

The Almanac

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

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Downtown Menlo Park road closures are here to stay — for now

Pedestrian-only areas on Santa Cruz Avenue have proved popular with residents, restaurateurs

By Kate Bradshaw

The street closures that have, for many residents, made downtown Menlo Park more pedestrian friendly amid the threat of COVID-19 are set to continue for the time being, despite concerns raised by several downtown retailers.

The City Council voted unanimously Jan. 25 to continue the closure on the northbound lane of the 600 block of Santa Cruz Avenue, from Curtis Street to Doyle Street, and in both directions on Ryan's Lane between Crane Street and Escondido Lane. The previous closure was set to expire at the end of January, requiring the council to take action to keep it in place, according to staff.

Currently, the street segment that's closed on Santa Cruz Avenue is being used daily by the Bistro Vida and Left Bank restaurants, and on Wednesday

afternoons and evenings by the new Bon Marché farmers market, while the Ryan's Lane closure is being used by Ristorante Carpaccio, an Italian restaurant.

Those closures can last as long as California's State of Emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic does, but when that ends, the city will have to do an environmental review to permanently maintain those closures, according to staff.

The program has generated many emails from residents who favor keeping the street closed to vehicles.

"I haven't heard from any residents that don't want to keep it," said Vice Mayor Jen Wolosin.

For some Menlo Park businesses, particularly restaurants, the opportunity to expand outdoor dining has been a lifeline, according to Kathleen Daly, who with her daughter Zoë Sharkey,



Magali Gauthier

People stroll through Bon Marché, a French-inspired outdoor market, on Santa Cruz Avenue in downtown Menlo Park on Nov. 10.

See **ROAD CLOSURES**, page 16

A rising specter: Untraceable and illegal 'ghost guns' are a growing concern for law enforcement

By Leah Worthington and Sue Dremann

A joint operation led by the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office ended last week with the seizure of 30 illegally held firearms and the arrest of four men, believed to have trafficked the weapons from Arizona and sold them throughout the county.

The massive, months-long investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), the San Francisco Police Department and the San Francisco Drug Enforcement Administration

Metro Task Force is the latest crackdown on the growing market for illegal firearms.

In addition to automatic rifles, high-capacity magazines and thousands of rounds of ammunition, law enforcement recovered a number of privately made firearms, or "ghost guns," as well as a 3D printer, believed to be used for manufacturing homemade weapons.

The recovered "ghost guns," which are weapons without a serial number that have been hand built — often from kits — were just a fraction of the many such firearms seized in recent months.

'It looks no different than if you walked into Big Five and looked at their firearm rack.'

SAN MATEO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY STEVE WAGSTAFFE

Just last week, a suspected carjacker was killed by police officers in San Jose after opening fire on them with a ghost gun. Also last week, a man accused of the "smash and grab" burglary of a Santa Clara high-end sneaker store was arrested and found to be in possession of 30 boxes of

luxury sneakers and clothing — and a ghost gun, complete with a loaded 30-round magazine.

Ghost guns are a growing problem for law enforcement throughout California, which banned new unserialized firearms in 2018. While new homemade guns themselves are not illegal, the state has required them to be labeled with a serial number, obtained from the California Department of Justice, which is to be engraved within 10 days of manufacturing the weapon. California is one of 10 states in the nation to regulate ghost guns.

Officials in San Mateo and

Santa Clara counties have reported a significant rise in these weapons over the last few years.

Experts say a number of different factors are to blame for the recent uptick in ghost guns which, by nature of being unregistered, are difficult to track and regulate. Law enforcement and legislators alike are scrambling to combat the increase.

"It's astronomical," said Mike Sena, executive director for the Northern California High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area and the Northern California

See **GHOST GUNS**, page 16

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Veronica Weber

John Arrillaga, the developer and philanthropist, died Monday at age 84. He's pictured at the 2010 Golden Acorn Awards event in Menlo Park.

John Arrillaga, one of Silicon Valley's top philanthropists, dies at 84

By Gennady Sheyner and Sue Dremann

John Arrillaga, the billionaire philanthropist who helped develop the modern Silicon Valley before becoming one of its most prolific and generous donors, died Monday morning, Jan. 24, at the age of 84, his family announced.

The cause of his death was not

immediately known.

Arrillaga was founding partner of the Peery Arrillaga, a commercial real estate giant that in the 1960s converted the area's farms and orchards into more than 20 million square feet of commercial space, according to Arrillaga's family.

In recent decades, the famously reclusive Arrillaga also became one of the area's

most prominent donors. This included hundreds of millions in contributions to his alma mater, Stanford University, where many athletic and recreational facilities bear his name.

According to an obituary that his family posted Monday, he had built and donated more than 200 projects and

See **ARRILLAGA**, page 14

Data shows COVID surge is easing in local schools

By Angela Swartz

The omicron surge that began the first week of January is slowing at Menlo Park, Woodside and Atherton schools, but is not over yet.

Cases haven't yet fallen off in the about 2,700-student Menlo Park City School District, which reported 88 cases last week, the same number as it did the week before. As of Wednesday morning, it had reported 37 cases this week.

"It's still too early to tell as this week has not yet finished; however, we have far fewer cases being reported after the weekend and fewer positive pools returned from our weekly testing," said Superintendent Erik Burmeister in a statement. "We are hopeful we are seeing the start of the downturn."

At one district elementary school, attendance over the past five days has been averaging 94.14%, after it had been in the mid-to-high 80s the first couple weeks back, said the district's Public Information Officer Parke Treadway in an email on Tuesday.

The roughly 10,200-student Sequoia Union High School District reported a similar number of cases last week, as it did the week prior. The week of Jan. 17, there were 384 cases; 344 among students and 40 among staff. The previous week there were 409 cases

reported to the district. Its first week back from winter break, it reported a staggering 710 cases.

"Although it appears that we are headed towards a peak, the district continues to closely monitor the situation, as we continue navigating through the current worldwide pandemic," said Superintendent Darnise Williams in a statement. "I would like to thank our community for truly being our partners and stepping up to support our schools, as school districts throughout California continue being spread thin." There are 13 parents substitute teaching in the district after a call for subs amid a staffing shortage during the surge.

Attendance is improving slightly, but not by much, she noted.

Sequoia District Teachers Association President Edith Salvatore, who teaches Spanish at Sequoia High School in Redwood City, said the situation is "getting better."

"A lot of students are coming back now and it's just the process of catching them up and getting back into the swing of things," she said in an email. She's also grateful for the announcement on Tuesday that the state will provide two weeks of COVID-19 paid sick leave through Sept. 30,

See **SCHOOLS**, page 15

Downtown development signs up notable San Francisco eateries as tenants

Burma Love, Che Fico, Barebottle Brew Co. and more are slated to open at Springline in Menlo Park

By Kate Bradshaw

Coming soon to Menlo Park: Burmese cuisine, a brewery, a new coffee shop, an Italian restaurant and market, and a cafe/wine bar.

That's according to a Jan. 20 announcement by Presidio Bay Ventures, the developer behind Springline, the office, retail and housing development being built at 1300 El Camino Real.

The new restaurants and cafes are:

■ **Andytown Coffee Roasters**,

a San Francisco coffee roaster based in the Outer Sunset neighborhood and founded in 2014, set to open in late summer 2022.

■ **Burma Love**, considered a "contemporary younger sister" restaurant to Burma Superstar, famous for its tea leaf salad and mohinga, while offering "a handful of newer, more seafood-centric dishes," according to its website. It has locations in San Francisco's Mission District and downtown. It is set to open in fall 2022.

■ **Che Fico**, an Italian taverna in San Francisco's NoPa

neighborhood, according to its website. The group behind it, Back Home Hospitality, plans to open a Northern California-influenced Italian restaurant and an Italian market featuring local produce, prepared foods, a fish and meat butcher counter, salumi and a walk-up gelato window at Springline in late summer 2022.

■ **Barebottle Brew Co.**, a San Francisco brewery with taprooms there and in Santa Clara, and partners with local homebrewing

See **DEVELOPMENT**, page 12



Courtesy Presidio Bay Ventures

Springline, a 6.4-acre mixed-used development under construction in Menlo Park, is slated to bring a wide range of new eateries to the community.

Public Notices

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File No.: 289818
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
Rocks Unlimited, located at 441 Alameda Ave, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
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441 Alameda Ave.
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
ROBERT S. TUCKEY
441 Alameda Ave.
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
This business is conducted by: A General Partnership.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 1/1/2013.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 23, 2021.
(ALM Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2022)

San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
F. SHARABIANLOU
1120 Broadway Ave.
Burlingame, CA 94010
S. SHARABIANLOU
1120 Broadway Ave.
Burlingame, CA 94010
This business is conducted by: Married Couple.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/31/2018.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on December 31, 2021.
(ALM Jan. 21, 28; Feb. 4, 11, 2022)

997 All Other Legals

AT&T Mobility, LLC is proposing to modify an existing wireless telecommunications facility on a building at 2575 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park, San Mateo County, CA. The modifications will consist of removing and replacing antennas at a top height of 65ft above ground level on the approximately 55ft building. Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending such comments to: Project 6121007952 - MAB EBI Consulting, 6876 Susquehanna Trail South, York, PA 17403, or via telephone at (617) 909-9035.
(ALM Jan. 28, 2022)

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CRIME BRIEFS

\$50K in jewelry, other items stolen from Atherton home

Someone stole \$50,000 worth of jewelry and other items from a home in Atherton sometime over the last week, according to police.

On Sunday night, Jan. 23, a resident reported that someone smashed a glass door at the back of their home on the first block of Lilac Drive, according to police.

Burglars reportedly took jewelry and “miscellaneous” items, said Sgt. Anthony Kockler in an email.

This is the sixth residential burglary in town reported to police so far this year. In 2021, there were a total of 28 home burglaries in Atherton. Police believe at least six — which occurred in November and December — could be linked to Chilean gang members operating out of Southern California, police Chief Steve McCulley said in an email last week.

Anyone who saw anything or has video footage over the past week is asked to call Atherton police at 650-688-6500.

—Angela Swartz

Body of missing nurse found

A search effort for a Stanford Hospital nurse who disappeared last week ended on Jan. 20 with the discovery of his body, the Alameda County Coroner’s Bureau has confirmed.

A deputy sheriff with the coroner’s bureau said the deceased man is 27-year-old Michael Odell. No cause of death was immediately available.

According to a public Facebook page, Odell, 27, a traveling ICU nurse, walked off his job at the hospital at about 4:30 a.m. on Jan. 18 in the middle of his shift. Odell’s car was found later that morning parked in a dirt pullout just to the east of the

See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 10

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Holbrook-Palmer Park baseball field closure

The infield of the baseball diamond at Holbrook-Palmer Park in Atherton will be closed to the public until Saturday, Feb. 5, following resodding.

Contact Town Arborist/Park Manager Sally Bentz with questions at sbettz@ci.atherton.ca.us.

Art Takes a Bus Ride contest

The County Office of Education and the San Mateo County Transit District are hosting the “Art Takes a Bus Ride” competition, with winning students’ artwork set to cover SamTrans buses for a year.

The contest is open to San Mateo County students, grades 1-12. This year’s theme is “San Mateo County Reopens.”

Apply by Feb. 25 at bit.ly/smcartbus22.

Volunteer for the 2022 STEM Fair

The 2022 San Mateo County Office of Education STEM Fair is looking for judges to review students’ projects and interview fair participants.

Judges must be comfortable assessing student projects in biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics and computer science, environmental studies, behavioral sciences, engineering and material sciences.

Sign up by Feb. 18 at stemfair.net/judges.

Openings on town committees

There are vacancies on Portola Valley and Woodside committees.

Apply for the Portola Valley openings at tinyurl.com/pvcommitteeopenings.

Apply for the Woodside openings at woodsidetown.org.

— Angela Swartz

CORRECTION

The Jan. 21 article “Atherton couple grateful for community support after burglars cause \$1 million in damage” cited an Atherton police statistic of 45 burglaries in town in 2021. After the story’s publication, police corrected that number to 28 burglaries in 2021.

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Atherton still looking for someone to operate a cafe in new library

By Angela Swartz

After having no luck finding anyone to operate a cafe in its new library last spring, Atherton plans to solicit another round of applications. Town staffers say there is renewed interest in the cafe, which they hope can open in the fall.

The new 10,000-square-foot, \$19.1 million library, part of the town's \$32 million civic center project, is expected to be completed this spring. Last March, staff asked for proposals from

vendors to finish and operate the 250-square-foot space, including outfitting it with equipment, supplies and furniture, and signing a contract to operate it for three years. By the May deadline, no one had applied.

During a Jan. 19 meeting, the council approved the request for proposals (RFP) once a subcommittee of council members Elizabeth Lewis and Bob Polito help staff revise it. The RFP should go out to the community on Friday, Jan. 28, said City Manager George Rodericks in an email. The hope is to have the

cafe operational by October, if not sooner.

But since the first RFP failed to garner any applications, there has been renewed interest regarding the potential of the cafe space, according to a staff report. During a town's ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the new civic center, which was an opportunity to see more of the completed site, there were several ad hoc discussions with potential vendors, according to the report.

DeGolia said whoever runs the



Natalia Nazarova

A rendering of Atherton's new library, including its deck and terrace, which fronts a 250-square-foot cafe in the space. The town is accepting bids to operate the cafe.

See **LIBRARY**, page 9

Ravenswood district in talks to lease two of its properties

Developers propose to build affordable district staff housing and a life science building

By Angela Swartz

The Ravenswood City School District governing board voted to approve exclusive negotiating agreements with developers interested in long-term leases of two of its properties, staff said during a meeting last week. The leases could help to bring in millions of dollars to help cover a recent

increase in teacher pay and fund initiatives like early learning programs.

The district is negotiating a 90-year lease with developer Alliant Strategic for a shuttered school to build a three- to four-story affordable rental housing development — with preference given to district teachers and staff — on the 2-acre site at Sheridan Drive in Menlo Park,

which used to house James Flood Magnet School, according to a staff report. The housing would cost the developer around \$50 to \$60 million to build.

The district is also in talks with Madison Capital for a 99-year lease to build a seven- to eight-story life science lab and office space at the district office, which is on a 4.15-acre site at 2120 Euclid Ave. in East Palo Alto. By

sometime in 2023 or 2024, the district plans to move out of its office, which will be demolished, according to the district's Chief Business Officer Will Eger.

"If developed, the frameworks for these agreements will bring in millions of dollars in annual revenue while also creating affordable housing and new commercial space," according to a district press release. The staff report

does note that these revenues will not come in for three to six years. "This new revenue would bring Ravenswood in line with the rest of San Mateo County, up from being one of the lowest funded districts in the county when accounting for student need."

Board President Mele Latu was the one person to vote against the

See **RAVENSWOOD**, page 9

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Contributions to the Holiday Fund go directly to programs that benefit Peninsula residents. Last year, Almanac readers and foundations contributed \$260,000 from more than 170 donors for the 10 agencies that feed the hungry, house the homeless and provide numerous other services to those in need.

Contributions to the Holiday Fund will be matched, to the extent possible, by generous community organizations, foundations and individuals, including the Rotary Club of Menlo Park Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. No administrative costs will be deducted from the gifts, which are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

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* Donor did not want to publish the amount of the gift.

All donations to the Holiday Fund will be shared equally among the 10 recipient agencies listed below.

Boys & Girls Clubs

Provides after-school academic support, enrichment, and mentoring for 1,800 low-income K-12 youth at nine locations across Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, and the North Fair Oaks neighborhood of Redwood City.

Ecumenical Hunger Program

Provides emergency food, clothing, household essentials, and sometimes financial assistance to families in need, regardless of religious preference, including Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for more than 2,000 households.

Fair Oaks Community Center

This multi-service facility, serving the broader Redwood City community, provides assistance with child care, senior programs, citizenship and immigration, housing and employment, and crisis intervention. Programs are available in Spanish and English.

LifeMoves

Provides shelter/housing and supportive services across 18 sites in Silicon Valley and the Peninsula. Serves thousands of homeless families and individuals annually on their path back to permanent housing and self-sufficiency.

Literacy Partners — Menlo Park

Supports literacy programs and projects through fundraising and community awareness. Helps community members enhance their reading, writing and related skills and education to improve their economic, professional and personal wellbeing.

Ravenswood Family Health Center

Provides primary medical and preventive health care for all ages at its clinic in East Palo Alto. Of the more than 17,000 registered patients, most are low-income and uninsured and live in the ethnically diverse East Palo Alto, Belle Haven, and North Fair Oaks areas.

Second Harvest Food Bank

The largest collector and distributor of food on the Peninsula, Second Harvest Food Bank distributed 52 million pounds of food last year. It gathers donations from individuals and businesses and distributes food to more than 250,000 people each month through more than 770 agencies and distribution sites in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room

Serves hundreds of hot meals six days a week to people in need who walk through the doors. Funded by voluntary contributions and community grants, St. Anthony's is the largest dining room for the needy between San Francisco and San Jose. It also offers take-home bags of food, as well as emergency food and clothing assistance.

StarVista

Serves more than 32,000 people throughout San Mateo County, including children, young people and families, with counseling, prevention, early intervention, education, and residential programs. StarVista also provides crisis intervention and suicide prevention services including a 24-hour suicide crisis hotline, an alcohol and drug helpline, and a parent support hotline.

Upward Scholars

Empowers low-income adults by providing them with financial support, tutoring, and other assistance so they can continue their education, get higher-paying jobs, and serve as role models and advocates for their children.

The organizations below provide major matching grants to the Holiday Fund.



The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation



Rotary Club of Menlo Park

LIBRARY

continued from page 7

cafe could also gain “significant” catering business, for parties or events, from cafe customers.

Lewis, Polito and Councilwoman Diana Hawkins-Manuelian questioned whether the RFP should state that the town would be willing to outfit the space itself so the upfront cost of that work isn't a barrier to “aspiring young operators.”

Polito called the RFP “destined for failure” in its current form during the meeting. The town needs to make clear that it wants the vendor to succeed and that it's not trying to make money off of the space.

“If we outfitted the space ourselves it'd be a whole different ball game,” he said.

An approximately 2,000 square foot deck and terrace fronts the cafe space.

The temporary library, located in a trailer on the corner of Dinkelspiel Station Lane and Maple Avenue, closed in December, as staff readies to move its collection to the new facility this spring.

In 2013, when town consultants gathered input on the civic center, they found residents would like to a community coffee shop. Other amenities of interest included a

park-like atmosphere, an open plaza for performances and shows, and meeting spaces for the community, according to the staff report.

Other project updates

The town expects the landscaped courtyard in front of Town Hall to be ready when the new library opens. The work is in progress now that the old police department building has been demolished, Rodericks said in an email.

A civic center subcommittee is reviewing final stone slabs for the donor wall, he said.

The Council Chambers is 90% complete but the town is still waiting on the final technology installations, he said. The City Council has met remotely since March 2020 when the pandemic hit.

The council will next meet on Feb. 2. The meeting will include a mid-year budget report, a report on the town's recent communications drill and consideration of amendments to the town's landscape screening ordinance.

More information on the cafe application will be available on the town's website, ci.atherton.ca.us, once the RFP is revised by the subcommittee. ■

RAVENSWOOD

continued from page 7

agreement for the district office land, noting during the meeting that the length of the lease terms, 90-plus years for each, is a “bit worrisome.” She also had concerns about how East Palo Alto residents would react to a new seven- or eight-story building in their community.

Trustee Ana Maria Pulido agreed, but noted that the district does need ways to be able to stay solvent.

“I want to have safeguards in place so that we're not in a 70-year marriage that nobody can get out of,” she said during the meeting.

Alliant Strategic is proposing paying the district an annual base rent of \$525,000 for the first lease year, with increases in subsequent years. Alliant Strategic would like to pay the first 15 years in rent up front, according to the district. The Flood site is not currently zoned for multifamily housing, although the city of Menlo Park has indicated support for housing there, according to the staff report.

Madison Capital is developing projects in San Francisco, including a project at 50 Post

Street in the Financial District, according to its website, and is proposing to pre-pay the first three years of rent (before development) as deposit, but other terms of the deal are still being worked out.

Next steps

Staff plans to present full contracts to the governing board in March for approval, according to the staff report. The contract would then go into effect in the late spring. The district anticipates construction would start at both sites in 2023 or 2024.

In October, the district began to solicit bids for the properties. The district worked with commercial real estate firm JLL to market the properties. Over a six-month period, JLL had conversations with over 40 developers for each site, the district said.

There were four offers for the district office site and six for the Flood site, Eger said. “This is a fairly robust level of interest for a project of this scope,” he noted.

The district currently leases nearly half of all its overall space to local community groups, according to the staff report. ■



Magali Gauthier

Greeting the new year

The Year of the Tiger kicked off with a roar, as the Woodside library played host to a lion dance performance on Jan. 25 in honor of Lunar New Year. Costumed performers Calvin Liu and Devin Horng, from Leung's White Crane Dragon and Lion Dance Association, got a mix of reactions from some young audience members. Lunar New Year occurs on Feb. 1.

Menlo Park plans to rework troubled community engagement committee

By Kate Bradshaw

Menlo Park's Community Engagement and Outreach Committee, or CEOC, has had its fair share of challenges since its creation in May 2021, including the resignations of at least five members.

The advisory group is focused on helping with, as its name suggests, community outreach and engagement, including encouraging people to participate in the housing element process, providing information to the public and receiving community input, according to staff.

However, current and former members have expressed unhappiness with the group's limited role, unequal

representation across the city's five districts, and feeling disrespected, among other concerns. Then there was an incident in which committee member Vicky Robledo worked to collect roughly 50 surveys from residents of District 1 but they were accidentally discarded.

As the city moves forward with the environmental review of the city's new housing element, begins to update the city's safety element and create a new environmental justice element, the City Council recently debated whether to end the committee or to reshape it.

Ultimately, the council agreed that Mayor Betsy Nash and Councilwoman Cecilia Taylor would be part of a new subcommittee aimed at working through CEOC challenges, including shrinking the size of the committee.

The committee has 14 members, but a number of them quit and leaving only eight, which means that since a majority of committee members are required to form a quorum, all of the remaining

members would have to be in attendance for a meeting to be held, creating a serious scheduling challenge.

The council also supported working with a third-party, community-based organization to help with additional community outreach, particularly in District 1 — although it is the district in the city where the new housing element, is, ironically, not slated to add any new homes because of the 4,500 new homes the city already opted to zone for there in 2016, Councilman Drew Combs noted.

However, community outreach in District 1 will still be important, according to Deanna Chow, assistant community development director, because the next step of the process is to start studying environmental justice problems with the city, and District 1, which includes the Belle Haven neighborhood, is considered disadvantaged in some ways when it comes to environmental equity.

The City Council also signaled interest in possibly

See **COMMITTEE**, page 15

TOWN OF WOODSIDE 2955 WOODSIDE ROAD, WOODSIDE, CA 94062 PLANNING COMMISSION FEBRUARY 2, 2022 6:00 PM

PURSUANT TO THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20, AS AMENDED THROUGH ORDER N-08-21, PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AS HYBRID MEETINGS WITH THE OPTION TO ATTEND BY TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO CONFERENCE OR IN PERSON. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT WISH TO ATTEND AND/OR PARTICIPATE IN A MEETING MAY DO SO IN PERSON OR BY JOINING THE ZOOM MEETING [HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/86068472736](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86068472736) - PUBLIC COMMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED BOTH IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM MEETING. ANY EMAILS SENT TO SHARPER@WOODSIDETOWN.ORG WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION PRIOR TO THE MEETING. IN THE EVENT THAT ANY MEMBER OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION PARTICIPATES IN A MEETING BY TELECONFERENCE OR VIDEO CONFERENCE, PURSUANT TO THE RALPH M. BROWN ACT, GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953, ALL VOTES OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION SHALL BE BY ROLL CALL.

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Remote Public Comments:

Meeting participants are encouraged to submit public comments in writing in advance of the meeting. The following email will be monitored during the meeting and public comments received will be read into the record.

Email: sharper@woodsidetown.org

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Nikki Yee, Square Three Architecture, Inc.
30 Echo Lane

ASRB2021-0024; VARI2021-0006; VARI2021-0007
Planner: Sarah Filipe, Associate Planner

Presentation and consideration of a proposal, requiring Formal Design Review (ASRB2021-0024), to remodel and construct an addition to an existing single-family residence; demolish an existing detached garage and carport; and construct a new detached garage and carport, new decking and a swimming pool, and other site improvements.

The project requires approval of a Variance to allow the addition in the required 50-foot side setback (VARI2021-0006); and a Variance to allow the detached garage to exceed the maximum plate and ridge height (VARI2021-0007). The Planning Commission will consider the ASRB's recommendation on the project design and take action on all requested entitlements.

2. Town-wide

Town of Woodside

Planner: Jackie Young, Planning Director

Housing Study Session to address the impacts of recent State law and the Town's responsive zoning code changes; and continued discussion of the Cycle 6 Housing Element Update.

THE APPLICATION MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW BY CONTACTING SARAH FILIPE AT SFILPE@WOODSIDETOWN.ORG OR JACKIE YOUNG AT JYOUNG@WOODSIDETOWN.ORG

CRIME BRIEFS

continued from page 6

Dumbarton Bridge. Friends said he might have walked out into the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, a marshy area known for its wildlife.

The Alameda County Coroner's Bureau confirmed on Thursday, Jan. 20, that a body was recovered in the area.

Odell's family lives in Oklahoma, according to the Facebook posts on the public group Find Michael Odell.

Friends organized search parties, they said on the Facebook page. The California Highway Patrol's Hayward area office is the lead investigating agency and had been searching with its allied agencies since Tuesday, CHP Hayward spokesperson Officer Kylie Musselman said. On Wednesday, the U.S. Coast Guard joined the search but didn't find anything. Musselman said investigating agencies conducted their search by air and ground.

—Sue Dremann

THE ALMANAC OPEN HOMES

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2014 Camino De Los Robles	\$3,199,999
Sat/Sun 1:00-4:00	4BD/2BA
Compass	650-804-2393
168 Hillside Avenue	\$4,298,000
Sat/Sun 1:00-4:00	5BD/4.5BA
Compass	650-924-8365

PALO ALTO

855 Bruce Drive	\$5,798,000
Sat 1:00-4:00	5BD/5.5BA
Sereno	650-303-5511
2303 Cowper Street	\$6,495,000
Sun 1:00-3:00	5BD/6BA
The Dreyfus Group, Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty	650-485-3476

WOODSIDE

99 Oak Haven Way	\$4,288,000
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30	4BD/3.5BA
DeLeon Realty	650-900-7000

Agents: submit open homes at AlmanacNews.com/real_estate

OPEN SAT & SUN 1-4

168 Hillside Avenue | Menlo Park | \$4,298,000 | 168HillsideAvenue.com

Contemporary Multi-Level Home on Stunning Open Lot



Marvelously flexible contemporary open-concept home perfect for today's lifestyle with the living areas all on the main level. The expansive lower level features a second family room with wet bar, plus a bedroom and office, both with en suite bath. The private yard offers a large brick patio with sprawling decks and is surrounded by beautiful Cypress trees.

Recently remodeled contemporary home with 5 bedrooms, (2 primary suites), and 4.5 baths plus additional room for an office or extra bedroom

Approximately 3,822 sf on a 9,984 +/- sf lot

Ideal open living/dining room combination with fireplace and glass sliders to deck overlooking backyard

Open kitchen with central island and casual dining area plus sliders to rear deck and backyard

Bright family room off the kitchen with built-in desk and cabinetry

Fabulous lower level features second family room, plus 5th bedroom and office (possible 6th bedroom), both with en suite bath

Well-landscaped yard, ideal for entertaining, with brick patio and expansive wooden deck

Fresh epoxy-painted, 2-car garage with cabinetry, plumbed for EV charger

Las Lomitas School District



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DEVELOPMENT

continued from page 5

groups and emphasizes the use of local ingredients, according to its website. It will be Menlo Park's only brewery. The current plan is to offer a large, pet-friendly indoor taproom space and a retro beer truck outdoors in the development's central plaza. It is set to open in late summer 2022.

■ **Canteen**, a casual wine bar and cafe by Greg Kuzia Carmel, who launched Camper in downtown Menlo Park. "We look forward to welcoming you all to another fun place to pass the time

with friends + strangers," Carmel said in a Dec. 14 Instagram announcement. "I am thrilled and excited to be a part of this next chapter of life in Menlo Park at the Springline community. It will be an honor to continue to add to the rich history of this wonderful place," he said in a statement on the Springline website.

Slated to open at Springline are Canteen Next Door, a wine bar on Oak Grove Avenue with small plates and grab-and-go options, and Canteen Café, along El Camino Real, which will offer coffee from Sightglass Coffee and wraps, sandwiches, salads and

baked goods. It is set to open in April or May.

"We continue to gain momentum with award-winning San Francisco dining staples and best-in-class companies at the top of their respective industries who are choosing to call Springline home," according to K. Cyrus Sanandaji, managing partner at Presidio Bay Ventures. "Our vision to fully activate this development and solidify a future for downtown Menlo Park centered on sustainability, connectivity, culture and wellbeing has proven to be the right catalyst for our wish list tenants to come on board."

Office tenants listed include software provider Genesys, Symphony Technology Group, international law firm Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP, venture capital firm Menlo Ventures and co-working location Canopy.

The 183 one- to three-bedroom apartments under development as part of the mixed-use project are expected to begin pre-leasing in

the spring.

The Springline location will be Andytown's first expansion outside of San Francisco, according to Lauren Crabbe, owner and CEO of Andytown Coffee Roasters. "We're super, super excited about it," she said.

Both baristas, she and her husband Michael McCrory founded the coffee shop in 2014, which now has four San Francisco locations, according to its website. The coffee shop's baked goods are inspired by McCrory's Irish roots, and include offerings such as soda bread scones and a "really delicious breakfast sandwich," Crabbe said.

Menlo Park also has an avian connection to the coffee brand's San Francisco home. According to Crabbe, one of the signature beverages that Andytown Coffee Roasters offers is called the "Snowy Plover." The beverage is an espresso cream soda, and can come in green tea and caffeine-free huckleberry variants, she said.

Snowy plovers are the "adorable" shorebirds that are found on both the Pacific shores of the Outer Sunset and along the Bay in Menlo Park, she said, noting that the coffee company has in the past partnered with the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory to support snowy plovers.

As for when their Menlo Park outpost might open, she said that they are aiming for the end of this year, but remain "well aware of the supply chain issues affecting construction projects right now."

"I'm curbing my own expectations because of all the challenges facing all industries right now," she said.

Michael Seitz, cofounder and CEO of Barebottle Brewing Co., said he is excited to be opening a brewery in Menlo Park. While he was a Stanford undergraduate years ago, he said, he "always felt like there was a missing element ... like an approachable, affordable place to get a really great beer."

One special thing about Barebottle is that it is constantly cycling through new and unique beers and wines for customers to explore, he said. He added that the brewery plans to have a vintage retrofitted truck with 25 beers on tap that will be part of the development's outdoor plaza, and envisions it as a great outdoor space for events including business meetings, receptions, baby showers or birthdays.

"After two years of postponing big events with people, it's going to be an amazing place to gather and share in a safe, outdoor, really fun area with great beer and wine."

Three other leases for restaurant/retail spaces in the development are currently under negotiation, according to Springline spokesperson Stefanie Szeto.

Go to springline.com for more information. ■

Email Staff Writer Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com.

June Henderson Muller

June 25, 1917 – January 21, 2022

An amazing journey of 104 years and 7 months came to an end on January 21, 2022, with the passing of June (Silva) Henderson Muller, most recently a resident of Lytton Gardens in Palo Alto. She wanted to live forever, and gave it a good try. Loved her birthday parties—especially her 100th at Little House in Menlo Park where she and her guests were entertained by a Dean Martin impersonator.



For decades a daily swimmer, she later switched to walking laps around the block, which she did like clockwork every day it didn't rain. She recovered from a broken hip at age 95, floating cataract surgery at age 99, and passed every physical exam she ever took with flying colors and normal labs.

June was born during the Spanish Flu of 1917 that didn't touch her but nearly killed her mother (and a century later, thanks to being fully vaccinated, June did not contract COVID-19). After graduating from Alameda High School in 1935, she attended business college, then began a long secretarial career, eventually retiring as an executive secretary for Kaiser Engineers in Oakland. She outlived by 35 years her husband Brad Henderson—they married six weeks before the U.S. Army sent him overseas for three years during World War II. She is survived by their two sons, Bruce (Laura) and Keith (Susie).

Charmed with good health, and steadfastly sharp and witty, June was ill only the last two weeks of her life when a cold developed into pneumonia. Her last afternoon was almost magical, because she was able to speak by phone to her four grandchildren in Maine (Nathan), Washington DC (Chelsea), and California (Grant and Evan), one after the other, and heard each say, "I love you, grandma," one last time. And she was able to tell each of them, "I love you." She had long ago disclosed her secret to a long life: "Surround yourself with people you enjoy and love, do what brings you joy, and live in the moment."

Near the end, she closed her eyes and listened to a yarn about one of her childhood escapades in Alameda she had herself spun to family and friends. As a young girl, she would pull her red wagon through the Lincoln Avenue neighborhood, looking for stray animals to pick up and bring home. One time she lifted a cute puppy off a neighbor's porch. Her mother made her take it back. The lady saw how much June wanted the puppy, and gave it to her. We like to think that's where our spirited matriarch went -- back to being that little girl, pulling her wagon, rescuing or snatching puppies.

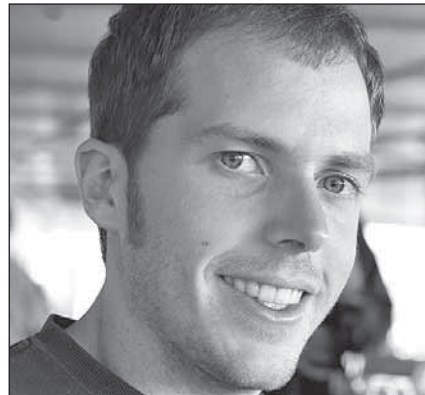
June would have loved donations in her memory to the Peninsula Volunteers (www.penvol.org), which operates Crane Place, her long-time residence where she was treated like the Queen of the Manor by the staff and residents alike, or the Palo Alto Humane Society (www.paloaltohumane.org) because, well, they help so many puppies and other animals.

PAID OBITUARY

Joshua Harrison Lange

July 17, 1986 – January 3, 2022

Joshua Lange (35) passed away unexpectedly on January 3rd, 2022. Although his life was too short, it was one filled with excitement, courage, adventure and — most of all — love. Josh started his adventures early by living in Japan and working as a fashion model at the age of 2. The family travels eventually took him from Japan through England to Menlo Park, California where he grew into a handsome young man, eventually graduating from Menlo Atherton High School and then Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with a degree in computer science. From there he quickly excelled, his brilliance in the field attracting multiple employers, including Microsoft where he worked at the time of his passing.



As smart as he was industrious, he still found time to take many adventures. He lived all across the US with homes at one time or another in San Francisco, Seattle, Little Rock, New York City and New Orleans. Everywhere he went, he was soon surrounded by many hilarious and fun friends from across the tech industry. After he lit up a room with his good looks, bright smile and infectious giggle, he would then enthrall everyone with his vast knowledge of almost any subject.

Josh was so very loved by those who survive him: father Harry Lange and stepmother Hiroko Sahara, mother Jayne Lange, stepfather John Roberts, his loving sisters Julia Lange and Sarah Lange, brother-in-law Edward Barta and niece Mabel Barta. Of course, he is also adored by his extended family and many friends around the world.

A memorial service was held in San Francisco on Friday, January 21. In lieu of flowers, the family has asked for contributions to be made to The Joshua Lange Memorial Fund at The Trevor Project.

Contributions can be by sending a check to The Trevor Project Attn: Development PO Box 69232 West Hollywood, CA 90069, EIN number 95-4681287 please be sure to write The Joshua Lange Memorial Fund on the memo line of your check. To give online: <https://give.thetrevorproject.org/fundraiser/3657569>

PAID OBITUARY

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include **Bjorn Conrad**, 81, a Portola Valley resident, on Dec. 14; **Joshua Harrison Lange**, 35, a Menlo-Atherton High School alum, on Jan. 3; **Robert (Bob) Susk**, 68, former mayor of Woodside, on Jan. 7; **Frances Kent Dickman**, 80, a former Atherton resident, on Jan. 14; and **Marianne Tucker Ault-Riche**, 74, a Menlo Park resident, on Jan. 10.

To read the full obituary, leave remembrances and post photos, go to Lasting Memories at almanacnews.com/obituaries.

MARY GILLES REAL ESTATE



PHOTOGRAPHY BY MATTHEW ANELLO, BLU SKYE MEDIA

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ARRILLAGA*continued from page 5*

buildings, including the Frances Arrillaga Alumni Center, the Arrillaga Family Sports Center, the Arrillaga Center for Sports and Recreation Center and the Arrillaga Dining Hall. In 2013, his donation of \$151 million to Stanford was described by the university as its “largest single gift ever from a living individual.” He had spearheaded the effort to tear down and rebuild the university’s football stadium, a project that he managed and funded.

When Arrillaga rebuilt the stadium, he “selected every single palm tree, worked out the best form for every structural element and created his own designs for the seating,” according to the obituary published by his daughter, Laura Arrillaga-Andreessen.

Arrillaga also funded the reconstruction of Maples Pavilion, the university’s basketball complex. The family’s obituary

notes that he walked the campus and personally picked up every piece of trash he saw, as well as rearranged single stones in fountains across the campus.

Brad Lyman, vice president of the Ronald McDonald House Charities Bay Area’s board of directors, recalled his friend’s influence and ability to get things done.

“John is the person I called for advice along the way,” said Lyman, who noted Arrillaga’s instrumental role in the expansion of the Ronald McDonald House at Stanford from 47 to 123 guest rooms. “One day I was talking to John on the phone, and he abruptly said, ‘I’ve got an idea — I’ll call you back.’ Twenty minutes later he called back and said, ‘I got it.’”

“I said, ‘You got what?’ His response was, ‘I got you the land next door.’”

Arrillaga was also well known for opposing red tape and for exercising firm control over his

projects, which included selection of the design and contractors. At times, these qualities helped him complete his projects more quickly than would otherwise be possible. His family noted that Stanford Stadium was constructed in just 42 weeks and under budget.

At other times, his reclusive and controlling approach created friction with local governments, as when he tried to negotiate behind the scenes the construction of office towers and a theater near the downtown Palo Alto train station — a project that blew up when it became public.

Similarly, his proposal to build a library in downtown Menlo Park fizzled after he and city officials couldn’t reach an agreement about the location of the new facility, with Arrillaga insisting on a downtown location and the city favoring a Belle Haven library.

Arrillaga ultimately withdrew the offer in 2018.

At the same time, Menlo Park was among the Peninsula cities that have benefited greatly from his largesse. He was the chief donor behind the construction of the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, the Arrillaga Family Gymnasium and the Arrillaga Family Gymnastics Center in the Menlo Park Civic Center.

During a rare public appearance in 2010, during which he received Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce’s Golden Acorn Award, Arrillaga mused on his love of sports and basketball — and his own use of the city’s facilities.

“Menlo’s been a great spot in my heart because I played (basketball) at the Burgess gym starting in 1960,” Arrillaga told an assembled audience at the Stanford Park Hotel. “I probably scored more points in that gym than any player in its history because I retired at almost age 60,” he said.

His family’s obituary also credits him with donating dozens of buildings to police departments, libraries and recreation centers throughout Silicon Valley. He also built and donated campus buildings for Menlo School and Castilleja School, where his children attended high school, according to the obituary.

He retained the philanthropic spirit until the very end. Just weeks before he passed away, Arrillaga offered to donate more than \$30 million to Palo Alto to help the city build a new public gym, with the understanding that he would pick the design and the contractor. The council was scheduled to discuss the project on Jan. 31.

Arrillaga was raised in a modest household. He was born in 1937 and raised in Inglewood, California to professional soccer goalie Gabriel Arrillaga and Freda Arrillaga, a nurse. His father later became a laborer in the Los Angeles produce market and his mother raised John and his four siblings, the late Gabriel Arrillaga, Alice Arrillaga Kalomas, William “Bill” Arrillaga, and Mary Arrillaga Danna.

He held his first job at 9 years old, delivering newspapers, which was rapidly supplemented by his first dishwashing job in a local restaurant. His mother also took in neighbors’ laundry to help ends meet, according to the family’s obituary.

He graduated from Morning-side High School in Inglewood, where he was student body president and a star athlete, according to his family’s obituary.

Through an anonymous donor, Arrillaga was awarded a basketball scholarship at Stanford. To pay for his books and living expenses, he held six jobs, from washing dishes to delivering mail and working as a gardener and

cook, in addition to his studies and athletics.

He graduated from Stanford with a bachelor’s degree in geography and was an All-American basketball player.

After graduating from Stanford, he traveled the world while playing basketball for the U.S. national basketball team. He left professional basketball after realizing it would not afford him the family life that he wanted, his family noted in the obituary. After briefly selling insurance, he saved enough money to purchase his first rundown commercial building and completed all of the work on it himself before earning enough in rent to purchase his second building.

He had two children, John Arrillaga Jr. and Laura Arrillaga-Andreessen, with his first wife, Frances C. Arrillaga, a sixth-grade teacher, who also earned two master’s degrees from Stanford. She died in 1995. He later married Gioia Fasi Arrillaga, a former attorney and graduate of the Santa Clara University School of Law.

His family noted in the obituary that over the past four decades, Arrillaga dedicated at least half of his time to philanthropic efforts, “still working seven days a week at the age of 84, literally negotiating leases until the day prior to his passing.”

“He believed that successful philanthropy means combining financial resources with brainpower, skills and networks to amplify the number of lives he can touch and transform,” the obituary states. “He believed that ‘one should always give as much as one can, for the more one gives, the more life gives one in return.’”

Arrillaga died with his wife of 22 years, Gioia, and his two children, John Jr. and Laura, by his side. He is survived by Gioia Arrillaga; John Arrillaga Jr. and his wife, Justine, and their three sons; Laura Arrillaga-Andreessen and her husband, Marc Andreessen, and their son; his late brother Gabriel’s wife, Kay Arrillaga, and their three sons; brother William Arrillaga and his wife, Linda, and their two sons; sister Alice Arrillaga Kalomas and her husband, Anthony “Tony” Kalomas, and their four children; and sister Mary Arrillaga Danna and her husband, Angelo Danna, and their son.

In lieu of flowers or gifts, the family asks that donations be made to the nonprofit organization that means the most to the donor in John Arrillaga’s honor. For more information and to register for his celebration of life, email johnameitorial@gmail.com. ■

Email Staff Writers Sue Dremann and Gennady Sheyner at sdremann@pawekly.com and gsheyner@pawekly.com.

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MPCSD Guest Teacher pay starts at \$200 per day!

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SCHOOLS

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retroactive to Jan. 1. It means that much of that burden is off of the district to ensure that nobody is losing accrued leave pay because they had to quarantine to keep students and the community safe, she said.

The roughly 1,100-student Las Lomas Elementary School District saw 37 cases from Jan. 17 to 21. There were 24 cases between Jan. 10 and 15. As of Tuesday, it reported 12.

"I am cautiously optimistic that we peaked," said Superintendent Beth Polito in an email. "The daily numbers seem to be coming down a bit. Staff absences are coming down as well."

The Ravenswood City School District, which has schools in East Palo Alto And Menlo Park, also saw a drop in cases last week. It was down to 65 after hitting a 120 cases the week before. There were 87 its first week back from winter break.

Based on last week's COVID-19 data, it appears that the number of cases have peaked, said Superintendent Gina Sudaria in an email. "I will be more convinced after we review this week's numbers."

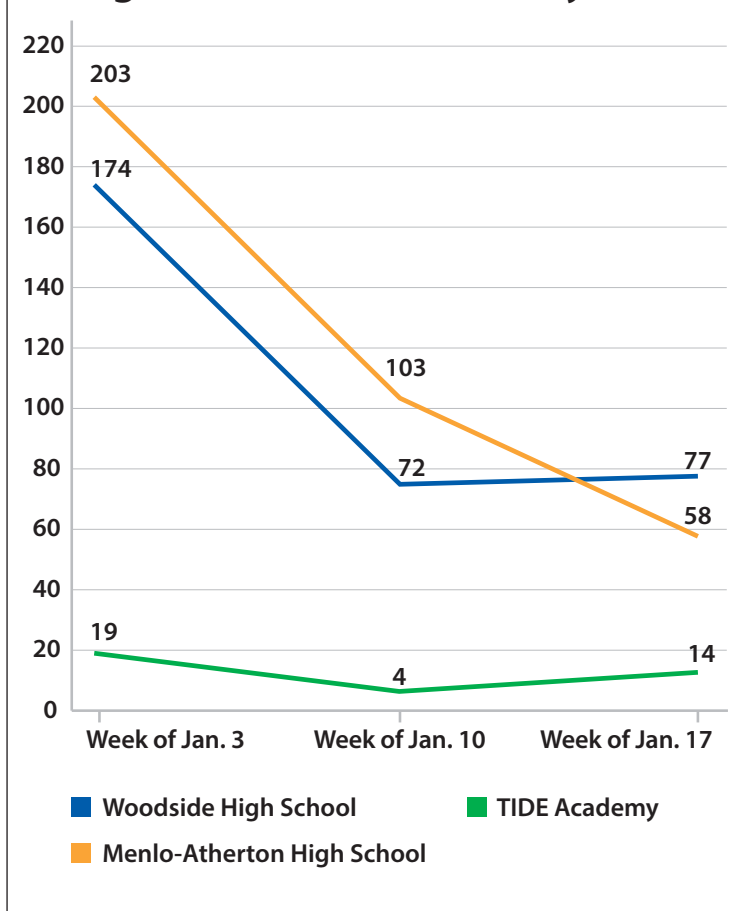
The Woodside Elementary School District, which has roughly 360 students, reported 15 cases last week, compared to 19 the week before. There were just six the first week of January, which Superintendent Steve Frank credited to at-home rapid COVID-19 tests the district distributed to families before students returned from winter break.

There were 14 cases last week in the Portola Valley School District, which has about 470 students. The week prior there were 12. There were 26 the first week back from winter break.

Private school data

At Sacred Heart Schools in Atherton, which has about 800 students in preschool

High schools case counts by week



Data from Sequoia Union High School District

Case counts at local public schools have fallen since the first week back from winter break, but the surge hasn't fully subsided.

through 12th grade, there were 30 cases reported last week, down from 67 the week before.

The school went to remote learning for its first two days back from winter break to give students time to test. It reported 166 cases that week.

Woodside Priory, a Catholic Benedictine day and boarding school that serves about 400 students in grades 6-12 in Portola Valley, went remote its first week back from the holiday break as well. There were 23 cases reported to the school that week and 15 the following.

On Jan. 18, 471 people were tested on campus, with eight positive cases.

"Over 98% of our community tested negative, and we remain grateful that our safety precautions and protocols

are working," said Head of School Patrick Ruff in a Jan. 20 message to families. "We are also grateful that students are staying home when they have symptoms or do not feel well. We are moving in the right direction, and we look forward to doing more and more things together safely."

Students who test positive at the school can Zoom into their classes, according to the school's website.

Menlo School, a private grades 6-12 school in Atherton that has about 800 students, is also seeing a downward trend in cases in the last week, according to Alex Perez, the school's director of communications.

"We're cautiously optimistic that the trend will continue," he said. He declined to disclose the case counts since

engagement.

"If we want to make progress, we need to refresh and come in with a clean slate," said Lesley Feldman, who has been serving on the committee as a representative for District 2. "I hope the council will have a discussion of why so many members resigned from the committee — there were specific reasons for those resignations," she said.

"Unfortunately, we can't start over," said Mayor Betsy Nash. "I would just ask that

everybody realize that we're trying to do the best we can for the residents of Menlo Park, and I think there definitely have been challenges and I'm very sorry for those."

"My top priority is getting that feedback from community members who need to be heard from the most," said Vice Mayor Jen Wolosin.

Nash said she and Taylor, as members of the council's CEOC subcommittee, were open to meeting online with any of the current or former



Magali Gauthier

Moanzelle Huevos, a medical assistant with Worksite Labs, directs Woodside High School parent Karen Brux through a self-administered test on Jan. 10.



Magali Gauthier

Catherine Park, 11, receives a dose of COVID-19 vaccine from Jackie Inclan at a vaccination clinic at Belle Haven School in Menlo Park on Jan. 10.

students returned from winter break. Classes were conducted remotely for the first week back from winter break, when officials heard that many students were testing positive in the week leading up to the planned return to campus.

County response

San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools Nancy Magee acknowledged in a newsletter this week that the omicron surge has caused a real strain on local schools.

"School leaders, teachers,

staff, students, and families have all demonstrated incredible resilience and strength," she said. "With renewed vigilance around safety protocols, I am confident conditions in our schools will lessen as we get further into the year."

The newsletter also noted that, in the county, more than 82% of students ages 12-15 were fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and 51.9% of students ages 5-11 received at least their first dose by the end of 2021. ■

Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at aswartz@almanacnews.com.

COMMITTEE

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decreasing the amount of that zoning in District 1 as part of the housing element, but it's not clear yet if that proposal will move forward.

Belle Haven resident Pam Jones suggested that the City Council poll committee members to see if they were still interested in serving and to consider having paid outreach workers from the Belle Haven neighborhood lead community

committee members who wanted to share their experiences so the council could learn "what we can do better as we move forward."

Councilman Drew Combs said he would only support the continued existence of the CEOC if responsibility for the group pivoted from staff to the City Council subcommittee of Nash and Taylor, noting that when he served on the subcommittee as mayor, "there were instances of hostility directed toward staff, which

I thought were inappropriate and far from professional. ... I think to ask staff to go and reengage in this situation is asking them to engage in a hostile work environment."

City staff planned to poll the committee members, and have Nash and Taylor work through follow-up details before bringing the item back to the council. ■

Email Staff Writer Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com.

GHOST GUNS

continued from page 1

Regional Intelligence Center. “Certain cities are only seeing a fraction of it, but when you look at the greater scale, especially in the western U.S., it’s just blown up.”

According to San Mateo County District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe, recent estimates suggest that approximately 30-40% of the firearms seized in the county are ghost guns. The Redwood City, South San Francisco and Daly City police departments all report rising numbers, with ghost guns comprising nearly 23% of the 44 firearms recovered in Daly City in 2021.

“There’s definitely been a noticeable increase in crimes associated to ghost guns, such as robberies, shootings,” said San Mateo County Sgt. Michael Leishman, who led the interstate trafficking investigation. “From a seizure standpoint, I’ve definitely seen a significant increase in the seizure of PMFs (privately made firearms).”

In Santa Clara County, most of the ghost-gun activity has been in the city of San Jose with a few cases in other cities throughout the county, said Marisa McKeown, supervising deputy district attorney for the Crime Strategies Unit, Santa Clara County District Attorney’s Office.

“There’s definitely been a trend going on in the last four to five years,” she said. “It’s a fairly unique phenomenon to California. We’re outpacing the rest of the country.”

Ghost guns are typically assembled from a kit or separately purchased parts. Because these kits don’t contain an “operative” weapon, as defined by the federal ATF, they don’t require a background check or serial number to purchase. That makes them attractive to felons and others who are prohibited from possessing firearms, such as people convicted of domestic



Courtesy San Jose Police Department

Ghost guns, the untraceable homemade firearms, are increasingly associated with crime in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

violence.

Anyone can purchase a gun kit easily over the internet, McKeown said. Kit boxes contain everything a person needs to assemble the gun, including the drill bits. All a buyer needs is a basic drill.

“A kit is not considered a firearm until the frame or the receiver has been built,” she said. From a law enforcement perspective, Leishman said this new trend is concerning. While serialized guns “tell a story” of where they came from, trying to trace a ghost gun back to its source, or to related crimes, is a significant challenge.

“There’s no method of tracking records as far as the purchaser, the seller, the buyer,” he said. “It really hinders our ability to conduct a thorough investigation; it hinders our ability to track the life of that firearm.”

A new and growing problem

Ghost guns recently caught the attention of John Donohue, an economist and professor at Stanford Law School.

“In 2017, there was a very bad shooting at Sutherland Springs, Texas at a Baptist church where

26 people were gunned down,” he said. Donohue, who became an expert witness, looked into the case extensively.

“One thing that struck me was in Texas, where it’s so easy to get guns by anyone, you don’t really have a ghost gun problem because you can pretty much walk into a store and get guns pretty easily. But in California, where it is harder to get guns lawfully, then you see the ghost gun market springing up.”

According to Donohue, the problem dates back to legislation like the federal Gun Control Act of 1968, which restricted the selling of weapons to felons, drug users and people deemed mentally ill. In order to “skirt the regulations,” he said, gun retailers realized that they could sell non-operative gun parts in a sort of kit that people would be able to construct on their own.

“Now, because mechanisms for putting together the guns have gotten so good and effective, it’s not that big a task these days to just buy a kit and put the gun together yourself,” he said. As a result, he said, criminals and other people legally banned from owning firearms have been able to acquire them with increasing ease.

Donohue said there is a growing number of ghost gun sellers in the U.S. who are supplying unserialized parts to buyers.

Unlike legal firearms, Wagstaffe said, many of these are purchased online — on the dark web — or on the street. In addition to being unregulated, they’re also much cheaper than a normal gun.

The actual assembly is happening almost entirely in residences — a literal cottage industry, according to McKeown.

Police last March arrested a man who had decided to become a mini-manufacturer: He was building them at home and at his workplace, she said. He was one of two arrested after a months-long investigation by the Santa Clara County DA’s office and San Jose police, who found the men had allegedly built ghost guns in warehouses and sold them to south bay felons. Investigators also seized a rifle that had been converted to be fully automatic.

Ghost guns can be nearly indistinguishable, in look and function, from a traditional firearm, according to Wagstaffe.

“It looks no different than if you walked into Big Five and looked at their firearm rack,” he said.

While most people are using gun kits, some have started to make them using 3D printers. Santa Clara County law enforcement has recovered a couple of these 3D-printed guns, which were used in a gang-retaliation shooting, McKeown said.

Anecdotal, Leishman said, most smaller handguns that he’s seen in San Mateo County are built from kits, while some of the AR-style rifles have been 3D printed.

Police in October arrested a 19-year-old Richmond man suspected of stealing catalytic converters and found he had a 3D-printed, AR-15 style rifle in his possession with a high-capacity magazine, according to various news reports.

By law, it’s not illegal to 3D print some gun components out of polymers, but it is illegal to 3D print an entire gun, McKeown said. Under the 1988 federal Undetectable Firearms Act it is illegal to manufacture, possess or transfer a firearm that cannot be detected when going through a metal detector.

These days, 3D-printed guns can be built from shared online plans. A quick online search shows such firearms ranging from pistols to rifles.

Defense Distributed is one organization that distributes downloadable firearm designs, “in service of the general public,” according to the website. The single-shot “Liberator,” the first 3D-printed gun developed in 2013, has 15 printed parts with only the 16th part being metal — a six-ounce cube of steel added into the body to comply with the Undetectable Firearms Act.

Although 3D-printed guns are rare in Santa Clara County, their manufacture is likely to grow, McKeown said.

“As we regulate these industries (gun kits), we anticipate they will move to new, creative methods,” she said.

In fact, some ghost gun users have already figured out how to make even more lethal firearms, something that’s “extremely popular right now,” Sena said.

“People ... are using the same technology to make switches to turn the weapons fully automatic — to turn a handgun into a handheld submachine gun,” he said.

This is the first story in a two-part investigative series. Next week, read about the rising number of ghost guns seized by local law enforcement and efforts to combat their proliferation. ▀

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ROAD CLOSURES

continued from page 1

runs Café Zoë in the Willows neighborhood. “This program saved a lot of us from going completely under,” she told the City Council Tuesday. “I’m actually hopefully that it will become permanent.”

Fran Dehn, president and CEO of Menlo Park’s Chamber of Commerce, said that continuing to offer outdoor dining and to make it easier for restaurants to do so was important for businesses as COVID-19 continues.

“We are not beyond COVID,” she said. “Many patrons do not feel comfortable eating indoors. Outside dining will continue. No

restaurant will seek out space that does not include an outside extension.”

In contrast, two people who are connected to retail businesses in downtown Menlo Park pushed back against the closures.

Vasile Oros, who owns the building that houses Ace Hardware, said he felt that the street closure was negatively impacting the business community just to allow the participating restaurants to add a few more tables on the street. “Why should we shut off the whole downtown?” he asked. “It doesn’t make any sense.”

Alex Beltramo, whose mother owns a downtown retail business, said that the road closures have diverted vehicle traffic

through parking lots and side streets, and argued that a revitalized downtown would come from making it easier for people to get in and out of downtown Menlo Park.

So far, the city has spent about \$85,000 of \$300,000 the council set aside for downtown streetscape improvements to pay for trees, barricades and concrete barriers, and staff plans to spend roughly \$20,000 to \$25,000 more to cover “unexpected expenses” related to the program, according to staff.

A future downtown

Council members were in agreement that overall, the street

closure seems to have been a success and didn’t want to end it.

“For many years, we have been thinking about how you reimagine and reinvigorate the downtown area,” said Councilman Drew Combs. “Nothing has stuck. ... This is something that has been successful.”

Councilman Ray Mueller said that he was interested in maintaining the existing street closures as long as he serves on the City Council.

The current setup has allowed people to gather as a community “at a time when there aren’t a lot of places you can do that,” he said. “I’m not ready, specifically at this time, to go ahead and reopen the

street because of where we are in the pandemic.”

He added that he is interested in extending street closures and building a parking garage downtown that has housing on top plus a small movie theater.

There are some downtown merchants who want the area become a destination for interior design stores, he said. “Downtown isn’t just for merchants who want it to be a design ecosystem,” Mueller said. “We need to design a downtown that serves us all.” ▀

Email Staff Writer Kate Bradshaw at kbradshaw@almanacnews.com.



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COMPASS



Public art on the RISE

New nonprofit Elevate Art Menlo Park aims to bring more art to downtown area

By Heather Zimmerman

“If you build it, they will come” is an idea rarely applied to art, but it’s a key part of the philosophy of Elevate Art Menlo Park, a new nonprofit looking to bring more public art — and with it, more visitors — to downtown Menlo Park.

The group aims to use public art to enliven the area and help create a more welcoming atmosphere, building on the growth of outdoor dining and other public spaces in downtown that was spurred by the pandemic.

The members of Elevate Art Menlo Park are hoping to entice visitors to come downtown and stay awhile, rather than run an errand and quickly depart, according to Dana Hendrickson, who started Elevate Art Menlo Park last year and leads other community efforts to boost downtown Menlo Park. Hendrickson also writes a blog, “Creating a More Vibrant Menlo Park,” featured at almanacnews.com.

“We want it to be an uplifting experience. You go down there and say, ‘Things are different. They’re changing.’ I wanted to make the town more beautiful and people can get engaged by art. It gives them a reason to go,” he said.

Elevate Art Menlo Park unveiled its first project in October, a mural placed on the Menlo Church Student Center, facing Santa Cruz Avenue. The piece, called “Under The Wide Sky We Gather,” is a colorful, highly detailed work by Oakland-based artist Carrie Lederer.

Rather than painted directly on the wall, the mural was printed on a vinyl wrap for

cost-effective and easy installation, according to Elevate Art Menlo Park Art Director Christine Duval, who said Lederer created the image itself through a process of layering and combining watercolor paintings and digital prints. The finished image was then printed onto vinyl to create the mural. The bright palette and abstract, almost otherworldly subject made it well-suited for a public art piece.

“This is totally what Carrie’s work is about: different kinds of worlds and imagination, happy colors and light and discovery,” Duval said.

For upcoming projects, the group will continue to focus on murals at present, she said.

In the next few weeks, Hendrickson said, the group will “officially” kick off with an announcement of its formation. But in a sense, “Under The Wide Sky We Gather” is a bit of a soft opening for Elevate Art Menlo Park, to show what the group plans to accomplish.

“We really took it upon ourselves to do the first one. We had the artist and Menlo Church was super generous right away and excited about the idea. So we went full force and fast with it, because we understood that in order to ask money from other people, they need to see what we can do. So hopefully that’s going to make people excited and wanting to contribute,” Duval said.

Elevate Art Menlo Park follows a grassroots public art model, placing art created for the public on privately owned land, and relying on private donations to fund the work.

The model may be gaining a bit of traction on the

‘If you want to make change, you need to get residents engaged as volunteers.’

DANA HENDRICKSON

Midpeninsula. Another organization, Arts Los Altos, formed in 2019, is following the same strategy to bring murals and sculptures to downtown Los Altos.

Hendrickson said that the members of Arts Los Altos have compared notes, shared ideas and “war stories” with the members of Elevate Art Menlo Park. Both groups are also members of Intersection for the Arts, a nonprofit that provides financial sponsorships and other resources for artists and the arts community.

The public art-private land model bypasses city channels to partner with businesses and property owners in placing the art, with the aim of avoiding the often lengthy planning and approval process that accompanies taxpayer-funded public art projects administered by cities.

“That’s how I got interested in trying to take things in our (own) hands with, of course, the support of the community, and as much as we can with the city, but it seems to be the only way we could move forward,” Duval said.

She was one of a number of community members to step forward last spring when Hendrickson put out a call in the “Creating a More Vibrant Menlo Park” blog, seeking volunteers to join an effort to, as Hendrickson described it, “help make downtown a stronger place.”



Top: “Under The Wide Sky We Gather,” a mural by artist Carrie Lederer, was installed in October 2021 on the Menlo Church Student Center. **Above:** The Elevate Art Menlo Park team, from left, Dana Hendrickson, Debbie Hall and Christine Duval. Photos courtesy Elevate Art Menlo Park.

The result of that call to action was the creation of Elevate Art Menlo Park, which has a small team made up of Hendrickson, who handles marketing and strategy; Duval, who finds artists to work with and manages the mural projects; and Debbie Hall, who is the group’s community liaison, working with local businesses and property owners to find potential partners to place murals.

“I just came to the conclusion that if you want to make change, you need to get residents engaged as volunteers. The city is very operational in its perspective and it does that stuff pretty well,” Hendrickson said, noting that in his view, city leadership doesn’t necessarily have the “bandwidth” for new programs outside of the essentials.

Hendrickson expressed hopes that the team may grow modestly as other projects arise. For instance, in addition to two murals that are in the works, he said that Elevate Art Menlo Park is exploring bringing pop-up art shows during the warmer months to the de facto community plaza that has been established on the 600 block of Santa Cruz Avenue — a plaza that the Menlo Park City Council this

week decided to continue to permit indefinitely.

Since the closure of that area to vehicle traffic, the block has hosted events such as the weekly Bon Marché European-inspired market and Sunday concerts by a local high school band.

“Using the plaza for small-scale, or small venue entertainment, and social things and relaxation, I think that has a whole lot of promise,” Hendrickson said.

And though he noted that the architecture of downtown Menlo Park overall is not particularly distinctive, bringing more art to the area could raise its profile and make it more of a draw, especially as the city gains more residents with two large developments, Stanford’s Middle Plaza and Springline, set to open.

“With music and fine art, we could really make it have an ambience that (inspires people to think), ‘Hey, this is fun to be here and I’m proud of this,’” he said.

For more information, visit elevateartmp.org. ■

Email Arts & Entertainment Editor Heather Zimmerman at hzimmerman@almanacnews.com.



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Food & Drink

Carb cravings

Manresa Bread, Boichik Bagels opening in Palo Alto, while Rōzmary Kitchen's sandwich pop-ups return to The Midwife and the Baker

By Julia Brown and Sara Hayden

If an array of freshly baked breads is your idea of heaven, Town & Country Village might just become your new happy place. Coming soon to the Palo Alto shopping center is Manresa Bread, followed this summer by Berkeley-based Boichik Bagels's first Peninsula outpost. If freshly baked bread wrapped around creative sandwich fillings is more to your liking, Rōzmary Kitchen's sandwich pop-ups will be back in Mountain View next month.

Manresa Bread expands to Palo Alto

Manresa Bread is expanding to Palo Alto's Town & Country Village this spring. The expansion marks the fourth location for the institution founded by head baker Avery Ruzicka.

The new shop is a retail space, but will go back to Manresa Bread's roots at the original bakery: "We want to be a place of learning. That's always been who we are and what we're about," Ruzicka says.

At the new shop, the team plans to expand its repertoire and premiere new products. The menu is still being developed, and will feature Ruzicka's naturally fermented sourdough bread made with house-milled flour, almond croissants and monkey bread. You'll also be able to grab a bite at the cafe

with items like bacon, egg and cheese sandwiches, breakfast bowls, quiche and coffee. Retail items will also be available, like granola and bake-at-home mixes.

And guests can get a peek into the team's process as they make these goods. Thanks to a design with an open kitchen, guests will be able to see the team showcase their pastry talents in the 1,700-square-foot space. This connection between customers and the people crafting is key, Ruzicka says.

"My team takes great pride in what they do," Ruzicka says. "I want it to be clear who's making — there's a team of dedicated employees behind all the products that we put out there."

In addition to offering delicious baked goods, the Manresa Bread team has also been known to share tips, and even starters, especially with the surge in sourdough interest during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's been really fun to see people get so excited, and that bread nerd or pastry nerd," Ruzicka says. "Normally with our customer base, we have maybe one or two customers asking, 'What flour did you use? How long did this ferment?'"

Ruzicka, a 2020 James Beard finalist, found her own passion for bread while working at the three Michelin-starred Manresa restaurant with chef David Kinch. Ruzicka started as a food runner before taking

charge of the restaurant's bread program and ultimately founding Manresa Bread. Now, there are locations in Los Gatos, Los Altos and Campbell, in addition to the upcoming Palo Alto store. The team is anticipating the latest Manresa Bread opening.

Manresa Bread, (coming soon) 855 El Camino Real, Suite 138, Palo Alto; 271 State St., Los Altos, 650-946-2293; 195 E. Campbell Ave., Campbell, 408-340-5171; 276 N. Santa Cruz Ave., Los Gatos, 408-402-5372, manresabread.com. Instagram: @manresabread.

'This is just the beginning' for Boichik Bagels

After a glowing writeup in the New York Times and the announcement of plans for a bagel factory and second retail location in 2021, Boichik Bagels owner Emily Winston is starting 2022 off with more big news: She's opening a new shop at Town & Country Village this summer.

Housed in between CVS and Wildseed, the planned second location for the vegan San Francisco eatery, Boichik joins Manresa Bread as another new addition to the shopping center this year.

"My operations guy is awesome and chomping at the bit to have more operations to run," Winston says. "It's definitely going to be a challenge and we're going to learn a lot of stuff, but it's theoretically very doable so we're going to do it."

The Palo Alto location will have the same chocolate malted iced coffee, bagel and sandwich offerings as the original Berkeley eatery, with tables and chairs outside for dining. The dough will be made at the Berkeley store and delivered to the Peninsula, where the bagels will be boiled and baked.

Once the West Berkeley bagel plant is up and running this fall, all of Boichik's dough will be made there, supplying Winston's stores as well as supermarkets, Winston says.

"This is just the beginning," she says. "We've got big plans, that's why we're building a big plant."

Winston grew up in suburban New Jersey with fond memories of eating H&H bagels as a treat when her father had business that would take him to New York City's Upper West Side. In 2011, H&H was shut down for tax fraud, news that hit Winston "like the death of a loved one I just hadn't been in contact with in a long time," she says on her website.

"And so I embarked on what became my five year quest, through trial and error, to create a bagel I longed to eat."

Winston says a big population of native New Yorkers, along with an existing fan base built up through delivery orders and hourlong drives to Berkeley, is part of what drew her to signing a lease in Palo Alto.

"People want a good bagel down here, that's for sure, and they prefer not to drive an hour."

Boichik Bagels (coming soon), 855 El Camino Real, Suite 115, Palo Alto; boichikbagels.com. Instagram: @boichikbagels.

Rōzmary Kitchen's weekly sandwich pop-ups return

One year after launching their sandwich pop-up Rōzmary Kitchen in collaboration with The Midwife and the Baker in Mountain View, Nick Rappoport and his wife Melissa Johnson are planning a weekly Peninsula pop-up after closing in November for the birth of their first child.

Rōzmary Kitchen will be back at The Midwife and the Baker every Friday starting Feb. 4, serving up seasonal sandwiches made on the bakery's bread. The sesame Dutch Crunch, hoagie-style rolls that the bakery began making especially for the pop-up will return, along with sandwiches made on sesame rolls and ciabatta. They're also offering a salad option again, with the current Big Ol' Market Salad (\$10) featuring pickled veggies, lettuces, cucumbers, citrus, chickpeas, crispy shallots and seeds and creamy red wine tahini vinaigrette.

"Every sandwich is unique," Rappoport says. "Most of our product is housemade: the pickles, all the sauces, aiolis — just keeping it fresh and simple."

Rappoport, a chef who's cooked at Bay Area restaurants including The French Laundry and Outerlands, was working as Pinterest's chef de cuisine at the start of the pandemic when he was furloughed and then laid off. He began baking rolls and creating sandwich recipes, and when Johnson, a catering manager at Stanford University, brought home bread from The Midwife and the Baker, it inspired an idea for collaboration. Rappoport already knew bakery owner Mac McConnell, and the two formed a partnership to develop the hoagie-style Dutch Crunch roll.

The Fanucchi sandwich, served on a sesame roll with pistachio mortadella, soppressata, capicola, sharp provolone, "shredduce,"



Courtesy Nick Rappoport

El Caesar del Diablo

is a Caesar-salad inspired rosemary turkey sandwich from Rōzmary Kitchen.

cherry pepper relish, onion and aioli, is back and will be a menu mainstay, while other sandwiches will switch out roughly every three months. It's partly seasonal, partly strategic, according to Rappoport.

"Down the road, we plan to open a brick and mortar," he says. "We're not sure where or when, but this gives us a chance to test out the sandwiches and see which ones people gravitate toward so we can get a collection of big-hitters for a menu when the time comes to open up."

Johnson says she and Rappoport learned a lot during the first year of their pop-up, between operating in farmers markets and running online ordering, and are eager to return to Mountain View.

"It was really sweet: When people found out we were having a baby, people were congratulating us, giving us gifts, checking in with us as we've been on leave," she says. "We're really appreciative of all of our customers and really excited to see what's going to happen this next year."

Rōzmary Kitchen pop-up at The Midwife and the Baker, 846 Independence Ave., Mountain View. Every Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., preorders only. Preorders start at 10 a.m. every Wednesday, rozmarykitchen.com. Instagram: @rozmary_kitchen. The Midwife and the Baker, 650-336-7697, themidwifeandthebaker.com. Instagram: @themidwifeandthebaker. Open Tuesday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. ▣

Email Editor Julia Brown at jbrown@embarcaderopublishing.com.



Veronica Weber

Manresa Bread, known for its baked goods and café offerings, is expanding to Palo Alto this spring.



Courtesy Boichik Bagels

Boichik Bagels, a popular Berkeley eatery considered part of a "West Coast bagel boom," is opening in Palo Alto this summer.

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