

Inside this issue: Summer Home & Garden Design
and guide to Connoisseurs' Marketplace street festival

The Almanac

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

JULY 8, 2015 | VOL. 50 NO. 44



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Local Rotary clubs help launch West Bank birthing center

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

The service organization Rotary International professes five core objectives, and local club members aimed to address two of them — peace and maternal/childhood health — with their financial help in launching a birthing center and a prenatal clinic in Palestine's West Bank.

After a seven-year effort, the birthing center opened in Ein Al Beida at the northern end of the West Bank on March 19, said project manager Donna Baranski-Walker of the Rotary Club of Woodside/Portola Valley. The prenatal clinic opened in the nearby village of Al Aqaba at around the same time, she said.

Ms. Baranski-Walker gave more than 60 talks at Rotary clubs in the Bay Area and in Israel and Palestine. "It was really fun to watch how forthcoming everybody was," she said. "People really wanted to find a way to make this happen."

Occasionally, she faced pointed questions. For example, she said at least one person asked her if all Palestinians were terrorists. They're not terrorists, she said she replied. "They live there. They're human beings."

"We're really proud of Rotarian Donna's perseverance to bring this simple but challenging project together," said Woodside resident Ken Broome, who was director of international service at the Woodside/Portola Valley club when the project began in 2008.

Seven Bay Area Rotary clubs participated, including the Woodside/Portola Valley and Menlo Park clubs, Ms. Baranski-Walker said. A Rotary club in Ramallah, Palestine, sponsored the project. Yusef Srouji of a Rotary district in Israel served as a mentor, an important role because he lives in Israel and was familiar with all the players, Ms. Baranski-Walker said.

Of the \$60,000 needed to equip and provide training



Photo by Susan Munroe

Donna Baranski-Walker led a seven-year effort to build a birthing center and prenatal clinic in Palestine's West Bank.

for the staff at the two facilities, \$40,000 came from Rotary clubs, the Rotary district of the Bay Area, and Rotary International, Ms. Baranski-Walker

'It was really fun to watch how forthcoming everybody was. People really wanted to find a way to make this happen.'

DONNA BARANSKI-WALKER
ROTARY CLUB OF WOODSIDE/
PORTOLA VALLEY

said. Her San Mateo-based nonprofit, Rebuilding Alliance, employed crowd-funding to raise the other \$20,000, she said.

Check points

Expectant mothers, including mothers in labor, have had to

pass through an Israeli checkpoint to get to a hospital, Ms. Baranski-Walker said.

She recalled Haj Sami, the mayor of Al Aqaba, telling of military training maneuvers going on near the checkpoint that sometimes involved live fire from Israeli tanks. Such situations can make it difficult to reach the hospital, Mr. Sami said during a visit to Bay Area Rotary clubs.

The presence of the birthing center should have the effect of reducing the number of Palestinian children being delivered by Israeli soldiers at the checkpoint, Ms. Baranski-Walker said.

There were project delays involving both the Israeli and Palestinian bureaucracies, sometimes for months, she said.

When the center is operating at full capacity, it will be open around the clock. The center is open to people of all faiths, she said. ■

Greta Elizabeth Goth

March 17, 1928 – June 29, 2015

Greta Elizabeth Goth died in her home June 29, 2015. She was the loving wife of O.A. Goth, who preceded her in death in 2006, loving mother of Ted Goth and his wife Eivor, loving grandmother of Michael Goth and his wife Kristina, and loving great-grandmother of Grant and Saxon Goth.

Greta worked with her husband in their law office in Redwood City for over 35 years. She was well known in the San Mateo legal community and taught classes in office management and was a featured lecturer at Menlo College, College of San Mateo, San Mateo County Bar Association, Barristers Club, Legal Secretaries Association, management panels and various functions related the legal field.

Her expertise focused on legal secretarial and paralegal fields, office management, administration and computerization of legal forms. Her expertise was published in the New York Law Review Journal, at a time when computerization of legal forms was practically non-existent. She has installed computer systems and programs in numerous offices, and has been a consultant to a computer firm in establishing the requirements for computerization of legal forms.

She consulted with KNWZ Radio Station in Palm Desert, helping them to become computerized and establishing a system for their in-house accounting and work processing.

In 1952, Mrs. Goth, established and managed a real estate office for approximately 10 years, and during that same time she established a law firm. Since that time she has established and managed three additional law firms. She retired in 2004.

Visitation will be Sunday, July 5, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at Crippen & Flynn Woodside Chapel, 400 Woodside Road in Redwood City. Interment will be private. The family respectfully requests memorial contributions in Greta's name to your favorite animal rescue.

PAID OBITUARY

Kenneth William Cauwet

May 26, 1945 – June 18, 2015

Kenneth William Cauwet died peacefully at his home in Redwood City on June 18. Nanci Conniff, his wife of 27 years, their son, Nathan Cauwet, sisters Connie Rice and Marianne Dugoni, and brother Stanley Cauwet survive him.

Their brother, Richard Cauwet predeceased Ken in 2009. The extended Cauwet family was a source of great joy for Ken throughout his life.

He was a wonderful father who coached baseball and basketball for his son's and his nephew's teams over the years. An excellent athlete in his own right, Ken competed in the 1986 U.S. Handball Association World Championship, finishing fourth in the world. Ken also played competitive Racquet Ball and he called himself lucky enough to claim not one, but two holes-in-one on the golf course.

Hiking, swimming and gardening were also among his favorite hobbies.

Ken was born on May 26, 1945, to Roy Cauwet and Carol Menary Cauwet, in San Francisco and was proud to be a 5th generation San Franciscan. He grew up on the Peninsula and attended both Menlo-Atherton and Woodside high schools.

Ken held a master's degree in Philosophy of Religion from San Francisco State University and he continued to stay involved with the Philosophy Departments of the Peninsula Community Colleges through their quarterly Philosophy Club Meetings. Ken will be greatly missed by many.

A Celebration of Life was held on July 10th from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Redwood City Women's Club, 149 Clinton Street in Redwood City.

In lieu of flowers please consider making a donation to Pathways Hospice Foundation, 585 No. Mary Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94085-2905.

PAID OBITUARY

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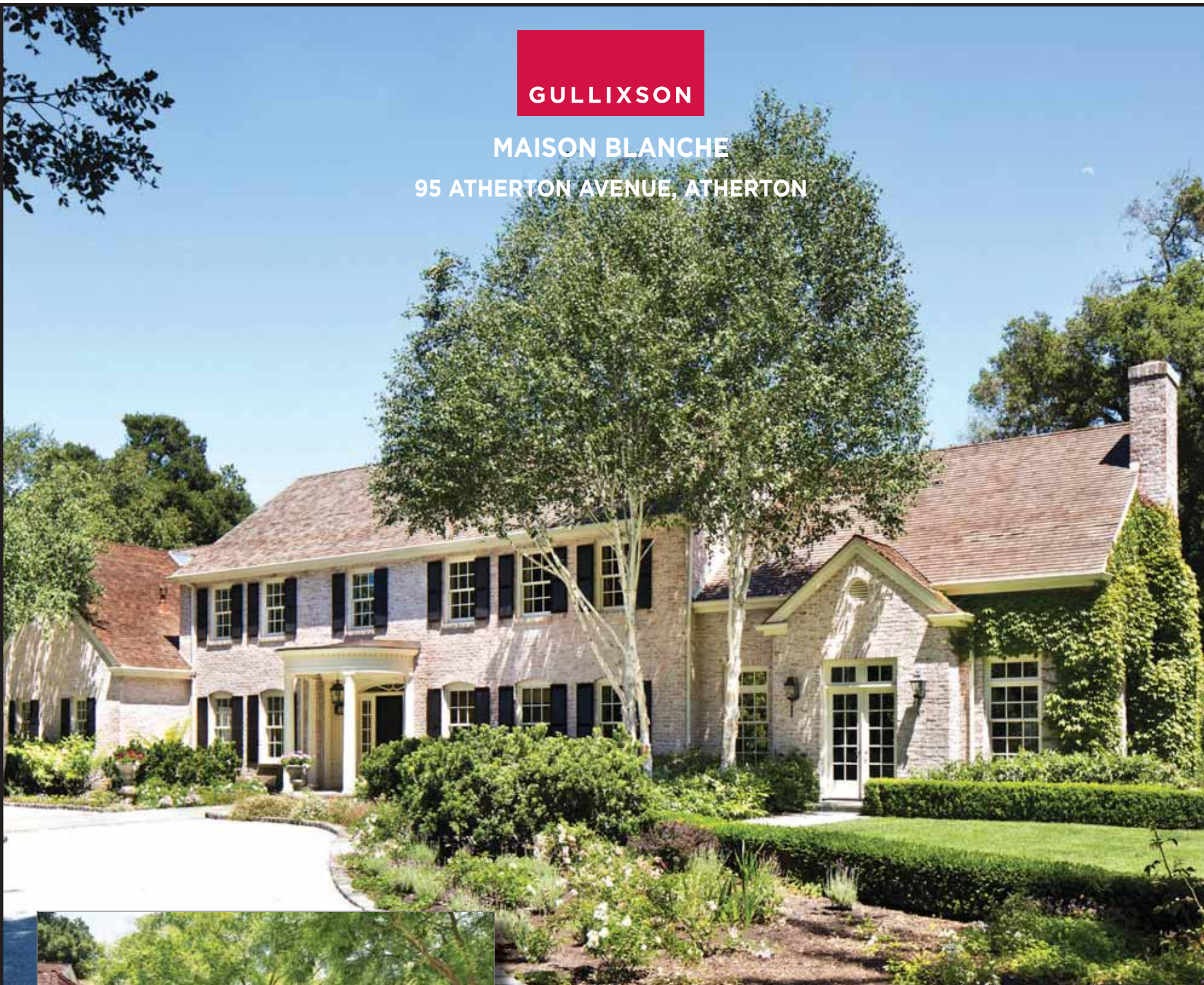
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Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Teens make a difference at Rosener House

By Cristian Ponce
Special to the Almanac

■ MENLO PARK

Rosener House in Menlo Park, has created an outlet for teenagers to help their community.

This adult day care home has given teens the opportunity to interact with adults who suffer from conditions such as Alzheimer's and dementia.

"It's really a good experience for them because they get to see older people who have some problems associated with growing older," says Barbara Kalt, director of volunteers for the Rosener House. "They find out that they're not real scary and that they're just like everybody else."

Lorenzo Sison, a student at Bellarmine College Prep, started volunteering at the Rosener House to fulfill his community service requirement but after some time realized what troubles the patients were really going through.

"One guy I was talking to said he used to work at NASA," says Lorenzo. "Now he's in a place where he can't really remember. A lot of them are in pretty tough places."

Lorenzo says he loves putting smiles on the faces of the patients, even if it is only temporary.

"I think it's super rewarding that you can be that person, at least just in that moment," he says. "It makes me feel good that I'm

impacting the people's lives there."

Ms. Kalt notes says they love all of their volunteers and mentioned that the volunteer who has kept coming back the most has been Pooja Goel, a senior at Castilleja.

"She is a remarkable young woman," Ms. Kalt says. "She tried to think of things she could do to help us fundraise. She had a bake sale at school and she

'It makes me feel good that I'm impacting the people's lives there.'

LORENZO SISON

raised money for us. It's something that most teenagers would never even think of, I'm sure."

Pooja began volunteering at Rosener House in the summer of 2011 after she finished eighth grade and her mother insisted she get out of the house to do something productive. She quickly fell in love with going there.

"I just felt really attached to the staff and how much they cared about what they did," Pooja says. "Once I started interacting more with the seniors and talking to them, it was something I never experienced before. Even though they didn't necessarily remember me, they had so much to offer. I've learned so much



Photo by Michelle Le/The Almanac

While taking lunch orders, volunteer and Woodside resident Daniel Ohara gets a compliment about his dimples from Fina, left, with Norma, right, during the Independence Day picnic at Rosener House on July 2.

from them."

She attributes her interest in volunteering at Rosener House to her grandfather, who had Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

"He passed away when I was in fourth or fifth grade," she says. "Originally I didn't want to volunteer because there were

seniors losing their memories, but once I started looking into it and saw what my grandfather had, it definitely played a part of it."

She started a club at her school this past academic year with the purpose of bringing more volunteers to the Rosener House.

Last summer, she says, she

spent nearly every day for three months at Rosener House. "I was learning so much. That's when I realized that I wanted to share this with others." ▣

Rosener House is at 500 Arbor Road in Menlo Park. Call (650) 322-0126 for more information.

Vaccinations: Law drops 'personal belief' exemption

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

A law eliminating "personal belief" exemptions from requirements for school and daycare immunizations goes into effect in July 2016, but opponents are already working to put the law on the ballot as a referendum.

On June 30, Gov. Jerry Brown signed the bill, which says that schools, both public and private, and daycare facilities will no longer be able to accept exemptions from vaccination requirements because of a parent's personal beliefs, including religious beliefs. Only medical exemptions approved by a doctor will be accepted.

"The science is clear that vaccines dramatically protect children against a number of infectious and dangerous diseases," Gov. Brown said in his signing letter. "While it's true that no medical intervention is without risk, the evidence shows that immunization powerfully benefits and protects the community."

The day after Gov. Brown signed the bill, on July 1, former state legislator and Republican candidate for governor Tim Donnelly filed the paperwork required to give voters a chance to repeal the law. If the required number of signatures are gathered, the measure could be brought to a statewide vote as

See **VACCINATIONS**, page 10

Caltrain loses bid for exemption from California environmental law

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

Caltrain must comply with the state's environmental quality act in electrifying its rail system between San Francisco and San Jose, according to a ruling July 2 by the federal Surface Transportation Board.

The ruling is a setback for Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board, which runs Caltrain. In February, the joint powers board was sued by Atherton and two other groups saying the environmental report on the electrification project had been improperly approved.

The Caltrain board responded by asking the federal transportation board to declare it is exempt

The ruling means that the Atherton lawsuit over Caltrain electrification can go ahead.

from complying with the state environmental act.

Just months earlier, in December 2014, the transportation board had declared the state's high-speed rail project is exempt from the same California environmental law because the project fell under the oversight of the federal board, mainly because that project is expected to link to the interstate rail system.

In the July 2 ruling, however, the federal board said that it does not have jurisdiction.

"Caltrain provides only commuter rail service on the line ... and operations of this sort are excluded from the Board's jurisdiction," the ruling says.

The ruling means the lawsuit can now go ahead. The lawsuit was filed in San Mateo County Superior Court in February by Atherton, the Transportation Solutions Defense and Education Fund, a transit advocacy nonprofit, and the Community Coalition on High-Speed Rail, which is headed by former Atherton Mayor Jim Janz. The lawsuit asks that work on the project be stopped and the approval of the environmental report be rescinded, until issues raised in

See **CALTRAIN**, page 10

Bike lanes raise pedestrian concerns

By Marina Temkin

Special to the Almanac

■ MENLO PARK

The recently installed temporary bike lanes on Santa Cruz Avenue have left some Menlo Park residents worried that the street is not safe for walking.

On June 8, the city extended the bicycle paths and removed street parking between Olive Street and Arbor Road in preparation for building raised sidewalks along Santa Cruz Avenue.

Since then, the City Council has received several complaints about near-collisions between pedestrians and bicyclists.

The area designated for car parking used to function as the de facto pedestrian pathway, but after the change anyone walking along that stretch of Santa Cruz Avenue is forced to share the lane with bicycles.

"It was not much of a problem in the past, but putting up bike buffers before sidewalks was a poorly thought-out decision," resident Patti Fry said. Her main concern, she said, was the safety of children walking to and from Hillview Middle School once classes resume.

Councilman Ray Mueller alerted the city staff of safety complaints on June 26.

The Almanac learned late Thursday that the city staff has decided to narrow the bike lane to 5 feet, leaving another 5 feet for people to use as a walkway. The stripe was scheduled to be painted after the Fourth of July weekend.

"This [change] improves from current conditions the safety of pedestrians and makes it more clear where cyclists and pedestrians should travel until sidewalks are finally installed," Ms. Fry said in an email after the staff announced the planned change. "I'm glad to see that the city has responded."

The City Council approved the installation of sidewalks along Santa Cruz Avenue between Olive Street and Johnson Street on March 10. But some residents are concerned about the sidewalk-building process.

A number of residents complained that the city has not

shared a plan for the construction. "I looked and was unable to find a plan that would describe when and where the sidewalk construction would begin," resident Ollie Brown, a former member of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District board, said in an email to the council.

Public Works Director Jesse Quirion told the Almanac that the project has received \$1 million in funding and the city has hired the firm BKF Engineers to design the plans for sidewalks. The construction drawings will be presented to the council later this year, he said, adding that the staff hopes the project will be completed by summer 2016.

Some residents have also been upset about the removal of parking along Santa Cruz Avenue.

"I don't understand why the city blocked off the sidewalks and parking if it will take several years to do [the sidewalks]," Mr. Brown said. "I am

concerned for my neighbors (who) live on Santa Cruz Avenue; where will their services such as gardeners park? Where will their guests park?" he wrote in his email to the council.

But Mr.

Quirion said that the city surveyed Santa Cruz Avenue residents and found that the parking was hardly used. "Seventy-five percent to 80 percent of residents surveyed said they don't want parking. They cared more for the heritage trees," Mr. Quirion said about a balancing act between making space at the edge of the street and saving the trees that grow along it.

The city also counted the number of cars parked between Olive and Arbor over a three-month period and found that the average number was four cars.

Statistics could be deceiving. "I recently posted a picture showing 8 service vehicles parked in just a half block west from my house on Santa Cruz, plus 3 more on the other side. Where will these workers park now?" a resident wrote on NextDoor, a social site for the community. ■

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Assessed property values rise 11% in Menlo Park, 7.6 % countywide

By Joshua Alvarez
Special to the Almanac

Assessed property values in San Mateo County, and especially Menlo Park, are booming.

Menlo Park has the highest percentage growth, 11.36 percent, in assessed property value in the county, according to numbers released July 2 by the office of San Mateo Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder Mark Church.

Atherton came in with the fifth highest percentage growth in the county at 8.97 percent. Portola Valley's growth was 7.23 percent and Woodside's, 6.96 percent.

Overall, San Mateo County's assessment roll grew by 7.64 percent, or \$12.6 billion, to a record high of \$177.5 billion. The numbers are derived from the assessed value of all properties as of Jan. 1, compared with the previous Jan. 1, and include changes in ownership, new construction, and declines/restorations in value.

Menlo Park nearly doubled its assessment roll's percentage growth from 2014, which was 6.22 percent. The city's total property assessment now stands at \$13.4 billion. Atherton's roll grew to \$8.8 billion, Portola Valley's to \$3 billion and Woodside's to \$5.3 billion.

"The Roll is now nearly 26% larger than it was in 2010," said Mr. Church, referring to the countywide number. "This is the fourth year in a row that a new historical high has been set, and the fifth consecutive year the Roll has moved in a positive direction, reflecting the county's thriving economy."

The increased assessment

Growth in assessed property values

City	2015 values	Increase
Atherton	\$8.8 billion	8.97%
Menlo Park	\$13.4 billion	11.36%
Portola Valley	\$3.0 billion	7.23%
Woodside	\$5.3 billion	6.96%

values are good news for agencies that rely on property tax revenue, particularly the schools.

According to the report, the shared property tax funding base is approximately 1 percent of the county's property assessment roll, and will thus increase to \$1.77 billion. Approximately 45 percent of revenue, or about \$800 million, is allocated to schools within the county, 22 percent to the county, 17 percent to cities, 9 percent to special districts, and 7 percent to former redevelopment agencies.

Drew Corbett, the city of Menlo Park's finance director, said the 11 percent growth is better than the city anticipated in drafting its budget for the fiscal year starting July 1. The city had anticipated 8 percent growth.

Booming economy

Much of the increase in property value is due to a booming real estate market and a robust economy. Countywide unemployment stands at 3.3 percent, the lowest in the California, which has driven demand for housing and commercial space, Mr. Church pointed out in his report.

"As home to industry leaders in the fastest growing sectors

of the world economy, business expansion within San Mateo County has created a tripling of new construction, high job growth and skyrocketing real estate prices, resulting in the highest roll value increase since 2008," he said.

New construction and development projects, notably Facebook's expansion of its Menlo Park campus, has further increased the value of and demand for local real estate. The company purchased 59 acres of property next to the office building in its main headquarters on Hacker Way in June 2014, purchased another 56 acres on the Prologis site on Willow Road in February, and opened its newest Frank Gehry-designed office, "MPK20," on 1 Facebook Way in April.

Furthermore, the number of properties under the Proposition 8/Decline in Value Program has substantially decreased, according to Mr. Church's report. The program provides property tax relief to property owners when the market value of a property falls below its assessed value. There were nearly 35,000 qualifying properties in 2012. Today there are fewer than 8,000.

Foreclosures are also down 40 percent, from 288 in 2013 to 174 in all of 2014, the report says. ■

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Heroin ring has ties to Menlo

Bay Area law enforcement agencies have arrested the alleged leader and three alleged co-conspirators in a heroin distribution ring based in Sonoma County but with ties to Menlo Park, a Santa Rosa police sergeant said.

Among those arrested last week and identified by police as the leader is Gage Nichol Wynne, 22, who had moved earlier this year from Guerneville to his mother's home on Marsh Road in unincorporated Menlo Park, according to Santa Rosa police Sgt. Rich Celli.

As part of the investigation, police obtained a search warrant for the Marsh Road home and found \$100,000 buried in different locations in the yard, including a stack in a chicken coop, as well as an AR-15 assault rifle and an SKS assault rifle in the garage and two handguns in a bedroom, Sgt. Celli told the Press Democrat newspaper.

Mr. Wynne's mother, Barbara Loza, was among those arrested on narcotics-related charges.

— Bay City News Service

Yee pleads guilty

Former state Sen. Leland Yee, who formerly represented Portola Valley and Woodside, pleaded guilty in federal court in San Francisco on July 1 to one count of participating in a racketeering conspiracy to solicit campaign contributions in exchange for political favors.

The racketeering charge has a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, but U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer said he will consider advisory sentencing guidelines when setting the sentence at a hearing scheduled for Oct. 21.

— Bay City News Service

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Local Realtors reign in national rankings

By My Nguyen

Six local Realtor teams and 17 individuals were among the top 250 salespeople in the country in 2014, according to rankings announced by Real Trends, a private communications company, in its annual “The Thousand” list, published in The Wall Street Journal.

DeLeon Realty of Palo Alto ranked No. 1 while Mary & Brent Gullixson of Alain Pinel Realtors, Menlo Park, and The Troyer Group of Intero Real Estate Services, Los Altos, ranked No. 12 and No. 16, respectively.

All sales numbers are for calendar year 2014.

Top teams

No. 1: The DeLeon Team, DeLeon Realty, Inc., Palo Alto, \$559 million.

No. 12: Mary & Brent Gullixson, Alain Pinel Realtors, Menlo Park, \$308 million.

No. 16: The Troyer Group, Intero Real Estate Services, Los Altos, \$258 million.

No. 101: Brad and Helen Miller, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage/NRT, Woodside, \$120 million.

No. 144: Carol Carnevale and Nicole Aron, Alain Pinel Realtors, Menlo Park, \$104 million.

No. 222: Caitlin and Gloria Darke, Alain Pinel Realtors, Menlo Park, \$84 million.

Top individuals

No. 27: Efi Luzon, Intero Real Estate Services, Los Altos, \$213 million.

No. 38: Keri Nicholas of Alain

Pinel Realtors, Menlo Park, \$181 million.

No. 40: Juliana Lee of Keller Williams Realty, Palo Alto, \$179 million.

No. 50: Tom LeMieux, Pacific Union Real Estate, Menlo Park, \$159 million.

No. 63: Kathy Bridgman, Alain Pinel Realtors, Los Altos, \$139 million.

No. 73: Judy Citron, Alain Pinel Realtors, Menlo Park, \$129 million.

No. 89: Judy Bogard-Tanigami, Alain Pinel Realtors, Los Altos, \$116 million.

No. 99: Hugh Cornish, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage/NRT, Menlo Park, \$110 million.

No. 108: Tim Kerns, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage/NRT, Menlo Park, \$107 million.

No. 123: Lan Bowling, Keller Williams Realty, Palo Alto, \$100 million.

No. 138: Ginny Kavanaugh, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage/NRT, Woodside, \$94 million.

No. 155: Zach Trailer, Alain Pinel Realtors, Menlo Park, \$89 million.

No. 176: Billy McNair, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage/NRT, Menlo Park, \$84 million.

No. 177: Scott Dancer, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage/NRT, Woodside, \$84 million.

No. 179: Kristin Cashin, Pacific Union Real Estate, Menlo Park, \$83 million.

No. 193: Ed Graziani, Sereno Group, Los Altos, \$79 million.

No. 204: Erika Demma, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage/NRT, Woodside, \$76 million. ■

Police give safety tips after attack on runner

Atherton police are offering tips for runners and walkers after a 17-year-old Atherton girl out on a noon-time run was grabbed by a man who tried to rob her.

The girl was able to break away from her attacker in the June 21 incident and run home, but police have not found a suspect.

The man was described as a short and stocky Hispanic, 30 to 40 years old, with brown eyes, no facial hair and bald, and wearing dark pants. He was driving a copper-colored or red-brown small truck.

Those with information are asked to call the Atherton Police Department at (650) 688-6500.

Sgt. Anthony Koeckler offered this advice:

■ Use only one earphone or, if you use both, keep the music low

■ ATHERTON

enough to hear what is going on around you. Carry a cellphone and identification.

■ Be aware of surroundings and know where you are. Run or walk in populated or well-traveled locations. If possible, don't walk or run alone.

■ Avoid walking or running in the dark. Wear highly visible and reflective clothing, especially in early morning or late evening. Run or walk facing on-coming traffic.

■ Let someone know where you are going, and how long you will be gone.

■ Consider carrying a “personal alarm” which emits a loud noise if activated.



Photo courtesy of Kaiser Permanente Redwood City

One-and-a-half year old Gwendolyn Dalkert of Half Moon Bay reacts as she receives a measles-mumps-rubella vaccination at Kaiser Permanente Redwood City Medical Center in February 2015. Her dad, Stephen, holds Gwendolyn as nurse Melita Himan administers the vaccine.

Vaccinations: Law drops ‘personal belief’ exemption

continued from page 5

a referendum. Mr. Donnelly resides in Southern California.

Other opponents of the law have vowed to file lawsuits against it once it goes into effect, saying it would deprive children of the constitutional right to a free and public education.

The existing law, which will remain in effect until July 2016, allows parents to be exempted from the vaccination requirements for three reasons: because of personal beliefs, after meeting with a medical professional who has explained the dangers of non-vaccination; because they state they have a religious

objection; and because a doctor says their child has medical reasons not to be vaccinated.

Under the new law, children can be exempted from the vaccination requirements only for medical reasons, which may include a family's or child's medical history that indicate against immunizations. Public or private schools and daycare facilities will not be allowed to admit any other non-vaccinated child. Children being home schooled are not affected.

The new law contains a grandfathering clause for children who had a personal belief or religious exemption in effect before January 1, 2016. Those

children will be allowed to continue to attend school or daycare without the required vaccinations until they reach the next “grade span.”

Grade spans are defined in the bill as birth to preschool, transitional kindergarten through grade 6, and grades 7 to 12. That means a first grader in the fall of 2016 who had a personal belief exemption in kindergarten could attend school through sixth grade without vaccinations; but would not be admitted to seventh grade without the required shots.

Senate Bill 277 passed the state Senate in May on a 25-10 vote and the state Assembly on June 25 by a vote of 46 to 30. The Senate approved Assembly amendments on June 29. ■

‘Bike 4 Breath’ ride stages at M-A High

By Cristian Ponce

Special to the Almanac

Local nonprofit Breathe California is hosting the 24th annual Bike 4 Breath charity ride on Saturday, July 11, from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The ride starts and stops at Menlo-Atherton High School.

The event is designed to promote lung health, fight lung

disease and support clean air policies in the Bay Area, said Alexandra Elliott, Breathe California events manager.

Cyclists who participate in the event raise funds for lung disease research, asthma education and clean air advocacy, she said.

The event has three route options: a 10-mile family-friendly route, a 30-mile intermediate route, and a 64-mile advanced route.

There will be free bike inspections, rest stops with food and drinks, and other support along the routes. Back at M-A, there will be a kids' zone, music, food, prizes, a health expo and massages.

Bike 4 Breath aims to raise \$150,000 with the ride, which still needs more volunteers.

Go to bike4breath.org or call 1-877-3-BREATHE for more information. ■

CALTRAIN

continued from page 5

the lawsuit are addressed.

In February, Stuart Flashman, the attorney filing the suit, said the lawsuit is an attempt to force the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board to acknowledge the impacts the project will have on the Peninsula.

Atherton filed the lawsuit after its request to extend the period when the environmental

report could be challenged was turned down by the Caltrain, which said “that time will not materially change the responses” to the town's concerns.

The lawsuit claims the environmental report is flawed in several ways, including its failure to address the cumulative impact of high-speed rail and electrification. The lawsuit says the projects must be considered together because approximately

\$600 million of the projected \$1.5 billion cost of the electrification project is supposed to come from funding approved for high-speed rail by the voters in 2008.

Caltrain spokeswoman Jayme Ackemann said at the time that Caltrain is “disappointed to see that rather than working with Caltrain collaboratively the town of Atherton has chosen this expensive path.” ■

Local schools test for concussions

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

When school resumes at Woodside High, students planning to play tennis or golf don't face the same preparation for play as students interested in contact sports such as football or soccer or lacrosse.

In a program begun a year ago, Woodside students signing up — for the first time — for contact sports will undergo neurological tests to measure their reaction time and visual and verbal perception, said Athletic Director Chuck Velschow.

With that data as a baseline, after a collision or fall on the field, medics and trainers on the scene can retest athletes and determine whether they have experienced a concussion. The data is considered good for two years, so students get new baselines every other year, Mr. Velschow said.

Testing of Menlo-Atherton football players began in the spring, and will begin for all contact-sport athletes in the 2015-16 school year, Co-Athletic Director Steven Kryger said. And testing is ongoing at area private high schools, athletic directors said.

Still, the topic has currency. The San Mateo County civil grand jury in a June 29 report examined head trauma among high school athletes in the county and what might be done to prevent it. For its report, the grand jury consulted online sources and interviewed officials from the Peninsula Athletic League and county high school districts.

In general, the report commended the Peninsula league and the large high school districts in

caring for concussed students before they return to play.

Experts say that repeated concussions and playing before a concussion has healed are particularly hazardous to brain health. A rest of at least seven days, including periods of no driving, light exercise and not attending school, are among the requirements set by the California Interscholastic Federation, which sets Peninsula league standards.

The grand jury concluded, that given neurological testing's modest cost, it should be done countywide, and that the Peninsula league should establish a head-injury database. And every school should have certified trainers on staff.

Certified trainers are at Woodside and M-A, as well as the Woodside Priory in Portola Valley, and Menlo School and Sacred Heart Prep in Atherton, according to the schools' athletic directors.

70 mph

Concussion statistics are sobering. According to the Sports Concussion Institute in Los Angeles, football players face a 75 percent chance of a concussion and soccer players 50 percent. At a professional level, a kicked soccer ball can deliver an impact equivalent to 70 mph to a player heading the ball.

Forty-seven percent of athletes do not report feeling symptoms after a concussive blow, and "some studies" suggest that women are twice as vulnerable as men, the institute says.

Mr. Velschow of Woodside High complimented the grand jury, calling its report thorough and accurate. In the coming

year, Woodside's focus will be educating parents on concussion recovery, he said.

Woodside's trainer, who is instrumental in determining an athlete's return to play, has frustrated coaches at times, Mr. Velschow said, but has done "an excellent job of diagnosing concussions and working with athletes on their recovery."

M-A coaches have not pushed back over trainer's decisions, Mr. Kryger said. M-A will be adding testing for volleyball athletes in the fall and other contact sports as their seasons come along, he said.

M-A has a relationship with Stanford University to have athletes tested within 24 hours of a potential concussion to determine whether further steps are needed, Mr. Kryger said.

Woodside Priory tests all students, including middle school, for all sports, Athletic Director Mark Stogner said.

Sacred Heart Prep follows national and state protocols, and coordinates with school nurses and counselors on athletes returning to play, spokeswoman Diana Chamorro said.

Menlo School is "in the forefront" of treating head injuries, trainer Head Athletic Trainer Jon Cohen said. Kris Weems, the athletic director, said, "We couldn't be more pleased that the issues surrounding concussions in youth sports are part of the national and local discussions."

Menlo School is hosting a conference on concussions on Tuesday, Aug. 18. Go to tinyurl.com/ksh21 for more information. ■

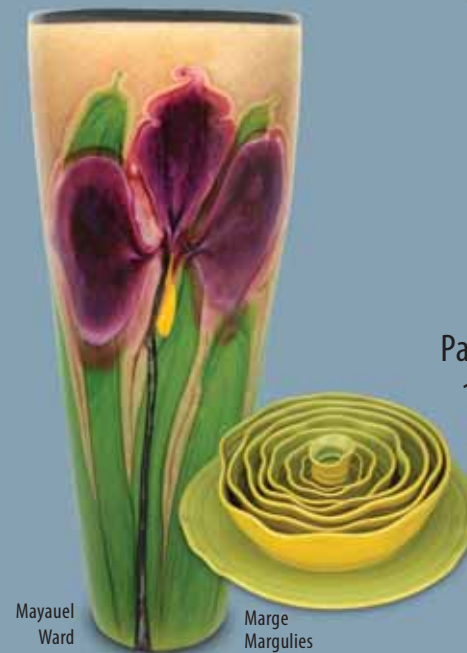
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Town of Woodside Notice of Availability/ Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration Public Review Period: July 8, 2015 through July 28, 2015 (20 days)

Project Title: 1369 Cañada Road/
168 Bardet Road - Lot Line
Adjustment

Project Numbers: CEQA2015-0001,
LLAJ2015-0001

Project Description: The project includes a Lot Line Adjustment (LLAJ) to make changes to the lot lines of two existing legal lots of record (Lot 1: 073-101-010, and Lot 2: 073-050-150). The properties total 207,652 square feet (4.767 acres). Under the current two-lot configuration, each lot could be developed with one single-family residence and associated accessory structures, outbuildings, and utilities. No development is proposed at this time. Maps of the existing and proposed conditions are included as Attachment 1 to the Initial Study. Lot Line Adjustment documentation is included as Attachment 2 to the Initial Study. As a result of the project, the number of lots and the maximum number of single-family residential units, would remain at two.

POLICE CALLS

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

LADERA

Residential burglary: A burglar entered a home under construction on Gabarda Way using an unlocked side window and stole tools from locked storage containers. Estimated losses: \$2,900. June 24.

PORTOLA VALLEY

Controlled substances: A deputy stopped a vehicle in the vicinity of Alamos Road and Westridge Drive, smelled marijuana coming from inside the vehicle and obtained from the driver confirmation that there was marijuana inside. After citing the driver for vehicle code violations and "possession of marijuana while driving," the deputy spotted a clear capsule allegedly containing methamphetamine located under the marijuana. June 30.

WOODSIDE

Thefts:

■ Several items were stolen from an unlocked vehicle parked on Glenwood Avenue. Estimated losses: \$250. June 29.

■ Someone opened an unlocked vehicle on parked on Glenwood Avenue and used a remote control to open the garage door. The garage had not been ransacked, and it's unclear whether anything was taken. June 29.

Traffic accident: A man driving north on Alameda de las Pulgas attempted a left turn at Greenways Drive, but at a speed that was too fast to make the turn. His vehicle crashed into a brick wall. There were no injuries. June 27.

WEST MENLO PARK

Residential burglary: A glass panel was found broken on the back door of a house on Orange Avenue, but there was no evidence of anything having been taken. No estimate on losses. June 29.

NORTH FAIR OAKS

Theft: Someone entered an unlocked vehicle parked on 8th Avenue and stole

10 model cars and an iPod Touch. Estimated losses: \$1,120. June 21.

MENLO PARK

Residential burglaries:

■ A burglar entered a home on Continental Drive through an open rear window and stole two laptop computers and a Rolex watch. No estimate on losses. July 1.

■ A vacant home under construction on Trinity Drive was found with three locked doors pried open, but no evidence of anything having been taken. July 2.

Auto burglaries:

■ Someone broke a window on a vehicle parked in the 2800 block of Sand Hill Road and stole a backpack, laptop computer, U.S. passport and paperwork. Estimated loss: \$1,070. June 29.

■ A laptop computer bag, wallet and cellphone were stolen from a vehicle parked on Constitution Drive and found with a smashed window. Estimated loss: \$600. June 29.

■ Using unknown means to enter a vehicle parked on Burgess Drive, someone stole CDs, a GPS mount, a backpack, a headlamp and documents. Estimated loss: \$206. June 26.

■ Someone damaged the keypad on the driver's side door of a vehicle parked on Campbell Avenue, but there was no evidence that the vehicle was entered or that anything had been taken. June 26.

Thefts:

■ A locked bike was stolen from in front of the public library on Alma Street. Estimated loss: \$300. June 29.

■ A cardigan sweater was stolen from an unlocked vehicle parked on Greenwood Way. Estimated loss: \$100. July 1.

■ Someone stole a cellphone from the front counter of home furnishings store Yves Delorme on Santa Cruz Avenue. July 2.

■ Two men were seen stealing a case of Coors Light beer from the Safeway supermarket at 525 El Camino Real. No estimate on losses. June 28.

■ Someone stole a wallet from an unattended purse at the Burgess Park complex. No estimate on losses. July 1.

Stolen vehicle: A white 2002 Ford Mustang from Haven Avenue. June 28.

Candidate filing period opens

Twenty-four seats are up for election.

By Dave Boyce

Almanac Staff Writer

The candidate filing period for the Nov. 3 election opens Monday, July 13, and closes Aug. 7. In Almanac towns, a total of 24 seats on town councils, school boards and special district boards are up for election.

They include seats on town councils and elementary school boards in Woodside and Portola Valley, the boards of the high school and community college districts, the boards of the two fire protection districts, and the West Bay Sanitary District board.

Candidate seminars will be held Wednesday, July 8, and Thursday, July 16, at the Elections Office at 40 Tower Road in San Mateo. A seminar on voter data available to candidates is set for Thursday, July 23.

Go to tinyurl.com/rte332 to register and for more information on this election.

All-mail election?

In a pilot project under state law, two counties in California — San Mateo and Yolo — have been authorized to conduct this election by mail-in ballots only. To do so, all jurisdictions in the county that are scheduled to hold an election must

agree to the all-mail system.

Of the 40 jurisdictions scheduled to hold an election in San Mateo

County this fall, eight have not submitted resolutions agreeing to an all-mail election. They must do so by Friday, Aug. 7, or the all-mail system is off.

Locally, of the 10 jurisdictions scheduled to hold an election this fall, only the board of the West Bay Sanitary District has yet to pass a resolution.

Proponents of all-mail elections point to the benefits of lower cost and possibly higher voter turnout. In the June primary, 78 percent of the ballots cast in San Mateo County were mail-in ballots.

In an "all-mail" election, each city and town would have at least one physical location where voters can drop off completed mail-in ballots. On Election Day, each city and town would have one polling place for traditional in-person private voting, and it would be accessible to people with disabilities, according to the county Elections Office.

Open seats

These are the open seats in the Almanac area:

- Portola Valley Town Council, two seats, currently held by Jeff Aalfs and Ann Wengert.



Will this be an election by mail-in ballots only?

- Woodside Town Council, four seats, now held by Dave Burow (District 5), Peter Mason (District 7), Ron Romines (District 1), and Tom Shanahan (District 3).

- Woodside Elementary School District, two board seats, now held by Silvia Edwards and Kevin Johnson.

- Portola Valley Elementary School District, two board seats, now held by Jocelyn Swisher and Linda Wong.

- Woodside Fire Protection District, two board seats, now held by Pat Cain and John Gardner.

- Menlo Park Fire Protection District, two board seats, now held by Virginia Chang Kiraly and Rob Silano.

- West Bay Sanitary District, three board seats, now held by Fran Dehn, Ronald Shepherd and David Walker.

- Ladera Recreation District, one board seat, currently held by Karen Fryling.

- Sequoia Union High School District, three board seats, now held by Carrie Du Bois, Laura Martinez and Allen Weiner.

- San Mateo County Community College District, three seats, now held by Dave Mandelkern, Patricia Miljanich and Karen Schwarz. ■

PUBLIC NOTICE

WOODSIDE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that the preliminary budget of Woodside Fire Protection District, for the FY 2015-2016 has been adopted by the Directors of said District, and is available at the Fire Department, 3111 Woodside Road in Woodside for inspection during the week commencing Tuesday, June 30, 2015. That on Monday, August 31, 2015 at 7 o'clock p.m. of said day at the Woodside Fire Station in Woodside, the Board of Directors will meet for the purpose of finalizing the final budget, and any person may appear and be heard regarding the increase, decrease, or omission of any item of the budget, or for the inclusion of any addition items.

Woodside Fire Protection District

by Fire Chief Daniel J. Ghiorso

Cheryl Burke won't co-host pageant

Cheryl Burke, a 2002 graduate of Menlo-Atherton High School and a well-known professional dancer on the TV show "Dancing with the Stars," was to co-host the Miss USA pageant on July 19, but no longer.

"In light of the recent statements made by Donald Trump and the subsequent decision by NBC to cut ties with Mr. Trump, I cannot in good conscience move forward with participating in this year's Miss USA Pageant," Ms. Burke posted on her Facebook page on June 30.

She was referring to remarks by the business mogul in announcing his run for president, which included allegations about the criminal character of immigrants crossing the border from Mexico. The

BRIEFS

immigrants, Mr. Trump said, were "bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people."

Mr. Trump is a co-owner of the pageant. Joining Ms. Burke in separating herself from the pageant is her co-host, MSNBC anchor Thomas Roberts.

Ms. Burke was raised in Atherton and also graduated from La Entrada Middle School and Las Lomitas Elementary School.

Man faces prison time

A San Francisco man pleaded no contest June 22 to felony resisting arrest and injuring a Menlo Park officer after a

struggle with police in March.

Tuga Leuea, 43, entered the no contest plea and admitted to a prior robbery conviction in return for an agreed-upon maximum sentence of four years in state prison, prosecutors said.

Mr. Leuea was arrested on March 12 after he allegedly stole \$15 worth of alcohol from a Safeway store on El Camino Real in Menlo Park.

When police officers attempted to stop him from leaving the area, Mr. Leuea refused. During the ensuing struggle he fell on one officer's arm, breaking it in two places.

Mr. Leuea remains in custody in lieu of \$175,000 bail and is scheduled to return to court on Aug. 26 for sentencing.

— Bay City News Service

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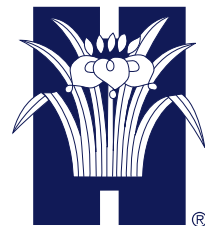
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WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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223-6528.

Racism and the importance of teachers

By Sabrina Pospisil

As I tried to think about the egregious murder of nine people in a historic African-American church in Charleston, South Carolina, I began thinking about my memories of racism and the positive role teachers played here in Northern California, where I grew up.

One day of my first week of junior high in 1958, our social studies teacher, Mr. Bergstrom, began class with a survey about things we had seen on TV. The evening news in those days was all about fire hoses and police with dogs going after “colored” people. I was scared as I remembered watching crowds of jeering, menacing white people follow “colored” students walking to school. There were ugly signs saying “n***** go home.” There were soldiers with helmets and guns — it seemed that the whole world was going crazy.

So Mr. Bergstrom asked us to stand if we thought it was wrong for “colored” students to force their way into the school where the white students, parents, and police officers did not want them to enter. I quickly stood up. Looked around. I was standing alone, exposed. I was thunderstruck. Confused, I sat down.

He then asked all those in the class to stand if they thought it was right for the “colored” students to force admission into the all-white high school. I watched the entire class stand up around me while I felt small, overcome, guilty — but guilty of what? Daddy even called them awful things, using racial slurs. When we moved from the Cypress Street Housing Proj-

ects in Oakland to our own GI Bill house in San Leandro, I remembered my parents talking about the real estate agents in that town having a promise to never sell to “coloreds.”

If ever there was a teachable moment, this was it. I was a good girl, a popular girl, and wanted to do the right things. That same day I had been elected my homeroom representative to the Student Council, not really knowing what it was, but it seemed important. How could I be the important representative, but yet stand alone when Mr. Bergstrom asked this question — a question that had something to do with my parents’ anger and the frightful things on the evening news? I really listened to what Mr. Bergstrom and my classmates had to say — a new kind of listening to take in ideas so opposite to my parents’ feelings.

I have since thought about one of my memories, at the age of 4, of sharing my “All-Day-Sucker” with my friend at the housing project playground in Oakland. My mother yanked the sucker out of my friend’s mouth and yelled at me, “What are you doing letting that colored girl lick your sucker?” I stood blank. Eyes open. What had I done wrong? My poor friend! I liked her. We played together. When I was 12 and stood alone that first week at school, I showed the world that I had learned what I lived and heard at home.

Fortunately, I continued to learn and to think. I don’t remember what happened in class that day after the survey, but I do remember how much I liked Mr. Bergstrom. He and many of my teachers were thoughtful, humanitarian, and progressive, and penetrated my mind and soul. I learned that I could stand up

and state an unpopular opinion yet still be part of the class, treated well, and with a chance to take in other points of view.

Class discussions helped me come to understand why all my classmates stood together. President Eisenhower, after the Supreme Court ruled “separate but equal” unconstitutional, sent in federal troops to protect the first nine African-American students so they could enter Little Rock High School and begin the integration of schools in this country. I learned that the 14th Amendment of the Constitution gives protection for everyone. My values were emerging as our country was evolving.

And the learning continued in college under the tutelage of Christian pastors who taught me more about civil rights and civil disobedience. We carried signs singing “We Shall Overcome,” and in 1967 marched against the Pentagon protesting the Vietnam War. That same year I applied for the Peace Corps and then worked in a remote village in Kenya, East Africa. I hardly ever saw a white person.

Twenty-one is the age for action. Last month a 21-year-old white civilian murdered nine African-Americans in the historic Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina. I was a 21-year-old when I joined the Peace Corps. My teachers and President Kennedy inspired me. Dylann Roof sported the Rhodesian, South African, and Confederate flags; apparently apartheid and slavery inspired him.

We could use more Mr. Bergstroms. Dylann Roof is an angry male loner. When was his teachable moment? Who was there to teach him?

Bonnie “Sabrina” Pospisil is a psychoanalyst and a 36-year resident of Woodside.



LETTERS

Our readers write

Jet noise in Menlo Park skies on the rise

Editor:

I live in Menlo Park, one block

north of Willow Road, which is close to Palo Alto.

Since June, I have noticed an increase of noise from overflying large aircraft bound for San Francisco airport. At some times, plane after plane thunders overhead, with no respite, or only a minute between flights.

We have dealt with this problem in the past (UPROAR, 1998), and now it seems to be worsening again.

If you are concerned about noise pollution from aircraft in your area, I think we all need to urge SFO, the FAA, and the airlines to plan and use routes

that fly high *over the Bay*, otherwise we may be in a position of shuffling the noise from one community to another.

Anne K. Kanerva
Santa Margarita Avenue,
Menlo Park



Woodside History Committee

Looking back

This 1956 photo shows Woodside’s first Town Council. From left: Selah Chamberlain Jr., Ben Eastman, Rose O’Neill, acting town clerk Jane Hicks, mayor William Lowe, Donald Graham, and Richard Marshall. The photo and information are found in the Woodside history book compiled by Thalia Lubin and Bob Dougherty, with the Woodside History Committee.

Does Woodside need yet another planner?

By Tim Johnson

My wife and I moved to Woodside nine years ago when I retired as a land-use lawyer. I soon found myself in Woodside Town Hall and could not help but notice the number of business cards for the town's planning and building staff. The large staff for such a small town was, well, remarkable.

Fast forward to June 23, 2015, when Woodside's Town Council adopted a 2015-16 budget that authorizes the addition of yet another planner to the town staff. (As it turns out, the additional planner had already been hired, but that's for another day.)

Having once served as foreperson of the San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury, I knew how to navigate government budgets. So, I decided to compare Woodside's planning and building department staffing with that of Atherton, Hillsborough, Los Altos Hills, and Portola Valley (the "comparison towns"). All of these towns have small populations, with

high property valuations. Woodside, Los Altos Hills, and Portola Valley are rural in character. Atherton and Hillsborough are not.

The comparison demonstrates that Woodside already has too many staff members performing its planning and building functions even before the addition of the new planner. Hiring another planner only exacerbates the problem.

Brevity is required here, so I averaged the figures for the comparison towns to see how Woodside stacked up against them. (For the data, go to tinyurl.com/p4avvur.) Some results follow:

- Woodside's median home price is \$3.94 million. The median home price for the comparison towns is \$3.89 million.

- Woodside spends 30 percent of its general fund on these departments. The comparison towns spend only 12 percent.

- Woodside has 2.2 department employees per 1,000 residents. The comparison towns have only 1.

- On average, each Woodside staff

member this fiscal year has processed 73 permits. Each staff member for the comparison towns has processed 141 permits.

- On average, each Woodside staff member this fiscal year has processed permits for construction valued at \$3.2 million. For the comparison towns, the construction value is \$12.8 million.

Why does Woodside compare so unfavorably with the comparison towns? Perhaps it's because Woodside's staff expends too much effort on small matters. This is one example:

A neighbor of mine wants to replace an existing carport with a two-car garage of approximately 740 square feet. He filed a "conceptual design plan" with Woodside in November 2013. The town's Architectural and Site Review Board approved the conceptual plan in January 2014 and gave final approval in July 2014. There was no substantive change to the plan

between the two meetings.

He applied for a building permit in September 2014 but, 19 months after initiating the process, he still does not have a building permit. What he does have is \$40,000 in "soft costs" — architect, geologist, engineer, arborist, etc. — for a project with an estimated construction cost of only \$57,000. Along the way there have been innumerable meetings with staff and voluminous staff reports, all of which consumed staff time.

So, excessive time spent on small matters may be one reason Woodside's planning and building staffing is so large. Whatever the cause, however, the Woodside Town Council should address the obvious staffing disparity with the comparison towns and act to reduce it.

Woodside resident Tim Johnson lives on Espinosa Road.



'Excessive time spent on small matters may be one reason Woodside's planning and building staffing is so large.'

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