

# The Almanac

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

JUNE 19, 2019 | VOL. 54 NO. 42



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## DANCE FLOOR THERAPY



Rosener House  
first in U.S. to  
host French  
tango program  
for Alzheimer's  
patients

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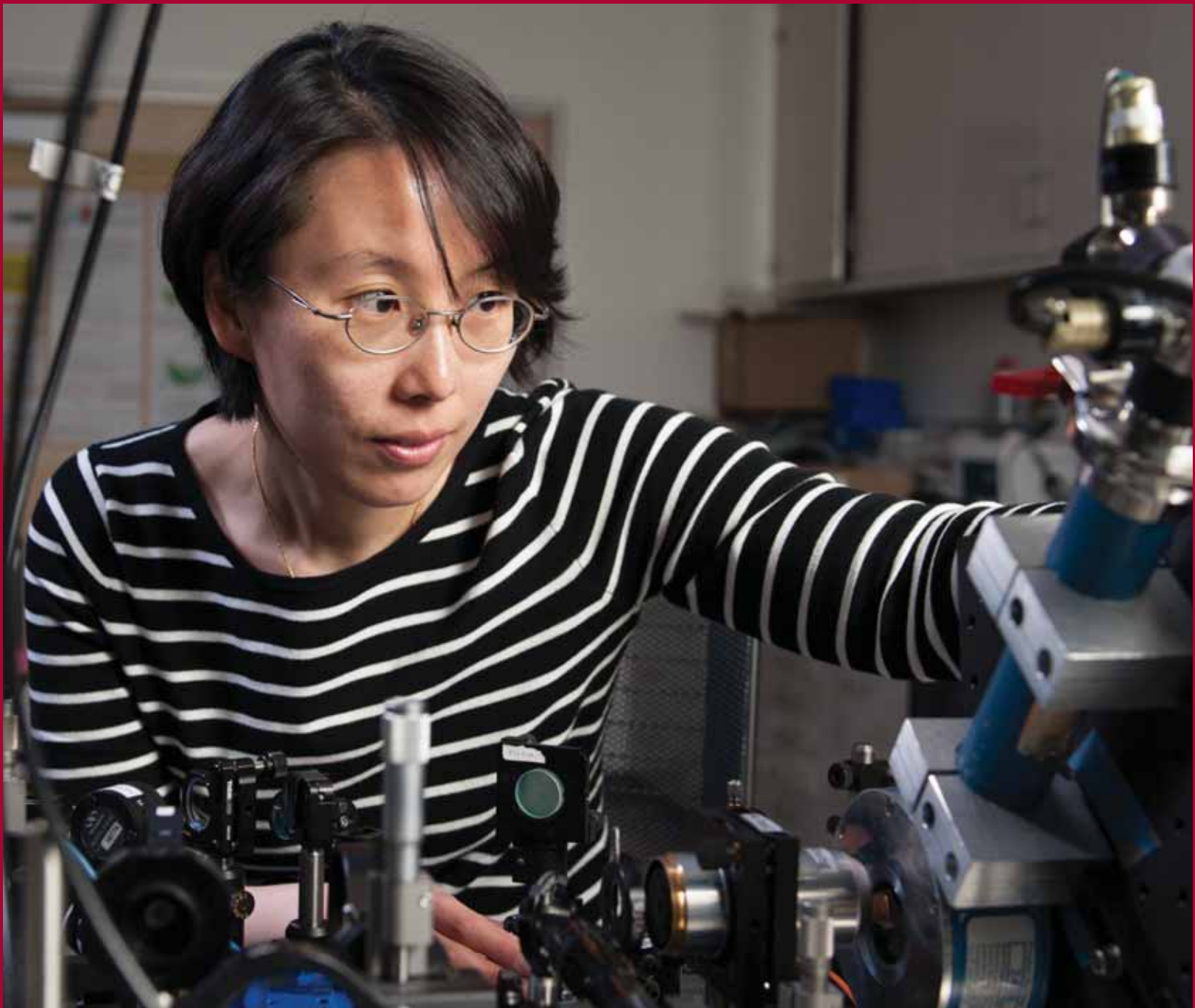
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# Local News

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## Livening up downtown

Downtown Menlo Park was a lively scene on Wednesday evening, June 12, as the city and the Chamber of Commerce hosted the 13th annual community block party. Almanac photographer Magali Gauthier was there to capture the spirit of the evening with pictures. Above, James, 4, appears to like what he sees after getting his face painted. Left, a train makes its way down Santa Cruz Avenue. Go to [AlmanacNews.com](http://AlmanacNews.com) to see more photos.

## Almanac hacker sentenced

By Sue Dremann

The 36-year-old man who hacked and temporarily shut down AlmanacNews.com and other Embarcadero Media websites nearly four years ago was sentenced on June 12 in San Jose federal court to time already served, one year of home incarceration with electronic monitoring, three years of supervised release and \$27,130 in restitution to the company.

Ross Colby was indicted on April 6, 2017, following an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the Sept. 17, 2015, crime, which took down five news sites owned and operated by Palo Alto-based Embarcadero Media, including the

Palo Alto Weekly and Mountain View Voice.

Colby is a software engineer who at one time was a security officer and IT administrator for Earnest, a student-loan company in San Francisco, where he reviewed data-compliance contracts with major clients such as Goldman Sachs and Verizon.

A federal jury convicted Colby of all charges on June 6, 2018, after a six-day trial: one count of transmitting a program, code, command or information to a computer, intending to cause damage; one felony count of attempting to do the same; and three misdemeanors of unlawfully obtaining information from a protected computer.

For each felony, he faced a fine

of up to \$250,000, a prison term not to exceed 10 years, or both, and a maximum of one year in prison and up to \$100,000 in fines for each misdemeanor.

Colby's sentencing was delayed for a year, however, after his defense attorney, Vicki Young, asked on the day he was originally scheduled to be sentenced — Oct. 31, 2018 — that he be evaluated for mental competency, despite the fact that he had been evaluated and found competent prior to his trial. Young's request took place after Colby, without Young's knowledge, emailed U.S. District Court Judge Lucy Koh on Oct. 30 a surreptitious recording he had

See **HACKER**, page 15

## No development moratorium for Menlo Park

Council agrees to pump up effort to review, revise rules to stem growth-related problems

By Kate Bradshaw

Almanac Staff Writer

The Menlo Park City Council on June 11 backed away from a proposal to enact a citywide moratorium on nonresidential development and a Bayside ban on large housing developments.

On June 5, Vice Mayor Cecilia Taylor and Councilwoman Betsy Nash sent out a memo asking for the council to consider a moratorium on all nonhousing development, including hotels, as well as additional floor-area-ratio allowances citywide; and a moratorium on housing projects larger than 100 units and additional floor-area-ratio allowances for housing on the city's Bay side.

Following a lengthy discussion on June 11, the council will now instead assemble two subcommittees to evaluate the very real problems that Taylor and Nash identified.

A subcommittee with Taylor and Mayor Ray Mueller will look at the problems in District 1, which includes the Belle Haven neighborhood and the massive Facebook campus east of U.S. 101; and another subcommittee with Mueller and Nash will look at the problems in districts 2 through 5.

Each will come up with a work plan, and the City Council will modify its work plan for the year to prioritize making changes to both the city's 2012 El Camino Real/downtown specific plan and its general plan update, which upzoned much of Menlo Park on the Bay side of U.S. 101 in 2016.

Taylor and Nash were also appointed to the subcommittee that will negotiate with Facebook on the development agreement for Willow Village, the largest proposed development in the city's history.

### What is a moratorium?

A development moratorium, as explained by Assistant City Attorney Cara Silver, is an exercise of police power to

temporarily suspend development approvals. Because it's considered an extreme action, it would have to pass with a four-fifths vote of the council.

For a nonresidential moratorium, the council would have to find that there is a current immediate threat to public health, safety or welfare, and that additional projects would worsen those threats. For a residential development moratorium, the council would have to find that the development would have specific, significant, quantifiable, direct and unavoidable impacts to health, safety and welfare, and that there are no other alternatives to mitigate those impacts.

If passed, a moratorium would last for an initial 45 days, and could be extended for up to two years.

There are specific limitations of what a moratorium can do, which contributed to some council members' reticence to wield a policy tool several community members referred to as "blunt," with potential for "unintended consequences."

For instance, the city would still have to continue to process development applications it has already received during a moratorium; those projects just wouldn't be permitted to receive final approval. Given the fact that a number of the development proposals working their way through the city still have to go through environmental impact analyses, which can take up to two years, Mueller said he didn't favor enacting a moratorium during a time when the process was unlikely to slow development anyway.

There's also the problem that a moratorium at best might delay impacts but not solve the problems that city residents want addressed: too much traffic everywhere; too much growth happening on the Bay side, where transportation infrastructure is especially clogged; and not enough vibrancy and

See **MORATORIUM**, page 14

**Peninsula**

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 Stanford Health Memory Support Program Manager  
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## Woman using oxygen dies in accidental fire

By Renee Batti  
 Almanac Editor

A woman who was smoking in her Menlo Park home while also using oxygen in a medical cylinder to breathe died June 14 when she caught on fire, according to a news bulletin from the Menlo Park Fire Protection District.

The woman was identified by the San Mateo County Coroner's Office as Sally Banks, 72.

Firefighters were called out to a home on North Lemon Avenue at around 9:17 p.m., and when they arrived at 9:20 found Banks "unresponsive," according to the bulletin issued by Fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman. She had burns on her upper body, and the fire crew determined that she had died of her injuries.

The incident had been called in by a caregiver at the house, who had not been in the room when the fire started, Schapelhouman said. The caregiver had a short time before changed the oxygen cylinder, he said. Family members arrived at the scene

while the fire crew was still there, he said.

Fire Marshal Jon Johnston said it appeared that Banks "was either adjusting or in some way addressing medical tubing used to carry the oxygen, when the accident occurred," according to the news bulletin.

Schapelhouman said Banks had been sitting up when the accident happened.

The fire resulted in an estimated \$3,000 in structural damage and \$500 in content loss, Schapelhouman said.

"The attendants attempted to assist this woman once they realized something was wrong and also quickly called 911," he said in the bulletin.

"These types of tragic incidents, while rare, do occur when cigarettes, or any type of open flame, come into contact with oxygen," he noted. "The oxygen itself isn't flammable, but it is an oxidizer which highly supports the ignition and combustion of anything flammable, like upholstery, wood products, plastic and clothing." ▣

## Assemblyman Berman holding wildfire town hall Saturday

By Rick Radin  
 Almanac Staff Writer

State Assemblyman Marc Berman (D-Palo Alto) took a tour of the fire-devastated areas in Northern California last summer and said he found the experience "incredibly sad."

"I've had a half-dozen colleagues who have constituents who have been in different fires over the past two years," Berman said. "We need to do more and more to address this new environment we live in."

As part of that process, Berman is sponsoring a June 22 wildfire town hall meeting in Portola Valley, which, along with Woodside, is among the most wildfire-prone areas of his district.

The town hall will be from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Portola Valley Community Hall, 765 Portola Road.

A panel made up of representatives from state and local firefighting agencies and PG&E will discuss what homeowners can do to protect themselves, and what help they can expect

from state and local agencies in the event of a wildfire.

Panelists will discuss "home hardening," or making properties more fire-resistant; how fire protection agencies will respond to fires; how alert systems will operate; and the role of statewide mutual aid and the California Office of Emergency Services.

Berman characterized the meeting as "something for people who live all across the district," which includes the southern portion of San Mateo County and the northern area of Santa Clara County.

"The towns, the state, and PG&E will all be at the same place at the same time," Berman said. "We're providing as much information as possible for people worried about fires."

The Portola Valley town hall is the only one scheduled so far, but Berman said his office will be looking at the attendance on June 22 and may be holding other meetings, depending on community interest.

If you plan to attend, you can RSVP at [tinyurl.com/wildfire-meeting](http://tinyurl.com/wildfire-meeting). ▣

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# Longtime Oak Knoll teacher enters her 'next phase'

By Angela Swartz  
Almanac Staff Writer

After more than three decades of teaching — with nearly 24 years spent in Menlo Park — Oak Knoll School teacher Renee Lavezzo is retiring.

Lavezzo, a San Mateo resident, closed up her classroom on Friday, June 14, but she will stick around the Bay Area, which she has called home her whole life.

Lavezzo started her teaching career in Daly City before heading south to Woodside Elementary School, and then to Oak Knoll, where she spent the rest of her career.

She was one of the first teachers in the school to lead multi-age classes, and came to specialize in the first grade segment of a kindergarten, first and second grade class. She just wrapped up her sixth year of teaching in the program, which began in 2008. Prior to that she taught first and second graders.

She said she will miss her colleagues, whom she regards as friends.

"I never say 'I'm going to work' on Monday, I say 'I'm going to school,'" she said in a June 6 interview. "Even though it's hard work, I love it so much."

Although there is more testing

and paperwork since she first began teaching, Lavezzo said she is happy that she landed in a district like the Menlo Park City School District, where teachers are encouraged to be creative and innovative.

One area where Lavezzo has applied her creativity is in teaching multi-age classes. Oak Knoll offers a unique classroom setup in which three classrooms are connected: kindergarten through second grade, and third through fifth grade. Lavezzo, 62, saw teaching multi-age classes as a chance to try something new but challenging. She saw how students benefit from mentoring one another, which is emphasized in the program, she said.

"There's a misconception that we're trying to make kindergartners grow up faster, but we're teaching empathy and compassion to show the younger kids the ropes," Lavezzo said. "It's heartwarming to see how the older ones take care of the younger ones."

The Menlo Park-Atherton Education Foundation gave Lavezzo several Jeanie Ritchie grants to fund educational projects she developed over the years.

For example, Lavezzo, a San Francisco native, helped develop



Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

Renee Lavezzo reads to her students at Oak Knoll School on June 12, just before her retirement.

and run the school's "San Francisco Summer" program with fellow Oak Knoll teacher Karen Clancey, a two-week-long summer program that tied in games, art, music, writing, videos, reading, history and cultural awareness to create an appreciation for San Francisco. The program culminated with a five-hour trip

See **RENEE LAVEZZO**, page 16

## Former Woodland School director files age discrimination suit

By Angela Swartz  
Almanac Staff Writer

A former employee of Woodland School in Portola Valley is suing the school for age discrimination.

The suit, filed June 10 in San Mateo County Superior Court by Louise Douglas, 80, claims that she was forced to retire after a school official harassed her in an effort "to drive out older, highly paid staff," according to the lawsuit. The school did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Douglas, a Foster City resident, worked as director of admissions at the private school, which serves students in preschool through eighth grade, from July 1, 2008, until the end of the 2017-18 school year.

"Her (Douglas') advanced age and high salary, unfortunately, made her an inviting target for the newly appointed Head of School (Marja Brandon), who came to Woodland in 2016 wishing to 'clean house' and install younger, less highly paid loyalists as part of her administration," the lawsuit states.

"The abusive and transparent efforts of Head (of School) to drive out older highly paid staff is precisely what occurred in the school year 2016-2017."

When Brandon, who is named as a defendant in the lawsuit, started her role, she immediately began to question Douglas and other senior employees about when they would retire and made it clear they should do so soon, according to the lawsuit. Further, Brandon undermined Douglas' authority by favoring and deferring to Douglas' younger subordinate, the lawsuit states.

In May, the school named Lillian Howard interim head of school for the 2019-20 school year, effective July 1. The school's board of trustees plans to name a permanent head of school before Thanksgiving, according to the school's website. The website does not indicate why Howard will fill Brandon's shoes, and Brandon is still listed as the current head of school.

Douglas cannot get hired by another school because of her

age and is suffering financially, the claim states.

"There are not a lot of schools that are hiring 80-year-old admissions people, so she's essentially unemployable for similar work, which is what one would expect," said Douglas' attorney, John O'Connor of O'Connor and Associates.

According to the lawsuit, another senior employee left the school mid-semester, in November 2017, because of the administration's treatment. The lawsuit lists discrimination based on age, retaliation, harassment based on age, failure to prevent harassment, wrongful termination and infliction of emotional distress as causes for action. Douglas is seeking unspecified damages.

A case management conference is scheduled for Oct. 9 at 9 a.m.

Woodland School is located on the former Ladera School campus; the property is owned by the Las Lomas School District, which leases the site to Woodland.

The full lawsuit can be found at [tinyurl.com/Woodlandlawsuit](http://tinyurl.com/Woodlandlawsuit). □

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# Former Menlo Park mayors share reflections of the city

By **Kate Bradshaw**  
Almanac Staff Writer

Photographs of Menlo Park's last 38 mayors now hang in the City Council Chambers, many of which were hung by the former mayors themselves in a ceremony held June 4.

Former mayors assembled before the dais at the recognition ceremony; they or their friends or relatives were invited to hang their portraits on the wall of the City Council Chambers.

A number of them shared reflections and stories about their service. Gerry Andeen, mayor in 1982, said he was proud that the council he served on worked to address the problem of methane coming from the city dump site, where Bedwell Bayfront Park is now. The city set up a system to burn the methane as usable energy.

Jack Morris, who was mayor in 1985, made it a point to give all council members a chance to

speak weekly with the city manager. He said he's proud of his efforts to keep transportation and construction projects from becoming bigger than people thought were necessary. "I don't apologize for that, but I know a lot of people wish I would," he said.

A friend of Ester Bugna, who recently passed away, attended and hung the portrait of Bugna's late husband and 1991 mayor Ted Sorensen.

Bob McNamara, 1994 mayor, recalled Sorensen as a mentor, and said he's enjoyed the heat of Menlo Park politics more by stepping back.

Representing the late Dee Tolles, 1995 mayor, a friend recalled him as a "hell of a horseman and a really good friend."

Steve Schmidt, who was mayor in 1997 and 2002, said he feels the council's biggest challenge is managing its relationship with developers, including Stanford University, and doing the right thing for residents.

Some things haven't changed: 1998 mayor Chuck Kinney recalled he used to tell his wife he'd be home from City Council meetings at 10 p.m. but said he more often returned home at 1 a.m.

Nicholas Jellins, 2001 and 2006 mayor, said he still feels the council chambers is a "hallowed place."

Mickie Winkler, 2005 mayor, commented, "I hope, when you go to the restrooms at Burgess, you'll think of me," referring to the efforts her council went through to have the restrooms built.

Kelly Fergusson, 2007 mayor, reflected on her time on the council as one of civic volunteerism.

When Heyward Robinson, 2009 mayor, took on the mayoral role, he said, he asked himself, "What would a real mayor do?" to adapt to the new responsibilities, and attended as many ribbon cuttings and events as he could.



Photo by Kate Bradshaw

**Clay Curtin**, assistant to the city manager, hangs a mayor portrait on the wall of the Menlo Park council chambers.

Rich Cline, who was mayor in 2010, 2011 and 2016, advised new council members to speak up, speak briefly, get started on projects quickly, and acknowledge that local governance is a team sport.

Kirsten Keith, 2012 and 2017 mayor, said she was proud of her work on the housing element, supporting veteran housing on Willow Road and

the accomplishments of the San Francisco Creek Joint Powers Authority in helping to eliminate flood risks in neighborhoods downstream.

Peter Ohtaki, 2013 and 2018 mayor, said he'd advise current council members to think about the honor and privilege of being able to shape their community for the better, even when politics gets contentious. ■

## Civic center, traffic and public safety at top of Atherton's priorities list

By **Angela Swartz**  
Almanac Staff Writer

Traffic, public safety and funding for the civic center are matters of the greatest importance over the next two years, Atherton City Council members said at a goal-setting meeting on May 28.

The council discussed seven main areas of focus during the meeting: the civic center revamp; Caltrain station plans; traffic and circulation; public safety; housing; water treatment/drainage; and construction. At the end of the discussion, each council member listed his or her top two priorities for the town.

### Civic center

When the civic center project is completed, estimated to be in 2021, a public courtyard will connect a new mission-style building housing police offices, town administration, building and planning offices, and a council chamber/emergency operations center to the new library.

Council members expressed concerns that Atherton Now, a nonprofit created to help fund the civic center project, may be shutting down because its co-founder, Didi Fisher, moved away. But Mayor Bill Widmer said on June 3 that he spoke with Atherton Now co-founder

Sandy Levison, who said the organization will continue.

An informal report to the town in March indicated that Atherton Now has \$2.6 million in various cash accounts and that its leaders hope to collect another \$1.9 million in pledges.

Levison confirmed that Atherton Now has raised a little over \$6 million, and so far the nonprofit has given the town \$2.1 million, City Manager George Rodericks said. All remaining funds would go toward construction efforts, he said.

### Public safety

Police Chief Steven McCulley said at the meeting that the number of residential burglaries each month is back to normal following an uptick dating back to late 2018. Burglars may have been arrested by other police departments or left the area because their crimes were drawing too much attention, he said.

There have been 13 residential burglaries so far this year, McCulley said in a June 4 email. There were 26 home burglaries in 2018.

### Traffic

Council members also said they'd like to explore how to alleviate traffic coming through town. Traffic has increased because of the growth of neighboring towns, Widmer said. He

noted that mapping apps such as Waze are directing commuters to cut through town to avoid backups on El Camino Real and Alameda de Las Pulgas.

Council member Cary Wiest said the town could install more "no left turn" signs and add stop signs to deter people from cramming Atherton's side roads. He noted that Atherton could work with Waze to avoid routing people through town.

Councilman Rick DeGolia noted speed bumps would also help to deter commuters.

Staff will present a townwide traffic study at a July council meeting, but this study focuses on traffic lights rather than traffic-calming solutions, Rodericks said.

Town staff members can determine where traffic-calming changes should be put in place once they know where traffic accidents are happening, Widmer said.

### Train station and housing

Council members have expressed concerns about a potential expansion of Caltrain service in town as Caltrain reviews and plans its service schedules in advance of rail service electrification. Caltrain now stops at the Atherton station on weekends only.

Caltrain has indicated that rather than adding a stop in the overall train schedule, it

might eliminate a stop in either Redwood City or Menlo Park to accommodate an Atherton stop, according to a staff report. Caltrain has the final say on the schedule.

In the fall, the Atherton Rail Committee recommended that the council restore full weekday train stops in Atherton, but it backpedaled on the recommendation at a Jan. 9 joint council and committee meeting before going back to its original recommendation to expand train service. The concern: Senate Bill 50, legislation introduced in December by state Sen. Scott Wiener, D-San Francisco. The bill, which is now on hold, would require cities to allow new apartment buildings in any place that is within a half-mile of a rail transit station, within a quarter-mile of a high-frequency bus stop, or within a "job-rich" neighborhood.

DeGolia said he met with Caltrain officials the week of May 20 and that the agency wants to make a decision on train service in Atherton in the next couple of months.

Council members reiterated their preference to keep Atherton the way it is and limit growth, saying the town shouldn't be responsible for housing employees from the growing number of businesses in nearby Redwood City, Palo Alto or Menlo Park. These cities aren't building the sufficient amount of residential space to house new employees who will work there, said council member Mike Lempres.

"I don't want to feel like we should be anxious to change our character in this way or feel responsible for a lot of decisions that I believe others are making that are trying to force externalities on us," he said.

There has also been concern about the safety at the station because it has only a center boarding platform, so passengers can cross the tracks in multiple places to reach the center boarding platform. To change this, Caltrain would have to build separate platforms for northbound and southbound passengers and a fence separating the tracks, estimated to cost between \$20 million and \$30 million, DeGolia said.

The council also touched on other housing-related topics. Although the town isn't updating its housing element — the portion of its general plan that lays out housing policies — until 2023, Town Planner Lisa Costa Sanders noted that some residents would like to age in place and have expressed "quite a bit of interest" in building a senior center in town.

"Rezoning the town (for more construction) is a Pandora's box," Widmer said.

Costa Sanders also noted that the town could use state grant funding to study building teacher housing on school campuses. School officials from Menlo School in Atherton and the Sequoia Union High School District have expressed interest in building such housing at

See **PRIORITIES**, page 10

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## Two former SHP Gators help USA beat Chile in Women's World Cup

By Palo Alto Online Sports/USA Soccer

Carli Lloyd and Julie Ertz finished off headers into the back of the net off the corner kicks, Ertz from the near post and Lloyd from the far post. Both shots were nearly impossible to stop.

Lloyd, who served as team captain for the contest, also scored the match's first goal on an absolutely gravity-defying shot and the world No.1 ranked United States women's senior national soccer team won its second match of the Women's World Cup, beating Chile 3-0 Sunday at Parc des Princes in Paris.

Former Sacred Heart Prep standout and Menlo Park native Tierna Davidson precisely delivered both corner kicks for the Americans (9-1-2, 2-0), who have won eight straight since starting the year 1-1-2, seven by shutout.

Davidson was one of seven players who started and played in the World Cup for the first time as coach Jill Ellis flipped the lineup to help keep several veteran players (like Alex Morgan, who scored five goals in USA's 13-0 win over Thailand) fresh for the knockout stage.

It doesn't seem to matter who Ellis puts on the pitch. The Americans played seamlessly in France as they can look ahead to their final group match against No. 9 Sweden at Stade Oceane in Le Havre at noon Thursday, June

20.

After allowing 10 goals through its first six matches, Team USA has not allowed a score over its past six matches. The Americans have outscored their opponents 33-0 over that span.

Davidson blended into the U.S. system as effortlessly as she did with Stanford University's team for the past three years. She was always around the action and no one could ask for better-placed corners than she took.

Fellow Menlo Park resident and former Sacred Heart Prep star Abby Dahlkemper continued her steady play in the back and remained poised and in position when Chile did manage to find itself in the U.S. zone.

Former Hermann Trophy winner and Stanford product Christen Press got a start on the forward line after subbing in and grabbing an assist against Thailand. She had a couple of nice chances and played under control.

Stanford grad Kelley O'Hara, who has been beset with injuries the past few years, also got a rest. She played the full match against Thailand.

Davidson became the youngest player to start a World Cup match for the U.S. in 24 years and is the sixth player under age 21 to start a match.

Ertz, married to Philadelphia Eagles tight end and former Stanford All-American Zach Ertz, scored her first World Cup goal and her 19th overall.

### PRIORITIES

*continued from page 8*

their sites, Costa Sanders said. Council members said they would be interested in pursuing the grant funding, and Costa Sanders noted that going forward with a study would require a council resolution.

### Construction

Council members noted that there is a substantial amount of construction at homes, leading to noise and more traffic from construction vehicles. Council members questioned whether they could limit the number of building permits in town, but staff informed them that it would be difficult to do.

Construction and construction-related deliveries are allowed between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays except for certain holidays, according to

the town's website. The limited hours make construction more palatable, but can also make projects take longer, Lempres said.

Council member Elizabeth Lewis suggested amending the town's limits on construction on weekends to allow quiet indoor work like painting. Wiest warned that this could open the door for people to sneak in other work on the weekends.

DeGolia noted that it can be unsafe to walk in town because of big trucks on the roads. He said he'd like to see more code enforcement and education of contractors in general.

Watch a video recording of the goals meeting at [tinyurl.com/athertongoals2019](http://tinyurl.com/athertongoals2019). Staff will present a final version of the council's 2019-20 goals to the council in July, Rodericks said. ▣

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County of Santa Clara Planning Commission Hearing #3

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"What happened in China?" by Kate Bradshaw

### Coverage of Youth And Education

"The Big Lift" by Kate Bradshaw

### Photojournalism

### Artistic Photo

"Dreams come true" by Magali Gauthier

### Enterprise Story

"One family's battle to stay in Menlo Park" by Kate Bradshaw

### Land Use Reporting

"It takes a village" by Kate Bradshaw

### Profile

"Looking for trouble" by Barbara Wood

### Editorial Comment

"Questions surround councilwoman's trip to China" by Renee Batti

### News Photo

"MP to distribute 1,000 'N95' masks" by Magali Gauthier

### In-Depth Reporting

"The long road to the classroom" by Angela Swartz

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## MORATORIUM

continued from page 5

community benefits being delivered to people across the city who were promised stronger community amenities and services but now say they spend their days stuck in ever-worsening traffic, with no end in sight.

## The problems

Among those who sent emails to the council and provided oral comments during the public hearing, substantially more people favored the moratorium, with at least 53 people in favor and 17 opposed. Supporters argued that a temporary moratorium would create an important citywide moment to pause and acknowledge just how rampant growth has been — especially in District 1, but regionally as well — and try to figure out how to address the serious imbalance between workers and homes and the way that imbalance is worsening traffic and housing unaffordability.

It also might give city leaders some breathing room to talk about fundamental inequities across the city, they argued.

Daniel Ramos, from Streetcode Academy in East Palo Alto, said he wants to move away from a culture that promotes “moving fast and breaking things” (a reference to language used in a Facebook internal motto). “The impacts on housing and employment will last far longer than the length of any moratorium. With that in mind, what’s the rush? Let’s take the time to pause,” he said.

In a letter from Menlo Together, a group of residents focused on making city growth more sustainable and equitable — and more specifically, who support more housing downtown — the group stated: “Although Menlo Park has benefited from the economic boom of recent years, Belle Haven residents have experienced demographic shifts due to displacement, a dangerous degree of traffic gridlock, and — despite constant construction — a continued lack of basic neighborhood services. The geographic isolation of this neighborhood exacerbates the inequitable distribution of resources throughout the city. ...Until we make meaningful changes to our City’s zoning and acknowledge the inequitable roots of Menlo Park’s layout and investments, the intent of this moratorium will continue to come up.”

Although Menlo Park’s multi-year general plan update, called “ConnectMenlo,” promised to offer ways to live, work and play in the city when it was passed in 2016, it’s resulted in more of a “Congest Menlo” outcome,

resident Elias Blawie said. The jobs-to-housing ratio is “laughable,” and demands rebalancing, he stated.

One contributing factor to that imbalance, as Menlo Park resident Lynne Bramlett pointed out, is that in the very first staff report that launched the general plan update, staff said that the update, which focused on rezoning the M-2 light industrial area, was at least initially explicitly about money. The new zoning was desired, staff wrote, in order to “explore opportunities to streamline processes and increase revenue potential.” Residents of District 1, she argued, have not been receiving the benefits of the new zoning and all the new growth.

## Shifting the scales

A number of people argued that that rebalancing should take place in the form of curtailing what should be permitted along the Bay and boosting growth downtown, especially because the transportation infrastructure is so strained along the Bay, and public transportation options there are extremely limited.

Many supporters of the moratorium proposition were District 1 residents, who commented that they’re feeling overwhelmed by the amount of growth going on around them.

“Currently and historically, Belle Haven has been the dumping ground for everything the rest of Menlo Park did not want,” said District 1 resident Sheryl Bims. “We don’t live in that time anymore. Somebody really has to wake up and do something. It is unsafe in our neighborhood.”

She and resident Pam Jones expressed concern that air quality, in particular, in the neighborhood is not healthful due to the traffic that surrounds it, and called for better air quality monitoring in the neighborhood.

Longtime District 1 resident Gail Wilkerson talked about how it used to be far easier to get around town and urged a joint moratorium with Redwood City and East Palo Alto.

Matt Henry, another longtime resident, said the core problem he sees in the neighborhood is overdevelopment. “We must stop this merry-go-round and reassess what we’re doing,” he said. “I guess it comes down to a question of values: residents or revenue? What and who does Menlo Park value?” he asked.

Others pointed to the unfairness of a de facto double standard for what constitutes “acceptable” density in different parts of the city. Resident Brielle Johnck noted that on the city’s west side, the city permits 40 units per acre downtown, while



Photo by Magali Gauthier

Facebook has as expanded its headquarters significantly in recent years along the Bay. With that and other bayside development, nearby residents unsuccessfully urged the council to pause in the development by enacting a temporary moratorium.

in the new residential zone on the other side of U.S. 101, the city now permits 100 housing units per acre.

Later, Menlo Park Principal Planner Thomas Rogers pointed out that in some areas governed by the downtown plan near the Caltrain station and along El Camino Real, up to 50 or 60 units per acre are permitted. In some of those areas, that density is permitted only at the “bonus” level, which requires developers to provide public benefits to the community in exchange for permission to build housing units more densely.

“Office and housing allowed on the east side would be quickly rejected on the west side of town,” Johnck said. “Could the city approve 1.75 million square feet on El Camino Real and escape with their lives? Look at the fuss over (the) Stanford and Greenheart (developments).” (Those two developments will add about 400 new apartments, roughly 350,000 square feet of office space, and some 39,000 square feet of retail space along El Camino Real, and were subjected to years of intense scrutiny before approval.)

## Repercussions from the state?

Another key concern of the council was with the optics of enacting a moratorium, especially on housing. Currently, Senate Bill 330, by state Sen. Nancy Skinner of Oakland, is working its way through the state Legislature. If passed, the

law would, among other things, prohibit cities from imposing moratoriums on housing development or rezoning properties for less intensive uses. Both Mueller and Councilwoman Catherine Carlton indicated they feared that enacting a moratorium would make Menlo Park a “poster child” for why the state should be permitted to take over some elements of local control.

It’s part of the ongoing battle over local control versus state power, and if the city were to pass a moratorium, Mueller and Carlton argued, it would be playing straight into the hands of those in Sacramento who — right or wrong — think wealthy jurisdictions like Menlo Park aren’t doing their fair share to boost housing and housing affordability for community members in need.

There is a sentiment among some pro-housing groups that local jurisdictions have too much power to quash housing development, and a number of bills going through the state Legislature are taking a more aggressive position against jurisdictions that reject housing growth on the basis of “NIMBY,” or “not in my backyard,” sentiments.

But Taylor and Nash argued that a temporary moratorium wouldn’t represent an anti-housing stance as much as an urgent call to shift policies to boost affordable housing.

Taylor commented that housing growth doesn’t necessarily equate to improved housing affordability for low-income

people. Of the more than 700 new housing units in her district, District 1, only 37 are deed-restricted for rent by low-income tenants. There are also 22 other apartments being leased to teachers at subsidized rates as a five-year pilot program Facebook is supporting as part of an agreement with the city, but Taylor indicated that it wasn’t enough to curtail displacement of longtime and vulnerable community members.

Many also referred to potential unintended consequences of a moratorium. Vasile Oros, a small business owner who is planning to redevelop the Menlo Hardware store property into a mixed-use building, said he’s been working for years on the project with the community, and a moratorium would have “drastic financial impacts” for him.

Councilman Drew Combs said he wasn’t comfortable with halting projects like Oros’, given the public processes that went into developing the downtown and Bayside plans — noting he’s been on the losing side of similar efforts as a supporter of Measure M, a failed 2014 referendum to scale back the development the downtown specific plan permitted.

Ultimately, calls to tackle the problems now by revising the general plan update and the El Camino Real/downtown specific plan prevailed. Fran Dehn, president and CEO of the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce, argued that a moratorium would signal to “other legislative bodies we are unable to work effectively.”

“We do not need the state telling us what to do,” she continued. “A defined mid-course correction is a wiser choice.” ■

**HACKER**

*continued from page 5*

made of a proffer interview with the FBI in May 2016. Koh agreed to the evaluation.

Colby, who had been out on \$50,000 bail, and received two separate mental health evaluations. Koh ruled him competent for sentencing this past May 10.

Federal prosecutors sought during the trial to prove through evidence from the FBI investigation that Colby planned the hack over a series of months. The FBI tracked IP addresses that identified and linked electronic devices and their whereabouts to Colby, creating a timeline of the surveillance of and intrusion into Embarcadero Media's computer systems. The defense sought unsuccessfully to discredit the prosecution's evidence but presented no affirmative defense.

**A motive emerges**

Colby did not testify at the trial and had no known connection to Embarcadero Media, and neither government prosecutors nor his defense counsel offered a motive for the hacking. However, after the jury began its deliberations in June 2018, prosecutors told Embarcadero that Colby had admitted to the crime in the May 2016 FBI proffer interview.

According to court documents, Colby told prosecutors he hacked the system at the request of a convicted felon and former Menlo Park resident, Hiruy Amanuel, who wanted him to remove two stories written about him on The Almanac website and in the print edition of the Almanac.

The stories, published in December 2013, reported on a lawsuit Amanuel had filed against the city of Menlo Park and a Menlo Park police officer for violating his civil rights during a January 2013 traffic stop. Both stories referenced the fact that Amanuel had previously pleaded guilty to federal drug-trafficking charges in 2009 in exchange for two other charges being dropped. He was sentenced to a 21-month prison term.

Embarcadero Media was able to confirm while the jury was deliberating that one of the stories had been removed from The Almanac's online archives and another had been altered to change all names in the story. (The stories have since been restored by the company.)

The civil suit was settled on July 28, 2015, just six days after Colby first accessed Embarcadero's servers in preparation for the hacking that took down all Embarcadero websites less than two months later, according to evidence obtained by the FBI. Amanuel received \$500 from the city of Menlo Park and

his attorney recovered \$49,400, according to the settlement agreement.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Susan Knight told Koh that the FBI and U.S. Attorney didn't pursue Amanuel and didn't share Colby's story with Embarcadero Media during the two-year long investigation because they didn't believe Colby, who could offer no hard evidence for his assertions. Amanuel, who currently resides in Ethiopia, issued a statement through his attorney on Dec. 17, 2018, to Embarcadero Media President Bill Johnson stating that the FBI "never" contacted him "during the course of their investigation in these matters whatsoever" and "adamantly denies that he ever paid Ross Colby or anyone in his behalf to hack any website, or anything of the sort."

Knight told the court that the FBI was unable to locate or talk with Amanuel during the investigation.

During the trial, a former roommate of Colby testified the hacker told him he had been paid to attack the news sites, but neither Colby's attorney nor federal prosecutors asked for details.

Colby deleted the content of all of Embarcadero's websites and replaced it with an image of Guy Fawkes, the icon of the activist group Anonymous, and posted a message stating: "Greetings, this site has been hacked. Embarcadero Media Group (Almanac) (sic) has failed to remove content that has been harmful to the wellbeing and safety of others. Failure to honor all requests to remove content will lead to the permanent shutdown of all Embarcadero Media websites." Each website's URL was replaced

with the text "Unbalanced journalism for profit at the cost of human right, Brought to you by the Almanac."

**Factors in his sentencing**

At Colby's sentencing, Knight argued that Colby had not accepted responsibility for his actions and should serve time in prison rather than receive a split sentence that would give him credit for time served and allow him to serve any additional time wearing an electronic monitor. She also defended not investigating the alleged role of Hiruy Amanuel, saying that Colby was not able to provide any evidence of his involvement. She acknowledged, however, that the FBI should have asked Embarcadero Media to look into whether stories about Amanuel had been removed from its website.

"I apologize for that," Knight told the court in a May 10 hearing.

Before rendering her sentencing decision, Koh expressed her concern that Colby had not been completely honest in hearings before and after the trial and had sought to manipulate the court. As an example of his unreliability, she pointed to Colby's withholding of the surreptitious recording of his proffer session with the FBI until the night before the scheduled Oct. 31 sentencing and failing to divulge its existence during pretrial hearings.

Although Colby might have been afraid of Amanuel, as he stated during interviews with prosecutors and in pre-trial hearings, Koh said, his story kept growing over a three-year period, giving her pause about his credibility.

In a victim statement, Johnson said the hacking had a significant effect on the company, both operationally and emotionally. But citing Colby's health problems (he suffers from Lyme disease) requiring complicated drug treatments, the fact Colby had already been in custody for almost six months and the lack of any further benefit other than retribution to his serving another six or more months in prison, Johnson urged the court to sentence Colby to the time he had already served plus a period of supervised release.

Of greater concern to Embarcadero Media, Johnson said, was the government's failure to follow up on Amanuel's alleged involvement in the crime, which Johnson called "the elephant in the room," even as he acknowledged the work of the FBI.

In sentencing Colby to no additional prison time, Koh said she was convinced that additional incarceration would serve little

purpose and was persuaded by Johnson's recommendations, as the victim in the case. She cited Colby's brain injury from a motorcycle accident, his chronic Lyme disease, PTSD and other complications as factors in not sending him back to prison.

Colby declined to make a statement before the court.

In addition to his sentence, Colby cannot contact Embarcadero Media, can't use a computer or mobile device without the prior approval of a probation officer, must enroll in a computer-monitoring program and can't use the internet without approval of his probation officer.

Johnson said he was very satisfied and pleased with Koh's sentencing decision and that he and Embarcadero Media staff members are happy to finally have closure with the case. ■

— Sue Dremann writes for the Palo Alto Weekly, The Almanac's sister publication.



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# Woodside Fire training teaches response to any disaster

By Rick Radin  
Almanac Staff Writer

With earthquakes, fire, floods, landslides and other disasters at a very real level of possibility in the area, the Woodside Fire Protection District is helping individuals help others and stay safe.

The district is doing this through its Citizens for Emergency Response and Preparedness Program, which offers full training to qualify to be a part of an emergency response team, known as WPV-CERT; and a second program, WPV-Ready, that includes one-evening courses to help residents prepare themselves and their

neighborhoods for a disaster.

“WPV-Ready is about preparation on an individual and neighborhood level, and WPV-CERT is about preparation and response (to an emergency),” said Selena Brown, the fire district’s public education officer and emergency preparedness coordinator.

The programs have a different approach to preparing people for wildfires than for earthquakes, Brown said.

“In a wildfire, the emphasis is on evacuation, getting yourself and your family out of the threatened area as quickly and safely as possible,” Brown said. “In an earthquake, it is more about having supplies available in your home and helping

people who are injured.”

Thus, the wildfire module teaches residents how to prepare a “go bag” that holds prescription medications and other can’t-live-without items that they can grab and run out the door with at the first sign of a threat.

They are also encouraged to decide in advance where they are going to evacuate to, whether it be a hotel, the home of a relative or some other location.

For an earthquake, WPV-CERT teaches residents how to splint broken bones, dress wounds and treat people for shock in case emergency first-responders are overwhelmed.

“We offer three (WPV-CERT)

courses a year over six evenings and a full-day drill in which we simulate an earthquake,” Brown said.

In the full-day drill, participants organize, assess the situation, identify resources and make a plan of action, then break up into groups and practice different roles, including serving on a medical team and taking part in search and rescue missions.

“Our motto is, the greatest good for the greatest number in the shortest amount of time,” Brown said. “You don’t want to become part of the problem or another injured person.”

The district finished its latest WPV-CERT program on June

8 with 15 graduates, and will be holding the next one beginning in September. Each class can accommodate up to 30.

The next WPV-Ready session will be held on July 11 from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

To register for either, go to [wpv-cert.org](http://wpv-cert.org).

“It was and is essential for residents in this community to prepare themselves with training and supplies,” Woodside Fire Chief Ron Lindner said in a news release. “Given the size and geography of the district, 32 square miles of hilly terrain with a low-density residential population, we know we’ll be on our own for an extended period of time in a disaster.” ■

## Court briefs: Local cases heard in San Mateo County Superior Court

By Kate Bradshaw  
Almanac Staff Writer

A man charged with attempted murder, among other felonies, after allegedly striking a pedestrian with a stolen vehicle on June 7 at Nealon Park in Menlo Park refused to come to court Wednesday and Thursday, June 12 and 13, for scheduled arraignment hearings.

When he finally appeared in court on June 14, the man, Maurice Kahlil Vasquez Lopez, a 34-year-old man from Redwood City, was angry, disrespectful

and rude to the judge, according to District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe.

The court assigned him to the private defender program, and the private defender expressed doubt as to his mental competence to stand trial, so the judge suspended the proceedings so that two doctors could be appointed to interview and evaluate his mental competence. Those doctors are expected to be appointed this week.

On June 7 at around 10:30 p.m., Vasquez Lopez was in a parked car at Nealon Park when

he got into a verbal altercation with a resident, according to the San Mateo County District Attorney’s Office. Vasquez Lopez reportedly threw beer bottles at a group having a barbecue nearby.

Two people approached Vasquez Lopez and told him that the police had been called, according to the DA’s Office. Just before police arrived, Vasquez Lopez started to drive away and appeared to intentionally strike a woman who had been filming the altercation. The other person had to run away to avoid being hit by

the vehicle, according to the DA’s Office.

The woman sustained serious but non-life-threatening injuries to her head, hip and leg, according to the Menlo Park Police Department and the DA’s Office.

As he fled the scene, Vasquez Lopez rammed into a Menlo Park police car, immobilizing his vehicle, police said.

Vasquez Lopez was then taken into custody, and police determined that he had been driving a stolen vehicle. They also suspected that he had been driving under the influence of alcohol.

No police officers were injured during the incident.

Vasquez Lopez faces nine felony charges — some with enhancements — related to attempted murder, assault with a deadly weapon and assault upon a peace officer, driving under the influence, attempting to avoid police capture, leaving the scene, and driving a stolen car. He remains in custody on \$10 million bail.

People with more information about the incident can contact the Menlo Park Police Department at 650-330-6300.

### No-contest plea in stabbing case

A man who repeatedly tried to stab another man he woke up, yelled at, and then accused of being the killer of his brother in a Menlo Park homeless encampment last August pleaded no contest on June 11 to a felony charge of assault with a deadly weapon.

Roberto Gonzalez, whose nickname is “Indio,” is a 28-year-old Menlo Park resident who used two knives to try to stab the victim on Aug. 20, 2018, according to the San Mateo County District Attorney’s Office. The victim was asleep in an encampment when the assault occurred.

Someone tried to intervene, but fled when he saw Gonzalez’s two knives. Another person helped the victim get away, and they reported the incident.

The victim was treated at Stanford Hospital and was expected to recover, according to the DA’s Office.

Gonzalez made the no-contest plea on the condition that he will serve no more than two years in prison; his sentencing is scheduled for July 18, according to District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe. ■

## You’re Invited to a Community Open House

We invite you to attend a community open house to learn more about Stanford’s proposed housing project in Portola Valley and share your feedback.

Two open houses will be held:

**Open House #1:** Thursday, 7/25, 6pm–8pm

**Open House #2:** Saturday, 7/27, 10am–Noon

**Location:** Portola Valley Historic Schoolhouse, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley

**Drop-in any time between open house hours to speak with Stanford staff and ask questions. No formal presentation will be made.**

The Town of Portola Valley has shared its interest in developing multi-family housing at three locations identified in their Affiliated Housing Program: Stanford University, Woodside Priory School and Sequoias Senior Housing.

As part of that conversation, Stanford has begun to study how it might create much-needed faculty housing, and some affordable housing for the town, on Stanford’s property on Alpine Road.

**For more information or questions, please email [communityrelations@stanford.edu](mailto:communityrelations@stanford.edu).**

### RENEE LAVEZZO

*continued from page 7*

to the city.

San Francisco is likely to play a big part in Lavezzo’s retirement. In addition to travel plans for Europe and outdoor activities with her husband, she plans to apply to be a San Francisco Giants stadium tour guide in the near future.

“Renee Lavezzo is an all-around all-star and I will miss walking into her baseball-themed classroom to find her working with her students, all

of whom she has prioritized and has built a meaningful relationship with,” said Oak Knoll Principal Kristen Garcia in an email.

“Renee has made such a positive influence on the students, staff and parents of Oak Knoll. She has honestly knocked it out of the park!”

So why leave such a good thing behind?

“I just want to travel more,” Lavezzo said. “I’ll be 63 in August and I’ve been teaching for 34 years. I’m not tired of it — I’m just in my next phase.” ■



Stanford University

# Dance floor THERAPY



## Rosener House first in U.S. to host French tango program for Alzheimer's patients

Story by Chris Kenrick  
Photos by Veronica Weber

When Barbara Kalt invited a team of French researchers to bring an experimental therapeutic tango program to Menlo Park's Rosener House earlier this year, she wasn't sure whether the dance steps would help improve the cognition, gait and balance in participants with Alzheimer's disease. She hoped,

at the very least, that it might make the lives of those who use the adult day care facility more fun and interesting. Either way, the program would be a win-win, figured Kalt, the director of Rosener House at the time.

"Everybody hears about all the failures of the new drugs for people with Alzheimer's, but we're just kind of moving forward with non-drug interventions and trying to improve the lives of people living with

Alzheimer's and dementia," said Kalt.

In April, the team of French researchers brought its therapeutic tango program, Caravan of Memory, to Rosener House as part of a study on motor function in people with Alzheimer's disease. The Menlo Park facility is the first venue in the nation, and among only seven outside of France, to participate in the dance study.

Launched in France 10 years

ago, the tango program has been used in institutions in at least eight French cities, where it's being measured by France Mourey, a researcher at the University of Burgundy. Tango uses movements of everyday life — balance, weight transfer, support and posture — and is thought to have more therapeutic advantages than other dance forms, according to the study's researchers.

See **DANCE FLOOR**, page 18



**Barbara Kalt** of Menlo Park, who was instrumental in bringing the tango program to the Rosener House, retired this spring after a decadeslong career at the adult day care center, operated by the Peninsula Volunteers. Look for our story spotlighting Barbara, her achievements and her thoughts about providing care for the elderly, coming soon.



**Above: Volunteers and participants** in the Rosener House tango study warm up together in a circle before beginning their hour-long weekly dance session at the Menlo Park center. Top: Reg R. dances with volunteer Margaret Kim in the Rosener House's new tango program for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

# Public Notices

## 995 Fictitious Name Statement

ROAD SERVICE AUTO ELECTRIC SERVICE "SKY BLUE"  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 281323

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

Road Service Auto Electric Service "Sky Blue", located at 2274 Ralmar Ave., East Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):  
JOSE ANTONIO ROJAS ALVAREZ  
2274 Ralmar Ave.

East Palo Alto, CA 94303

This business is conducted by: An Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on N/A.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 21, 2019.

(ALM May 29; June 5, 12, 19, 2019)

BLUE LABEL INVESTMENTS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 281414

The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:

Blue Label Investments, located at 3402 Devon Way, Redwood City, CA 94061, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):  
DANIEL ZAPATA

3402 Devon Way

Redwood City, CA 94061

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 May 31, 2019.

(ALM June 5, 12, 19, 26, 2019)

EMPRESA SAVI  
SAVIE  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 281458

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

"Empresa Savi" and "SaviE", located at 2056 Pulgas Ave., E. Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):  
IMELDA LLANOS DE LUNA

2056 Pulgas Ave.

E. 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 N/A.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on June 3, 2019.

(ALM June 12, 19, 26; July 3, 2019)

INVITING SPACES BY KIM  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: 281492

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

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 June 6, 2019.

(ALM June 19, 26; July 3, 10, 2019)

## 997 All Other Legals

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF:

DANIEL STRANGE

Case No.: 19-PRO-00643

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of DANIEL STRANGE.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by: LISA JO NOBLE in the Superior Court of California, County of SAN MATEO.

The Petition for Probate requests that: LISA JO NOBLE be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on June 28, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in Dept.: 28, of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.

If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58 (b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court.

If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner:

Eyad Yaser Abdeljawad

5670 Schaefer Ave., Ste. P

Chino, CA 91710

(909) 800-8600

(ALM June 12, 19, 26, 2019)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Case No.: 19CIV02917

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner: LORENA EVORA and OMAR BLADIMIR EVORA filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

YARETZI DALEYZA EVORA to

ALESSANDRA DALEYZA EVORA.

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: July 17, 2019, 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: June 05, 2019  
/s/ Jonathan E. Karesh

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
(The Almanac June 19, 26; July 3, 10, 2019)

# M-A program offers free Latin lessons

The Aequora Program aims to improve literacy, English skills for K-8 students

By Angela Swartz

Almanac Staff Writer

A group of Menlo-Atherton High School students will spend their Saturdays tutoring K-8 students in Latin to promote literacy and English language skills with the launch of a new program last weekend.

The Menlo-Atherton High School classics program is working with the Paideia Institute, a nonprofit that promotes the study of the classical humanities, to start a branch of The Aequora Program in Menlo Park.

The program is free. The lessons will take place on Saturdays from 3 to 4 p.m. at Belle Haven Library, 413 Ivy Drive in Menlo Park. The first session was held on June 15. Organizers advise checking the library schedule for changes in time and room location.

"This program aims to help

students to improve their literacy and this is a great opportunity for our students to give back to their community, helping people to succeed in school," said M-A Latin teacher Maria Luisa de Seta, who is the program's site coordinator.

"Last, but not least, as Aequora is shaped by a belief that everyone should have access to Latin and by a vision of Classics as an inclusive, diverse, and socially engaged field, we think that this is a way to try to build community in our diverse and not always equal community," she said.

The curriculum will focus on Roman culture and mythology, as well as basic Latin vocabulary and grammar through games and engaging activities, according to M-A organizers.

Students can use their new Latin knowledge to make

connections across both English and Spanish, organizers said. Participants will be able to build English and language arts skills, including strategies in vocabulary, reading comprehension and spelling, they added.

Volunteer tutors (the majority of whom are current M-A students) and experienced Silicon Valley Latin teachers will run the classes, said Sophia Alvarez, head of M-A's Junior Classical League club, in an email.

New York-based Paideia Institute developed The Aequora Program, but this is the first Silicon Valley branch of the program, said de Seta. There are other Aequora programs throughout the U.S.

No sign-up is necessary to attend the free sessions, Alvarez said. The program will continue to run throughout the school year. ■

## DANCE FLOOR

continued from page 17

At Rosener House, about 20 seniors — assisted by volunteers — are taking part in the program every Wednesday from now to September. At the end of six months, researchers will test whether there are improvements in their memory and balance. French filmmakers Anne Bramard Blagny and Julia Blagny also are documenting the dance sessions for a documentary aimed at encouraging other facilities to replicate the project.

"The purpose of it is to see how their cognitive function improves but also how their gait and balance and spatial awareness can improve after weeks of doing this," said Shanah Hawk, Rosener House program coordinator. "And it's definitely a mood boost."

In the first few weeks of tango,

activity leader Josh Cano said he's already observed changes in people with mood, speech and focus.

On a recent Wednesday, volunteer dance partners, instructors and musicians poured into Rosener House to get the dance party started.

Accordion player Roger Strom of Los Altos, who said he feels indebted to Rosener House for helping his wife after she was diagnosed with early-onset of Alzheimer's a decade ago at age 54, struck up some music as Cano asked participants to warm up by moving their upper bodies, clapping and stomping their feet to the beat.

Over the next hour, participants performed a simple walking dance to the syncopated tango rhythm as Cano guided them through steps, turns, multiple changes of partners and a water break.

The session ended with a

cool-down period led by Hawk, accompanied by relaxing piano music played by music therapist Kristopher Hong.

Hawk guided the participants to do "anything that helps you relax and calm down, even if it's not moving, even if it's just closing your eyes."

After some swaying, stretching, deep breathing, foot circles, hand-holding and final farewells to dance partners, the room broke into chatter and applause.

"There's an old saying about use it or lose it," said participant Kent, a Menlo Park retiree who attends Rosener House five days a week and requested that he be identified by his first name only.

"This tango project is very subtly, but very definitely, aimed to get people active: standing up, moving, eye and hand coordination, the sense of rhythm," Kent said. "You walk away tired and sore and you step on a lot of feet, but it's all about getting the mind working, the heart working, the enjoyment, the pleasure."

Rosener House, at 500 Arbor Road in Menlo Park, runs the five-day-a-week program with a daily headcount of 50 to 55 people living with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, early memory loss, stroke, Parkinson's disease and other chronic conditions. It is managed by Peninsula Volunteers, Inc., a 72-year-old local charitable organization, which specializes in programs serving older adults. For more information about the tango program, go to [penvol.org](http://penvol.org). ■

Chris Kenrick is a freelance writer.

# Marketplace

## Housemate Wanted

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\$1200/month  
650-747-1500

**express**

Sign up today at  
[AlmanacNews.com/express](http://AlmanacNews.com/express)

To place an ad  
or get a quote,  
contact  
Nico Navarrete  
at 650.223.6582  
or email  
[digitalads@pawekly.com](mailto:digitalads@pawekly.com).

# Selby Lane School celebrates library renovation

By Angela Swartz  
Almanac Staff Writer

Officials and students celebrated the opening of Selby Lane School's newly renovated library with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 12.

The library renovation, which began in March, includes new furniture, 700 new bilingual books, new carpeting and paint, a designated reading lounge, digital display screens and 32 Chromebooks, said Eric Anderson, communications and U.S. public affairs manager for Pharmacyclics, which is run by AbbVie, a Chicago-based biopharmaceutical company. AbbVie funded the project and worked with The Heart of America, a nonprofit based in Washington, D.C., that promotes volunteer service and literacy. Just outside of the library, some of the 100 volunteers who helped with the remodel painted a map of the U.S., and sanded and repainted benches.

"We look at all schools within

districts that our employees live in," Anderson said. "We always want to give back to schools whose children need it most."

At Selby Lane, 70.2% of students are on free or reduced lunch plans, according to California Department of Education 2017-18 data. Half of the students are English language learners, according to the data. The Atherton school is part of the Redwood City School District.

The "transformed" library has an open layout that can accommodate bigger meetings, said Selby Lane Principal Warren Sedar at the ribbon cutting.

This is the sixth year that Heart of America has partnered with AbbVie to create STEM-focused spaces all across the country, Jill Heath, president and CEO of The Heart of America Foundation, said in a press release.

Selby Lane is going through other transformations this year. Four schools in the district are closing and others are merging because of budget cuts.



Photo courtesy of David Perga

Volunteers from the company AbbVie construct shelves in Selby Lane School's renovated library on June 12.

Adelante Spanish Immersion School in Redwood City will be absorbed into the Spanish immersion program at Selby Lane. At the start of the 2019-20 school year, Selby Lane

will temporarily be known as Adelante Selby Lane Spanish Immersion School until the school board votes on a new name for the merged schools, Sedar said.

With the merge, the preschool through middle school will nix the middle school portion of its school, Sedar said. Enrollment will stay at around 720 students, he said. ▣

## Kiwanis boosts scholarship fund; eight M-A grads benefit

Eight outstanding Menlo-Atherton High School seniors received scholarships from the Menlo Park Kiwanis Club this year. The first of those were awarded at the club's annual scholarship luncheon on May 21 at Allied Arts Guild.

This year's awards totaled \$57,000, an increase of 14% from \$50,000 awarded last year.

For more than 40 years, the club has provided college scholarships to M-A graduating seniors, based on academic performance and community involvement. Nearly \$1.2 million has been awarded to local students during the lifetime of the club's scholarship program. Several named scholarships have been endowed by past Kiwanis members.

This year's scholarship winners are:

■ Sandra Argelia Gutierrez Carmona, Edwin Brandie Memorial Scholarship

■ Alina Kalmeyer, Bill Martin Memorial Scholarship

■ Antonia Barona Saavedra, Damon Wedding Memorial Scholarship

■ Ithzamar Valencia, Damon Wedding Memorial Scholarship

■ Tirazah Grace Leiro, Anna May Duncan Memorial Scholarship.

■ Adriana Alarcon

■ Lauren Fuller

■ Luciano Perez Hernandez

"We are very glad that through our various fundraising activities, particularly our annual Christmas Tree Lot sales, we were able to increase our scholarships to \$57,000 this year," said John Martin, chair of the Kiwanis Club's Scholarship Committee.

"Our committee members interviewed many students graduating from M-A to learn more about their academic achievements, commitments to service, and plans for college," he said. "In addition to their academic honors, the eight finalists have a broad range of interests, and each has expressed them through extensive school and community involvement.

"This year's scholarship winners are exceptional and highly motivated. They are tomorrow's leaders, and we hope our Kiwanis scholarships help them achieve their dreams."

For the second year, earlier in 2019, the club also donated \$5,000 to the M-A Football Association, a program that helps players visit colleges and football camps in pursuit



Photo courtesy of the Menlo Park Kiwanis Club

Menlo Park Kiwanis Club awarded \$57,000 in scholarships to eight graduating Menlo-Atherton High School seniors. Shown here are John Martin, chair of the Kiwanis Club's Scholarship Committee; Luciano Perez Hernandez, who will attend San Francisco State University; Ithzamar Valencia, who will be attending Simmons College in Boston; Adriana Alarcon, who will attend the University of Redlands; and Kiwanis Club President Ed Moritz.

of scholarships. This effort resulted in scholarship offers for M-A Bear football players last year, and this year several

offers have been secured or are expected.

Submitted by the  
Menlo Park Kiwanis Club

## Atherton Police Activities League awards four \$5,000 scholarships

By Elisabeth Westermann  
Special to The Almanac

The Atherton Police Activities League (PAL) has awarded scholarships to be used toward college to four 2019 high school graduates.

Amrita Bhasin from Menlo Atherton High School; and Noorayn Jafri, Isabelle Maennle,

and Soana Mahoni from Sacred Heart Prep were the recipients of the \$5,000 awards.

To be eligible for the scholarship, the students had to demonstrate a commitment to sports and/or community service, attend an Atherton high school (M-A, SHP, or Menlo School), have at least a 3.0 GPA,

and plan to attend a four-year university in the fall of 2019, according to PAL spokesperson Jennifer Frew.

In high school, Bhasin played tennis on the M-A team for all four years; outside of school, she played competitive field hockey.

Bhasin also served as sophomore class president, vice

president of the Asian American Club, and as an advisory board member for "Creative Kids International Magazine." She has also published a collection of short stories called "The Golden Disk."

Bhasin plans to attend UC Berkeley in the fall and will continue to pursue writing as

an English and creative writing major.

While attending SHP, Jafri was a four-year varsity tennis player and served as the team's captain this year. She is also a committed volunteer, winning a President's Volunteer Service

See **SCHOLARSHIPS**, page 21

# Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



Photos by Kevin Berne

**Archduke Franz Ferdinand** and Duchess Sofie (Scott Coopwood and Luisa Sermol, in foreground) are envisioned by would-be assassins played by Adam Shonkwiler, Stephen Stocking and Jeremy Kahn in “Archduke,” presented by TheatreWorks Silicon Valley.

## Terrorists, heroes or pawns?

TheatreWorks’ ‘Archduke’ satirizes the assassination that set off World War I

by Karla Kane

### ■ REVIEW

‘**Y**ou don’t want to glamorize these individuals but you do want to humanize them. I think it’s very brave to actually say, ‘I want to create characters that you have complicated relationships to,’” director Giovanna Sardelli told the Palo Alto Weekly in 2016, about a play-in-progress by Pulitzer finalist Rajiv Joseph.

That project was “Archduke,” then part of TheatreWorks’ New Works Festival, now a full-fledged TheatreWorks production, still under Sardelli’s deft direction. The show, which Joseph has revised for this regional premiere, is moving, bold, strange and empathetic. All that, and very funny besides.

The titular archduke is Franz Ferdinand, heir presumptive to the Austro-Hungarian throne. It’s his 1914 assassination that often is seen as the spark that set off the horror and upheaval of World War I, forever changing the geopolitical landscape and ushering in the modern era.

“Archduke,” though, isn’t really about the doomed royal but rather his assassin, 19-year-old Bosnian Serb Gavrilo Princip (played in TheatreWorks’ production by Stephen Stocking, who also originated the role in its 2017 world premiere in Los Angeles). Some consider him a terrorist, some a hero. In “Archduke” he’s neither.

While the real Gavrilo was a devoted Yugoslav nationalist, in Joseph’s hands, he and his fellow recruits Nedeljko (Adam Shonkwiler) and Trifko (Jeremy Kahn) are incompetent young buffoons who are pushed into the assassination plot by the charismatic, unhinged Dragutin “Apis” Dimitrijevic (Scott Coopwood), whom they refer to as Captain. Captain is vehemently dedicated to the cause of Slavic unification and the overthrowing of the Austro-Hungarians, but he’s also obsessed with offing the archduke and his wife before his rival revolutionaries can. And, as in real life, the road to the assassination is paved with farcical errors and unlikely turns of events that somehow manage to turn the whole world upside down.

At play’s start, young Gavrilo waits in a desolate, ruined library or storehouse, sent there by an unseen doctor, who’s given him dire news. He’s a “lunger” — that is, suffering from terminal tuberculosis, his consumptive cough splattering blood on the doctor’s clean white kerchief (far fancier than anything Gavrilo’s ever used).

The doctor has told him he can find meaning in his apparently brief and miserable young life by joining a cause greater than himself. He soon meets Nedeljko,

a gormless if passionate fellow also sent by “Doc,” and they alternately squabble and bond over their similarly depressing circumstances. Innocent and adolescent, they dream of perhaps one day seducing a woman, and reminisce fondly about the one time they’ve ever had the pleasure of tasting a sandwich. Their trio is rounded out with the arrival of Trifko, another naive (if slightly more experienced) lunger sent by Captain and bearing a suitcase of guns and explosives — the better to lure these rather dim-witted boys. If they join him at the Captain’s, he promises, they’ll find not only the chance to use weaponry but also luxuries they’ve never known, including comfortable beds and plentiful food.

At Captain’s country home, they’re given a crash course in the history of the Austro-Hungarian oppression of their homeland, as well as gory tales of Captain’s previous regicide exploits. His nonsense housekeeper Sladjana (Luisa Sermol) is something of an old-world wise woman, gathering herbs from the woods, offering sage advice and fostering superstitious ideas about cats.

I should mention again that most of these scenes are absurd and comic, filled with Joseph’s brilliantly crafted writing, unique rhythms and excellent timing by the actors.

Intermixed with the comedy are



**The Captain** (Scott Coopwood, center) rallies the three hapless insurgents (Stephen Stocking, Jeremy Kahn and Adam Shonkwiler), whom he hopes to convince to murder the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne.

moments of shocking brutality and sadness. Joseph foreshadows the terrible war to come by having his characters turn surprisingly astute and philosophical at times, pondering how the world seems to be getting smaller.

“What will happen this year or next that shapes a century? So much, I bet. Everything is about to happen. Everything is about to change,” Gavrilo ponders in the second act. Heavy-handed foreshadowing, sure, but chilling nonetheless.

Gavrilo initially resists the idea of murdering anyone (especially when he hears the disapproving voice of “lady bones,” the skeleton from the doctor’s office whose tragic life has affected him deeply ... OK, you have to see the show to really get it, but trust me, it’s compelling and wonderfully weird). But the Captain, along with some twists of fate, successfully pushes him to enough outrage to take on the grim task. And even though we know how the story ends, it still feels like a punch to the gut when we see it on stage.

Scenic design by Tim Mackabee includes a fantastic moving train (in which our antiheroes encounter the wonders of curtains and electric lights). Lighting by Dawn Chiang and period costumes by

Fumiko Bielefeldt look great, and sound designer Hulsker gives ominous ambiance.

All five actors give tremendous performances, with the strutting Coopwood and the pensive, sweet Stocking especially impressive.

Joseph has clearly — and successfully — intended to draw parallels between these century-ago conspirators and modern-day terrorists, to show how the poor, downtrodden and hopeless in society can be radicalized into acts of violence, preyed upon by the powerful.

As the finale to its Tony Award-earning season, TheatreWorks has picked a winner with “Archduke,” another testament to its value as an incubator for great new works. ▣

Karla Kane is *Embarcadero Media’s* arts and entertainment editor.

### ■ INFORMATION

**What:** “Archduke.”  
**Where:** Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View.  
**When:** Through June 30 (showtimes vary).  
**Cost:** \$40-\$80.  
**Info:** theatreworks.org.

# 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](http://AlmanacNews.com/calendar) to see more calendar listings

## Theater

**'Archduke'** TheatreWorks Silicon Valley presents the Northern California premiere of "Archduke." Written by Pulitzer Prize finalist Rajiv Joseph, the story explores how one man, one moment, can derail an entire century. Through June 30, times vary. \$60; discounts for students, seniors. Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. [theatreworks.org](http://theatreworks.org)

**'Next to Normal'** This Tony Award- and Pulitzer Prize-winning musical explores mental illness and the effect it has on the American family. Through June 22, 8 p.m. \$38; discount for students. Bus Barn Theatre, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos.

**'One Man, Two Guvnors'** This fast-paced farce follows Francis Henshall, who finds himself down on his luck, hungry and suddenly employed by two mob bosses. Through June 30; times vary. \$25-\$52; discounts for seniors, students. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. [paplayers.org](http://paplayers.org)

**'Present Laughter'** by Noel Coward A frothy comedy about show business, "Present Laughter" is replete with seductions, suspicions, adulteries and blackmail. Through June 30; times vary. \$15-\$35. The Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida St., Mountain View. [thepear.org](http://thepear.org)

## Concerts

**'Music of the Americas'** During their performance of "Music of the Americas" (Musica de las Americas), Stephen and Gwynne of Zun Zun will present music from many regions of the Americas on more than 30 instruments, celebrating the environments and cultures of North America, Central America and South America. June 19, 4-5 p.m. Free. Belle Haven Library, 413 Ivy Drive, Menlo Park. [menlopark.org](http://menlopark.org)

**St. Lawrence String Quartet's International Showcase** The St. Lawrence String Quartet will perform a series of concerts as part of the group's residency at Stanford University. June 24-29; times vary. Free. Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. [live.stanford.edu](http://live.stanford.edu)

**Pat Bianchi Trio featuring Hristo Vitchev and Carmen Intorre** SummerJazz hosts a performance by the New York City-based Pat Bianchi Trio, featuring guitarist Hristo Vitchev and drummer Carmen Intorre. June 23, 6-7:30 p.m. \$24; discount for youth ages 5-20. Portola Vineyards, 850 Los Trancos Road, Portola Valley. Search [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com) for more info.

## Music

**Clint Baker & the All Stars** Friday nights at Cafe Borrone feature live music by Clint Baker's All-Stars Dixieland Jazz Band. Every Friday through July 12, 7:30 p.m. Free. Cafe Borrone, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Search [facebook.com/events](http://facebook.com/events) for more info.

**Open Mic** Performers show off their skills and network with local and like-minded musicians during open mic at Cafe Zoe. Sign-ups start at 6:30 p.m.; show starts at 6:50 p.m. Every third Friday through Nov. 15, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Free. Cafe Zoe, 1929 Menalto Ave., Menlo Park. [cafezohub.com](http://cafezohub.com)

## Talks & Lectures

**'Story is the Thing'** This installment of the quarterly series "Story is the Thing" features

works by Kate Folk, Julie Lythcott-Haims, Jaya Padmanabhan, Ari Rosenschein, Michael Shewmaker and Sarah Stone. June 20, 7-8:30 p.m. \$12. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. [keplers.org](http://keplers.org)

**Peter S. Beagle with Meg Elison** In a discussion around his latest edited collection, "The Unicorn Anthology," author Peter S. Beagle will sign books and share about his career in the five decades since "The Last Unicorn" was published. June 25, 7:30-9 p.m. \$13 or \$25 with book; discount for students. Kepler's Books, 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. [keplers.org](http://keplers.org)

## Museums & Exhibits

**Public Tour: Anderson Collection** The Anderson Collection features modern and contemporary American paintings and sculptures assembled by a Bay Area family who built the collection over the last 50 years. Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays through Dec. 18, 12:30 p.m. Anderson Collection, 314 Lomita Drive, Stanford. [events.stanford.edu](http://events.stanford.edu)

**'The Happy Homemaker: History of Household Appliances'** The "Happy Homemaker: History of Household Appliances" exhibit showcases vintage washing machines, stoves, refrigerators, heaters, vacuum cleaners, coffee makers and more. Through Aug. 18, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. The Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto. [moah.org/](http://moah.org/)

**'Learning to Fly'** The Portola Art Gallery presents "Learning to Fly," a collection of photographic images of owls and other birds by Larry Calof of Atherton. The exhibit features images printed on canvas and aluminum, as well as pieces printed on traditional archival paper. Through June 30, 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Portola Art Gallery, 75 Arbor Road, Menlo Park. [portolaartgallery.com](http://portolaartgallery.com)

**Public Tour: Auguste Rodin** This exhibition celebrates Auguste Rodin's pursuit to convey complex emotions, diverse psychological states and pure sensuality through the nude. Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays through Aug. 31; times vary. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive at Museum Way, Stanford. [events.stanford.edu](http://events.stanford.edu)

**Public Tour: Cantor Highlights** Attendees will be able to explore the highlights of the Cantor's permanent collection with a docent-led tour through a selection of works spanning varied cultures and time periods. Through June 21, 1-2 p.m. Free. Cantor Arts Center, 328 Lomita Drive, Stanford. [museum.stanford.edu](http://museum.stanford.edu)

**Public Tour: Memorial Church** Tours of Stanford Memorial Church, one of the earliest interdenominational churches in the West, feature the church's stone carvings, mosaics and stained-glass windows. Ongoing, Fridays at 1 p.m. and the last Sunday of the month at 11:30 a.m. Free. Memorial Church, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford. [events.stanford.edu](http://events.stanford.edu)

## Film

**Stanford Global Studies Summer Film Festival** This free film festival will show 10 films from countries around the world, including India, Norway, Germany and Hungary. This year's films will focus on the theme "Earth: Habitat for All." June 19-Sept. 4, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Free. Sapp Center Auditorium, Room 111, 376 Lomita Drive, Stanford. [sgs.stanford.edu](http://sgs.stanford.edu)

**Film Screening: 'The Best Man'** Menlo Park Library concludes its June Wedding Film Festival with a screening of "The Best Man," about a novelist and committed bachelor

who tries to hide the fact that his new book is based on the lives and loves of his tight-knit group of friends. June 25, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. [menlopark.org](http://menlopark.org)

**Documentary Film: 'Brother Outsider'** The Portola Valley Library hosts a screening of "Brother Outsider: The Life of Freedom Fighter Bayard Rustin," about a gay Civil Rights leader and adviser to Martin Luther King Jr. in celebration of Pride Month. June 25, 5-7 p.m. Free. Portola Valley Library, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. [smcl.bibliocommons.com](http://smcl.bibliocommons.com)

## Food & Drink

**Ice Cream Social** Menlo Park Historical Association presents "An Old Time Ice Cream Social." June 23, 2-4 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Library lawn, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. [business.menloparkchamber.com](http://business.menloparkchamber.com)

**Trivia Night at Cafe Zoe** Attendees flex their knowledge about various topics during Trivia Night at Cafe Zoe on Thursdays. Participants may bring their own team or join an existing one. Through June 27, 7-9 p.m. Free. Cafe Zoe, 1929 Menalto Ave., Menlo Park. [cafezohub.com](http://cafezohub.com)

## Lessons & Classes

**ESL Conversation Club** Non-native and native English speakers talk together with the aim of developing English speaking and listening skills. No registration required. Wednesdays, 5-6 p.m. Free. Menlo Park Library, 800 Alma St., Menlo Park. [menlopark.org/projectread](http://menlopark.org/projectread)

## Health & Wellness

**Finding the Right Caregiver** Georgina Singh, founder and CEO of Cuida Inc., will discuss key elements in matching clients to the right caregiver. June 19, 10-11 a.m. Free. Little House Activity Center, 800 Middle Ave., Menlo Park. [business.menloparkchamber.com](http://business.menloparkchamber.com)

## Outdoor Recreation

**Bird Walk** This 90-minute bird walk covers Filoli's vast nature preserve. Saturdays through Aug. 31. There will be a 10:30 a.m.-noon session and a 12:30-2 p.m. session. \$15. Filoli Gardens, 86 Old Canada Road, Woodside. [filoli.org](http://filoli.org)

**Huddart Park Sunset Hike** Presented by Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks, this docent-led hike explores wildlife, night-blooming flowers and more. Long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, closed-toe shoes and water recommended. June 19 and July 24, 6:15-8:30 p.m. \$6 parking fee. Huddart County Park, 1100 Kings Mountain Road, Woodside. [huddartwunderlichfriends.org](http://huddartwunderlichfriends.org)

**Weekday Take A Hike: Huddart Park** The hike will begin at the Zwielerlein Picnic Area in Huddart Park. Attendees can choose between two hikes: the Bay Tree Trail to Richards Road Trail to Crystal Springs Trail (2.4 miles), and the Crystal Springs Trail to Dean Trail (5 miles). June 19, 9 a.m.-noon. Free. Huddart Park, 1100 Kings Mountain Road, Woodside. Search [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com) for more info.

## Business

**Chamber Mixer** Attendees will hear about the Chamber of Commerce and find out how to be more involved as an ambassador of business success in Menlo Park. June 19, 5:30-7 p.m. Free. Intero, 930 Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park. [business.menloparkchamber.com](http://business.menloparkchamber.com)



Photo courtesy of Windrider Film Forum

A still shot from "Moonlight Sonata," by Irene Taylor Brodsky.

## Award-winning independent films screened June 27-29

By **Kate Daly**  
Special to the Almanac

Five award-winning independent films are being featured at the Windrider Film Forum Bay Area's 10th anniversary event June 27, 28 and 29 at the Menlo-Atherton High School Performing Arts Center in Atherton.

Terri Bullock of Atherton, the director of the program since its beginning, says Windrider searches out winners from film festivals around the country, then chooses from among those whose stories are told through "the lens of hope."

On Thursday, June 27 the opening night film will be "Q Ball," a documentary that Golden State Warriors player Kevin Durant executive produced about San Quentin State Prison's basketball squad and its players' struggle to find redemption. A question-and-answer session with former inmate Harry "ATL" Smith will follow the screening.

On Friday, June 28, three short films will be shown. "Esta es tu Cuba" follows a family during the rise of communism in Cuba in the 1960s. Director Brian Robau will be on hand to talk to the audience.

Cy Dodson, the director and editor of the short film "Beneath the Ink," will also attend the showing to discuss his subject — a tattoo artist in Ohio who for free offers to turn hate symbols such as a swastika or Ku Klux Klan figure into beautiful tattoos.

The third film being shown on June 28 won the 2019 Academy Award for Best

Documentary Short Subject. "Period. End of Sentence" profiles the cultural changes spurred by an American high school student project that brought sanitary napkin manufacturing to an Indian community. Project participant/executive director Ruby Schiff will be there to discuss details.

The forum's final night, Saturday, June 29, will showcase director/producer Irene Taylor Brodsky and her film "Moonlight Sonata: Deafness in Three Movements." In it she shares the personal story of her son and parents dealing with their own deafness in different ways.

Beethoven wrote "Moonlight Sonata" when he was losing his hearing, and when Brodsky's son got cochlear implants, he sought to master the piece.

Both mother and son will be fielding questions after the showing.

Tickets are for sale online at [windriderbayarea.org](http://windriderbayarea.org). They are \$10 for students and \$15 for adults. Depending on availability, tickets may also be available at the door.

The screenings start at 7 p.m. each evening.

The performing arts center is at 555 Middlefield Road. 📍

LEHUA GREENMAN



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## SCHOLARSHIPS

continued from page 19

Award for her work tutoring at the Siena Youth Center and at the Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula.

She will attend the University of Southern California (USC) in the fall, where she plans to major in biology in order to pursue a career in pediatrics.

Maennle swam and played water polo in high school while

maintaining a commitment to her community, according to the PAL. She found a way to combine both interests by running the nonprofit "Swim Buddies," an organization helping adults and children with disabilities gain confidence and safety skills in the water.

She served on SHP's Student Conduct and Honor Board, and has been awarded honors in religious studies, English, and science.

Maennle plans to study environmental law in the future.

Mahoni is a two-sport athlete, playing both volleyball and lacrosse at SHP. She has also volunteered as a summer camp athletic coach at the LEMO Foundation, a nonprofit working to give under-resourced youth in the Bay Area academic and athletic assistance.

Mahoni plans to attend UC Berkeley in the fall and to pursue a career in law. 📍



**TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY  
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON  
THE PROPOSED TOWN BUDGET  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019/2020**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley will hold a public hearing on the proposed Town Budget for Fiscal Year 2019/2020, Wednesday, June 26, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., in the Historic Schoolhouse, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, California.

Comments may be submitted in writing prior to the Town Council meeting or presented at the meeting. All interested persons are invited to appear before the Town Council at the time and place herein above mentioned.

The Proposed Town Budget for fiscal year 2019/2020 is available for viewing on the Town website at [www.portolavalley.net](http://www.portolavalley.net), as well as copies are available between 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at Portola Valley Town Hall, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley, California and, via email by contacting Sharon Hanlon, Town Clerk at 650-851-1700 ext. 210.

Dated: June 13, 2019

Sharon Hanlon  
Portola Valley Town Clerk

# Viewpoint

IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES

## Council moves swiftly in the right direction

The Menlo Park City Council last week rejected the idea of a citywide commercial development moratorium as a means to reassess recent zoning policies, a disappointment to some but, in the end, a wise decision. That said, council members Cecilia Taylor and Betsy Nash, who asked that a moratorium be considered, should take a bow for sparking an urgently needed discussion of the rampant growth in commercial building that's exacerbating the city's jobs-to-housing imbalance and diminishing the quality of life for the city's residents.

As a result of that discussion, which took place at a June 11 special council meeting, the council has agreed that the reassessment and revision of two key zoning policies adopted over the last seven years should be among the city's top priorities. They are policies affecting development on the Bay side of the city and in the downtown area — new rules that many residents believe are too permissive of the type of large-scale development that inevitably worsen the housing shortage and the resulting commuter-related gridlock on local roadways.

The council has formed two subcommittees: Mayor Ray Mueller and Vice Mayor Taylor will review development-related problems in the district represented by Taylor, District 1, which includes Belle Haven and the continually expanding Facebook headquarters; and Mueller and Nash will assess the problems facing the remaining districts 2 through 5. According to the plan worked out at last week's meeting, the subcommittees will craft work plans for the year that will fast-track the review and revision of the city's 2012 El Camino Real/downtown specific plan; and the 2016 "Connect Menlo" general plan update, which upzoned much of the city's area east of U.S. 101.

Although a moratorium of up to two years was supported by a large contingent of residents — more than 50 of whom wrote letters and spoke in favor of a halt to development until the city can reassess its harsh impacts and revise policies — there are too many ways in which such a moratorium could backfire, as noted by Mueller and council members Cat Carlton and Drew Combs.

Among them: There are several bills making their way in the state Legislature that would remove or significantly diminish local control of residential building projects. Because the proposed moratorium also included proposals for housing projects larger than 100 units in Belle Haven and the rest of the Bayside area of the city, some council members rightly feared that a housing freeze would give supporters of taking local

control away more ammunition as they advocate for those bills.

There are also potential pitfalls involving the derailment of small-business owner projects that would benefit the community and the city's economy, and concerns that a moratorium wouldn't remove the city's responsibility to continue processing development applications it has already received — a time-consuming and costly proposition for both the city and the applicants.

In coming up with the plan to put identifying and tackling the problems created by the two recent zoning policies on the front burner, the council has opened a process that is likely to be more effective and have fewer unintended consequences than if it had approved a moratorium.

As the two subcommittees work to identify and recommend remedies to problems resulting from the recent policies changes, we hope that they take a close look at the so-called public benefit bonus policy written into the zoning rules; the rule permits developers to exceed space restrictions if they include public benefits in their projects. That policy has already been shown to be subject to abuse with the favorable response by the city to a hotel developer's proposal to consider legally required future hotel taxes to be the "public benefit" that will permit exceeding allowable size limits.

Residents who supported the moratorium will be watching closely and holding the council's feet to the fire to move quickly and effectively to address the problems plaguing their community because of new, often major, commercial developments that bring jobs to Menlo Park but don't address the housing crisis.

Belle Haven resident Matt Henry, speaking at last week's meeting, framed the issue well: "... [I]t comes down to a question of values — residents or revenue? What and who does Menlo Park value?" ■

### EDITORIAL

The opinion of The Almanac

embarcadero media

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### What's on your mind?

From City Hall politics and the schools to transportation and other pressing issues, the Almanac aims to keep readers informed about their community. But we also want to hear from you.

Tell us what's on your mind by sending your letters to [letters@AlmanacNews.com](mailto:letters@AlmanacNews.com). Or snail-mail them to: The Almanac, 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94306.

Letters should be no longer than 300 words.

Questions? Email Renee Batti at [rbatti@AlmanacNews.com](mailto:rbatti@AlmanacNews.com), or call 650-223-6528.



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## Top Menlo Park Real Estate Agents & Teams

Ranking	Agent/Team	Brokerage with which They Are Affiliated	Total Listing Volume in Menlo Park	Total Volume in Menlo Park*	SP/OP on All MLS Transactions**
1	<b>DeLeon Team</b>	DeLeon Realty	<b>\$52,978,000</b>	<b>\$75,100,000</b>	<b>106.0%</b>
2	Judy Citron	Compass	\$26,846,000	\$52,712,000	99.3%
3	Keri Nicholas	The Parc Agency	\$19,437,700	\$31,232,700	96.4%
4	Annette Smith	Golden Gate Sotheby's	\$12,498,000	\$18,343,000	97.1%
5	Terri Kerwin	Kerwin & Associates	\$9,850,000	\$17,450,000	98.8%
6	Beverly Robinson	Dragonfly Group	\$9,700,000	\$9,700,000	96.5%
7	Mary & Brent Gullixson Team	Compass	\$9,695,000	\$9,695,000	90.3%
8	Liz Daschbach	Compass	\$8,565,000	\$12,765,000	96.9%
9	Jennifer Bitter	Compass	\$8,542,500	\$11,342,500	95.8%
9	Tom Lemieux	Compass	\$8,542,500	\$10,742,500	95.8%
10	Boyenga Team	Compass	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000	102.1%

All Menlo Park sellers work directly with Michael Repka, the head of the DeLeon Team's listing side. Michael is supported by an incredibly robust and talented group of in-house professionals that includes: interior designers, licensed contractors, handymen, attorneys, graphic artists, photographers, a Chinese marketing specialist, an online marketing specialist and many more. These are all full-time employees that serve our clients at no extra charge.

No individual agent or team in Silicon Valley matches the DeLeon Team's marketing budget, complimentary services, experience, or sales volume. Our teamwork and history of success are why so many Menlo Park home sellers choose us.

Search criteria as compiled by BrokerMetrics® using MLS Data: January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 - June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Menlo Park, Residential Property (Single Family Home, Condominium, Townhouse, Manufactured Home, Floating Home, Duet Home, Multiple on Lot, Farm/Ranch, Other Residential, Double Wide Mobile Home, Duplex)  
 \* Total volume includes both the buyer and seller sides in Menlo Park      \*\*Sale price to Original Price Ratio on all MLS Transactions from June, 2018 - May, 2019

Michael Repka | Managing Broker | DRE #01854880 | 650.900.7000 | michael@deleonrealty.com  
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