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The Almanac

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

MAY 13, 2015 | VOL. 50 NO. 36



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PLAY BALL!

Baseball legend Willie Mays honored at opening of Atherton's Little League ballpark
PAGE 5



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Photo courtesy Gambhir family

Milan Gambhir, 16, of Portola Valley died on May 2 after a 21-month fight against brain cancer.

Portola Valley school community remembers Milan Gambhir, 16

By **Barbara Wood**
Almanac Staff Writer

A memorial service for 16-year-old Milan Gambhir of Portola Valley, who was a junior at Bellarmine College Preparatory High School in San Jose, will be held at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 13, in Stanford Memorial Church at 450 Serra Mall on the Stanford campus. Milan died May 2 after a 21-month fight with brain cancer.

Former Corte Madera classmates of Milan gathered Friday night, May 8, at the school to remember Milan.

Milan's family said he was a scholar with a particular passion for science, as well as a friend, a fighter and a loving son.

Lisa Gonzales, superintendent of the Portola Valley School District, said Milan "was what our community represents: kindness, caring and compassion."

She said some people described Milan as "brilliant," and noted the energy he put into activities. He won a 2014 Synopsys Silicon Valley Science and Technology

Milan's father is a cancer research professor at Stanford and his mother is CEO of a company that works on technology to fight cancer.

Championship award for the design of a wristband that would detect the recurrence of cancer tumors in cancer patients. He had applied for a patent for the device. "Others talked about his ability to draw others in, make them feel valued, and sincerely connect," she said.

Ms. Gonzales said that on a Bellarmine website students shared stories about Milan, commenting on the drive and determination he had in all endeavors, from speech tournaments to getting As, from debate competitions to fighting cancer. Some talked about his calm heart and others shared his passion for the guitar, she said.

"Milan Gambhir was a loved

member of the Portola Valley community and will be greatly missed," she said.

Father Paul Sheridan, president of Bellarmine, said Milan "understood the reality of his situation, the science of it, and yet possessed a determination to undertake any intervention that had promise even when the side effects were tough to handle."

Milan's parents, Sanjiv (Sam) and Aruna Gambhir, have established the Milan Gambhir Memorial Fund at Bellarmine. Milan's father is a cancer research professor and head of the radiology department at the Stanford University School of Medicine and his mother is the CEO of CellSight Technologies, which works on technology to fight cancer.

Tribute gifts in memory of Milan may be made online at bcp.org/give or mailed to Bellarmine College Preparatory, Attn: Advancement Office, 960 West Hedding St., San Jose, CA 95126. Milan's name should be put in the comments section of the online form or on the memo line of a mailed check. ▣

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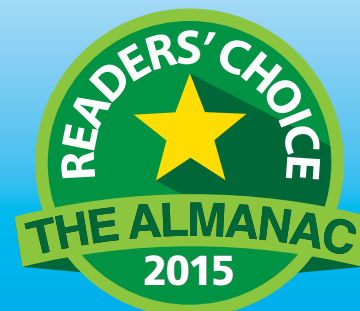
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Local News

MENLO PARK | ATHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Opening day is a Willie Mays lovefest

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

Little League baseball players, their families and the community gathered in Atherton on Saturday, May 9, to officially open Homer Field at Willie Mays Ballpark, with Atherton resident Willie Mays himself the guest of honor and the subject of a grand slam of loving tributes from those in attendance.

Speaking from the infield of the just-rebuilt field in Holbrook-Palmer Park, San Francisco Giants president and CEO Larry Baer said it the most simply: “Everybody loves you Willie. Thank you for everything you’ve done for all of us.”

Mr. Baer said growing up in San Francisco, “I would be listening to Giants games and I would be channeling Willie Mays.”

Homer Field at Willie Mays Ballpark opens in Atherton’s Holbrook-Palmer Park.

“This man, this man’s accomplishments, this man’s personality as ‘The Say Hey Kid,’ ... he gave us the great love for baseball,” Mr. Baer said.

Mr. Mays had just turned 84 on May 6, and the crowd sang “Happy Birthday” to him and celebrated with birthday cupcakes along with the food that event organizers said Mr. Mays had requested: hot dogs, Cracker Jack and sodas.

Giants’ play-by-play announcer Jon Miller reminded the nearly 400 Little Leaguers and their families, who had gathered at the field along with almost as many community members, just why Willie Mays is thought by many to be “the greatest ballplayer there ever was.”

Mr. Miller said that in 1963, when he was 10, he had a chance to go to his first Giants game. Before the game, Mr. Miller said, in his bedtime prayers he asked for blessings for his family, “and bless Willie Mays and please let him hit a home run when I go to the game.”

“So I went to the game and Willie did hit a home run,” Mr. Miller said. “I never missed church again.”



Photos by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

Top: The Independent Electric Supply Scrappers score against the Big Tray Dragons during the first game played on the Homer Field at Willie Mays Ballpark. **Above:** Mike Homer’s three children, from left, Jack, Lucy and James, cut the opening ceremony ribbon at the ballpark dedication with, from center to left, Giants’ President Larry Baer, Willie Mays and Giants’ announcer Jon Miller. **On the cover:** Willie Mays is shown “the key” to the Willie Mays Ballpark, an engraved wooden bat, by Bob Hellman, with Rene Anderson, Mr. Mays’ long-time assistant, at his left.

Mr. Miller also told those gathered at the field, which was paid for and donated to the town by the Menlo-Atherton Little League, about “The Catch”

made by Willie Mays in the first game of the 1954 World Series.

The then New York Giants were playing the Cleveland Indians at the Polo Grounds in New

York, with a center field fence 483 feet back. Vic Wertz hit a long fly ball to center field and 23-year-old Willie Mays, who had been playing much closer in, sprinted

How new field was designed

Bob Hellman, who with Mike Gardner, led the building of the new ballpark, said the new grandstand is designed “so it is architecturally consistent with the other buildings in the park.” It has similar siding and color to the park’s historic buildings, and a cupola and “widows walk” on the roof.

“That was important, that it feel like it belongs in the park,” he said.

Most of the field changes are to make it safer for the 9- and 10-year-old Little League players, for whom the field was designed. Enclosed and roofed dugouts keep fly balls out while enclosed bullpens keep practice balls in.

The field itself was leveled and compacted, with gopher holes and swampy areas filled in.

The finishing touch? “This grass is actually the same sod that’s used at AT&T Park,” Mr. Hellman said.

to “465 feet from home plate, he reached out over his shoulder and he made ‘The Catch,’ “ Mr. Miller said. Then, “he stopped on a dime” turned and threw the ball all that distance to the infield to stop the runner, who

See **OPENING DAY**, page 6

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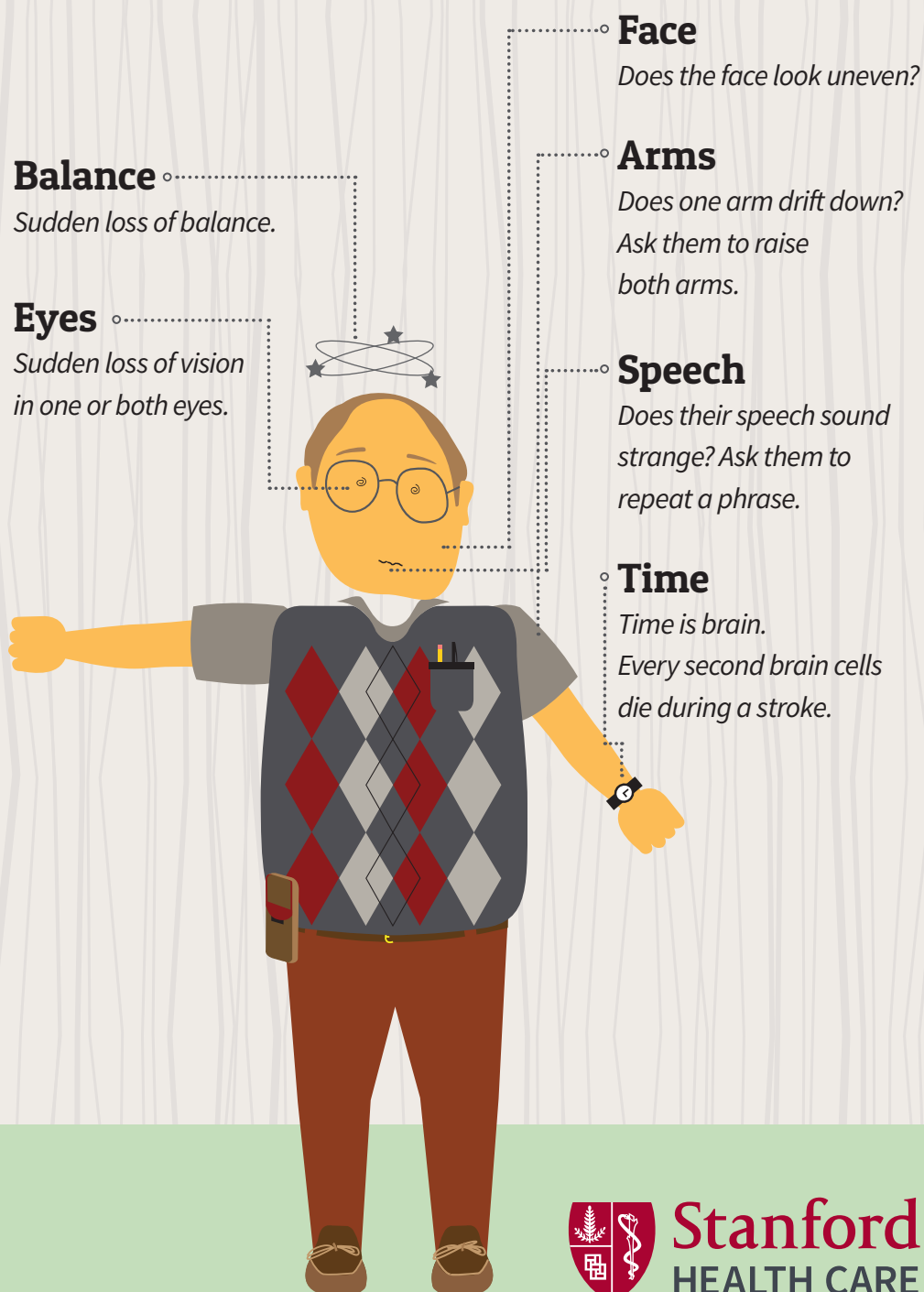


Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

Rowan Kelly of the Big Tray Dragons greets the Giants' mascot, Lou Seal, before the official opening of Homer Field at Willie Mays Park.

Opening day is a Willie Mays lovefest

continued from page PB

had tagged up, from scoring.

The Giants, who had been the series' underdogs, won it in four straight games.

Willie Mays, said Mr. Miller, is the greatest player of all time because he "could do it all." He hit as many as 52 home runs in a year, he sometimes led the league in stolen bases; and, as he did at the Polo Field that day, he could make the difficult catches and the long throws.

"I want you kids to know," Mr. Miller said, "the day this ballpark was dedicated, it was dedicated to the greatest ballplayer there ever was to play this game, number 24 — Willie Mays!"

Mike Gardner, who with Bob Hellman spearheaded the fundraising for and logistics of the \$1.4 million field renovations and new grandstand, said he, too, grew up idolizing Willie Mays.

"To this day, I wear 24, my son wears 24, on every uniform we have," he said. "My goal was to one day be just like Willie Mays."

Mr. Gardner also spoke about how happy he and the rest of the Little League was to finally have completed the ball field project, which began more than five years ago. "I can't tell you what an exciting and joyous day it is," he said. "We've waited a long time."

The field was also dedicated in honor of Mike Homer and his family. Mr. Homer, who died in 2009 at the age of 50, had raised much of the money for the original Little League field at the park and had asked that it be named in honor of his father, James Homer. Mr. Homer's wife, Kristina and his three children, James, Jack and Lucy, were at the event.

Bob Lessing spoke about his son-in-law. "I know Mike would enjoy being here today to see this beautiful field being officially opened," Mr. Lessing said. "But I think even more he would have enjoyed being in one of these bullpens coaching his son this morning."

Mike Homer was a Silicon Valley executive who worked for Apple and Netscape among others. However, Mr. Lessing said, "the love of his family, including his three beautiful and resilient children ... defined his success even more than his professional accomplishments."

"He had a wonderful sense of humor, he was extremely generous. He never forgot his friends. And he was probably the smartest individual I've ever met," Mr. Lessing said.

Among those in the audience at the event was the Homer children's great-grandfather, Walter Lessing, 95, who watched from one of the grandstand's designated wheelchair accessible spaces. The entire facility is wheelchair accessible, including new wide paved paths, several wheelchair spaces and the restrooms in the back of the facility.

After a ribbon was cut to officially open the field, 9-year-old Atherton resident Sophia Preston belted out the national anthem, a cappella. Charlie Gielow, whose dad Doug is his coach on the Electric Supply Scrapers, threw out the first pitch. Charlie, who has played for five years, admitted to being "a little bit" nervous about the honor.

Doug Gielow said he was "thrilled" with the improvements. "It's gorgeous — it's spectacular," he said. Not only is it a "safe place for the kids to play," but the volunteer effort from the players and parents "brought the community together" to get it ready, he said.

In the first inning of the inaugural game, which featured the Big Tray Dragons versus the Independent Electric Supply Scrapers, some of the safety features of the new stadium were immediately tested out by fly balls, which bounced off the overhead backstop screening instead of flying into the grandstands, and off the roof of one of the new dugouts instead of flying inside.

The Big Tray Dragons won the first game by a score of 11-6. ▀

Cal Water proposes water budgets, penalties for 'misuse or waste'

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

DROUGHT

The California Water Service Company has asked the state Public Utilities Commission to approve its drought plan, effective June 1, which proposes a "water budget" based on a reduction from past use for each customer, with surcharges for using more than the budgeted amount of water.

Penalties would also be charged for "misuse or waste" of water, and repeat or egregious violations could be punished by the installation of flow-restricting devices or cutting off service.

Cal Water's Bear Gulch District covers Atherton, Portola Valley, most of Woodside, and parts of Menlo Park and Redwood City. The district must cut water use by 36 percent from 2013 levels. Last year the district

reduced its water use by 11 percent from 2013 levels.

Dawn Smithson, manager of the Bear Gulch District, said each customer's water budget would be 36 percent below what the customer used in the same period in 2013, but no customer would be asked to cut below a minimum budget.

The minimum would be 600 cubic feet (4,488 gallons) of water a month per water meter. That minimum is set at 55 gallons per person per day, multiplied by the average number of people in a household in our area, which is 2.7 people, according to federal census data.

Each month's water bill would say what the next month's budget is. If all the budgeted water is not used, the unused water would be added to the next

month's budget.

The surcharge for exceeding a water budget would be fairly low: \$10 per 100 cubic feet (1 CCF, about 748 gallons) of water over the budgeted amount, plus the usual tiered rate for the water used. Customers in Cal Water's special program for low-income water users would pay half the penalty.

Water budgets could be appealed by water users who claim they have special conditions that merit additional water.

Cal Water's proposed plan has four stages of increasingly severe restrictions. Ms. Smithson said the company has asked the PUC to start in Stage 2. Progressing to the more restrictive stages would require further PUC approval, she said.

"Moving between the stages

See **CAL WATER**, page 8

Menlo signs off on water restrictions

By Sandy Brundage
Almanac Staff Writer

To further conserve water during the statewide drought, the City Council voted 3-0 on May 5 to approve new restrictions for customers of the Menlo Park Municipal Water District.

The district says it provides water for just under half of the city's population. Much of the rest is served by California Water Company's Bear Gulch District. According to city staff members, the district is collaborating with the city's other water suppliers in an effort to make the rules consistent for all residents.

The newest restrictions:

- Limit landscape watering to two days a week. Even addresses may water on Tuesdays and Fridays; odd addresses on Mondays and Thursdays. No watering is allowed between 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

- Require pool and spa covers and prohibit newly built pools from being filled with municipal water.

- Prohibit new construction projects from installing "single pass cooling systems" that circulate water once before draining it, such as air conditioners.

The State Water Resources Control Board is proposing that the district reduce water use by 16 percent from 2013 levels. But the district has already achieved a 27 percent reduction, accord-

ing to state data.

While the number is accurate, the 27 percent reduction is based on the amount the district purchased from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, said Public Works Director Jesse Quirion. The district's actual sales numbers show a 12 percent reduction from 2013 levels, he said.

Country club

Customers such as the Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club will be allowed to water more than twice a week as long as they conserve the same amount of water by cutting back in other areas.

Club representative Robin Driscoll told the council May 5 that the club expects to have reduced water consumption by the end of the year by 16 percent from the 2013 rate. The club has installed drought-resistant turf, turned off 15 percent of its irrigation, and is building a recycled water plant that should go online in January 2017, he said.

The recycled water plant will provide all turf irrigation, according to Mr. Driscoll, while the rest of the water needed will come from the Menlo Park Municipal Water District.

Enforcement

Council member Kirsten Keith described enforcement as the "elephant in the room."

According to Mr. Quirion, prior to May 5, the city was

receiving five to six reports a day of alleged water-use violations. He expects that number to rise with the adoption of the new restrictions.

Violations can be reported by calling (650) 330-6750, emailing water@menlopark.org, or filling out an online complaint form. Complaints will be handled by the district's staff and code-enforcement officers. So far the focus is on education rather than fines.

Gray water

Mayor Catherine Carlton urged the city to start making it easier for residents to use the water they already have. The city "makes it as hard as humanly possible" to use rain barrels to collect water, she said, and doesn't allow gray water systems that could use water draining from showers and washing machines to nourish the yard.

"This upsets me a lot," she said. "... There's a push and pull to this; we're pulling, but not pushing on the other end."

Mr. Quirion said those alternatives will be considered as part of creating a master water management plan, which he expected to take about two years because of priorities assigned to other projects and staff workloads.

"Two years, that's just not OK," Mayor Carlton said. "We're in a drought."

Council members Ray Mueller and Rich Cline were unable to attend Tuesday night's meeting. ■

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The award-winning news organization Palo Alto Weekly/PaloAltoOnline.com is seeking a well-rounded journalist to become our new associate editor. The ideal candidate is equally comfortable editing hard and soft news and possesses the creativity, organizational aptitude, focus on quality and adroitness in interpersonal communications to guide publications from start to finish.

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Cal Water answers questions about drought

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

California Water Service officials recently sat down with the Almanac to answer questions about their proposed drought plan.

Cal Water's Bear Gulch district, in the area since 1936, serves approximately 57,500 people through 18,800 service connections, the company says. It covers Atherton, Portola Valley, most of Woodside, and parts of Menlo Park and Redwood City. The district has been ordered to cut overall water consumption in the district by 36 percent from 2013 levels by February 2016.

Answering the questions were Patrick Alexander, the company's new conservation manager; Justin Skarb, the corporate community affairs and public relations manager; and Dawn Smithson, the Bear Gulch district manager.

Mr. Skarb said the proposed restrictions will cover Cal Water's many diverse districts and could not have been written to consider every customer's unique situation.

Instead, he said, the district will have an appeals process, which should be in place by June 1 at the latest. "Our interest is to make sure we're taking care of our customers who don't fit the broad outline of the plan," he said. Customers can appeal to have their water budget changed before the due date on the first bill they receive to avoid sur-

DROUGHT

A public workshop on Cal Water drought restrictions and ways customers can reduce water use will be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 19, at the Las Lomas Elementary School's Cano Hall, 299 Alameda de las Pulgas in Atherton.

charges on their next bill.

For example, customers whose household is larger than the 2.7 average applied locally will be eligible for an adjusted water budget, he said, as will single-metered multi-family dwellings.

The district is also contemplating ways to help customers who have been conserving for years, but still use more than the 600 cubic foot per month (6 CCF) minimum water allowance. One could be, Mr. Skarb said, that those who use far less than the average for a district might be eligible to ask for a smaller cut in their water use than other district customers.

"We also want to help those customers who started conserving before 2013," he said. If a customer's records show water use reduced between 2011 and 2013, they will also be eligible for an increased water budget, he said.

"Our goal is to have a customer-first approach," Mr. Skarb said.

He said in cases requiring only a look at customer records, it is planned that appeals could be made over the phone. The company is hiring extra employ-



Photo taken at Corte Madera School last August. School officials say they are working to reduce water use.

ees to handle appeals and will have an 800 phone number for appeals. Other appeals would be made online or by filling out a form, he said.

The company plans an appeals board made up of management-level employees, he said.

While the major water users in each community will not be penalized if they cut their use by 36 percent, the water district needs them to cut back even more than that. The district plans to meet individually with each large water user to help them plan how to cut back, Mr. Skarb said.

"We're going to have to find the right messaging for those customers," he said.

Those who do not meet their water budget will be surcharged, he said, but will not be otherwise penalized.

"Our goal isn't to fine anybody," he said. "I think we'd be elated at the end of June if we didn't have to apply drought surcharges to anybody."

By June 1, Cal Water plans to give customers the ability to go to CalWater.com to see their historic water usage and water budgets for the coming month. Measurements should be in gallons as well as cubic feet to make it easier to understand how much water customers are using, he said. The upcoming month's water budget would also be in every bill.

Since Cal Water found out about the mandatory water usage cuts, the company has hired 20 people across the company in temporary positions, including customer service representatives, and drought and conservation coordinators, Mr. Skarb said.

The proposed restrictions apply to all customers, including residential and commercial users (and agricultural, in areas where the company has them). All would be eligible to use the appeals process, Mr. Skarb said.

Renters who do not have their water separately metered may want to let their landlords know, Mr. Skarb said, about Cal Water's conservation programs that offer rebates for things such as low-flow toilets, lawn removal, sprinkler-head replacement and smart irrigation controllers.

Renters concerned their landlords are not conserving water can contact Cal Water, either online or by calling the district at (650) 561-9709 to have the company contact the property owner.

Go to tinyurl.com/CalWater5-15 or call (650) 561-9709 to report water waste. ■

Cal Water proposes water budgets

continued from page 7

in the plan is dependent on a number of factors," Ms. Smithson said, "the most important of which is water supply conditions and the ongoing severity of the drought."

Water use restrictions

Separate from the water budgets are restrictions on certain uses of water.

The proposal says that Cal Water can impose penalties "when its personnel verify a customer is using potable water for non-essential, wasteful uses."

A first violation of the restrictions would result in a "real-time water measurement device" being installed on a customer's service line, with the customer paying the cost of installing and operating the device.

A second violation would result in a fine of \$50 in the Stage 2 restrictions; a third violation would result in a \$100 fine;

and a fourth violation (or an "egregious" violation, which is not defined) would result in the installation of a flow-restricting device on the service line.

The flow restricting device would allow at least 300 cubic feet of water (2,244 gallons or 3 CCF) per person per month (about 75 gallons a day per person). Cal Water could discontinue customer service if the customer continues to waste water even with the flow-restricting device, the plan proposes.

Once a flow-restricting device has been installed, it would remain for at least three days, or until a customer could prove that changes were made to avoid wasting water.

Wasteful uses of potable water under the Stage 2 restrictions would include:

- Irrigating landscaping more than three days a week, or between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Customers with

even-numbered addresses could irrigate on Saturdays, Tuesdays and Thursdays; those with odd-numbered addresses could irrigate on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays. (Landscape irrigation systems that use only drip and micro-spray would not have to follow the time or day-of-week restrictions; nor would hand-held watering with a hose if the hose has a shut-off nozzle.)

- Irrigation that causes runoff onto non-irrigated areas.

- Filling or re-filling a single family home swimming pool or hot tub, except existing, already-filled pools and hot tubs may be topped off.

- Washing vehicles unless the hose has a cut-off nozzle.

- Using water in a water feature unless the water is recirculated.

- Watering outdoor landscaping within 48 hours of rainfall of more than 0.1 inch.

- Washing driveways or sidewalks.

- Irrigating any ornamental landscaping on public street medians.

- Using anything but drip irrigation and micro-sprays on the landscaping for new homes and buildings.

- Filling or refilling ornamental lakes or ponds.

Any leaks, breaks or malfunctions would have to be repaired within five business days. Drinking water could be served in restaurants only upon request and hotels and motels would have to offer customers the option of not having their towels and bedding laundered daily.

If the Stage 3 plan is implemented, the surcharge for going over a water budget would be tripled (from \$10 per 100 cubic feet of water to \$30 per 100 cubic feet of water); irrigation would be reduced to two days a week and any leaks would have to be repaired in two days. Swimming pools and hot tubs could no longer be topped off and penalties for wasting water would go up to \$100 on a second violation and

\$200 on a third.

In Stage 4, the surcharge would remain tripled; irrigating ornamental landscape would be allowed by hand only with a bucket or hose with a shut-off valve. Any leaks would have to be repaired in one day. Penalties for wasting water would go up to \$200 on a second violation and up to \$400 on a third.

The plan says that penalties collected for water wasting would be used to pay expenses of implementing the drought program. Extra money collected for going beyond a water budget would be used to offset revenue lost by customers using less water.

Ms. Smithson said the Bear Gulch district would ask the cities and towns in the district to adopt the rules as local laws. The plan says that Cal Water would adopt additional water regulations imposed by local governments or the state.

The state PUC is expected to decide on the proposed drought plans by May 28. ■

Trial underway in DUI double fatality

By **Sandy Brundage**
Almanac Staff Writer

Nearly two years has passed, but the murder trial of Marjorie Reitzell finally got underway with opening statements on May 7. The 55-year-old Menlo Park woman is charged with the deaths of a couple who were walking their dog when they were struck by her car as she drove along Chilco Street in Menlo Park.

The Oct. 24, 2013, crash killed Balbir Singh, 50, and Kamal Kaur Singh, 45. The couple left behind three teenage children.

The 1998 Honda Accord driven by Ms. Reitzell struck the couple from behind, according to police, before bounding over the median into the westbound

lane, where it hit another car that held four teenagers and then ran into a tree.

A test reportedly showed that her blood alcohol level that night was 0.23 percent, more than twice the legal limit, according to San Mateo County District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe.

Convicted of a misdemeanor DUI in November 2012, she was on probation and had a valid driver's license at the time of the fatal collision, according to law enforcement officials.

Mr. Wagstaffe said that her probation officer had warned the defendant that she could kill someone by drinking and driving. Mr. Wagstaffe said she had engaged in a "lengthy

pattern of drinking on the day of the offense" and had caused a non-injury collision earlier that same day.

Ms. Reitzell is charged with two counts of second-degree murder, two counts of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated, causing injury while driving under the influence, and repeat driving under the influence with enhancements for injuring more than one person and for allegedly having a blood alcohol level higher than 0.15 percent.

Attorney Richard Keyes, appointed by the court to represent Ms. Reitzell, did not respond to a request for comment. He plans to present a defense that claims the couple's dog ran into the road and his client swerved to avoid the animal, striking the Singhs by accident, according to trial notes from the District Attorney's Office.

She remains in custody on \$2 million bail. ▀

Iberia very much in business

Iberia restaurant, known for its tapas and Spanish cuisine, is definitely open at 1026 Alma St. in Menlo Park, says owner and chef Jose-Luis Relinque.

A March 18 story in the Almanac said Iberia would close and relocate in Belmont at the end of the year. Some readers misinterpreted the story to mean the restaurant was already closed or closing soon, says Mr. Relinque. Its last day of operation in Menlo Park will be Dec. 31.

Fans of Spanish cuisine will find Iberia open for lunch and dinner, with a wide variety of tapas served at the cozy bar. Popular selections, such as gazpacho or paella for two, are served in the dining room and patio, however, the menu also features wild boar, quail breast and marmitako (a traditional dish of tuna, peppers and potato prepared in a heavy skillet).

Iberia was located in the Ladera Country Shopper in Portola Valley for 16 years before opening in Menlo Park in 2000.

Garden party fashion show

The San Mateo County History Museum's volunteer auxiliary will present "A Garden Party Fashion Show" at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 16, at the museum at 2200 Broadway in Redwood City.

The show will feature more than 100 years of fashion and gossip involving notable local figures who attended Peninsula



Owner and chef Jose-Luis Relinque at his Iberia restaurant at 1026 Alma St. in Menlo Park.

garden parties, said museum president Mitch Postel.

The clothing is from a collection of vintage costumes maintained by museum volunteers. The event is free with the price of museum admission (\$6 for adults and \$4 for seniors and students).

Go to historysmc.org or call 299-0104 for more information.

Commission supports non-resident surcharge

Those who want to play in Menlo Park, but don't live in the city, should expect to keep paying a 35 percent surcharge to participate in recreation programs since the Parks and Recreation Commission has thrown its support behind the higher fee.

The commission also recommended increasing the non-resident surcharge for the gymnastics program from 25 percent to 35 percent.

However, commissioners suggested making registration a bit

easier for those living in unincorporated Menlo Park by allowing them to start signing up three days after residents may do so, but three days sooner than those residing entirely outside Menlo Park. The new registration category will be launched in August.

Caltrain ridership hits new high

The annual head count of riders on Caltrain found that the average weekly number of passengers has hit 58,245 — a 71 percent increase since 2010, the agency announced May 7.

The number of bikes being brought along for the ride on the average weekday rose 5.7 percent this year to 6,207, Caltrain said. The agency added a sixth car to its trains, as of May 11, to reduce the number of riders with bikes who are turned away due to lack of capacity. The extra car provides an additional 150 seats and more standing room.

Graphic Designer

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

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City to try blocking turns at Ravenswood and Alma

■ The trial will test whether this reduces hazards at the intersection near the rail line.

By Sandy Brundage

Almanac Staff Writer

Drivers will need to find alternate routes to the Civic Center in Menlo Park when the city launches a

six-month trial of prohibiting turns to and from Alma Street at the Ravenswood Avenue intersection near the rail crossing.

The council voted 3-0 on Tuesday, May 5, to let the trial

proceed. The changes, temporary for now, will use physical barriers to prohibit left turns from Alma Street and right turns from Ravenswood Avenue at that intersection in hopes of improving the safety of the at-grade railroad crossing.

Council members said they were worried about possible unintended consequences of the shift in traffic patterns that eliminating the turns will create.

"I think we are going to get a lot of flak over that," Councilman Peter Ohtaki said, particularly with regard to blocking right turns from Ravenswood Avenue.

Mayor Catherine Carlton asked how, if the city's data shows that 200 to 300 cars make that right turn during peak hours, all those cars are expected to squeeze onto

Ravenswood Avenue instead. "They won't fit," she said.

Transportation Director Nikki Nagaya said it was a great question, and that the trial installation will determine how traffic patterns adjust. The trial will also provide data to help the staff determine whether moving the pedestrian crosswalk at the intersection is necessary; at the moment, no decision has been made to relocate it.

The city's staff is now working on figuring out when the trial will begin, with an eye toward getting the barriers in place by June. The council opted to give staff the flexibility to adjust the installations if necessary before the 6 months are up.

Elevate tracks?

Also with an eye on improving safety, the council agreed to modify the city's grade separation policy to allow the study of a split configuration that would partially elevate the railroad tracks and partially depress the

roadway at the crossing.

Previously, Menlo Park had opposed any elevation of the railroad tracks, and as Mr. Ohtaki noted during the meeting, the city remains opposed to any type of four-track, entirely elevated rail system.

The grade separation study, expected to commence in July and to take up to 18 months, will also consider an option that would depress the road without elevating the tracks. However, according to Public Works Director Jesse Quirion, that option would have more impact on adjacent property owners, as the city would need to acquire more private property than it does under a split configuration.

"We're not saying we're going to do it," the mayor said, referring to elevating the tracks to any degree. "We're just going to study it."

Council members Rich Cline and Ray Mueller were unable to attend Tuesday night's meeting. ■

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The Almanac

Atherton explores fiber optic network for very high-speed Internet service

By Barbara Wood

Almanac Staff Writer

If things go according to the tentative plans laid out for the Atherton City Council on May 7, Atherton could have a town-wide, very high-speed optical fiber network installed by next year.

The system would be designed to provide faster and more reliable Internet service than is now available, at no cost to the town, and with the goal of free basic service for all Atherton residents.

For the past year, council members Rick DeGolia and Bill Widmer and other members of the town's Technology Committee have been exploring the idea of a town-wide Internet system.

Mr. DeGolia said many ideas were discussed and discarded, including a wireless system and a joint town-private company venture. The committee also asked 10 companies if they had any interest in providing a system, but not one responded, Mr. DeGolia said.

So committee member Mike Farmwald decided to form a private company to install high-end optical fiber cable, which is capable, at a minimum, of providing Internet service at 1,000 times the speeds of conventional Internet providers.

The company, which will probably be called Atherton Fiber, is privately owned and hopes to raise money through private Atherton investors. The

plan is to offset the free underground installation of one fiber optic cable to each property by selling a bundle of four fibers to those interested in additional service. Mr. DeGolia estimates the one-time cost for the additional fibers at around \$6,000.

The buyer would own the fiber cables and they would be part of the property if it were sold. Residents would be responsible for connecting the cable from the street to their homes.

Atherton Fiber would then allow Internet service providers to lease use of the installed system. Mr. DeGolia said this would introduce more competition into providing Internet service and should lead to "both a reduction in cost and a guarantee of better service."

"We'd like to have a basic, reasonable level of service available to residents at no cost," Mr. DeGolia said, but those details remain to be worked out.

Mr. Farmwald said the committee and Atherton Fiber have been talking to Google about providing service. "I feel pretty good about getting a deal with them," he said.

The Atherton Library could also be part of a town-wide system. Mr. DeGolia said the library could lease space over the fiber network "which would enable them to directly deliver programming" to everyone using the Atherton Fiber network.

Mr. Widmer said other librar-

ies now provide technical support to some of their customers, "which we thought was very attractive and a good use of our library money."

The fiber optic system, Mr. Farmwald said, is technologically advanced enough that it should be able to provide service for at least the next 25 years. He said it is capable of transmitting data at speeds measured in terabits per second, which would mean the entire contents of a high-end personal computer's hard disk theoretically could be transmitted in less than 10 seconds.

Initially, Internet service providers are expected to offer services in the range of 1-10 gigabits per second, Mr. Farmwald said.

Mr. DeGolia said the goal is not only to provide faster, more reliable service today, but to provide a system "that will really serve us well into the future" as well as to "give a chance to the library to really define what it means to be a 21st century library."

By July, Atherton Fiber plans to present the results of an engineering study to the council, with the hopes of having a contract ready to sign by November. The timetable has construction of the fiber network beginning by March. It would take a number of months to build, Mr. Farmwald said.

More information about Atherton Fiber is available by emailing atherton.fiber@gmail.com. ■

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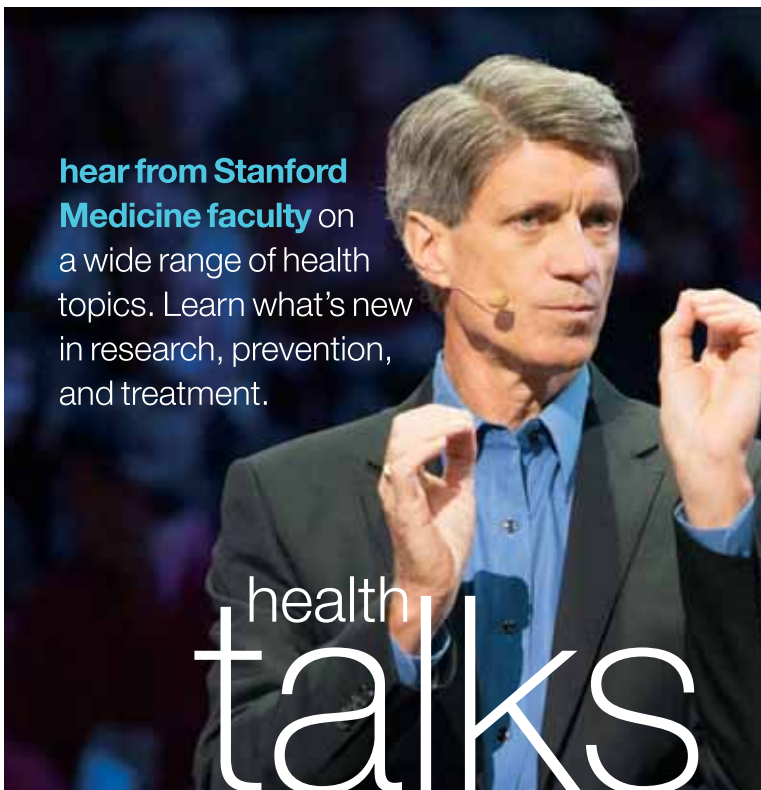


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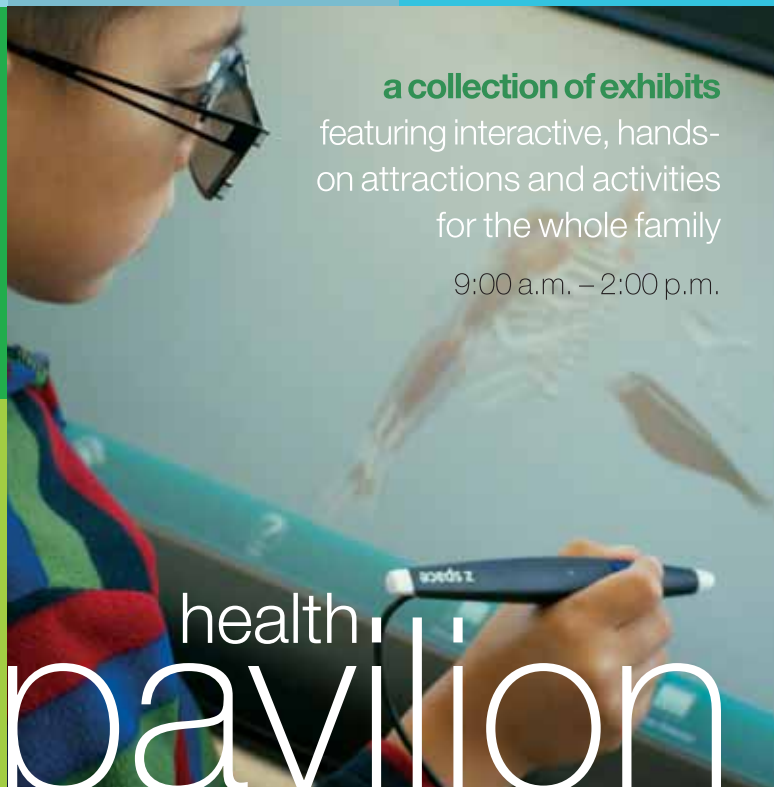
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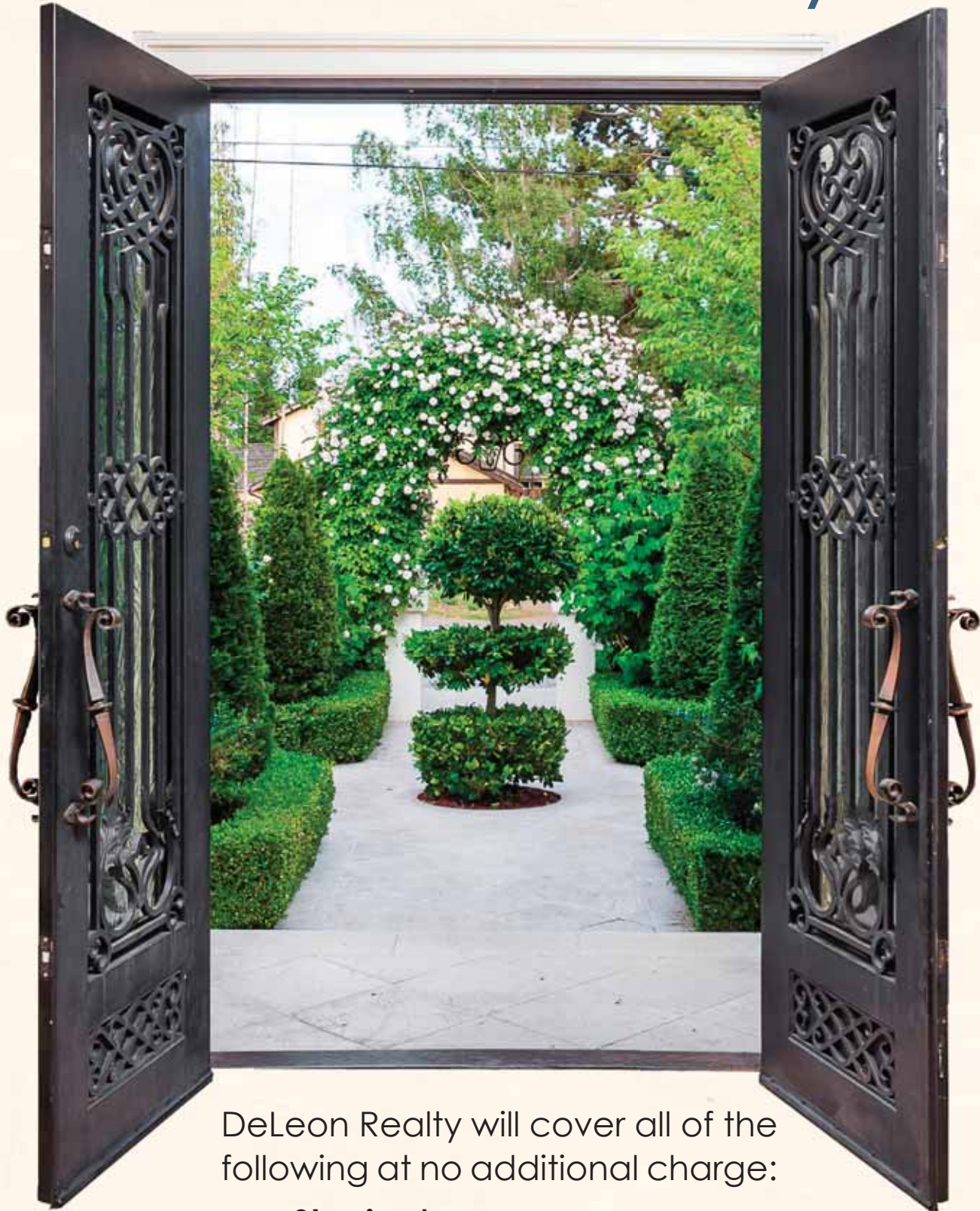
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Corte Madera, Hillview middle schools win honors

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

Two local middle schools, Hillview in Menlo Park and Corte Madera in Portola Valley, have been named Gold Ribbon schools by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson.

"These schools are academically successful, vibrant, and innovative centers of learning and teaching," he said in

announcing the awards May 5. "They provide great examples of the things educators are doing right — embracing rigorous academic standards, providing excellence and creativity in teaching, and creating a positive school climate."

Hillview

The application from Hillview Middle School says that since the Hillview campus was rebuilt in 2012, the school has been work-

ing to close the achievement gap between its top and bottom students. "Our goal is to define what learning will look like in five years and become that school right now," the application says.

Hillview, with 879 students and 84 staff members, has programs in place designed to bring all students up to at least grade level in English and math by the end of eighth grade.

In addition, the school has been working to reduce dis-

ciplinary problems. New programs for the most at-risk students include "Thrive," in which a small group of students spend three days a week in same-gender groups doing activities that "address their social and emotional needs." The application says the strong relationship between teachers and students in this class "motivates students to apply themselves with more effort in their studies."

"We have seen our number of suspensions dropped precipitously," the application says.

The Hillview application also highlights its program that equips every student in the school with an iPad to use in class and at home. The school has also offered "digital education" to parents.

Corte Madera

The application from the fourth- to eighth-grade Corte Madera School says it is "focused on students and committed to excellence in all we do." The 352-student school says it works to link community, parents and school "to provide a learning environment that enables today's students to be prepared for tomorrow's demands."

Among the programs the school highlighted are the Readers/Writers Workshop, a STEM (Science, technology, engineering, math) initiative, technology-enhanced learning and a strong physical education program.

Corte Madera, the application says, is working to develop a "culture of investigation," which includes project-based learning.

"We also focus our efforts on building our school community with a culture of respect, responsibility and compassion" the application says, using social-emotional learning (SEL), instruction in all grades, and giving "opportunities for students to shape the culture and climate of our school."

The application mentions strong support from parents, who provide funding and resources for programs including physical education, a community garden, music, counseling, professional development and educational grants.

"Corte Madera is actively working to produce 21st century citizens who will have strong academic, critical thinking and problem-solving skills needed to be innovators for the future," the application says. ■



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David Ackerman retires as Oak Knoll principal

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

Retiring Oak Knoll School Principal David Ackerman will be honored at the school's annual Spring Fair on Friday, May 15, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the school's upper playground.

Mr. Ackerman, principal at Oak Knoll School in Menlo Park since 2002, also served two years as principal of Encinal School in Atherton. His career in education, however, began long before he came to work for the Menlo Park City School District.

He began teaching in 1970 in St. Louis. After 15 years of teaching, he became the director of math, science and computer curriculum in the University City School District in University City, Missouri. The next year he began his first job as a principal, holding that post at schools in Missouri, Seattle and Fairfax, Virginia, before coming to Menlo Park when his wife, Arlene Ackerman, was hired as the superintendent of the San Francisco Unified School District in 2000.

Among other career

achievements, Mr. Ackerman turned around one of Seattle's lowest achieving schools and started the first magnet school in University City, Missouri, which later won the President's Blue Ribbon Award for academic excellence.

Allison Chao, Oak Knoll PTO president in 2012-13, said Mr. Ackerman was "a great principal because he cared about the children so much." She said his decisions and innovative learning methods "were always driven by what he thought was best for the students."

"He may not have always remembered every parent's name or may not have been the most social person at school, but the students loved and respected him and everything he did was always for the kids," she said.

Mr. Ackerman was not above picking up trash or fixing a fallen sign, she said, because he "cared about Oak Knoll and loved his job." ■



Photo by Clint Chao
David Ackerman

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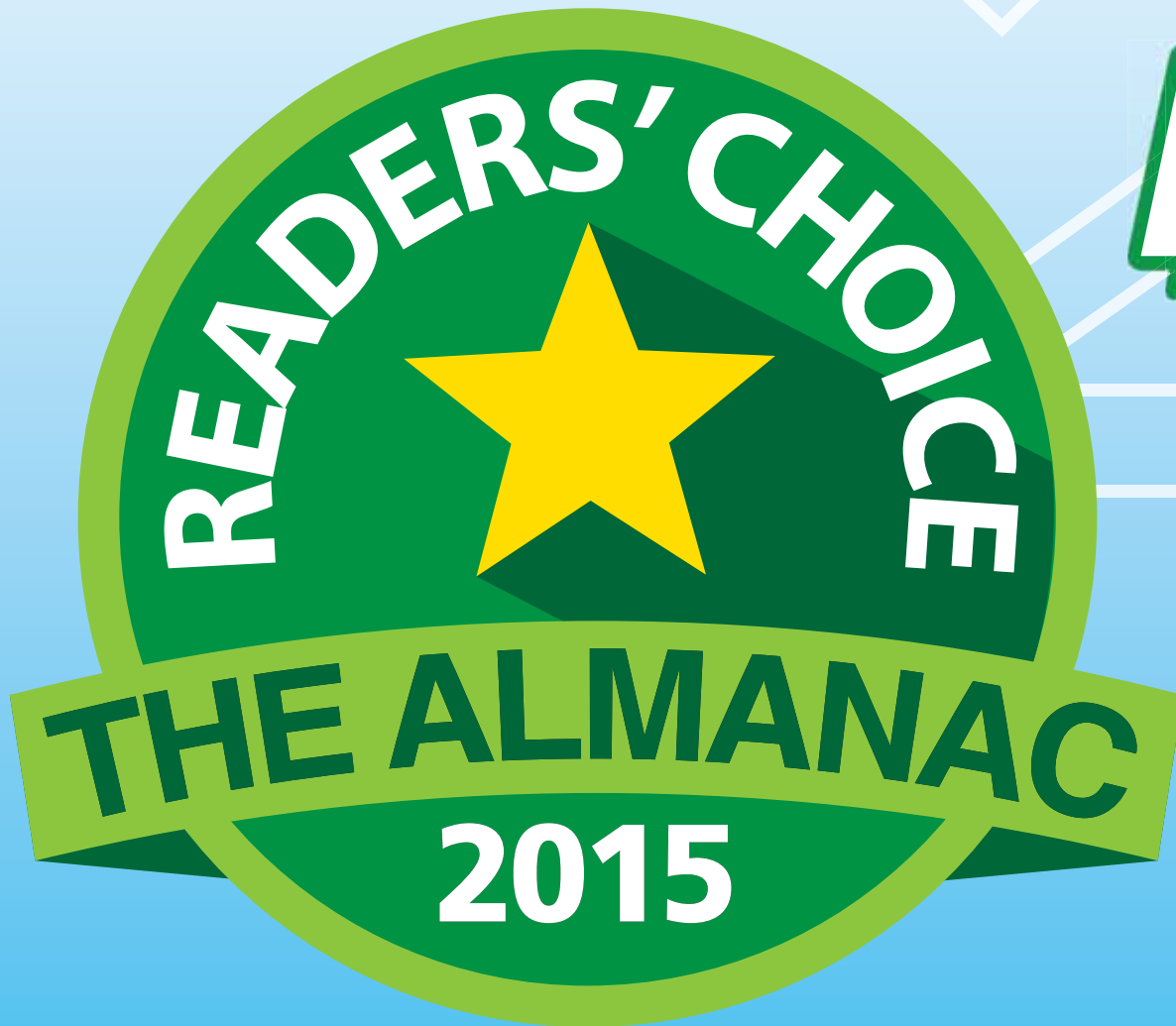
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TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY

Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration

Project Title: Bear Gulch Station 13 Improvement Project

Project Location: Portola Road right of way in Portola Valley and Woodside, between Stonegate Road and Sand Hill Road; Pump Station 8, located on Portola Road across from the intersection of Hayfields Road (Assessor's Parcel No. 076-320-030) in Woodside; and Pump Station 13, located on Portola Road between Westridge Drive and Stonegate Road (Assessor's Parcel No. 079-011-120) in Portola Valley.

Project Description: The project is proposed by the California Water Service Company (Cal Water) to upgrade the water supply pumps serving the southern portion of the Bear Gulch system, Portola Valley Ranch, and Los Trancos. The project includes combining booster pumps at Stations 8 and 13 into a single facility at Station 13 and replacing roughly two miles of water transmission pipeline in the Portola Road right-of-way. The proposed equipment is designed to meet existing system demand, and no increase in system capacity is proposed.

Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration: In accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15072(a), notice is hereby given of the Town's intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project listed above. The Town of Portola Valley has completed a review of the proposed project, and on the basis of an Initial Study, has determined that the project will not have a significant impact on the environment. The Town has prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study that are available for public review at Town Hall, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028.

Public Comment Period: As mandated by State Law, the comment period for this document begins on **May 13, 2015** and ends on **June 11, 2015** at **5:00 p.m.** Persons having comments concerning this project, including objections to the basis of the determinations set forth in the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, are invited to furnish their comments summarizing the specific and factual basis for their comments, in writing to: Karen Kristiansson, Deputy Town Planner, Portola Valley Town Hall, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028. Comments on the Mitigated Negative Declaration must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 11, 2015. Pursuant to the Public Resources Code section 21177, any legal challenge to the adoption of the proposed Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration will be limited to those issues presented to the Town during the public comment period described above.

Public Hearings:

A joint Planning Commission and Architectural and Site Control Commission field meeting will be held at Station 13 at 4:30 p.m. on June 3, 2015, with continued Planning Commission comments that evening at 7:30 p.m. in the Historic Schoolhouse, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA.

An Architectural and Site Control Commission meeting is scheduled on June 8, 2015, 7:30 p.m., Historic Schoolhouse, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA.

A Planning Commission hearing is scheduled on June 17, 2015, 7:30 p.m., Historic Schoolhouse, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA.

Sheriff's deputy charged with brandishing gun

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

A San Mateo County deputy sheriff accused of pointing a gun at a custodian in a Redwood City courtroom in April explained to investigators that he did have his gun out of its holster, but that he was checking the gunsight, prosecutors said.

Deputy Andy Mar, 50, is facing a charge of misdemeanor brandishing of a firearm, District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe said.

Prosecutors filed the charge on May 7 and arraignment is set for Friday, May 22, at 8:30 a.m. in Redwood City Misdemeanor Court.

Mr. Mar has been on administrative leave since April 15, according to Deputy Rebecca Rosenblatt of the Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Mar was working as a temporary bailiff in a seventh-floor courtroom on April 13, according to prosecutors. Also in the courtroom, which was not in session, were a custodian, a court clerk and a court reporter, Mr. Wagstaffe said. At the time of the incident, the custodian and the clerk were

talking at the clerk's desk, prosecutors said.

Deputy Mar allegedly drew his gun and pointed it in the direction of the custodian, prosecutors said. The custodian tried to move out of the way, but the deputy kept the firearm "displayed in his direction," prosecutors said.

Mr. Mar denied pointing the gun at or near the custodian and said he was checking the gunsight. "That's what he said," Mr. Wagstaffe said. It was a new gun, he added. All the deputies were issued new guns recently.

Deputy tells prosecutors he was checking gunsight.

Asked whether the custodian exchanged words with Mr. Mar, Mr. Wagstaffe said the evidence is inconsistent, based on interviews of the four people in the courtroom at the time.

A person convicted of brandishing a weapon can be fined up to \$1,000 and sentenced to up to a year in jail, Mr. Wagstaffe said. Police officers who brandish a gun while not in the lawful performance of their duties can be charged, he said.

Mr. Mar's attorney has not yet responded to a request for comment. ▣

Benefit concert in memory of Amelie Le Moullac

A benefit concert for children in Haiti and in memory of Menlo School graduate Amelie Le Moullac is set for 8 p.m. Saturday, May 16, at Saint Mark's Episcopal Church at 600 Colorado Ave. in Palo Alto.

Ms. Le Moullac was struck and killed by a tractor trailer

while riding a bike in San Francisco on Aug. 14, 2013. At the time of her death, she was 24 and working for Voce Communications, a public relations and marketing firm in San Francisco.

The concert will include vocal and instrumental pieces by J.S. Bach, Ludwig van Beethoven, Frederic Chopin and Franz Schubert. In memory of Ms. Le Moullac, her mother, Jessie Jewett, founded Amelie's Angels, a fund to provide water, food, clothing and education for children in Pacasse, Haiti. The concert will include a presentation to Amelie's Angels.

Concert sponsors are The Veen Firm in San Francisco and Oakland attorney Micha Liberty.



Amelie Le Moullac

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Committee delays decision on school transfer request

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

Faced with a stack of new information, members of the San Mateo County Committee on School District Organization decided at their May 4 meeting to wait until June to decide whether 31 properties on Menlo Park's O'Connor Street may transfer from the Ravenswood to the Menlo Park school district.

The proposed new meeting time is 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 2, at the County Office of Education, 101 Twin Dolphins Drive in Redwood City.

Residents of the 31 homes, from 235 to 495 O'Connor Street, between Elliott Drive and Euclid Avenue, want to transfer

to the Menlo Park City School District from the Ravenswood City School District. The district boundaries run down the middle of O'Connor Street.

Members of the county committee heard from a number of residents of O'Connor Street who have argued that it was only a historical accident that left them in the Ravenswood district when most of the rest of the Willows neighborhood transferred into the Menlo Park district in 1983. That's because their side of the street was annexed into Menlo Park soon after the original petition to change districts was filed, but their addresses weren't added to the petition.

Nancy Magee, who serves as secretary of the committee and provides staff support for it, said in response to earlier questions from committee members she looked up exactly what voters had approved when they voted on the original 1983 transfer that moved most of the rest of the Willows into the Menlo Park School District.

She said that voters from both school districts voted to approve wording that called for the transfer of "the Willows neighborhood." At the time of the vote, both sides of O'Connor Street were in Menlo Park; but because the odd-numbered side of the street was not named in the petition, it was not moved into the Menlo Park district along with the rest of the Willows.

A number of O'Connor Street neighbors spoke of their desire to unify their neighborhood with the transfer. "This is a very unique middle-class neighborhood. Very ethnically diverse," said Kim Chun. "A lot of really good people in our community put their heart and sweat into this petition."

Adela Mazzon asked the county committee to think about the neighborhood's children first. "As you make your vote, I would like you to think about our children," she said. "Give our children the opportunity to go to school with their friends and their neighbors."

But several residents of East Palo Alto also spoke, saying that over the years, transfers of homes out of their school district, and of property out of East Palo Alto's boundaries, has eroded their community.

"I wish you could give us back all that was ours," said Randy Jackson, who said he has lived

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► See **COMMITTEE**, page 21

Residents to evacuate homes for wildfire drill

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

On Saturday, May 16, fire-fighting crews will be at their jobs as if a major wildfire were burning in the vicinity of Old La Honda Road in Woodside.

Residents living on Old La Honda Road are being asked to evacuate their home for the annual drill in the Woodside Fire Protection District, said Fire Chief Dan Ghiorso. "They have responded very enthusiastically," the chief said. "We understand the effort it will take on their part and are very happy with their desire to participate."

The fire district — which includes Woodside, Portola Valley and nearby unincorporated communities — chose a Saturday

for the drill because more people will be at home to participate, said Town Manager Kevin Bryant. The town's emergency operations center will be up and running and participating in the drill.

Old La Honda Road will be closed to traffic, including bicycle traffic, for the day, the fire district said.

The purpose of the drill, Chief Ghiorso said, is twofold: train firefighters for a wildfire that is inevitable, whether in the district or elsewhere in the region, and educate the community on preparing for and responding to that fire when it comes.

"We have been doing this drill for four years now and it gets better every year in regards to participation, challenges and overall organization," the chief said. ■

How Peninsula landscapes inspire painters

Three painters of fine art will speak in Woodside on Sunday, May 17, about Peninsula landscapes and how they inspire their art.

Artists Jim Caldwell, Kit Colman and Sheila Finch will discuss their artistic processes and the importance of nature in their work. The free event will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. at Folger Stable in Wunderlich Park, located at 4040 Woodside Road in Woodside.

The event is the first lecture in the Folger Stable Speaker Series. It's open to the public, but space is limited.

Go to tinyurl.com/wund12 for tickets.

The artists will have works on display in "pop-up galleries" on the stable grounds,



"Oaks in Mist" by Woodside painter Kit Colman, who will speak at Wunderlich Park on May 17.

and all will be for sale. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the paintings will go to the Friends of Huddart

and Wunderlich Parks, sponsor of the series.

Go to tinyurl.com/wund13 for more information. ■

COMMITTEE

► Continued from page 20

in East Palo Alto for 50 years. "Where does it stop?" Over the years, he said, "those who had more could take from us."

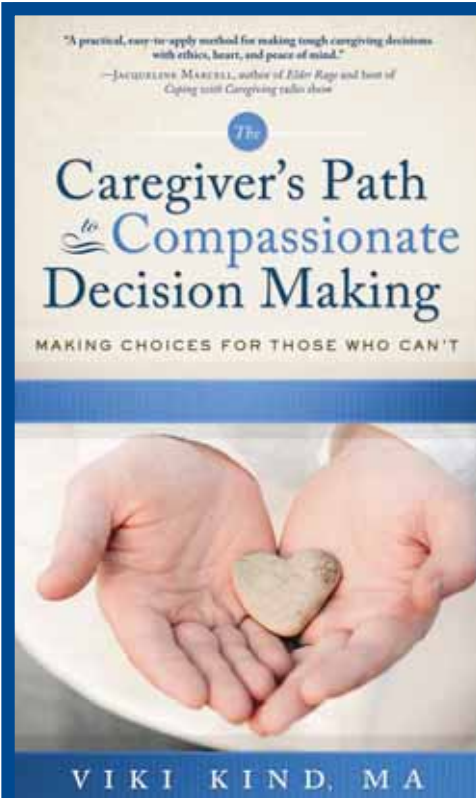
"If you only knew what we've gone through just to try to hold it together," he said. "Don't become another part of the problem."

The transfer is opposed by both the Menlo Park and Ravenswood school boards, but the County Committee on School District Organization will make the decision on whether to approve the transfer. However, opposition by the districts' boards means an election must be held if the county committee does approve it. The committee will decide what areas would participate in the election. That could be just the homes involved, or voters in both school districts.

Representatives of the Ravenswood district said they are particularly worried about the effect the loss of the 31 homes would have on the district's ability to raise bond money for school improvements. They said if they lose the homes from their tax base, the district's more than \$45 million bond limit would be reduced by about \$250,000.

Representatives of the Menlo Park district say that their schools are already overcrowded and cannot handle more children. Educating children from the homes would cost the district more money than the transfer of property taxes would bring in, they said.

The committee's decision can be appealed to the state board of education. ■



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Thomas Cootsona, former co-owner, Top Spin Tennis

Thomas Nicholas Cootsona, former co-owner of Top Spin Tennis in Menlo Park, died April 29 in Chico. He was 91.

Mr. Cootsona was born in Tacoma, Washington, and attended Stadium High School. He served as an infantry soldier in World War II, seeing action in Europe and fighting in the Battle of the Bulge.

After the war, he graduated from the University of Washington with degrees in both mechanical engineering and electrical engineering. He married Ruth Behrens. In 1961, the couple moved to the Bay Area. Mr. Cootsona began a 20-year career with Syntex Corp. as a project engineer.

In 1981 the Cootsonas pur-

chased Top Spin Tennis, which they ran until 2004. The couple also worked at their son Marcus' tennis shop until 2008.

Shortly thereafter, they moved to Chico to be with their son Greg and his family. They became involved in Bidwell Presbyterian Church, where Greg was associate pastor.

Mr. Cootsona is survived by his wife of 65 years, Ruth, and sons Marcus of Menlo Park and Greg of Chico. Memorials may be made to the Thomas N. Cootsona Memorial Fund, North Valley Community Foundation, 240 Main Street, Suite 260, Chico, CA 95928.



Thomas Cootsona

Lydian Academy graduates 14

Lydian Academy, a private middle and high school in Menlo Park, said it will graduate 14 seniors at ceremonies at 4 p.m. Saturday, May 16, at the Arrillaga Recreation Center in Menlo Park.

Among the graduates are: Natasha Bock, Atherton; Michael Schaller Ross Daboll, Los Gatos; Patrick Martin Dancer, Woodside; William Fann, Palo Alto; Chaitanya Sai Gangavarapu, Santa Clara; Mila Lamb, Palo Alto; Anna Elizabeth Matthews, Palo Alto; Camille Grace McKelvey, Menlo Park; Bailey Mckittrick, Palo Alto; Kelsey C. Plough, Portola Valley; Kayden Sanchez, Alameda; Max Vincent, Half Moon Bay; and Noah Morrie Globus Weinstein, Pacifica

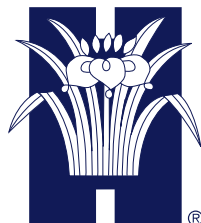
The school will also graduate



Photo by Jon Irons

Members of the Lydian Academy Class of 2015 include, from left, Anna Matthews, Camille McKelvey, Bailey Mckittrick, Michael Daboll and Max Vincent.

four eighth-grade students at the 2015 graduation ceremony, including Derek Golub (Menlo Park), Thomas Loang Wood (Cupertino), and Spencer Scott Young (Mountain View).



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POLICE CALLS

This information is based on reports 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.

PORTOLA VALLEY

Residential burglary: A pair of earrings is reported missing from a drawer in a Brookside Drive house. Deputies found no signs of forced entry and the rest of the house showed no signs of disturbance. Estimated loss: \$9,000. April 29.

WEST MENLO PARK

Suspicious circumstances: Someone removed 19 rented folding chairs from the backyard of a home on Ashton Avenue and returned them about three days later. May 3.

WOODSIDE

Traffic accidents:

■ A vehicle heading west in the 3500 block of Woodside Road entered a sweeping curve at too high a speed, left the road, contacted a guardrail, ran head on into a utility pole, spun around and came to a rest. The driver was not injured. The pole was severed at the base, but supporting cables kept it upright. May 5.

■ Deputies arrested a San Francisco driver on drunken driving charges. The driver was towing a trailer through a private parking lot in the 2900 block of Woodside Road when she collided with a wooden fence protecting a dumpster, damaging the fence and the vehicle. April 30.

LADERA

Theft: Three packages were stolen from the front steps of a home on La Mesa Drive. Estimated loss: \$150. April 30.

MENLO PARK

Residential burglary: Someone stole two bikes from an open garage at a home on Bay Laurel Drive. Estimated loss: \$4,500. May 7.

Auto burglaries:

■ A thief smashed a window on a vehicle parked in the 900 block of Willow Road and stole a purse containing two wallets, identification, three rings, a bracelet and \$1,020 in cash. Estimated loss: \$7,426. May 2.

■ A vehicle parked in the 1300 block of Willow Road was found with a window smashed and a briefcase stolen. Estimated loss: \$200. May 7.

■ Someone entered an unlocked vehicle parked in the 100 block of Alma Street and stole \$40 from the center console. May 5.

■ A truck parked in the 1500 block of El Camino Real was found with a window smashed. There were no signs that anyone entered the vehicle. May 7.

■ It's unclear how a thief entered a vehicle parked on Oak Knoll Lane and stole a purse, credit cards and \$4. May 7.

Thefts:

■ Someone stole an unlocked unattended bike in the area of Menlo Avenue and Evelyn Street. Estimated loss: \$700. May 2.

■ Someone stole a parking permit decal from the rear window of a vehicle parked on Crane Street. Estimated loss: \$592. May 6.

■ A thief cut the lock on a bike parked near the public library and stole it. Estimated loss: \$400. May 2.

■ An unattended cellphone was stolen from the front desk of the Burgess Recreation Center on Alma Street. Estimated loss: \$225. May 5.

■ A bike was stolen from a bike rack in the 1000 block of El Camino Real. Estimated loss: \$150. May 7.

■ A thief entered an unlocked vehicle

parked on Waverley Street and stole a pair of men's sunglasses. Estimated loss: \$135. May 6.

■ Someone entered an unlocked vehicle parked on Waverley Street and stole a cellphone. Estimated loss: \$52. May 6.

■ A thief stole a purse from a shopping cart in a Willow Road grocery. Estimated loss: \$52. May 4.

■ A Facebook employee saw a Facebook campus bicycle, possibly stolen, being ridden on Ralmar Avenue in East Palo Alto. May 6.

■ A witness reported seeing a woman steal several bottles of shampoo from a CVS pharmacy in the 700 block of El Camino Real. She reportedly fled in a gray vehicle. May 5.

Stolen vehicle: A black trailer from the 3500 block of Haven Avenue. Estimated loss: \$6,000. May 6.

Woodsider wins Anne Frank scholarship

Kiran Sridhar of Woodside, a senior at Lick Wilmerding High School in San Francisco, will receive a scholarship in the name of Anne Frank, the youthful and idealistic Dutch diarist and victim of the Holocaust. The award recognizes Kiran's academic and leadership skills and his determination, ideals and courage to fight for tolerance, according to the Anne Frank Center USA in New York City.



Kiran Sridhar

The center and Amsterdam-based ING Financial Services named Kiran to receive the \$5,000 scholarship award on June 15 in New York. The scholarship is one of five Spirit of Anne Frank Awards given annually "to honor Anne Frank's effort to improve the world," the center says.

Like Anne Frank, Kiran "wanted to change the world from an early age," the center says. At age 12, he founded Waste No Food, a nonprofit that connects food providers, including farms, restaurants, cafeterias and grocery stores, to charitable organizations that feed the hungry.

Kiran, after volunteering with a free-meals program, said he discovered that with all the food thrown away in the United States, the country has a food distribution problem, not a hunger problem. "Nationally we throw away 40 percent of our food," he says. "By volume, that is enough to fill the Rose Bowl every day."

Memorial set

Steve and Dorian Dunne of Portola Valley will be hosting a memorial get-together to remember Michael Dunne, 31, of San Francisco. The gathering is set for 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 19, at the Portola Valley Town Center at 765 Portola Road. A reception will follow.

John Roos Kates

Our beloved John passed away peacefully on April 25, 2015 after a 7-year struggle with Cortico Basal Degeneration. He was born on November 12, 1936 in Staten Island, N.Y. and was raised in Atherton, CA and Pacific Palisades, CA by Patricia Roos and Arthur Kates. He is survived by Gene Gaven, his wife of 41 years, his sons Timothy Roos Kates of Atherton, CA and Christopher John Kates of Edgewater, CO, his daughter Mary Kates Stahl, her husband Jean Bernard Stahl, their daughters Melodie and Chloe Stahl of Torrance, CA, his sister Deborah Kates Streiber of Pacific Palisades, CA, and 10 nieces and nephews.



He was a graduate of Harvard School in North Hollywood, CA and Stanford University where he earned AB in Medieval History and Columbia University where he earned a MBA in Business and Finance.

John worked at the Sunset News Co., his family's company in Los Angeles for 10 years and at ACTION (Peace Corps and VISTA) in Wash. D. C. for 5 years before a 30 year career at Stanford University where he was the Director of Major Gifts for the Department of Athletics. He was a former President of the Father's Club of St. Raymond's School and a former member of the Parish Council and the Men's Club of the Church of the Nativity. He served on the Board of Regents of St. Patrick's Seminary, the Development Committee of Sacred Heart Preparatory, and chaired several Capital Campaigns for the Church of Nativity. He was a member of the CAL Chancellor's Fund, the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, the Menlo Circus Club, the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and the after Stanford Associates.

A funeral was held on May 9, 2015 at the Church of the Nativity, 210 Oak Grove Avenue, Menlo Park, CA. Donations in memory of John may be made to the Church of the Nativity.

PAID OBITUARY

Thomas Nicholas Cootsona

December 12, 1923 – May 29, 2015

Thomas Nicholas Cootsona started his life in Tacoma, Washington on December 13, 1923 and was soon to survive the Great Depression, serve in World War II, and become part of the "Greatest Generation." His father, Nicholas, emigrated from Greece in 1912 (at the age of 12), and his mother, Elizabeth née Mastel, German by ethnicity, moved from Aberdeen, South Dakota to the Pacific Northwest. Together, as a Greek and a German, this duo might today represent a Eurozone conflict, but in this case, they produced a son who brought together the love of disciplined, rational German engineering with a Greek readiness to celebrate and intense love of life.

Tom attended Stadium High School in Tacoma, then served as an infantry soldier in the Second World War, seeing action in Europe and fighting in the Battle of the Bulge. He came home to Tacoma and, within four years, completed two bachelor degrees from the University of Washington (one in mechanical engineering, one in electrical engineering), and married Ruth Behrens of Puyallup, Washington. The marriage took a little courting on Tom's part, but once together, they never looked back.

After their dream four-month trip to Europe, they took to building a home together, first in the Seattle area, where their first son Marcus was born and then in Portland. Tired of the rainy Northwest, they headed down to the sunny, temperate San Francisco Bay Area in 1961, a location that was beginning the first of its economic booms. There, Tom began a 20-year career with the Syntex Corporation as project engineer. During that year, Ruth gave birth to their second son, Greg.

The Cootsona duo of Ruth and Tom bought a house in Menlo Park and enjoyed beautiful weather, raising two boys, the beauty of Northern California—especially Lake Tahoe, Carmel, and Half Moon Bay, as well as a range of outdoor activities like tennis. In 1981, it was time to make a career switch and Tom purchased Top Spin Tennis, in Menlo Park, which he and Ruth ran until 2004.

Unable to fully rid themselves of the retail impulse, Tom and Ruth worked at Marcus' store, Pro Tennis until Tom's final retirement in 2008 at age 85. Shortly thereafter, they moved to Chico to be with Greg and his family and to prepare for a time when they would need assisted living. During those years, they became involved at Bidwell Presbyterian Church, where Greg was associate pastor. In his physically declining final two years, Tom never lost an inquisitive spirit, an intensely passionate devotion to his wife, nor an expansive friendliness. Tom died peacefully with his cherished Ruthie by his side on April 29, 2015.

Dad, we will miss you—your laugh, your kindness, your incredible dedication to us as your sons, your devotion to mom, your loud and persistent applause during our magic shows or music performances, your service to our country, your practical wisdom, and your Greek spirit always ready with a towel over your shoulder and a bottle of sparkling wine—"Why wait for a holiday to have a celebration? Let's just say, 'It's a day!' and celebrate." And so, even with some tears, we celebrate you.

Tom is survived by his wife of 65 years, Ruth, and their two sons, Marcus, who lives in Menlo Park, CA, and Greg, who lives in Chico, CA.

There will be a private memorial service to remember Tom.

PAID OBITUARY

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SOLD

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SOLD

MANZANITA WAY listed at \$5,500,000



SOLD

OLIVE HILL listed at \$8,995,000



SOLD

WHISKEY HILL listed at \$6,500,000



SOLD

WINDING WAY listed at \$4,900,000



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