

The Almanac

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Redwood City March for Our Lives chapter joins call for action against gun violence

By Michelle Iracheta

*In my dreams, the first instinct I learn is to never run,
In my dreams, prayers are not pledges of allegiance
We wear graduation gowns, before hospital ones.*

The words of youth poet Eva Chen, a senior at Burlingame High School, echoed as she read her poem, “On Gun Violence” to a crowd of more than 100 people who stood before her listening on the plaza of the downtown library in Redwood City.

Many who listened held handwritten protest signs, each with its own words, but each with the same message: It’s time for our government to act. No more lives should be lost to gun violence.

Chen’s poem resonated with many in the crowd, standing outside on Saturday, June 11, without shade in near 90-degree weather. Chen was one of several people who spoke, presented or sang on stage at the rally for

‘It is not pro-gun versus anti-gun, it should be responsible gun owners against irresponsible gun interests.’

JUSTINE RUTIGLIANO,
SEQUOIA HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER

March for Our Lives, a youth-led organization that demands an end to gun violence and puts pressure on legislators to enact policies for stricter gun laws. The rally was one of many demonstrations and marches across the Bay Area and the country.

Justine Rutigliano, an English teacher at Sequoia High School and the club advisor for March for Our Lives also spoke at the rally.

“Mass shootings have become a part of American culture,” Rutigliano told the

See **GUN VIOLENCE**, page 20



Magali Gauthier

Demonstrators held signs and chanted at the March for Our Lives rally against gun violence in Redwood City on June 11.

Portola Valley residents create a PAC to unseat Town Council incumbents in battle over housing plan

By Angela Swartz

A lawsuit over alleged Brown Act violations. A newly formed Political Action Committee (PAC) — with the explicit purpose of unseating council members up for reelection this fall. These are the most recent ways some Portola Valley residents, concerned that town officials are not representing their interests, are expressing their frustration over the forthcoming state-mandated housing element, which requires towns to plan for more development.

The PAC, called “Our Future

Together PAC Opposing Hughes, Derwin and Richards for Town Council 2022,” is aimed at unseating Mayor Craig Hughes and council members Maryann Derwin and John Richards. All three are up for reelection in November, but none have definitively committed to running again. Town residents reported receiving mailers from the PAC last week.

Derwin said that while watching the Jan. 6 Congressional insurrection hearings, she was startled by the parallels between what is happening nationally and what is happening in Portola Valley.

“With a heap of disinformation, a prickly subject and a Machiavellian nature, a group can prey on the public’s fears by constructing a false reality and essentially undercut democracy,” she said in a statement. “The PAC’s website and mailer are chilling examples of just that.”

Inaccurate information on the website includes the statement that the Town Council is not meeting in person. In fact, it is holding in-person meetings.

The website includes the following quote from Derwin: “We (Portola Valley) are one of the most economically privileged

communities in the county. I would like to see that broken up a little bit, and how you gonna do that?”

“While it isn’t my most articulate, it does get to the elephant in the room: our town’s history of racial covenants, exclusionary housing policies and zoning ordinances that have created and maintained the most segregated white community in San Mateo County, according to the 2020 census and the Othering and Belonging Institute at UC Berkeley,” she said of the quote. “Why would breaking that down be a bad thing? ... My colleagues and I

all welcome lively political debate; it’s part of a healthy dialectic. But when the council’s decisions do not precisely adhere to the public’s demands this does not mean we aren’t listening. It means we do not agree with all the demands.”

There are no names listed on the website but Bruce Roberts and Ellen Vernazza, Nathhorst Triangle neighborhood residents, are listed as members of the PAC on forms filed to create the PAC on March 30. They are also part of a lawsuit against the town for alleged violations of the Brown

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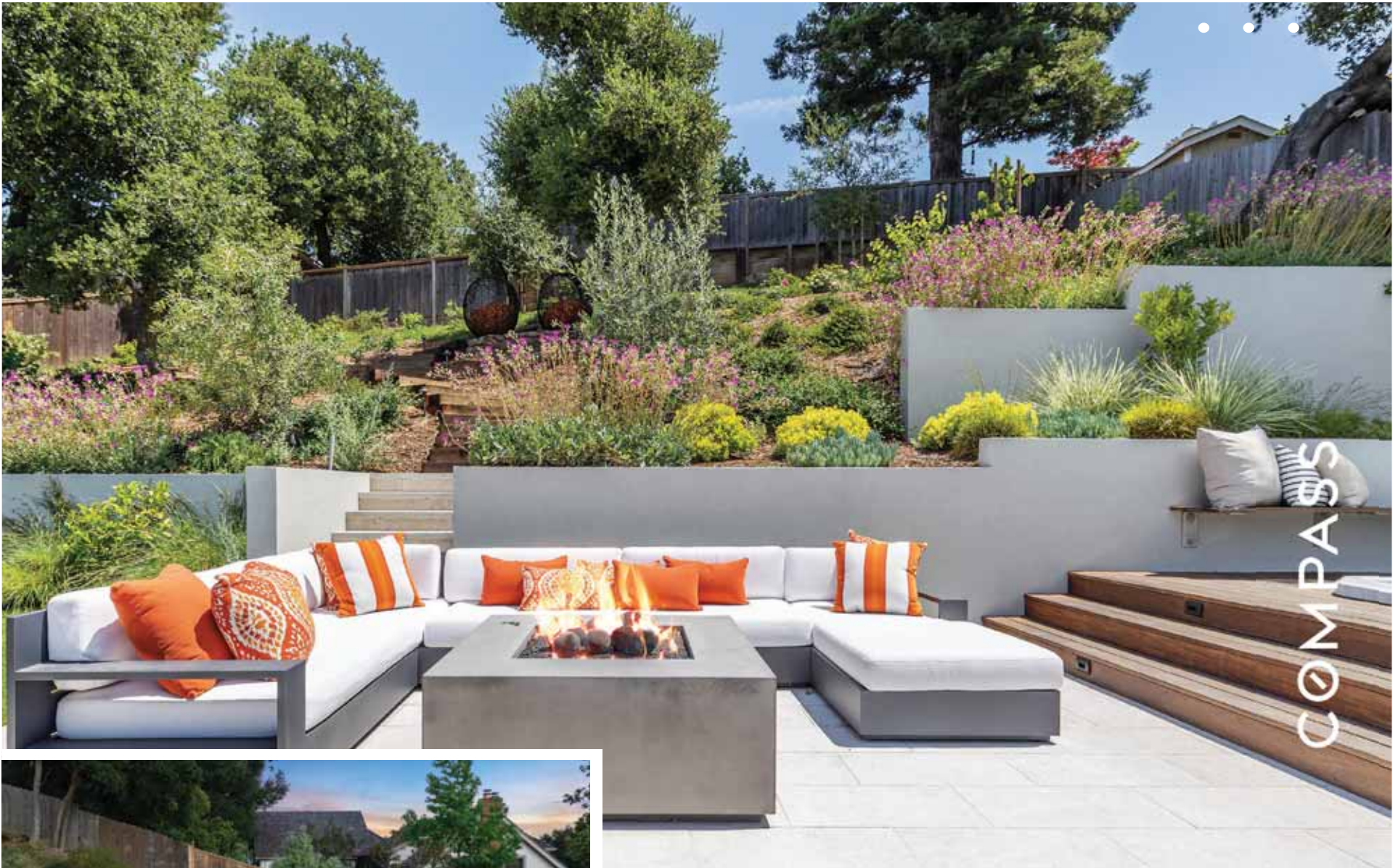
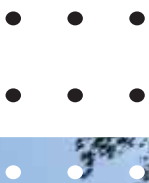


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Courtesy San Mateo County Libraries

Fire Chief Mark Lorenzen of the Menlo Park Fire Protection District reads to children during the grand opening celebration of the Atherton Library on June 4.

Atherton opens the doors to its new library

It's open seven days a week in the new civic center

By Angela Swartz

Atherton Mayor Rick DeGolia counted down from 10 before kids ran through a red “Welcome” banner held in front of the doors of the new \$19.1 million Atherton Library to mark its opening on June 4.

The day included live music, food, a book signing and tours of the 10,000-square-foot

library at 80 Fair Oaks Lane. Menlo Park Fire Protection District Fire Chief Mark Lorenzen led one of the story times.

“It was wonderful to observe kids picking up books and reading at tables and in nooks, several people using the laser printer and the four sewing machines in the makerspace and people enjoying the Willie Mays Room,” named after the

longtime Atherton resident and San Francisco Giants player, said DeGolia in an email. “People didn’t just walk through and look, they actually stopped and used the library, which was wonderful.”

Construction on the library began over three years ago. The makerspace and digital lab have 3D printers, a laser cutter,

See **LIBRARY**, page 17

Menlo Park City Council fine-tunes where to put future housing growth

By Cameron Rebosio

Menlo Park City Council took a surgical look at the city’s upcoming Housing Element update, vetting a list of properties and considering whether they’re the right place to put higher-density housing at its June 6 meeting.

The council discussed nine sites that could be suitable for housing growth, including the controversial former Flood School site, the federally owned U.S. Geological Survey campus and SRI International’s campus on Ravenswood Avenue. City officials are looking into how dense housing development should be on each site and the likelihood that housing will actually get built.

Compiling the list of sites is part of the city’s Housing Element update, required by the state of California on an eight-year cycle. The Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) requires Menlo Park to make it possible to build 2,946 units of affordable housing between 2023 and 2031.

Many public commenters weighed in on the former James Flood Magnet School property, which, under the city’s site inventory, could allow for 90 units. Karen Grove, a member of the group Menlo Together, a local affordable housing advocacy group, criticized the city for seeking to reduce how many

units could be built on the site.

“I was really disappointed and confused with staff’s recommendation to limit the density (of the flood school site) to the base density of 30 units per acre at a time when the school district is actively seeking proposals to develop up to 90 units,” Grove said. “That just seems really contrary to our goals, contrary to meeting our RHNA goals, contrary to valuing the children in our city, who attend the Ravenswood City School District.”

Nicole Chessari, one of the founders of the group Menlo Balance, warned that high density on the site could lead to problems in the neighborhood. Menlo Balance recently proposed a ballot initiative that would prohibit rezoning of single-family districts without a vote from the public.

“The traffic from high density would be completely overly burdensome and hazardous to that community,” Chessari said. “And that has not been addressed, and I think that needs to be addressed in order to allow for that level of density at that site.”

Council members voted 3-2, with Cecilia Taylor and Betsy Nash opposed, to remove Marsh Road properties from the site inventory after the property owner stated disinterest in

See **MENLO HOUSING**, page 8

Find where Portola Valley is proposing to put new housing

By Angela Swartz

Portola Valley staff released a draft of its hotly debated state-mandated housing plan during a meeting last week. Tasked with zoning for more housing and a decreased ability to rely on accessory dwelling units to meet state mandates, the town is coming up with ways to allow for more multifamily housing in town.

Residents have expressed concerns about sully the town’s rural character and building more homes in a region that is already at a heightened risk

for wildfires. But the town is required to plan for new housing, and the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is getting stricter about enforcing these plans.

Towns and cities also face significant exposure to liability, according to the state. Courts may revoke the local government’s land use and planning authority, and local government agencies deemed out of compliance may be subject to judgments and fines of up to \$100,000 per month.

The town is assigned 253 units

in the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA), compared to just 64 last cycle. The proposal also includes a 21% buffer, meaning the town is aiming for 306 units.

Proposed sites

Some of the proposed sites in the housing element are part of the town’s Affiliated Housing Program, which allows multifamily housing on “institutional” sites (like Woodside Priory School and Stanford University) for employees and staff affiliated with the institutions that

own the parcels. The town itself recently joined the Affiliated Housing Program, according to a January Ad Hoc Housing Element Committee document.

Below are sites included in the draft housing element:

Ford Field

The town is proposing developing part of the town-owned Ford Field, a 2.48-acre site on the northeast corner of town, along Alpine Road. The parcel currently includes a baseball field (which the town would keep if the site were to be developed).

Town consultant Lisa Wise Consulting developed a conceptual site plan showing that up to 50 units is possible on the developable portion of the site, according to the draft housing element. The site could also include 7,000 square feet of community space and a playground. The town plans to create a new multifamily district that will allow 20 units per acre and the site would be rezoned multifamily.

The town would like to offer the site to nonprofit low-income

See **HOUSING PROPOSAL**, page 18



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CRIME BRIEFS

Boy, 15, dies in East Palo Alto shooting Monday night

A 15-year-old boy died in a shooting on June 13 in East Palo Alto, according to police.

Officers responded at 9:04 p.m. to a ShotSpotter gunshot detection system activation in the 1900 block of Manhattan Avenue and arrived to find the boy near an alley. He was taken to a hospital but succumbed to his injuries there, police said.

The name of the boy who died hadn't been released.

Police said two male suspects were seen running toward Woodland Avenue following the shooting. No arrests have been made in the case and no suspect descriptions were available as of Tuesday morning.

The shooting marks the city's second homicide this year.

Anyone with information about the shooting is encouraged to call or text 650-409-6792 or to send an email to epa@tipnow.org. Tips can be made anonymously.

Police, state agents issue citations for selling alcohol to minors

Five people were cited for selling alcohol to minors in Menlo Park on June 10.

The citations were issued during a joint decoy operation by the Menlo Park police and the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

During the operation, minors working under the supervision of officers tried to buy alcohol from 12 retail businesses in the city, according to Menlo Park police.

Law enforcement officials cited employees at Bevmo, MP Mongolian Barbeque, Mami Cheli's and a Chevron gas station on Alameda de las Pulgas for allegedly serving alcohol to minors, according to Menlo Park police officials. In the case of one of the restaurants, two clerks were cited.

People who sold alcohol to underage patrons can face fines as high as \$250 and up to 32 hours of community service for the first violation, police officials said in a news release June 11.

Also, businesses that sold to a minor could face additional fines and could have their alcoholic beverage license suspended or revoked, police said.

—Bay City News Service

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Mueller and Parmer-Lohan hold steady lead in county supervisors race

A week after the June 7 primary election, Menlo Park City Council member Ray Mueller and San Carlos City Council member Laura Parmer-Lohan have retained their lead in the race for the District 3 seat on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. Both are likely to face each other in a run-off election in November.

They are followed by Virginia Chang Kiraly and Steven Booker in third and fourth, respectively.

As of June 15, Mueller leads the race with 12,063 votes (34.6%), Parmer-Lohan is close behind with 11,225 votes (32.2%). Chang Kiraly follows with 6,750 votes (19.4%) and Booker with 4,815 votes (13.8%).

San Mateo County estimated that there are 23,000 ballots left to be counted as of June 15.

Board of Supervisors approves reproductive rights action plan

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors approved the Women's Reproductive Freedom and Healthcare Privacy Action Plan on Tuesday, June 14.

The plan will support Planned Parenthood Mar Monte as California is expected to receive a nearly 3,000% increase in out-of-state patients seeking abortion care if a highly controversial Supreme Court draft opinion overturning Roe v. Wade becomes the final decision. The leaked draft became public last month, spurring protests across the country.

The board's action plan would provide Planned Parenthood Mar Monte with \$1 million about half for purchasing necessary equipment and the rest to be kept in reserve, according to a press release. There will also be an

See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 10

Your complete guide to summer 2022 on the Peninsula

The festivals, fireworks and fairs are back in full swing for the first time since 2019.

By Julia Brown

Cloudless skies and warm weather draw Peninsula residents and visitors in throngs to summertime festivals, fairs, concerts and other seasonal events centered around food, art and community. And with the last couple of summers of COVID-19 canceling or limiting many events, many are looking forward to the return of signature summer festivities like Shoreline Amphitheatre's Fourth of July fireworks show and the county fair. Check out our guide to summer fun to fill your calendar from June through September.

Music series and festivals: Free concert series are everywhere this time of year. Find everything from tribute bands to reggae at Music on the Square in Redwood City every Friday at 6 p.m. through Sept. 2; Concerts on the Plaza every Friday at 6 p.m. at Civic Center Plaza in downtown Mountain View through Sept. 30; summer concerts for kids every Thursday at 11 a.m. through Aug. 4 at Linden Tree Books in Los Altos; Palo Alto's Family Concert Series at the Magical Bridge Playground at 6:30 p.m. on select Fridays; The summer concert series on select Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. beginning July 14; Burlingame's Music in the Park Friday nights at 6 through July 22; the Belmont Park Boosters' summer concert series at 1 p.m. Sundays starting June 19; Music in the Park in San Carlos at 6 p.m. on Fridays from June 17-Aug. 5; San Mateo's Central Park Music Series Thursdays at 6 p.m. starting June 23; an old-fashioned band concert with Ye Olde Towne Band at Shoup

Park in Los Altos at 1:30 every last Sunday of the month June through September; concerts in Cupertino every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. through July 14; Foster City's summer concerts at 6 p.m. every Friday July 15-Aug. 19; Santa Clara's evening Concerts in the Park starting July 22; and concerts in downtown Half Moon Bay at 4 p.m. every Saturday in August, with an all-day summer's end music festival Sept. 24.

Don't forget that the Stanford Jazz Festival celebrates its 50th anniversary June 17-July 30, and the chamber music festival Music@Menlo celebrates its 20th anniversary July 14-Aug. 6. Music@Menlo is also holding a series of free master classes and discussions led by festival artists and distinguished speakers. Visit their websites for ticket information.

Movie nights: Watch a film under the stars or from the comfort of your car this summer. Linda Mar Shopping Center in Pacifica is hosting drive-in movies on July 2 ("Spiderman, No Way Home") and Aug. 6 ("Westside Story"). Redwood City's Movies on the Square are scheduled every Thursday night through Sept. 8, with kids' movies at 6 p.m., independent films at 8 p.m. and the evening's feature film at 8:30 p.m. Join San Mateo County's parks department for its Movies in the Park series June 18 at Flood Park in Menlo Park ("Spirit Untamed"), July 16 at San Pedro Valley Park in Pacifica ("Encanto"), Aug. 27 at Junipero Serra Park in San Bruno ("Brave") and Sept. 17 at Quarry Park in El Granada ("A Wrinkle in Time"). Family Movie Night at Mitchell Park in Palo Alto includes "Sing



Courtesy Kings Mountain Art Fair

Art fairgoers enjoyed fine weather on Kings Mountain last year as they strolled and took in the sights among the redwoods.

2" on June 17 and "Luca" July 22. Mountain View's outdoor movie night series at city parks kicks off with "Sing 2" on July 8 at Cuesta Park and ends Aug. 12 at Rengstorff Park with "Space Jam: A New Legacy." Head to Santa Clara to see "Clifford the Big Red Dog" June 24 at Live Oak Park or "Sonic the Hedgehog" Sept. 23 at Central Park. Burton Park in San Carlos is showing "Jungle Cruise" June 25, "Sing 2" July 9 and "Spider Man: No Way Home" July 23. San Mateo's Movies in the Park are shown every Friday night Sept. 9-30 at various parks in the city (movies TBA).

Art festivals: Summer is the peak time for art aficionados to stroll sunny city streets in search of paintings, tchotchkes, jewelry and more. Art on the Square in Redwood City takes place over four Fridays starting June 17; Chalk-Fest is scheduled for June 25 in Daly City; the Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival and the Clay and Glass Festival in Palo Alto are happening July 9-10; Fine Art in the Park in Los Altos is Aug. 13-14; Pescadero hosts its Arts & Fun Festival Aug. 20; Burlingame on the Avenue is Aug. 20-21; Palo Alto's Festival

of the Arts returns Aug. 27-28; the Kings Mountain Art Fair returns to the Woodside area over Labor Day weekend, as does Millbrae's Art & Wine Festival; Mountain View's 50th annual Art & Wine Festival is Sept. 10-11; Santa Clara's Art & Wine Festival is Sept. 17-18; and Pacific Coast Fog Fest is back in Pacifica Sept. 24-25.

Fourth of July festivities: Fourth of July is back in full swing on the Peninsula this year. Head to Mitchell Park in Palo Alto at 11 a.m. for live music, food trucks and kids' activities. Shoreline Amphitheatre in Mountain View hosts its annual fireworks show, accompanied by the San Francisco Symphony. The Chalk Full of Fun festival (July 3-4) and Fourth of July parade return to Redwood City this year, with fireworks over the Port of Redwood City capping off the day. Foster City hosts an all-day celebration with a pancake breakfast, barbecue lunch and kids' activities, with fireworks over the lagoon in the evening. Half Moon Bay's festivities kick off with a pancake breakfast at 8 a.m., followed by the parade down Main Street at noon and a block party.

Cultural and food events: The quintessential summertime event, the county fair, is back with the Santa Clara County Fair on July 10 and July 23-30, though it will look a little less conventional this year: it will be dedicated to livestock and home art exhibits, with free admission. No carnival, commercial vendors or traditional fair food will be offered in 2022, but this year's offerings include the Junior Horse Show July 10, the Dog Show July 23 and the Dairy and Pygmy Goat Shows July 24.

Drink in an inflatable British-style pub at Pub in the Park in Redwood City July 16, Aug. 6 and Sept. 10, featuring beers and ciders from local breweries, food trucks and free live music and lawn games.

Try bites and beverages from 20-30 businesses at Taste of Mountain View June 22, a food, wine and beer walk kicking off at 4 p.m. downtown.

FoodieLand Night Market comes to San Mateo July 1-3, an outdoor festival inspired by the night markets of Asia that includes live music, local artisan booths and carnival games.



Magali Gauthier

Children dance during a concert at the Magical Bridge playground at Mitchell Park in Palo Alto on July 23, 2021.



Natalia Nazarova

Kids play while they wait for the Ferdinand cartoon to start in Cuesta Park in Mountain View on July 13, 2018.

See **SUMMER EVENTS**, page 12

New regional trail to connect open spaces in San Mateo, Santa Clara counties

Construction on project's first phase set to begin in July

By Sue Dremann

Work on a regional trail project that would link open spaces between San Mateo and Santa Clara counties will begin on July 13 and continue through the end of October, thanks to \$272,711 approved by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors on June 7.

The Alpine Road Regional Trail Improvement Project would create a 2.3-mile regional trail for hikers, cyclists and equestrians connecting from Page Mill Road to Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District preserves, including Coal Creek and Monte Bello,

along the crest of the Santa Cruz Mountains. The trail also will provide connections to the Bay Area Ridge Trail and to other trail systems within open space preserves and other park systems.

The trail is on a portion of Alpine Road between Portola Valley and Page Mill Road that has been closed to motor vehicles since 1979. Sections of the road have been impassable due to washouts, landslides and gullies since the 1990s, according to the district.

The approval by the board is the most recent in a series of actions dating back more than two decades to mitigate the impacts of development

authorized by the Stanford University 2000 General Use Permit.

In early 2020, Supervisor Joe Simitian, who previously served on the state Legislature representing portions of San Mateo County, suggested using funds from the Stanford Recreation Mitigation Fund for projects in San Mateo County affected by development at Stanford. Prior to Simitian's proposal, most of the trail mitigation funds had been spent in Santa Clara County, despite the fact that development impacts occurred in both counties, he noted.

In late 2020, the supervisors voted to fund seven projects, including the Alpine Trail project, using more than \$10 million in funds stemming from the 2000 Stanford University General Use Permit approval. Six of the projects are located in San Mateo County communities. The funds were made available as an in-lieu payment by Stanford after the university was unable to come to an agreement with San Mateo County regarding a trail alignment. The trail alignment had been a required mitigation for the university's more than 2 million square feet of development authorized in 2000.

Construction on Alpine Trail is expected to end in late October. A second construction phase will likely take place between June and October



Courtesy Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

A section of Alpine Road in the Coal Creek Open Space Preserve is part of a trail project that spans San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

2023. The Alpine Road Trail will be closed during the construction.

"The Alpine Road Trail is a really great reminder that when we work together, we can accomplish so much more. I'm pleased that our county is able to provide funding to help Midpen complete this significant trail segment. It will be enjoyed by generations of hikers, cyclists, and equestrians for a very long time," Simitian said.

"I was actually on the Board of Supervisors in 2000 when the trail mitigation requirement was approved. Little did I expect that I would be back to help ensure that the intended mitigation

would be realized more than two decades later. "I'm glad to see these funds going to projects that will benefit the community for many years."

Ana María Ruiz, Midpen's general manager, said the county's support will allow the district to repurpose an abandoned segment of Alpine Road, which connects the valley floor to the Skyline corridor. The project will also allow the district to address sedimentation from the old, unpaved roadbed, which is affecting the water quality of Corte Madera Creek. ■

Email Sue Dremann at sdremann@paweeekly.com

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MENLO HOUSING

continued from page 5

building housing without a bump in density. The change comes despite staff's recommendation to keep the site on the list with higher density.

In contrast, the Sharon Heights Office Park on Sand Hill Road was kept on the list with a potential "base" density of 120 units across 4 acres or 400 units of affordable housing. The property owner was not interested in developing housing at the site, and staff's recommendation was to remove it.

Councilman Ray Mueller expressed his opposition to the

recommendation, stating that he didn't believe it to be a good addition to the draft.

"I just don't think it's a good-faith addition to the list," Mueller said. "To say that people are going to rezone a venture capital firm for affordable housing."

A nearly 1-acre Stanford-owned site on Alpine Road at Stowe Lane was removed from the list, though council members expressed their desire for development on the site.

Council members kept two church properties, St. Bede's and Menlo Church, on the list of so-called opportunity sites, with bonus density for affordable housing. The St. Bede's

site could allow 15 market-rate units or 50 affordable units and Menlo Church could allow 55 units or 183 affordable units.

The Flood School site was also kept on the list but was lowered to 20 units per acre following a unanimous vote by the council. The USGS site was kept as an option on the Housing Element draft and increased to 60 units an acre.

The SRI lot was kept on the list as-is, with 400 potential units on Ravenswood Avenue, but the Civic Center on Laurel Street was removed.

The revised Housing Element draft will be submitted to the state, housing and community development department, after which the state has 90 days to review the documents and make comments.

More information on the city's Housing Element can be found at bit.ly/3xttU5t. ■

Email Cameron Reboisio at creboisio@almanacnews.com.

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Menlo Park budget lays out a big bump in spending

By Cameron Rebosio

Menlo Park City Council gave direction on the proposed 2022-23 budget and heard public comment at a Tuesday, June 14, meeting before the budget is set to be adopted on June 28.

Both anticipated revenue and expenditures are up since the 2021-22 fiscal year, after the effects of COVID-19 left the previous year's budget with a surplus of only \$1.

The pandemic shrank the citywide budget since 2020, with the loss of \$14.3 million in the fiscal years spanning 2019-21. Menlo Park's general fund, which covers basic city services, accounted for about half of that loss.

In contrast, the city's anticipated revenues are up considerably since the pandemic's peak.

"There's optimism but we also do have caution," interim City Manager Justin Murphy said. "When we look at the five-year forecast, there's some uncertainty for the future, there's some lack of revenue to fiscally sustain what's being proposed this evening."

After budgeting only \$62.7 million for the general fund expenditures in 2021-22, the budget has increased 28% to \$80.3 million for 2022-23. Spending is expected to outpace revenue, with only a predicted 17% increase in general fund revenue from the last fiscal year to \$74 million.

One source of revenue is the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is a federal grant that provides \$8.3 million to Menlo Park that must be used by December 2024. The budget for 2021-22 allowed for the use of \$2.91 million, of which only \$850,000 was used. The 2022-23 budget includes \$3.7 million from ARPA.

Council member Jen Wolosin argued that the money from ARPA should go directly to benefit the residents impacted by COVID-19 as the stimulus is a direct response to the pandemic, but there were concerns about the ability to balance the budget without aid from ARPA.

"I think when the ARPA funds were handed out to cities my initial thought definitely was to link it to those most impacted by the pandemic," Wolosin said. "I agree with what's been said about our budget tonight for this year, I feel like we need to balance the budget and we need this revenue now but we're going to have another four-something million coming."

However, if ARPA is required for the budget to balance, the city may have to pull from reserves or cut in other places to reallocate the grant.

"At the end of the day, if

we don't balance the budget because we're not using the ARPA money for it, what we're really doing is ... we're using reserves for it, we're just calling it ARPA money," council member Ray Mueller said.

The council suggested using the \$3.7 million from ARPA to balance the budget now and plan to discuss reallocating the remaining money the next cycle.

Another source of revenue for the city is sales and transient occupancy taxes, commonly called the hotel tax. Sales tax has remained relatively stable bringing in \$6.6 million in 2021, \$6.2 million in 2022, and an expected \$6.6 million this coming year. Hotel tax revenue increased dramatically as the city recovers from the pandemic. After bringing in only \$3.7 million in 2021, tax revenue increased 89% to an estimated \$7 million over the last budget year. The city hopes

to increase it another 28% to \$9 million.

Several new projects were also proposed to receive funding this fiscal year, including renovations to Burgess pool, new equipment for park playgrounds, improvements to Willow Oaks Park and improvements for pedestrians and cyclists on Willow Road and Newbridge Street.

City staff is expected to increase this year as well, with many vacancies to fill and proposals to hire a full-time graphic designer for the city as well as a sustainability management analyst. Budget for salaries and wages has increased 45% with hopes of filling vacancies, raising from \$20.4 million in 2021-22 to \$29.6 million for 2022-23.

The council is set to vote on a final budget on June 28. ■

Email Cameron Rebosio at crebosio@almanacnews.com.

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include **Kendall Elizabeth Shea Chase**, 31, who was born and raised in Portola Valley, on May 30; **David Bernard Lynch**, 86, a longtime Atherton resident, on May 30; and **Kevin McLaughlin**, 69, who was a member of Portola Valley's Ladera Oaks swim team, on May 28.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

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information campaign led by the county of reproductive services offered.

A draft ordinance designating a buffer zone around Planned Parenthood Mar Monte clinics to prevent harassment of patients and employees is set to be discussed at the June 28 meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

—Cameron Rebosio

New M-A water polo coach named

Menlo-Atherton High School athletic directors Paul Snow and Steven Kryger have hired Steven Canalez as the new head coach of the varsity boys water polo team, according to a press release on Monday, June 13.



Steven Canalez

Canalez, who has about a decade of coaching experience, joined the Atherton school's water polo program in 2019 as head coach of the junior varsity team. In three seasons, he has led the team to a 38-19 overall record which includes two perfect 10-0 league seasons finishing number one in Peninsula Athletic League (PAL) play.

Canalez began coaching club water polo during senior year of high school and transitioned into coaching junior varsity after graduation. He spent five years as junior varsity head coach, along with one year as varsity head coach at his alma mater of Fremont High School in Sunnyvale, before coming to M-A.

Canalez, who has five years experience as a personal trainer and group fitness coach, has also coached year-round with Mid-Pen Water Polo Club for the past three years.

Canalez was a club swimmer growing up.

"Steven believes that his true strength as a coach lies in his ability to connect with his



Courtesy Amy Kingsley

Hillview Middle School students won awards in the Le Grand Concours national contest in March 2022.

players and draw the best out of them," the press release states. "Steven takes pride in using an empathetic approach to help players feel understood while also teaching them valuable life skills. He believes that water polo is an excellent vehicle to learn about self and mutual accountability, as well as the value of working both harder and smarter."

Hillview students win French honors

Hillview Middle School French teacher Amy Kingsley's students took home 16 medals in March in the 87th annual Le Grand Concours competition.

Over 42,000 students in elementary, middle and high schools competed in the 2022 event.

For more information, go to frenchteachers.org/concours.

Woodside Elementary graduates 41 students

Forty-one eighth graders graduated from Woodside Elementary School on Friday, June 10, according to a press release.

Student speakers gave the following addresses:

- Christopher Reyes Urquidez on "Roots Before Branches"
- Benjamin Helfand on "Anything Can Happen"
- Cherie Gilbert-Cisneros on "Woodside's Magic"
- Zoe Zdrodowski on "Our 22"

The Class of 2022 chose "Three Little Birds/One Love" by Bob Marley and the Wailers as their class song.

Evie Nichols and Nico Polioni presented the class gift: a tree to be planted in front of the school office.

—Angela Swartz



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Hate symbol or Buddhist emblem?

Hidden Villa cancels summer camps for 1,000 kids
after staffers resign over swastika tiles

By Malia Martin

Hidden Villa, a Los Altos Hills nonprofit known for its pastoral landscape and educational programs, announced on June 8 that all of this year's summer camp sessions are canceled due to the "abrupt departure" of camp staff members, disrupting summer plans for nearly 1,000 children.

But some now-former staff members say the situation was anything but abrupt: their resignations came after months of slow-building conflict that had boiled over — in particular, the handling of pre-Nazi swastika tiles that were embedded into the exterior of a camp building for nearly a century until they were removed June 7.

"Over this past weekend, four camp staff, including the Summer Camp Director, handed in their resignation effective immediately," Hidden Villa said in its June 8 announcement to the community.

Part of what caused mass resignation, the announcement said, "was an ongoing process to discuss symbols on the historic Duveneck house," a focal point of the property. "The house, built in 1929, had three tiles, approximately 12 inches by 12 inches, with Buddhist swastikas and a lotus embedded in the architecture."

The camp's founders, Frank and Josephine Duveneck, purchased the tiles in 1913, years before the ancient Buddhist emblem was co-opted by Nazis into the hate symbol it's known as today.

Summer Camp Director Philip James, who resigned from his position June 5, said he was first made aware of the swastika tiles last summer, when a camper pointed

them out to him. He immediately brought it up to his supervisors.

"I continued to bring that up in conversation and talk about how we (should) do something about it, before it got to the point that it's at now," James said in an interview. "And I was consistently told that Hidden Villa is not ready to have these types of conversations."

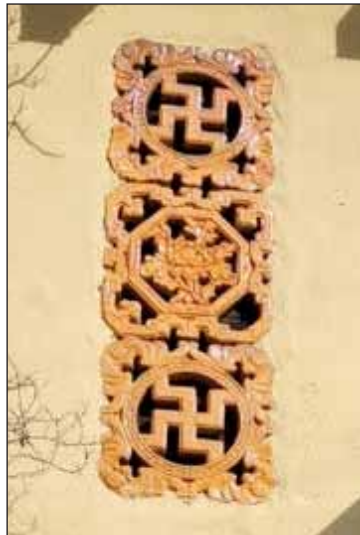
James said at one point he was asked to write a letter about the issue to the Villa Voice, a newsletter that goes out to camp staff.

"So I wrote a letter explaining my experience with the camper, and exactly what happened. At the end of it I said, 'What are the other ways that we can be thinking about how to keep folks safe in this space?'" James said. "Leadership did not like that at all. I was reprimanded. They told me that I was making the Duvenecks look racist, and it wasn't fair that they're not here to defend themselves. ... I think for me, honestly, that was probably the biggest turning point."

Hidden Villa's interim Executive Director Philip Arca stepped into the role in January, so the ongoing conversation around how to address the tiles "was new to me," Arca said in a June 9 interview. Arca resigned, citing health reasons, the day after his interview with the Voice, according to a June 11 letter sent to Hidden Villa staff from Hidden Villa Board President Peter Hartzell.

Arca said he and other camp leaders started a conversation about possibly adding educational signage to contextualize the tiles, "because there's a variety of perspectives on this."

"Initially we thought signage



Courtesy Hidden Villa

Four Hidden Villa staff members resigned in reaction to the camp's handling of pre-Nazi era swastika tiles that had been displayed on a camp building for nearly a century.

was an option," Arca said. "The expectations, from my perspective at least, morphed into, they need to be removed."

"I think we tried to design a process (to remove the tiles)

See **HIDDEN VILLA**, page 17



Heather Zimmerman

The Duveneck building at Hidden Villa used to feature pre-Nazi era tiles in the shape of swastikas, in Los Altos Hills in 2019.

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Ravenswood's \$110 million school bond measure is set to pass

By Angela Swartz

Election results updated Monday afternoon, June 13, show the Ravenswood City School District's \$110 million school bond measure to renovate classrooms is set to pass with nearly 70% approval.

The latest results show Measure I has 70% of voters in support (1,044 votes) and around 30% of voters against (451 votes), with little change from election night, according to the San Mateo County Elections Office. The measure requires a 55% yes-vote to pass.

"While there are still more ballots to be counted, we are cautiously optimistic about the overall results," Ravenswood's Chief Business Officer Will Eger

said in a June 10 email. "We are immensely grateful for and humbled by this strong show of support from our community. If these results stand, we are excited to continuing the conversation with our community about how to invest these funds transparently and effectively to make all of our classrooms ready for today and tomorrow."

The funds would also go toward replacing aging portables, upgrading classroom technology, school security and accessibility for disabled students, providing sports fields and recreation space for after-school programs, creating pre-school classrooms, and replacing aging water pipes and drinking fountains.

The district's 2015 facilities

master plan identified \$300 million in facilities needs.

The school board has yet to determine which elementary school it would begin upgrading if the measure is approved.

The only election results still not included are conditional voter registration or provisional ballots, along with a portion of vote-by-mail ballots received in the mail after June 2 or dropped off at voting centers and drop boxes after June 2.

The next results will be released at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, June 17. The Elections Office plans to certify the results on July 7. ■

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



Veronica Weber

The Ravenswood School District's administration offices, located on Euclid Avenue in East Palo Alto.

PORTOLA VALLEY PAC

continued from page 1

Act, the state's open meeting law.

The PAC's website states that the most important action existing residents can take to better represent their interests is by voting "for a slate of Town Council members who are committed to our shared goals: fulfilling our housing needs while conserving Portola Valley's fragile ecosystems, preserving its unique character, and promoting public safety."

Roberts, one of the five members of the PAC's steering committee, said in an email that once candidates announce they are running, the PAC will vet them and decide who to support. The group's budget is \$50,000, mostly for advertising, he said.

Roberts said the group was motivated to create the PAC because they don't think the town is taking fire safety seriously. As evidence, he listed the town's decisions not to adopt fire hazard maps, which he said would have eliminated state housing designations; not acting on a fire safety petition signed by hundreds of residents; and refusing to adopt the minimum 30 feet of building separation standard recommended by NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology).

"The state assumes that we have no fire hazards because we have not adopted a map," Roberts said in an email. "The council has had years to do this work and is only now starting the process. The council has formally prioritized housing over safety and that is unacceptable to many town residents. There will be many more issues presented by the PAC over the next several months."

Hughes, who joined the council in 2013, rebutted Roberts' comments, saying that almost all of

them were false. For example, he noted that the town never refused to adopt the minimum separation standard — the Woodside Fire Protection District has asked the town not to adopt it separately from the rest of its fire code update that's coming up this year.

"It is false to say that the state assumes that we have no fire hazards because we have not adopted a map," he said. "That's just ludicrous. Who at the state has said this? Reminds me of Donald Trump saying, 'I've heard that...' when nobody is saying it but the person who claims it. Every state official or agency that I've talked to takes fire danger in Portola Valley very seriously."

Hughes said he's unsure what the goal of the PAC is after reviewing the website and mailer.

"The committee opposes the reelection of three folks, but they don't seem to have a candidate they're supporting," he said. "I don't know what positive result they're trying to receive here other than bullying a bunch of town volunteers. The impact they're having on the wildfire committee is horrifying; they're driving people away."

In the last half year, a slew of members have resigned from the

Wildfire Preparedness Committee, which is at the center of a lawsuit filed against the town on June 1 in San Mateo County Superior Court. The town removed the committee's vice chair in April and didn't meet again until it could form a quorum, after new members were recently appointed.

Lawsuit

The suit was filed on behalf of nine Portola Valley residents by Lawrence A. Jacobson of Cohen and Jacobson LLP, and alleges that the wildfire committee violated the Brown Act during a March 1 meeting.

They accused Wernikoff of violating the Brown Act by sending text messages to the town manager and other committee members about committee business during the meeting. Someone took screenshots of Wernikoff's text messages, which appeared during the meeting when she shared her screen with audience members.

Town Attorney Cara Silver responded to the group's Brown Act complaints in an April 18 letter, stating that she must "respectfully disagree with your novel interpretation that the Brown Act contains a blanket prohibition

against receiving and sending texts or email messages during a meeting, even when the texts do not involve a quorum."

"Are you suggesting that committee members may not perform independent research during the meeting?" she said. "Are they permitted to read the staff report or a letter from a member of the public during the meeting? If a member of the public texts a single member of the committee about an agenda item, is that committee member precluded from reading the text during the meeting? If that text was read before the meeting would it be acceptable? While it is true that the era of Zoom meetings has raised new questions about the application of the Brown Act, there is simply nothing in the Brown Act to prevent email communication during a public meeting provided that communication does not involve a quorum."

Back in March, the mayor alleged that a Nathhorst Triangle neighborhood homeowner Robert Allen threatened to "bankrupt" the town with lawsuits if its housing element wasn't to his liking.

Residents also filed a "massive" Public Records Act request through attorney and former San Jose mayor Chuck Reed related to the Ad Hoc Housing Element Committee and its consideration of changing the zoning of Nathhorst for denser housing development.

Councilwoman Maryann Derwin characterized the PRA request and lawsuit as a "wild goose chase" during last week's Town Council meeting. Town Manager Jeremy Dennis said the PRA request is taking a considerable amount of staff time. ■

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

SUMMER EVENTS

continued from page 7

A longtime Peninsula festival that went virtual last year is back on July 16: the Obon Festival & Bazaar, a Japanese celebration at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple with dancing, food and live entertainment.

Foster City Summer Days Aug. 19-21 celebrates the city's birthday with carnival rides, food trucks, live performances and craft vendors, plus single-day events like the rubber ducky race and a new classic car show.

After selling Greek entrees and desserts to go in lieu of a festival in 2021, the Belmont Greek Festival is back in person for its 50th anniversary Sept. 3-5. Find gyros, loukoumades and all your favorite Greek fare, plus live music and artisan booths.

Events for kids: School's out for summer, but there are lots of events to keep the kids entertained and learning. Many of the aforementioned events are family-friendly, but some especially geared toward children include Bricks by the Bay Lego convention and expo in Santa Clara June 25-26; Super Hero Day in San Mateo July 16; and a family campout in Santa Clara's Central Park Aug. 5-6, followed by a campout in Foster City's Leo J. Ryan Park Aug. 6-7. ■

Julia Brown is the editor of The Almanac's sister publication, The Six Fifty. Email her at editor@thesixfifty.com.



Embarcadero Media file photo

Portola Valley's plan for future housing development is the focus of contentious debate.



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Kendall Elizabeth Shea Chase

July 11, 1990 – May 30, 2022

Kendall Elizabeth Shea Chase, 31, of Venice, California, passed away on Monday, May 30, 2022 in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. Her young and promising life was cut short by a drunk driver.

The essence of Kendall was her sense of style, her love of beauty, and her dedication to making life fun! Her love of friends and family were her biggest priority in life. Her boundless energy took her far in her short life. She made the most of her time on earth and had endless curiosity about the world. She graced us all with her generous smile.



Kendall was born and raised in Portola Valley, California, beloved daughter of Laurie Abbott Chase and Andy Chase. She attended Trinity Preschool, Ormondale School, Corte Madera School, and Menlo School. From an early age Kendall expressed a love of dance and sequins. She was the guiding light for her younger brothers, Patrick and Zachary, and her many cousins. She danced, passionately and constantly, from age two through the end of college. She was a participant in the Bay Area hip-hop dance community, dancing with Funksters SF, and made many friends along the way.

She was excited to attend UCLA because of its diversity and wanted to take advantage of all a big school had to offer. She danced with Ferosha and NSU Modern and was an enthusiastic member of Delta Gamma sorority. Kendall was a member of the Ski and Board Club, perfecting her snowboarding skills as the team traveled and bonded. She graduated from UCLA in 2012 with a degree in Design and Media Arts. Her thesis focused on photography and was a poignant portrayal of the nearby drag queen community.

At the young age of 20, Kendall met the love of her life, Katie Shea, introduced by Katie's twin brother and Kendall's Funksters dance team partner, Kyle Shea. They never looked back. They became inseparable partners in love and life. After meeting, Katie and Kendall travelled the world together. Their travel was experiential, and they sought to immerse themselves in every aspect of the cultures they visited; cuisine, design, and fashion all fed their creative spirit. Kendall proposed to Katie in the Boboli Gardens in Florence, where Kendall had spent a semester abroad missing Katie so much. Later and in turn, Katie proposed to Kendall in front of the Castro Theater, with the marquee announcing her intentions to the world. They were married in October 2021 in a ceremony in Chileno Bay where they choreographed a flash mob to their favorite Madonna song as a surprise gift to their guests. The video of their dance struck a chord with and inspired so many people and was viewed over 17 million times worldwide.

Kendall moved to San Francisco after graduation to begin her career in branding and marketing. At that time she began developing her lifestyle platforms on social media, ChasingKendall.com and @ChasingKendall, sharing her personal mode of self-expression and her broad interests with the world. In 2019, Kendall and Katie moved to Venice Beach to see what the creative world of LA had to offer. Spending their days near the beach and enjoying sunset happy hours together, they put down roots in their new neighborhood and reconnected with their college friends.

Kendall is survived by her wife, Katie Shea Chase; her parents Laurie Abbott Chase and Andy Chase; her brothers Patrick Chase (Jill) and Zachary Chase (Emily Stebbins) and Nicholas Chase; her grandparents: Barbara Chase (Bronxville, New York) and Bill and Jeanette Abbott (Palo Alto, California); and her aunts and uncles, Bill and Marsha Abbott, Bob Abbott, Kristin Abbott, Curtis and Amy Chase, and Peter and Kyle Chase and countless beloved cousins. Kendall was predeceased by her paternal grandfather, Winsor Chase.

Our lives are diminished by her passing; she will be sorely missed.

Services have been held.

Please consider memorializing Kendall with a gift to the Trevor Project, Planned Parenthood Action Fund, or your local Planned Parenthood chapter.

PAID OBITUARY



Courtesy Kevin Berne/TheatreWorks

Sarah (Iris Beaumier) and Coalhouse Walker, Jr. (Nkrumah Gatling) share their hopes that their son will have a better life in "Ragtime," presented by TheatreWorks Silicon Valley.

'Ragtime' at TheatreWorks fires on all cylinders

Epic musical offers a snapshot of American mythos at the dawn of the 20th century

By Karla Kane

THEATER REVIEW

The current production of "Ragtime" by TheatreWorks Silicon Valley has been long awaited by local theater fans. Planned to be founder Robert Kelley's final musical as TheatreWorks' artistic director, the show was scheduled for spring 2020 when COVID-19 shut it down shortly after rehearsals began. Luckily for audiences, after two years, the production is back on with Kelley at the helm.

"Ragtime," based on E. L. Doctorow's 1975 novel, comes from the powerhouse pair of Stephen Flaherty (music) and Lynn Ahrens (lyrics), with libretto by the late, great Terrence McNally (an early COVID casualty). Taking place, according to the program, in "Ragtime America, 1908-1913," the story follows the interwoven experiences of three fictional families.

Flaherty and Ahrens are a wonderful writing team, and the songs of "Ragtime" are a pleasing mix of period pastiche (including, of course, plenty of ragtime rhythms) and epic ballads (most memorably "Wheels of a Dream"), with lyrics ranging from winkingly snarky to achingly poignant and rousing. The structure has the players sometimes serving as omniscient narrators, introducing their characters in the third person, giving the effect of a lively history lecture.

At show's start, in WASP-y New Rochelle, New York, Father (Noel Anthony), Mother (Christine Dwyer), The Little Boy (Jackson Janssen/Joshua Parecki), Younger Brother (Sean Okuniewicz) and grumpy Grandfather (Colin Thomson) live a life of sheltered ignorance and privilege. When Father heads off on a yearlong expedition to the Arctic, however, his wife, young son and brother-in-law all begin to have their eyes opened to a wider world, with empathetic Mother chafing against her genteel domestic binds and awkward Younger Brother longing to find purpose and excitement.

In Harlem, Black pianist Coalhouse Walker, Jr. (Nkrumah Gatling) is a rising star, thanks to his talent for the hot new musical style — that irresistibly, deliciously syncopated ragtime. Reunited with his true love Sarah (Iris Beaumier), the couple has an infant son and high hopes, only to be thwarted by racism, violence and injustice everywhere they turn. Their tragedy becomes a rallying cry for others who see themselves in Coalhouse's righteous anger.

And in the squalid tenements of the Lower East Side, Jewish Latvian immigrant Tateh (Leo Ash Evens) and his daughter (Sydney Walker Freeman/Ruth Keith) arrive in America full of optimism and dreams of

prosperity but are soon challenged by antisemitism, poverty and exploitation.

As these characters cross paths and become entangled, they encounter historical figures of the era, including illusionist Harry Houdini (Keith Pinto), activist and writer Emma Goldman (Suzanne Grodner), automobile industrialist Henry Ford (Thomson again), educator and intellectual Booker T. Washington (Michael Gene Sullivan), and celebrity beauty Evelyn Nesbit (Melissa Wolfklain), who's part of the high-profile "Crime of the Century." Though the scandal is played for sharp laughs in the show, in real-life, it should be noted, Nesbit was the victim of abuse.

While "Ragtime" is ambitious in scope, Kelley and his crew offer a winningly streamlined version. Most of the cast plays multiple roles, with great success. The scenic design by Wilson Chin, too, is minimal, with evocative lighting design by Pamila Z. Gray. The orchestra, led by William Liberatore, sounds fabulous, and costumes by B. Modern are suitably sumptuous. Oh, and there's a shiny Model T Ford.

Most importantly, the cast gives excellent performances across the board, with standouts including Gatling, who captures Coalhouse's charisma, pain, and dignity; Okuniewicz as the

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'RAGTIME'

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yearning, lost Younger Brother; and Leslie Ivy as Sarah's Friend, offering almost unbelievably beautiful vocals on "Till We Reach That Day." While Dwyer is surely terrific, at the performance I attended, Mother was played by understudy Marie Finch, who did a lovely job. Best of all is when all the players sing together in a truly awe-inspiring display of vocal talent and power.

"Ragtime" offers a snapshot of United States mythos: the dawn of the 20th century; the idea of a "Great American Melting Pot" (to quote lyrics from another Ahrens project); rampant capitalism alongside progressivism; baseball and

vaudeville; the not-so-calm before the explosive First World War. But while there is that nostalgia factor, there is also the realization that the issues depicted on stage — racial prejudice, police brutality, anti-semitism, sexism, xenophobia, the struggle for workers' rights, to name just a few — still loom large in today's America.

The perky conclusion of "Ragtime" is bittersweet after the pain and violence that's unfolded. We're glad for those characters who do get their happy endings, and embrace their hopes for a better future, but we know all too well that it has proved elusive for so many more than a century later. The struggle ever continues, the production suggests, but so too must striving toward the

dream. As TheatreWorks Artistic Director Tim Bond puts it in his program notes, "one of the superpowers great theatre possesses is the ability to post important questions about our human potential and societal change without trying to give easy answers." The question of "whether there is any realistic hope coming out of this story," he writes, "... lies more with the audiences that witnessed it than with the story itself."

"Ragtime" runs through June 26 at the Mountain View Center for Performing Arts, 500 Castro St., Mountain View. More information is available at theatreworks.org. ■

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HIDDEN VILLA

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as thoughtful and inclusive as possible," Arca continued. "... I think for the individuals involved, they may have felt that that took too long, or that there might have been different ways to do that, so I respect that different perspective."

From James' perspective, it wasn't just that the process took too long: he said he feels his voice as a Black person was brushed aside while others' voices, specifically white staff members, were what finally tipped the needle to get the tiles removed.

Hidden Villa hires two types of staff: year-round team members like James' position, and seasonal camp staff who only work for the duration of the summer camp program. This year's summer camp staff had just been brought on board when they learned about the tiles, James said. Some members of the summer camp staff

organized on their own and wrote a letter that they delivered to the board and leadership at Hidden Villa on June 3, he said.

"We are not comfortable educating children in proximity to this symbol of hate," said the letter, a copy of which was given to the Voice by James. "In its presence, we cannot purport to provide a safe or affirming environment. If you do not agree to meet these stated requests, the majority of the undersigned are currently prepared to terminate our employment."

Two days later, on June 5, Hidden Villa Associate Director Lynn Rivas held a meeting with the camp staff members who wrote the letter to talk about the situation, James said. He had a meeting scheduled with Rivas right after, which James said got quickly heated, and he resigned shortly afterward. Hidden Villa removed the tiles two days later.

"It took over nine months from when (it) was brought to

their attention, to fast forward to this Sunday when everything just went down — it took them less than 48 hours to take them down, after a group of mostly white kids got together and expressed how it made them feel," said Mimi Elias, who resigned her role as assistant camp director. "Versus (James), who had calmly and nicely tried to talk to them, meeting after meeting, but they just wouldn't listen."

Arca said camp leadership accepted the resignations and is trying to "move forward and focus on the families." The camp closure will affect nearly 1,000 campers, he said.

"Since we had insufficient staff and we could not serve the children, we're trying to be supportive of the rest of the staff," Arca said. "The focus has really been with the families and the loss of this opportunity for all these families." ■

Email Staff Writer
Malea Martin at
mmartin@mv-voice.com.

LIBRARY

continued from page 5

GoPro camera kits and a deck, according to the town. There meeting rooms, including in the renovated Historic Town Hall, which is connected to the library.

French bakery Mademoiselle Colette plans to open a cafe in a 250-square-foot space in the library this fall.

The library is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday through Sunday.

Visit smcl.org/locations/1a for a list of upcoming events at the new library. ■



Magali Gauthier

Library assistant Alan Zamora helps Ken Basegio use a 3D printer in the makerspace in the Atherton Library on June 14.

David Bernard Lynch

January 11, 1936 – May 30, 2022

David Bernard Lynch, a proud U.S. Army veteran and leading Northern California attorney for more than 50 years, died on Memorial Day after a long illness. He was 86, and passed away at home in the care of his family.



Dave was born in Vallejo, CA, the only child of James and Myrna Lynch. He was raised in a hard-working blue-collar Irish-American family, with northern California roots going back more than 150 years. He mowed lawns and bagged groceries at Safeway while making top grades at Vallejo's St. Vincent High School, earning a spot at the University of California at Berkeley. Dave was the first member of his family to attend college.

Dave graduated from Cal in 1957 with a degree in history, and enrolled in the University of California's Berkeley Law, where he served as an editor of the California Law Review and graduated in 1960. Shortly after joining the California State Bar, he was drafted into the U.S. Army at Fort Ord near Monterey, where he served in the Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps from 1961-1963 and did work to support the Army's efforts during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Dave returned to the Bay Area to work at the San Francisco law office of Low, Ball, and Norton. The firm — later renamed Low, Ball, and Lynch — was his home base for the length of his remarkable legal career, and expanded with offices in Menlo Park and Walnut Creek.

As a civil defense attorney and litigator, Dave tried more than 500 jury trials to completion before local, state, and federal courts, including the California Supreme Court. He believed deeply in the Constitutional right to trial by jury, and of the power of the legal system to promote fairness and democracy. Dave volunteered as a Judge Pro Tem for the San Francisco Superior and Municipal Courts. He was both a razor-sharp negotiator and a fair opponent — one colleague noted that Dave was equally respected by lawyers on both sides of the courtroom. He mentored countless other lawyers through professional societies and seminars, and volunteered hundreds of hours to Northern California legal groups.

Dave was a member and leader of the San Francisco chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) for more than 50 years, serving as chapter President and National Board representative. He also served as president of the Association of Defense Counsel - Northern California. Other professional associations included the American Bar Association, the Defense Research Institute, the International Association of Defense Counsel, the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, and the International Legal Honor Society of Phi Delta Phi. He received numerous awards, including the Association of Defense Counsel's President's Award, the Edward J. McFetridge Award for Trial Advocacy, and SF-ABOTA's prestigious Don E. Bailey Civility and Professionalism Award. In Dave's honor, SF-ABOTA renamed its Legends Award for lifetime legal accomplishment to the David B. Lynch Legends Award in February.

Outside of the courtroom, Dave was an avid fan of Bay Area sports, especially Cal Bears football and the San Francisco 49ers, holding the same season tickets near the 10th yard line at Candlestick Park for more than 30 years. He was a wine enthusiast, an excellent cook and grillmaster, a lifelong U.S. history student, a hummingbird-loving gardener, an unbeatable dominoes player and crossword puzzler, and an avid fisherman and international traveler. Even as his physical health declined, Dave kept his razor-sharp intellect and love of friends and family. He enjoyed few things more than a good tailgate party, an overflowing house for Sunday and holiday dinners, or a day on Lake Tahoe. He was a joyful, generous host and friend.

Dave is survived by Yvonne (Cafasso), his wife of more than 60 years whom he met in the library at Cal; their daughters April, Michelle, and Carolyn; sons-in-law Colin, Paul, and Gonzalo; grandchildren Emma, Andrew, Anthony, Alexander, Julia, Ava, and Van; and countless family members, friends, and colleagues across the country. Plans for a memorial befitting Dave's larger-than-life spirit are underway. In the meantime, those honoring Dave's legacy may wish to consider a donation to the ABOTA Foundation or the Pat Tillman Foundation.

<https://www.abota.org/Foundation>
<https://pattillmanfoundation.org>

PAID OBITUARY

HOUSING PROPOSAL

continued from page 5

housing developers to provide 50 very low-income units, according to the draft housing element. The town has spoken to Alta Housing, a nonprofit agency that has built low- and moderate income housing projects in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties. Alta’s preliminary review shows this project would be competitive for tax credits and a project would be feasible, according to the report.

Nathhorst Triangle neighborhood

There are still sites in the Nathhorst Triangle neighborhood, where some neighbors said they felt “blindsided” by potential upzoning of their properties, included in the plan. In March, they filed a “massive” public records request after sites in the neighborhood were proposed for upzoning. Mayor Craig Hughes said one neighbor threatened to bankrupt the town with lawsuits if the housing element wasn’t to his liking. The draft plan does not include sites with existing homes.

The town proposes zoning for 23 units on a vacant 1.18-acre lot located at 4395 Alpine Road (to be zoned at 20 units per acre).

The second Natthorst site is located at 4370 Alpine Road, about 1.5 acres developed with “underutilized” office uses. Lisa



Magali Gauthier

Ford Field on Alpine Road, shown when it was under construction in August 2013. The site is being considered for housing.

Wise Consulting prepared a preliminary concept plan and the Ad Hoc Housing Element Committee found that the site could be rezoned as a mixed-use district with a density of 6 units per acre. The site inventory estimates nine townhome units could be developed. The property owner has also expressed interest in redeveloping the site, according to the draft housing element.

Glen Oaks

The Glen Oaks site, owned by Stanford University, has about 4 acres of developable land at the corner of Alpine Road and Arastradero Road. A portion of the land is occupied by the Isola Stables at the Glen Oaks Equestrian Center. The site is across the street from the proposed

39-unit Stanford Wedge project, which some neighbors have spoken out against.

Stanford has expressed interest in working with the town to develop housing at the Glen Oaks site for faculty and staff with an affordable housing component.

This site will be rezoned with a new multifamily district that will allow up to 8 units per acre, with up to 29 acres of development.

The Sequoias

The town plans to include land owned by The Sequoias, located on an approximately 42-acre parcel just south of Portola Road in the central portion of the town. The Sequoias is in the early phases of exploring further developing the property.

The northern portion of the site is currently developed into a retirement community.

There are two potential locations for additional housing. The sites inventory includes 18 market rate units for seniors and five workforce housing units for their employees. The workforce units are expected to reduce commutes for employees that travel great distances to work and help with emergency response capacity.

The site is near the San Andreas Fault and includes potentially unstable soils.

Christ Church

There are six units included in the plan on the 2.9-acre plot of land that houses Christ Church at 815 Portola Road.

The site currently includes the church, a preschool and a parking lot. The parking lot behind the church is the potential location for a housing development, according to staff.

Ladera Community Church

The Town Council previously voted to include Ladera Community Church in the Affiliated Housing Program, and the housing element update would formalize that action. The town plans to rezone it to a new multifamily zoning district to allow up to 20 units per acre.

The site is a half-acre parcel located west of Alpine Road, in the northeastern portion of the town. The church facility itself is located on the immediately adjacent property, which is located outside of town limits.

The development site is currently vacant, with only a small portion used as a children’s play area for the church.

Projects already in the pipeline

The town has two projects in the pipeline that may count toward its updated housing element.

The Willow Commons at 4388 Alpine Road near Roberts Market has already been approved and has 13 units. The project is aimed at providing apartments for adults with disabilities.

The Stanford Wedge project, located at Alpine Road and Golden Oak Drive is still pending approval.

Policies to encourage more housing stock

The town plans to create an amnesty program for existing, unpermitted accessory dwelling units (ADUs) to obtain permits to legalize the ADUs during the 2023-31 planning period. The amnesty program would provide property owners the

opportunity to formally legalize existing unpermitted ADUs.

The town hopes to develop an affordable ADU rental program to house low-income tenants who have experienced displacement from areas outside of Portola Valley due to increasing rents, relying on Portola Valley ADU owners willing to rent ADUs at below market rates.

Another town plan for more housing is to create a new voluntary upzoning program that allows property owners with sites 1 acre or greater to develop up to 4 units per acre, assuming they meet the safety criteria:

- Accessible to two ways of ingress and egress.
- Located on a slope less than 30%.
- Outside of a very high fire hazard severity zone.
- Outside of a fault zone.
- Outside of areas identified with unstable soils or at risk of landslide or liquefaction.

The town also plans to prepare pre-approved preliminary floor plans for ADUs and JADUs that are made available to property owners. Pre-approved floor plans could significantly decrease the level of effort required of property owners in designing and permitting a JADU or ADU, according to the town.

Challenges with designing affordable housing

Land is expensive in town, with the average home selling for around \$4.5 million in April, according to Zillow.

Accordingly, sites that allow denser development of at least 20 units per acre are considered able to accommodate lower-income units.

Next steps

The Planning Commission will review the draft housing element on Wednesday, June 15, at 7 p.m. on Zoom, after The Almanac’s press deadline, and provide feedback to the Town Council. The council will meet at a future date to review the draft.

The public has until 5 p.m. on July 8 to comment on the draft element before it is sent to the state.

After council review, staff will update the draft based on the comments received and submit it to the state for review. In the fall, the town will conduct additional public meetings to update the document according to HCD feedback. ■

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

THE ALMANAC OPEN HOMES

LOS ALTOS

1570 Plateau Avenue	\$4,299,000
Sat/Sun 1:00-4:00	3BD/3.5BA
COMPASS	415-999-0727
324 Alicia Way	\$7,988,000
Sat 1:30-4:30	6BD/7.5BA
DeLeon Realty	650-900-7000

LOS ALTOS HILLS

12380 Priscilla Lane	\$4,988,000
Sun 1:30-4:30	5BD/3.5BA
DeLeon Realty	650-900-7000
13581 Wildcrest Drive	\$5,988,000
Sun 1:30-4:30	5BD/4.5BA
DeLeon Realty	650-900-7000
26301 Silent Hills Lane	\$14,988,000
Sun 1:30-4:30	5BD/6.5BA
DeLeon Realty	650-900-7000

MENLO PARK

2067 Ashton Avenue	\$2,698,000
Sat/Sun 1:00-4:00	3BD/1BA
The Dreyfus Group, Golden Gate Sotheby's Realty	International 650-485-3476

PALO ALTO

1728 Emerson Street	\$4,190,000
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30	3BD/2.5BA
Compass	650-740-7954
180 Monroe Drive	\$3,998,000
Sat/Sun 2:00-4:00	4BD/3BA
The Troyer Group, Intero	650-440-5076
285 W. Charleston Road	\$3,498,000
Sun 1:30-4:30	4BD/3.5BA
DeLeon Realty	650-785-5822

PALO ALTO

3549 Julie Court	\$3,700,000
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30	4BD/2.5BA
Compass	650-740-7954
610 Chimalus Drive	\$3,788,000
Sat 1:30-4:30	4BD/3BA
DeLeon Realty	650-459-3888
717 & 723 Ellsworth Place	\$2,680,000
Sun 1:30-4:30	4BD/2BA
Coldwell Banker Realty	165-086-25506
1426 Pitman Avenue	\$7,188,000
Sat 12:00-4:00	5BD/3BA
Coldwell Banker Realty	650-862-5506
3513 Waverley Street	\$5,988,000
Sat 1:30-4:30	5BD/5BA
DeLeon Realty	650-900-7000
625 & 635 Hale Street	\$13,488,000
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30	7BD/5BA
DeLeon Realty	650-900-7000

REDWOOD CITY

237 E. Oakwood Boulevard	\$1,788,000
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30	3BD/2BA
DeLeon Realty	650-684-0887
915 Whitehall Lane	\$2,595,000
Sun 2:00-4:00	3BD/2.5BA
The Dreyfus Group, Golden Gate Sotheby's Realty	International 650-485-3476

SAN JOSE

756 Creekland Circle	\$948,800
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30	3BD/3BA
JLee Realty	650-857-1000

Legend: Condo (C), Townhome (T).

Agents: submit open homes at AlmanacNews.com/real_estate

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GUN VIOLENCE

continued from page 1

crowd. “This is frightening and unacceptable.”

She added: “In the words of political commentator Van Jones, we have to reframe the issue. It is not pro-gun versus anti-gun, it should be responsible gun owners against irresponsible gun interests.”

In Redwood City, 17-year-old twins Christopher and Nicholas Kwok, incoming seniors at Sequoia High School, began organizing the June 11 rally in collaboration with the March for Our Lives San Jose chapter one day after the Uvalde, Texas shooting, where 21 people were gunned down, including 19 elementary school children.

The Kwoks also organized a march before the rally, which looped past Zareen’s near Broadway and Main Street before returning to the library. Demonstrators chanted, “What do want? Action. When do we want it? Now.” And, “The NRA has got to go.”

“The problem with gun violence will never change unless we start making changes and speak up against this now to demand action,” said Christopher Kwok. “Our students at our chapter, we all got involved in youth activism because of

this urgent passion to start creating change now and not waiting for future solutions to come years down the road when it’s already too late, frankly.”

According to the Pew Research Center, in a study conducted in April 2021, almost 75% of Americans consider gun violence “a big problem,” with 48% calling it a “very big problem.” And while the U.S. has seen a decline in recent years of people in favor of stricter gun regulations, the majority of people (53%) still want them.

Nicholas Kwok said he’s optimistic that youth activism could eventually force legislators into action, which could lead them to enact policies that could install universal background checks, increase the age requirement to purchase a weapon, ban automatic and semi-automatic weapons, and require a waiting period and a training period when someone buys a gun.

Politicians should especially listen to students, he said.

“Because we’re inside the classroom, and especially with the shooting in Parkland and Uvalde ... These affected us,” he said. “We know the trauma that goes through once gun violence takes place.”

The California Rifle & Pistol Association, a nonprofit



Magali Gauthier

March for Our Lives demonstrators walk past a mural by local artist Morgan Bricca during a protest in Redwood City on June 11.

dedicated “to defending the civil and constitutional rights of individuals to choose to responsibly own and use firearms” has a list of 10 arguments against gun control on its website, stating that these types of laws infringe on constitutional rights, don’t prevent shooters from accessing guns and that by disarming civilians, legislators could potentially remove armed civilians helping “take out the bad guys” with guns. A representative for the CRPA could not be reached for comment on June 11.

Veronica Cabebe, a full-time student at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, said that the argument about infringing on constitutional rights and the second amendment needs to be revisited.

“We’re one of the only

‘The problem with gun violence will never change unless we start making changes and speak up against this now to demand action.’

CHRISTOPHER KWOK,
SEQUOIA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

countries where our constitution hasn’t been altered to help what is going on currently,” Cabebe said. “And I don’t think that the Founding Fathers would completely agree with the idea of keeping it completely the same and not touching it. There is a time when change needs to happen and that time is now.”

The change will not happen immediately, said Redwood City

resident DJ Mitchell, a 73-year-old retired schoolteacher who taught for 35 years in El Paso, Texas. Mitchell held a sign that read, “Guns do kill children!”

“It’s going to be incremental steps right now, unfortunately,” said the 73-year-old woman. “We’re going to have to do baby steps, and we’re going to have to do some compromises that we don’t want to.”

Mitchell was not in El Paso when the 2019 mass shooting occurred at a Walmart where 23 people ultimately died, but said that she had gone back to see the memorial. Her friends, her students and her parents’ graves are there. The hurt, she said, is personal.

“I needed to be here,” she said. ■

Email Michelle Iracheta at miracheta@rwcpcpulse.com.



Magali Gauthier

March for Our Lives demonstrators protest in Redwood City on June 11.



Magali Gauthier

The March for Our Lives protest was organized by twins Nicholas, left, and Christopher Kwok, students at Sequoia High School.



Magali Gauthier

March for Our Lives demonstrators hold handmade signs in Redwood City on June 11.

Civility is under siege in Portola Valley

By John Richards

The worldwide trend of populist resentment of government seems to have arrived in Portola Valley. The town has not yet been served, but a group of disaffected residents is threatening a lawsuit over imagined transgressions involving one of our most vital volunteer committees. The irony of this lawsuit is that the plaintiffs' actions will effectively help destroy what they have been so vocal about protecting: small-town Portola Valley.

One of the hallmarks of Portola Valley has always been the collegiality and informality that comes with a small-town volunteer government. Of course there have been disagreements, even passionate battles about issues in town, but the recent outcry for even more resident participation is not advanced by a lawsuit that strategically targets the Wild-fire Preparedness Committee (WPC).

Although I can only speak

GUEST OPINION

with certainty about the last 13 years, the council members from this period have always been scrupulous about maintaining openness and encouraging public engagement.

Any examples that have been brandished with such righteousness, as with the inadvertent WPC chat incident, had absolutely no impact on decision making by the council or committees. This sort of innocuous exchange would have been widely accepted if we had been meeting in person. It might have been brought up during oral communications, possibly with a bit of embarrassment thrown in for good measure, and that would have been that.

When sensible corrections have been suggested in the past, typically it has been accepted that they would be incorporated into town policies and procedures. We are so fortunate to have a town staff that takes the Brown Act,

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, and all state and local laws very seriously, and is always quick to remind our government volunteers of best practices.

So what does this mean for our town now? A few years before I joined the council, a former council member said in effect that the development of our lovely town center would be the 'nail in the coffin' of old Portola Valley. I don't think he was correct at that point, but this latest deep change in attitudes may be.

With the aggressive approach to 'fixing' the town, will anyone be interested in running for a non-paying volunteer position on the Town Council, only to be threatened with lawsuits by their neighbors? Is this when we have to change to a paid professional council of full-time bureaucrats? Or does our dysfunction lead to a takeover by the state? Either for me would be the true nail in the coffin of old PV. ■

John Richards is a member of the Portola Valley Town Council.

District attorney needs a clear stance on the death penalty

By Henry Organ

The nation is under siege by medical pandemic and civic pandemonium. San Mateo is not excepted. The medical pandemic is greatly affected by the discipline of the citizenry, or lack thereof. In the civic pandemonium are mass murders, and how they are addressed, criminally and legislatively.

There has been, and continues to be, mass murders of individuals across the nation. The victims and survivors are of different age groups, races, religions, cultures and genders. As criminal prosecutions are formed by offices of the district attorney, of interest will be if the death penalty without the possibility of parole will be sought where it is legal.

Enter San Mateo County and its office of the district attorney. The current elected official of this office is Stephen Wagstaffe. He ran unopposed in the June

GUEST OPINION

7 election, and is therefore presumed to return to this position for another term. Winning reelection positions him well to note his enlightenment toward not seeking this penalty henceforth, since it is optional and not obligatory.

Mr. Wagstaffe has stated that he has had a difficult time not considering the death penalty in such cases as mass murders, serial killers and those who take the lives of law enforcers. I hope he considers cases in light of his ethical standards — especially in states where the death penalty is optional, as in California. Mr. Wagstaffe's prior actions do reflect these ethical standards, and is asked to declare publicly now that he will no longer seek this penalty. It is most appropriate now, absent of the emotions a particular case might have on decision-making.

Equally important, Mr. Wagstaffe should say why he is making

this decision. This statement would be a mark of leadership, to encourage district attorneys' offices throughout the state to follow his example. It would be a small, but meaningful step in moving the state and nation away from increased hostility with and toward civility. ■

Henry Organ is a Menlo Park resident and 50-year resident of San Mateo County.

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Public Notices

995 Fictitious Name Statement

APOLLO DAY CARE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 291259

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

Apollo Day Care, located at 450 Bell St., E. Palo Alto, CA 94303, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
MARIBEL AGUILAR TORRES

450 Bell St.

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 May 1st., 2022.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on June 2, 2022.

(ALM June 10, 17, 24; July 1, 2022)

NIMBLE FOX MANAGEMENT

NIMBLE FOX

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 291025

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

1.) Nimble Fox Management, 2.) Nimble Fox, located at 1239 Portola Rd., Woodside, CA 94062, San Mateo County; Mailing

address: 2995 Woodside Rd. #620598, Woodside, CA 94062.

Registered owner(s):
STEPHANIE CARLSON

1239 Portola Rd.

Woodside, CA 94062

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 11, 2022.

(ALM June 10, 17, 24; July 1, 2022)

POPIKO TUTORING

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 291238

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

Popiko Tutoring, located at Tuolumne Rd., California 94030, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):

RYAN CHRISTOPHER HUIE

1330 Tuolumne Rd.

Millbrae, California 94030

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, 2022.

(ALM June 17, 24; July 1, 8, 2022)

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Artscene

PEOPLE AND **PERFORMANCES** IN **ARTS** AND **ENTERTAINMENT**

Jazz jubilee

Stanford Jazz Workshop
celebrates **50** years

By Karla Kane

Back in 1972, when Jim Nadel was a recent graduate jamming with friends at the Stanford Community Coffee House, he had no inkling he was founding an organization that would become a presenter of jazz legends, an incubator for future greats, and still be going strong a half-century later. But this summer, the Stanford Jazz Workshop (SJW) is marking its golden anniversary and celebrating with more than 30 curated concerts, along with its beloved educational programs for youth and adults (with offerings both in-person and online).

"It does seem to me that time has flown by," Nadel said in a recent interview. "All of a sudden it's been 50 years. So much great music has happened."

Nadel, a saxophonist, composer, arranger and educator who still serves as SJW's artistic director, had just graduated from Stanford University with a degree in music when he made the fateful decision to book a room at Tressider Student Union on Tuesday nights, following his Monday jam sessions at the campus cafe (now known as CoHo). The plan was to offer a space where jazz-loving friends

could discuss the music they'd played and heard the night before.

"That idea of a jam session and then another session to exchange ideas and info, that became the basis for what moved forward," Nadel recalled. "That really resonated with musicians, and the musicians really enjoyed it."

And for the first 10 years or so, he said, that was the basic format of the workshop, with jams and discussion sessions centered in the local community. As that community strengthened and continued to work together, "it kind of grew into a curriculum of useful information to share," he said.

In 1982, "we reached another level." That's when Nadel invited saxophone master Stan Getz to join the workshop for the summer, and the SJW became a residential program, with members meeting every day for a week or two.

"Every year in the 1980s we doubled in size because word got out that there was something special happening," he said. "People came from all over the world to be part of it."

Some of the jazz legends who took part, Nadel fondly recalled, include bassist Ray Brown and iconic trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie, both of whom participated in SJW multiple times. Another cherished memory is the 1994 reunion of saxophonist Joe Henderson and pianist Horace Silver, who hadn't seen each other in more than a decade.

"Those kind of community things resonate for me personally," Nadel said. "It's been a great experience to be a part of."

While performance had always been an important component since the early jam days, Nadel said it wasn't until sometime in the late 1980s or early 1990s that the SJW's concert series started being referred to as the Stanford Jazz Festival.

"The educational program and festival were inextricably linked. The festival evolved very naturally, but at some point we noticed, 'Hey, we have 24 consecutive nights of jazz here,'" he recalled. "We were offering some musical combinations that have never been heard before, and some of the greatest players in the world."

One of SJW's hallmarks is curated events that bring together workshop artists in unique pairings.

"I liked to bring in people that worked



Courtesy Stanford Jazz Workshop

Above: Saxophonist Jane Ira Bloom and trumpeter Ingrid Jensen perform in 1997.

Below: Dizzy Gillespie hangs out on the Stanford campus in 1981.



Courtesy Stanford Jazz Workshop

Stan Getz and Dizzy Gillespie teach at the Stanford Jazz Workshop in 1981.

really well together or contrasted in a really interesting way," he said, including a diversity of styles so that "all different approaches to jazz were represented."

To Nadel, one of the things that makes jazz so special is its emphasis on improvisation and interaction. "Players get into these really subtle and engaging musical conversations," he said. "There's a looseness and connectivity. Everybody's supporting each other." So it makes sense that from its humble beginnings to its current, high-profile incarnation, SJW — both in its educational and performance programs — has always been rooted in that sense of joyful collaboration.

Because the heart of SJW's mission is teaching and fostering a love of jazz, one of the most gratifying and inspirational aspects of SJW is when former students return as teachers and performers, he said.

"There are quite a few jazz players that are making an impact on the scene today that came through the Stanford Jazz Workshop when they were teenagers," he said, naming Grammy-winning pianist Taylor Eigsti and sax player Joshua Redman — who's now on the faculty of SJW and of Stanford University — as examples of musicians who first came to the program as students.

"To watch their career evolve and to hear them do new and exciting things for



Courtesy Stanford Jazz Workshop

decades, those are some great memories," he said.

This year's slate of Stanford Jazz Festival performances seems likely to produce plenty more great memories, with concerts running June 17 through July 30 at

See **JAZZ**, page 24



Courtesy Stanford Jazz Workshop

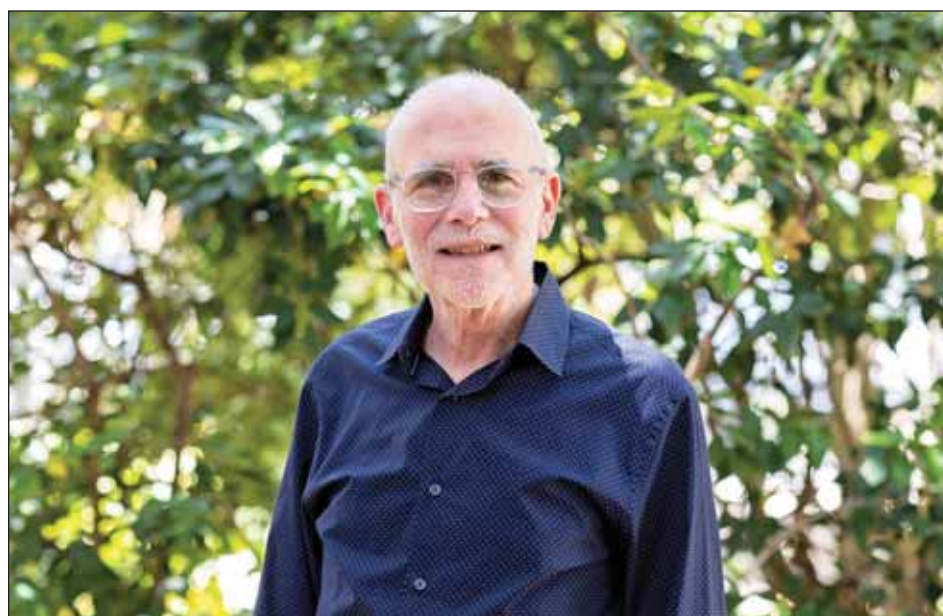
Jimmy Heath and Phil Woods share a laugh at the Stanford Jazz Workshop in 2002.

JAZZ

continued from page 23

multiple campus venues including Bing Concert Hall, Dinkelspiel Auditorium and Frost Amphitheater. Highlights include pianist/vocalist Eliane Elias and her quartet on June 18; “Indian Jazz Journey,” featuring vocalist Mahesh Kale and saxophonist George Brooks on June 25; clarinetist Anat Cohen and horn player Wycliffe Gordon accompanied by SJW’s 50/50 Jazz Orchestra (the organization’s ensemble dedicated to equitable gender

representation) on July 9; vocalist Lisa Fischer alongside Taylor Eigsti, Ben Williams and Eric Harland on July 27; the beloved “All-Star Jam” on July 29; and the grand finale on July 30, when much-lauded vocalist Dianne Reeves will share the bill with the SJW 50th Anniversary Band. This super-group, composed of notable musicians who all attended SJW as youngsters (Eigsti, Eric Harland, Ambrose Akinmusire, Redman, Justin Brown, Larry Grenadier and Yosvany Terry), will come together to celebrate SJW’s 50 years and counting.



Magali Gauthier

Jim Nadel was a recent graduate of Stanford University when he founded what evolved into the Stanford Jazz Workshop.

Nadel himself will take the stage for his “Jazz Inside Out” introduction to the art form on June 17, as well as for his popular family-friendly performance “Early Bird Jazz for Kids” on July 2.

With its sheer number of events, diversity of offerings, and unexpected collaborations and contrasts, Nadel said the festival likely has something for everyone, much like the genre itself.

Jazz, he said, is a broad umbrella covering a wide array of sounds and styles.

Traditional, progressive, Latin, Afro-Cuban, fusion, and rock-influenced are

just some of the numerous styles of jazz that have been a part of SJW over the years.

And for those who may not consider themselves jazz fans yet, “I think it’s really worthwhile to explore it a little bit, to expose yourself to different kinds and figure out what delights you,” he said. “There are some real joys and it’s an exceptional, unique American art form.”

More information is available at stanfordjazz.org. ■

Email Contributing Writer Karla Kane at karlajkane@gmail.com.



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- | | |
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| 2. Tree removal | 8. Young tree care |
| 3. Tree planting | 9. Root pruning |
| 4. Stump removal | 10. Specialty equipment |
| 5. Crew rental | 11. Arborist services to include, arborist reports and inspections |
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| | 14. Data entry and GPS Tree Inventory |

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Food & Drink

A new direction

Burlingame's Michelin-starred Rasa reopens as more casual concept Saffron

By Anthony Shu

Twenty years ago, Ajay Walia left the lucrative worlds of finance and tech to open a restaurant and spread awareness of the diversity of Indian cuisine. He wanted guests to forget images of steam-table buffets, and winning a Michelin star at his South Indian Burlingame restaurant Rasa in 2016 should have authoritatively proven his success. So why did Walia close down Rasa to reopen it as a second location of his more casual restaurant, Saffron?

The original Saffron in San Carlos has been in operation for nearly 20 years and has always focused more heavily on North Indian cuisine, which includes some of the best-known Indian dishes here in the United States, like buttery naan and the creamy lentils of dal makhani. It also provides a more casual experience compared to Rasa's sleek black interior and chutney prawns neatly plated in a row alongside swirls of cucumbers topped with edible flowers. But on June 7, Rasa's downtown Burlingame space reopened as Saffron Burlingame, inheriting its predecessor's focus on South Indian cuisine and even some of its dishes, but eschewing the meticulous standards associated with Michelin stars, which even assess how ingredients are sourced.

Walia is not the only restaurateur to distance himself (willingly or not) from the world of fine dining after high-end restaurants struggled heavily during the pandemic: Baumé forfeited its two Michelin stars in order to launch as the more relaxed Bistronomie by Baumé. Even before the pandemic, the suicides of two French chefs were linked to the pressures of running fast-paced,

fine-dining kitchens.

Walia's decision to shut down Rasa is partly inspired by challenges shared by many fine-dining restaurants during the pandemic.

"We struggled because (dishes) we were so used to presenting, now we had to throw them in a box and put a lid on them," Walia says, explaining how Rasa struggled to pivot to takeout. Saffron San Carlos, which offered a number of dishes that traveled better in takeout containers, had much stronger sales during shelter-in-place orders.

However, the pandemic also inspired Walia to reflect on his happiness and the unexpected troubles that had sprung up with the honorific of a Michelin star.

"What became challenging was managing peoples' expectations. And those were not Michelin's expectations, those were people's expectations of what Michelin should be," Walia says.

He found that the questions he faced at the start of his journey, including "Why don't you serve naan?" and "Where is the tikka masala?" had been replaced with another set of complaints.

Walia describes Rasa as a neighborhood restaurant that had high chairs for toddlers until its closing day. However, once

the restaurant earned a Michelin star, online reviewers started complaining about crying children and an ambiance that was never quite refined enough. "I don't want people coming in with these ungodly expectations of what we should be. Don't come (then)," Walia says.

Perhaps his greatest frustration is that Walia can't escape the enduring assumption that he set out to disprove two decades ago: Indian food should be cheap. "It's an upstream game because you're going against the flow, trying to beat the perception," says Walia about restaurants that serve cuisines that are not widely appreciated in the United States. He refers to these eateries as "ethnic restaurants," and chefs and writers including Lavanya Ramanathan have pointed out that the term "ethnic" is only applied to certain cuisines in a way that devalues them. Western European cooking usually escapes the label.

Even though Walia won a Michelin star and local Indian restaurants like Ettan, Aurum and Besharam have received widespread acclaim, uthappam full of wild mushrooms and biryani prepared with organic chicken still evoked complaints about price (Walia still



Courtesy Kristen Loken

Ajay Walia, owner and executive chef at Saffron.

encounters these grievances at Saffron too).

And supply chain issues mean that some of Walia's staple ingredients have jumped in price by two or three times, and their costs vary wildly. "Let's say we buy tomatoes today for \$10. Tomorrow, we could pay \$35 for the same tomatoes but our menu pricing is not going to be reflective of (that change)," Walia says. Most entrees at Rasa cost around \$25-\$35, prices that are much lower than at most Michelin-starred restaurants.

Hiring cooks skilled in Indian cooking is especially difficult, Walia said. Despite the romanticization of chefs and restaurants, he said cooking is a "profession of necessity" and a grueling occupation.

Walia imagines a day when "ethnic restaurants" are no longer measured with the asterisk

of price. He hopes that diners will assess a meal's quality without sliding in a jab that it was too pricey or that they can get the same dishes cheaper somewhere else.

"With ethnic restaurants, it's always been that people just come up with this yardstick of ... 'It's very expensive for what we got,'" he says.

This second location of the more casual San Carlos eatery is more than a duplicate, with a different menu that focuses on the cuisine of South India. For example, the Travancore fish moilee is popular in the coastal state of Kerala and harnesses a coconut milk base flavored with black mustard and red chilies. Diners can still enjoy favorites from Rasa and Saffron San Carlos, including creamy butter chicken and chicken biryani.

The dessert menu was created in partnership with Hetal Vasavada, the "MasterChef" contestant and recipe developer known for the blog and cookbook "Milk & Cardamom." Continuing from Rasa, the Cardamom Brûlée fused French technique and Indian flavors, and so do the Kesar Pista Cream Puffs, which use the combination of saffron and pistachio chantilly cream to create a filling. Ice creams will come from the local Koolfi Creamery, which plays on kulfi, the traditional Indian frozen dessert that is not whipped, so that it's much denser than ice cream.

Saffron Burlingame also serves craft cocktails harnessing spice blends and offers outdoor dining on its patio.

While various challenges inspired Walia's decision to close Rasa, his goals remain the same: serving good Indian food that draws from his memories of home cooking, but changing its presentation with the influence of local restaurants and ingredients. And of course, he says there's still a long way to go in transforming diners' perceptions of Indian cuisine.

"Most of us reflected on what we were doing (during the pandemic) and what makes you happy," he says. "I realized that I'm just working to make people happy rather than what I want to do."

Saffron, 209 Park Road, Burlingame; 650-340-7272, thesaffronrestaurant.com. Instagram: @saffron_restaurants.



Courtesy Kristen Loken

The second location of the more casual San Carlos eatery, Saffron Burlingame has a different menu that focuses on the cuisine of South India.

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