

The Almanac

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

APRIL 18, 2018 | VOL. 53 NO. 33



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PRACTICING FOR THE UNTHINKABLE

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Town of Woodside Notice of Availability/ Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration Public Review Period: April 12, 2018 through May 11, 2018 (30 days)

Project Title: Menlo Country Club Storm Drain
Rehabilitation Project

Project Description: The proposed Project consists of the rehabilitation of an existing storm drain facility to more effectively convey drainage away from the roadway at Fernside Drive and Alameda de las Pulgas. The Project involves removing a 23-linear foot segment of an 18-inch corrugated metal pipe from the north end of the project; replacing the existing 18-inch corrugated metal pipe (CMP)/corrugated steel pipe (CSP) with an 18-inch high density polyethylene pipe (HDPE); removing a 10-linear foot segment of the CSP at the Redwood Creek outfall, and replacing it with a 5-linear foot segment of CSP that would have a 'miter cut', flush with the rock slope protection around the new pipe segment; and lining the 24-inch CSP with a (styrene free) cured-in place pipe (CIPP) liner. The combination of replacing existing corrugated metal pipe and corrugated steel pipe with high density polyethylene pipe, and lining the 24-inch corrugated steel pipe within the Town's easement, would improve the condition of the pipe and therefore result in reduced flooding along the alignment.

Project Location: 2300 Woodside Road,
Woodside, CA 94062

Lead Agency: Town of Woodside
P.O. Box 620005 (Mail)
2955 Woodside Road
Woodside, CA 94062

Lead Agency: Sage Schaan, AICP,
Principal Planner

Public Hearings: The Woodside Planning Commission meeting to consider the Mitigated Negative Declaration is scheduled for **May 16, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in Independence Hall located at 2955 Woodside Road.** The Planning Commission public hearing has also been advertised in a newspaper of local circulation. Notice of the Planning Commission meeting will be provided to neighbors within 300 feet of the project, to all organizations or individuals who have previously requested such notice in writing, and will be advertised in a newspaper of local circulation.

The Mitigated Negative Declaration, Project Plans, and referenced documents are available for review during normal business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Woodside Town Hall located at 2955 Woodside Road in Woodside, California 94062. The Mitigated Negative Declaration will be available on the Woodside website: <http://www.woodsidetown.org/publicworks/menlo-country-club-storm-drain-rehabilitation-project-0>.

Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY

What happened in China?

Menlo Park councilwoman's 'vacation' photo raises many questions

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

On March 27, the same day that the Menlo Park City Council held a study session on the largest proposed development in the city's history — Facebook's "Willow Village" — Councilwoman Kirsten Keith was in China. There, she attended a "signing ceremony" that may have solidified a business deal for former Mountain View council member Mike Kasperzak, CEO of HIM Holdings, and the Chengdu Hi-Tech Industrial Development Zone.

According to certified translations of Chinese news reports obtained by The Almanac from Menlo Park resident George Fisher, the document signed was a memorandum of understanding between HIM Holdings, the Chengdu industrial development zone, and what is called the "Silicon Valley City Group" — a name given to represent three Bay Area elected officials in attendance: Ms. Keith, Mountain View Mayor Lenny Siegel, and Dublin Mayor David Haubert. Chinese news reports say that Mr.

Haubert signed the agreement on behalf of Ms. Keith and Mr. Siegel.

The agreement, according to Chinese reports, indicated that HIM Holdings would help establish a tech incubator or accelerator and "finance center" in Mountain View.

Mr. Fisher, the Menlo Park attorney who paid to have the press reports translated, said that he found the matter troubling, and subsequently initiated his own search for answers because he believed Ms. Keith's actions could have represented a city commitment to abide by whatever the terms of that agreement might be.

"I believe that even though [Ms. Keith] wasn't authorized to do what she did on behalf of Menlo Park, by going over there and participating in confirming the signing of the MOU, she ... is acting as an ostensible agent," he said. "Those people have no reason to think she's not authorized."

He said he thinks the city of Menlo Park should "renounce or disavow whatever may have been agreed to on their behalf, or at the minimum, investigate

'If the name badge I had was three months old, it was an inadvertent mistake on my part. I always introduced myself as Councilmember.'

COUNCILWOMAN KIRSTEN KEITH,
COMMENTING VIA EMAIL ON THE
CITY PIN SHE WORE IN CHINA



Photo courtesy Kirsten Keith via Twitter.

Kirsten Keith attended a March 27 signing ceremony in which HIM Group CEO Mike Kasperzak is shown shaking hands with a representative of the Chengdu High-Tech Industrial Development Zone and David Haubert, mayor of Dublin, under the background banner "Silicon Valley City Group."

and vet what she did to see if it's appropriate."

Ms. Keith said in an email that she did not sign any documents, and does not know if Mr. Haubert signed a document. "This was purely a ceremonial event," she said in an email.

Why she was there, whether she represented the city in an unauthorized diplomatic role, and what the implications for the city could be are questions to which The Almanac has tried find answers. Many questions remain.

Why was she there?

Ms. Keith said she was invited to attend the trip by Mike Kasperzak, the former Mountain View councilman. Mr. Kasperzak is on the board of the U.S. Asia Innovation Gateway, which, according to its website, is a nonprofit corporation that promotes economic opportunity and investment in

the U.S. and Asia, and funds trips for local elected officials to travel to China.

Ms. Keith said she plans to have her travel expenses reimbursed by the U.S. Asia Innovation Gateway and will publicly disclose the information on her required "statement of economic interests" form.

Mr. Kasperzak said it was his understanding that the trip would be funded by the Chengdu Hi-Tech Industrial Development Zone, which he described as an office park that is run as a government agency in China.

The Palo Alto-based U.S. Asia Innovation Gateway declined to comment for this story.

Menlo Park City Manager Alex McIntyre told The Almanac that all he knew about the trip before it happened was that Ms. Keith was going on vacation with her daughter somewhere in Asia.

"Only lately have people

suggested the trip was more," he said. "I don't know anything about that."

"She was not there on city business," he added.

According to Mr. Siegel, who wrote about the trip in a blog post, the trip lasted three days and included a number of cultural events, including a visit to the zoo, meals, and meetings during which both he and Ms. Keith spoke publicly in support of international cooperation and collaboration with the Chengdu Hi-Tech Industrial Development Region.

Mr. Siegel said he offered to set up meetings with Mountain View's economic development office, as he would do, he said, "for everybody."

Ms. Keith was reported in the Chinese press as saying, "We will help Chengdu businesses find

See **CHINA**, page 6

High school officials question 'tighter message control' plan

By **Dave Boyce**
Almanac Staff Writer

Sequoia Union High School District officials are pushing back against a draft communications plan proposed recently by a San Francisco public relations firm.

The two-page "media protocol" proposed in a 16-page plan prepared by Voler Strategic Advisors would restrict opportunities for staff, faculty members and members of the board to talk to reporters.

"While board members may speak with the press whenever they would like," the proposed protocol says, "we strongly recommend allowing us to screen calls (so) the story is not potentially detrimental

to the initiating board member or to the District as a whole."

The protocol would forbid faculty and staff from talking with reporters, though it wasn't clear whether such conversations could take place after obtaining permission. Conversations that are "off the record" — a term that Voler defines incorrectly as an interview in which the interviewee remains anonymous — would be expressly forbidden.

Such interviews are actually referred to as "on background." Anything said off the record to a reporter cannot be used in a story, but can provide leads for further investigation.

In a follow-up to a presentation from

Volter chief executive Perla Rodriguez at a recent board meeting, board member Alan Sarver commented: "I think we need to be clear on our speech and our responsibility on how we do that, but something that seems like, to an extent, narrow marching orders (in the plan) is a little bit of a concern. So, I think we want to work through that."

Thanking Mr. Sarver for the feedback and saying she "understands" his perspective, Ms. Rodriguez pushed back. "Many times you have reporters calling and there's no one to answer that call, there's no one to bring out the different perspectives, and so really the idea is to have a professional face to whatever issue that the district faces," she said.

Board President Chris Thomsen noted to Ms. Rodriguez that obligations of transparency and trust for a government agency may differ from those of a private institution, which has every right to control its message.

Asked in an interview about Ms. Rodriguez's rebuttal, Mr. Thomsen said, "Generally, the district must be careful about being perceived as spinning something because it would affect the credibility with the press and the community."

Superintendent Mary Streshly said in an interview that the policies for interacting with the press in the current governance

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CHINA

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partners in Silicon Valley.”

When asked whether she said that and what she might have meant, she responded in an email, “The quote that you ask about is not something that I recognize and translations can be inaccurate.”

According to the certified translations of Chinese news stories, she also reportedly said: “Menlo Park has a wealth of technology and financial resources to tap into. I believe that we will play a key role through our cooperation in this project.”

Ms. Keith said she did not recognize that translation. “I talked about what makes Menlo Park a great place to live and work and invited their delegation to visit,” she later added.

Mayor Keith?

According to photos posted on at least two Chinese news sites,

Ms. Keith was shown wearing a Menlo Park city pin that appears to say “mayor” beneath her name, although her term as mayor ended in December.

Chinese media also described her as mayor of Menlo Park.

When asked via email whether she wore a mayor pin, Ms. Keith initially responded, “I’ve been Mayor of Menlo Park twice and have visited China while both Mayor and former Mayor.”

In a subsequent email, she added, “I was always very clear about my status as Councilmember, as noted by Mayor Lennie Siegel. I always identified myself as Kirsten Keith, Councilmember from Menlo Park and rarely wore a name badge and don’t recall a designation.”

When presented with the photo in the Chinese press, and asked again whether she wore the pin, she responded by email: “If the name badge I had was three months old, it was an inadvertent mistake on my part.

I always introduced myself as Councilmember.”

Mr. Kasperzak, Mr. Haubert and Mr. Siegel said that Ms. Keith did not represent herself as mayor.

‘I believe that even though [Ms. Keith] wasn’t authorized to do what she did on behalf of Menlo Park, by going over there and participating in confirming the signing of the MOU, she ... is acting as an ostensible agent.’

GEORGE FISHER
MENLO PARK RESIDENT

“I don’t recall even seeing Kirsten’s name badge, but I do specifically recall her introducing herself as Councilmember,” Mr. Haubert said.

“But the people who introduced her repeatedly made that mistake, perhaps deliberately,” noted Mr. Siegel.

“Kirsten and I were window-dressing,” Mr. Siegel said. “All we did was have our pictures taken.” He added that they also gave brief speeches calling for cooperation between Chengdu and Silicon Valley.

Mr. Kasperzak said it was “not at all surprising to me that Chinese media would miss the fact that Kirsten Keith is the former mayor,” he said, noting, “At no point did Kirsten hold herself out as mayor of Menlo Park.”

At least once, he said, she corrected someone who introduced her as mayor to indicate she was a former mayor. The difference between mayor and council person is more relevant in China, he said, because mayors there have executive power over their jurisdictions.

The memorandum

In recorded video comments, Mr. Kasperzak describes HIM Holdings as a “bridge” to connect the Chinese industrial development zone and Silicon Valley.

“We all know that startups need financial resources to grow, to develop their products, and to develop their markets. It also turns out that many of your sister provinces have established accelerators in Silicon Valley, and we don’t want Sichuan Province and CDHT to get left behind,” he said. “So HIM Holdings can be that bridge to help with funding of startups, hosting delegations, furthering the exchange between Silicon Valley and Chengdu and making what we all want to happen happen.”

Mr. Kasperzak said he was told he was being named CEO of HIM Holdings only upon his arrival in China.

“I do suspect that the job is fairly titular in nature,” he said.

So far, he said, he has not signed any contracts or been compensated by HIM Holdings, but intends to negotiate in the future with the group’s founder, Michael Reen, probably around the end of the month. He added that he has had previous conversations with people in China expressing interest in working with individuals and organizations to help launch a tech accelerator in Mountain View.

He emphasized that Menlo Park, Dublin and Mountain view are “not on the hook for anything.”

Mr. Kasperzak, who said he has some familiarity with such business practices in China, said that signing ceremonies and photo ceremonies are “really big deals, even though they may mean nothing.”

“At the most,” he said of the agreement, the document indicates personal support for the

tech accelerator from the individuals who signed the document.

Ms. Keith says, and Menlo Park officials confirm, that she did not sign an agreement on behalf of the city. But translated Chinese news reports say that Ms. Keith, “Mayor of Menlo Park,” was part of a “Silicon Valley City Group” or “cluster” (depending on the translation) that Mr. Haubert may have signed the memorandum on behalf of. Ms. Keith was shown posing with Mr. Siegel, Chinese officials, Mr. Kasperzak and Mr. Haubert during the signing ceremony.

Mr. Haubert told The Almanac that he “certainly did not and would not sign anything binding Dublin or any city to anything. ... The purpose of our visit was to introduce our cities and welcome them to visit us. The pictures were purely ceremonial and to memorialize our visit.”

He said that the document he signed, “simply acknowledged the meeting, thanked them for showing us their city and welcomed them to visit me in Dublin.”

Mr. Siegel said the first time he saw “Silicon Valley City Group” referenced was during the signing ceremony. “No one asked me to join it,” he said, referring to the group. “No one asked me if I was a member.”

The Almanac has not yet been able to track down the memorandum signed at the event.

Standard procedures?

What are the city’s standard policies for such interactions with foreign countries? City Attorney Bill McClure said in an email that the city does not have any “specific council adopted guidelines, but council members generally do not have authority to enter into agreements without the approval of the City Council.”

“Generally,” he wrote, “the City does not endorse specific business deals — we certainly encourage trade between our countries and support of businesses generally, but it has been the practice not to endorse or support specific businesses or transactions.”

Jim Cogan, the city’s economic development and housing manager, who also works as staff liaison to the city’s Sister City Committee, told The Almanac that Ms. Keith told him she was going to China. Generally, any agreements made in foreign countries would be reviewed by the committee, Mr. Cogan said.

The city did not pay for her travel, he added.

“I can tell you Kirsten Keith has not asked me to do anything with regard to any of the places she visited on the trip,” he said. “I’m not aware of any representations she made committing the city to anything.” ■



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What's happening on the city's development front

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

■ MENLO PARK

Combine Menlo Park's downtown/El Camino Real plan, the city's recent rezoning of major swaths of eastern Menlo Park (which both have limits on the maximum amount of allowed development) and general good times for the economy, and it's understandable that the city's planning and building departments are, anecdotally, working through a deluge of development proposals, with more on the way.

Several expected and proposed development projects, described below, have recently gone through review, or been made public, by the city's planning and housing commissions.

Feldman's Books, SafeSpace

Two old buildings at 1162 and 1170 El Camino Real in Menlo Park, which are currently occupied by Feldman's Books and SafeSpace, a mental health services organization for teens, may become a housing development.

The two buildings are old, but according to city Housing Manager Jim Cogan, the future applicant has reportedly conducted assessments that indicate neither qualifies for historical designation.

"We obviously need to review that," he said.

1162 El Camino Real was built in 1910 and for many years housed Doughty's Meat Market and Gentry Magazine; 1170 El Camino Real was built in 1905 and occupied by Martin J. McCarthy Groceries and Menlo French Laundry.

The Almanac first reported that the buildings were up for sale and redevelopment in February 2016.

Developer Chasen Rapp, partner at Palo Alto-based Rapp Development, said the owner of the El Camino properties is 1162 El Camino Investors LLC, and is not the same as that of the Santa Cruz Avenue and Merrill Street sites that he is redeveloping, which themselves have different owners.

Mr. Rapp has proposed constructing three new buildings there: a four-story structure with offices and housing at 1125 Merrill St.; a four-story building with a cafe, offices and housing at 506 Santa Cruz Ave.; and a three-story building with retail, offices and housing at 556 Santa Cruz Ave.

Mr. Rapp offered to provide two below-market-rate units as part of the Santa Cruz Avenue/Merrill Street and El Camino Real developments, at the El Camino Real property, if and when that project is completed, a proposal that the Housing Commission supported on April 13, as staff had recommended.

Given zoning regulations and the property size, the parcels at 1162 and 1170 El Camino Real could accommodate nine housing units, or 11 if the developer opts to provide public benefits, according to city staff.

Mr. Cogan confirmed that no plans have been submitted yet for the El Camino Real project. Mr. Rapp said his firm intends to submit those in the next three to four weeks.

The ultimate decision on whether to permit the developer to provide the below-market-rate housing along El Camino Real instead of with the Santa Cruz Ave/Merrill Street development will be made by the City Council.

New life sciences building

This proposed development at 1350 Adams Court, near Pacific Biosciences and the UPS Customer Center, would serve as a 260,400-square-foot, five-story research and development building, with a maximum height of 91 feet. Parking would be partly connected to the building and partly underground, with a total of 966 parking spots that would be shared by the proposed building and its existing neighbor at 1305 Adams Court.

Currently, the 11-acre site is occupied by a smaller research-and-development building and a warehouse. The new building would be on an undeveloped

part of the property, according to a staff report. The building would be near Facebook's proposed "Willow Village" on the University Avenue side, closest to East Palo Alto.

The Planning Commission held a study session on the proposed project April 9, giving feedback about the building's design and expressing concern about the traffic it could generate.

Just who might occupy the new building remains unclear.

Developer John Tarlton said it was "early enough in the process that it would be unusual for the tenant to have committed to the space," but added that he has some tenants "who need additional space." It would likely not be Pacific Biosciences, he said, which just moved into new headquarters at another Tarlton property nearby.

Commissioner Larry Kahle asked the now-necessary question triggered by proposals for new office buildings: Will Facebook occupy it?

No, Mr. Tarlton told the commission. "Not unless they have a new division that does life science," he said. "I'm the life science guy."

164 Jefferson Drive

The Sobrato Organization has proposed building a 320,000-square-foot, six-story office building with an adjacent 1,560-spot, five-story parking garage at 164 Jefferson Drive. The Planning Commission held a study session on the proposed building on March 26. The building would complete a trio of Sobrato Organization office buildings.

The other two, four-story office buildings there are leased by Facebook.

The proposed project was criticized in public comment by Matthew Zito, chief facilities officer at the Sequoia Union High School District. He pointed out that the district is currently building a new high school, TIDE Academy, just a few hundred feet away from the proposed development, and said the district had not received information about the project.

The proposal, he said, is "not well-conceived from an open-space perspective," and added that when the high school is complete, nearly 400 high school students will be just down the street from the proposed open spaces at the office building.

The development could also interfere with the planned pick-up and drop-off traffic flow for the new high school. "If this school



Image courtesy Arc Tec/The Sobrato Organization/city of Menlo Park.

A rendering of the proposed six-story office building at 164 Jefferson Drive in Menlo Park.

were open, it wouldn't be just me here tonight. You'd have a flotilla of angry parents behind you," Mr. Zito said. "And I tell you, don't cross a Menlo Park mother and her children's education."

When Menlo Park passed its general plan update in November 2016, it established a policy that allowed developers in some parts of the city's eastern side to build bigger buildings in exchange for also completing projects that serve the public, or what's called "bonus" development. The city established a formula for how much value to the public those projects should provide: 50 percent of the fair market value of the additional "gross floor area" that was permitted beyond what the city would normally allow.

Replacing three with eight

The owner of three residences at 409 and 417 Glenwood Ave. and 1357 Laurel St. has proposed building an eight-unit residential development there.

According to Menlo Park

planner Kaitie Meador, there is one historic home at 417 Glenwood Ave., which will require historical analysis.

The owner, Michal Smulski, has proposed to offer one of the eight planned housing units, a one-bedroom rental unit, to the city for below-market-rate rent, according to a staff report.

The Housing Commission voted April 11 in favor of recommending the agreement to the council, according to Mr. Cogan. ■



Photo courtesy city of Menlo Park

The historic home at 417 Glenwood Ave.

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman

Condo Reserve Funds



Dear Monica: I own a condo in a small complex of six units. At our recent Homeowner Association (HOA) meeting we discussed our low reserve account and some felt we should raise HOA dues to build up greater reserves. What do you advise? Howard G.

Dear Howard: This is a question that comes up often especially when prospective buyers are considering a unit governed by an HOA. Many HOAs would rather keep required monthly dues low and when large expenditures are needed, have a special assessment paid by each owner. This works well for many complexes but the risk is that an

owner won't pay the assessment when it's due and the HOA must record a lien on the delinquent owner's property. To avoid this, many HOAs maintain reasonable reserves. Other complexes, especially large ones, build substantial reserve accounts that are used to pay all or most of the repairs and replacements needed, such as a new roof, painting, termite repairs, etc.

If a buyer is considering a condo or townhouse, he/she should look carefully at the reserve account to be prepared for future assessments if the reserves are low. This should be a negotiating point with the seller and factored into the price and terms.

Contact me at mcorman@apr.com; Office: 650-543-1164; www.moniacorman.com
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File photo by Michelle Le | February 2016

Feldman's Books, Gentry Magazine at 1170 and 1162 El Camino Real.

Menlo Park men arrested after attempted kidnapping

Kevin Forestieri
Mountain View Voice Staff Writer

Mountain View police arrested two Menlo Park men in the early morning of April 14 after they allegedly tried to push a woman into a car and threatened her friends with a handgun when they tried to intervene.

Police say that the two suspects reportedly approached the victim while she was walking behind a restaurant in the 200 block of Castro Street around 2

a.m. and tried to push her into a nearby vehicle, according to a statement released by the Mountain View Police Department on Sunday.

The woman and the two suspects struggled, and two men identified as friends of the woman tried to intervene, police said. One of the suspects allegedly retrieved a handgun from the car during the altercation and pointed it at one of the woman's friends.

Both suspects then got back into the vehicle and drove away,

reportedly firing off several gunshots, police said.

A nearby officer spotted the suspects as they were driving away and stopped the vehicle. The two suspects were not initially cooperative, but complied when backup officers arrived, according to police spokeswoman Katie Nelson.

Police arrested the men, identified as 29-year-old Guillermo Perez and 19-year-old Walter Ramirez, and found the handgun that was allegedly used during the incident. Both men are facing

a list of charges including kidnapping, conspiracy to commit a crime, possession of a "short-barrel shotgun," carrying a loaded firearm in public, brandishing a firearm and making criminal threats.

Mr. Perez is also facing additional charges for discharging a firearm with gross negligence, as well as possessing a firearm and ammunition as a convicted felon, which is illegal under California law.

Mr. Ramirez faces an additional criminal charge for enabling Mr.

Perez to fire a gun from the car. Both men were booked into Santa Clara County jail.

Detectives obtained a search warrant for the suspects' Menlo Park home and found several rounds of ammunition and a Taser, police said. Police would not disclose where in Menlo Park the suspects live.

Police say the investigation into the incident is ongoing, and that detectives are determining whether there was a relationship between the victim and the two suspects. ▀

Filoli loses one-time resident, longtime leader and volunteer

Lurline Matson Roth Coonan, who lived for a time on the Filoli estate in Woodside and served for more than 40 years as a volunteer, board member or advisory council member, died Friday, April 13, in the company of her family. She was 97.

Ms. Roth Coonan did not grow up at Filoli. As a child, she divided her time between the 80-acre Why Worry horse farm in Woodside and a home in San Francisco, according to an account of her life by Filoli. Her family moved to Filoli in 1937 when she was 17, and in 1939, she and her twin sister Berenice celebrated their debutante ball there.

In 2016, she made a presentation at the estate to a sold-out crowd, the account says. The documentary film, "Filoli:

OBITUARY
Obituaries are based on information provided by the family.

Family Home, Historic Garden, Living Museum," which is available for viewing in Filoli's Visitor and Education center, includes an interview of Ms. Roth Coonan.

Ms. Roth Coonan enjoyed her time at Why Worry, particularly nights on the second-story sleeping porch, she told The Almanac in 2003. "We didn't want to leave Why Worry. We had so many happy times. But I came to love Filoli," she said.

Both daughters were equestrians and rode competitively, with Ms. Roth Coonan continuing to ride into her 90s. On the occasion of their debuts, their parents gave them pins

with their names spelled out in diamonds and they spent the evening using their nearly identical appearances for amusement by switching the pins back and forth, according to the Filoli account.

Lurline married James F. Coonan in 1943 at the Episcopal Church of St. Matthew in San Mateo, with a reception at Filoli.

Ms. Roth Coonan was a lifelong member of the Woodside-Atherton Garden Club and skilled in the art of arranging flowers. She exhibited her work at Filoli and for 30 years at the annual Bouquets to Art at the de Young Museum in San Francisco.

Her family operated the Matson Steamship Lines and its fleet included a luxury liner named the S.S. Lurline.

Almanac takes home prizes in statewide contest

The Almanac won first- and second-place awards for in-depth coverage, a photo essay and page design at the 2017 California Journalism Awards event held in Sonoma on April 14.

Photographer Michelle Le took the top prize for her photo essay, "Silicon Valley's Hidden Lands," which explored photographically and with text by reporter Kate Bradshaw the Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve.

Reporter Barbara Wood took the second-place prize for in-depth reporting for "Cause for alarm?" and related stories that looked at the Menlo Park Fire Protection District's budget, spending and compensation of employees.

Designers Paul Llewellyn, Rosanna Kuruppu and Doug Young won a second-place award for front page layout and design.

Third place in enterprise reporting went to Kate Bradshaw for "Policing, race and community." She also received honorable mention for the feature "Living with uncertainty."

Freelance photographer Natalia Nazarova won third place in the news photo category, and freelancer Ana Sophia Amieva-Wang won an honorable mention in the sports feature photo category.

Doug Young also won an honorable mention for inside page layout and design.

The annual journalism contest is sponsored by the California News Publishers Association, and honors journalists in the state at daily, weekly and school newspapers. The initial round of judging is performed by journalists working at newspapers competing in the contest, with final judging done by out-of-state journalists.



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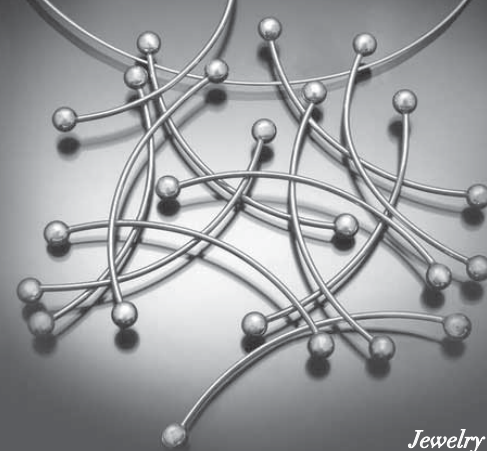
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SCHOOL OFFICIALS

continued from page 5

handbook — that the board president and the superintendent can speak for the district — and that individual board members have a responsibility to identify their personal viewpoints as such — are stated “very clearly.”

Board member Carrie DuBois declined to comment for this story, citing a personal situation that was demanding of her time. Board member Georgia Jack did not respond to an interview request. Board member Allen Weiner was absent from the meeting and did not hear Ms. Rodriguez’s presentation.

Better communication

The district has been taking steps to address communication with the nine elementary and middle school districts whose students are eligible to attend its high schools.

The board approved an \$8,000-per-month, 10-month contract with Voler in September. And in January the district hired Ana Maria Pulido, an elected member of the Ravenswood City School District board, to be the district’s public relations spokeswoman at an annual salary of about \$100,000.

Asked about the contract, Mr. Thomsen said he sees a need

for the district to deepen its expertise and expand its efforts in communicating, particularly during a crisis — such as the lockdown recently at M-A — and in working with the press.

“I believe the district has several important stories that will be of interest to the community,” he said in an email. At the top of his list, the curriculum for the new TIDE Academy magnet high school under construc-

‘Generally, the district must be careful about being perceived as spinning something because it would affect the credibility with the press and the community.’

CHRIS THOMSEN, BOARD PRESIDENT

tion in Menlo Park, discussions with the city of Menlo Park and Facebook about impacts of the company’s development on public schools, and the district’s new accountability plan.

Voler, in concert with Ms. Pulido, has been helping the district develop a “broader media presence,” including having school principals interviewed on

Spanish language networks such as Telemundo and Univision, Superintendent Streshly said.

“We really wanted to (make sure) people are listening and know who we are,” she said. “We’re really trying to grab media that hits smaller neighborhoods. (Volter) helps us organize and decide where to focus.”

The district’s communication priorities include redesigning and maintaining the website, “a big undertaking,” Ms. Streshly said, adding that she considers the website “not user-friendly.” The district receives “a lot of input” from people saying “they really can’t navigate,” she said.

“The fundamental reason for Voler to help with communications is to field more questions and to make sure the information is where parents need it to be,” she said. The board has a deep desire to be responsive to our communities, she said. “It’s very difficult because we have nine different communities that we serve.”

Newsletters to those communities are another form of outreach. The newsletters have been quarterly but will be monthly, she said.

But the newsletters are mostly electronic — hard copies are available — and there continues to be a digital divide, Ms. Streshly said. The district is working on increasing the

Suspicious substance closes City Hall

By Kate Bradshaw

Almanac Staff Writer

The Menlo Park Police Department and City Hall were closed for a little more than an hour the morning of Thursday, April 12, after someone brought a “suspicious substance” that he or she had received in the mail to the Menlo Park Police Department.

According to a tweet from Interim Police Chief Dave Bertini, someone brought a letter with a suspicious powder in to the police department. In response, the department called the Mark Fire Protection District and “activated” the San Mateo County HazMat Team.

The police department and fire district followed “established protocols” for dealing

with “potentially hazardous materials,” according to a news bulletin from the city of Menlo Park, including evacuating the police department and City Hall. Affected employees were directed to other facilities during the closure.

The suspicious substance was found to be inert and City Hall reopened around 8:40 a.m., according to the bulletin. As City Hall and the police department are generally open to the public starting at 7:30 a.m., the closure lasted, at most, a little more than an hour, said Clay Curtin, assistant to the city manager. The suspicious substance, he said, was found to be “not hazardous at all.”

The incident is under ongoing criminal investigation, said Police Commander William Dixon. ▀

number of Wi-Fi hot spots, she said. A pilot program distributed laptop computers to all students — and thus to their families — in the AVID college-preparation tutoring program.

The district may be buying

more laptops for low-income students, but funding is uncertain. Ms. Streshly said she’s waiting to hear what the governor says about education funding in the May revision of the state budget. ▀

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— Jessica

Breast Cancer Diagnosis Saves More Than One Life

When Jessica chose Stanford for her breast cancer treatment and surgery, she didn't just save her own life. The medical team at Stanford discovered that her cancer was caused by a genetic mutation and they found the same genetic risk for early cancer in Jessica's brother.

For Jessica, getting a breast cancer diagnosis in her thirties came as a shock. Her doctor recommended a local surgeon, but Jessica chose Stanford. She did extensive research, looking at the background and education of multiple breast cancer surgeons in the Bay Area.

“I initially decided I was going to Stanford because of Dr. Frederick Dirbas, a breast cancer surgeon,” she said. “But I knew that it wasn't just a surgeon, but a team of doctors.” So she extended her research to all of the doctors in Stanford's breast cancer program. “I wanted to make sure that I was in good hands for all of my care.”



Her first appointment at the Stanford Cancer Center confirmed her choice. “It felt like I was home,” she said. “They made it very warm and welcoming, everyone was very kind. They just go above and beyond to take care of their patients.”

A Team of Care

Like all patients who are seen in the Stanford Cancer Center, Jessica was treated by a multidisciplinary team of specialists that included a breast cancer surgeon, an oncologist, a radiation oncologist, a radiologist, and a licensed therapist for emotional support. In Jessica's case, a genetic

counselor also became an integral part of her medical team.

Because of her young age and the nature of her cancer, her medical team suspected she might have an inherited form of the disease. They referred her to the Stanford Cancer Genetics Program for specialized testing and counseling. There, she met with a genetic counselor, who explained which tests were recommended and what the outcomes would mean for Jessica and her extended family.

“Genetic counselors are interpreters of genetic information,” said Kerry Kingham, MS, a licensed genetic counselor. “We draw a three-generation family history, because these things are usually inherited from a parent. That means it's more than just your children and siblings and parents who could be at risk. It's grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and even more-distant relatives.”

After Jessica tested positive for the BRCA gene mutation, which is a known cause for breast cancer, Kingham supported her in reaching out to her extended family to be tested. While she was most worried about her sisters, and other female relatives, her brother was found to carry the same mutation. Having this knowledge allowed Jessica's medical team to develop a plan to help prevent him from developing cancer.

“Knowing has been a blessing, because it's not just for me, it's for my family as well,” said Jessica. “It gives everyone a better sense of awareness of what they need to look out for in their own health. It will affect generations to come.”

Her oncologist agrees. “It's wonderful that Jessica sees it as an opportunity to save a life,”

said Allison Kurian, MD, who specializes in identifying patients at higher risk of developing breast and gynecologic cancers. “It's an opportunity to protect your relatives from something that otherwise could be a problem. Ultimately, it can give tremendous meaning to a person's own diagnosis when they use it to learn something that protects their family.”

Cancer Genetics are a Family Affair

“Testing family members who haven't had cancer is the key to saving lives on a large scale,” said Kurian, Director of the Stanford Women's Clinical Cancer Genetics Program. “Cancer genetics is one of the few areas of medicine that really treats the entire family, not just the patient.”

Genetic testing is initially conducted to provide valuable information to help guide the treatment of the patient with cancer and prevent secondary cancers in the future. But its untapped potential lies in its ability to test unaffected family members. Patients seen in the Stanford Cancer Genetics Program benefit from a team of scientists who home in on risk factors to determine the presence of a genetic link to cancers.

“More and more, we're able to apply this genetic test to personalize and understand the genetic makeup of an individual's cancer,” Kurian adds. “Sometimes, that leads to very specific treatments, sometimes treatments we never would have even considered for that kind of cancer, but are relevant for that person.”

“I always felt I was completely taken care of at Stanford by a team, all working together for my overall benefit,” said Jessica. “Stanford definitely helped guide me through every single step of the way.”

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Sea level rise could cost area billions, county study finds

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

By 2100, the sea water that surrounds the San Francisco Peninsula is expected to rise anywhere from 17 to 66 inches, according to projections by the National Research Council. Just what is at risk in San Mateo County should that happen is the subject of a lengthy study by the county's sustainability office.

The report looks at infrastructure and properties throughout the county along the Bay and coastal fronts and evaluates how they might be affected under three potential scenarios: a baseline estimate of a 100-year storm at a higher water level, a mid-level estimate of a 100-year storm plus 3.3 feet of sea level rise, and a high-level estimate of a 100-year flood plus 6.6 feet of sea level rise.

The study found that under present conditions, property totaling \$1 billion in assessed value is vulnerable to flooding across San Mateo County. That number rises to \$39.1 billion in assessed value for areas vulnerable to flooding and erosion under the high-level scenario of predicted sea level rise over the

next 50 to 100 years.

Not surprisingly, the areas most at risk are those at the lowest elevations closest to the Bay and properties along the coast. The study did not look at areas that are not expected to be directly exposed to sea level rise, such as Atherton and Woodside.

According to Hilary Papendick, the county's climate change program manager, the estimates "likely underestimate the total value of all the assets we care about."

Jurisdictions that are inland from the Bay could still be affected by sea level rise if key infrastructure along the Bay is flooded. Electricity, wastewater and road infrastructure clustered near the Bay that serve people living at higher elevations could have far-reaching impacts if flooded.

Menlo Park

Damage to property in Menlo Park alone could total between \$182 million and \$1.62 billion in assessed value, according to the findings of the vulnerability assessment. Those risks are primarily borne along the Bay side of the city, where some of the city's more vulnerable residents reside. The study

defines vulnerable communities as being lower income; having fewer people who speak English well; having residents who don't have cars, or who spend a disproportionate amount of

'Historically, our county is very aggressive building into the Bay shore, and that's why we have so much at risk with the rising sea.'

SUPERVISOR DAVE PINE
SAN MATEO COUNTY

their income on housing or transportation; or having a high number of elderly or very young residents, or residents who lack a high school diploma.

It's also the area of the city where Menlo Park has agreed, with the City Council's November 2016 approval of the general plan update, to allow 2.3 million new square feet of nonresidential development, 4,500 new housing units, and 400 hotel rooms.

The study details Menlo Park's potential vulnerability related to

sea level rise as follows:

■ Under the baseline scenario: \$182 million in assessed property values; 2,006 acres of land; fewer than 100 people, many of whom are in vulnerable communities; two miles of storm drains; five miles of transmission lines and five transmission towers; eight salt ponds and crystallizers; 2.6 miles of trails; 0.2 miles of local roads.

■ Under the mid-level scenario: \$1.29 billion in assessed property values; 2,874 acres of land; about 2,800 residents, all of whom are in "vulnerable" communities; 11 miles of local roads; 11 miles of storm drains; two outpatient health care facilities; five parks and eight miles of trails.

■ Under the high-end scenario: \$1.62 billion in assessed property values; 3,037 acres of land; 4,300 residents from vulnerable communities; 15 miles of local roads; 12 miles of storm drains; two outpatient health care facilities; five parks and 10 miles of trails.

Vulnerable neighbors

Menlo Park's immediate neighbors along the Bay — in East Palo Alto and along the unincorporated area of Redwood

City where a number of mobile home parks sit — also face severe losses should sea level rise.

The study lists East Palo Alto's potential vulnerability as follows:

■ Under the baseline scenario: \$171 million in assessed property value; 335 acres of land; 2,400 residents — all of whom are considered "vulnerable"; 215 acres of wetlands; 4.3 miles of local roads; 2.1 miles of storm drains and one stormwater pump station; four hazardous material sites; two emergency shelter sites; one electric substation; 1.5 miles of shoreline; 0.4 mile of natural gas pipelines.

■ Under the mid-level scenario: \$631 million in assessed property values; 714 acres of land; 7,600 "vulnerable" residents; 230 acres of wetlands; seven emergency shelter sites; 39 hazardous material sites; 5.3 miles of shoreline; 14.6 miles of local roads; four miles of storm drains; 1.4 miles of transmission lines; nearly a mile of natural gas pipelines.

■ Under the high-level scenario: \$975 million in assessed property values; 992 acres of land; 12,700 "vulnerable" residents; 231 acres of wetlands;

See **SEA LEVEL**, page 15

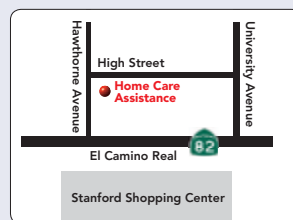
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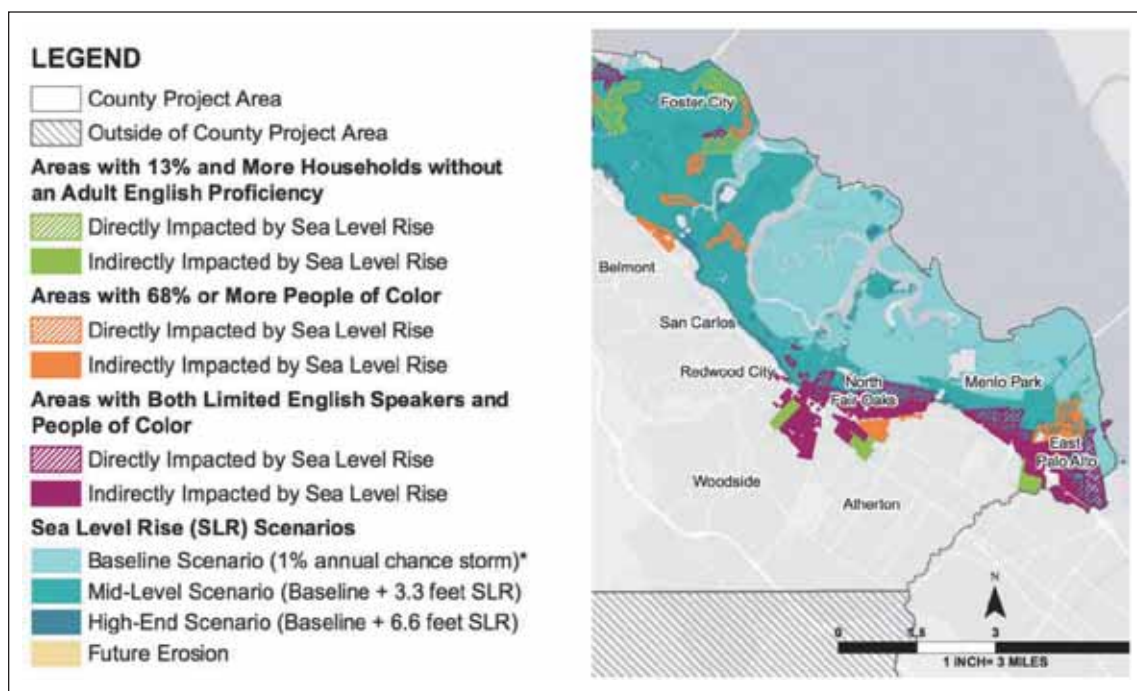
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A map of the areas in south San Mateo County where residents who are considered particularly “vulnerable” to the impacts of sea level rise live. (Map courtesy San Mateo County.)

SEA LEVEL

continued from page 12

nine emergency shelter sites; 44 hazardous material sites; 22 miles of local roads; 6.4 miles of shoreline; six miles of storm drains.

In addition, the mobile home parks on East Bayshore Road — next to Bayfront Canal and the Cargill salt ponds — could face a total loss of \$19 million under the baseline scenario. All people living there would be affected, as would all of the levees, flood walls, roads, storm drains and transmission lines just over the Menlo Park border in unincorporated Redwood City.

Boosting resiliency

“When we think about planning for sea level rise, we think about defensive structures, whether that’s levees or wetlands,” said San Mateo County Supervisor Dave Pine in an interview. “But we also need to think about land use policies.”

“Historically, our county is very aggressive building into the Bay shore, and that’s why we have so much at risk with the rising sea,” he said. “The idea of

retreating from the Bay shore is not likely to happen in the foreseeable future.”

According to the county report, one variable is the extent to which the wetlands will provide a barrier against sea level rise.

There are a number of ongoing projects along the Bay to provide protection against flooding. The South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project is an ongoing initiative to restore wetland habitat in the Ravenswood Pond complex along the Bay in Menlo Park. So far about 240 acres have been restored with a 155-acre pond.

There are also plans to breach the outermost pond and restore the tidal marsh along the Bay and improve the levees.

Menlo Park is also taking steps to rebuild its wastewater pump station, one of the pieces of the city’s infrastructure considered to be vulnerable to sea level rise. Last May, the council agreed to budget \$6.2 million to improve the city’s pump station and move it to a higher elevation, still near its current location at 1221 Chrysler Drive, near the intersection of Chrysler Drive and

Bayfront Expressway. The project received \$500,000 from the Bohannon Development Corp., which is designing and building the exterior of the pump station in an artistic geometric shape to align with phase two of the company’s planned Menlo Gateway development.

Another project, currently in the design phase, is to reroute the Bayfront Canal into the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration project, allowing floodwater to be stored and mitigating flooding at the mobile home parks on East Bayshore Road, according to a statement by Redwood City officials. The project is led by San Mateo County and supported by the cities of Redwood City and Menlo Park and the town of Atherton. Construction is expected to start this fall or in the spring of 2019.

San Mateo County, along with the City/County Association of Governments, hosted March 30 conference at Canada College about water management and how to address the threat of sea level rise. Elected officials encouraged people to work together to pursue funding for big infrastructure projects. ■

Alto School to expand IB program

It’s only April, but 2018 is shaping up as a significant year for the Alto International School, an independent school on Pope Street in Menlo Park serving about 250 students.

Alto received accreditation to expand its International Baccalaureate program, starting with the 2018-19 school year, to include the junior and senior years of high school, according to a school statement.

The school also announced a new head of school: Michael

Chapman, most recently the head of an International Baccalaureate World School in Bogota, Colombia, who has held previous leadership positions at schools in Austria and the United Kingdom.

Alto’s initiative to become an IB World School began in 2007 with accreditation for the preschool and elementary school, followed in 2013 by accreditation for grades 6 through 10, the statement says. With the addition of grades 11 and 12,

Alto will be the only Bay Area school with a complete IB program, according to school officials.

“An IB education is recognized and highly regarded by universities in the United States and around the world,” the school said in announcing the program expansion.

The current head of school, Sally Thorogood, will be returning to a position she held for six years: principal of Alto’s elementary school.

Water polo ref, former M-A player killed on train tracks

Elena Kadvany

Palo Alto Weekly Staff Writer

The man who was killed in a Caltrain collision near the California Avenue station in Palo Alto on the morning of Saturday, April 7, has been identified as Craig Rockhold, 59, according to his family and other sources.

The incident appears to have been an intentional act, Caltrain spokeswoman Tasha Bartholomew said.

There were no injuries reported to the 596 train passengers, who were released at the neighboring Palo Alto station, according to Caltrain.

A Palo Alto resident, Mr. Rockhold had grown up in Menlo Park and played water polo for Menlo-Atherton High School and the University of California, Los Angeles, said his wife, Anne.

Mr. Rockhold was an internationally ranked water polo referee who led games at Stanford University, the University of California, Berkeley and other institutions on the West

Coast, she said.

Mr. Rockhold was also active within the local aquatics and fitness community. He was a swimming coach for the Stanford Masters Swimming team and the University Club of Palo Alto; an instructor at Pilates V; and a personal trainer at Vivre Fitness, which recently closed, according to his LinkedIn.com profile.

He was also a volunteer assistant water polo coach at Palo Alto High School from 2008 to 2011.

“We are very sorry to hear about the passing of longtime water polo referee Craig Rockhold,” USA Water Polo said on its Facebook page. “Our thoughts are with his family and friends during this difficult time.”

Any person who is feeling depressed, troubled or suicidal can call 1-800-784-2433 to speak with a crisis counselor. Spanish speakers can call 1-888-628-9454.

People can reach trained counselors at Crisis Text Line by texting 741741. ■

Economic development, housing manager to depart Menlo Park

By **Kate Bradshaw**
Almanac Staff Writer

After heading Menlo Park's economic development office for a little over five years, and the housing office for more than two, Jim Cogan will leave Menlo Park to become assistant city manager for the city of Paso Robles.

The perks of the new job are numerous, he said: "no commute, better schools, and a great career opportunity."

Some of the projects he's overseen since he started working with the city: bringing the Off the Grid food truck market

to Menlo Park, supporting the new hotel at 1400 El Camino Real, seeing the opening of the British Bankers Club, and instituting the "Wine Walk," a fundraiser for local schools that gathers local winemakers at downtown businesses to offer tastings.

His last day with Menlo Park is scheduled for April 26, with plans to begin work in Paso Robles, located north of San



Courtesy city of Menlo Park.
Jim Cogan

Luis Obispo on the Central Coast, on May 7.

"It's going to be really exciting working in a full-service city," he said, noting that his new position will allow him "the opportunity to work in service areas I don't work in as much now."

Whoever his successor is, he said, will face challenges in both of the areas he works with. On the housing front, he said, the biggest challenge will be to continue to "find strategies and partners to build more affordable housing in Menlo Park."

On the economic development side: "The economy is going gangbusters right now,"

he said, "so it's just hoping the city can take full advantage of the opportunities while the economy is good before the inevitable downturn."

Those opportunities he defined as ones that can enhance the quality of life for residents or increase revenue for the city.

One project he's interested in but won't be seeing through now that he's leaving is how the city might pursue building a downtown parking garage. (The City Council in January named a downtown parking structure as one of its top priorities to work on this year.)

"The reality is that parking garages are going to be very expensive. One of the more practical approaches, he said, would be to "come up with a public-private partnership."

"Obviously, that work I will only get to start," he said. "Hopefully I can start it in the right direction."

He said he's done a lot of public outreach and hopes the affordable housing advocates who spoke in favor of building affordable housing as part of a new library will also push for affordable housing as part of a proposed downtown parking structure. ■

Atherton council to look at water capture project, high-speed rail

By **Barbara Wood**
Almanac Staff Writer

Two subjects that have raised the ire of a number of Atherton residents — a proposal to capture and store runoff water underground in Holbrook-Palmer Park, and high-speed rail — are scheduled to be discussed when the City Council meets

on Wednesday, April 18.

The Council is expected to review the preliminary design for a water capture facility the town is considering building under Holbrook-Palmer Park. Council members are also to decide what to do next, which could be not continuing with the project.

The meeting starts at 7 p.m. in the town's council chambers

at 94 Ashfield Road.

Atherton officials have been talking about building a facility that would help control some flooding and remove pollutants from storm water before it reaches the Bay for more than a year, since the town was offered \$13.6 million through the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to build the underground facility.

A drainage master plan prepared for the town in 2015 suggested detention facilities that would reduce peak storm water flows in the Atherton Channel to reduce the likelihood of flooding.

Council members have been waiting for Tetra Tech, the consultants designing the project, to come up with a preliminary design that will give them enough information to decide whether to go ahead with the water facility.

Caltrans would pay all the construction and engineering costs for the facility, but would not fund any ongoing maintenance costs. The Caltrans agreement allows the town to back out before construction begins, at no cost.

Caltrans is required by the state water board to reduce the amount of pollutants in runoff water near its roadways, so it has offered to pay for a number of such facilities throughout the state.

In the meantime, many Atherton residents have told the town they don't like the idea of putting the facility in the park. At a recent council meeting, residents complained about the disruptions construction would cause — especially as the civic center construction is underway — as well as the possible long-term costs to the town and possible side effects such as unpleasant smells.

A new wrinkle in the issue: recent news reports about contractor Tetra Tech, which has been accused of falsifying data in a cleanup of toxics in the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard in San Francisco. Go to is.gd/TT_Examiner to see a story on the issue on the San Francisco Examiner's website.

Also on the agenda for the meeting is the approval of a letter from the town about the California High-Speed Rail Authority's draft 2018 business plan. The draft plan includes a proposal to have in place by 2027 the infrastructure needed for high-speed rail between San Francisco and Gilroy, in order "to reduce travel times for existing passenger rail systems, expand clean, electrified service, and prepare the corridors for testing and potential early high-speed rail operations."

Go to is.gd/HSR_2018 to see the draft business plan.

The council will also consider a new ordinance enacting imposition of a fee on residents who have more than two false-alarm calls to the Atherton Police Department in a year. The proposal from Police Chief Steve McCulley has fines ranging from \$200 for a third false alarm in a 12-month period to \$500 for each false alarm above five in a year.

The proposed ordinance would also reduce the charge for hooking up to the police department's free alarm monitoring system from \$61 to \$25, but add a \$25 annual fee.

Also on the meeting's agenda is a discussion of changing the annual fees charged for keys to the Holbrook-Palmer Park tennis courts. A donor recently paid to replace one of the town's tennis courts with a clay court, which requires more maintenance. Player Capital Tennis, which manages the courts, had asked the council to increase the fee for Atherton residents' tennis keys from \$50 to \$100 a year to help pay the additional maintenance costs.

Residents with tennis keys can use the court — at no additional charge — Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. to sunset. Non-residents with keys pay \$30 an hour to Player Capital to use the court at other times, when it is not being used by Player Capital. ■

John Lincoln Burke

October 5, 1956 – March 31, 2018

John Lincoln Burke was born in San Francisco, California October 5, 1956, the son of James and Roberta Burke. John was predeceased by his father and brother Robert.

John's legacy of kindness is remembered by his mother Roberta Burke Duffy, sister Mary Van Anda, brother William Burke, brother Patrick Burke, nieces Shannon (Burke) Matyczinski, Katherine (Burke) Keely, Ellen Burke, Amanda (Burke) Livingston, nephews James Lloyd, Mark Lloyd, John Lloyd, Brendan Burke, Kevin Burke, great nieces Harper Burke, Ella Lloyd, and another great niece Burke expected in June, great nephews Connor Matyczinski, Jacob Lloyd, Alec Lloyd, Cohen Burke, Kayden Keely, Kody Keely,

A graduate of Woodside High School and Menlo College, John started a technology career with Advanced Micro Devices and was subsequently employed by a number of other Silicon Valley companies. He worked in technology manufacturing his entire working life. John developed a specialty in connecting manufacturing facilities in the U.S., Asia, and Europe via a new technology called the internet.

John also obtained his real estate license and sold homes in the East Bay.

John is remembered as a kind uncle and a fun addition to any group. His culinary skills were especially valued preparing gravy, when the other cooks started into the wine a little early.

A service will take place at St. Sebastian Church, 373 Bon Air Road, Greenbrae, CA on Saturday, April 21, 2018 at 2:00 pm. All are invited to a reception to be held after the service at the Burke home, 61 Laurel Grove Avenue, Kentfield, CA.

PAID OBITUARY



The **Almanac**
AlmanacNews.com

LET'S DISCUSS:

Read the latest local news headlines and talk about the issues at Town Square at **AlmanacNews.com**



Listed by Michael Repka
and the DeLeon Team



GRACEFUL CHARM IN PEACEFUL SETTING

2307 Crest Lane, Menlo Park, CA 94025

Offered at \$2,488,000

Privately situated on a sought-after Sharon Heights lane, this 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath residence of 2,130 sq. ft. (per county) sits on a generously sized lot of 13,464 sq. ft. (per county). Extensive remodeling results in a near perfect layout featuring sun-lit gathering areas, engineered hardwood floors, ample closets, and a variety of functional amenities that make for easy living. With great views among tree-canopied streets that crisscross through verdant hills, residents may stroll to restaurants, Sharon and Sharon Hills Parks, and are moments to golf links, Stanford University, downtown Menlo Park, and Stanford Shopping Center. Children stroll to Las Lomitas Elementary, La Entrada Middle (1.5 blocks away), and bike to Menlo-Atherton High (buyer to verify eligibility).

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday & Sunday
1:00 - 5:00 pm

Complimentary
Refreshments

For video tour & more photos, please visit:

www.2307CrestLane.com



Listed by Michael Repka
and the DeLeon Team



MAJESTIC GRANDEUR IN PRIME LADERA

271 Gabarda Way, Portola Valley

Offered at \$3,488,000

Sitting majestically in sought-after Ladera, this 5 bedroom, 4.5 bathroom home of 3,700 sq. ft. (per seller) on a generous property of 25,700 sq. ft. (per county) offers an open floorplan, abundant light, fine stonework, and hardwood floor. Built in 2013, the sun-lit interior includes a state-of-the-art Viking kitchen, grand master suite with views, and large secondary bedrooms. This resident is moments from Ladera amenities, restaurants, gourmet grocery stores, and commuting along Highway 280. Children attend highly-ranked schools such as Las Lomas Elementary, La Entrada Middle, and Menlo-Atherton High (buyer to verify eligibility).

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday & Sunday
1:00 - 5:00 pm

Complimentary
Refreshments

For video tour & more photos, please visit:

www.271Gabarda.com

650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com | www.deleonrealty.com | CalBRE #01903224



65 Robleda Drive, Atherton

Paradise in a Prestigious Setting

Gated grounds of 44,304 Sq. Ft. (per county) wrap around this magnificent 5 bedroom, 5.5 bath estate of 5,992 sq. ft. (per plans), which includes a separate office and a stunning guest house in highly coveted West Atherton. Constructed by noted builder Gary Lencioni in 2005, the home blends Contemporary design with Old World undertones throughout, fusing world-class luxury with immaculate craftsmanship. Savant home automation provides control of amenities like integrated surround sound and select lighting, allowing personalized comfort at the touch of a button. Enjoying the serenity of this quiet enclave, the estate also balances easy access to elite private academies and the vibrant downtowns of both Redwood City and Menlo Park.

For video tour & more photos, please visit:

www.65Robleda.com

Offered at \$11,888,000

Listed by Michael Repka and the DeLeon Team

650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com | www.deleonrealty.com | CalBRE #01903224

Camp Connection

For more information about these camps visit paloaltoonline.com/camp_connection. To advertise in this weekly directory, call (650) 326-8210.

ATHLETICS

Dance Connection Palo Alto Palo Alto

Share the joy of dance with us! Our studio is an extended family and a home away from home for many community members, and we value the positive energy and atmosphere that we strive to provide. For children and teens. Jazz, Hip Hop, Ballet, Tap, Lyrical/Contemporary, Children's Combination. Events/Summer Dance Camps - Summer Session for ages 3 - adults: June 11-August 4.

www.danceconnectionpaloalto.com
(650) 852-0418 or (650) 322-7032

Kim Grant Tennis Academy Palo Alto Summer Camps Monterey Bay

Fun and specialized junior camps for Mini (3-5), Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, High Performance and Elite tennis levels. Weekly programs designed by Kim Grant to improve player technique, fitness, agility, mental toughness and all around game. Weekly camps in Palo Alto and sleep-away camps at Meadowbrook Swim and Tennis.

www.KimGrantTennis.com (650) 752-8061

Mountain View Tennis Summer Camps Mountain View

Choose from 10 weeks of Tennis Camp – plenty of play time, focus on fundamentals & sportsmanship, talented coaches, Cuesta courts. Full day or morning camp for 7 to 14 year olds and new, morning camp for 5 to 6 year olds. Discounts for residents and registering by 3/31.

www.mountainviewtennis.net (650) 967-5955

Nike Tennis Camps Bay Area

Junior overnight and day tennis camps for boys and girls, ages 9-18 offered throughout June, July and August. Adult weekend clinics available June and Aug. Camps directed by head men's coach, Paul Goldstein, head women's coach, Lele Forood, and associate men's and women's coaches, Brandon Coupe and Frankie Brennan. Join the fun and get better at tennis this summer.

www.ussportscamps.com (800) 645-3226

Run for Fun Camps Palo Alto/La Honda

Run for Fun's mission is to provide creative and engaging play for all youth by getting kids active in an inclusive community centered around outdoor fun! We pride ourselves on hiring an enthusiastic, highly trained staff who love what they do. Summer 2018 features four weeks of Adventure Day Camp and two weeks of Overnight Camp High Five. Adventure Day Camp is a new discovery every day filled with sports, crafts and nature, including explorations to Camp Jones Gulch, Capitola Beach, Foothills Park, Shoreline Lake and Great America. Camp High Five is six days and five nights of traditional overnight camp mixed with challenge-by-choice activities, campfires, friendships and lots of laughter.

www.runforfuncamps.com/summer-camps-and-school-holiday-camps/camp-overview
(650) 823-5167

Spartans Sports Camp Mountain View

Spartans Sports Camp offers multi-sport, week-long sessions for boys and girls in grades 1-7, sport-specific sessions for grades 2-9, color guard camp for grades 3-9, and cheerleading camp for grades pre-K – 8. We also offer a hip hop dance camp for grades 1-7. Camp dates are June 4 through July 27 at Mountain View High School. The camp is run by MVHS coaches and student-athletes and all proceeds benefit the MVHS Athletic Department. Lunch and extended care are available.

www.spartanssportscamp.com (650) 479-5906

Stanford Baseball Camps Stanford

At Sunken Diamond on the campus of Stanford University. Four or five day camps where the morning session includes instruction in several baseball skills, fundamentals, and team concepts. The afternoon session will be dedicated to playing coach pitched games and hitting in the batting cages. Session 1: June 18 - 22 Session 2: June 25-29 Session 3: July 16-20

www.stanfordbaseballcamp.com (650) 725-2054

Stanford Water Polo Camps Stanford

New to water polo or have experience, we have a camp for you. Half-day or full-day options for boys and girls ages 7 and up. All camps provide fundamental skills, scrimmages and games.

www.stanfordwaterpolocamps.com (650) 725-9016

Wheel Kids Bike Camps Palo Alto

At Addison Elem. Adventure Riding Camp for grades 1 - 8, Two Wheelers Club for grades K - 3. Week long programs from 8:30 - 4, starting June 4th. Join us as we embark on bicycling adventures for the more experienced rider or help those just learning to ride.

wheelkids.com/palo-alto (650) 646-5435

YMCA of Silicon Valley Summer Camps Silicon Valley

At the Y, children and teens of all abilities acquire new skills, make friends, and feel that they belong. With hundreds of Summer Day Camps plus Overnight Camps, you will find a camp that's right for your family. Financial assistance is available.

www.ymcasv.org (408) 351-6473

ACADEMICS

Harker Summer Programs San Jose

The Harker School's summer programs for children K-grade 12 offer the perfect balance of learning and fun! Programs are led by dedicated faculty and staff who are experts at combining summer fun and learning. Strong academics and inspiring enrichment programs are offered in full-day, partial and morning-only sessions.

www.harker.org/summer (408) 553-5737

i2 Camp at Castilleja School Palo Alto

i2 Camp offers week-long immersion programs that engage middle school girls in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The fun and intimate hands-on activities of the courses strive to excite and inspire participants about STEM, creating enthusiasm that will hopefully spill over to their schoolwork and school choices in future years.

www.castilleja.org/i2camp (650) 470-7833

iD Tech Camps Campbell Stanford/Bay Area

The world's #1 summer STEM program held at Stanford, Palo Alto High School, and 150+ locations nationwide. With innovative courses in coding, game development, robotics, and design, our programs instill in-demand skills that embolden students to shape the future. iD Tech Camps (weeklong, 7-17), Alexa Café (weeklong, all-girls, 10-15), iD Tech Academies (2-week, 13-18).

iDTechCamps.com (844) 788-1858

KCI Summer Camp Los Altos Hills

Students ages 11-16 discover endless possibilities as they design and engineer their own projects. Hands-on learning of latest technologies including virtual reality, 3D printing, video production, and more in KCI's new makerspace.

bit.ly/kcisummerncamp (650) 949-7614

Stanford EXPLORE: A Lecture Series on Biomedical Research Stanford

EXPLORE biomedical science at Stanford. Stanford EXPLORE offers high school students the unique opportunity to learn from Stanford professors and graduate students about diverse topics in biomedical science, including bioengineering, neurobiology, immunology and many others.

explore.stanford.edu explore-series@stanford.edu

Summer at Sand Hill School Palo Alto

June 26 to July 20; If you're looking for a great summer learning plus fun option for your child and you want them to be ready for fall, please join us at Sand Hill. The morning Literacy Program (8:30 to noon) provides structured, systematic instruction for students with learning challenges entering grades 1-8 in the fall. The afternoon Enrichment Camp (Noon to 4) focuses on performing arts, social skills and fun. Choose morning, afternoon or full day. Visit www.sandhillschool.org for more details and application.

www.sandhillschool.org (650) 688-3605

Write Now! Palo Alto Summer Writing Camps Pleasanton

Improve your student's writing skills this summer at Emerson School of Palo Alto and Hacienda School of Pleasanton. Courses this year are Expository Writing, Creative Writing and Presentation Techniques.

headsop.org
Emerson: (650) 424-1267
Hacienda: (925) 485-5750

ARTS, CULTURE, OTHER CAMPS

Art and Soul Camp Palo Alto

Art, cooking, tinkering, yoga and mindfulness. We celebrate multiple perspectives and recognize the many ways for our children to interpret their world. Summer Unplugged! is appropriate for ages 5-13 years. Located at Walter Hays School.

www.artandsoulpa.com (650) 269-0423

Castilleja Summer Camp for Girls Palo Alto

Castilleja Summer Camp for Girls Palo Alto Casti Camp offers girls entering gr. 2-6 a range of age-appropriate activities including athletics, art, science, computers, writing, crafts, cooking, drama and music classes each day along with weekly field trips. Leadership program available for girls entering gr. 7-9.

www.castilleja.org/summerncamp (650) 470-7833

City of Mountain View Recreation Mountain View

Come have a blast with us this summer! We have something for everyone: Recreation Camps, Specialty Camps, Sports Camps, Swim Lessons, and more! Programs begin June 4 – register early!

www.mountainview.gov/register (650) 903-6331

Community School of Music Mountain View

Community School of Mountain View Music and Arts (CSMA) Mountain View 50+ creative camps for Gr. K-8! Drawing, Painting, Ceramics, Sculpture, Musical Theater, Summer Music Workshops, more! One and two-week sessions; full and half-day enrollment. Extended care from 8:30am-5:30pm. Financial aid offered.

www.arts4all.org (650) 917-6800 ext. 0

Let's Go Crafting Palo Alto

Let's Go Crafting's Studio is where your child will have fun while learning many different fiber related arts. We teach sewing, knitting, crochet, weaving and jewelry making to children ages 8 years to 15 years. AM or PM camps \$275/week. Full day camps \$550/week. 5 student minimum for all sessions; 10 student maximum. Contact Connie Butner at lets gocrafting@gmail.com.

lets gocrafting.wordpress.com (650) 814-4183

Palo Alto Community Child Care (PACCC) Palo Alto

PACCC summer camps offer campers, grades 1st to 6th, a wide variety of fun opportunities. We are excited to announce all of your returning favorites: Leaders in Training (L.I.T.), PACCC Special Interest Units (S.I.U.), F.A.M.E. (Fine Arts, Music and Entertainment), J.V. Sports and Operation: Chef! Periodic field trips, special visitors and many engaging camp activities, songs and skits round out the fun offerings of PACCC Summer Camps. Open to campers from all communities. Register online.

www.paccc.org (650) 493-2361

Stanford Jazz Workshop Stanford

On campus of Stanford University, Week-long jazz immersion programs for young musicians in middle school (starts July 9), high school (July 15 and July 22), and college, as well as adults (July 29). All instruments and vocals.

stanfordjazz.org (650) 736-0324

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley Los Altos Menlo Park, Palo Alto

Kids can have fun, be a character, and learn lifelong performance skills at TheatreWorks Silicon Valley's Theatre Camps. Spring Break and Summer camps for K-6.

theatreworks.org/youth-programs/for-youth
(650) 463-7146

Practicing For the unthinkable

Menlo fire and
Atherton police
take part in active
shooter drill

Atherton police officers and Menlo Park district firefighters practice — with mock training weapons and a dummy — rescuing a wounded person before a shooter has been apprehended, at Menlo School on April 9.



Story by Barbara Wood | Photos by James Tensuan

It's a scenario no one ever wants to encounter — a shooter on a school campus. But the reality of recurring school shootings means students at local schools, in addition to practicing duck-and-cover drills for a possible earthquake and learning where to go when the fire alarm rings, now also practice school lockdowns.

Reality means teachers now must decide what would be the safest place in their classrooms if gunshots are heard in the corridors or outside the windows. Older students now must learn to “run, hide and fight”; arm themselves with chairs or fire extinguishers; lock doors equipped with “Columbine locks” that lock from the inside or out; and huddle quietly away from windows and doors.

In recent months, two local schools have had to put those lockdown drills into action: Woodside Elementary School on Oct. 26 and Menlo-Atherton High School on April 4. Both cases turned out, to the relief of all involved, to be false alarms.

Reality also means emergency responders now must practice what to do if what once was unthinkable happens — a shooter comes to a school campus.

Campus shooter drill

On Monday, April 9, with students off on their spring break, Atherton Police Department officers and Menlo Park Fire Protection District firefighters met on the Menlo School campus in Atherton to practice together what they would do if a shooter intruded on the grounds of a local school.

The issue is especially important to the two agencies because they have so many schools within their boundaries. Atherton has nine schools:

elementary schools Laurel Lower Campus, Encinal, Las Lomitas and Selby Lane; Sacred Heart (preschool to grade 12); high schools Menlo and Menlo-Atherton; Menlo College; and the Knox Playschool.

Menlo Park Fire Protection

District officials says the district has 30 public and private elementary, middle and high schools within their boundaries, with more planned.

This is also reality: Firefighters, who in the Menlo Park district are also all emergency medical personnel, now need to know what to do if they're shot at, and police officers need to know how to protect them.

Local elected officials, school officials, Facebook security personnel and The Almanac were allowed to observe part of the April 9 drill. The scenario on the Menlo campus was conceived mainly to practice two things: how armed police would escort medics into what they call a “warm” zone, where injured people need attention but a shooter may still be active or hasn't yet been apprehended; and how police would search a campus, approach classroom doors, and deal with suspects.

During the session allowing observers, police and firefighters were in uniform but using only brightly colored plastic replica weapons. For the drill, to eliminate the possibility of accidental shootings, real weapons were stashed away.

Medics train for ‘warm’ zones

Menlo fire district Battalion Chief Dan Coyle said that earlier mass shooting incidents, including the Aurora, Colorado, movie theater shooting in 2012, convinced medics that waiting for a scene to be cleared could mean lost lives.

“Now, it is becoming standardized training” for medics to go into a “warm” zone, Battalion Chief Coyle said. “We're no longer going to sit two blocks away and let someone bleed out.”

Later in the day, with the civilian observers safely off campus, the firefighters and officers donned body armor and helmets for a more realistic scenario using

simulated gunfire and nonlethal ammunition.

A total of 48 people took part in the training: 19 police officers, 16 firefighters, five dispatchers, six youth fire explorers and two civilian police staff members, Atherton Police Cmdr. Joe Wade said.

Menlo fire district Chief Harold Schapelhouman said fire personnel wearing body armor such as bulletproof vests and helmets is not new. District responders have done so for nearly 30 years, “based upon the number of violent incidents we were experiencing in East Palo Alto in the 1980s,” he said. Whether firefighters wear the protective gear depends on the “type of emergency in which enhanced threat protection could be needed,” Chief Schapelhouman said.

In the 1980s, firefighters got

much of their training on the job, he said. With daily responses to “shootings, stabbings, assaults and overdoses, ... it was a much different time.”

The chief said that in its busiest year, the East Palo Alto fire station responded to more than 500 shootings. In response, “I wrote the first body armor purchase proposal, which started our current program,” he said.

Tactical medics

The fire district also now has “tactical medics” specially trained to work with the county's Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT). They drill and respond with the SWAT squads, the chief said, and also train other firefighters.

Continued on next page

‘We regularly practice mass casualty exercises at our training center, including these types of scenarios.’

CHIEF HAROLD SCHAPELHOUMAN,
MENLO FIRE DISTRICT



Atherton police officers trained to approach classroom doors in a “live shooter” situation, in which students are barricaded inside classrooms but the shooter is still on the loose.

How one school prepares for the worst

By Barbara Wood
Almanac Staff Writer

Sacred Heart Schools' 64-acre Atherton campus has nearly 1,200 students, from 3-year-old preschoolers to 18-year-old high schoolers, plus at least 250 adults, which makes preparing for an emergency a challenge.

However, said Dana Rakoczy, Sacred Heart's director of strategic communications, the school is "focused on trying to be as prepared as possible," and regularly drills for all types of emergencies, including lockdowns.

The preparation starts with the school's Sacred Heart Emergency Response Team, 30 to 35 adults who meet once a month and keep in touch with neighboring schools, the Atherton Police Department and the Menlo Park Fire Protection District.

The school's emergency protocols include plans for reuniting families, communicating with parents, and connecting siblings on campus in an emergency.

Communication with parents takes place through the school's website, emails and texts, but not social media such as Twitter and Facebook because it's hard to keep those communications private, Ms. Rakoczy said. The school is also planning a campus-wide public address system that could work with other communications, she said.

Important to being prepared, Ms. Rakoczy said, is "knowing your community," consistency of drills and training, and "pushing always to improve and (finding) what we can we do better."

The school also prioritizes communicating with parents so that in an emergency they know where to go and "they have trust if they cannot get to their child immediately ... that they're going to be taken care of."

"We have gotten it down to a science," she said.

Parents are informed in advance when a drill will take place and what will be done. "We want them to be

well-informed, so they can continue the conversation at home," Ms. Rakoczy said.

Students are given age-appropriate information with the aim of having them be "confident in their responsibilities" during an emergency, she said.

The school is also prepared to serve as a shelter in a disaster, with an emergency trailer filled with blankets, water and other supplies to last 24 to 72 hours.

"We are constantly training as a faculty and staff," Ms. Rakoczy said. Teachers learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and recently held a drill where they erected pop-up tents, staged their emergency trailer and practiced using fire extinguishers.

The school also plans to have backup laptop and cellphone batteries, and a form of communication that could be used

by campus leadership if phones are out.

Teachers and staff have a cellphone app loaded with emergency resources. "It's a library of information and it's at everybody's fingertips," Ms. Rakoczy said.

Students are not supposed to use their cellphones on campus, but they may carry them, and

school officials realize that in an emergency they will probably be used, she said.

"This is the world we're in ... kids are constantly connected," Ms. Rakoczy said. "We see the benefits of that technology."

"We're constantly looking at what we can do, what we can do better," she said, "so that we can ensure our adult community feels prepared."

Students realize the possibility of a school shooter is real. "I think there is a fair amount of understanding that, like technology, this is part of their world," she said. So, the school works to "prepare them as best we can," she said.

"You don't want them to think about this 24-7," Ms. Rakoczy said.

"(Student) safety and our well-being are our paramount obligation," she said. However, she added, "we know that in event of an actual emergency there's only so much you can do." ▀

'We're constantly looking at what we can do, what can we do better.'

DANA RAKOCZY,
SACRED HEART'S
DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC
COMMUNICATIONS



During the drill Atherton police officers found and immobilized "suspects" on the Menlo School campus, where students were on spring break.

Continued from previous page

The district now has four tactical medics, with two more scheduled to receive the training. Chief Schapelhouman said the district's goal is to eventually have two tactical medics on each of the district's three scheduled work shifts. More than 50 district medics are trained to respond to active shooters, he said.

"We regularly practice mass casualty exercises at our training center, including these types of scenarios," Chief Schapelhouman said.

Atherton's Cmdr. Wade said the April 9 drill had been planned for at least eight months. "There were events that have just slowly changed the way we respond to these type of incidents," he said. "We've always focused on the active shooter aspect," he said, but "wanted to be sure ... that if we're going to have to rescue people that we have practiced it."

The drill, he said, was an opportunity "to really test the training."

"We learned that you definitely need practice when you're putting into place a brand new tactic," Cmdr. Wade said.

Lockdown lessons learned

Cmdr. Wade said the lockdown at Menlo-Atherton High School also taught the police department and the school some valuable lessons. One, he said, came from the unexpected arrival of 50 to 75 parents, despite the school's quick messaging asking parents to stay away from campus.

"We saw the power of how quickly word gets out via social media," he said. "There were parents that arrived much more quickly than I anticipated."

Parents need to be told, he said, that "sometimes the best response is not to come to the school."

Why? "They actually hinder the process when they show up in such large numbers," he said, and may distract emergency personnel from the job they need to be doing.

"Believe me, we want to deliver their kids back to them safely," he said.

If there had been a shooter at the school, he said, those parents may have been in danger. "We'd hate for a parent or a loved one to be caught in a field of fire."

The police department also received hundreds of calls from parents asking about the status of their children. Police didn't know those answers, Atherton Police Chief Steve McCulley said, but they do believe students are safe in a lockdown because they are following procedures they have learned through practice. A school "really is a safe place to be," he said.

How M-A prepared

Menlo-Atherton Principal Simone Rick-Kennel said the school had two lockdown drills this year, and the April 4 lockdown proved "we've trained people well." The school trains two "safety ambassadors" in each third-period homeroom class, and those students in turn train their classmates, Ms. Rick-Kennel said.

The school, like all other public schools in San Mateo County, follows the county's emergency "Big Five" plan. The plan has guidelines for an escalating series of emergencies ranging from a shelter-in-place protocol for events such as the extremely poor air quality during the height of the North Bay fires to a lockdown, when an immediate threat may be present. The plan also includes an evacuation protocol for situations such as a structure fire that makes it more dangerous

for students to remain on the school grounds than to leave.

In addition to the lockdown drills, M-A High has also had two evacuation drills and two earthquake drills this year. Every classroom has an emergency backpack and an emergency binder, with the protocols also available electronically, Ms. Rick-Kennel said.

"Students take it way more seriously when we practice," she said.

The lockdown did show some areas that could use improvement, she said, including the fact that some students left the classrooms during the two-hour lockdown to use the restroom. The emergency backpacks have supplies — including blankets, toilet paper, and bags for waste — to allow students to stay in the classrooms in such a situation, she said. "Everyone was so nervous, they forgot about it," she said.

Staff members have also asked for more hands-on, rather than written, training.

And while the school's messaging system worked well, Ms. Rick-Kennel said, the school needs to set up an off-site location where parents could gather to avoid the situation where so many parents showed up despite being asked to stay away.

After the lockdown, she said, the school offered counseling support if students wanted to talk about the experience.

"The kids handled it well," she said. Teachers said they were proud of how students reacted, and parents told the school "my student felt safe," she said. ▀

About the cover: During an April 9 drill at Menlo School, Atherton police officers trained to respond to a live shooter on a campus.

Game on!

Senior athletes meet their match at regional sporting competition

by Chris Kenrick

For 64-year-old water polo player Leslie Platshon, finding other teams in her age group to compete against is a rare opportunity that only comes around twice a year — the USA Water Polo Masters' Nationals and the Bay Area Senior Games now being held across San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Alameda counties.

Ms. Platshon, who lives in Menlo Park, decided to take up the sport after decades of watching her three sons play water polo. Eleven years ago, she formed the Menlo Mavens, which currently practices twice a week at Menlo Park's Burgess pool.

"We were mostly older women and most of us had watched our kids but never had the opportunity to play," Ms. Platshon recalled. Over the years, the team has added younger members, including women in their 20s who played Division I water polo in college.

'We were mostly older women and most of us had watched our kids but never had the opportunity to play.'

MENLO PARK WATER POLO PLAYER
LESLIE PLATSHON

"I think I'm the oldest now," said Ms. Platshon. "We have a core group of the older women still with it, but we've added a lot of young people. The tricky thing is to find other teams (in the older age groups)."

Ms. Platshon is among the 1,750 athletes ages 50 and over expected to compete at this year's 12th Annual Senior Games now in progress through May 27.

The games, first held in 2006 as test events for the 2009 Summer National Senior Games, draw experienced senior athletes as well as novices. This year's event will feature 18 competitions in various sports.

The goal of the senior games is to show the benefits of an active, competitive lifestyle, said organizer Anne Warner Cribbs, a longtime Palo Alto resident and a 1960 Olympic gold medalist swimmer, who has organized the Bay Area senior games — including the 2009 Summer National Senior Games — for more than a decade.

"The one thing about senior

athletes is their enthusiasm, and zest and camaraderie," she said. "It's invigorating and also inspirational. Some people have lost a spouse, or have had a medical issue where it was necessary for them to get back in shape. And they come out, so it's good."

Ms. Cribbs herself is back to swimming again after shoulder-replacement surgery a little more than a year ago.

"Now I just swim for the exercise and the zen of it," she said.

Redwood City athlete Dorothy McCartney also is participating in this year's games. She plans to compete in power walking even though she only discovered the sport three months ago. Sidelined by a serious car accident in

See **ATHLETES**, page 24



Photo by Veronica Weber

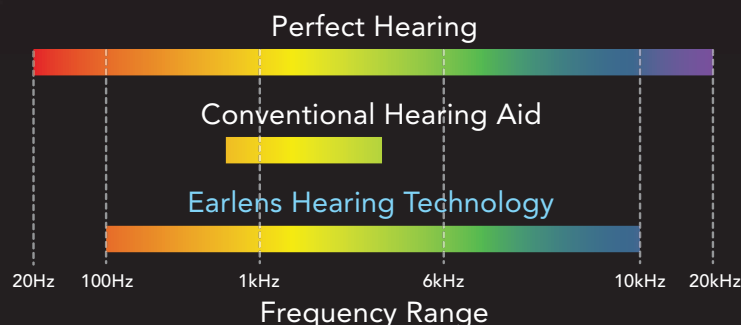
Water polo player Gigi Swan tries to recover during a practice game with the Menlo Mavens — which include players from 20 to 64 years old — at Burgess Pool in Menlo Park.

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Porta Blu opens in Menlo Park hotel

By Elena Kadvany

Porta Blu, a restaurant combining Mediterranean and California cuisines, is now open inside the new Hotel Nia in Menlo Park.

Porta Blu is located at 200 Independence Drive, just off U.S. 101. The all-day hotel restaurant “marries the ambiance and flavors of the Mediterranean with the Bay Area’s fresh and forward approach to dining,” a press release states.

For breakfast, look for dishes including shakshuka, lemon-ricotta pancakes, omelets and smoothies. Sandwiches, salads and panini are served at lunch. For dinner, there are flatbreads; a variety of tagines — chicken, fish, lamb or vegetable — served with couscous; Portuguese steak frites; salmon wrapped in grape leaves; and other dishes.

There are also cocktails, a “California-driven beer program” and an international wine list.

The luxury hotel also has a cafe serving coffee from Santa Cruz’s Verve Coffee Roasters.

Chef de Cuisine Michael Riddell, a Bay Area native who



Photo by Kate Bradshaw

Rugs hang from the ceiling of the newly opened Porta Blu in Menlo Park.

worked at the Ritz-Carlton Half Moon Bay for the last decade, is leading the kitchen with Executive Chef Eric Cousin, who previously worked at The Essex House in New York, The Plaza Hotel in New York and Disneyland Paris.

The restaurant’s name, which translates to blue door, is reflected in design elements: rolls of blue rugs and suspended blue doors hang from the ceiling in the main dining room.

Porta Blu is open for breakfast, lunch, dinner and weekend



Photo courtesy Hotel Nia

brunch. Its hours are Monday to Saturday, 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 to 10 p.m.; and Sunday, 6 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and 5 to 10 p.m. ■

ATHLETES

continued from page 23

2011, the longtime runner, hiker and tennis player heard about power walking through a friend.

“I’m still an athlete, just trying to figure out what I can do,” Ms. McCartney said. “I’ll go for anything that keeps me moving, and I love something new, too.” Because of the metal in her leg, Ms. McCartney said, power walking — in which one foot is always on the ground — is less pounding than running, and “I can still go fast.”

Among the youngest and newest athletes competing this year will be 50-year-old swimmer Bret McMillan of Mountain View, who said that until two years ago he was not athletic at all.

“I was doing nothing — I wasn’t swimming, I wasn’t working out, I wasn’t doing anything,” Mr. McMillan said. “I was wanting to get healthier and more active but I hadn’t done anything in years. I’d joined gyms before, but always quit.”

In February 2016 Mr. McMillan joined another gym, finally making it stick by adding a personal trainer.

“This time it worked, and by March, I wasn’t just lifting weights but I also was swimming in their pool,” he said.

A friend’s mention of the upcoming Escape from Alcatraz annual swim planted a seed, and Mr. McMillan set out to practice open-water swimming with a rented wetsuit in Santa Cruz.

“It was cold and it scared me to death. I swam to the buoy and back and it wasn’t that far but it seemed like forever. But I was hooked and it was exhilarating,” he said.

Mr. McMillan completed the 1.5-mile swim the following

August and two more open-water swims later that year. In 2017, he competed in eight open-water swims and four pool-based swim meets. In 2018, he’s signed up for 18 swims, 12 of them in open water.

“What I was shooting for was really to get healthier,” he said. Now, Mr. McMillan swims four days a week and works out in the gym the other three.

Menlo Park resident Brooks Esser, who has competed in multiple sports — track and field, road racing, triathlon, golf and cycling — is now on the board of the California Senior Games, which oversees all Senior Games competitions conducted in California. Currently, he said, about 8,000 athletes participate in eight regional senior game competitions throughout California, from the Napa wine country and the Bay Area down to Pasadena and San Diego.

‘The one thing about senior athletes is their enthusiasm, and zest and camaraderie. It’s invigorating and also inspirational.’

BAY AREA SENIOR GAMES ORGANIZER
ANNE WARNER CRIBBS

“We’re looking to expand the sponsorship and work with local governments to grow the games,” Mr. Esser said.

In recent years, participation in the pickleball competition, which will be held at Mitchell Park May 5 and 6, has seen among the biggest jumps at the Senior Games. At last year’s competition held in Palo Alto, 147 pickleball players competed, and that number is expected to grow to 160 or 175 this year, said coordinator Tom Foldare.

“This year there are 2.8 million pickleball players in the United States, up 18 percent over last year, so it’s really in big growth,” Mr. Foldare said.

Online registration for the 2018 Bay Area Senior Games is now open for all sports. Find out more about how to compete or volunteer at the games at 650-323-9400 or bayareaseniorgames.org. ■



Power walkers, from left, Georgi LaBerge and Janet Thomas walk around the Sequoia High School track during their workout on April 3. The women meet once a week, usually power walking about two miles, as they practice for the 1500-meter race at the 2018 Bay Area Senior Games.



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Home Composting Workshops

Saturday, April 21, 2018 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

South San Francisco Scavenger Company 500 East Jamie Court

Saturday, May 19, 2018 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Belmont Public Library
1110 Alameda de las Pulgas Belmont

Saturday, June 23, 2018 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

HEAL Project Farm, 500 Bridgeport Drive, Half Moon Bay

- Learn how easy and fun it is to recycle your fruit and vegetable scraps, leaves and plant cuttings into compost with a backyard or worm compost bin.
- **You don’t need a backyard to compost!** Discounts and rebates for compost bins available for County residents!

Fixit Clinic Bike Edition

Sunday, May 6, 2018 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Belmont Public Library, 1110 Alameda de las Pulgas



Get your bike ready for Bike Month in May! Join us for a hands-on bike-themed Fixit Clinic where REI bike technicians and Fixit Coaches will help you assess and troubleshoot broken bicycles, electronics, appliances, toys, fabric items, etc. Learn skills to prolong the life of your belongings and reduce waste. Cables, chains, bike tubes, cable housing, tube patches, and specialty tools provided to help fix your items. First-time Fixit coaches welcome. No experience necessary!

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Listed by Michael Repka
and the DeLeon Team



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Listed by Michael Repka
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Customized touches have granted comfort and function to this 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home of nearly 3,100 sq. ft. (per county), which rests on a lot of 5,350 sq. ft. (per county). Natural hardwood floors connect inviting gathering areas, which include a flexible sunroom with motorized skylight shades, while other amenities like a central vacuum system and dual-zoned Nest climate control lend easy living throughout. You will love being able to stroll to popular Friendship Park and casual dining along Middlefield Road, while El Camino Real lies nearby for convenient commuting. Children may also receive fine education at Menlo-Atherton High.

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday & Sunday
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Calendar

MEETINGS, MUSIC, THEATER, FAMILY ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Submitting 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.

Visit AlmanacNews.com/calendar to see more calendar listings

Theater

Ram's Head Presents: CHICAGO The musical "Chicago" follows budding star Roxie Hart and veteran performer Velma Kelly as they vie for the spotlight in search of fame, fortune and acquittal from their death-row convictions. Ongoing until April 21, 8 p.m. \$10-\$25. Memorial Auditorium, 551 Serra Mall, Stanford. Search events.stanford.edu for more info.

'The Bridges of Madison County' TheatreWorks Silicon Valley presents the Tony Award-winning musical "The Bridges of Madison County," based on the 1992 best-selling novel by Robert James Waller about love both lost and found. Directed by TheatreWorks artistic director and founder Robert Kelley. Ongoing until April 29, times vary. \$40-\$100. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. theatreworks.org

Concerts

Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra Under the baton of conductor Keith Lockhart, the Boston Pops orchestra performs the music of American film composer John Williams — the man behind the soundtracks for E.T., Star Wars, Harry Potter and more. April 20, 8 p.m. \$20-\$180. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

Songs of Freedom: Mitchell, Lincoln and Simone The 1960s are explored through the work of three prolific artists: Joni Mitchell, Abbey Lincoln and Nina Simone — all of whom have made a mark in music with their unique expressions of freedom. Performing are Ulysses Owens Jr., musical director; and Theo Bleckmann, Alicia Olatuja, Joanna Majoko, vocalists. April 19, 7:30 p.m. \$17-\$50. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

Festivals & Fairs

Fine Arts Festival, 36th Annual The Menlo Park Sidewalk Spring Art Stroll features the handcrafted works of more than 90 artists who create fine jewelry, photography, ceramics, paintings, turned woodwork and more. April 20 and 21, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and April 22, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Downtown Menlo Park, Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park. business.menloparkchamber.com/events

Kusamura Bonsai Club 58th Annual Show The annual show celebrating miniature bonsai trees will feature a demonstration on Saturday of satsuki azalea bonsai techniques and on Sunday of how to create the bonsai landscapes called saikei. Sale of trees and children's activities. April 21 and 22, noon-5 p.m. Free. Lucie Stern

Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Road, East Palo Alto. kusamurabonsai.org

Talks & Lectures

Through the Golden Gate: Cantonese-American Voices Community organizer David Lee, Los Angeles-based singer-songwriter Jane Lui, and historian Lee Chin will explore the rich heritage of Cantonese-Americans and the modern-day challenges facing Cantonese communities in the United States. April 18, 7 p.m. Free. Stanford University, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. Search events.stanford.edu for more info.

'The Consequences of Technological Developments for Politics and Government' The Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University presents a panel discussion on "The Consequences of Technological Developments for Politics and Government." This public event is free, but advance registration is required. April 24, 5:30 p.m. Free. Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University, 75 Alta Road, Stanford. mailchi.mp/stanford

'How to Live Before You Die: Embracing Life to the Fullest' (Lifetree Café Menlo Park) The program, titled "How to Live Before You Die: Embracing Life to the Fullest," features a filmed interview with Sasha Vukelja, who as a young girl escaped from Communist Yugoslavia and emigrated to the United States. Vukelja, now an oncologist, tells how she works with patients facing an uncertain future to find hope and a positive attitude. April 18, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. 1095 Cloud Ave., Menlo Park. vimeo.com/257911682

Evening Seminar: 'Lincoln in the Bardo' "Lincoln in the Bardo" by George Saunders will be the subject of this 90-minute discussion and lecture. The book is included in the price of the seminar and should be read prior to the event. April 23, 7-8:30 p.m. \$48. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

Islamophobia and its Impact The Menlo Park Library will host a presentation by Islamic Networks Group Founder and Executive Director Maha Elgenaidi, who will talk about xenophobia as it has been experienced by many different groups throughout history, and the current state of Islamophobia and the efforts to combat it. April 24, 6:30 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Main Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. menlopark.org

Jacqueline Winspear Join Kepler's for a new Maisie Dobbs mystery by Jacqueline Winspear, the creators of a memorable character in literature. April 18, 7:30-9 p.m. \$15-\$50. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Search eventbrite.com for more info.

SRI Organon Toastmasters SRI Organon Toastmasters helps community members become better public speakers and leaders by providing a supportive, positive environment for practicing communication and leadership skills. Guests are welcome to visit and join. Tuesdays, year-round. Free. First Baptist Church, 1100 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. sriorganon.com

John Waters in Conversation Filmmaker John Waters will be in conversation with SFFILM executive director Noah Cowan. April 18, 7:30 p.m. \$5-\$35 (discounts for students, seniors). Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. Search facebook.com/events for more info.

Museums & Exhibits

Portola Art Gallery Presents Misako Kambe's 'Beauty of Wood Fire, Vol. 3' The Portola Art Gallery presents "Beauty of Wood Fire, Vol. 3" - carved ceramic creations by Misako Kambe of Berkeley. Ongoing until April 30; Mondays-Saturdays 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Portola Art Gallery, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park. portolaartgallery.com

The Bay Bridge: An Engineer's Perspective Image pairs that demonstrate the evolution of San Francisco while highlighting the permanence and artistry of the Bay Bridge will be shown. Charles Knedel's photos during his time as a civil engineer on the original construction of the Bay Bridge have never been on display for the public. Ongoing until May 13, 6 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Cafe Borrone, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. makintoshphotography.com

'Wherever There's a Fight' Exhibition The Menlo Park Main Library will be hosting a special exhibition based on the book "Wherever There's a Fight: How Runaway Slaves, Suffragists, Immigrants, Strikers, and Poets Shaped Civil Liberties in California" by Elaine Elinson and Stan Yogi. In addition to the exhibit, the library will be hosting a series of related events, beginning with an appearance by the book's authors. All of the events are free to attend. Ongoing until May 31. Free. Menlo Park Main Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park.

Specialty Hikes and Tours These 90-minute specialty hikes and tours will run from through May 20. Experience the beauty and tranquility of Filoli's Nature Preserve, tour Filoli's historic greenhouses with a Filoli docent or discover how the families used the Estate and Nature Preserve. Specialty tours will focus on a variety of components of the Filoli property. \$10. Filoli Gardens, 86 Old Canada Road, Woodside. filoli.org menlopark.org/adults

Lessons & Classes

Technology Help for Seniors Experienced trainer Curtis Golden will assist in



At Portola Art Gallery

The carved, wood-fired ceramic work of Berkeley artist Misako Kambe is on display through April at Portola Art Gallery at Allied Arts, 75 Arbor Road in Menlo Park. Ms. Kambe uses a variety of carving techniques on her wheel-thrown ceramics, which then accumulate natural wood-fire ashes during the firing process, giving the work a unique look, dependent on the individual environmental conditions around each piece's creation. The gallery is open Monday-Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

using a computer, cell phone and other devices. He can instruct in downloading e-books and using programs such as Skype, Amazon and eBay. April 23, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley.

Business

Annual Shredding Day Get rid of unwanted documents on Annual Shredding Day. Limit three boxes per person, no junk mail. April 18, 1:30-4 p.m. Free. Little House Activity Center, 800 Middle Ave, Menlo Park. penvol.org/littlehouse

Teen mental health event set for this Sunday at Trinity Church

Trinity Church in Menlo Park is hosting a free community event centered on youth mental health on Sunday, April 22, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the church.

"Unmasking Teen Mental Health" will include the screening of a documentary film, "Unmasked," produced by students at Palo Alto and Gunn high schools. The film is described as a fictionalized account of how a young person and his or her community struggles with the issue of suicide.

The 6 p.m. screening will be followed by a panel discussion with experts "representing

youth, parents and professionals from the nonprofit, clinical, and academic worlds," according to a press release. Those experts include Lesley Martin, founder of SafeSpace; Islam Hassanein, a program manager at the Crisis Intervention & Suicide Prevention Center, StarVista; Erik Burmeister, superintendent of the Menlo Park City School District; and Patricia Way, described as "a parent of someone with serious mental illness" who is involved locally with the National Alliance on Mental Illness, or NAMI.

The moderator of the panel discussion, Nadia Ghaffar, is a senior at Los Altos High School and the founder of the nonprofit TeenzTalk.

The program will close with a resource fair that will allow attendees to interact with panelists and representatives of organizations scheduled to be at the event.

The event sponsor is encouraging people planning to attend to register at tinyurl.com/unmasking422.

Trinity Church is at 330 Ravenswood Ave. in Menlo Park.

OPEN HOUSE SAT & SUN 1:30-4:30 PM



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Questions surround councilwoman's trip to China

Menlo Park City Councilwoman Kirsten Keith's chair at the dais in the local council chambers was empty on March 27, when she was on vacation and the City Council was examining details of the largest proposed development in the city of Menlo Park's history. Facebook's proposed Willow Village, if built, will dramatically affect the future of Menlo Park, which is already heavily burdened by traffic and housing problems that have worsened the quality of life for many residents.

It's no small irony, then, that while three of her council colleagues (Councilwoman Cat Carlton is currently recused from Facebook matters) and concerned members of the community were engaged in the arduous effort of studying details and possible consequences of this massive proposed development, Ms. Keith was instead mingling with the people of Chengdu, China, reportedly addressing future business possibilities in Silicon Valley for Chengdu businesses.

We emphasize the word "reportedly" here, not only in fairness to Ms. Keith but to underscore the murkiness that hangs over the March 27 event she attended in Chengdu along with Mountain View Mayor Lenny

Siegel and Dublin Mayor David Haubert. The Chinese press reported that the event was a signing ceremony that involved former Mountain View councilman Mike Kasperzak, Chengdu business representatives and the three Bay Area elected officials.

Many questions surround this event, as detailed by an article by Kate Bradshaw in this week's Almanac. It is clear that Ms. Keith, whose term as mayor ended last year, was not authorized by her council colleagues to represent the city in China. But beyond that, questions include:

■ What exactly was in the document, called an "agreement" and a "memorandum" by the Chinese press, that appears to have been signed by the Dublin mayor, as Ms. Keith and Mr. Siegel stood by? The Chinese press reports, according to certified translations, that the agreement was signed on behalf of the three Bay Area representatives there, including Ms. Keith.

■ In at least one photo published by the Chinese press, Ms. Keith appears to be wearing the city of Menlo Park's "Mayor" pin. Why would she represent herself as the city's mayor when she doesn't serve in that capacity?

■ What was the purpose of Ms. Keith's participation, wearing a city of Menlo Park pin, at a ceremony that, according to the Chinese press, benefited a private firm whose CEO is the former Mountain View council member, Mr. Kasperzak?

■ Why would Ms. Keith, Menlo Park city pin affixed to her blazer, attend a function in another country representing the city when she was not authorized by her council colleagues to do so?

These are questions the public has a right to ask, and to have answered.

Members of the community have been asking them, including resident and attorney George Fisher, who paid hundreds of dollars to obtain certified translations of articles in the Chinese press in his quest to pin down details of the event.

Ms. Keith's City Council colleagues also need to raise these questions. And it appears the time has come for the council to create a firm policy spelling out the conditions under which one council member might be given the authority to represent the city outside the city itself. Such a policy should require authorization by the City Council for a single member to represent the city abroad. ■

EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

Main library project continues to raise concerns

By Lynne Bramlett

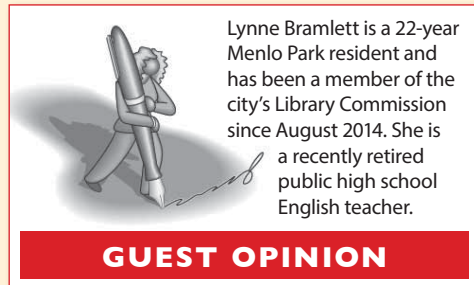
The main library project appears to be proceeding, but the approach erodes public trust, confidence and support.

The city's priorities should reflect the values of residents, but the process to determine those values needs time, leadership and public participation. The generous offer from philanthropist John Arrillaga to help build a new main library has unfortunately come with his requirement that it replace our existing library at the Civic Center. While his gift is large, approximately \$30 million more will be needed from a fundraising campaign.

Since this gift was introduced into our city's news, there has been a robust conversation about Belle Haven and its inadequate library. For many years, Belle Haven residents have asked the City Council to make the construction of a new library in Belle Haven a serious priority.

Although some improvements to the Belle Haven branch library were recently made, and a needs assessment is also now underway that could lead to more improvements, one reasonably asks why action wasn't taken sooner. The disparity between city facilities in Belle Haven when compared with those at our Civic Center speaks to the issue of equity, a value we all respect.

It's time to have open, public discussions regarding Menlo Park's values as they pertain to equity for all residents. The residents need to be deeply involved in these



Lynne Bramlett is a 22-year Menlo Park resident and has been a member of the city's Library Commission since August 2014. She is a recently retired public high school English teacher.

GUEST OPINION

conversations.

Along with equity and the common good, core values in a democracy include the idea that the government's power comes from the people.

The 2017 city satisfaction survey raised public concerns that it was biased, using leading questions favoring the library project. Even so, results demonstrated inadequate public support for a bond measure to finance the main library project.

At the annual public meeting to set yearly priorities, the council responded by removing a new main library from its priority list. Yet the project continues with, for example, meetings to recommend the best site location for a new main library. The council's latest work plan also includes milestones related to the project.

The main library project is proceeding with inadequate public visibility and participation. The project will not regain the trust, confidence and support of the public unless the public is actively involved, especially at key decision points.

Transparency is a value that our city

government stresses often. In their political campaigns, our council candidates also stress this value.

Now is the time to take another look at the sunshine ordinance that, last year, Councilman Ray Mueller asked his colleagues to put on the council agenda. Unfortunately, his request saw no action.

Residents want and deserve to be included as full participants in our own government. State sunshine laws are considered only the beginning of what's needed for transparency. A sunshine ordinance would better deliver open government as it requires local agencies to make extra efforts to conduct public business in the open.

The role of residents serving on our current advisory commissions and committees also needs to change. The public perception is that staff works together with the various commissions to bring the best recommendations to the council. However, the reality is that often the commissions are treated as rubber-stamp groups to lend credibility to staff-made decisions.

We need to benchmark our commissions with those from other leading cities to identify improvement opportunities. As an immediate improvement, I recommend that commissions and committees put more topics, especially the ones pertaining to key decision-making points, under the regular business category to allow for public discussion.

I suggest that we start this improvement effort with the Library Commission.

LETTERS

Our readers write

On the issue of guns and bump stocks

Editor:

Orlando, Florida, June 12, 2016. 49 dead, 58 injured. Sutherland Springs, Texas. Nov. 5, 2017. 26 dead, 20 injured. Las Vegas, Nevada, Oct. 1, 2017. 58 dead, 851 injured. Parkland, Florida, Feb. 14, 2018. 17 dead, 17 injured.

Every single one of these incidents have one thing in common, guns. 851 people were injured in Las Vegas, and to put that in perspective for you, that's roughly three-quarters of my school lying on the ground screaming for help.

How do we stop this? Going back to the Texas church shooting, what happened right after Devin Kelley exited the church? A civilian shot him. Not a police officer or any sort of law enforcement agent. A civilian. That just shows the freedom that America gives to people with guns.

On the issue of bump stocks: A regular semiautomatic gun shoots about 30 rounds in 10 seconds; add a bump stock and that turns into 100 rounds in 10 seconds. Why can't we just ban bump stocks? There is no denying that there needs to be stricter gun control laws, as well as bans on bump stocks.

Brandon Wee,
Menlo Park seventh-grader



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All Residential Properties Single-Family Homes . Townhouses . Condos Average and Median Sales Prices



Single-Family Home Average Sales Prices

	Atherton	Los Altos	Los Altos Hills	Menlo Park	Mountain View	Palo Alto	All
Q1 2017	\$6.065	\$3.257	\$4.768	\$2.371	\$1.851	\$3.281	\$3.036
Q2 2017	\$5.946	\$3.147	\$4.667	\$2.493	\$2.134	\$3.250	\$3.245
Q3 2017	\$5.771	\$3.189	\$4.500	\$2.543	\$2.045	\$3.380	\$3.147
Q4 2017	\$5.484	\$3.447	\$5.427	\$2.597	\$2.095	\$3.942	\$3.400
Q1 2018	\$8.020	\$3.615	\$5.511	\$3.127	\$2.423	\$3.733	\$3.583

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Portola Valley | 3/4 | \$6,800,000
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Los Altos Hills | 6/6.5 | \$6,495,000
Sun 1:30 - 4:30 12111 Old Snakey Rd
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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

HURTADO MAINTENANCE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 277069
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Hurtado Maintenance, located at 245 E. Okeefe St. Apt. 11, Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
BENITO HURTADO
245 E. Okeefe St. Apt. 11
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 2012.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 16, 2018.
(ALM Mar. 28; Apr. 4, 11, 18, 2018)

SMALL TOWN CLOTHING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 276883
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Small Town Clothing, located at 2535 Hazelwood Way, East Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
ERIK TAYLOR
2535 Hazelwood Way
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 3/2/2018.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 2, 2018.
(ALM Mar. 28; Apr. 4, 11, 18, 2018)

A&D AUTO REPAIR
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 277103
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
A&D Auto Repair, located at 2303 Spring St., Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
BINH ANDY TRUONG
2832 Akino Ct.
San Jose, CA 95148
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 20, 2018.
(ALM Mar. 28; Apr. 4, 11, 18, 2018)

INVITING SPACES BY KIM
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 277190
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Inviting Spaces By Kim, located at 947 15th Avenue, Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
Kimberly Beber Perlmutter
947 15th Avenue
Redwood City, CA 94063
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on August 2008.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 27, 2018.
(ALM Apr. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2018)

GOLD STAR RACING CLUTCHES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 277213
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Gold Star Racing Clutches, located at 295 Old County Rd., Unit 10, San Carlos, CA 94070, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
GUY APPLE
121 Somerset St
Redwood City, CA 94062
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 3/27/18.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 28, 2018.
(ALM Apr. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2018)

HYPATIA'S CUISINE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 277258
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Hypatia's Cuisine, located at 1714 El Camino Real, Redwood City, CA 94063, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
MILENE HYPATIA HANNER
655 Oak Grove Ave. #668
Menlo Park, CA 94026
This business is conducted by: An

Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 3, 2018.
(ALM Apr. 11, 18, 25; May 2, 2018)
THE ADDICTIONS INSTITUTE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 277161
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
The Addictions Institute, located at 445 Borgess Drive #150, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
STEPHANIE DIANE BROWN
68 Yale Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on May 1989.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 23, 2018.
(ALM Apr. 11, 18, 25; May 2, 2018)

MINDSHARE LEARNING SYSTEMS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 277320
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Mindshare Learning Systems, located at 2164 Ashton Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
LARRY WISEMAN
2164 Ashton Ave.
Menlo Park, CA 94025
ELIZABETH WISEMAN
2164 Ashton Ave.
Menlo Park, CA 94025
This business is conducted by: Married Couple.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/01/18.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 5, 2018.
(ALM Apr. 11, 18, 25; May 2, 2018)

LECA CONSTRUCTION
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 277353
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
LECA Construction, located at 3933 O'Neill Dr., San Mateo, CA 94403, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
OSCAR O. LESCANO
3933 O'Neill Dr.
San Mateo, CA 94403
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on Sep. 19, 2005.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 9, 2018.
(ALM Apr. 18, 25; May 2, 9, 2018)

PANADERIA MICHOCACAN
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 277368
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Panaderia Michoacan, located at 2940 Middlefield Road, Redwood City CA 94063, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
CELIA BAEZ
131 Wayne Ct East
Redwood City, CA 94063
This business is conducted by: An Individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1979.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 11, 2018.
(ALM Apr. 18, 25; May 2, 9, 2018)

PINK SKIES
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 277386
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Pink Skies, located at 5001 Woodside Rd., Woodside, CA 94062, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
DREAM TEAM PAJAMAS, LLC
5001 Woodside Road
Woodside, CA 94062
Delaware
This business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 12, 2018.
(ALM Apr. 18, 25; May 2, 9, 2018)

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.: 18CIV01224

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: JEFFREY KENNETH VASQUEZ filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: JEFFREY KENNETH VASQUEZ to JEFFREY EDMOND VASQUEZ GUZMAN.
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 show 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: April 26, 2018, 9:00 a.m., Dept.: PJ 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 week 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: March 14, 2018
/s/ Susan Irene Etezadi
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Mar. 28; Apr. 4, 11, 18, 2018)

APN: 074-231-550-0 TS No: CA08000822-17-1 To No: 170273775-CA-VOI
NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE (The above statement is made pursuant to CA Civil Code Section 2923.3(d)(1). The Summary will be provided to Trustor(s) and/or vested owner(s) only, pursuant to CA Civil Code Section 2923.3(d)(2).) YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED January 25, 2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On May 1, 2018 at 12:30 PM, at the Marshall Street entrance to the Hall of Justice and Records, 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94061, MTC Financial Inc. dba Trustee Corps, as the duly Appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust recorded on February 2, 2007 as Instrument No. 2007-017309, of official records in the Office of the Recorder of San Mateo County, California, executed by STEPHEN A MEYER, AN UNMARRIED MAN, as Trustor(s), in favor of MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. as nominee for PHH MORTGAGE SERVICES as Beneficiary, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, in lawful money of the United States, all payable at the time of sale, that certain property situated in said County, California describing the land therein as: PARCEL I: LOT 4 AS SHOWN ON THAT CERTAIN SUBDIVISION MAP ENTITLED, "AMENDED MAP PHASE 2 1000 SHARON PARK, CITY OF MENLO PARK, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, CALIFORNIA", HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS "THE MAP", FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF SAN MATEO COUNTY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, ON OCTOBER 22, 1976 IN BOOK 92 OF MAPS AT PAGE 50.PARCEL II.A: THE NON-EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR INGRESS AND EGRESS OVER THE DEVELOPMENT COMMON AREA TO AND FROM LOT 4, PROVIDED HOWEVER THAT SUCH RIGHT SHALL NOT BE EXERCISED IN A MANNER THAT WILL INTERFERE WITH THE LANDSCAPED AREAS, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES OR VEHICULAR TRAFFIC.B. THE RIGHT TO USE, OCCUPY AND ENJOY THE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND LANDSCAPED PORTIONS OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMON AREA. (LOT 6)C. THE RIGHT, SUBJECT TO THE PRIOR WRITTEN APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS TO CONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE THROUGH, IN OR ACROSS LOT 6, PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SEWERS, WIRES, CONDUITS FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF ELECTRICITY FOR LIGHTING, POWER, TELEPHONE ANTENNAE AND ANY OTHER PURPOSES, AND FOR THE NECESSARY ATTACHMENTS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, AND THE RIGHT TO CONSTRUCT ANY PUBLIC OR QUASI-PUBLIC UTILITY THROUGH, IN OR ACROSS LOT 6. SAID RIGHT SHALL BE EXERCISED ALONG THE SHORTEST AND MOST CONVENIENT ROUTE BETWEEN LOT 4 AND THE NEAREST PUBLIC UTILITY LINE OR LINES.D. AN EXCLUSIVE EASEMENT OVER LOT 6 FOR TRASH ENCLOSURES, ROOF OVERHANGS, AIR CONDITIONERS AND OTHER BUILDING PROTRUSIONS. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 1015 LASSEN DRIVE, MENLO PARK, CA 94025 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made without covenant and warranty, express or implied, regarding

title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the Note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said Note(s), advances if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligations secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of this Notice of Trustee's Sale is estimated to be \$1,518,888.59 (Estimated). However, prepayment premiums, accrued interest and advances will increase this figure prior to sale. Beneficiary's bid at said sale may include all or part of said amount. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the California Financial Code and authorized to do business in California, or other such funds as may be acceptable to the Trustee. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the property receiver, if applicable. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. Notice to Potential Bidders If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a Trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a Trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same Lender may hold more than one mortgage or Deed of Trust on the property. Notice to Property Owner The sale date shown on this Notice of Sale may be postponed one or more times by the Mortgagee, Beneficiary, Trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about Trustee Sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call In Source Logic at 702-659-7766 for information regarding the Trustee's Sale or visit the Internet Web site address listed below for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case, CA08000822-17-1. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. Date: March 27, 2018 MTC Financial Inc. dba Trustee Corps TS No. CA08000822-17-1 17100 Gillette Ave Irvine, CA 92614 Phone: 949-252-8300 TDD: 866-660-4288 Bobbie LaFlower, Authorized Signatory SALE INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ON LINE AT www.insourcelogic.com FOR AUTOMATED SALES INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: In Source Logic AT 702-659-7766 Trustee Corps may be acting as a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained may be used for that purpose.ISL Number 38740, Pub Dates: 04/11/2018, 04/18/2018, 04/25/2018, THE ALMANAC

Center, Redwood City, CA 94063, MTC Financial Inc. dba Trustee Corps, as the duly Appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust Recorded on January 29, 2007 as Instrument No. 2007-014088, of official records in the Office of the Recorder of San Mateo County, California, executed by LEVIE A. SPIGNER, AS TRUSTEE OF THE LEVIE A. SPIGNER 2006 REVOCABLE TRUST, as Trustor(s), in favor of WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK, A FEDERAL ASSOCIATION as Beneficiary, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, in lawful money of the United States, all payable at the time of sale, that certain property situated in said County, California describing the land therein as: EXHIBIT "A" LOTS 9, 10 AND 11 IN BLOCK 36, AS DESIGNATED ON THE MAP ENTITLED "NORTH FAIR OAKS (SUBDIVISION NO. 3) SAN MATEO COUNTY", WHICH MAP WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA APRIL 20, 1988 IN BOOK 6 OF MAPS AT PAGE 7. The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 667 18TH AVE, MENLO PARK, CA 94025-2015 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the Note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said Note(s), advances if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligations secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of this Notice of Trustee's Sale is estimated to be \$167,280.49 (Estimated). However, prepayment premiums, accrued interest and advances will increase this figure prior to sale. Beneficiary's bid at said sale may include all or part of said amount. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the California Financial Code and authorized to do business in California, or other such funds as may be acceptable to the Trustee. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the property receiver, if applicable. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. Notice to Potential Bidders If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a Trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a Trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same Lender may hold more than one mortgage or Deed of Trust on the property. Notice to Property Owner The sale date shown on this Notice of Sale may be postponed one or more times

by the Mortgagee, Beneficiary, Trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about Trustee Sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call Auction.com at 800.280.2832 for information regarding the Trustee's Sale or visit the Internet Web site address www.Auction.com for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case, CA08001052-17-1. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. Date: March 28, 2018 MTC Financial Inc. dba Trustee Corps TS No. CA08001052-17-1 17100 Gillette Ave Irvine, CA 92614 Phone:949-252-8300 TDD: 866-660-4288 Myron Ravelo, Authorized Signatory SALE INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED ONLINE AT www.Auction.com FOR AUTOMATED SALES INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: Auction.com at 800.280.2832 Trustee Corps may be acting as a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained may be used for that purpose.ISL Number 38930, Pub Dates: 04/18/2018, 04/25/2018, 05/02/2018, THE ALMANAC

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Case No.: 18CIV01553
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: BENJAMIN DALE KIRKENDOLL filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: BENJAMIN DALE KIRKENDOLL to BENJAMIN DALE KIRKENDOLL BEY. 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 show 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: June 5, 2018, 9:00 a.m., Dept.: PJ 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 week 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: April 4, 2018
/s/ Jonathan E. Karesh
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Apr. 18, 25; May 2, 9, 2018)

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CalBRE #01788047



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