



**The Dutch Goose reopens
with improved access** | Page 3

The Almanac

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

AUGUST 19, 2015 | VOL. 50 NO. 50



WWW.THEALMANACONLINE.COM

*Jane Knoerle
is moving,
but not
retiring*

40-year
Almanac
veteran
relocating
to Southern
California

PAGE 5



FIND YOUR PLACE



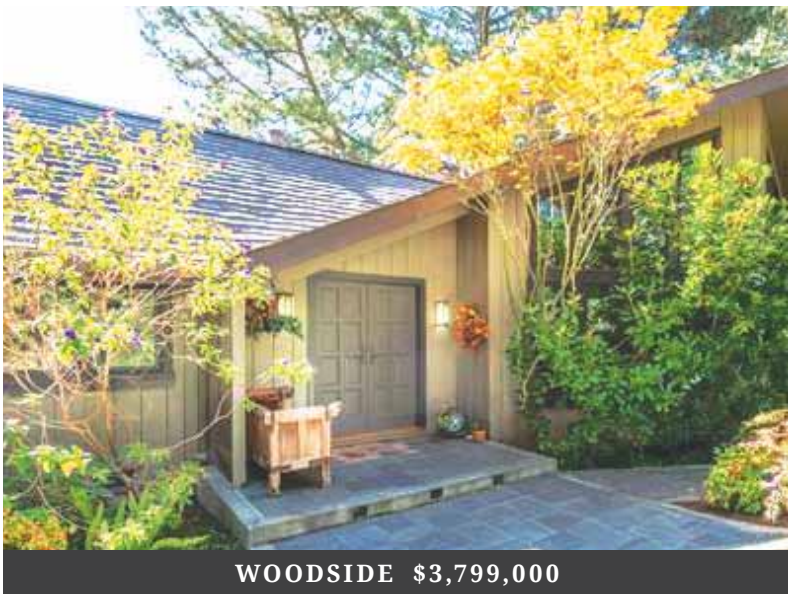
WOODSIDE \$8,495,000

3 Vineyard Hill Road | 4bd/5.5ba
Mary & Brent Gullixson | 650.462.1111



PALO ALTO \$5,495,000

1400 Cowper Street | 4bd/3.5ba
C.Carnevale/N.Aron | 650.462.1111



WOODSIDE \$3,799,000

65 Roan Place | 4bd/3ba
Stephanie Nash | 650.529.1111



PESCADERO \$1,325,000

3980 Pescadero Creek Road | 3bd/2.5ba
K.Bird/S.Hayes | 650.529.1111



Magali Gauthier/Special to the Almanac

Greg Stern helps out in the kitchen at his newly renovated restaurant, the Dutch Goose in Menlo Park.

Burgers and brews among friends at the Dutch Goose

By **Gideon Rubin**
Special to the Almanac

Scott Davis pored over a newspaper nursing a golden ale as a bright afternoon sun peeked into the patio of one of the Midpeninsula's most iconic watering holes. The 49-year-old insurance broker, a Menlo Park resident, has been a Dutch Goose regular for some 30 years.

He's among a multitude of local residents cheering its reopening after an Americans with Disabilities Act lawsuit shuttered the beer and burger joint earlier this year for about a month.

"It's a landmark," Mr. Davis says. "It's a good place for locals to come and families to bring their kids and relax and have a cold beer."

Families have frequented the Dutch Goose since Lyndon Johnson was president. The popular eatery, on Alameda de las Pulgas in West Menlo Park, opened its doors in 1966. It was named after the Kansas City bar where original owner Pete Eccles knocked down his first beer. The bartender was named Dutch.

The juicy burgers, ample beer selection and unpretentious vibe have drawn customers from diverse ethnicities and economic backgrounds. The Dutch Goose was among a handful of Menlo Park establishments that became popular Stanford hangouts during the 1960s, when bars were banned within a 3-mile radius of the university.

The Oasis in Menlo Park and the Alpine Inn Beer Garden (called Rossatti's at the time) in Portola Valley were among the others.

"Those were the places people frequented back then because it was the first place you could get a beer," Dutch Goose owner Greg Stern says. "Over time, that's changed, unfortunately."

The most recent changes at the Dutch Goose followed a 2013 lawsuit filed by Gerardo Hernandez, a paraplegic who alleged multiple ADA violations at the restaurant. Mr. Hernandez has filed at least a half-dozen similar lawsuits over the past three years, according to court records.

"The biggest misconception is that we weren't for the ADA," Mr. Stern says. "Gosh, the more

customers we can get in here the better, but the lawsuit forced us to do it overnight and that's just tough. "You just have to shut down."

Mr. Stern had to shut down the Dutch Goose in late April for about a month at the cost of "north of \$2 million," he says. He reopened the restaurant after completing renovations that made the it ADA-compliant.

The renovations included adding accessible bathrooms, a wheelchair elevator, lowering a section of the outdoor bar counter to 3 feet tall to accommodate wheelchairs, and moving the parking lot from the front to the rear. The plaintiff had alleged that it was unsafe to back out onto Alameda de las Pulgas.

Mr. Stern also had to add a second story to replace office space, dry storage and refrigeration that he'd previously stored on a patch of the ground floor that is now an accessible carport.

The new accessible bathrooms stretched into valuable indoor space, which meant something had to give. So Mr. Stern ditched an indoor bar counter to keep a pool table that he believes is integral to the Dutch Goose's character.

By the time the renovations were complete, the Dutch Goose

See **DUTCH GOOSE**, page 12

Programs

2 Year-Olds, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
3 Year-Olds, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Pre-K, 4–5 Year Olds, 9:00 – 1:00 pm

Flexible Schedules Available
.....
Before and After School Care Available
.....
Potty Training not Required

Bethany Lutheran Church
1095 Cloud Avenue, Menlo Park | www.LittlestAngelsPreschool.com
Lic. #414000219



NOTICE OF OPTIONS REGARDING THE NOVEMBER 3, 2015 ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that because the number of persons running for Town Council does not exceed the number of offices to be filled at the general election scheduled for November 3, 2015, and there is no other matter on the ballot, the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley pursuant to California Elections Code § 10229 has the option at a regular or special meeting before the election to adopt one of the following courses of action: (1) appoint to the office the person who has been nominated; (2) appoint to the office any eligible elector if no one has been nominated; or (3) hold the election.

The Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley will consider these courses of action during the regularly scheduled August 26, 2015 Town Council meeting and will either make the appointment(s) or direct the election to be held. If appointed, the person(s) appointed shall qualify and take office and serve exactly as if elected at a municipal election.

Dated: August 13, 2015

Sharon Hanlon
Portola Valley Town Clerk



UNLEASHED ART GALLERY

2744 Broadway St.
Redwood City, CA 94062

650.248.2969 | unleashedartgallery.com

CALLING ON THE ALMANAC

Newsroom: **223-6525**
Newsroom fax: **223-7525**
Advertising: **854-2626**
Advertising fax: **223-7570**
Classified ads: **854-0858**

■ E-mail news, information, obituaries and photos (with captions) to: editor@AlmanacNews.com
■ E-mail letters to the editor to: letters@AlmanacNews.com

To request free delivery, or stop delivery, of The Almanac in zip code 94025, 94027, 94028 and the Woodside portion of 94062, call **854-2626**.

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

We offer care that matches your needs

24/7
We can help!



Safe, reliable and affordable

- Our caregivers not only meet Care Indeed's standards, they meet your standards. If there's ever an issue, you can notify us immediately and we'll do something about it right away.
- Call us. We can send a caregiver within hours of your call.
- We price-match! No contract or deposit is required. We'll even reward you with a \$150 gift certificate after one week of service.

Care Indeed™
YOUR 24/7 HOME CARE SPECIALIST
(650) 328-1001

Your choice matters.
Choose the best care for less!

890 Santa Cruz Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025 • www.careindeed.com



End Of The Summer Sale 20%-70% OFF

AUGUST 24 - AUGUST 28

The Picket Fence HOME DECOR

883 Santa Cruz Ave. Suite #4 Menlo Park
Draeger's Shopping Center | 650.391.9458 | www.thepicketfence.com

Stanford | Continuing Studies

FALL 2015



Liberal Arts & Sciences

Featured Fall Courses:

1945: The Making of the Postwar World • Early 20th-Century Abstract Painting
The Bible Uncensored • Short Story Masterpieces (with KQED's Michael Krasny)
Inspiration: The History and Theory of Design • Revolution: The Songwriting of The Beatles
The Science of Understanding the Deep Human Past • Funny Movies: A History in Ten Films

Stanford Continuing Studies offers a broad range of on-campus and online courses in liberal arts & sciences, creative writing, and professional & personal development. Courses are taught by notable Stanford faculty, experienced professionals, and leaders in their fields. All adults are welcome to attend.

Fall registration is now open and most classes begin the week of September 21.

Learn more and register: continuingstudies.stanford.edu

PALO ALTO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



PRESENTED BY THE
PALO ALTO MEDICAL FOUNDATION

August 22 & 23, 2015

University Avenue • 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.



- ⊙ 300 Quality Artisans
- ⊙ Italian Street Painting
- ⊙ Kids' Art Studio
- ⊙ Entertainment
- ⊙ Gourmet Food, Wine & Microbrews
- ⊙ Free Admission

KRON 4

Weekly

Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce

Sutter Health Palo Alto Medical Foundation

McGraw-Hill

EBAY

The Mercury News

Information: 650-324-3121 • www.mlproductions.com • TravelInfo: 511.org

Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

Jane Knoerle is moving — but not retiring

40-year Almanac veteran relocating to Southern California

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

Most Almanac readers can't remember a time when Jane Knoerle didn't work for the paper. That's probably because Ms. Knoerle has been an Almanac lifestyle editor or writer for more than 40 years.

Later this month, however, she is moving to Carlsbad in San Diego County. Although she will turn 91 on Sept. 7, Ms. Knoerle says she's not retiring, but will continue to work for the Almanac from her new home.

She is moving close to one of her four children, daughter Nancy Peterson, and giving up the home in Menlo Park's Sharon Heights that she and her

then-husband built in 1961.

"This is a big move for Jane and the Almanac," says Almanac Editor Richard Hine. As an editor and writer, Ms. Knoerle focused "on the things people really care about: their homes, gardens and gastronomic pleasures," he says.

Ms. Knoerle was also responsible for countless stories about interesting people, new businesses, and major galas, benefits and other local events important to the Almanac's readers, Mr. Hine says. "It was her stories and her style that helped make the Almanac must reading — from cover to cover, as residents so often told us," Mr. Hine says.

Ms. Knoerle began working for the Almanac in 1974, but her journalism career began much

earlier. Even before she graduated from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University in 1946, Ms. Knoerle worked for what is now the Star Press in Muncie, Indiana. "They needed girl reporters because all the guys were drafted," she says. "I got to do the police beat and all the heavy news."

"It was fun," she says of the job. "The cops would all kind of kid around with a cute young girl. I liked it."

When the men returned from the war, she says, she happily went back to "society stuff." "I expected it," she says.

Working in a city newsroom was memorable, she says. "Newspaper people have a good sense of humor. There was a lot of joking and horsing around."

She also recalls that "the newsroom was pretty rough," and often the male reporters would hang out in a bar across the street. "If the editor needed a reporter, he would send me over



Photo by Michelle Le /The Almanac

Jane Knoerle, who will soon be 91, is moving from Menlo Park to Southern California, but promises she will continue to work for the Almanac, as she has for more than 40 years.

See **JANE KNOERLE**, page 13

Portola Valley town manager resigns after three years

■ Staff forbidden to talk by clause added to contract in December.

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

With the "involuntary resignation" of Portola Valley Town Manager Nick Pegueros after three years on the job, the Town Council now has a job of its own ahead: finding a new town manager.

Recruiting is set to begin Aug. 26, Mayor Jeff Aalfs said at the Aug. 12 council meeting. The council had just met in private for the third time in four weeks on the subject of the town manager's performance.

The meeting concluded with the announcement of Mr. Pegueros' immediate resignation. During the search for a new manager, Planning Director Debbie Pedro will be the acting town manager, Mr. Aalfs said.

In a prepared statement, the council said that "at the request of Nick Pegueros" the council "requested the involuntary resignation of the Town Manager and the Manager resigned, effective immediately."

By resigning as opposed to being fired, Mr. Pegueros receives a severance package that includes six months of his base annual salary, now at about \$199,000, accrued vacation pay, and unused benefits such as pension contributions, according to the contract.

There was an element of suspense as the development unfolded. On the Aug. 12 agenda, a closed session was scheduled to discuss the "discipline, dismissal or release" of a public employee, although the employee's name was not included.

Mr. Pegueros had been out of the office for about three weeks prior to the Aug. 12 meeting, and since July 22, the council had evaluated his performance twice before that night.

The council met in public session at 7 p.m. that night and discussed minor business before adjourning to closed session at 7:20. Except for a few words spoken sotto voce to Town Attorney Leigh Prince, Mr. Pegueros remained silent.

Normally a party to closed sessions, he left the meeting hall and headed to his parked car.

Shortly before 7:30, Councilman John Richards retrieved Mr.



Photo by Dave Boyce/The Almanac

Nick Pegueros, shown here on Aug. 12 in his usual seat during Portola Valley Town Council meetings and about 30 minutes before submitting his "involuntary resignation" as town manager.

Pegueros. At 7:50, Mr. Pegueros emerged alone, his laptop bag on his shoulder, his head slightly down. Normally an energetic walker, he moved slowly but deliberately to his white BMW wagon, got in and drove off.

Shortly after, the mayor read the statement agreed to by the council and Mr. Pegueros, announcing the involuntary resignation. The vote had been 4-0 to accept the resignation, Ms. Prince said. Councilman Craig Hughes did not attend the meeting.

In its statement, the council thanked Mr. Pegueros for "his

See **TOWN MANAGER**, page 6

Local water district slightly over July conservation goal

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

Atherton and Menlo Park customers of the California Water Service Company's Bear Gulch District didn't quite meet the 36 percent water use reduction goal in July. But they were both close at a 35 percent reduction in the amount of water each community consumed that month compared with July 2013, according to figures from the water company. Both Portola Valley and Woodside exceeded the 36 percent goal.

Average daily use per capita in Atherton for July was 51 gallons, down from 78 gallons average use in July 2013.

In Menlo Park, the average daily use was much less — 16 gallons per person, down from 25 gallons in July 2013.

Overall, in July the Bear Gulch District saved a little more than the 36 percent water use savings mandated by the state. District Manager Dawn Smithson said district water use was down by 38.6 percent, giving it a cumulative reduction of 39.7 percent since June.

"We are on target, but need to keep up the same standard of conservation if we are going to meet that goal," Ms. Smithson said.

In Portola Valley, Bear Gulch customers cut their water use last month by 42 percent from July 2013, with a per capita daily use of 27 gallons compared with 47 gallons two years ago.

In Woodside, customers reduced their water use by 39 percent in July, with an average daily per capita use of 56 gallons compared with 96 gallons in July 2013.

The Menlo Park Municipal Water District reduced the amount of water it purchased by 46.3 percent, far more than the 16 percent the district has been mandated to save. According to Pam Lowe, a senior civil engineer for the city, residential users reduced their water use by about 33 percent from July 2013, and commercial and industrial water users reduced their use by 38 percent.

The rest of the municipal district's water use is for irrigation accounts, temporary accounts (such as for construction), public facilities and water lost in the system, Ms. Lowe said. ▀

Grass fire at Webb Ranch is second in 12 months

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

Fire Marshal Denise Enea of the Woodside Fire Protection District said she plans to talk with the land management department at Stanford University about fire-safety protocols when working in dry grass.

For the second time in about a year, a contractor using equipment in a field of dry grass and brush on Stanford lands near

Webb Ranch started a grass fire, this time shortly after noon on Aug. 11, according to fire officials.

The fire burned about half an acre of grass in the 10 to 15 minutes it took for firefighters to get it under control, officials said.

The contractor was thought to be mowing grass, but was actually discing it to create a bare-earth fire break, and in the process ignited a "small fire," Stanford spokeswoman

Lisa Ann Lapin said. Asked about the fire last year, Ms. Lapin acknowledged it and said it was "smaller than the one last week." She did not have a date or time of day, nor did Woodside district fire officials.

Both mowers and discers operate with rotating metal blades that can strike rocks and create sparks.

"Mowing in August is considered very late," Ms. Enea said. "If you mow now, late in the season, you have to be very

careful." Precautions include having a water supply and/or a fire extinguisher at hand, and doing the work before 11 a.m., she said.

Asked for Stanford's protocols when mowing dry grass in the summer, Ms. Lapin did not have a direct answer. Stanford has "in the past worked with fire agencies ... and has spoken with them about the recent circumstance last week," she said.

"We will welcome any feedback and suggestions that that

fire officials have and will follow their direction going forward," she said. "We will make any future modifications that the fire agencies suggest."

Firefighter calls in

The Aug. 11 fire at 2720 Webb Ranch Road came to the notice of Battalion Chief Kevin Butler of the Woodside district as he was driving on Interstate 280, district Fire Chief Dan Ghiorso said.

See **WEBB RANCH**, page 12

TOWN MANAGER

continued from page 5

diligent and loyal service to the Town, his considerable financial acumen, and his rapport with the public."

"As always," the statement continued, "service to the residents of Portola Valley is the Town Council's top priority. The Council will keep the public informed regarding next steps and looks forward to introducing a new Town Manager in the near future."

Council members are bound

to say no more than what is in the statement, according to Mr. Pegueros' contract.

Mr. Pegueros came to Portola Valley in May 2012 from Los Altos Hills, where he was administrative service director, according to his LinkedIn biography. Before that, he was an assistant finance director in San Bruno.

Mr. Pegueros' original contract was for one year; a second contract was also for one year, then a three-year contract was signed in December, Mr. Aalfs said.

The council reviewed his performance in April and gave him a 3 percent raise, Mr. Aalfs said.

During the three weeks Mr. Pegueros had been out of the office before the Aug. 12 meeting, he was working at home on projects important to the council, Ms. Prince told the Almanac.

Staff silenced

A clause added to Mr. Pegueros' contract last December forbids town staff from talking with "the public, the press, or

any Town employee concerning the termination of this Agreement" — a provision of questionable enforceability.

Asked to comment on whether this clause abridges employee rights to free speech, California Newspaper Publishers Association attorney Nikki Moore said that to be bound to a contract, you must be a party to it, so a staff member could not be sued for talking.

But the presence of the clause probably obligates managers — in this case, the council —

to "instruct staff not to speak about information subject to the agreement," Ms. Moore said.

An employee could then be fired for speaking on the record, but would not be legally liable, she said.

Town Attorney Prince did not disagree with Ms. Moore's interpretation.

The contract also forbids termination within 90 days of an election involving one or more council members, but Mr. Pegueros was not terminated. He resigned. ■

Do you want the best in home care for your family? Call Home Care Assistance.



Home Care Assistance - Palo Alto named winner of the 'Best of Home Care' Award by Home Care Pulse.*

Help your senior loved one live safely and independently at home with top-notch care from Home Care Assistance.

24/7 Live-In Care Specialists. We offer the highest quality around-the-clock care for the most competitive price - guaranteed.

The Best Hourly Care. Many families choose to hire our experienced and trained caregivers on an hourly basis. Hourly schedules are flexible - no contracts required!

Experienced with Advanced Care Needs. Our caregivers are experienced with caring for clients with special conditions such as Alzheimer's, stroke and Parkinson's. We also develop more customized care plans and training for these clients. At Home Care Assistance we mean it when we talk about

providing the best in senior care—whether it is on an hourly basis or a live-in basis.

Brain Health Experts. We are the only home care agency that offers the Cognitive Therapeutics Method™, a research-backed, activities program that promotes brain health and vitality in our clients.

**Home Care Pulse is an independent organization that surveys real clients for accurate, unbiased satisfaction feedback.*



650-462-6900

HomeCareAssistance.com

148 Hawthorne Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301

Menlo Park has a packed agenda for Aug. 25 meeting

■ El Camino corridor, tree-removal plan and more on agenda.

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

Menlo Park's City Council may have a long night ahead of it on Aug. 25, with an agenda scheduled to include: a study session on the El Camino Corridor report, a discussion of changing the way the city uses pesticides, the city's response to a grand jury report on sea level rise, and a presentation by Pacific Gas & Electric of plans to remove as many as 800 trees that are in gas transmission line easements.

The final agenda wasn't available by the Almanac's deadline, but can be seen on the city's website.

Go to: tinyurl.com/8-25-MPCC to download the agenda.

El Camino Corridor Report

The El Camino report looks at four alternatives for the 1.3-mile stretch of El Camino between Sand Hill Road and Encinal Avenue within the city of Menlo Park. They include: current conditions; three continuous vehicle lanes in each direction; two lanes in each direction plus bike lanes buffered by painted lines; and two lanes in each direction with bike lanes protected by 3-foot-wide curbs or planters.

The study looks at the effects each alternative would have on the amount of traffic and how much time it takes to get through Menlo Park, as well as the effects on delay times at nine El Camino intersections. It also considers how bicyclists, pedestrians, aesthetics, parking and trees fare in each alternative.

One of the more interesting results in the report shows that adding a third through traffic lane to parts of El Camino that now have only two through lanes would actually increase travel times.

Traffic studies showed the extra traffic lane adding as much as 64 percent more traffic during the morning peak commute time north of Ravenswood Avenue, where the lanes would be added. The additional vehicles would come "from other parallel routes such as Middlefield Road, Highway 101 and neighborhood streets," the report says. Even on the part south of Ravenswood that already has three lanes in each direction, traffic would increase by 16 percent with this option,

the report says.

Some neighborhood streets would see reduced traffic under this scenario, including a 33 percent reduction on parts of University Drive and a 35 percent reduction on Roble Avenue, while traffic would increase by 5 percent on Valparaiso and Middlefield Road north of Ravenswood Avenue.

Adding either type of bike lane would leave traffic at about the same levels as not making any changes, the report says.

The report also examines the fate of the 11 heritage trees and seven street trees on the south side of the El Camino-Ravenswood intersection.

Go to menlopark.org/806/Project-Documents to see the full report.

Tree-removal plan

Representatives from PG&E are scheduled to tell the City Council about the utility's efforts to remove safety hazards from gas transmission pipeline easements.

In July, PG&E made a similar presentation to the Atherton council. PG&E spokesman Jeff Smith told the Almanac that the utility plans to send letters to 83 Menlo Park prop-

erty owners with 800 trees in PG&E's easement. The company will evaluate each tree to see if it must be removed, he said. Similar programs in other

Study: Adding a third through traffic lane to parts of El Camino would actually increase travel times.

communities have found that 30 to 40 percent of the trees that were examined needed to go, the Atherton council was told.

At pge.com/pipelinelocations, a map showing PG&E's gas transmission lines shows Menlo Park gas lines along parts of Middlefield Road, Sand Hill Road, through the Sand Hill Circle area, Sevier Avenue, Chester Street, Grayson Court, Van Buren Road and Bay Road.

Other matters

Menlo Park hasn't updated the guidelines it uses for dealing with pests, including unwanted plants, animals or insects, since 1998. Heather Abrams, Menlo Park's environmental programs

manager, said the city has made some changes, however, including reducing the amount of pesticides (which also include herbicides used on plants) by 21 percent, while increasing the amount of landscaping maintained by the city by 11 acres.

The proposed policy "reflects our continued commitment to reduce pesticide use whenever possible," said Ms. Abrams. The council will review the

proposal, and will also be asked to decide if it wants a pilot program to maintain some of the city's parks without using any herbicides.

The council will also review a report by the San Mateo County's civil grand jury warning that sea level rise could flood many parts of the county. In Menlo Park, the report says, the Facebook campus could be flooded. ▀

The Board of Directors of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District are seeking public comment on the Tentative Agreement with the Menlo Park Firefighters Association, Local 2400. The Tentative Agreement was passed by the Board on July 7, 2015, and will be ratified at its August 25 Board meeting. Public Comment on the Tentative Agreement will be accepted until August 25 for consideration at the meeting. Please submit your comment to Clerk of the Board Michelle Radcliffe at mradcliffe@menlofire.org.

You may access a copy of the Tentative Agreement on the District's website: www.menlofire.org or obtain a copy from the District's Administration Office located at 170 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Alternative 2 — Buffered Bike Lanes



Photo courtesy city of Menlo Park

This drawing from the city's report on the El Camino Real Corridor shows what the street might look like with bike lanes buffered from traffic by painted lines. The top drawing looks southbound toward the El Camino and Santa Cruz Avenue intersection; the bottom drawing is at that intersection, also looking southbound.

Wallace Stegner LECTURES

2015

Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts
8:00 p.m.

SERIES SPONSOR
Jean Lane
in memory of Bill Lane

MEDIA SPONSORS
The Almanac
Palo Alto Weekly
Mountain View Voice

SUBSCRIBE TODAY
(650) 854-7696 x315
openspacetrust.org/lectures

SINGLE TICKETS
On Sale February 1
MVCPA Box Office
(650) 903-6000
mvcpa.com



MONDAY // August 31
Ruth Reichl
FOOD CRITIC, AUTHOR & RESTAURATEUR
In conversation with Michael Krasny, host of Forum on KQED

Ms. Reichl is the author of books including *Delicious!*, *Comfort me with Apples*, and *Tender at the Bone*, as well as numerous other novels and nonfiction works. She was Editor in Chief of *Gourmet* magazine from 1999 to 2009. Prior to that, she was the restaurant critic for both *The New York Times* (1993-1999) and the *Los Angeles Times* (1984-1993).



POST Peninsula Open Space Trust



180 Escobar Road, Portola Valley Offered at \$2,988,000

Home Enjoys Treehouse-Like Grandeur

Enjoy treetop luxury living within this 4 bedroom, 3 bathroom home of 2,430 sq. ft. (per county) on a lot of 4.3 acres (per county). Offering an exotic multi-level structure in an intimate woodland environment, this home provides natural hardwood floors, soaring ceilings, and terrific views from almost every window. Oversized windows and a carved stone mantelpiece enhance the great room, which shares beamed ceilings with the romantic raised dining area. The light-filled kitchen provides a breakfast nook and fine appliances like a Sub-Zero refrigerator. A lower-level bedroom forms the ideal in-law suite, while the exciting master suite balances cathedral ceilings and a stunning, sky-lit bathroom. Outdoor attractions include a lap pool, a private trail through the property, and broad rear decks offering incredible bay views. Other features include a three-car carport, an office, and original stained-glass windows. This home is just minutes from Interstate 280 and Ladera Shopping Center. Terrific nearby schools include Ormondale Elementary (API 923), Corte Madera (API 937), and Woodside High (buyer to verify eligibility).

For video tour & more photos, please visit:
www.180Escobar.com



OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, 1:30 - 4:30 pm



Ken DeLeon
CalBRE #01342140



Michael Repka
CalBRE #01854880

650.488.7325 | info@deleonrealty.com | www.deleonrealty.com | CalBRE #01903224



328 Felton Drive, Menlo Park Offered at \$4,188,000

New Home, Timeless Luxury

Exceptional details and a peaceful setting alongside Holbrook-Palmer Park define this brand-new 5 bedroom, 3.5 bathroom residence of 3,860 sq. ft. (per plans) on a lot of 0.28 acres (per plans). White oak floors, dimmable lighting, and ceilings of nearly 10 feet accent the interior, which presents a dining room with wainscoting, a living room with coffered ceilings, and a main-level guest bedroom. Offering fine appliances and granite countertops, a regal island kitchen adjoins both a breakfast nook and a handsome family room with vaulted beamed ceilings. A magnificent staircase leads to four more bedrooms, including a majestic master suite with a marble-clad bathroom. Outdoors, enjoy large lawns, slate terraces, a motor court, and a detached two-car garage. Other highlights include a central vacuum system, an outdoor barbecue, and two fireplaces. Close to downtown Menlo Park, the home is also near Caltrain and prestigious Sacred Heart and Menlo Schools. More terrific schools nearby include Encinal Elementary (API 930), Hillview Middle (API 950), and Menlo-Atherton High (buyer to verify eligibility).

For video tour & more photos, please visit:
www.328Felton.com



Ken DeLeon
CalBRE #01342140



Michael Repka
CalBRE #01854880



OPEN HOUSE

Saturday & Sunday, 1-5 pm
Complimentary
Lunch & Lattes



7 candidates running for 3 seats on community college board

By Dave Boyce
Almanac Staff Writer

It's a crowded field for the November election to the governing board of the San Mateo County Community College District. Seven candidates are running for three seats, one of which was left open when incumbent Patricia Miljanich did not file to run for re-election, according to the candidate roster prepared by the county Elections Office.

Meanwhile in Woodside,

Mayor Tom Shanahan joins Town Council members Ron Romines and Dave Burow in not running for re-election. Running for their respective seats, and without opposition, are Nancy Reyerling for District 3, Daniel Yost for District 1 and Tom Livermore for District 5.

Ms. Reyerling and Mr. Livermore are on Woodside's Architectural & Site Review Board, and Mr. Yost was formerly on the town's Planning Commission.

In filing papers, Ms. Reyerling

describes herself as a businesswoman, Mr. Yost as an attorney, and Mr. Livermore as a retired businessman.

For the community college board, incumbents Dave Mandelkern and Karen Schwarz are running for re-election.

The five challengers, as listed on the roster, are: Ramiro Maldonado, a nonprofit director; Mark J. De Paula, a retired businessman; Anthony "Fel" Amistad, a college professor; Alan Talansky, a real estate broker; and Maurice

D. Goodman, a board member of a school district.

Locally, contested elections are ahead for the boards of the Woodside Elementary School District and the Sequoia Union High School District.

In the Woodside school district, incumbents Silvia Ferroni Edwards and Kevin Johnson are running and are being challenged by Joel Hornstein, who describes himself as a parent/entrepreneur/investor.

In the Sequoia district, three incumbents — Carrie Du Bois, Laura Martinez and Allen Weiner — are running for re-election. Their challengers are Georgia S. Jack, a mother and manager in Stanford University's office of development; and Noria Zasslow, who lists herself as a mother on her filing papers.

Two candidates are running without opposition in the Portola Valley School District for two open seats: Jennifer Youstra, who describes herself as a parent, and Gulliver LaValle, who describes himself as an educational specialist.

Also running unopposed are several incumbents: Mayor Jeff Aalfs and Councilwoman Ann Wengert for re-election to the

Portola Valley council; Virginia Chang Kiraly and Rob Silano for re-election to the Menlo Park Fire Protection District board; and Pat Cain, John Gardner and Matt Miller for the Woodside Fire Protection District.

Incumbent Karen Fryling and Randy Cook, a security consultant, are running unopposed for two seats on the board of the Ladera Recreation District.

All-mail-in ballot election

San Mateo County is one of two counties in the state — the other is Yolo — participating in a pilot project to conduct up to three elections by mail-in ballot.

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.

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

65 46 35 MILE RIDES

presented by  Rotary Club of Menlo Park Foundation

The Almanac



CALIFORNIA
TOUR
de
MENLO

2015

SATURDAY AUGUST 22

REGISTER: www.tourdemenlo.com

Ride Day registration 7-10am @ Menlo-Atherton High School, 555 Middlefield Rd, Atherton













Mary Ann Collins

Mary Ann Collins was born in Cherokee, Iowa on November 26, 1932, to Louis and Gertrude Collins, and passed away on August 8th, 2015 in Bend, Oregon, surrounded by her family. Mary Ann spent her childhood summers on Lake Okoboji, Iowa, and later attended Iowa State University, where she married John R. Wagner. While her husband served in the United States Air Force, they were stationed at the Royal Air Force Base in Alconbury, England, where she developed her love of collecting antiques.

In 1969, Mary Ann married Roger C. Paulson, who preceded her in death in 1977. Mary Ann moved to Portola Valley, California, where she raised her children and worked for twenty-five years as a Managing Broker for several residential real estate firms on the San Francisco peninsula.

Upon her retirement in 1991, Mary Ann moved to Bend, where she remained active in real estate investment and renovation projects — areas where she had natural talent and developed extensive expertise. She loved living in Central Oregon, surrounded by her family, and spoiling her grandchildren. Mary Ann was also blessed with many good friends during her life time.

Mary Ann is survived by her four children, Rachel Collins-Goss, (Chuck) of Bend, Daniel (Lynn), of Sacramento, Kate Veno (Keith) of Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada, and Matthew, of Sheridan, OR, and her seven grandchildren, as well as her seven great-grandchildren.

A memorial service and celebration of life was held on Friday, August 14th at the Partners in Care Hospice, which is located at 2075 Wyatt Ct., in Bend, Oregon.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that any donations be made to Partners In Care Hospice, or Hospice House.

PAID OBITUARY

Services Thursday for Joseph McLoughlin

Lifelong resident of Menlo Park

A memorial Mass celebrating the life of Joseph Ross McLoughlin, who was born and raised in Menlo Park, is set for Thursday, Aug. 20, at Church of the Nativity. Mr. McLoughlin died at home on Aug. 4 at the age of 92.

Mr. McLoughlin was owner of McLoughlin's Shoe Repair on the El Camino Real from 1950 until his retirement in 1988.

One of nine children, Mr. McLoughlin attended Central School, St. Joseph's School, Sequoia High School and San Jose State University. He served in the Merchant Marines dur-

OBITUARY
Obituaries are based on information provided by the family.

ing World War II. He married Eleanor Lussier, and they celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary on July 23.

The McLoughlins raised a family of six girls in Menlo Park, where he was active in many community organizations including the Live Oak Lions Club, RSVP, Sons in Retirement, St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Merchant Mariners. He was a lifelong member of Church of the Nativity.

Mr. McLoughlin is survived by his wife, Eleanor; daughters Eileen (David) Haughton of

Rocklin, Cecelia (John) Dickinson of Sonora, Julia (Wayne) Usher of Fort Bragg, Mary Eleanor (Russell) Moore of Reno, and Joanne (Bill) Taylor of Tigard, Oregon; a brother, Robert Emmett McLoughlin of Antelope; 11 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

The memorial Mass is at 10 a.m. Aug. 20 at the church, 210 Oak Grove Ave. in Menlo Park. A reception will follow in the church's O'Hare Center.

In lieu of flowers, the family prefers that donations be made to the Lions Eye Foundation or the Lions Hearing Foundation in his name. Donations should be mailed to Menlo Park Live Oak Lions Club, P.O. Box U, Menlo Park, CA 94026.

Atherton dentist charged with defrauding patients

Kim Chi Vu, a 52-year-old dentist from Atherton, has been charged with defrauding patients and an insurance company by charging for services that were not completed or were misrepresented.

Ms. Vu is out of custody on a \$125,000 bail bond, charged with five felony counts of grand theft and theft by false pretenses.

According to the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office, the charges date back to 2010 and 2011, when Ms. Vu was a dentist in San Mateo.

She is accused of billing a patient for a root canal that never happened, and of charging five patients for a more expensive type of tooth alignment system than they were given,

and of then abandoning their treatment, leaving the patients to find new dentists.

Ms. Vu was charged in May, and on Aug. 13 she waived her right to a speedy trial; a preliminary hearing on her case has been set for Nov. 12, the DA's office reported.

DA investigators reported that they had found other questionable billings by the dentist that could not be prosecuted because they were beyond the statute of limitations. ■

— Barbara Wood

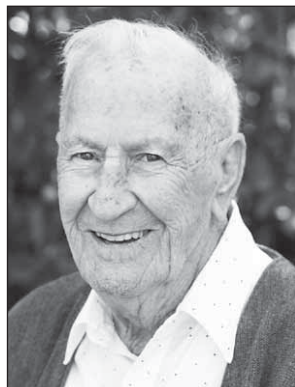
Police log

For this week's round-up of local police calls, go to AlmanacNews.com.

Joseph L. Giarrusso (1926 – 2015)

Joseph Giarrusso, of Menlo Park, CA, passed away peacefully on July 25, 2015. He was born in February of 1926, in Johnston, RI, the 9th of 11 children of Italian immigrants Giovanni and Marianna (Pompa) Giarrusso and grew up in the Italian district on Federal Hill in Providence, RI.

In 1944, he was drafted and served as an infantryman with the 87th Inf. Div. in Gen. Patton's 3rd Army, seeing action in the Battle



of the Bulge. After the end of the war in Europe, he was in the process of heading to California to be re-outfitted and trained for the anticipated invasion of Japan when the war ended and was transferred to Dibble Army Hospital in Menlo Park to serve as a technical specialist until his discharge in 1946.

It was during this time that he met Patricia Patterson, descendant of a pioneering Menlo Park family, at a USO event and they were later married in May of 1946.

Upon his discharge, he joined the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Union and became a journeyman tile setter. In 1967, he formed Quintana Tile Company with his partner Ernest Quintana and the company was successful until their joint retirements around 2000.

He was an active member of the American Legion Post 474 in Half Moon Bay as well as the Italian American Social Club in Menlo Park.

He is preceded in death by his first wife of 50 years, Patricia Giarrusso and second wife of 5 years Elizabeth Seitz. He is survived by his daughter, Mary Ann McDonald and her husband Lance of Half Moon Bay, his son, Joseph Giarrusso and his wife Caroline and two grandchildren, Hannah and Lucas of Menlo Park and his brother Orlando Giarrusso of N. Providence, RI. He also leaves behind many nieces and nephews.

A funeral mass will be held at Saint Raymond's Church in Menlo Park on August 22nd at 10:30am followed by interment with military honors at Holy Cross Cemetery in Menlo Park.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Legion-Operation Comfort Warriors.

<http://www.legion.org/operationcomfortwarriors>

PAID OBITUARY

Joseph Ross McLoughlin July 14, 1923 – August 4, 2015

Joe, a lifelong resident of Menlo Park, passed away peacefully on Tuesday August 4, 2015 at his home at the age of 92.

He was a first generation American, born in Menlo Park to Edward James McLoughlin from Ireland and Mary Cecelia Littlejohn Ross from Scotland. He was 6th of 9 children in his Catholic family. As a child of the Depression, this time of his youth forged his future as a frugal man. Coached by his childhood friends, "Joey, save your money", and following their advice, became a savvy business man and investor. He was proud of the fact that he had "the cage before the bird", a house before a wife.

Joe attended Central School, St. Joseph's School, Sequoia High School and San Jose State University.

As a young man, he enjoyed riding his Harley motorcycle and giving his Harley and neighbors rides. One of those friends, Doug Englbart, invented the computer mouse at SRI. During World War II, Joe served in the Merchant Marines in the engine room, working his way up to oilman. This is what he said was the cause of his hearing loss.

After the war, Joe was a Carpenter's Apprentice and worked building homes up off The Alameda. He enjoyed participating in his folk dance class where he met the love of his life, Eleanor Lussier, in November 1948. They married eight months later at The Church of the Nativity. Together they had a family of 6 girls and celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary on July 23.

With the death of his father, Joe took over to become the owner/operator of McLoughlin's Shoe Repair on El Camino Real from 1950 to his retirement in 1988.

Joe, although being a world traveler, had his roots firmly planted in his home town and never moved away. He could be seen driving his familiar green 1969 Volkswagen bus around town that he owned for 45 years and just sold last year.

He was an active volunteer with many community agencies and was proud to be a member of Menlo Park Host/Live Oak Lions Club International, a

charitable organization, for over 37 years, a 25 year member of RSVP, a lifelong member of The Church of the Nativity where he was baptized, received his first Holy Communion and married. He was a cashier for over 25 years at Peninsula Volunteers Little House where he also took lip reading classes. He and Eleanor delivered "Meals on Wheels" to neighboring seniors in need for many years. He was involved with St. Vincent de Paul Society where he would visit the sick, Sons in Retirement (SIRS), Merchant Mariners and many others.

Joe was always going, whether traveling or volunteering. He was fondly referred to as that "Pink Bunny mascot" as his batteries kept on going and going and going until finally his batteries simply wore out.

Joe was preceded in death by his parents Edward and Mary McLoughlin, his siblings Edward John, James Peter, Anne Demma, Margaret Frances, Irene Graham, Thomas Michael, Martin Bernard (Bernie) and daughter Margaret Sarah.

Joe is survived by his beloved wife, Eleanor, his daughters Eileen (David) Haughton of Rocklin CA, Cecelia (John) Dickinson of Sonora CA, Julia (Wayne) Usher of Fort Bragg CA, Mary Eleanor (Russell) Moore of Reno NV, Joanne (Bill) Taylor of Tigard OR and his youngest brother Robert Emmett "Bobby" (Ruth) of Antelope CA. 11 Grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, and a 5th on the way, sisters-in-law Lucille (Jim) and Ora Mae (Tom), and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

A Memorial mass celebrating Joe's life will be held on Thursday August 20 at 10 AM at The Church of the Nativity with a reception following in the O'Hare Center at 210 Oak Grove Ave. His cremains will be interred at Holy Cross Cemetery in Menlo Park. Funeral arrangements under the direction of John D. O'Connor, Menlo Park Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Lions Eye Foundation or the Lions Hearing Foundation in his name. Those donations should be mailed to Menlo Park Live Oak Lions Club, P.O. Box U, Menlo Park, CA 94026.

PAID OBITUARY

DUTCH GOOSE

continued from page 3

had 34 fewer seats. But it gained a pizza oven in the bargain.

“It took a lot of creativity to make this ADA-compliant,” Mr. Stern notes.

Landlord John Beltramo’s commitment to keep the business afloat was pivotal too. “We would’ve had to shut the doors ... if it wasn’t for him,” Mr. Stern says. “Financially, we wouldn’t have been able to pull it off ourselves.”

Mr. Stern, a graduate of Menlo-Atherton High School, got into the restaurant business at the Dutch Goose at a time when it appeared another door was closing. It was during the post-dot-com crash in 2001 that Mr. Stern, unhappy with his work as a Merrill Lynch broker at the time, made an unsolicited offer for the Dutch Goose at the prodding of his father over a beer and a burger while patronizing the restaurant.

The owner wasn’t quite ready to sell at the time, but persistence paid off for Mr. Stern, who studied entrepreneurship at the University of Southern California. He took ownership in 2005.

“Sometimes you need a little luck to go your way,” he says.



Magali Gauthier/Special to the Almanac

Two handicap-parking spots can be found directly behind the Dutch Goose by the back door. The elevator and stairs to the upper level of the restaurant are at the left of this back entrance.

Sometimes, dumb luck works too at the Dutch Goose.

That’s according to regulars Tim Van Driel, 31, and Kasper Kjaer, 30, postdoctoral researchers from Technical University of Denmark who work at SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory. They cite a confrontation with parents who called them out for yelling profanities around their small children — an incident that turned into an extra round.

“Afterwards, they felt bad that they told us off, so they bought us beers,” Mr. Van Driel explains.

Such incidents are perhaps inevitable at an establishment that caters to a diverse clientele, a rare place where lawyers and stock brokers talk baseball and politics with plumbers and electricians.

That is perhaps the mystique of the Dutch Goose.

“You meet all kinds of people here,” Mr. Davis, the insurance broker, says. “You don’t know who you’re going to be sitting next to, if a guy has 50 cents in his pocket or if a guy has a million dollars.”

“That’s the charm of this place. Families tend to come and everybody knows each other. You can leave all your troubles out the door and come in and have a beer and some food.”

WEBB RANCH

continued from page 6

Firefighters responded quickly to Mr. Butler’s call and had the blaze knocked down by 12:30, but remained on the site for three hours, said Safety Officer John Berg of the San Mateo County Fire department. The fire never threatened structures, and there were no injuries, he said.

The incident drew 18 firefighters from the Woodside and Menlo Park districts, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the county firefighting agency, Chief Ghiorso said.

Firefighters returned to the scene at around 6:10 p.m. the same day to douse a spot reported to be smoking, Chief Ghiorso said. There was no danger of re-ignition, he said, because firefighters had created a fire break earlier by clearing the ground around the blackened site of the original fire.

31ST ANNUAL PALO ALTO WEEKLY



moonlight

PRESENTED BY CITY OF PALO ALTO

10K•5K RUN & WALK

FRI SEPT 25 7PM

REGISTER ONLINE
PaloAltoOnline.com/moonlight_run

Benefiting local nonprofits serving families and children

PRESENTED BY




District will remove oak on new school site

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

A very large, very old oak tree on the new Upper Laurel School site that some people had asked the Menlo Park City School District to save, really does need to go, a third arborist has told the district.

The arborist hired by the district after neighbors protested plans to cut down the tree has reported the old oak is filled with rot, and the school district says it will go ahead with plans to cut it down within a few weeks.

When people heard in late June that the large old oak tree, located on the school's boundary with 420-424 French Court, was to be cut down, several protested the school district's decision. The new school is under construction at 275 Elliott Drive in the Willows neighborhood of Menlo Park.

Although two arborists had already examined the tree and recommended its removal, the district contracted for a third opinion.

The report from Michael L. Bench, a consulting arborist from Prunedale, says the tree has "a fungus infection called Artists' Conk (*Ganoderma applanatum*), a serious heart rot decay pathogen." He says that while the fungus attacks the interior wood of the tree, "this disease does not significantly damage or impede the vascular system, and for this reason, the canopy commonly continues to thrive and grow normally."

Mr. Bench said "there is no treatment for this disease," and that the healthy leaves and branches of the canopy can "contribute to the failure."

Mr. Bench also took core samples from the tree to figure out how much of it is rotted and found "a high percentage of the interior structural wood of the tree

is completely destroyed," he wrote. "I do not expect this tree to remain standing for very long, despite its dense beautiful canopy," he wrote.

"Because of the safety concerns, I recommend the removal be done as soon as possible," he concluded.

Go to tinyurl.com/MPCSD-tree to see the report.

In a letter to neighbors, Ahmad Sheikholeslami, the district's chief business and operations officer, said the tree arches over two neighboring residences as well as a planned school playing field.

"As recommended by the Arborist, the tree will have to be removed in the next few weeks," he wrote.

Mr. Sheikholeslami said in the letter that the district "knows this will be a loss for the school and the community." The district plans to use some of the wood from the tree "to build a bench and an art piece," he said.

The district also plans to plant 70 to 75 new trees as part of the construction of the Upper Laurel School, he said.

Go to tinyurl.com/mpcsd-oak to see the letter. ▣

City sponsors downtown Family Fitness Extravaganza

For the second year, the city of Menlo Park will hold a Downtown Family Fitness Extravaganza on Santa Cruz Avenue, featuring more than 30 fitness businesses, social groups and nonprofits, on Thursday, Aug. 20, from 5 to 7 p.m.

"It's a way to bring families and folks of all ages downtown," said Menlo Park Community Development Manager Jim Cogan, as well as to offer resources for living a healthy lifestyle. The event's major co-sponsors, in addition to the city, are SBM Fitness, Menlo Swim and Sport and Fleet Feet. Mr. Cogan said that last year nearly 800 people attended.

With a slogan of "EAT, PLAY, LIVE!" the event will focus on connecting people with resources to improve physical, social and emotional well-being, according to the city's website.

The participants who will have interactive displays at the event include: Axis Personal Trainers, Babywearing Fitness Class, Bulldog Sports & Fitness, Equinox, Fire Fitness Training, Inc., Fit4Mom Midpeninsula, Crystal Springs Chiropractic, Fleet Feet, Haddad Training, Hi-Five Sports Club, Homemade Cooking, INTENTIO Professional Health and Fitness, Jane Kellam Dance, Jazzercise, Kidz Love Soccer, Kuk Sool Won of Menlo Park, Menlo College Cheer & STUNT, Menlo Park Fire Protection District, Menlo Park Fitness, Menlo Pilates & Yoga, Menlo Swim and Sport, One Medical Group, New Balance, Palo Alto Run Club, Menlo Park Police Department, Revitalize Integrated Body Systems, Riekes Center, SBM Fitness, SMI Massage, Three Treasures Internal Arts and Vibe Yoga.

JANE KNOERLE

continued from page 5

to get them," Ms. Knoerle says. "They all smoked, and they wore those green eyeshades." She remembers one editor who was never seen without a cigar hanging from the side of his mouth.

Ms. Knoerle later worked for a company magazine before she took time off to raise her four children.

After years in Cleveland, Ms. Knoerle and her then-husband Hal moved to the Bay Area. "I knew that Shirley Temple lived in Atherton, so I figured that must be a very nice place," Ms. Knoerle says. One day she took the bus from San Francisco. "So they let me off at Atherton Avenue," she says. "I said, there's nothing here."

A real estate agent she found in a phone book at the train station showed her homes for sale in Atherton, but nothing she liked. Then he told her about a new area just being developed in Menlo Park called Sharon Heights. They built a home there, and Ms. Knoerle has lived in it ever since.

"I love Sharon Heights. It has everything," she says. "I really like Menlo Park."

Ms. Knoerle also became a reader of the Country Almanac, as it was then called when it was founded in 1965.

"I always hoped somehow I would get back to journalism," she says. When she "realized these were women who were putting (the Almanac) out," she got the nerve to send some clips of her work to editor Hedy Boissevain.



Barbara Wood/The Almanac

Jane's close friend Kay Real, left, joined other celebrants at a farewell event on Aug. 15 at Restaurant 3000 in Menlo Park.

When there was no response, she gave Ms. Boissevain a call. The editor admitted she hadn't read the clips, but asked Ms. Knoerle to stop by the office in Woodside, across from Roberts Market. After a chat, Ms. Boissevain "said fine — can you cover a meeting tonight?" Ms. Knoerle recalls. "I hadn't done anything in over 20 years," but she jumped right back in.

"I remember Hedy said you'll be paid \$3 an hour," she says.

Pam Jones, who is now director of the Coro Foundation's fellows program, says she came to work for the Almanac at about the same time. "I was six months out of journalism school, and I was 22, and I was hired to be the full-time reporter and be the managing editor," she says.

"They taught me a lot," Ms. Jones says of those at the newspaper at the time, including Ms. Knoerle, Marjorie Mader, Carol

Blitzer and Marion Softky." "It was just such a camaraderie," she says. "We would work, work, work and then we'd walk to Roberts" and get lunch, she says. "We would have serious conversations punctuated by laughter."

Ms. Knoerle, she says, could always be relied on to come up with a story when something else fell through. "We could always rely on Jane to have a good story, a home story or an interesting person story," she says. "Jane had more stories up her sleeve than you could imagine."

"She was very interested in people, and she was a very good listener, and would pay attention to people, and could make a story out of anything," Ms. Jones says.

Ms. Knoerle says she wrote "just about everything but sports."

"Marion Softky always called my stuff fluff," she says. "I liked it, and I think a lot of people



Photo courtesy Jane Knoerle

While still at the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, young Jane Knoerle began working for the Muncie Press, covering the police beat and hard news during WWII.

liked to read it."

Food writing was one of her loves. "I went on 12 trips with the American Association of Food Journalists," she says, including China, Thailand and Europe. "That might have been the highlight of my life," she says. Ms. Knoerle says the food writers paid for everything, and her expenses came out of her own pocket.

Why has she kept going when many of her colleagues have retired?

"I liked it. I enjoyed it. I felt

that was what I was trained to do," she says. "It's not fun — it's work. But it's satisfying work. I'm using what talents I have."

She says she plans to keep on doing some work for the Almanac. But she'll miss her time in the office. "I'm going to miss the camaraderie," she says. "I'm going to miss that kind of feeling you have ... of being in on things. You know what's happening in town."

One thing she won't be doing in her Carlsbad complex, though. "I won't run the newsletter," she says. ▣

NEWSROOM

Editor
Richard Hine (223-6525)

Associate Editor
Renee Batti (223-6528)

Lifestyles Editor Jane Knoerle

Staff Writers
Dave Boyce (223-6527),
Barbara Wood (223-6533)

Contributors Marjorie Mader, Kate Daly

Special Sections Editor
Brenna Malmberg (223-6511)

Photographer Michelle Le (223-6530)

DESIGN & PRODUCTION

Marketing and Creative Director
Shannon Corey (223-6560)

Design and Production Manager
Kristin Brown (223-6562)

Designers Linda Atilano, Diane Haas,
Rosanna Leung, Paul Llewellyn,
Nick Schweich, Doug Young

ADVERTISING

Vice President Sales and Marketing
Tom Zahralis (223-6570)

Display Advertising Sales
Carina Rodriguez (223-6577)

Real Estate Manager
Neal Fine (223-6583)

Legal Advertising
Alicia Santillan (223-6578)

ADVERTISING SERVICES

Advertising Services Lead
Blanca Yoc (223-6596)

Sales & Production Coordinators
Diane Martin (223-6584), Kevin Legarda
(223-6597)

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

Newsroom: (650) 223-6525
Newsroom Fax: (650) 223-7525

Advertising: (650) 854-2626
Advertising Fax: (650) 223-7570

Email news and photos with captions to:
Editor@AlmanacNews.com

Email letters to:
letters@AlmanacNews.com

The Almanac, established in October 1965, is delivered each week to residents of Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside and adjacent unincorporated areas of southern San Mateo County. The Almanac is qualified by decree of the Superior Court of San Mateo County to publish public notices of a governmental and legal nature, as stated in Decree No. 147530, issued December 21, 1969. ©2015 by Embarcadero Media. All rights reserved.

Subscriptions are \$60 for one year and \$100 for two years. Go to AlmanacNews.com/circulation.



WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

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

Town Square forum

Post your views on the
Town Square forum at
AlmanacNews.com

Email your views to:
letters@almanacnews.com
and note this it is a letter to
the editor in the subject line.

Mail or deliver to:
Editor, The Almanac
3525 Alameda de las Pulgas
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Call the Viewpoint desk at
223-6528.

Viewpoint

IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

How to make Menlo Park truly bike-friendly soon

By Dana Hendrickson

Most Menlo Park residents recognize the recreational, health and environmental benefits of bike riding, and our city has repeatedly declared its desire to build an excellent community bike network, one that encourages both greater bike usage and fewer car trips. Unfortunately, the major gaps in our bike network remain, and I sense closing them is not a high priority for our City Council.

Residents now have a great opportunity to tell council members we have waited too long, and it's time to act. If they do, major improvements could be in place as early as next year.

Both the Comprehensive Bike Development Plan (2004) and Specific Plan (2012) clearly document the major shortcomings of the existing Menlo Park bike network: poor east-west connectivity and limited access to downtown. Yet 10 years later our city has not committed funds to eliminate these fundamental problems.

We continue to have two separate bike networks, one on each side of El Camino Real, and the very limited connections between them severely restrict cyclists of all ages, experience, and skills.

Most bike riders are younger than 16 years old, and few parents want them crossing El Camino to reach schools, downtown, and the library, gym, pool, and playing fields at Burgess Park. So, children are regularly

driven to local destinations. Why? There are no bike lanes on the convenient approaches to El Camino Real — for example, Menlo and Oak Grove avenues — nor a safe crossing. Yes, there are technical and political challenges to making these roads safe, but all are manageable.



On Aug. 25, the City Council will hold a study session to review the interim results of the current El Camino Real Corridor Study that is considering the possible addition of either bike lanes or physically separate bike paths on this multi-lane state highway. The study has determined that either is feasible, and now the council must decide whether or not to spend additional funds to estimate

potential bike usage, prepare an environmental report, and develop plans and a budget for the implementation of one of the bike facility alternatives.

At the end of this second phase, the council would decide whether to fund the actual implementation, likely sharing the costs with Caltrans. I oppose this spending and recommend the city shift already budgeted and unspent funds for the corridor study to a solution that provides safe, convenient and less-stressful bike connectivity between the east and west sides of Menlo Park. I encourage residents to understand why this community investment is far superior to the ones now being considered, and have outlined a potential solution in a proposal sent to our City Council and Bicycle Commission and

published on Re-Imagine Menlo Park.

Building on ideas in the Specific Plan, this solution would connect Middle Avenue, University Drive, and Santa Cruz, Menlo and Ravenswood avenues in ways that would benefit many more cyclists than bike facilities on El Camino. It could be implemented much sooner; would depend less on Caltrans' support, budgets and schedules; and would likely attract greater community support and less resistance.

I have also published information to help residents better understand the important factors that influence contemporary bike network design and the likely appeal of El Camino Real bike facilities. I believe El Camino would be used by only a small percentage of cyclists, "the strong and fearless," and would not be suitable for elementary and middle school age children.

Now is the time for residents to insist our City Council soon make the critically needed investments in the Menlo Park bike network rather than one of highly questionable value that would not produce results for at least another three years. Please take the time to become informed, participate in the public discussions starting on Aug. 25, and more importantly, express your preferences and concerns in writing.

Unless residents act now, our waiting will continue indefinitely. We all deserve better.

Dana Hendrickson is a 30-year resident of Menlo Park, an avid cyclist and the editor of the Re-Imagine Menlo Park website and forum.

On Caltrain's 'downward path' with high-speed rail

By Morris Brown

A look at history reveals the downward path which Caltrain is now headed since its involvement with the California high-speed rail. (HSR).

The passing of the high-speed rail act bond issue (Proposition 1A) in November 2008 had the full support of Caltrain, perhaps with good reason. Looking back, HSR would be allowed use of Caltrain's corridor. The arrangement then was there would be funding from HSR to have Caltrain's corridor from the San Francisco Transbay Terminal (TBT) to San Jose fully electrified and fully grade-separated. There also would be funds to expand the corridor to a full four-track corridor, with HSR and Caltrain each having its own set of tracks.

Indeed this plan seemed a very desirable improvement for Caltrain's operations. But my my, how this dream plan has now changed.

Political opposition to a four-track, raised track bed along the

Peninsula, along with (perhaps more importantly) the lack of funds to build the original plan, has resulted in the new scheme, labeled the "blended plan," as sponsored by U.S. Rep. Anna Eshoo, state Sen. Joe Simitian, and state Assemblyman Rich Gordon.

The "blended plan" is a two-track corridor, with a few "passing tracks" along the corridor. HSR and Caltrain will need to share these tracks.

The plan has been under heavy criticism from, along with others, former High-Speed Rail Authority board chair Quentin Kopp, as well as HSR authority director Lynn Schenk, both of whom do not consider this arrangement as being real high-speed rail.

Indeed, Proposition 1A mandates the HSR tracks be fully independent and not shared (see the Proposition 1A provision mandating that HSR trains be

able to pass at full speed through stations). The "blended plan" really is illegal under the terms of Proposition 1A, and should not have even been proposed.



Due to political opposition, until these last few days the HSR authority had not been pursuing activity in Northern California. However, at its last board meeting, the board acted to restart activity in Northern California. It proposes to hire new consultants and draft a new EIR for the region, with the "blended plan" being the center of attention along the Caltrain corridor. The estimated cost for these studies is \$36 million.

Why Caltrain has not resisted the "blended plan" shows just how weak its leadership has been, and what a very bad deal the present situation really presents.

Caltrain, rather than getting a fully grade-separated,

electrified four-track corridor, without sharing of tracks, and running all the way to the TBT, Caltrain has agreed to share its tracks with HSR, which within a few years will prove grossly inadequate to handle the traffic being generated. Rather than getting a corridor all the way to the TBT, it will stop at 4th and King, requiring, as now, that passengers find other transportation or walk to their offices in the center of San Francisco.

And finally for allowing all of this to happen, Caltrain will net about \$750 million for its electrification project, which currently still leaves the project at least \$400 million underfunded. Caltrain will not get grade separations along the corridor, with this plan.

All and all it is a terrible deal for Caltrain, and looking back on what was promised back in 2008 only makes it look worse.

Morris Brown is a longtime resident of Stone Pine Lane in Menlo Park.

Coming Soon...

Weekend Express

**Your weekly
email with tips
and insights
about hot events
and cool activities**



- Music
- Eating out
- Movies
- Fun and free
- Art exhibits
- Theater
- Lectures and learning

The first step in planning your weekend starts here

EAT

Restaurant reviews and special deals

SEE

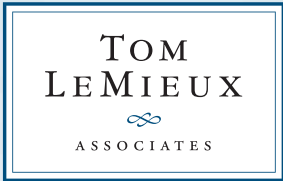
Art exhibits, music, movies, lectures

PLAY

Local events, outdoors, just for fun

Presented by

The **Almanac**



SUMPTUOUS...MODERN...SOPHISTICATED...



10 Mount Vernon Lane, Atherton

Modern masterpiece significantly renovated inside and out in 2013

6 bedrooms (including a 2-bedroom master suite), 5 full baths, plus 2 half-baths

Family room, library, recreation room/fitness center, and theatre

Approximately 7,243 square feet of living space

Hand-scraped and oil-finished hickory flooring throughout

State-of-the-art home automation

Vanishing-edge pool with inlaid spa and curbless deck connection

Almost one acre (43,195 square feet)

Excellent Menlo Park schools

Offered at \$8,450,000

For more information, visit www.10MountVernon.com



TOM LEMIEUX
License# 01066910

650 465 7459
tom@tomlemieux.com
tomlemieux.com

Ranked #50 Nationally,
The Wall Street Journal, 2015

Over \$2 billion in sales since 1998



Buyer to confirm all square footage and schools