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Construction ongoing as new Menlo Park high school opens

‘Complexity’ of project design, lack of workers impacted construction timeline of TIDE Academy, contractor says

By Angela Swartz
Almanac Staff Writer

TIDE Academy, a new high school in Menlo Park, opened for the first day of classes on Aug. 14, but construction is ongoing because of project setbacks, according to school and construction officials.

Sequoia Union High School District representatives told The Almanac in February that workers would finish construction on the new magnet school by the end of May.

But the “complexity” of the school’s 45,000-square-foot, three-story building, difficulty finding construction workers and a busy construction market delayed the completion, said Daniel Park, project manager at Arntz Builders, the district’s contractor for the project. Park anticipates the school will be completed at the end of September or early October, he said.

“Although we anticipated the facility being completed in time for the first day of school, there have been construction delays that are out of the district’s control,” said district spokesperson Ana Maria Pulido in an email. “We look forward to the completion of the final phase of construction in the coming weeks. The first day at TIDE was a success, and we look forward to carrying out the vision of creating an innovative educational environment that supports student engagement and achievement.”

The Almanac was able to get some shots of the campus from the sidewalk at the front of the school, but was not allowed on campus during the first day of classes.

On the morning of the first day of school at TIDE, which is located on a 2-acre site at 150 Jefferson Drive, construction workers could be seen digging around pipes in a dirt trench at the front of the school, while others worked on ladders in rooms on the second floor.

(Crews are completing carpentry work on the second floor, Park said.)

There were construction materials on the third floor and fencing blocked access to a balcony. Construction workers directed traffic into the school parking lot, which winds around the back of the property, for parents to drop students off for school. Wires hung from a TIDE Academy sign on exterior walls.

The school is holding classes on the first floor of the building, Park said. Work is almost complete on the third floor dining deck, he said.

Instructional classrooms and the school’s makerspace were completed and ready for incoming students, Pulido said. She added that landscaping and a retaining wall on Jefferson Drive will be finished in four weeks.

In May, the district’s school board approved reallocating $226,829 in contingency funds for the project because staff anticipated further change orders due to setbacks such as “design issues” and “acceleration overtime cost,” according to a staff report. This did not increase the overall budget in place, but the decision reallocated soft costs — such as fees and utilities improvements — to hard construction costs, according to the report.

“We have put in a lot of extra effort to have the school open (on time),” Park said. “We did weekend work and overtime to get this project to work and be safely opened.”

The school’s design is “architecturally specific” — different from the light-industrial buildings around TIDE — which has made the project more difficult, Park said. TIDE is being constructed in a way to maximize exposure to daylight, and its L-shape configuration will enable direct access to an adjacent outdoor learning area from every interior space, according to project architect LPA.

With many construction projects happening in the Bay Area and a regional shortage of construction workers, it was difficult to complete the project on time, Park said. The number of workers was also limited on this project since it’s a small site and it can be unsafe to have many people “working on top of each other,” he said.

“It’s really hard to find qualified, skilled craftsmen to complete the work,” Park said. “You build it as you can. If problems come up, you have to solve those problems.”

In 2017, Chief Facilities Officer Matthew Zito told the district’s school board that an overheard construction market, along with several other challenges, would push the school’s opening from August 2018 until August 2019. He added that trade crews are understaffed, and that general contractors, after a regional dry spell, signed on for more work than they can handle.

About the school

The new school is beginning with a freshman class of 106, chosen by lottery, according to Pulido. It will eventually grow to its L-shape configuration will enable direct access to an adjacent outdoor learning area from every interior space, according to project architect LPA.

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State mandates loom, but where will housing be built?

By Rick Radin
Almanac Staff Writer

Portola Valley has been struggling to increase the number of affordable housing units within the town limits. In an effort to increase the affordable housing stock, the Town Council passed an accessory dwelling unit ordinance in March that allows homeowners to add on to or remodel their homes to permit more residents on their properties.

The town has also formed partnerships with Stanford University, Woodside Priory School and the Sequoias retirement community to encourage the building of “affiliated” housing units on their properties within town limits.

As a third avenue, the town has been weighing the use of land that it owns for affordable housing, but it has been coming up against opposition from some neighborhoods to building on the town-owned land that is available.

Some are demanding that the town try to raise money to buy land on the open market to build the housing in areas where there wouldn’t be an environmental or aesthetic impact, although town leaders have said that this is not feasible.

Generally, the Legislature is considering bills that would place greater responsibilities related to housing on cities.

Portola Valley Town Manager Jeremy Dennis

State mandates loom, but where will housing be built? (the)

See AFFORDABLE, page 10

August 21, 2019 AlmanacNews.com The Almanac 5
Portola Valley greenlights pursuit of pedestrian, bicyclist safety plan

By Rick Radin
Almanac Staff Writer

Portola Valley’s public works department received the go-ahead from the Town Council on Aug. 14 to proceed with a plan for a series of safety improvements to make its semi-rural streets and roads, which were mainly designed for cars, safer for bicyclists and pedestrians.

The recommendations for the improvements came from a study by San Mateo-based consultant Paul Krupka, which was based on input from three community meetings and a study session with council members over the past eight months, according to town Public Works Director Howard Young.

Because there are no traffic lights in town, vehicles can build up momentum, and drivers need more warning that a pedestrian crossing is ahead, accounting for the need for more visible crosswalks, signs and warning beacons, according to the study.

In many instances, pedestrian trails are used by schoolchildren to cross Alpine and Portola roads.

“The town was not built for traditional sidewalks,” Young said.

The study recommends spending an estimated $285,000 on improvements at 15 locations, and sets three levels of urgency to help determine which projects should be completed first.

The council approved a budget of $295,000 for the project, and the town is applying for a grant from the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County to cover some or all of the costs, Young said.

The council also agreed to request free delivery, or stop delivery, of The Almanac to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley, Woodside, Priory and Corte Madera schools, which would cost a total of $28,000, and installing crosswalk signs and markings at the intersection of Portola and Alpine roads at a cost of $15,000.

Lower-priority items include vehicle speed monitors at the entrances to town on Portola and Alpine roads, and sets of crosswalk signs and markings where Portola Road intersects with Wyndham Drive, Farm Road, Westridge Drive and Grove Drive.

“The priorities were determined by the consultant from input from the (community) meetings,” Young said. “The determination was systematic, for the schools being a priority.”

Drivers routinely exceed the speed limit by an average of 5 miles per hour — particularly on the main arteries of Alpine Road and Portola Road — and the town had 43 collisions between 2014 and 2018, with 17 of them involving vehicles and bicycles, Krupka told the council.

There is limited advance notice or local visibility of crosswalks and traffic controls, according to the study.

Council members unanimously, though reluctantly, supported the need for flashing beacons at the two critical intersections of Portola, Brookside and Corte Madera, and at Alpine and Golden Oak.

“I don’t like the flashing beacons, but they’re needed,” Mayor Ann Wengert said. “I accept the flashing beacons, but they’re a tough thing to swallow,” added Councilman John Richards.

The council also agreed to use California Department of Transportation-approved signs, although they may not be the size and color the community might prefer to coordinate with the semi-rural landscape, according to the study.

The Caltrans signs are familiar to California drivers, making them easier to read and recognize. Familiarity with the signs might also reduce drivers’ perception and reaction time, according to the study.

The town will finalize project plans and await word about whether it receives grant funding before moving forward with improvements.
Dear Monica:

I am selling my property and the buyer has removed all contingencies. She has asked if she can do preliminary work to the property during the escrow period such as a survey and a soils report. Do you think I should allow this?

Leonard D.

Dear Leonard:

It is rarely a good idea for a seller to allow a buyer to do work to a property before escrow has closed. The buyer doesn't own the property yet and shouldn't do things such as destructive testing, which a soils report would entail. If a survey is done during the contingency period, this is a reasonable investigation for a buyer to make. But once contingencies are removed, it is not common to ask for a survey to be done and if the result raises issues, this could jeopardize the sale and put you the seller at risk.

It is better for your buyer to do their further investigations after escrow closes.

Contact me at monica@monicacorman.com; Office: 650-465-5971, COMPASS. Ranked in the Wall St Journal's 2016, 2017, and 2018 Nationwide list of top 250 Realtors.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR COUNTY’S FLOOD PARK PROJECT REVIEW IS OPEN**

By Kate Bradshaw

Almanac Staff Writer

Plans by San Mateo County to renovate Flood Park, a 24-acre expanse nestled in Menlo Park’s residential suburban Park, Lorelei Manor and Flood Triangle neighborhoods, are slowly moving forward.

The proposed changes include creating a soccer and lacrosse field; renovating an existing baseball field; adding multiple play areas to accommodate all abilities; and installing a shaded structure for an outdoor market, an amphitheater, picnic spaces, trails, a pump track (for sports bike riders), a sand volleyball pit, and tennis, bocce and basketball courts.

About a year after residents near the park raised concerns with the county’s proposal to add sports fields and other amenities to the park — which could add noise, increase traffic and require otherwise unnecessary tree removals — the county has released a revised draft environmental impact report that studied a couple of alternatives to its original plan and evaluated other environmental factors.

In addition, county parks department spokesperson Carla Schoof said, some residents were concerned that the cumulative noise and parking impacts of multiple events happening at the park simultaneously — such as a sports game and a picnic, for example — hadn’t been thoroughly evaluated.

After hearing public concerns with the proposal, said Sam Herzberg, senior planner with the county parks department, the county decided to tighten up and re-evaluate its environmental reviews, as well as adopt some new analyses required by changes to CEQA, the California Environmental Quality Act, in areas such as energy use, greenhouse gas emissions, and wildfire risks.

The new analyses looked at the environmental impacts of alternatives to the proposed plans, including prohibiting people from using the proposed athletic fields on weekdays during the peak traffic hours of 4 to 6 p.m., designating the existing baseball field as a multiuse sports field, and eliminating the proposed soccer and lacrosse field.

The findings: While banning use of the sports fields during peak commute hours would ease traffic in some conditions, the traffic would still be unmitigatedly congested. And combining all sports on one field wouldn’t achieve the objective of providing much-needed ball fields for the surrounding communities.

See FLOOD PARK, page 12

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**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR COUNTY’S FLOOD PARK PROJECT REVIEW IS OPEN**

By Kate Bradshaw

Almanac Staff Writer

Children play soccer in Flood Park

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**REAL ESTATE Q&A**

by Monica Corman

**Buyer Doing Work To A Property Before Escrow Closes**

Dear Monica: I am selling my property and the buyer has removed all contingencies. She has asked if she can do preliminary work to the property during the escrow period such as a survey and a soils report. Do you think I should allow this?

Leonard D.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR COUNTY’S FLOOD PARK PROJECT REVIEW IS OPEN**

By Kate Bradshaw

Almanac Staff Writer

The proposed landscape plan for Flood Park calls for a new soccer and lacrosse field, a renovated baseball field, a pump track and more.

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Almanac Staff Writer

The proposed landscape plan for Flood Park calls for a new soccer and lacrosse field, a renovated baseball field, a pump track and more.
New effort in the works to build trail from Bay to ocean

Trail could connect land from Ravenswood Open Space Preserve and Bair Island to Half Moon Bay

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

Land and conservation agencies and local jurisdictions are teaming up behind a bold new plan to build a trail that would allow people to travel by foot, bicycle or horse from the San Francisco Bay to the Pacific Ocean.

The Bay to Sea Trail, while still in its conceptual design phase, would, as envisioned now, be a multiuse path that would run from Bair Island in Redwood City to Half Moon Bay, moving past Edgewood County Park, through Huddart County Park and the Phleger Estate, through Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve, onto Burleigh H. Murray Ranch State Park and Johnston Ranch, into Wavecrest Open Space Reserve. Another trail segment on the conceptual map would run from Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve along a path south past Lobitos Creek to Cowell Ranch State Beach.

On the Bay side, it could also include a trail segment that would run from the Ravenswood Open Space Preserve in East Palo Alto through Menlo Park and North Fair Oaks to Redwood City along the Dumbarton rail right-of-way.

It would build off of existing trails as well, such as the Bay Area Ridge Trail, the Bay Trail, and the California Coastal Trail, according to Rachael Faye, public access project manager with the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST).

According to Faye, POST will be operating as the “backbone” of the initiative and act as project manager. That agency has been talking about the idea since as early as 2005, but it wasn’t until recently that the organization made the vision a priority.

For the project to come together, though, it will take time — early documents point to a goal of project completion by 2037 — and the support of a number of different agencies, she explained. The agency is collecting letters of intent indicating support for the project from the following agencies: San Mateo County Parks and Recreation, the Peninsula Open Space Trust, the Coastal Conservancy, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the Coastside Land Trust, the Coastal Conservancy, the California Parks Department, and the cities of Redwood City and Half Moon Bay.

“We all share this vision, and we want to contribute to it in the various ways we each can to make it become a reality,” Faye said. “It takes a team.”

Next, the agencies will assemble a planning coalition and initiate public outreach to work through questions like: What kind of experiences should the trail offer different user groups? Where will the route go? What existing trails should be melded into this path? What new trails will need to be designed and developed?

A Dumbarton trail?
Faye said POST and other coalition agencies hope to see a path that runs along the Dumbarton rail corridor. The rail line now runs through East Palo Alto, the Belle Haven neighborhood of Menlo Park, and North Fair Oaks, areas that currently offer “very little safe active transportation (opportunity),” she said. If a multiuse path were supported there, she said,
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Jail for embezzler of charitable funds
By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

A 59-year-old Fremont resident was sentenced Aug. 7 to three months in San Mateo County jail after pleading no contest to embezzling more than $26,000 from Farmers Insurance on Middlefield Road, according to the county District Attorney’s Office.

Yee Htwe worked as a company representative at Farmers Insurance on Middlefield Road, according to the county DA’s Office. She was in charge of sponsorships for charitable events. Between Jan. 1 and Aug. 31, 2017, Htwe billed the insurance company for several charitable events. When the company investigated, it found that the events were never sponsored by the company, and that Htwe had embezzled those funds.

The company lost an estimated $26,550.

On May 28, Htwe pleaded no contest to a felony charge of embezzlement on the condition she not serve time in state prison, according to the DA’s Office. Judge Jeffrey R. Finigan denied a motion to reduce the conviction to a misdemeanor. The request came from the defense attorney, who claimed Htwe had already paid full restitution.

In addition to jail time, Htwe was sentenced to three years of supervised probation and will be subject to search and seizure and genetic marker testing. She will not be permitted to possess weapons or ammunition, and will have to comply with other conditions imposed on people who commit crimes of identity theft, according to the DA’s Office.

City holds hearing on minimum wage

A proposal by the city of Menlo Park to require all employers in the city to pay employees a minimum of $15 an hour by Jan. 1, 2020, is the topic for discussion on Thursday, Aug. 22. The City Council would have to adopt an ordinance by Sept. 24 at the latest for it to take effect by the new year.

As currently drafted, the ordinance would apply to all employees in the city except for federal, state, county and school district employees; it would apply equally to employers regardless of the number of employees.

The Aug. 22 public meeting to hear comment on the proposal is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. at the Menlo Park City Council Chambers at 701 Laurel St.

Portola Valley is also considering joining a "subregion" of 20 cities and counties to work together on meeting the RHNA requirements, a strategy it has used in the past, Derwin wrote.

"But since trading is not permitted between jurisdictions this time around, it may not make sense to form a subregion," she wrote.

Trading allows a city to let another city or jurisdiction take on all or a part of another city’s affordable housing quota.

The current subregion was known as 21 Elements, meaning an alliance representing the 21 housing elements in force across San Mateo County, Russell said. The alliance "was done at a time when there wasn’t as much pressure to meet RHNA requirements as there is now," she said.

In the future, there is the prospect that the mandates of SB 50, the housing bill now on hiatus in the state Legislature, would apply to Portola Valley since the town is adjacent to Silicon Valley, a "jobs-rich opportunity area," Derwin wrote.

Being designated as "within an opportunity area" might result in automatic changes in zoning regulations to open areas of the town to more housing development, Russell said.

Woodside was left out of the opportunity area in the bill that will come back before the Legislature in January. The decision "makes no sense," Derwin said, since they are next door to each other and are similar in population, average income and other characteristics.

Portola Valley Town Manager Jeremy Dennis is adopting more of a "wait and see" attitude. "Generally, the Legislature is considering bills that would place greater responsibilities related to housing on cities," Dennis said. "Whether or not any one bill is signed into law by the governor, it is clear that the state is expecting cities and towns to do more on housing."
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Kay Woodruff Wertheimer
July 29th, 1928 - August 9, 2019

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of our beautiful Mother, Kay Woodruff Wertheimer, aged 91, on August 9, 2019 in Los Altos, California. Kay was born in Lansing, Michigan on July 29th, 1928. She and her brother, Charles “Woody” Woodruff were the children of Frank Barnaby Woodruff and Katherine “Kay” McNamara Woodruff.

Kay graduated from The University of Michigan with honors in English and remained a spirited “Go Blue” fan. She met her husband-to-be, Robert E. Wertheimer on a blind date in New York City and they were married after Bob graduated from Harvard Business School.

Kay and Bob eventually settled in Atherton where they raised 5 children, Charles, Thomas, Kathleen, Amy and Betsy. Kay was involved in many volunteer activities on the Peninsula including The Cancer Society, Stanford Hospital, The Turnabout Shop and Peninsula Volunteers. She was also an active supporter of Castilleja School where her girls attended.

She loved the annual “Table Setting” event and hosted one year. She was an active supporter of Castilleja School where her girls attended. Kay was a supporter and Patron of the Arts and had a keen interest in the visual and performing arts.

Kay’s love of nature and its beauty was most evident in the many volunteer hours she contributed to the Peninsula Open Space Trust Co., which later merged with Wells Fargo.

She married Harold Hoss February 12, 1942. They were blessed with 57 years together. Harold passed away in 1999. She and Harold founded and operated Tropic Waters Aquarium in San Carlos for many years, and later TW Manufacturing in Redwood City. Beginning in 1958, they made their home in Portola Valley. They were active in the San Mateo County Historical Society, Little House in Menlo Park, and Christ Church in Portola Valley.

Annie Vesta Hoss (Bassett) passed away peacefully on her Lord on July 25, 2019 at the age of 98. She was born March 3, 1921 to David and Lottie Bassett. The family lived in Atherton and Annie attended Los Lomitas School, Sequoia High School, and San Jose State College. She was proud of the fact that during WWII she was selected for the position as the first female bank teller in San Mateo County. She was employed by the American Trust Co., which later merged with Wells Fargo.

She married Harold Hoss February 12, 1942. They were blessed with 57 years together. Harold passed away in 1999. She and Harold founded and operated Tropic Waters Aquarium in San Carlos for many years, and later TW Manufacturing in Redwood City. Beginning in 1958, they made their home in Portola Valley. They were active in the San Mateo County Historical Society, Little House in Menlo Park, and Christ Church in Portola Valley.

Annie is survived by her four children, Gail Ocker (Dick), Gary Hoss (Kristine), Joan Hoss, and Gregory Hoss (Karen); also ten grandchildren: Cameron Ocker (Carol), Colin Ocker (Liette), Heather Weber (Sam), Amy Peeples (Cale), Garrett Hoss (Beth), Daniel Hoss (Marilyn), Thomas Hoss, Bryan Hoss, John Dalrymple (Rebecca) and Elizabeth (Teddy) Kowalczyk; great-grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Annie was preceded in death by her brother, David Bassett, Jr., and her sister, Elizabeth Jane Bassett.

Annie was a devoted wife, mother, Nana and G-Nana to her family. She worked alongside her husband in business for many years while supporting her children in their education, activities, and clubs. She thoroughly enjoyed spending time with her large family. Her encouragement, positive attitude and kindness will be missed by all. Annie was an inspiration to all of us.

Kay was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Wertheimer, and her brother, Charles “Woody” Woodruff. She is survived by her children and 5 grandchildren and joins beloved son and brother, Tom in Heaven.

Annie was a devoted wife, mother, Nana and G-Nana to her family. She worked alongside her husband in business for many years while supporting her children in their education, activities, and clubs. She thoroughly enjoyed spending time with her large family. Her encouragement, positive attitude and kindness will be missed by all. Annie was an inspiration to all of us.

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Annie Vesta Hoss (Bassett) passed away peacefully on her Lord on July 25, 2019 at the age of 98. She was born March 3, 1921 to David and Lottie Bassett. The family lived in Atherton and Annie attended Los Lomitas School, Sequoia High School, and San Jose State College. She was proud of the fact that during WWII she was selected for the position as the first female bank teller in San Mateo County. She was employed by the American Trust Co., which later merged with Wells Fargo.

She married Harold Hoss February 12, 1942. They were blessed with 57 years together. Harold passed away in 1999. She and Harold founded and operated Tropic Waters Aquarium in San Carlos for many years, and later TW Manufacturing in Redwood City. Beginning in 1958, they made their home in Portola Valley. They were active in the San Mateo County Historical Society, Little House in Menlo Park, and Christ Church in Portola Valley.

Annie is survived by her four children, Gail Ocker (Dick), Gary Hoss (Kristine), Joan Hoss, and Gregory Hoss (Karen); also ten grandchildren: Cameron Ocker (Carol), Colin Ocker (Liette), Heather Weber (Sam), Amy Peeples (Cale), Garrett Hoss (Beth), Daniel Hoss (Marilyn), Thomas Hoss, Bryan Hoss, John Dalrymple (Rebecca) and Elizabeth (Teddy) Kowalczyk; great-grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Annie was preceded in death by her brother, David Bassett, Jr., and her sister, Elizabeth Jane Bassett.

Annie was a devoted wife, mother, Nana and G-Nana to her family. She worked alongside her husband in business for many years while supporting her children in their education, activities, and clubs. She thoroughly enjoyed spending time with her large family. Her encouragement, positive attitude and kindness will be missed by all. Annie was an inspiration to all of us.

The family would like to express appreciation to the staff at the Co-Alt Medical Foundation for their years of excellent patient services, and would like to thank Ainse Moa and her family who lovingly cared for Annie.

A memorial service and reception to celebrate her life will be held on August 25 at 100 at Christ Church, 815 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her name to the Peninsula Humane Society, 1450 Rollins Road, Burlingame, CA 94010 or the Sempervirens Island to Huddart Park, and then farther west through MROSD’s Purisma Creek Redwood Open Space Preserve, she said.

The trail type and conditions would likely differ depending on the terrain being traversed, Faye explained. In the more urban areas, it might be as simple as a set of wayfinding signs or a separated bike lane, while in open space areas, it could include new multiuse trail segments.

Specific features of the trail, such as whether dogs would be permitted, or whether there would be opportunities for people who wish to travel the whole route from point to point, are still to be determined, she said.

“It would be so great if we could create overnight opportunities along the way,” she said. “It’s something that’s in the back of our minds.”

While a minority of people might want to hike or bike the whole extent of the trail, she explained, more would use it in smaller segments. Even so, it will provide an opportunity to connect communities, enable people to experience the different habitats that make up the Peninsula and connect the north-to-south trails that already exist or are in development.

Ultimately, it could enable one to travel by trail all the way from Redwood City to San Francisco and beyond, she added.

Complementary MROSD projects
MROSD is already working on two trail projects that could be part of the final Bay to Sea Trail, district spokesperson Leigh Ann Gesner said.

One is a trail segment in the Ravenswood Open Space Preserve that crews are expected to begin work on this fall, and the other is the Purisma to the Sea Trail, which would connect the Bay Area Ridge Trail in the Purisma Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve to the Coastal Trail along the coast in Half Moon Bay.

The agency just recently acquired the last “puzzle piece” of the land needed to make that trail possible, Gesner said. “The next step for that trail segment to become reality is to start the planning process for where the trail would go and begin public outreach, she added.

When MROSD put together a survey in June 2018, it was clear to the district that Peninsula residents have a strong desire for a network of trails to connect people to public open spaces, so this project aligns well with that vision, she said.

A connected trail network isn’t just good for people, Gesner added. “It benefits wildlife, who also need to be able to move through the landscape safely to access food, water and habitats they need.”
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Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Los Altos Hills.*

*Search Criteria as compiled by BrokerMetrics® using MLS Data; January 1st, 2018 - December 31st, 2018, Los Altos Hills, All Residential Properties

Michael Repka, Managing Broker, DRE #01854880 | 中文諮詢請聯繫Audrey Sun 電話: 650.785.5822 DRE #01933274
650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com | www.deleonrealty.com | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224
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Saturday
1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Listed by Michael Repka of the DeLeon Team, the #1 Team in Portola Valley.*

*Search Criteria as compiled by BrokerMetrics® using MLS Data; January 1st, 2018 - December 31st, 2018, Portola Valley. All Residential Properties.

For more information, video tour & more photos, please visit: www.660LaMesa.com

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中文諮詢請聯繫Audrey Sun 電話：650.785.5822 | DRE #01933274
Discovering the ‘invisible’ faces of Filoli

By Sheryl Nonnenberg

Filoli House and Garden’s current exhibition, “Nest: Creating Home,” is a multilayered, three-part look at the people who have staffed the mansion over the years, as well as the flora and fauna that have called this majestic Woodside estate home.

“We have been trying to do more thematic exhibitions that encompass the entire property, instead of just the garden or the house,” head curator Julie Bly DeVere explained.

Filoli is one of the last still-working country estates from an era when San Francisco industrialists sought refuge from the city by building homes on the Peninsula. It consists of a 54,000-square-foot Georgian revival mansion and 654 acres of land, some of which has been turned into formal gardens. There is also a nature preserve and more than seven miles of hiking trails.

There is no doubt that one of the many reasons people enjoy visiting historic sites like Filoli is a chance to live vicariously—imagining what it would have been like to be enormously wealthy and live amid such splendor. While previous exhibitions have focused on the lavish lifestyles and interests of the Bourn family (who built the estate in 1917) and the Roths (who bought it in 1937 and donated it to National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1975), DeVere said that the emphasis of “The People of Filoli” section of the exhibition is on the people who were “invisible” but integral to the day-to-day operation of the household.

“This style of life takes a huge staff to make happen,” she said. But telling their stories proved to be more challenging than anticipated.

While the Bourne and the Roths had good relations with their employees, they (like many wealthy employers) did not keep detailed records about their staff. DeVere pointed out that, for the most part, employees were called only by their last names. She was unable to locate any written records regarding payroll, inventories or even correspondence relating to the service staff.

So how was she able to find so much information about them? Luckily, the census records for 1920, 1930 and 1940 proved to be a rich source of information. Also, searching websites like Ancestry.com resulted in leads to living descendants who were a goldmine of information. Their photographs and oral histories helped in creating a fuller picture of those who worked both in the house and out on the grounds.

Like many of the estates on the Peninsula, Filoli was manned by a widely diverse staff. There were Swedish and Italian cooks, a Russian chauffeur, French maids and Italian gardeners. Overseeing them all, during the Bourn years, was a very proper English butler named Woods. DeVere said that, in spite of the many cultural and language differences, the staff “somehow made it work and everyone understood everyone.” It was not uncommon for employees to stay 15 or 20 years and, in some cases, to return again long after their days in service had ended.

DeVere spoke fondly of David Patterson, who started as a pantry boy during the Roth years, then worked his way to butler, then head butler after returning from war. Many years later, he returned to Filoli as a volunteer and enjoyed sharing his memories of his time on the estate. While doing research for the exhibition, DeVere contacted his family and learned that Patterson had written an autobiography.

“Filoli had an impact on every aspect of his life,” she explained. “And now we have all these new stories to share.”

Research also revealed that the estate, while safely nestled in the California coastal range, was not immune to the events occurring in the outside world. During World War II, the staff was greatly reduced and, according to DeVere, “everyone just had to do more.”

One of the more somber stories uncovered was that of Japanese butler Teikichi Taga. He, his wife and his American-born daughter were sent to internment camps for the duration of the war. Lurline Roth drove them to the camps and picked them up following their release. “These are sad stories,” noted DeVere, “but I think they are important to remember.”

Families have been the source of new — and enlightening — information. Alma Johnson, a Swedish immigrant, was the head cook during the Bourn years. Known for her coffee ice cream and delicious pastries, Johnson worked instinctually, using recipes from her homeland. Stina Ekberg, a kitchen maid, carefully wrote down all of Alma’s recipes in a composition notebook. Her family recently brought

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Photos courtesy of Filoli

Alma Johnson, top, was the head cook at Filoli during the Bourn years, while Sydney Woods, above, was a butler.

The kitchen inside the house at Filoli, with uniforms of the different generations of workers on display. Filoli’s current exhibition includes a look at the people who staffed the mansion over the years.
the notebook to DeVere. “My jaw dropped, and I held it like it was a little baby,” she said. “It’s a real cook’s cookbook, no instructions, just a list of ingredients.”

Information like this has been reproduced and presented, in the form of display placards, in the areas of the house where the individual worked. In the teal-colored ballroom, visitors can learn about Ernest Peixotto, son of Jewish immigrants and the artist who created the enormous murals depicting the Muckross Estate in Ireland. In the library, Mr. Bourn’s wheelchair is on display, next to a mannequin wearing a uniform like the one worn by Marie, his longtime nurse.

DeVere explained: “In the past, we might have been more inclined to tell the traditional family story and not that of the staff, who were meant to disappear and not be seen. It has been really powerful to have her standing in the room.”

When asked if there were any surprises uncovered during her research, DeVere cited the mobility of the service staff. According to ship manifests, many Filoli staff members traveled to and from their countries of origin fairly frequently. There is also the story of Henriette, a French immigrant and lady’s maid to Lurline Roth, who left the country, via ship, 35 times with her employer. There is also record of her joining Roth on an early Pan Am flight.

DeVere noted that researching the staff is an ongoing, continuing effort. “We have had about 10 families who have reached out to share their stories. We continue to get pictures and want to hear from more families. All of the material received will go into our archive and will be used in the development of future tours and programming.”

There are also monthly lectures on topics relating to the exhibition, and in addition to “The People of Filoli,” there are two related exhibits: “American Women: Birds of Im/Migration,” and “Nests: Patterns from Nature.”

Santa Cruz artist Sarah Friedlander’s mixed-media panels pay homage to women who left their homelands for America, as did her own grandmother. Outside, landscape architect W. Gary Smith has created site-specific installations using natural materials gathered from the gardens.

In an alcove off the main hallway, there is a display of old steamer trunks. The top trunk is open and visitors are invited to fill out and leave a label, telling their own immigration stories. The trunk is overflowing with handwritten accounts of hopeful journeys undertaken in order to find a new and better life.

While immigration is currently a hot-button topic, the exhibition succeeds in personalizing the issue. DeVere noted: “This is what migration and immigration stories look like. And what it means to be home.”

Sheryl Nonnenberg is a freelance writer.

If you go
What: “Nest: Creating Home.”
Where: Filoli Historic House & Garden, 86 Canada Road, Woodside.
When: Through Nov. 10. Open Tuesday-Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: Filoli admission is $22 general admission; discounts available.
Info: filoli.org/nest/.

On the cover: Teikichi Taga was working as a butler at Filoli when he, his wife and his daughter were sent to an interment camp during World War II. Photo courtesy of Filoli.

Upside Down, a nest created by W. Gary Smith and located in the Rose Garden at Filoli, is made from a 75-year-old hornbeam tree that was removed from Filoli due to a fungal disease.

Willow Dome was created with steel rings from Filoli’s inoperative 100-year-old redwood water tanks and Arroyo willow branches.

Rookery, is made of London plane tree branches stuffed with grasses.

Water Circle is one of several nests created by W. Gary Smith that are on display as part of the exhibit, “Nests: Patterns from Nature.”

Nests Afloat is made of London plane tree branches and arroyo willow.
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT 
FLOOD COUNTY PARK LANDSCAPE PLAN 
AUGUST 9, 2019

Notice is hereby given that the County of San Mateo has completed a Draft Revised Environmental Impact Report (Draft Revised EIR), pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), for the proposed Flood County Park Landscape Plan. 

Project Applicant: San Mateo County Parks Department

Project Location: 215 Bay Road, Menlo Park

Project Description: The proposed project entails a Landscape Plan for the long-term redevelopment of San Mateo County’s Flood County Park in the city of Menlo Park. This plan is intended to optimize preservation of large oak and bay trees, increase offerings of sports, and provide a variety of active and passive uses for a range of user groups. It is anticipated that the proposed recreational facilities would be developed within ten years. The largest recreational facilities would be sited in the northern portion of the park, where the existing ballfield would be reconstructed and a soccer/lacrosse field would be installed at the eastern corner, replacing the existing pétanque court and a portion of the existing tennis courts. A promenade would run eastward across the center of the park from the parking lot. Picnic areas clustered in the southern half of the park would be reconstructed. The Parks Department would preserve existing adobe buildings on-site, with the exception of demolishing the adobe Restroom D located west of the existing tennis courts. The adobe administrative building in the southwest part of the park would be rehabilitated for seismic stability.

Lead Agency: San Mateo County Parks Department

455 County Center, 4th Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063
Attn: Sam Herzberg, Senior Planner, AICP
650/363-1823

Document Availability: The Draft Revised EIR can be viewed on the San Mateo County Parks Department website at https://parks.smcgov.org/. A copy of the document is also available for review Monday through Thursday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the San Mateo County Parks Development, 455 County Center – Fourth Floor, Redwood City.

Public Review: The Draft Revised EIR will be out for a 45-day public review period from August 9 until September 23, 2019. The County must receive all written comments regarding the adequacy of the EIR, addressed to Sam Herzberg at the address provided above, within this time period.

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES ARE INVITED TO A PUBLIC MEETING TO COMMENT ON THE REVISED EIR. ATTENDEES WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE INPUT TO THE CONSULTANTS PREPARING THE DRAFT REVISED EIR.

The public meeting to receive public comments on the Draft Revised EIR will be held on:

Tuesday, September 17, 2019, from 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Fair Oaks Community Center, 2600 Middlefield Road, Redwood City

*** Parking available ***

Environmental Effects: The Draft Revised EIR evaluates the following environmental issues in detail: Air Quality, Energy, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Noise, Transportation and Circulation, and Wildfire. Based on the analysis in the Draft Revised EIR, the Landscape Plan would have significant and unavoidable impacts related to traffic conditions at the intersection of Bay Road and Ringwood Avenue, as well as increased exposure to traffic noise. Other impacts studied in the Draft Revised EIR would be less than significant.

Other environmental issues including Aesthetics, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hydrology and Water Quality, and Tribal Cultural Resources were adequately evaluated in the original Draft EIR published in September 2017 (as modified by the Final EIR posted on the County’s website in May 2018). These topics were not revisited in the Draft Revised EIR.

Alternatives: Similar to the original EIR, the Draft EIR analyzes the following three alternatives to the proposed Landscape Plan: 1) No Project, 2) Reduced Athletic Programming, and 3) Multi-Use Field. Among the park redevelopment options, Alternative 2 (Reduced Athletic Programming) is identified as the environmentally superior alternative.

Sam Herzberg, Senior Planner
Date of Distribution: August 9, 2019

COMMUNITY

Thomas Screven spoke at a Children’s Congress program in Washington, D.C., last month.

Portola Valley teen advocates for diabetes research in D.C.

By Matthew Vollrath
Special to The Almanac

H ow many people can say they’ve appeared before the United States Senate? Thomas Screven, a 16-year-old Portola Valley resident, can now count himself a part of this exclusive group.

Early last month, Screven flew to Washington, D.C., where he and 160 other kids from all 50 states advocated for research and funding for Type 1 Diabetes.

Screven has lived with Type 1 since he was 4 years old. Overall, he’s lived a healthy life — he plays baseball and soccer at his high school, the Woodside Priory, and has thus far avoided hospitalization. But the disease is high-maintenance, to say the least. For as long as he can remember, he’s had to continually monitor his blood sugar levels and administer insulin up to six times a day.

“Diabetes is always on my mind,” he said in an interview with The Almanac. “Maybe in the forefront, maybe in the back somewhere. But I’m thinking about it all the time.”

Screven is far from alone. Nearly 1.25 million Americans live with Type 1, many of whom, like him, were diagnosed as children. It is this reality that gave rise to the Children’s Congress, a program sponsored by diabetes advocacy group JDRF that brings children from across the nation with Type 1 to Capitol Hill every two years.

During the week of July 8, Screven met with staffers of Congresswoman Anna Eshoo and Sen. Dianne Feinstein. He also attended a special Senate committee hearing, where he and his cohort, including some children as young as 4, shared their experiences of living with diabetes.

After giving their testimonies, the young delegates called for action. One issue they raised was the accessibility of insulin.

“It costs more than $100 a vial,” Screven said. “That’s way too high for a life-saving drug.” The high price comes from the fact that some insurance companies receive huge rebates on the drug while customers end up covering the costs, a system that national lawmakers attempted to change, he explained.

The other thing they advocated for was research funding. When he was younger, Screven said, he had to manually test his blood sugar and inject his own insulin.

Now, like many, he has an insulin pump, which is much easier and far less painful. Technology like this is the direct result of research funding for diabetes, he said.

Further research could lead to the development of a “closed-loop system” — an integrated blood sugar monitor and insulin pump, which would eliminate much of the daily hassle associated with the disease — or even, Screven says, a cure.

“There’s talk of implanting cells,” he said, which could possibly restore the ability of the pancreas to produce insulin on its own. “There’s a long way to go, but it’s closer than many people think.”

Screven says he came away from the week with a feeling of optimism. “[Diabetes] is a very bipartisan issue,” he asserted. The Special Diabetes Program, which provides $150 million
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SEE AND LEARN MORE AT: MOONVALLEYNURSERIES.COM
Registration opens for city’s fall classes

Registration for fall classes through the city of Menlo Park is now open for residents and nonresidents. Go to is.gd/fall-classes847 to access the course catalogue.

At the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, new offerings include a family music class for babies through 5-year-olds and a French Club and French tutoring for middle school students. There is a fee for most classes.

Food reporting you won’t find anywhere else.

Sign up for the only food newsletter on the Peninsula at almanacnews.com/express

Portola Valley schools sign crossing guard contract

By Rick Radin
Almanac Staff Writer

The Portola Valley School District has entered into an agreement with the Woodside Patrol security service to provide crossing guards at its two elementary schools as well as the private Woodside Priory school during the 2019-2020 school year.

The school district is party to the contract with a separate memorandum of understanding with Woodside Priory.

The guards will be posted from 7:45 to 8:30 a.m. at the crosswalk in front of Woodside Priory at the corner of Brookside Drive on school days.

The Woodside Patrol will also cover the crosswalk at Alpine Road and Corte Madera Road from 2:45 to 3:30 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and from 1:30 to 2:15 p.m. on Wednesdays, according to the contract signed by the district and the Woodside Patrol.

In addition, Woodside Patrol will be on duty at the Alpine/ Corte Madera crosswalk from noon to 12:30 p.m. on minimum days scheduled for Nov. 5 to Nov. 8, Dec. 20 and June 11, 2020. The agreement follows a period of uncertainty about the ability of the Portola Valley district to find people interested in being crossing guards going back about four years, according to Superintendent Roberta Zarea.

“We had a crossing guard who worked for us for years, but he was elderly and we were getting a lot of complaints about his ability to cross kids safely,” Zarea said. “We had people interested in being crossing guards going back about four years, according to Superintendent Roberta Zarea.

“The district has teachers and custodians on duty at the crosswalk at the intersection of Alpine Road and Indian Crossing, in front of Corte Madera School, during the mornings and afternoons, she said.

“I do think it is worth understanding how many kids actually use the crosswalk by the Priory and at Alpine and Corte Madera, and see if it’s something we want to continue,” Zarea said. “We will study the usage and travel patterns this year.”

The district will pay 65% of the cost of the contract and Woodside Priory 35%.

The school district joined with the town of Portola Valley and Woodside Priory to hire Woodside Patrol in a pilot program during the last few months of the 2018-19 school year, Zarea said. Woodside Patrol is a private security agency that was formed in 1930 to supplement the services of the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office, according to its website.

Screven continued from page 18

in annual funding for diabetes research, is currently supported for renewal by 68 senators and 378 representatives. “There’s not really any problem passing it,” he said. “It’s more about ironing out the issues.”

He also came away with several new friends. “I have some people from the Children’s Congress I keep in touch with,” he said. “Once you see people with Type 1 Diabetes, you kind of form a bond, you know? You’re going through the exact same things.”

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Menlo Park Fire District Public Education
SamTrans, the public bus service for San Mateo County, is adding service to Route 81 to make the commute to and from Menlo-Atherton High School easier for students living in East Palo Alto and Menlo Park’s Belle Haven neighborhood.

Route 81 will now connect the two areas on a direct route to M-A.

The change comes after SamTrans found that many students living in East Palo Alto and Belle Haven had to take two buses to get to school, according to SamTrans spokesperson Dan Lieberman.

Over a third of SamTrans’ ridership is made up of students, primarily on routes to and from school, Lieberman said in a press release. As a result, SamTrans and M-A collaborate on making student commutes easier.

“Menlo-Atherton and SamTrans have a working partnership,” M-A principal Simone Rick-Kennel noted in the press release. “Route 81 was established because there was a need to make sure all students could arrive to school ready to learn, not frustrated by their commute. With this partnership, SamTrans provides a direct connection to the classroom and M-A students benefit from this immensely.”

SamTrans makes changes to bus schedules and service operations three times a year to adjust to changing traffic patterns and improve service and efficiency, according to the press release. The Route 81 change is a part of SamTrans’ August changes, which include all 39 of SamTrans’ school routes resuming.

The District Board of West Bay Sanitary District finds and determines as follows:

A. This Resolution of Intention is adopted pursuant to the District’s “Zone Master Annexation Resolution” (“ZOMAR”), which was adopted by the District Board August 12, 1996. The provisions of ZOMAR are incorporated by reference into this Resolution of Intention.

B. The District has received an application to annex a parcel of real property (the “Parcel”) to the District’s On-Site Wastewater Disposal Zone (the “Zone”). The Parcel is described in Exhibit “A” attached to this Resolution of Intention and the description contained in the Exhibits is incorporated by reference. The name and address of the applicants and the number, type, volume and location of on-site wastewater disposal systems which are proposed to operate on the parcels to be annexed are described in Exhibit “B” attached to this Resolution of Intention and the information contained in the Exhibit are incorporated by reference.

C. The applicants have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the District Board that the Parcel constitutes “real property” for the purposes of Section 2(b) of ZOMAR in that:

- All of the conditions described in Subsections i., ii., iii., iv. and v. of ZOMAR Section 2(b) are satisfied; or
- Other conditions exist which demonstrate that the Parcel will benefit directly or indirectly from the activities of the Zone.

If applicable, those conditions are also set forth in Exhibit “B” and are incorporated by reference.

D. All of the conditions and requirements of ZOMAR Sections 2(a), 2(c), 2(d) and 2(e) have been fully satisfied.

In consideration of the foregoing findings and determinations,

IT IS RESOLVED by the District Board as follows:

1. It is the intention of the District Board to annex the Parcel to the Zone pursuant to the provisions of ZOMAR and applicable provisions of law.

2. In conjunction with a meeting of the District Board to be duly and regularly called and conducted, the Board will conduct a Public Hearing for the purpose of considering all matters pertaining to this Resolution of Intention.

The time, date and place of the Public Hearing are:

Date: September 11, 2019
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: West Bay Sanitary District Offices
500 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025

At the Public Hearing, all interested persons will be heard.

3. This Resolution of Intention shall be published and copies shall be delivered to the persons and entities as specified in ZOMAR Section 2(e)(i).

4. A true copy of this Resolution of Intention shall promptly be filed for record in the office of the County Recorder of the County of San Mateo.

5. The District Manager shall cause the matters set forth in Sections 3 and 4 of this Resolution of Intention to be completed as directed.

Library hosts trivia night

The Menlo Park library will host an after-hours “Book-ish” trivia night for adults from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 29.

The event will feature trivia games and prizes, light refreshments, adult beverages and a drawing for participants in the library’s Adult Summer Learning Challenge. It will be a casual-format, “pub quiz” kind of event, explained event organizer Rose Frazier.

The learning challenge has been running throughout the summer and will end Aug. 31. It encourages participants to read and try new activities. Go to isgd/librarychallenge for more information.

In addition, all attendees will receive a free book, Frazier said.

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Back to school: Local elementary schools

**C**lass is back in session for local elementary school districts.

The Las Lomitas Elementary, Portola Valley and Woodside Elementary school districts are resuming classes on Monday, Aug. 26. While students are at the district’s fee-based preschool start on Friday, Aug. 23, and Monday, Aug. 26. Three of the four districts welcomed new superintendents.

Here are a few of the highlights from the summer and the new school year from each district:

**Las Lomitas**

Beth Polito became head of the Las Lomitas district on July 1. Polito replaces Lisa Cesario, who retired after seven years as superintendent.

Workers are expected to finish construction work at Las Lomitas school (K-3) by October, Polito said. Modernization of the school will begin during the summer of 2020. Las Lomitas will move away from a staggered day schedule to a single earlier time, because the staggered schedule created a hardship for parents who did not want their first choice of session time, said Polito in an email.

The district expects over 1,210 students (as of Aug. 14), compared with 1,262 last school year, a decrease of 52 students. Enrollment at both schools is decreasing.

Aside from Polito, there are no new administrators in the district this school year, Polito said. In March, the school board voted to reclassify the position of director of curriculum and instruction as an assistant superintendent position, held by Shannon Potts; this will be her first full school year in the newly created position.

There are 45 staff members at Las Lomitas and 85 staff at La Entrada. New staff members are:

- **Las Lomitas:** Catherine Choo, speech and language pathologist; Clemane Khoury, half-time K-3 resource specialist program; Claire Choo, half-time K-3 resource specialist program; Stacy Nelson, kindergarten; Vi Quan, instructional assistant in English language development and playground supervisor/monitor.

- **La Entrada:** Valerie Aidan, French; Luana Brubaker, school psychologist; Elise Gelb and Kellie Morris, fifth grade.

- **Menlo Park City**

The district expanded its preschool Early Learning Center (ELC) to the Oak Knoll School campus. A classroom was retrofitted and a playground was upgraded to accommodate the addition. Parke Treadway, the district’s public information officer, said in an email.

The program initially opened at Laurel School Lower Campus in August 2018 with two classrooms. The district is expanding the preschool, which serves children just under 3 years old to 5 years old, to accommodate 44 more students this school year. Twenty-two more students will be at the Laurel School site, while 22 more will be at Oak Knoll.

Workers are modernizing the front office at Encinal School. The work is expected to be completed in the fall. Workers retrofitted 21 classrooms at Oak Knoll and Encinal schools with LED lighting.

The district is expanding its crossing guard program, from nine crossing guards to 17, to encourage biking and walking to school. This is funded for five years by Facebook. The program will also increase crossing guards in Las Lomitas and Ravenswood school districts.

The district expects enrollment to be about 2,945 students (as of Aug. 13) for the 2019-20 school year, an increase of 226 last school year, an increase of 19 students.

The district has 208 teachers and 11 administrative staff. This does not include the ELC staff.

New staff members are:

- **Encinal:** Danielle Franco, fifth grade; Christine Ruefer, fourth grade; and Calioppe Stamates, K-5 Achieving Independent Minds program.

- **Hillview:** Robert Lawrence, math; Ron Christopherson, P.E.; Leonardo Schneidemaman and Tara Connelly, science; Caroline Lucas, Spanish; Kellie Razcowski and Kristina Johnson, counselors.

- **Laurel:** Carrie Chase and Hannah Carney, kindergarten; Katherine Chiang, bilingual assistant in English language development and playground supervisor/monitor.

- **La Entrada:** Valerie Aidan, French; Luana Brubaker, school psychologist; Elise Gelb and Kellie Morris, fifth grade.

- **Oak Knoll:** Janiq Menez and Samantha Chiang, third grade.

- **Portola Valley**

New staff members are:

- **Portola Valley:** Michael Morgan, math; Megan Scatena, fifth grade; Christine Hollies, sixth grade.

- **Menlo Park City**

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**Woodside middle school principal moves into superintendent’s office**

Continuing individualized instruction, social and emotional learning, design thinking and communication are top priorities for Steve Frank, Woodside Elementary School District’s new superintendent.

After nearly two decades with the Woodside Elementary School District, Steve Frank is now filling the district’s top management role.

In addition to his new role as superintendent, which began July 1, Frank will continue to serve as the middle school’s principal, at least for the 2019-20 school year, he told The Almanac in a recent interview. Frank began his tenure as middle school principal in 2014.

The new role comes at the perfect time, as the district is in "good shape," he said.

"I’m comfortable with the community and know the people here — the staff, teachers and parents," he said. "The transition has been fairly seamless."

In the middle school role, Frank, 45, will manage meetings with families about high school choices and help students with high school applications.

District officials decided that teachers should be appointed to act as deans for each grade level to manage day-to-day middle school operations, such as overseeing report cards, student discipline and scheduling.

Bjorn Wickstrom, a Spanish teacher, will oversee sixth grade, according to the district’s website. Science teacher Melissa Bowdon will oversee seventh grade, while Jennifer Mull, an English and language arts teacher, will fill the role for eighth grade. Each is working toward administrative credentials and will each receive a $20,000 stipend for their work as administrators, Frank said. The district will save over $100,000 by not hiring a full-time middle school principal, he said.

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**Back to school: Local elementary schools**

By Angela Swartz

Almanac Staff Writer

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**Priorities as superintendent**

Frank, who joined the district in 2002 as a social studies teacher, would like to continue the district’s initiatives, which are social and emotional learning — in which educators teach students to assert their feelings directly, be mindful, make decisions, work well in groups and be self-aware, among other skills; “design thinking,” which encompasses project-based, hands-on, multidisciplinary ways of solving problems; and communication.

In addition, he’d like to further the district’s work on “differentiated instruction” — developing lessons tailored to meet the individual needs of students in the same classroom.

For example, social studies and science projects and labs are commonly differentiated at the school through activities that are open-ended, choice-driven and collaborative, according to the district website. Although differentiated instruction is in place at the middle school level, Frank would like to see this method of instruction expand in kindergarten through fifth grade, especially for mathematics.

Differentiation is especially important in a district where parents are often well-educated and want to make sure their children can go even further than prescribed grade-level standards, he said.

“It’s one of our most challenging and pressing needs,” Frank said. “There’s a number of families that want to make
Construction of the new TIDE Academy high school is ongoing and won’t be finished until September or October due to project setbacks.

TIDE ACADEMY
continued from page 5

to 400 students once grades nine through 12 are in place.

The school’s name is an acronym for technology, innovation, design and engineering — a nod to its mission of preparing students for STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) careers. The name also derives from the school’s proximity to the Bay.

TIDE’s curriculum includes classes in engineering, computer science, and design, with a focus on project-based learning, according to the school’s website.

The school is located blocks away from Facebook and other high-tech corporations, most involved in health sciences. The proximity of these companies could help students develop mentorships that extend into college, school officials have said.

About 60% of students are taking the bus to campus, Pulido said. Eight students biked to school on the first day. Bike racks will be installed in two weeks, and in the meantime, bikes are being secured at the front gate, she said.

The district proposed the magnet school as part of a $265 million bond measure in June 2017. The district awarded the construction bid for the project to Arrntz Builders for about $36 million in 2017.

The school has recently undergone some staffing changes. In June, Allison Silvestri took over as principal, replacing Shamar Edwards, who had been principal since July 2018. Edwards, who also served as the district’s executive director of small-school innovation and alternative programs, confirmed in a July 31 email that he is no longer working for the school or the district.

Pulido said that Edwards resigned from the district, but the plan was always to hire someone else as principal once the school launched. Vice Principal Mike Kuliga, who served as the school’s first principal beginning in July 2017, is also no longer listed on the school’s website as an employee. Founding teachers also recently left the school.

FRANK
continued from page 22

sure their children are really learning at school. The cookie-cutter approach is not ideal in education. Every student is an individual who learns in different ways.”

The state will adopt a new social studies curriculum in the next couple of years, he said, adding that he can leverage his past experience teaching the subject — he was a middle school social studies teacher for seven years before moving into administration — to evaluate the district’s curriculum.

Frank said he will evaluate the district’s communication with the public through its website and Wildcat Weekly newsletters. He’ll work with the school board to see “how to better” it, he said.

He will also focus on how to save money and add to district reserves, he said, adding that he wants to make sure there’s enough money in district funds if there were unforeseen costs, such as a tree falling on a classroom. He doesn’t anticipate any major construction or bond initiatives in the near future.

“I’d like to add to our existing programs and continue to get better, not spend more money,” he said.

Frank said he’s glad to continue working in a K-8 setting and that he plans to have time built into his schedule every day to visit classrooms.

The students, he said, are what motivate him. “I don’t want to cut down on the amount of time I spend around kids.”

Then and now
Before becoming middle school principal, Frank, a Menlo Park resident, served as the K-8 assistant principal for five years, according to the district’s website.

Originally from Napa, Frank graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with a bachelor’s degree in psychology, and earned a master’s degree in educational administration from Santa Clara University.

Embarcadero Media is an independent multimedia news organization with over 35 years of providing award-winning local news, community information and entertainment to the Midpeninsulas.

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- Graphic Designer Creation/production of print and online ads, including editorial layout, in a fast-paced environment. Publishing experience and video editing a plus.
- Digital Sales Account Representative Prospect and sell local businesses in our markets who have needs to brand and promote their businesses or events using our full-suite of digital solutions.

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If breakfast is what you want, you can get it at Alice's

Eleven years in, locals and visitors converge for the monthly morning buffet

By Kate Bradshaw
Almanac Staff Writer

On the first Wednesday of every month, dedicated pilgrims, from nearby and as far away as San Jose and San Francisco, awaken in the early hours to journey by foot, bike, motorcycle and car to the redwood-dotted, fog-shrouded hills of Sky Londa.

Their destination is Alice’s Restaurant, a local institution that dominates the intersection of Highway 84 and Skyline Boulevard.

These travelers are headed for restaurant’s monthly buffet breakfast, which, for a cost of $10 between the hours of 8 and 9:30 a.m., permits visitors to eat all the scrambled and fried eggs, fried potatoes, sausage, bacon, pancakes, French toast, coffee cake, fresh fruit, oatmeal and coffee they can.

The buffet, explained Andy Kerr, the restaurant’s co-owner, started back in 2008 during the Great Recession. The restaurant had seen a decline in visits from locals, some of whom had lost their jobs and had little money to spend eating out, he says.

To show appreciation for local customers, the restaurant launched the monthly buffet at $5 per person, but since then, the restaurant has had to raise prices to $10 to cover the costs, Kerr said.

According to local lore, the building in which the restaurant now lives was once a general store and has been a restaurant since about the 1950s. It was bought in the 1960s by a woman named Alice Taylor, who named the restaurant after herself and the famous Arlo Guthrie song. It’s been family-owned and operated since the 1970s.

Word of the monthly affordable breakfast has spread.

Amid a bustling restaurant, August’s breakfast, held the morning of Aug. 7, was actually fairly quiet, according to Kerr. The line for the buffet often runs through the parking lot, he said, especially when Stanford is in session and locals aren’t out on vacation.

Kings Mountain resident Carrie German said she’s been coming to the breakfast every month for years. The restaurant, she said, is “an island of serenity in your hectic life... Even when it’s packed, it’s still nice.”

Vicki Atkins and Cliff Hudson of Woodside are also dedicated regulars. Hudson said he’s been coming to the restaurant since the 1960s, ever since he got back from Vietnam and was looking for a friendly place to meet people.

Atkins said he has been a member of a women’s group that meets each Tuesday night at Alice’s since 2011. They have a table reserved in the back, and each week, between five and 12 women meet there to spend time together and enjoy each other’s company, she explained.

Residents of the Santa Cruz Mountain foothills in Woodside, Kings Mountain and Sky Londa rely on Alice’s for food in particular, especially if they forget to plan ahead for dinner. With the nearest grocery store 20 to 25 minutes away, said Sky Londa resident Tim Johnson, Alice’s often serves as the nearest food source.

But the dedicated locals tend to stay away on weekends when it gets, as Clair Johnson put it, “enormously busy.”

The Johnson’s friend Joe Rockmore of Kings Mountain said, echoing a Yogi Berra quote: “Nobody goes there anymore; it’s too crowded.”

Despite how busy it gets, some still see it as an escape from hectic Peninsula happenings. Redwood City resident Lisa Marrow, a former Nebraskan, said she comes to Alice’s about twice a month for a dose of nature and the outdoors. “It feels like a staycation here,” she said.

She’s been visiting Alice’s for the last 20 years, and has been a consistent visitor the last 10, she said. “I got the bug.”

With so many changes happening in Redwood City, she said, she especially appreciates the consistency and comfort of Alice’s. She’s comfortable going by herself, and knows what to expect.

She always orders a kale salad for breakfast, and sometimes a side of eggs.

Even though the university isn’t in session yet, a number of helmeted young adults wearing Stanford cycling shirts were observed tucking into the breakfast offerings. Cyclist Noah Young said he planned to continue his bike journey another 80 miles, riding past Alice’s to Bonny Doon in Santa Cruz County and back through Big Basin.

Generally, though, the ride to Alice’s is considered more of a social activity than a training session for Stanford cyclists, cyclist Cody Stocker explained. Riders Catherine Kircos and Joshua Wise, who said they consider themselves friends of the team, planned to ride back down the hill toward the campus after breakfast.

Motorcyclists also frequent the restaurant, as it’s located at the nexus of a number of desirable roads for riding — those that are curvy, twisty, well-paved and have minimal traffic, said San Francisco resident and biker Michelle Tilley. Tilley was meeting with several friends at Alice’s for breakfast before heading out for more riding.

Even those who prefer traveling on two feet rather than two wheels, though, have made Alice’s breakfast buffet a monthly tradition. A group of hiking buddies who live in San Jose, Cupertino and North Fair Oaks has been making the hike from Wunderlich Park to the restaurant monthly for about a decade. They gather at Wunderlich Park around 6:30 on the morning the buffet to begin the four-mile hike to the restaurant.

“The smell of bacon pulls us up,” joked hiker Mark Folden, a San Jose resident who, at 78, says he’s the senior member of the hiking group.

Bob McKibbin, a retiree from Cupertino, said he is a dedicated hiker who collected the group of hikers based on existing associations — his brother Mike, and brother-in-law, Bob Yasukawa, are participants — as well as aliases that have become deeper friendships.

He started hiking with Mark Folden, his wife’s friend’s husband, after their wives pointed out their shared interest in hiking, and found fellow hiker Howard Lee after he responded to an ad on Craigslist looking for a hiking buddy. They trek all over the region, but reserve the first Wednesday of each month for their hike to Alice’s.

North Fair Oaks resident and former community councilman Rafael Avendano is also a regular with the hiking group; he brought his 10-month-old daughter, Alana, on the trail for the first time to the August breakfast. He said he’s been hiking with the group for about six years, and considers the other men he hikes with to be wise mentors. On their hikes, they talk about politics, he said, and share financial advice with him.

“Now my daughter is learning from them,” he said. “It’s great being a part of this.”

With a happy fistful of scrambled eggs and a comfortable seat in a baby backpack, she too, appeared to be enjoying her breakfast excursion.

IF YOU GO

Alice’s Restaurant is located at 17299 Skyline Blvd. in Woodside. Call the restaurant at (650) 851-0303 or visit the website, alicesrestaurant.com. Outdoor seating is dog-friendly. The restaurant also offers live music on Thursday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m.

To hike to the restaurant, go to is.gd/aliceshike to access a trail map for the eight-mile round-trip hike from Wunderlich Park to Alice’s and back again via AllTrails. To get there by bike, access a recommended 19-mile cycling loop via bayarearoads.com at isgd/aliceshike.
FRANK
continued from page 22
according to the website. In April, Beth Polito announced she would leave her post as the district’s superintendent at the end of the school year to head of the neighboring Las Lomitas School District. Frank said Polito had discussed his potential transition into the superintendent role if she were to leave for “a number of years.”
He has an annual salary of $200,000. He earned $153,877 as principal last school year, according to the school district.

$130,000 project to put new roofs on three middle school classrooms.

The town of Woodside is completing construction work to create a safe walking trail along Woodside Road from the school down to Robert’s Market, according to a letter from the district to parents. School officials advise people to use caution and give themselves extra time getting to and from school during the construction, which is expected to continue until the end of September.

The district has 43 teachers and four administrators. There are no new teachers.

Waly Ndiaye was hired as the district’s business services director. He has 10 years of experience in school finance in the Oakland and Alameda Unified school districts, and most recently in the San Mateo County Office of Education, according to the letter.

The district expects enrollment to be about 383 students (as of Aug. 7) during this school year, down from 411 last school year.

SCHOOLS
BACK TO SCHOOL
continued from page 22
Public Notices
995 Fictitious Name Statement
TURNER GROUP INSURANCE AGENCY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 282192
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Registered owner(s):
JAMES TURNER
JEB Lavendar Ct.
Palo Alto, CA 94303
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 04-17-2019.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County on August 17, 2019.
(ALM July 31, Aug. 14, 17, 21, 2019)
Victorf M DESIGN
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 282108
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
MHP Design, located at 242 Donohoe Street, East Palo Alto, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
SARAH CAPLAN
242 Donohoe Street
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 07-17-2019.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County on July 17, 2019.
(ALM July 31, Aug. 14, 17, 21, 2019)
COLIN TRUCKING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 282204
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Colin Trucking, located at 1928 Coaley Ave, Aptos, East Palo Alto, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
ADOLFLO LOPEZ LOPEZ
1928 Cooley Ave
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 07-17-2019.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County on August 9, 2019.
(ALM Aug. 14, 21, 28, Sep. 4, 11, 2019)
DUOTECH
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 282260
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Duotech, located at 1134 Crane Street Suite 216, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
MUSA AHMADU KIDA
7 Moyi Club Road
Lagos Lagos Nigeria
ADIBEJE AGBOGUIE
2333 Thompson Court
Mountain View, CA 94043
This business is conducted by: A Partnership.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 06-06-2019.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County on August 9, 2019.
(ALM Aug. 14, 21, 28, Sep. 4, 11, 2019)
997 All Other Legals
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Case No.: 19CV04236
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: STACIA SHERMAN GARR
AND
PETITIONER: ED REV II LLC
filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: GENEVIEVE SHERMAN GARR to EVANGELINE GENEVIE SHERMAN GARR
The COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to hear cause why the petition in such should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING: September 17, 2019, 9:00 a.m., Dept. B of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.
A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:
The ALMANAC
Date: July 23, 2019
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM July 31, Aug. 14, 21, 2019)
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Case No.: 19CV04452
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: WALTER SHERMAN GARR
filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
DAVID ZHANG to DAVID XIE ZHENG
The COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to hear cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING: September 24, 2019, 9:00 a.m., Dept. B of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.
A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:
The ALMANAC
Date: August 8, 2019
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Aug. 14, 21, 28, Sep. 4, 11, 2019)
Submit items for the Calendar

Go to AlmanacNews.com and see the Community Calendar module at the top right side of the page. Click on “Add your event.” If the event is of interest to a large number of people, also e-mail a press release to Editor@AlmanacNews.com.
Sophisticated Family Farmhouse Woodside

**Estate:** 8,165 square feet

**Main Residence:** 5 Beds | 5 Full Baths | 1 Half Bath

**Guest House:** 1 Bed | 1 Full Bath · **Barn (Gym):** 1 Full Bath

**3-Car Garage:** 6 hydraulic lifts · **Property:** 2.92 acres

Entertain at home on this farmhouse-style Woodside estate with swimming pool, putting green, trampoline, skateboard ramp, cutting garden, kid’s playhouse, chicken coop and more. Centrally located just minutes to town.

Newark | $569,000
Spacious 2br/2ba top-floor corner condo unit. Great for commuters to Palo Alto, Menlo Park and more. Near shopping and restaurants. Low HOA fees.

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