuilding Together's work, said Cari Chen, associate director of the Redwood City-based nonprofit. Workers replaced exterior walls, reframed the home and redid the entire roof. They replaced windows and doors and added new drywall, new electrical wiring and plumbing, and fire sprinklers.

Volunteers showed up from trade unions, Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, Young Neighbors in Action Youth Ministry in Gig Harbor (Washington), the Atherton Sacred Heart Schools community, and the Joan of Arc

Parish in San Ramon.

When the volunteers first came, project Superintendent Clark Schoening of Ebcon Construction said he wasn't sure how the project could be coordinated.

"But the kids really gave it their all. They gave up their summer vacations to do this. It took a lot of coordination to make this thing work," he said.

For her part, Ms. Jones is ready to move on. She doesn't want to do any more interviews after four years in the spotlight and being the subject, at times, of

See **JONES**, page 6

Grandmother gives 'grandson' scammer a piece of her mind

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

A would-be confidence man tried the grandson-impersonation scheme on Menlo Park travel consultant Carolyn Bakar with an early morning telephone call on Aug. 14, but got nowhere. He did get an earful, though.

Ms. Bakar, who lives in Palo Alto and works out of Ladera Travel in the Sharon Heights Shopping Center, said that the call did upset her, but not to

the point of being persuaded to hand over the \$1,000 the con man was asking for.

"It's a shame that these people are out there doing this to people," she told the Almanac. Then she told her story.

The con man called her at home at 8:14 a.m. "The voice. The voice was just so incredibly similar to my grandson," she said. "Just that tone of his voice. He must have known him."

That similarity served the con man well, given that Ms.

'It's a shame that these people are out there doing this to people.'

CAROLYN BAKAR

Bakar doesn't often see her 19-year-old grandson Eric and tends to talk with him by phone. The con man also "knew to call me grandma," she said, another eerie similarity he shared with her real

grandson. Not all of her grandchildren use that name when talking with her, she said.

"Eric? EB?" she said, responding with her nickname for her grandson. "Where are you?"

"Vancouver," the caller said.

Why Vancouver, she asked. Ms. Bakar told the Almanac that she understood Eric and his father to be on a golfing holiday in Carmel.

He was in Vancouver because he had gotten an invitation and free plane tickets to a friend's

wedding, the caller said.

"I should have gotten it right there because he's not old enough to have friends who are getting married," Ms. Bakar told the Almanac.

The con man said that he'd been in an auto accident, that he was OK, but that there had been an open wine bottle that spilled inside the vehicle and that he'd been arrested. His court appearance was sched-

See **SCAM**, page 6

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**Menlo man sentenced to 17 years in prison**

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

A 21-year-old Menlo Park man has been sentenced to 17 years in prison for multiple felony convictions related to a shooting and resisting arrest in connection with a traffic altercation.

Earlier this year Jaime Demecio Romero was found guilty by a jury of felony assault with a semiautomatic firearm, resisting arrest, seriously injuring a peace officer, illegal possession of a gun, and using a firearm while committing a felony, according to court records.

On Aug. 13, San Mateo County Superior Court Judge Bar-

bara Mallach sentenced the defendant to 17 years and four months in prison, with credit for 404 days served. He was ordered to pay a yet-to-be-determined amount of restitution to the victims, and \$350 in fines.

Mr. Romero was arrested last year after shooting a 24-year-old man who allegedly tried to attack him with a baseball bat during a traffic altercation on Willow Road, according to the police report.

Menlo Park Narcotics Enforcement Team (NET) officers, who were already in the area on an unrelated case, attempted to detain Mr. Romero. The ensuing struggle left one officer with an injured hand. ■

JONES

continued from page 5

media misinformation. But Ms.

Chen of Rebuilding Together said Ms. Jones can't wait to settle into her home. Sometimes, she'll come and sit in her living room and just take it all in.

"Before November, she didn't feel she could be in there. But when she saw the walls go up and the windows, she got really excited. She's seen it all come together," Ms. Chen said.

Once Ms. Jones is settled back in, Rebuilding Together Peninsula, Ms. Ackley and

the volunteers will begin the second phase to restore Ms. Jones' life. They plan to raise funds to repair the day care center playhouse and replace the playground equipment. At a minimum, they must raise \$70,000, Ms. Ackley said.

Ms. Chen said they won't leave until they've given Jones back everything she lost — her home and her livelihood.

Anyone wishing to help complete the playground and center can send donations to: The Jones Fund, c/o Rebuilding Together Peninsula, 841 Kaynyne St., Redwood City, CA 94063. ■

SCAM

continued from page 5

uled for the next day.

"I should have said, 'Where's your father?' I was so upset to get a call at 8:14 in the morning, knowing that they had gone yesterday to play golf. The only thing I could think of was that he couldn't reach his father. ... I was thinking that he was calling to tell me that something had happened to his dad. I wasn't thinking rationally because of that."

At one point, she said she noticed that she was shaking.

Her rational thinking kicked in when the caller said he needed \$1,000 to get out of jail. "As soon as he said, 'Send \$1,000,' I knew it was a scam," she said.

The call came to a quick and colorful conclusion. "I never use foul language. That's something I detest," Ms. Bakar said, but for this guy, she made an exception.

"You're a f---ing liar and a scam artist and I'm going to have this call traced and have you arrested," she said.

The con man sounded startled, Ms. Bakar said, then said: "You're such an old lady. You must have dementia and I think I'd better call an ambulance and have you taken to the hospital."

And that's how the call ended, she said. She called the non-emergency number for the Palo Alto police and was told to contact the identity theft office of the Federal Trade Commission. The FTC suggested that she call the California attorney general, she said.

She reflected on the incident and the brevity of the caller's utterances. "There was no back and forth," she said. "The more he talked, the more I came to realize that this was not (my grandson)."

Her grandson is also close with two uncles and would have asked them for money first, she added. ■

{ www.robertsmarket.com }



Photo by Natalia Nazarova/The Almanac

Greetings to Hello Startups

The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the opening of HelloStartups, a company that offers office space and support for startups, took place Aug. 15 at 68 Willow Road in Menlo Park. Instead of scissors, Beam telepresence robots were used to cut the ribbon. BootUp Ventures managing partners Marco Ten Vaanholt and Mukul Agarwal are on the left.

Former and current city officials square off over Measure M

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

The arguments that have been filling the air at city meetings for months are now officially on the Nov. 4 ballot. Those for and against “Measure M,” an initiative to change Menlo Park’s downtown/El Camino Real specific plan, have submitted the primary arguments in support of their positions.

The argument in favor of the initiative, which was put forward by grassroots coalition Save Menlo, is signed by former council members Steve Schmidt and Heyward Robinson; Planning Commissioner Vince Bressler and former commissioner Patti Fry; and Clark Kepler, former owner of Kepler’s Books and president of the Hometown Peninsula Independent Business Alliance.

“A YES vote on Measure M leads to a balanced mix of shops, services, restaurants, residences, offices, and open space. A NO vote leads to mega-office buildings in the heart of downtown, heavier

rush-hour traffic, and more commuters cutting through our neighborhoods,” the pro-initiative argument claims.

Weighing in against the initiative are Mayor Ray Mueller, Planning Commissioner Ben Eiref, Transportation Commissioner Bianca Walser, Chamber of Commerce CEO Fran Dehn, and Menlo Park City School District board member Maria Hilton.

“We strongly urge No on Measure M. Measure M creates negative impacts to Menlo Park’s Downtown revitalization, handcuffs the City with unworkable, inflexible rules for 30 years and damages the city, schools, and fire district finances. Additional negative, unintended consequences also happen,” says the argument against the initiative.

Measure M would restrict the amount of office space in any individual development within the specific plan area to 100,000 square feet; limit total new office space to 240,820 square feet; and cap overall new, non-residential development to 474,000 square feet.

It would also redefine open

space to mean only areas no higher than 4 feet off the ground, thereby preventing balconies and rooftop areas from counting as open space.

If passed, the measure would require a city-wide vote to make changes to its regulations as well as to approve projects that would exceed the non-residential development caps.

Go to tinyurl.com/mavrprs to review the complete text of Measure M, as well as the ballot arguments and other related documents, on the city’s website.

Rebuttals to the primary arguments must be turned in to the city clerk’s office by noon on Aug. 25.

Support Local Business



Janet Walter Pringle

August 17, 1917 – August 9, 2014

Janet Walter Pringle passed away at 97 at the Sequoias in Portola Valley on August 9.

Janet grew up in Sacramento and later attended UC Berkeley, where she met many lifelong friends. She married E. Covington Pringle (Covie) in 1949 and they spent the early part of their marriage in Red Bluff and San Anselmo. They settled in Woodland in 1952, shortly after their son Bob was born.

Janet and Covie were very active members of the Woodland community and were surrounded by good friends.

She moved to Portola Valley in 1999 and joined many a bridge table over her years at the Sequoias. Janet was an excellent golfer and was a member of the Yolo Flyers Club.

She enjoyed cooking, entertaining, gardening, bridge, crossword puzzles, reading, volunteering with the Junior League, and being part of an investment group for more than 30 years.

She was preceded in death by her husband Covie and her son Bob Pringle. She is survived by her daughter-in-law Maggie Pringle and her grandchildren, Abby, David and Will Pringle. A family service will be held to celebrate her full life.



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School safety gets boost with upgraded crosswalks, path

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

The safety of students getting to and from Woodside Elementary School has taken a giant step forward.

When school begins on Aug. 27, students will have a dedicated path along Woodside Road instead of having to mix it up with adult cyclists and drivers on a busy state highway. Lanes are narrower, to push drivers into slowing down. Bright pedestrian crossing lights now flash above the road, where drivers may have a harder time missing or ignoring them. The pavement is painted to warn drivers that they're approaching crosswalks.

Funding for the upgrades came from county and federal grants (a combined \$215,000) and from the town's road fund (estimated at \$205,000). The upgrades were recommended in an audit of school-route safety that the town commissioned. Plans for more safety-related improvements are in the works.

The new warning lights at the crosswalks in front of the school are on upright signs activated by pedestrian push-buttons. The lights have an "irregular flash pattern" similar to emergency flashers on police vehicles, according to a description by the Federal

Highway Administration. "The novelty and unique nature of the stutter flash may elicit a greater response from drivers than traditional methods," the FHWA says.

A resident who lives near one of the crosswalks spoke positively of the change. "I must say that cars stopped to let me cross the street, which never happened before."

The lights that had been embedded in the road had been covered by paint at least once, Deputy Town Engineer Dong Nguyen told the Almanac.

The crosswalk signs at Albion Avenue have additional push-buttons to activate the warning lights, but higher up on the sign post for mounted equestrians, Mr. Nguyen said.

Other changes to the crosswalks include:

- More warnings for drivers. So-called shark's teeth — a row of white triangles painted on the pavement 20 feet to 30 feet ahead of a crosswalk — now alert traffic in both directions that there's a crosswalk ahead.

- Tighter lanes. At 11 feet wide, the two traffic lanes are now narrower by one foot in front of the school, Mr. Nguyen said. Drivers respond to narrower lanes by moving more slowly, traffic authorities say. The lanes were shifted to the south.

- North-side path. The two feet acquired by shifting and narrow-



Photo by Barbara Wood/The Almanac

Woodside residents Margaret MacNiven (front) and Diane Talbert cross Woodside Road in one of the new crosswalks installed in front of Woodside Elementary School just in time for school to reopen on Aug. 27. The view is looking west, with the pedestrians crossing from the school parking lot.

ing the traffic lanes were used to create a paved pedestrian walkway on the north side of Woodside Road, to the right of the bike lane.

- Less standing water. The crosswalks now have grates in the road to channel rainwater; they should be less prone to winter flooding.

- South-side path. Along the south side of the road between the crosswalks in front of the school — a distance of about 250 feet — is a new asphalt curb-like barrier that creates a protected walkway. Vehicle parking had been crowding out pedestrians.

More changes are ahead, including another crosswalk with beacons at the wooden fish sculpture across from the Roberts Market parking lot, and a path on the south side of Woodside Road

between Roberts and the school, with a surface suitable for horses and strollers and with connections to school routes.

To pay for these additional improvements, the town has applied for \$904,000 in federal funding.

Late start

The upgrades to the crosswalks in front of the school had been scheduled for the start of the 2013-14 school year, but the town was late in submitting the plan to the California Department of Transportation, which led to a year's delay. In the interim, the town modified its already approved plans to incorporate ideas from the school-route safety audit, such as the narrower traffic lanes.

The possibility that design changes would again delay the

upgrades angered Mayor Dave Burow. "If this doesn't get done this year, I think we should all resign," he said in a March council meeting.

Some council members spoke of going it alone, but since Woodside Road is a state highway, the state's approval was essential. Federal reimbursement of up to \$194,000 would be at stake, Public Works Director Mr. Nagengast said at the time.

The modified plan did get approved in time, in part because town staff asked Assemblyman Rich Gordon, D-Menlo Park, to intercede on Woodside's behalf.

"Rich Gordon's office helped us work with CalTrans to make sure we were able to get the project completed before school starts," Town Manager Kevin Bryant said in an email. ■

Residents can get town cash to build 'defensible spaces'

If a wildfire gets going in Woodside, there may be residents who, like the grasshopper in Aesop's fable, learn the hard way, in this case about the importance of preparing fire-resistant areas around homes and other buildings.

The town has set aside \$25,000 for the current 2014-15 fiscal year and is seeking residents to apply for matching funds of up to \$2,000 to create defensible spaces. The program is in its fifth year.

The term "defensible space" refers to areas where vegetation is pruned to avoid feeding a wildfire and to allow firefighters to defend the building against a wildfire. In Woodside, defensible space includes areas within 30 feet of a property line.

Steps that can be taken to create

such areas include removing dead brush and debris, mowing grasses and removing low-hanging tree limbs within 100 feet of a building. The Woodside Fire Protection District offers a free property assessment and can also advise on tree removal. Call 851-6206 to schedule an assessment.

All significant trees are automatically protected and require a tree-destruction permit from Town Hall before felling. Native trees become significant when they measure more than 9.5 inches in diameter at 4 feet above the ground. For non-native trees like the eucalyptus and Monterey cypress, the standard is 11.5 inches.

Go to tinyurl.com/spc22 for more. Participation in the program requires pre-approval.

School district plans for new campus

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

As children in the Menlo Park City School District head back to classes on Aug. 20, the district is moving ahead with the planning for a new campus for Laurel School at the old O'Conner School site.

The plans are nearly ready to submit for state approval in September and contractor selection is underway.

Families will see some changes at the schools this year.

At Oak Knoll and Encinal schools, doors have been put in between several classrooms to make collaboration among classes easier. At Encinal, some teachers will "co-teach" — work with other teachers in a classroom — for portions of the day.

Trees were planted at Oak Knoll and Encinal schools to provide shaded outdoor space for students, while at Oak Knoll, paving

stones were added to make an outdoor learning space.

The district hired a new director of technology, Al Hart, on June 30. Since 1999 Mr. Hart has been director of technology at the Reed Union School District in Tiburon. Previously he worked in the technology department at the Marin County Office of Education in San Rafael.

In addition to Mr. Hart, 19 new teachers are joining the district.

Superintendent Maurice Ghysels said the district's guidance and wellness programs will increase this year, due to a partnership with the Sequoia Healthcare District, which will provide funding for a "wellness coordinator" who will be in charge of school health programs.

The district will increase and update programs that address the appropriate use of social media, emotional health and conflict resolution, the superintendent said.

Another new program for

the school year is a pilot "full inclusion classroom" project in one third-grade class at Laurel School. Four credentialed teachers, including a special education teacher, will join forces to work with a diverse class of students.

Several summer programs helped to prepare for the new school year, including a new "Kick-Off-to-Kindergarten" program designed to help incoming kindergartners who did not attend preschool or are learning English, Superintendent Ghysels said.

During the summer, students took nature hikes, set up camp in the school yard, sang campfire songs, created camping recipes, investigated native plants and animals and participated in field trips to the library and museums. Academics and lessons focused on developing literacy and language skills through writing in journals and reading items related to the outdoors. ■

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Photo by A. Anderson, 2013

Open house

Menlo Park's famed Allied Arts Guild, located at 75 Arbor Road, will hold a community open house from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 23. People can stroll through gardens, visit artisan shops and dine at the cafe. See Page 20 for more information.

Apartment complex proposed

The Menlo Park Planning Commission was set to hold a study session on a proposed Haven Avenue apartment complex on Aug. 20.

Developer Greystar LLC plans to build a 146-unit complex on a 4.9-acre site at 3645 Haven Ave. With one, two or three bedrooms each, the apartments would be grouped into five three-story buildings.

Amenities would include an outdoor dining area, lounge, pool and spa. The plan calls for 255 parking spaces, with up to 15 set aside for electric cars.

None of the units will be below-market-rate housing, according to the staff report.

The study session was advisory only. The project doesn't need the commission's approval, as the city's community development director will make the

■ MENLO BRIEFS

final determination of whether it complies with the zoning code.

A new project, this one located within the downtown/El Camino Real specific plan zone, was also on the agenda. The owner of 612 College Ave., off Alto Lane, wants to turn a single-family home and a commercial warehouse into four townhomes. Two three-story buildings, with two living units apiece, would be built on the 0.2-acre site.

Burglary at Fosters Freeze

Burglars on Saturday, Aug. 16, broke into Fosters Freeze, a Menlo Park landmark at 580 Oak Grove Ave., and stole \$115 in coins from the cash register, police reported.

Someone smashed a side window to gain entry, police said.

The Fosters Freeze in Menlo Park opened in 1949.

Senior Showcase

An information fair for seniors will come to Menlo Park on Saturday, Aug. 23, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Little House, located at 800 Middle Ave.

The Senior Showcase features health screenings, document shredding and other services. Admission is free.

Call 344-5200 for more information.

Chamber mixer

The Menlo Grill Bistro & Bar will host this month's mixer for the Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, Aug. 20.

The event starts at 5:30 p.m. The restaurant is located inside the Stanford Park Hotel at 100 El Camino Real in Menlo Park.

Woodside down to one farmers' market

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

The Sunday afternoon farmers market at the elementary school in Woodside is now the town's sole farmers' market. In June, market manager Maggie Foard ended the Wednesday afternoon market for the Skyline community at Four Corners, the intersection of Skyline Boulevard and Highway 84.

The Four Corners market opened in October 2012, and Ms. Foard opened two others within nine months — on Sundays in Woodside in April 2013 and on Thursdays at Town Center in

Portola Valley in June 2013.

The Four Corners market "was not well enough attended to sustain even a small group of vendors," Ms. Foard told the Almanac via email. "I felt like the right thing to do was to cut the cord to let the vendors pursue other markets."

"The Sunday market is still plugging along," she said. Among its offerings are organic vegetables, seasonal fruits, farm-grown meat and chicken, local seafood, free-range eggs and several prepared foods, including pickles, breads, honey and jam.

"It's a sweet little market in

front of the yellow schoolhouse," she added. "(The) Woodside Elementary School Board has been very helpful to the market. There is hope for Sunday yet."

The Portola Valley Town Council recently approved the Thursday afternoon market at the Portola Valley Town Center for another year, with progress reports now on a six-month interval rather than quarterly. That market is doing well and attracting some Woodside residents, Ms. Foard said.

"Pretty solid vendor base at this point so the market is full every week," she added. "Thursday is my favorite day of the week!" ■

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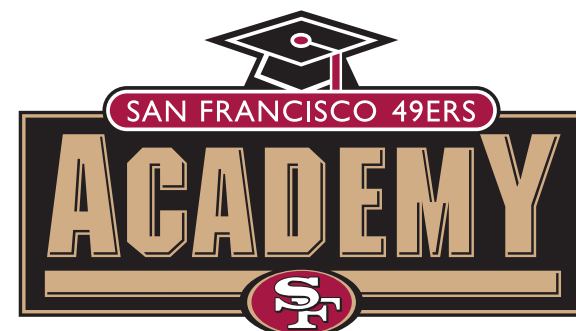
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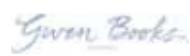
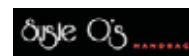
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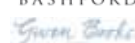
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Fogging kills mosquitoes, but not the questions

County to hold public forum.

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

The county may have reduced the mosquito population of Menlo Park, but not the number of questions that arose about how and why it sprayed insecticide through 1,300 acres of the city.

The San Mateo County Mosquito and Vector Control District decided to fog after two crows and mosquitoes were found to be carrying the virus in Menlo Park's 94025 zip code.

Trucks began spraying Zenivex at 9 p.m. on Aug. 11 and wrapped up by 2:30 a.m. the next morning, district officials said. The treated area was roughly bordered by University Drive to the north; Bay Laurel Drive to the east; Altschul Avenue and Sharon Road to the south; and Camino Al Lago to the west.

Dead mosquitoes were then collected from traps and tested. None were positive for West Nile virus, so no further foggings are scheduled for now.

Mosquitoes transmit the virus

through biting. Although the primary hosts are birds, West Nile virus also infects people, horses and other animals.

Standing pools of water should be drained to discourage mosquitoes from proliferating, and people should apply repellent while outside and make sure door screens fit tightly, the district advised.

An online petition asking the county to cancel the Aug. 11 fogging gathered 387 signatures and the attention of Menlo Park Mayor Ray Mueller, to no avail.

Mr. Mueller posted that he and county Supervisor Dave Pine had asked that the fogging be delayed for two days if it would not endanger public health to allow time for a public hearing, but the county denied the request.

A public forum will be held to address any concerns about the spraying, although a date and time have not yet been set, according to the district. A representative from Central Life Science, the company that makes Zenivex, will attend.

Go to smcmad.org or call 344-8592 for more information. ▣

Bills to curb antibiotic use head to governor's desk

By Tiffany Lam
Special to the Almanac

The California Legislature last week sent to the governor two bills sponsored by Sen. Jerry Hill, D-San Mateo, that will prohibit the use of antibiotics as growth enhancers in farm animals and promote more responsible use of antibiotics in humans.

Sen. Hill told the Almanac he is optimistic the bills will be signed. The bill involving antibiotic use in livestock is supported by the state's Department of Food and Agriculture, he noted, and that endorsement is a good indication that the bill is supported by the governor's office.

He said that in working on the bills, he worked closely with the California Hospital Association, which also supports the legislation.

Both bills passed unanimously in the state Senate and Assembly. Sen. Hill said his research indicates that, if

the bills are signed, California would be the first state enacting into law such restrictions on antibiotic use.

Sen. Hill, whose District 13 includes most of San Mateo County and the northern portion of Santa Clara County, said a recent report

Both bills passed unanimously in the state Senate and Assembly.

by the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) prompted his efforts to curb the overuse of antibiotics, which has led to greatly increased resistance to infections.

The CDC reports that more than 2 million Americans develop antibiotic resistance each year, and the drug-resistant infections kill about 23,000 annually. Up to 50 per-

cent of antibiotics prescribed in this country are not needed or are improperly prescribed, according to the CDC.

Senate Bill 835 would allow antibiotics to be sold for use in livestock only for medical reasons. Antibiotics could be administered only with a prescription and under veterinary oversight. Currently, 70 percent of all antibiotics used nationwide are sold for use in livestock, and much of that use is for the sole purpose of fattening up the animals, according to the press release.

"The Food and Drug Administration says there is no scientific reason why antibiotics should be used to promote growth in livestock," Sen. Hill said in the release.

Senate Bill 1311 would require that all general acute care hospitals in California establish antimicrobial stewardship programs by July 1, 2015. Stewardship programs ensure that antibiotics are used only when necessary, that the right antibiotic is chosen, and that antibiotics are administered correctly.

—Renee Batti contributed to this story.



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Two seek local seat on open space board

By Tiffany Lam
Special to the Almanac

Incumbent Larry Hassett and challenger Brandon Lewke are running for the Ward 6 seat on the board of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District in the Nov. 4 election. The ward encompasses Woodside, Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley, and five other cities.

Mr. Hassett, former owner of four hardware stores, including Palo Alto Hardware, has served in the district's Ward 6 seat since 2000. The stores, currently owned by his sons, are now called Hassett Hardware.

He has been involved in several community organizations, including Achieve, a school for

autistic children. He said he is the only member of the open space district board who lives next door to district preserves (Skyline Ridge and Long Ridge).

Mr. Lewke works as a project analyst at The Tech Museum of Innovation, a nonprofit technology and science museum in San Jose. He said he has volunteered for several organizations, such as the Ecumenical Hunger Program in East Palo Alto. He has also participated in local athletic events, such as the Wildflower Olympic Distance Triathlon.

Of the seven seats on the open space district board, four are up for election Nov. 4, but local residents will only vote for candidates for the Ward 6 seat. ■



Photo by Veronica Weber

George Tom, center, president of Tom Wing & Sons, with brothers Tommy Tom, left, and James Tom inside their new Menlo Park store in 2007.

Seminar: water-efficient gardening

The public is invited to a free seminar on drought-tolerant gardening at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 6, at the Menlo Park City Council Chambers, 701 Laurel St.

The seminar will be led

by Alane O'Reilly Weber, a longtime master composter and owner of Botanical Arts in San Mateo. The seminar will cover the basics of plants, planting, care and maintenance for a garden featuring water-wise or drought-tolerant plants.

There will be a raffle for several drought-tolerant plants. Refreshments will be provided by Friends of the Menlo Park Library. Free van service is available for Menlo Park seniors and people with disabilities. Call 330-2512 for van reservations.



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Tom Wing & Sons closing

After seven years in Menlo Park and more than 40 years in business, Tom Wing & Sons is closing its Menlo Park store and the family is retiring, says George Tom, president of the company that specializes in providing fine quality jade and other gemstones.

"Our success over the years was greater than anything we could have imagined," said Mr. Tom.

Between now and the planned closing at the end of September, the store is holding a "Retirement Sale" offering "our entire collection of jade and precious gems at extraordinary savings," he said.

"We've devoted so many years to the business," Mr. Tom said of his family, which includes brothers Tommy Tom and James Tom. Retirement will enable them to spend more time with their children and other members of their families, he said.

In November 2007, Tom Wing & Sons opened its elegant Menlo Park store in a new building at 888 Santa Cruz Ave. in downtown Menlo Park, after more than 30 years at the Stanford Shopping Center.

George Tom and his brothers and sisters followed a tradition started by their father, Tom Wing

Kee, who left Shanghai, where his family had been jewelers for generations, and moved to San Francisco in 1961.

He opened his first jewelry store on Grant Avenue in San Francisco. At one time, the family operated four jewelry stores.

The company built its reputation in dealing in jade, diamonds, porcelains, vases, screens and snuff bottles. "We're like a little Gump's," Mr. Tom told the Almanac in 2007.

Go to tinyurl.com/Tom817 to read Jane Knoerle's story in the Almanac about the opening of Tom Wing & Sons in Menlo Park.

Atherton benefit for scholarships

A "Wine, Croquet and Music" fundraiser, sponsored by the Rho Delta Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, will be held in Atherton's Holbrook-Palmer Park on Saturday, Sept. 13, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Great Gatsby-style day will include live jazz, a buffet lunch, wine, a croquet tournament and a silent auction.

The ninth annual event funds college scholarships and programs that expose local youth to the group's International Educational Enrichment program and the other educational programs sponsored by the sorority.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, founded in 1908, is America's first Greek-letter organization for African-American college women.

Go to aka1908.com for more information.

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Library offers lessons, lunch for local kids

By Tiffany Lam

Special to the Almanac

This summer, the Atherton Library provided more than books for young students. As part of a program called “Library Learning Camps,” the library helped second- and third-graders from local communities work on developing reading and writing skills.

The San Mateo County Library system, in partnership with the YMCA, launched the eight-week program this year at five libraries across the county. The target students for the Atherton program were applicants from Garfield Elementary School in North Fair Oaks.

The camps are a response to the problem of low reading proficiency among many elementary school kids, said Carine Risley, library services manager at the Atherton Library.

From 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday in the library, students studied reading and writing with library and YMCA staff. During one session, kids learned how to write their own haikus.

“I like to come and play, do exercises, and read books,” said second-grader Itzel. “I’m also learning how to read in English.”

Itzel is one of many bilingual students in the program who have become more comfortable reading and writing in English, according to Veronica Caballero, community program assistant at the Atherton Library.

Following their daily lessons, the kids were provided free lunches. A typical lunch includes fresh fruit, milk, and other healthful options.

“Free and reduced-cost lunch ends once the school year does,” noted Ms. Risley. “We want to make sure the kids aren’t hungry. You can’t learn on an empty stomach.”

Moving beyond library walls, the students went on two field trips — to the San Jose Tech Museum and the Exploratorium in San Francisco.

“It’s great to see their rise in self esteem,” noted Ms. Risley. “At the tech museum, two girls who didn’t even want to touch anything ended up making their own robots.”

“We chose kids based on assessments of their reading levels,” noted Ms. Risley. “The capacity for this year’s pilot was 20 kids, but we hope to expand that number in the future. It’s such a huge need.” ■



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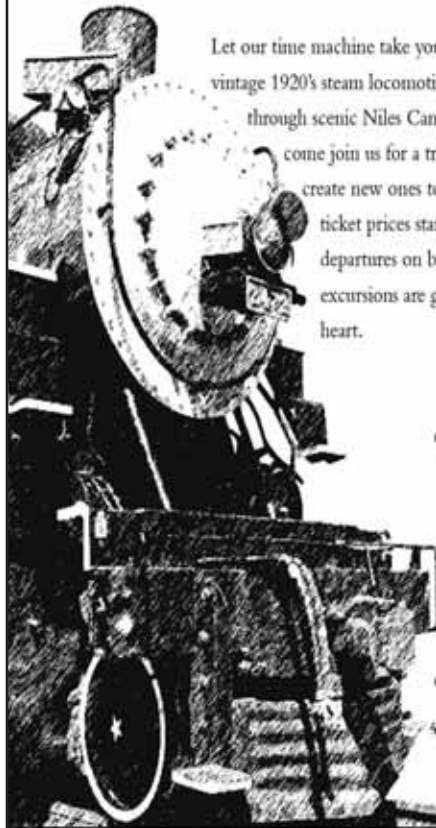
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Photo courtesy Woodside Vaulters

A very happy group of Woodside Vaulters pose with their horse Stanford after their successful trip to Germany. They are, from left, Rachel Polati, Siddartha Kreaden, Audrey Kiernan, Coach Samantha Matson, Tessa Divita, Assistant Coach Alicen Divita, and lunger Julie Divita. In front are Emi Yang, Miki Yang and Kristen Kuhn.

Vaulters win national titles, head to international games

By **Barbara Wood**
Almanac Staff Writer

Woodside happens to be the home of two internationally competitive athletic teams: the Woodside Vaulters and Pacific Coast Vaulting.

Athletes from both teams were recently named national champions in their sport, in which gymnastics and dance moves are performed on the back of a cantering horse, and both are sending athletes to an interna-

tional championship in France later this month.

The local vaulters will leave Aug. 21 for Normandy, France, to represent the United States in the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, after winning national titles at a recent competition in Oregon.

The Woodside Vaulters will have a team and individuals competing at the world games along with individual athletes from Pacific Coast Vaulting.

Woodside Vaulters team members are Tessa Divita, 16, and Rachel Polati, 17, of Emerald Hills; Siddartha Kreaden, 16, of Sunnyvale; Audrey Kiernan, 11, and Kristen Kuhn, 12, of San Mateo; and Miki Yang, 10, of Los Altos Hills. Patrick Stevens of Martinez will compete in the individual men's competition.

The Pacific Coast Vaulting team members going to France are Mary McCormick of Woodside, Kristian Roberts of Moss Beach, and Mary Garrett of Mountain View.

The Woodside Vaulters team placed first in the nation in its division at the national championships in Eugene, Oregon, which took place July 31 to Aug. 3. In the team's routine, members dressed as characters from the "Wizard of Oz" and performed to music from the movie.

In Oregon, members of the two Woodside teams swept three of the first four places in the nation in the individual women's division: McCormick was first, Garrett was second, Elizabeth Ioannou (of the Mt. Eden Vaulters from Saratoga) was third, and Alicen Divita (of

the Woodside Vaulters and from Redwood City) was fourth.

Roberts and Garrett were first in the open Pas de Deux (pairs) division. Roberts also won first in the individual men's division, while Stevens was second.

The trip to Europe will be the second within weeks for the local vaulters. In July they competed in a prestigious international equestrian event in Aachen, Germany, where the Woodside Vaulters team placed fourth overall.

In Germany, McCormick came in seventh overall in the individual female division, Ioannou was eighth and Garrett was 19th. Roberts and Garrett came in fourth overall in the Pas de Deux division and Roberts was 17th in the individual male division.

Susie Bors of Woodside, a member of the board of directors of the Woodside Vaulters, says that while vaulting may not be a well-known sport in the U.S., it is much more common in Europe. "I am very proud of our team for doing as well as it does internationally," she said. "Vaulting is pretty huge in Europe with almost every riding club — and there are lots — having a team."

The vaulters' horses are part of their team, and usually travel with them. The Woodside Vaulters will take a horse named Stanford, a 17-hand (or 5-feet 6-inches tall at the shoulder), 16-year-old Hanoverian gelding, owned by the team. In July Stanford flew to Germany on a KLM flight with his handler,

Continued on next page

City hosts downtown fitness event

Booths for more than 30 local fitness businesses lined Santa Cruz Avenue on Wednesday, Aug. 13, for the city of Menlo Park's family fitness event, one of many efforts by the city to attract more people.

Several vendors led fitness activities right on Santa Cruz Avenue, which was closed to traf-

fic from University Drive to Doyle Street for the three-hour event.

Representatives from Fleet Feet Sports, an athletic shoe and apparel store in Menlo Park, led a group of beginning runners in stretches, correct running form, and a jog around the neighborhood.

Instructors from Urban Com-

bat in Menlo Park, which teaches self-defense classes, taught attendees how to kick box. Instructors from Menlo Pilates & Yoga taught yoga moves.

At the center of the festivities, a main stage hosted performances from Menlo Academy of Dance, Menlo Swim and Sport, and more. — *Tiffany Lam*

Jackie Speier tours Menlo Park companies

By Tiffany Lam

Special to the Almanac

Congresswoman Jackie Speier, D-San Mateo, visited two manufacturing companies — Acclarent and Qbotix — on O'Brien Drive in Menlo Park on Aug. 13.

She was there to promote a bill called the "Make It In America Act," backed by House Democrats, that would provide tax

incentives for job creation.

Acclarent manufactures medical devices for ear, nose and throat patients. Scott Chamness, senior manager of Acclarent's research and development group, led the Acclarent tour through its research and development labs. He gave a demonstration of the company's balloon sinuplasty device, which treats sinusitis (inflammation of the sinuses).

Qbotix manufactures robotic

solar tracking systems. Wasim Bokhari, CEO of the company, showcased the robots, which move solar panels to position them relative to the sun's angle to produce the maximum amount of energy.

Acclarent has about 400 employees, one-third of them from the Peninsula. Qbotix has about 40 employees, with an internship program of 15 people. ▀



Coach Dan Smith calling lap time splits to cyclist Jim Turner during the 2-kilometer Individual Pursuit event at the velodrome in Aguascalientes, Mexico, on July 28.

Local cyclist Jim Turner sets velodrome records

By Tiffany Lam

Special to the Almanac

Jim Turner just keeps on going. A couple weeks after setting two world cycling records in the 75-79 age group, the Menlo Park resident improved both his times and set a third record in Aguascalientes, Mexico, on what's considered to be the fastest velodrome track in the world, according to Turner.

His first record was for the 2K Individual Pursuit, a timed event to see how quickly one can ride two kilometers. His prior record, set at Colorado Springs on July 11, was 2 minutes and 51.420 seconds. He improved that to a new record of 2 minutes and 48.483 seconds.

The second record was set for the 200-meter time trial, a timed event where the rider gradually builds up speed over three laps

with the final 200 meters being timed. His prior record, also set at Colorado Springs, was 14.100 seconds. He improved that to a new record of 13.889 seconds.

Turner set his final world record for the Hour Record, where riders are measured on how far they can ride in one hour. Turner covered a distance of 38,494 meters, which beat the last record of 37,066 meters set at a velodrome in Switzerland.

"The people that I dealt with at Aguascalientes were absolutely wonderful," Turner said. "They were supportive of my attempts in every way possible."

He was assisted by his long-time coach, Dan Smith, another Menlo Park resident.

The velodrome in Aguascalientes is at an elevation above sea level of 6,200 feet. It has an indoor 250-meter steeply banked wooden track, Turner said. ▀

Continued from previous page

Julie Divita.

Julie Divita, who is from Emerald Hills, is also a big part of the vaulting team. In competitions, she guides Stanford as he canters around the ring on a long lunge line while the vaulters perform on his back.

For his trip to Germany, Stanford was first taken by trailer to Los Angeles, to a facility called Jet Pet, where he spent the night. He was then loaded into a container and shipped on an afternoon KLM flight to Amsterdam from the Los Angeles International Airport. Julie Divita was allowed to travel on the plane with Stanford.

The Pacific Coast Vaulting Club's horse, Palatine, a 16-year-old Westphalian gelding owned by Sydney Frankel of Woodside, traveled along

with Stanford, but he remained in Europe for the upcoming competition.

Stanford and the Woodside Vaulters team will practice in Le Mans until the competition, which takes place Sept. 1 to 6, Bors said.

The vaulting competition at the World Equestrian Games will feature competitors from 74 national federations and as many as 223 nominated athletes (16 pas-de-deux of 2 vaulters; 20 squads of 6 vaulters; 46 individual females and 25 individual males) and 165 horses.

The World Equestrian games also features jumping, dressage, eventing, driving, endurance, reining and para-dressage in addition to vaulting, along with polo and horse ball exhibitions. A total of 74 nations and more than 2,000 horses were nominated to compete. ▀

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Learn more and register: continuingstudies.stanford.edu

CALENDAR

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

Classes/Workshops

Fall acting classes Portola Valley Theatre Conservatory offers classes this fall for adults and children to learn theater skills. Classes for adults will be taught by Rick Lombardo, former artistic director of San Jose Repertory Theatre, and will begin Sept. 15. Classes for children (ages 4 to 18) will begin Sept. 1. \$225-\$285. Portola Valley Theatre Conservatory, 945 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 851-8282, ext. 105. www.pvtc-ca.org

Community Events

A Taste of Egypt This Mediterranean and Egyptian festival will have a variety of food and pastries, art, a bazaar, Arabic music, face painting, games and a bounce house. Aug. 23-24, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Free. Archangel Michael & St. Mercurius Coptic Orthodox Church, 401 Hudson St., Redwood City. Call 510-827-2440.

Palo Alto Festival of the Arts Aug. 23 and 24, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Free. University Avenue, Palo Alto. Call 324-3121. www.mlproductions.com

Art

'Fatal Laughs: The Art of Robert Arneson' Cantor Arts Center hosts exhibit of unconventional clay sculptures by Robert Arneson. Wednesday-Sunday, Aug. 20-Sept. 28, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursday til 8 p.m. Free. 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu

'Sympathy for the Devil: Satan, Sin and the Underworld' As Jackson Pollock's painting "Lucifer" comes to Stanford's Anderson Collection, this exhibit will explore the visual history of the devil and his realm from the 16th to the 20th century. Wednesday-Sunday, Aug. 20-Nov. 30, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursday til 8 p.m. (starting Sept. 21, the center will also be open Mondays). Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. events.stanford.edu/events/390/39043/

Pop Art from SFMOMA To celebrate its new neighbor, the Anderson Collection, the Cantor Arts Center will display an exhibit of 10 pop art works that were originally part of the Andersons' donation to SFMOMA. Aug. 13-Oct. 27, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursday til 8 p.m. (starting Sept. 21, the center will also be open Mondays). Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. museum.stanford.edu

Kids & Families

Imagination Playground Party Portola Valley Library hosts an event with Imagination Playground blocks. People of all ages are welcome to play and build with these safe, oversized blocks. Aug. 21, 5-6 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. smcl.org

Jump for Joy Music will hold a musical program with a variety of instruments and humor that celebrates reading, music and the arts. Aug. 21, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. smcl.org

Science Club: Optical illusions Participants, ages 5 and up, create optical illusions and conducting color experiments. Contact library to register. Aug. 20, 4-5 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. smcl.org

On Stage

'Moonlight and Magnolias' A play that dramatizes the making of the film "Gone with the Wind," during which the producer David O. Selznick fired his director and hired a screenwriter who didn't know the book. Thursday-Sunday, Aug. 14-Sept. 7, 8 p.m. \$30. Dragon Theatre, 2120 Broadway St., Redwood City. Call 650-493-2006 ext. 2. www.dragonproductions.net

'War of the Worlds' Stanford Repertory Theater re-creates Orson Welles' 1938 radio broadcast of H.G. Wells' "The War of the Worlds." Aug. 14-23, Thursday-Saturday at 8 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. \$25 general; \$15 student/senior. Old Union, Niterity Theater, 520 Lasuen Mall, Stanford. Call 650-725-5838. www.stanford.edu/group/repertorytheater

Religion/Spirituality

Lifetree Cafe conversation Lifetree Cafe in Menlo Park will host two hour-long conversations called "What Ancient Practices Can Teach Us About Religion." Aug. 20, 6:30-7:30 p.m.; Aug. 21, 9:15-10:15 a.m. Free. Bethany Lutheran Church, 1095 Cloud Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-854-5897. www.facebook.com/LifetreeCafeMP

Retreat for families, friends of alcoholics Aug. 22-24, 4 p.m. on Friday til 1 p.m. on Sunday. \$350 private room; \$300 double room. Vallombrosa Center, 250 Oak Grove Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-325-5614. www.vallombrosa.org

Talks & Authors

'Modernism' docent lecture Jim Kohn, a docent from San Francisco's de Young Museum, will provide context and comment on the visiting exhibit, "Modernism from the National Gallery of Art." Accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation, his talk will cover many of the 50 works (including pieces by Lichtenstein, Johns and Rauschenberg) in the exhibit, which will be at the de Young until Oct. 12. Aug. 30, 2-3 p.m. Free. Woodside Library, 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside. Call 650-851-0147. www.smcl.org

3D Printing Demonstration The Portola Valley Library will hold a demonstration event for its new MakerBot Replicator 2 3D printer, which can create real objects from a digital model. Attendees can touch samples and ask questions. Teens and adults can sign up to be trained to use the printer. Aug. 21, 4-5 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. smcl.org

Daniel J. Levitin, author and neuroscientist, will discuss his book "The Organized Mind: Thinking Straight in the Age of Information Overload," which shed lights on how the brain responds to many activities, including listening to music and handling many details. Aug. 21, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. keplers.com/event/daniel-j-levitin

Melissa Hart discusses her book, "Wild Within: How Rescuing Owls Inspired a Family," in which Melissa, a young divorcee in Oregon, is invited by a man named Jonathan to retrieve 600 pounds of frozen rats and a young owl in Portland. Aug. 24, 2-3 p.m. Free. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Call 650-324-4321. keplers.com/event/melissa-hart

USGS August Evening Public Lecture Michael H. Carr, U.S. Geological Society planetary geologist, will give a talk called "Exploring Planets: A personal retrospective of the first 50 years." Topics will include the canyons, volcanoes and floods on Mars; methane rivers on Titan; the existence of extraterrestrial life; and why and when there will be human missions. Aug. 28, 7-8 p.m. Free. USGS Menlo Park campus, 345 Middlefield Road, Bldg. 3, Conf. Room A, Menlo Park. Call 650-329-5136. online.wr.usgs.gov/calendar

VC Taskforce: Pitch! Pitch! Pitch! This event will allow entrepreneurs to pitch their ideas in the style of American Idol, with some going on and others being eliminated. Aug. 27, 5:30-8:30 p.m. \$5 to participate. Hogan Lovells US LLP, 4085 Campbell Ave., Menlo Park. Call 650-776-1040. vctaskforce.com/content/view/1224/

Et Alia

Horse Show San Mateo County Horsemen's Association holds its Open English/Western Show. Aug. 24, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. \$15/event. The Horse Park, 3674 Sand Hill Road, Woodside. Call 650-364-3020. smcha.org

Tinkering Teens: Cookin' with Christie This event at the Portola Valley Library will teach teens (6th grade and up) how to make three healthy snacks. To register, contact the library. Sept. 3, 4-5 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. Call 650-851-0560. smcl.org

Movies on the Square: 'The Monuments Men' A star-studded platoon is sent by Franklin D. Roosevelt to rescue artistic masterpieces in Europe during WWII. Aug. 28, 8 p.m. Free. Courthouse Square, 2200 Broadway St., Redwood City. www.redwoodcity.org/events/movies.html

Music on the Square: Boys of Summer Tribute band performs a set of Eagles' classic rock. Aug. 22, 6 p.m. Free. Courthouse Square, 2200 Broadway St., Redwood City. www.redwoodcity.org/events/music-on-the-square.html



Photo by Aeron Noe

The redwoods provide a bucolic setting for the Kings Mountain Art Fair on Labor Day weekend. This photo shows visitors at Marna Schindler's booth in 2013.

Kings Mountain Art Fair returns

By Aeron Noe
[Kings Mountain Art Fair](http://KingsMountainArtFair)

The Kings Mountain Art Fair, to be held once again over the Labor Day weekend at Kings Mountain, continues to rise in the ranks of fine art fairs in California. According to the Art Fair SourceBook, the fair is ranked third in the state this year, up from fifth in 2011.

Any changes this year are subtle "because we're still doing what we've done for 51 years, which is this fabulous art fair in the redwoods," says Dawn Neisser, executive director of the fair.

In recent years, the fair has accepted credit cards and has continued to improve its food offerings, but it hasn't branched out into other forms of enter-

tainment, such as live music. It also has remained free of outside, commercial vendors.

Kings Mountain is still a pure art fair, run by volunteers. "Our artists tell us this is the most artist-friendly fair that they've participated in," Ms. Neisser says. "There are no distractions. This is one of those places where you really get to engage with the artists."

The 137 artists are selected by a jury and represent a variety of media, from fine painting to jewelry, woodwork and clothing. There are also 25 local artists on exhibit.

Families can visit Kiddie Hollow, where children do arts and crafts, play in the redwoods, or explore a Native American teepee. Kings Mountain Elemen-

tary School offers face painting and sells its famous giant cookies to raise funds for the school.

Proceeds from the event benefit both the school and the Kings Mountain Volunteer Fire Brigade.

The fair takes place over three days — Saturday, Sunday and Monday, Aug. 30-Sept. 1, — at the Kings Mountain Firehouse, 13889 Skyline Blvd. in Woodside. Breakfast is served from 8 a.m., and the artist booths open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

There is no admission fee. Visitors park along Skyline Boulevard and either walk along the trails or take a free trolley shuttle to the main fair entrance. Pets are not permitted.

Go to kingsmountainartfair.org for more information. ■

Allied Arts Guild holds open house

Menlo Park's Allied Arts Guild, home to shops, artists' studios, and Blue Garden Cafe, will hold a community open house on Saturday, Aug. 23, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Attendees can stroll through gardens, visit artisan shops, dine at the cafe, and learn about the history of the Menlo Park landmark, where artists come to create and showcase their works.

Allied Arts Guild is located at 75 Arbor Road in Menlo Park.

The Allied Arts Guild Auxiliary owns and operates the Guild, in support of uncompensated care at the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford.

AROUND TOWN

Go to alliedartsguild.org for more information.

Atherton benefit for 49ers Academy

A fundraiser will be held in Atherton on Wednesday, Aug. 27, to benefit the San Francisco 49ers Academy, a public middle school in East Palo Alto.

The event, called "Cocktails & Couture," will be held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the home of entrepreneur Michael Uytengsu. Event co-chairs Bella Babot,

an Academy board member, and Michelle Sharkey, Academy executive director, say nearly 350 people are expected to attend.

Danielle York, the wife of the San Francisco 49ers owner, and Sarah Harbaugh, the wife of the 49ers head coach, plan to be there, organizers say.

Local restaurants and caterers will provide food and drink. Three Bulgari prizes will be raffled, and there will be a live auction and a Wilkes Bashford runway fashion show.

Tickets are \$150 for general and \$250 for VIP admission

Go to tinyurl.com/49er827 for more information.

Vote-by-mail election trial coming to San Mateo County

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

Voters in San Mateo County will soon be part of a trial that could help the state decide if it wants to adopt a system of primarily voting by mail, with a greatly reduced number of physical polling places.

The trial, authorized by a law signed Aug. 15 by Gov. Jerry Brown, will study how mail-in voting affects election turnout and cost. A similar trial is underway in rural Yolo County.

As is done in Colorado, which changed to primarily mail-in voting in 2013, the trial will have at least one polling place open in each city, where voters can drop off a ballot or vote in person.

Under the trial, San Mateo County will hold three primarily mail-in elections before 2018. They will be off-year elections, such as for city council or school board races, or special elections. All registered voters in the test elections will receive a ballot in the mail and a pre-paid return envelope.

The enabling legislation for this trial was authored by Assemblyman Kevin Mullin and state Senator Jerry Hill.

Because so many voters are already voting by mail, "it's time to examine our election system to be sure it is effective, efficient and accessible," Mr. Mullin said. He noted that in the June election, 78 percent of voters in San Mateo County voted by mail.

"By allowing an urban county to participate with a rural county in the pilot study, the reports produced for the Legislature will be more indicative of potential statewide effects," said Mark Church, San Mateo County's chief elections officer.

To help gauge the effect of mail-in voting on turnout, statistics on the numbers who vote in the mail-in elections will be collected by ethnicity, age, gender, disability, permanent vote-by-mail status, and political party affiliation.

Yolo County officials report that in its trial elections, it has saved as much as 43 percent of the cost of traditional polling place elections, but turnout results were inconclusive, Mr. Mullin's office said. ▀

Local wins national essay contest

By Tiffany Lam
Special to the Almanac

Out of hundreds of entries, Andrew Tan of Menlo Park was named one of the winners of a national essay contest held by the U.S. Capitol Historical Society.

Andrew was awarded first place in the junior division (sixth- to eighth-grade) of the 2013 Making Democracy Work contest, earning a prize of \$1,000 and a trip to Washington, D.C.

A student at La Entrada Mid-

dle School, which will also receive \$1,000 and a plaque of recognition, Andrew says he became interested in community service and government as a result of his current-events elective and participation in Menlo Park Boy Scout Troop 109.

He will be a freshman at Menlo-Atherton High School when the new school year begins.



Andrew Tan

Andrew's essay, called "Democracy: Cohesion between People & Government," dealt with the cost of defending the rights enjoyed by U.S. citizens.

"Andrew's essay reflected a deep understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizens in our representative form of government," said Ron Sarasin, president of the U.S. Capitol Historical Society.

The essay was "exceptionally insightful as to what comprises a functioning and effective democracy," said Rep. Anna G. Eshoo, D-Menlo Park. ▀

POLICE CALLS

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

ATHERTON

Residential burglary reports:

■ Someone stole jewelry from a home on Melanie Lane, including gold bangles, a gold chain with hanging pendants, and a gold charm bracelet with charms that included Caribbean dancers, a graduate hat with a ruby, and a harp. Estimated loss: \$45,000. July 31.

■ The cable lock to a gate surrounding a construction site on Bay Road was found cut and someone stole tools and equipment, including a Bosch rotary hammer, a welding set, a shade canopy and a Wacker Vibroplate tamper. Estimated loss: \$4,000. Aug. 5.

WOODSIDE

Residential burglary report: A home on Partition Road was found with a rear sliding door smashed. Whether anything was taken is not yet known. Aug. 12.

Hit-and-run report: Two vehicles were racing westbound on state Highway 84. Both passed another westbound vehicle, crossing a double yellow line to do so. The first passing vehicle sideswiped the vehicle being passed and fled the scene. The second passing vehicle collided with the vehicle being passed, causing damage to both vehicles. Aug. 11.

Possession-of-marijuana-for-sale report: During a traffic stop on Woodside Road and Interstate 280, a deputy noticed marijuana odors coming from inside the vehicle and questioned the driver. The driver, a Woodside resident, had an expired medical marijuana card, \$4,000 in cash in his pocket and a half pound of marijuana in the trunk. He was arrested and booked into the county jail on charges that included possession of and transportation of marijuana for sale. Aug. 8.

WEST MENLO PARK

Residential burglary reports:

■ Someone stole several tools from two metal sheds at a construction site on Stanford Avenue. Estimated loss:

\$6,300. Aug. 15.

■ Someone stole construction tools from a vacant home under construction on Stanford Avenue. Estimated loss: \$5,400. Aug. 12.

LADERA

Theft reports:

■ Someone stole an unlocked bike from a vehicle with a bike carrier and sitting in the driveway of a home on Castanya Way. Estimated loss: \$7,500. Aug. 13.

■ Three boxes — one delivered by FedEx, one by UPS and a third containing personal items — were stolen from a carport on Coquito Way. Estimated loss: \$960. Aug. 13.

MENLO PARK

Residential burglary reports:

■ A washer and dryer set, a cordless drill and a sprayer were stolen from a home in the 200 block of University Drive. Someone entered through an unlocked rear door. Estimated loss: \$5,400. Aug. 13.

■ Someone cut the locks off a cargo container and stole construction tools from a construction site on Lemon Avenue. Estimated loss: \$3,500. Aug. 12.

■ Someone broke a window and entered a house on Madera Avenue and stole a wallet containing identification cards and cash. Estimated loss: \$900. Aug. 10.

Theft reports:

■ An unattended cell phone was stolen from a park bench at Willow Road and Gilbert Avenue. Estimated loss: \$600. Aug. 12.

■ Two bottles of wine were reported stolen from Safeway supermarket on Sharon Park Drive. Estimated loss: \$320. Aug. 10.

■ A worker at a construction site on Woodland Avenue interrupted someone in the act of stealing a lock and chain securing the work site. The suspect got away with the lock and chain. Estimated loss: \$70. Aug. 8.

■ Someone stole four newspapers from Kepler's Books at 1010 El Camino Real. Estimated loss: \$11. Aug. 8.

■ Someone stole a wallet from a backpack at the Menlo Park Caltrain station on Merrill Street. Aug. 8.

Name: Rudi Wever

Position: Sales

Last Book Read: The Art of Racing in the Rain

Last Movie: The Icemen

Last Ride: Highway 9, across Skyline Blvd., down Page Mill Rd, and into work.

Favorite Epic Ride: Mt. Revard via Chambery to Aix-les-Bains... amazing!

Bike: LeMond Tete de Course



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

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

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All letters must include a home address and contact phone number. Published letters will also appear on the web site, www.TheAlmanacOnline.com, and occasionally on the Town Square forum.

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Bills would help curb growing health crisis

Good news hails from Sacramento in the form of two bills successfully sponsored by Sen. Jerry Hill. Both are important first steps in reining in the overuse of antibiotics in an effort to control the growing health crisis that results from that excess; the bills now are headed for the governor's desk after approval with no opposition in both the Senate and the Assembly.

SB 835 takes aim at the widespread practice of using antibiotics in farm animals solely for the purpose of fattening them for market. It would enshrine in state law the Federal Drug Administration's recently issued voluntary guidelines aimed at phasing out the drug's use as growth promoters. If signed, the bill would restrict the use of antibiotics for livestock to medical purposes. They would be administered only with a prescription, and with oversight by a licensed veterinarian.

The law is designed to further the urgent work of getting antibiotics out of the food chain — a phenomenon that has greatly contributed to antibiotics resistance in humans.

SB 1311 would require acute care hospitals in the state to create what's known as antimicrobial stewardship programs to oversee the use of antibiotics in humans, and curtail their overuse. In a 2013 report, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) called antibiotics resistance in humans one of the country's most serious health threats. Many of us know someone — a family member, or a friend — who is battling an infection that once-reliable antibiotics simply can't knock out. It is a painful, costly, and sometimes fatal ordeal.

This bill is supported by the California Hospital Association, Stanford Hospital and Clinics, and other medical groups and agencies.

Sen. Hill, D-San Mateo, said he began working on the bills in earnest once he reviewed the CDC's 2013 document, "Antibiotics Resistance Threats in the United States," which reports that more than 2 million Americans develop infections that are resistant to antibiotics annually, including 23,000 who die. There is no scientific reason to use antibiotics as growth stimulants in animals, and the overuse of these drugs in both livestock and humans has led to fears among public health officials that if the problem isn't addressed, there eventually won't be any effective antibiotics to treat "superbugs," he said in a recent phone interview. He is hopeful

that the bills will be signed into law, he said, and that they "will save lives and a lot of heartache for the people of California."

The bill restricting antibiotics use in livestock isn't without opponents, and they include environmental groups, such as the Sierra Club, that don't think it goes far enough. But Sen. Hill said the opposition is an example of the perfect being the enemy of the good, and he noted that the measures that some of the opponents push for have "no chance of survival" in the Legislature.

The overuse of antibiotics in both farm animals and in humans has created a nationwide public health crisis, and the FDA's "action" to issue voluntary guidelines to phase out their use in animals for anything other than medical reasons was in fact a regrettable lack of action. Sen. Hill's legislation to curb the use of these drugs is real action, and now the governor must act to finalize it. ■

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

LETTERS

Our readers write

Concerned about six-lane option for El Camino

Editor:

After reading an article in the Almanac about Menlo Park's traffic study for El Camino, I became very concerned about the potential for destroying our downtown community and endangering pedestrians.

While there would be advantages for through-traffic commuters to speed through our downtown on six lanes of traffic, it would be a disaster. One need only drive on El Camino from Sand Hill Road to Safe-way to know that (having) six lanes of traffic results in cars traveling well in excess of 40 mph.

Ironically, and sadly, in the same issue of the Almanac discussing the possibility of six lanes of traffic in downtown Menlo there was another tragic news article about a pedestrian being killed on the six lanes of El Camino in Atherton. Is this what we want?

Menlo Park is for our resi-



Atherton Heritage Association

Looking back

Charles and Phyllis Moulton Merrill were considered one of early Atherton's "power couples" — energetically involved with the community they called home while raising their six children. In this 1923 photo, the children, from left, Nancy, Charles Jr., John, Frank, Lewis and Peter, gaze at the ocean at Asilomar. According to the Atherton history book "Under the Oaks," by Pamela Gullard and Nancy Lund, the Merrills made time to regularly pack up the family and travel in a caravan of four vehicles,

dents. The City Council needs to be reminded that they don't answer to commuters but to residents who want a down-

town that is friendly, safe and connected.

Greg Druehl
Hermosa Way, Menlo Park

express

Sign up today at
AlmanacNews.com

Bigger isn't always better: Menlo Park's zoning wars

By Cherie Zaslowsky

The polarization in Menlo Park is not between pro-development and anti-development contingents, but between those who support unprecedented colossal multi-story, mixed-use complexes, and those who support healthy development in keeping with our city's size and character. The two proposed 420,000-plus-square-foot office/housing complexes on El Camino within a few blocks of one another would permanently abolish our small-town character and wreak havoc with our traffic.

The bigger-is-better, massive-is-best, pro-development folks refer to the "blight" on El Camino, as if the only remedy were urbanized zoning and mammoth projects. They disingenuously imply that the city has somehow prevented development on the empty lots. Not true. Stanford could have developed those parcels the minute the dealerships left, but instead pocketed their rental payments until their leases expired, choosing to leave the parcels vacant. Recall that Stanford was also involved in the downtown specific plan process, which ultimately gave it virtually carte blanche zoning on these parcels. Seen in retrospect, coincidentally perhaps, the years of vacant lots turned out to be well worth the wait for Stanford.

These same folks praise the specific plan, which invites gargantuan urbanized projects into our suburb, for having been a "public process" and for taking "six years." I attended many meetings — the public process consisted of staff and consultants pushing the council to vote yes, no matter how many residents pointed out egregious pitfalls of the plan. That the city spent six years on this

fool's errand is hardly something to brag about. A bad plan is a bad plan regardless of how long you spend on it, or how many pro forma meetings you hold to give the appearance of responding to the public.

Incidentally, the largest outpouring of public opinion during the specific plan visioning process, as well as the first goal of the plan itself, was to "main-

tain the village character unique to Menlo Park." Save Menlo's initiative is too modest by half, but it's definitely a step in the right direction toward preserving that character. It may also serve to encourage the current

and/or future City Council to enact further modifications of the specific plan to prevent the wholesale high-density urbanization of our city.

Opponents claim the initiative was created by "amateurs" — well, yes, otherwise known as "residents" or "citizens," as in any grassroots movement. Of course, before being submitted, it was written up by a "professional," otherwise known as a lawyer, as are nearly all initiatives.

They object that it was conceived "in private," presumably as opposed to the dog-and-pony-show "public process" of the specific plan. Perhaps they object to "private citizens" taking an active role in their government — precisely what the initiative process makes possible.

By the way, the most salient public process of all, and the one they apparently object to most, is the one at the ballot box. That's where we can pass this initiative to at least somewhat restrain out-of-control high-density office parks in our downtown.

Cherie Zaslowsky is a resident of downtown Menlo Park.



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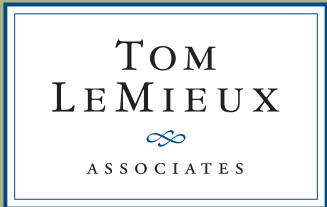
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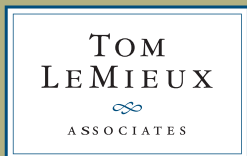


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