

# The Almanac

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

FEBRUARY 10, 2023 | VOL. 58 NO. 23



WWW.ALMANACNEWS.COM



Magali Gauthier

## Brimming over

Winter storms brought about the rare sight of a Lake Lagunita that's full of water. The man-made lake on the Stanford University campus has been completely dry in recent years due to the drought. This month, it's proved an irresistible draw for people seeking some aquatic recreation. Above, two people paddle out into Lake Lagunita on Feb. 1.

## Portola Valley teachers reach contract agreement with district

Negotiations lasted 13 months as union sparred with PVSD

By Angela Swartz

After a negotiation process that grew tense at times, and dragged on for 13 months, Portola Valley Elementary School District teachers have reached an agreement with the district on a new contract.

The Portola Valley Teachers Association (PVTa) and district officials settled on the three-year contract at a Feb. 6 meeting, according to a district news bulletin. The agreement covers the 2022-23 through 2024-25 school years. Their previous contract expired at the end of the 2021-22 school year.

"The details of this new agreement will be disclosed as part of the association ratification and board approval processes," the district bulletin said. "The district and the association look forward to continuing the collaboration and hard work that enabled them to reach this agreement."

The board will approve the PVTa collective bargaining agreement after the teachers ratify the agreement, which will likely be March 30, said Superintendent Roberta Zarea in an email.

"This contract incorporates necessary changes so that we can continue to attract and retain the high-quality educators our students deserve and this community has come to expect," said union President Tim Sato in a statement Wednesday, Feb. 8. "We are immensely proud of our

## Menlo Park: How many hundreds of homes will go in the SRI campus project?

Parkline developer says no to 1,700 housing units but will consider building up to 800

By Cameron Rebosio

Asked to build around 1,700 apartments, representatives of SRI said they are willing to consider up to 800 units in their redevelopment plans as the Menlo Park Planning Commission wraps up a third night of reviewing the project's master plan.

The commission has stretched discussion of the SRI Parkline project over three meetings starting on Jan. 12. Parkline developer Lane Partners unveiled its plans for building a massive mixed-use project with office, residential and recreational space on SRI's 63-acre research campus on Ravenswood Avenue. Lane

Partners plans to demolish all but three of the existing buildings currently on the site.

Under the original plans, the development would have been split between a 53-acre office district and a 10-acre residential district containing 450 units and a separately zoned area designated to be leased to an affordable housing

developer for up to 100 units. Lane Partners also planned to exceed the 25% minimum required amount of open space by making 38% of the site publicly accessible open space.

At the continuation of its Jan. 22 meeting, the Planning Commission and several

See **SRI CAMPUS**, page 13

See **TEACHERS**, page 16

INSIDE

ARTSCENE 20 | FOOD & DRINK 22

Read up-to-the-minute news on [AlmanacNews.com](http://AlmanacNews.com)



FLOOR SAMPLE CLEARANCE

**SALE**

**40% OFF – 50% OFF**

OPEN TUESDAY - SATURDAY 11AM - 5PM  
MONDAY BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

**FLEGELS *F* DESIGN**

1010 EL CAMINO REAL, MENLO PARK  
(650) 326-9661 • [www.flegels.com](http://www.flegels.com)

PREMIER PROPERTIES represented by **SCOTT DANCER**

Atherton



**FOR SALE**

81 ATHERTON AVE | OFFERED AT \$23,500,000

Woodside



**FOR SALE**

205 WINDING WAY | OFFERED AT \$22,000,000

Woodside



**FOR SALE**

333 RAYMUNDO DR | OFFERED AT \$12,750,000

Woodside



**FOR SALE**

18200 SKYLINE BLVD | OFFERED AT \$3,699,000

Woodside



**FOR SALE - 12 ACRES**

14621 SKYLINE BLVD | OFFERED AT \$2,500,000

Woodside



**FOR SALE - 1.9 ACRES**

14051 SKYLINE BLVD | OFFERED AT \$1,950,000

Woodside



**FOR SALE - 3.6 ACRES**

3600 PARTITION RD | OFFERED AT \$695,000

Woodside



**PENDING**

490 W MAPLE WAY | OFFERED AT \$4,395,000

**COMPASS**



Compass is the brand name used for services provided by one or more of the Compass group of subsidiary companies. Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01079009. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.



**SCOTT DANCER**

650.888.8199  
scott@scottdancer.com  
www.scottdancer.com

2930 Woodside Road, Woodside, CA 94062  
License # 00868362



# 2327 OLYMPIC AVENUE MENLO PARK



## NEARLY 1/3-ACRE IN SHARON HEIGHTS

A spacious lot of nearly a third of an acre in the sought-after Sharon Heights neighborhood sets the stage for this bright, welcoming 3-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom home. A beautifully landscaped front yard welcomes you, and inside, almost 2,300 square feet of living space enjoys gorgeous parquet floors, Andersen windows, new carpeting, and tremendous natural light. The floorplan includes a large living room with a brick fireplace, the kitchen adjoining the dining room for easy entertaining, and the downstairs family room that opens to a backyard patio. Peaceful, multi-level grounds invite outdoor enjoyment with an entertainer's deck, blooming flora, and a walking path, and this home also includes an attached 2-car garage. Experience everything the neighborhood has to offer with a location just minutes from Sharon Park, the Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club, and the Sharon Heights Shopping Center, plus you will be a short drive from both Santa Cruz Avenue and University Avenue, and have access to top-ranked schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

### OPEN HOUSE:

SATURDAY 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM | SUNDAY 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

[2327Olympic.com](http://2327Olympic.com)

Listed at \$3,488,000

Listed by the DeLeon Team • 2.5% Commission Paid to Buyer's Agent • Waived if DeLeon Buyer's Agent

Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.488.7325 | michael@deleonrealty.com

中文諮詢請聯繫 Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | DELEONREALTY.COM | DeLeon Realty, Inc.



# Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Courtesy Harold Schapelhouman

One of Menlo Fire's ladder trucks that was used to evacuate residents from apartment complexes on West Bayshore in East Palo Alto due to flooding in February 1998. Over 325 people were evacuated.

## A floating house and flooded fire truck when creek spilled over in 1998

Retired Menlo fire chief recounts destruction on 25th anniversary of San Francisquito Creek flooding

By Cameron Rebosio

The 25-year anniversary of the Peninsula's 1998 flood is fresh in the minds of longtime residents as the Bay Area recovers from this January's storms and flooding. Heavy rains on Feb. 2 and 3 in 1998 left flooding and destruction along the San Francisquito Creek. There was \$40 million in damage

including 1,700 properties in East Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Palo Alto. The previous record for water rushing down the stream was shattered when the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) gauge showed 6,500 to 8,000 cubic feet per minute of water rushing down the stream. Harold Schapelhouman, retired fire chief of Menlo Park Fire Protection District

who actively participated in rescue operations, recalled that emergency calls began to pour in around midnight as the creek flooded over the bank in "the complicating darkness of night."

The first midnight calls occurred in the Stanford Weekend Acres neighborhood, the area between Alpine Road

See **FLOOD**, page 19

## Palo Alto sued by advocacy groups for missing housing element deadline

Group asks court to formally declare city to be out of compliance with state law

By Gennady Sheyner

Two pro-housing groups are asking the court to limit Palo Alto's control over approving development application because it has not adopted a plan for adding more than 6,000 new dwellings by the state's Jan. 31 deadline.

Like most other Bay Area jurisdictions, the city has not yet received any feedback from the state Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) on its draft housing element, which the city submitted on Dec. 23. The document, which took more than a year of work, lays out the city's plan to add 6,086 new dwellings by 2031. As of last week, only a few cities, including Alameda, Emeryville, San Francisco and Redwood City, have received a green light from the state.

The lawsuit was filed in the Santa Clara County Superior Court on Feb. 2 by the nonprofits Yes In My Backyard (YIMBY) and the California Housing Defense Fund. The two groups point to a provision in the Housing Element Law that restricts the ability of cities with drafts that are not in "substantial compliance" with the law to disapprove housing developments that have an affordability component.

The law also requires jurisdictions that are more than 120 days late to complete all the required zoning changes to implement their plans within one year, rather than three.

The groups have filed 12 lawsuits against various Bay Area jurisdictions and plan to file more in the coming weeks, according to an announcement from the nonprofits. The group of cities being sued includes Belvedere, Burlingame, Cupertino, Daly City, Fairfax, Martinez, Novato, Palo Alto, Pinole, Pleasant Hill and Richmond.

"There's no excuse for these cities to be in violation of state law," Sonja Trauss, YIMBY Law Executive Director, said in a news release. "Cities have had years to plan for this. They've also received resources and feedback from us, our volunteer watchdogs, and HCD."

The cities, she said, are "trying to push the responsibility onto other communities and avoid having to welcome new neighbors. It's time for them to be held accountable."

The two nonprofits claim that they had sent the city a letter in December informing them that they would forego litigation if city officials acknowledge in

See **LAWSUIT**, page 15

## Since 2000, enrollment has fallen 76% in Ravenswood schools, report shows

By Angela Swartz

The Ravenswood City School District has experienced staggering student enrollment decline in the last two decades, a new district report shows.

More than half (55%) of the exodus has been attributed to changing demographics in East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park, according to the Jan. 26 staff report. The rest can be attributed to families choosing

to send their students to other districts and other schools (including newly opened charter schools).

"We're not serving 100% of our community, we think there's a lot of kids going to other programs," said Chief Business Officer Will Eger during a Jan. 26 school board meeting. "If all those kids came to our programs we'd have to open a lot more seats."

Superintendent Gina Sudaria said one of the district's

priorities is recruiting children to attend district schools.

In 2021, about 37% of students who live in district boundaries were enrolled in district schools and 33% were enrolled in charter schools. Back in 2000, 77% were enrolled in district schools and only 7% attended charter schools. Students also transfer out of the district through the Tinsley Voluntary Transfer Program.

See **RAVENSWOOD**, page 9



Magali Gauthier

Teacher Ruth Cuellar sits with her kindergarten students during a class activity at Los Robles-Ronald McNair Academy in East Palo Alto on Aug. 26, 2022.

## Gateway Rising is Now Leasing!

New Affordable 1, 2 & 3 Bedroom Apartments  
Opening in Spring 2023 in Menlo Park, CA  
**WAITLIST OPENS 1/30/23 at 8:30am AND WILL CLOSE  
ON 2/17/23 at 5:00 PM**

Apply online at:

[www.midpen-housing.org/Gatewayrising](http://www.midpen-housing.org/Gatewayrising)

**COMPLETED PRE-APPLICATIONS WILL BE  
ACCEPTED ONLINE (highly recommended) OR AT**

**TEMPORARY LEASING OFFICE:**

**1221 Willow Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025**

**PRE-APPLICATIONS (ONLINE, BY MAIL OR  
IN PERSON) MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5PM ON 2/17/23.**

Applicants selected by lottery,  
Income Restrictions and Preferences apply.

Phone: (650) 339-4021

Web: [www.midpen-housing.org/Gatewayrising](http://www.midpen-housing.org/Gatewayrising)



**MidPen**  
HOUSING

## This Valentine's,



## why not...

### ♥ Start a conversation!

Jump into a lively book club or current events discussion at Avenidas.

### ♥ Get your body grooving!

Ease into exercise with Avenidas' hybrid gentle yoga or other movement classes.

### ♥ Fall in love....

...with a new hobby! And make new friends on a hike, while learning to paint, or meeting for lunch at The Redwood Café.

From: *Your Secret Admirer*



**Avenidas**  
Re-Inventing Aging

(650) 289-5400 • [www.avenidas.org](http://www.avenidas.org)

Established 1965

## The Almanac

Serving Menlo Park,  
Atherton, Portola Valley,  
and Woodside for over 50 years

### NEWSROOM

#### Editor

Andrea Gemmet (223-6537)

#### Assistant Editor

Kevin Forestieri (223-6535)

#### Arts & Entertainment Editor

Heather Zimmerman (223-6515)

#### Staff Writers

Cameron Rebosio (223-6536),

Angela Swartz (223-6529)

#### Embarcadero Media Staff Writers

Sue Dremann (223-6518), Malea Martin

(223-6516), Zoe Morgan (223-6519),

Gennady Sheyner (223-6513)

#### Editorial Intern Grace Doerfler

Contributors Kate Daly, Maggie Mah

#### Special Sections Editor

Linda Taaffe (223-6511)

#### Chief Visual Journalist

Magali Gauthier (223-6530)

### DESIGN & PRODUCTION

#### Design and Production Manager

Kristin Brown (223-6562)

#### Designers

Linda Atilano, Paul Llewellyn,

Mary Watanabe, Doug Young

### ADVERTISING

#### Vice President and Chief Revenue Officer

Tom Zahiralis (223-6570)

#### Display Advertising Sales (223-6570)

#### Real Estate Manager

Neal Fine (223-6583)

#### Legal Advertising

Alicia Santillan (223-6578)

### ADVERTISING SERVICES

#### Advertising Services Manager

Kevin Legarda (223-6597)

#### Sales & Production Coordinator

Diane Martin (223-6584)

- The Almanac is published every Friday at  
**3525 Alameda De Las Pulgas,  
Menlo Park, CA 94025**
- **Newsroom:** (650) 223-6525  
Newsroom Fax: (650) 223-7525
  - **Email news** and photos with captions to: [Editor@AlmanacNews.com](mailto:Editor@AlmanacNews.com)
  - **Email letters** to: [Letters@AlmanacNews.com](mailto:Letters@AlmanacNews.com)
  - **Advertising:** (650) 854-2626  
Advertising Fax: (650) 223-7570
  - **Classified Advertising:** (650) 854-0858
  - **Submit Obituaries:**  
[AlmanacNews.com/obituaries](http://AlmanacNews.com/obituaries)

The Almanac (ISSN 1097-3095 and USPS 459370) is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Periodicals Postage Paid at Menlo Park, CA and at additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation for San Mateo County. The Almanac is delivered to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside. However, in order to continue delivering you the news you depend on, we encourage you to become a paid subscribing member. Go to [AlmanacNews.com/subscribe](http://AlmanacNews.com/subscribe) to start supporting The Almanac today.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558.  
Copyright ©2023 by Embarcadero Media. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

The Almanac is qualified by decree of the Superior Court of San Mateo County to publish public notices of a governmental and legal nature, as stated in Decree No. 147530, issued November 9, 1969.

To request delivery, or stop delivery, of The Almanac in zip code 94025, 94027, 94028 and the Woodside portion of 94062, call 854-2626.



### CRIME BRIEFS

#### 12-year-old punched, bike stolen in Menlo Park

Menlo Park police are seeking residents' help after a teenager reportedly punched a 12-year-old and stole his bicycle on Feb. 1, according to a press release.

The robbery was reported in the 500 block of Central Avenue in Menlo Park at 4:20 p.m. The 12-year-old male victim was approached by five teenagers while he was riding his bicycle home. According to police, his bicycle was stolen after he'd been punched in the face, knocking him off the bike.

The suspect dumped his own blue bicycle and took the victim's white Mafia Bomma bicycle with 29-inch rims. The Menlo Park Police Department has been unable to find the suspects or the victim's bicycle. The victim was treated at the scene by Menlo Park Fire Protection District medics.

The Menlo Park Police Department is asking residents with any information to call 650-330-6300.

—Cameron Rebosio

See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 14

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### Applications open for Board of Education seat

The application for an open seat on the San Mateo County Board of Education is due on Monday, Feb. 20, at 5 p.m.

The seat is for Trustee Area 7, which Trustee Joe Ross will step down from in March. Area 7 includes Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, Atherton, Woodside, Portola Valley, and a number of unincorporated areas of the county.

The board plans to make a provisional appointment in mid-March and the appointee will serve through Dec. 13, 2024. A regular election will be held in November 2024 to fill this position for the following term.

The board asks that candidates plan to attend the March 1 and March 15 Board meetings.

Apply online at [smcoe.org/about/board-of-education/board-vacancy-information.html](http://smcoe.org/about/board-of-education/board-vacancy-information.html).

#### Office hours with PV Council member Hufty

Portola Valley Town Council member Mary Hufty will be holding office hours throughout February on Wednesdays from 10 to 11 a.m. in the Heritage Room (next to the library front doors), 765 Portola Road.

#### Woodside High students named 'Youth of the Year'

Woodside High School seniors Arnold Ayala, Lucas Gonzalez Luna and Yunnuen Lopez were recognized in the semi-finals round of the Boys and Girls Club's "Youth of the Year" awards in January. Lopez was selected as the 2022-23 Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula's finalist and he will move forward in the next round of "Youth of the Year" selection.

"Arnold, Lucas and Yunnuen each represented Woodside (High School) with their experiences, powerful voices and their dreams before a crowd of peers, family and community leaders," according to a school newsletter. "Their parents were present and collectively, our hearts were full of joy and gratitude."

—Angela Swartz

#### St. Bede's Episcopal Church celebrates 60th anniversary in Menlo Park

St. Bede's Episcopal Church has celebrated 60 years in Menlo Park. The church was founded on Christmas Day in 1962 from overflow from the congregation of Trinity Parish.

St. Bede's works with local nonprofit organizations such as LifeMoves and the Ecumenical Hunger Program.

#### Rotary Club of Menlo Park seeks community-based organizations for grants

The Menlo Rotary Community Foundation is asking for grant proposals from community-based organizations to aid

See **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**, page 15

# Board of Supervisors honor victims of Half Moon Bay shootings

Leaders put focus on improving farmworker living conditions

By Thomas Hughes/  
Bay City News Foundation

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors honored the victims of an amass shootings in Half Moon Bay to start its regular meeting on Jan. 31, as supervisors pledged to improve living conditions for farm laborers at sanctioned farms in the county and to identify housing in unsanctioned locations.

Seven people were killed and another was wounded during shootings at two farms in Half Moon Bay on Jan. 23. An employee at one of the farms, Chunli Zhao, is facing seven counts of murder after being arrested in a Sheriff's Office substation parking lot following the shootings.

Multiple memorial services were planned around Half Moon Bay last week in addition to a standing memorial at Mac Dutra Plaza.

Supervisor David Pine said at the meeting that he was heartbroken about the shootings.

"I also feel a sense of anger," said Pine. "I'm angry that we have farmworkers that have to live in such difficult conditions and receive substandard wages."

Living conditions at both farms came under scrutiny following the killings, which the Sheriff's Office has described as motivated by workplace issues.

"It sounds like folks that have been there were traumatized by even seeing the living conditions for the farmworkers," said Supervisor Noellia Corzo. "For many people in our community,



Half Moon Bay Vice Mayor Joaquin Jimenez speaks at a news conference on Jan. 24 about the mass shooting that killed seven farmworkers.

it's normal. This is what they have."

The board began its meeting by having the Rev. Lauren McCombs, of the Episcopal Diocese of California, give reflective remarks and recite a prayer from St. Francis, as well as read the names of the victims killed.

The names were again read in Mandarin by Virginia Chang Kiraly, spokesperson for the San Mateo County Organization of Chinese Americans, who noted that last names are read first in Mandarin. Six of the victims in the shootings were farm laborers of Chinese descent. Kiraly was invited by Supervisor Ray Mueller to speak and was asked back later to give public comments by Pine.

During her public comments, Kiraly said the shootings had exposed a resource gap for Chinese workers in the county,

calling it a wakeup call for the county to provide more culturally appropriate counseling for its farmworkers. She said there was a complete lack of understanding and respect for Chinese farm laborers, which she attributed to ethno-centric behavior.

"We Chinese cannot and will not remain invisible," Kiraly said.

The shootings took place in the county's District 3, represented by Mueller. He said he was in the district a year ago marching with farmworkers in support of victims of the mass shooting in Uvalde, Texas, and would never have believed that Half Moon Bay would be the scene of its own shooting a short time later.

Mueller said the shootings had shined a light on how vulnerable people and farmworkers are living in the county and said

that many of the farmworkers in the county are functionally homeless.

"The best way to honor them is with policy," said Mueller. "We have to plant a signpost in the ground to say we're going to do things differently."

He said the county needs more permanent affordable housing for farmworkers like the Moon Ridge complex that opened in 2001, as well as needing to work with farmers to upgrade existing housing. He also requested that a survey and report be compiled detailing how many Asian farmworkers were living and working in the county, saying that that figure is not well known.

Supervisor David Canepa said housing solutions rely on state and federal help, and he recommended that the state expand both its emergency COVID-19 housing programs and Project Homekey hotel purchases as options.

"This is the most tragic mass shooting in San Mateo County's history, and there is a lot of grief," said Canepa.

The county activated its crisis response team to provide mental health counselors to those in need. It can be reached at 800-686-0101.

Canepa said \$1.5 million had been spent on farmworker housing since an effort started with the county's housing department in 2014, and this year's budget includes \$1.8 million for the issue. Funding has primarily been available through money raised from Measure K, the county's sales tax extension approved in 2016.

The county is currently providing housing for the 37 people displaced by the shootings, which include 18 families and 11 children, according to County Executive Mike Callagy. He called on community members to be part of the housing solution, asking people to open their doors to the affected families, especially those with children in Half Moon Bay schools who do not want to relocate.

Callagy said several services are being offered, including translation, meals, employment services, victims' services and mental health counseling. Displaced individuals were given between \$1,000 and \$2,000, depending on family size, to make up for lost compensation, which was provided by the non-profit Coastside Hope.

There are 18 farms registered in San Mateo County with at least five residents on-site, but Callagy said there are likely more than that and the county is now working to identify those locations, which he called shadow sites.

"We can't allow this to continue in our county," he said.

Later in the meeting, in separate proclamations that were previously on the agenda, the board recognized the week of Feb. 2 through Feb. 7 as National Gun Violence Survivors Week and proclaimed January 2023 Lunar New Year in San Mateo County. The latter proclamation noted that 32.4% of the county's population is of Asian and Pacific Islander descent. ■

## Pruning underway in Woodside to shape hundreds of oak trees

By Kate Daly

Talk about easy keepers. For the first time, hundreds of oak trees are being pruned more than 30 years after they were planted to beautify Cañada Road in Woodside.

Inspired by Mountain Home Road, the nearby "cool" tree-lined street, local resident Noel Perry founded a project in 1991 to plant more than 300 coast live and valley oaks on what he saw as a "sparse" stretch of Cañada Road between Woodside Road and Jefferson Avenue. Dozens of neighbors donated close to \$65,000 to the Oak Trees on Cañada Road Fund, the tax-deductible fund set up by the Woodside

Community Foundation.

Young 4 to 6-foot-tall trees were spaced between 30 and 50 feet apart on both sides of the roadway, and a crew watered the oaks for three years to help get them established. About 50 of the trees didn't make it, which Perry says is a pretty normal attrition rate.

Now that many of the oaks are about a foot and a half in diameter and 20 feet tall, he thinks they look "natural," but needed shaping to encourage them to grow into an "arch-like" canopy. A few donors recently gave money to cover the cost of arborist Ned Patchett, who is overseeing the weeklong pruning process.

Perry serves on the board of the Woodside Community

Foundation and says he is appreciative of "all the townspeople who stepped up and supported the project," then and now.

He is also excited that the trees have made the road's walking, riding and biking trails nicer, provide homes for insects and animals, plus sequester carbon.

"The trees are making a contribution," he says.

When the trees were originally planted some Woodside School students got involved. Back then, sixth graders Katie Nolan, Kate Connor and Julie Williamson, wrote "A Recipe for Beauty" in honor of the project:

Mix 1 cup vision  
Add 2 cups of concern for the environment  
1 cup fundraising



Courtesy Jim Milton

Oak trees planted along Cañada Road in Woodside get trimmed on Feb. 1. The trees were planted over 30 years ago as a community project.

304 Oak Trees  
10 cups hard work  
Blend together with interested members.  
Thirty-two years later the

recipe appears on the community foundation's website to illustrate what the nonprofit has done over the last 70 years. ■

# Preview: \$50 million redesign at Belle Haven Elementary

By Angela Swartz

For the first time since the 1960s, Belle Haven Elementary School facilities will get a major facelift.

The Almanac visited the TK-5 school at 415 Ivy Drive in Menlo Park recently to tour the campus and get a preview of what's to come with a \$50 million construction project to modernize classrooms. Renovation work at the school is the first priority for using funds from the district's \$110 bond measure, which passed in June 2022.

The Ravenswood City School District Board of Trustees is still considering if it wants to take a phased approach to construction it did at Cesar Chavez Ravenswood Middle School.

A phased approach would mean longer overall construction period but more of the campus would be available throughout the project. A faster method would involve closing off much of the campus. Finishing sooner would also mean the district could avoid some inflation costs, Chief Business Officer Will Eger told the school board on Jan. 19.

Construction won't start until at least January 2024.

A phased approach would likely run from January 2024 through the summer of 2026, while a whole campus approach would allow for most construction to



Magali Gauthier

Fencing along walls and above hallways at Belle Haven Elementary School in Menlo Park will be removed as part of the renovations.

be completed by summer of 2025, save for work on fields and the blacktop, according to a district staff report.

Board members said they'd like to hear feedback from staff and community before making a decision on the construction timeline.

## Changes to come

A larger gym and kitchen facility will replace an eight-classroom building. There will be an outdoor eating space set up near the new cafeteria.

The district is working to install solar panels near portables

at the back of campus that are slated for removal. Fencing will come down and new buildings will be used to close off campus instead.

Portables will be removed to make space for a play area.

Classrooms will finally have central air conditioning. Furnaces in the center of classrooms will be removed.

Among the new classrooms will be a new makerspace, new music room and an expanded courtyard space. Two new transitional kindergarten classrooms will be built in place of classrooms currently deemed not safe for students.



Magali Gauthier

An air conditioning unit mounted on a classroom window at Belle Haven Elementary School. Central air conditioning will be installed in all classrooms as part of the renovations.

Uneven blacktop will be smoothed out and made ADA-compliant. The school's "ocean of asphalt" will be replaced with green space, said project architect Chris Bradley, a senior associate partner with SVA-Architects.

Because of how the school is set up now, with a trash area bordering Chilco Street, neighbors don't see a very pleasant, clean campus, noted Superintendent Gina Sudaria.

## More info on the facilities plans

The project draws from the 2015 district facilities master plan.

The district is hosting office hours to discuss the project on Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. in the Belle Haven Teacher's Lounge. The next one will be held on Feb. 22.

The next community meeting about the project will be held on April 19 at 4 p.m. at the school.

Learn more about the project website at [ravenswoodschools.org/Choose-Ravenswood/Facilities/Belle-Haven-Redesign/index.html](http://ravenswoodschools.org/Choose-Ravenswood/Facilities/Belle-Haven-Redesign/index.html) ■

Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at [aswartz@almanacnews.com](mailto:aswartz@almanacnews.com).

# California snowpack reaches record high in latest survey

Feb. 1 manual survey by state water officials recorded 88.5 inches of snow in Sierra Nevada

By Olivia Wynkoop/  
Bay City News Service

The series of atmospheric rivers that hit California in the months of December and January certainly improved the state's snowpack, state water officials confirmed during their second snow survey of the year.

Results from the state's latest manual snow survey, conducted on Feb. 1, recorded 85.5 inches of snow at the Sierra Nevada's Phillips Station, which is 193% of average for the area at this time

of year.

Electronic snow sensors installed around California reveal that statewide, the snowpack is 205% of average for Feb. 1, which beats the state's record snow levels in 1982.

The numbers come after the state endured one of its wettest three-week periods ever, which followed a severe three-year drought and a prolonged heat wave over the summer.

David Rizzardo, hydrology manager for the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), said January's atmospheric rivers ensures that this

year's data is different than that of last year's, when the state was hit with the driest January, February and March on record after reaching snow depths of 150% above normal at the beginning of 2022.

"There's a contrast to the year before, when we did have some good storms in December and a really good snowpack around Jan. 1, but those were only two or three atmospheric rivers," Rizzardo said. "So it is a major difference when you have that number of storms all coming in at different angles and orientations into the mountains and really distributing snow fairly well."

Rizzardo added that the snow in higher elevations is very cold and not very dense — the perfect conditions for the snowpack to last until spring. Snow in lower parts of the mountains is likely to melt quickly and rebuild, which is not alarming, he said.

State water officials err on the side of caution before celebrating, as California still has two months before it should reach its snowpack peak for the wet season. Called the "frozen reservoir," the snowpack makes up about 30% of the state's water supplies and significantly influences how water officials manage the state's water supplies.

"California has always experienced some degree of swings between wet and dry, but the past few months have demonstrated how much more extreme those swings are becoming," said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. "California is preparing for more intense and dangerous climate swings by bolstering both drought and flood preparation."

California typically receives about half of its annual precipitation during December, January and February, said State Climatologist Michael Anderson. This season, the state received 80% of its snowfall in a matter of three weeks.

But Jeanine Jones, interstate resources manager at DWR, added that above-average rain and snow levels does not necessarily translate into water for Californians' taps. She said that the state's groundwater and reservoir systems are like "really big buckets" that need more than just one good wet season to be fully replenished, after years of depleted levels.

"Some areas will likely come out of drought conditions because of the very wet conditions that we've had, but it really depends on the circumstances of a water suppliers," said Jones. "If they're taking water from just only groundwater in an area that's been very depleted over time, or if they're taking water from a reservoir that's really full." ■

**LEHUA GREENMAN**



*"The Heart that gives, gathers."*

Happy Valentine's Day!

650.245.1845 COMPASS

**Attention neighbors!**

**Evelin's Food Truck** is now open  
10am-8pm Monday-Saturday in the  
downtown Redwood City area at  
1833 Broadway, Redwood City, CA 94063.  
Serving Salvadorian/Mexican cuisine.  
All are welcome!

# La Baguette settles federal lawsuit for \$430K in fraudulent PPP claims

Company received two loans simultaneously through the Paycheck Protection Program

By Sue Dremann

A Palo Alto bakery has settled a lawsuit with the federal government for making false claims to acquire \$430,000 through a program designed to help struggling businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Department of Justice said on Feb. 3.

La Baguette, a French bakery located at 170 Stanford Shopping Center, unlawfully applied for and received two loans through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and later asked for and received loan forgiveness for both, leaving the Small Business Administration on the hook to cover the costs to the lenders.

The program was established through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (“CARES”) Act, enacted in March 2020, to provide emergency financial assistance to Americans suffering economic effects caused by the pandemic. It also authorized forgivable loans to small businesses for employee payroll and certain other expenses. Participating lenders received processing fees from the Small Business Administration for handling the PPP loan applications. The lenders funded the loans, which were 100% guaranteed



Veronica Weber.

People order from La Baguette in Stanford Shopping Center in 2011.

by the SBA, after application approvals.

In April 2020, La Baguette, through principal owner Scott Brunello, submitted an application for a PPP loan to a lender. La Baguette certified that from Feb., 15, 2020, through Dec. 31, 2020, the company hadn’t and wouldn’t receive another loan under the PPP. La Baguette received \$214,700 from the lender by electronic transfer.

But while that loan was still pending, La Baguette submitted an application for another PPP loan to a second lender claiming that it hadn’t and wouldn’t receive another loan through the program during

the same time period. The second lender loaned La Baguette \$215,000 through an electronic funds transfer. The bakery knowingly kept the funds from both loans, the government said in its settlement agreement with La Baguette.

“The United States further contends that, despite knowing that it should not have received more than one PPP loan prior to December 31, 2020, La Baguette applied for and received forgiveness of

both loans from SBA,” the government wrote.

Under its settlement agreement, La Baguette and Brunello agreed to pay the government \$430,000, of which \$215,000 is restitution. The settlement does not protect against any liability under criminal or Internal Revenue Service codes.

Two other Bay Area businesses also agreed to settlements, the Department of Justice said. Dynamic Integrated Solution Inc., an industrial equipment supplier located in Santa Clara, has also agreed to pay \$50,000 in civil penalties to settle allegations that it received and retained a duplicate PPP loan. The company agreed to repay the loan it received in full to its lender, of approximately \$985,000 on the duplicate loan.

A third company, Priority Acquisitions Inc., a Castro Valley licensed general contractor, has agreed to pay \$50,000 in civil damages and penalties to settle allegations that it received and retained a duplicate loan. The company agreed to repay the loan in full to its lender. It will also repay

the lender in full approximately \$200,625.

The cases were filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California under whistleblower provisions of the False Claims Act by J. Bryan Quesenberry. He will receive a portion of the settlements totaling approximately \$80,000, the Department of Justice said.

Tips and complaints from all sources about potential fraud affecting COVID-19 government relief programs can be reported to the Civil Division’s Fraud Section at justice.gov/civil/report-fraud. Anyone with information about allegations of attempted fraud involving COVID-19 can also file a report by calling the Department of Justice’s National Center for Disaster Fraud Hotline at 866-720-5721 or through the NCFD web complaint form at justice.gov/disaster-fraud/ncdf-disaster-complaint-form. ■

Email Staff Writer Sue Dremann at sdremann@paweb.com.

## RAVENSWOOD

continued from page 5

In 1997 the East Palo Alto Charter School opened, followed in 2017 by KIPP Valiant Community Prep and The Primary School.

The highest peak of enrollment in the district was in 1998, with about 5,000 students enrolled, according to the district. The district enrolled 1,530 students during the 2022-23 school year.

“This is not the same Ravenswood that was 10 years ago,” said Board President Jenny Varghese Bloom. “That’s one thing we as a district need to continue to talk about. ... How do we bring students back? ... It is an amazing school with amazing teachers and with amazing staff.”

Trustee Mele Latu said she wants to form a board subcommittee formed solely to focus on enrollment.

population declines, but not as severe as Ravenswood’s dip.

The Menlo Park City School District student body is expected to shrink to around 2,500 students in 2027, down 7.4% from 2,700 today, according to a December report.

The number of children under 5 living in the Ravenswood district suggests that there will likely be further enrollment declines. These potential declines could be offset by an increasing number of students enrolled in the district, according to staff.

Board members did wonder how new housing projects in the Belle Haven neighborhood of Menlo Park could impact enrollment. Eger noted that it’s difficult to predict how many families will move into those units and attend district schools. ■

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

## Youth population in the region

Neighboring school districts have also seen, or expect to see,

### LET’S DISCUSS:

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

**Menlo Park Monthly Market Report**  
January 1, 2023 - January 31, 2023

**11 COSTLY HOME INSPECTIONS PITFALLS**  
Free Report reveals what you need to know before you list your home for sale.  
[www.Rossetti11CostlyPitfalls.com](http://www.Rossetti11CostlyPitfalls.com)

TOP 10 SALES*			
1. \$8,900,000 35 Hesketh Drive	2. \$6,560,000 411 Arlington Way	3. \$4,800,000 1160 Westfield Drive	4. \$2,600,000 211 Santa Margarita Avenue
5. \$2,450,000 811 15th Ave	6. \$2,100,000 2355 Sharon Oaks Drive	7. \$2,011,000 140 Baywood Avenue	8. \$1,970,000 1041 Sonoma Avenue
9. \$1,738,000 722 14th Avenue	10. \$1,350,000 630 12th Avenue		

**ACTIVE LISTING**

Jan 23: 38 ↑ 111%

Dec 22: 18

**AVERAGE SALES PRICE**

Jan 23: \$3,023,583 ↓ 7%

Dec 22: \$3,249,553

**AVERAGE SALES PRICE/SQ Ft**

Jan 23: \$1,361 ↓ 10%

Dec 22: \$1,505

**PENDING LISTING**

Jan 23: 10 ↓ 23%

Dec 22: 13

**AVERAGE SOLD DAYS ON MARKET**

Jan 23: 37 ↑ 48%

Dec 22: 25

**MONTHS OF INVENTORY**

Jan 23: 3.30 ↑ 313%

Dec 22: 0.80

If no further homes/condos were to come to market, the area would be SOLD OUT of residential real estate in the number of MONTHS shown

**SOLD LISTING**

Jan 23: 12 ↓ 45%

Dec 22: 22

**SALE/LIST PRICE**

Jan 23: 99.60% → 0%

Dec 22: 99.70%

**30 YEAR MORTGAGE RATE**

Jan 23: 6.42% ↓ 5%

Dec 22: 6.74%

Source: Bankrate

\*January 2023 compared to December 2022

\*Source: ALLS Listings for Single Family Properties | Townhomes | Condos

**Making A Move?**

**Sellers Start Here: RossettiMarketValue.com**

**Buyers Start here: RossettiHomeFinder.com**

**Gail Antoinette Rossetti**

Founder | CEO | Broker

License #01179344

3525 Alameda De Las Pulgas Suite C Menlo Park, CA Phone: 650-854-4100

# Putting the pieces of community together

Emma Taylor, founder of the Peninsula Puzzlers, is making connections through puzzle competition

By Julia Brown

On a rainy Saturday in January, 25 teams of two gathered in Redwood City for a competition testing their patience, strategy and speed. The rules: no pauses, no teammate substitutions, no spatulas and no magnifying glasses.

With the ring of a cowbell, the jigsaw puzzle competition began.

Emma Taylor has organized two sold-out competitions in Redwood City so far, one in March 2022 and the most recent on Jan. 14. A native of the San Diego area, Taylor has been putting puzzles together since she was a child, a hobby shared by her mother and grandmother.

"In the garage of our house, (my grandma) had a big puzzling table and I'd join her," Taylor said. "She's the one who taught me to start with the edges."

Now, Taylor is using one of her favorite pastimes to foster community in the city she's called home for the past five years. Her competitions have drawn a mix of "super serious puzzlers" and more casual participants, including couples, mother-daughter duos, sisters and friends of varying ages. The events are organized under the name Peninsula Puzzlers.

"I love doing jigsaw puzzles, and I remember sharing with my husband that if this was a competitive thing I'd probably do pretty good," said Taylor, who works as a sustainability consultant in the building and construction industry.

"I did a quick Google search and realized there are jigsaw puzzling competitions in other parts of the country and world, but I didn't see anything local, and I figured if I was interested, other people would be excited to do something like that."

While puzzling's popularity soared during the onset of the pandemic, with NPR reporting on a "global shortage of puzzles" in 2020, the inaugural two-day World Jigsaw Puzzle Championships started in 2019 in Spain.

At the championship, more than 1,000 competitors from 40 countries split into teams of four or five, with eight hours to complete four puzzles ranging from 1,000 to 1,500 pieces, according to a 2020 story published in *The Guardian*. On the second day, individuals vie to complete the same 500-piece



Devin Roberts

A participant sifts through puzzle pieces at the Peninsula Puzzlers competition in Redwood City.

puzzle and earn the title of world's fastest puzzler.

The two-and-a-half hour Peninsula Puzzlers competition earlier this month tasked participants with completing the same 500-piece jigsaw puzzle the fastest, with prizes for the top three teams. Spectators were allowed to cheer on friends and family, but teammate substitutions were banned, along with tools that puzzlers sometimes use at home like magnifying glasses and spatulas.

The first-place team, Joanna Yong and her daughter Jillian of Belmont, finished the puzzle just after the 47-minute mark in what was their first-ever competition. They typically complete a 1,000-piece puzzle every month.

"I sort, she goes: That's how we do puzzles together," Joanna Yong said after their victory. "It's a nice activity to do together."

Ellen Omoto traveled from her home in Los Angeles to compete with her friend Krystal Ragat of Santa Clara. They found out about the event online and had never tried competitive puzzling before. They placed second a few minutes shy of the one-hour mark.

"It was a little more stressful," Ragat said. "We were afraid we weren't going to finish at all."

Longtime puzzlers like teammates and friends Kerry Zarchi of Redwood City and Nancy Magee from San Carlos finished in third place. Their puzzling hobby turned into an obsession during the pandemic, with Magee recently completing a 40,000 piece puzzle (10

connected puzzles of 4,000 pieces each). It measured 22 feet long by 6 1/2 feet wide, and Magee borrowed space at her church to put it together.

"This is our sport," Zarchi said.

The latest competition grew from 15 duos to 25 after the initial Peninsula Puzzlers contest sold out quickly, forcing Taylor to waitlist eager puzzlers.

"I thought I'd have to convince a bunch of my friends to do it, but it was all people I didn't know," she said of the first competition. "It was just a bunch of random community members who showed up,

which was awesome."

At home, Taylor has a habit of leaving a puzzle on the table and working on it when she's bored or has free time.

"I could sit around and scroll through my phone, or I could sit around and try to find a couple puzzle pieces," she said. "It feels a lot more therapeutic."

Taylor buys puzzles for competitions from a California company, SunsOut, but hasn't bought a new one for herself in years by swapping puzzles with neighbors through Nextdoor. She doesn't even mind the dreaded fate of putting together

a puzzle with a missing piece or two because, she said, "I take it apart at the end and give it to someone else."

While Taylor's hobby stems from her childhood, she said she became "wrapped up" in puzzling during the pandemic.

"It's a good go-to, in-the-house activity that takes a lot of time and headspace," she said. "An outcome for me of the pandemic and a lot of people was the realization that life is short and if I have an idea about something, there's not enough time to think about whether I'm going to do it or not: I have to do it and follow through."

"It was a good kick in the pants to harness the time we do have," Taylor said. "If you want to host a puzzling competition, do it."

For Peninsula puzzle pros who missed the first two competitions, fear not: Taylor believes there's enough demand to potentially hold quarterly competitions, and she's interested in finding community sponsorships and getting feedback on new elements like expanded teams and puzzle sizes.

"I've really found a good community here," she said. "There's opportunity for community everywhere, even doing puzzles." ■

*Associate Digital Editor Kate Bradshaw contributed reporting to this story. Email Six Fifty Editor Julia Brown at [jbrown@thesixfifty.com](mailto:jbrown@thesixfifty.com).*



Devin Roberts

Twin sisters Nancy Swayne and Betsy Swayne-Oram complete a 500-piece puzzle in teams of two during the Peninsula Puzzlers competition in Redwood City on Jan. 14.

# Have questions about the educator housing project?

## Here are some answers

By Zoe Morgan

Plans are underway to break ground in the next several months on an educator-housing project in Palo Alto that was proposed more than five years ago. The housing project involves over half a dozen local school districts and coordination among Santa Clara County, two nonprofit developers, the city of Palo Alto and Meta.

Once built, the aim is to provide affordable housing for teachers and other school staff, allowing them to live near their jobs. As the project has taken shape over the past half decade, numerous questions have arisen about how the development is set up.

Below are answers to some of those questions, based on public documents and interviews, including with Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian, a representative from the developers, school board members and a Meta official.

Because the project is still in progress, some details haven't yet been determined and others could change over time. Have any questions that aren't answered here? Reach out to reporter Zoe Morgan at [zmorgan@embarcaderopublishing.com](mailto:zmorgan@embarcaderopublishing.com).

### What's the basic concept for the project?

Santa Clara County is partnering with nonprofit developers to construct 110 apartments at 231 Grant Ave. in Palo Alto, which would then be rented at below-market rates to teachers and other staff members in participating school districts. The county donated the land for the project, which sits across from the Palo Alto Courthouse.

### What's the history of this project?

Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian first formally proposed the idea in January 2018. He said that the high cost of living in the region was making it difficult for educators to reside in the communities where they work. The idea was to provide units at an affordable price to local school staff, who make less than the area's average income, but typically more than is required to qualify for traditional affordable-housing projects.

### Why do proponents say this project is needed?

Supporters say that students benefit when their teachers live in the community and don't



Magali Gauthier

The county-owned land at 231 Grant Ave. will be the site of 110 affordable apartments for local teachers and school staffers.

have to endure long commutes. They also believe that districts may be better able to attract and retain employees if subsidized housing is available.

The idea of educator housing has gained traction in recent years, with the Mountain View Whisman School District breaking ground on its own subsidized teacher housing project last year.

### Has anyone raised concerns about the project?

Some have questioned how acute the staffing challenges that districts face actually are, and whether there are better ways for districts to spend the money that they are contributing. There also have been questions about why school staff are getting subsidized housing versus other public or private-sector employees. As is typical for new housing developments, some residents have opposed the size of the proposed building.

### What's the project timeline?

The intent is to break ground on the project in the next few months, with school staff able to move into their units in late 2024 or early 2025, Simitian said.

### Which districts are participating?

The Los Altos School District, Mountain View Whisman School District, Palo Alto Unified School District and Foothill-De Anza Community College District's boards have all signed off on participating in the project. The Mountain View Los Altos Union High School

District's board is expected to review a funding agreement for the project in the coming weeks.

Employees of south San Mateo County schools will have an opportunity to participate as a result of a \$25 million contribution from Meta, formerly called Facebook, which is headquartered in Menlo Park. Ravenswood City School District, Menlo Park City School District, Las Lomitas Elementary School District and certain schools in the Sequoia Union High School District are specifically named in an agreement between Meta and Santa Clara County.

### How many units is each district getting?

Los Altos, Mountain View Whisman and Foothill-De Anza have agreed to each have a dozen units set aside for their staff. Palo Alto Unified approved 29 units for its staff. The Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District is expected to be offered a dozen units. The south San Mateo County districts will have access to 32 units total. One unit will be saved for a property manager.

### Why is Palo Alto getting more?

That's a question that Palo Alto Unified board member Todd Collins raised, saying he found it "suboptimal and basically unfair" that his district was getting more units, despite having what he described as less of a problem recruiting and retaining teachers. Collins was the sole vote against approving his district's participation in the

project.

When a preliminary analysis of how many apartments the site could fit was initially conducted, the county was given a range of 60 to 120, Simitian said. To avoid overpromising, he said they assumed 12 units for each of the five Santa Clara County districts. Meta then contributed \$25 million and wanted units for south San Mateo County educators. The project plan ultimately settled at 110 units.

According to Simitian, there were three major reasons why Palo Alto got more units. First, because they expressed interest in a greater number of units from the outset. Second, because the development is located in Palo Alto. Since a goal of the project is to embed teachers in the community where they work, Simitian said it was ideal for Palo Alto Unified employees to live there. Third, the city of Palo Alto contributed funding to the development.

### You mentioned the city of Palo Alto and Meta have contributed money. How does the project's funding work?

The project relies on funding from various sources. Santa Clara County donated the land and set aside \$6 million from the Stanford Affordable Housing Fund, which comes from fees Stanford University pays to the county that are reserved for affordable housing within a 6-mile radius of the campus. The city of Palo Alto agreed to kick in \$3 million, using the proceeds from fees that real estate developers pay the city, which are set aside for affordable

housing. Meta put in \$25 million. The Santa Clara County school districts are being asked to pay \$50,000 for each unit that their employees would get priority access to.

The rest of the financing is up to the developers — Mercy Housing and Abode Communities — to handle. The project isn't part of any state or federal low-income housing programs, Simitian said.

According to Kelly Hollywood, associate director of real estate at Mercy Housing, the remainder of money is a mix of conventional loans and funds from private lenders. The eventual rent proceeds will be used to pay off these loans, Hollywood said.

### Why do districts need to contribute \$50,000 per unit? How was that number picked and what does it get them?

The idea was to have school districts put in money, so that they have "skin in the game," Simitian said. He was open about the fact that \$50,000 is a somewhat arbitrary number, but said it was meant to be manageable for districts, while also providing them a stake in the property.

The money doesn't give the districts ownership of the apartments, but rather means that their employees will have priority access to the units. Mercy and Abode will jointly own the building, according to Maegan Pearson, associate vice president of development at Abode.

### Where are the districts getting the money to pay their share?

It depends on the district. Foothill-De Anza and Palo Alto Unified both plan to use money from their respective general funds, which is the main pool of money that districts use to pay most of their expenses. Mountain View Whisman is using money from a bond that voters approved in 2020. The Los Altos School District is using lease revenue from a site it owns in Mountain View where the district intends to build a school, but which is currently occupied by multiple businesses.

When Palo Alto Unified's board voted to approve spending \$1.45 million for 29 units, district staff recommended using the general fund for now, noting that there were open questions around using bond money. Superintendent Don Austin told this news

See EDUCATOR HOUSING, page 18

# Stanford Medicine finds racial disparities in child abuse reporting

Study finds injured Black children reported for suspected abuse to authorities more frequently than other groups

By Sue Dremann

Black children who are injured because of suspected child abuse are reported to Child Protective Services more frequently than are white children and those of other races, a new Stanford School of Medicine study has found.

Parents and other caregivers rarely admit to injuring their children, so reports rely in part on providers' gut feelings, which can be influenced by unconscious, systemic bias, the researchers said. Medical caregivers are "mandated reporters" who must alert authorities when they think children might be victims of abuse.

The potential for bias in doctors' and nurses' decisions about which injuries should be reported to Child Protective Services can lead to more investigations of Black families and potentially more episodes of abuse for the white children whose cases are not referred to the authorities.

**'The consequences of getting these reports wrong are pretty dire in either direction.'**

DR. STEPHANIE CHAO,  
STANFORD MEDICINE PROFESSOR

The research also found that Black children's injuries were still disproportionately reported as suspected abuse regardless of whether the children were poor. Poverty is considered a risk factor for abuse. The Stanford study examined whether children had public or private insurance as a marker for family income.

The researchers used two sets of data of nearly 800,000

traumatic injuries to children ages 1 to 17 from 2010 to 2014 and from 2016 to 2017, taken from the National Trauma Data Bank, which is maintained by the American College of Surgeons. The data showed 1% of the injuries were suspected to be caused by abuse, based on medical codes used to report different types of abuse.

The outcomes for children of abuse are grim. Compared to the general population of children with traumatic injuries, suspected child abuse victims were younger (a median age of 2 years old versus 10 years), more likely to have public insurance (77% versus 43%) and more likely to be admitted to the intensive care unit (68% versus 48%). The suspected child abuse victims also were 10 times more likely than the general population of children with traumatic injuries to die of their injuries in the hospital, with 8.2% of suspected abuse victims versus 0.84% of all children with traumatic injuries dying during hospitalization, the study found.

Among suspected child abuse victims, 1% were Asian, 0.3% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, 2% American Indian and 12% other race, with the proportions of children in the suspected child abuse group and in the general population of injured children being similar, the researchers said.

But Black patients were disproportionately over-identified among suspected child abuse victims. They comprised 33% of suspected child abuse victims and 18% of the general population of traumatically injured children. White children comprised 51% of suspected child abuse victims and 66% of the general population of traumatically injured children.



Veronica Weber

A new study by Stanford School of Medicine shows evidence of bias among medical staff when reporting that injured children are suspected to be victims of abuse.

Some experts have argued that disproportionate reporting of injured Black children reflects only that their families tend to have lower incomes, not that medical professionals are subject to bias, the researchers said, but the Stanford study did not find that to be true.

"Even when we control for income — in this case, via insurance type — African American children are still significantly over-represented as suspected victims of child abuse," senior study author Dr. Stephanie Chao, assistant professor of surgery at Stanford Medicine, said.

Black children's injuries also were reported to authorities when they had lower injury-severity scores, meaning there

was more suspicion for children with less-severe injuries among the Black racial group, Chao said.

The reverse was true for white victims of child abuse. Medical professionals overall had a higher threshold for suspecting white families of abuse and a lower threshold for suspecting Black families. Yet white children in the suspected abuse group were more likely than Black children to have worse injuries, and they were more likely to have been admitted to the intensive care unit, the researchers found.

Although white suspected child abuse patients were more severely injured and had an in-hospital mortality of 9% compared to 6% among Black

patients, Black suspected child abuse patients were hospitalized longer, despite controlling for insurance type.

Chao said such medical bias based on race is injurious to both Black and white children.

"If you over-identify cases of suspected child abuse, you're separating children unnecessarily from their families and creating stress that lasts a lifetime. But child abuse is extremely deadly, and if you miss one event — maybe a well-to-do Caucasian child where you think, 'no way' — you may send that child back unprotected to a very dangerous environment. The consequences are really sad and devastating on

See **ABUSE REPORTING**, page 16

## Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce dissolves and joins countywide group

By Cameron Rebosio

Menlo Park's Chamber of Commerce has amalgamated into the San Mateo County Chamber of Commerce.

In an email to members of the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce, the board of directors said that financial stability was too challenging, and

as a solution the board took a vote to dissolve the Menlo Park chapter and join forces with the San Mateo County Chamber of Commerce.

The formal process to join the San Mateo County chamber began last year and finalized on Feb. 1.

"Our goal is to respect that Menlo Park is a special community and the businesses

which call this community home represent a unique and impressive diversity of owners, sectors, and customers," said CEO and President of the San Mateo County Chamber Amy Buckmaster. "But we also want to leverage the strength and opportunity which comes with joining our voices to advocate for the needs of businesses of all sizes and a strong

local economy."

Buckmaster said that this transition will increase the collaborative nature of San Mateo County's businesses, and that she looks forward to working with Fran Dehn, the former president and CEO of the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce.

The Almanac's attempt to reach Dehn for comment were

not successful. A representative of the city of Menlo Park did not know if the Golden Acorn Awards will be continued, as the annual event honoring community members was run by the Menlo Park Chamber. ■

Email Staff Writer Cameron Rebosio at [crebosio@almanacnews.com](mailto:crebosio@almanacnews.com).

# Trial in murder of Menlo Park resident begins

By Cameron Rebosio

The trial has begun for the man accused of murdering Menlo Park resident Kathy Hughes Anderson on Dec. 12, 2018.

Hughes Anderson, who for many years worked as the town arborist in Atherton, was found stabbed to death in 2018. Wolke, who was 26 at the time, was arrested on suspicion of murder with a bail set at \$10 million, and has been in custody since.

Hughes Anderson's body was

discovered by Daniel Baggett, her ex-tenant and friend. When he couldn't get ahold of Hughes Anderson, he went by her house and found the back door and screen open, according to court documents. He called for Hughes Anderson, who didn't respond. Instead, Baggett allegedly found Wolke walking downstairs with blood on his pants.

Baggett says he grabbed a knife from Hughes Anderson's kitchen, and told Wolke not to come closer. According to Baggett, Wolke sat at the top

of the stairs and waited. When police arrived, they discovered Hughes Anderson had been stabbed to death using something "other than a knife" to inflict wounds to her head.

Wolke, now 30, pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder by reason of insanity on May 9, 2019, and waived his right to a speedy preliminary hearing. The trial is coming to fruition four years after the crime due, in large part, the defense's requests to continue, according to Chief

Deputy District Attorney Sean Gallagher. The trial also hit some bumps trying to get doctors in to see Wolke, which is required for a plea of insanity.

"When we file a case, we are ready and prepared to be ready within the statutory time period," Gallagher said. "... COVID presented some challenges with doctors being able to get into the jail and see the client."

A trial to argue not guilty by reason of insanity requires a two-part trial, according to

Gallagher. The first part of the trial is to determine guilt, and if found guilty, the second part of the trial determines the validity of the claims of insanity, using the same jury.

Opening statements are set to begin on Feb. 14 and the trial is expected to last less than a month. Jury selection began earlier this week. ■

*Email Staff Writer Cameron Rebosio at crebosio@almanacnews.com.*

## SRI CAMPUS

*continued from page 1*

residents asked Lane Partners to look into developing much more than the proposed total of 550 housing units, comparing the project to the similarly immense Willow Village development in the Bayfront neighborhood. Meta, formerly known as Facebook, plans to build 1,730 units of housing on a mixed-use development four acres smaller than SRI.

Some people who spoke at the meeting asked Lane Partners to consider doubling the amount of housing offered at the Parkline development or even increasing the units to match Willow Village's.

At the Planning Commission's final continuation of the meeting on Feb. 6, SRI responded to the feedback on its master plan. A representative from Lane Partners compared the proposed projects for Parkline and Willow Village, saying that Parkline may be providing less housing, but that the project is also bringing fewer new employees to Menlo Park and a higher percentage of the units being built are affordable.

The representative from Lane Partners said that they could agree to study a maximum of 800 units at the site and move the designated land for affordable housing to be in the same area as the other residential units.

"Transit-rich spaces like this reduce the need for driving and allow for better employment opportunities for your community members who rely on public transit," said Ken Chan, senior organizer with the Housing Leadership Council.

Commissioner Henry Riggs requested an aggressive traffic demand management (TDM) plan for the project, asking for up to a 50% traffic reduction requirement.

"My neighbor doesn't bother to say anything because he feels it would fall on deaf ears after 20 years," Commissioner Riggs

said. "But his cross-town effort in the morning simply to cross Menlo Park ... takes him 10 minutes longer than if he simply drove to San Francisco."

The number of units was also called into question, as planning commissioners said they believe SRI's campus is located in a good spot for high-density development. The campus is across the street from the city's Burgess Park complex, which includes Menlo Park's recreation center, pool, gyms, police station, city hall and city council chambers, library, tennis courts and fields. There are several bus stops adjacent to the site along Middlefield Road and Ravenswood Avenue.

Riggs asked that Lane Partners consider looking at a density closer to 1,700 units when analyzing the EIR, even though that density is likely not possible, but the alternative could not be requested until impacts are known. Alternatives are often used to study issues presented in an original project.

"We also want Parkline to be innovative in its approach to helping to solve some of the community's challenges," SRI CEO David E. Parekh wrote in a letter to the Planning Commission. "...It will preserve heritage trees and transform an urban heat island into a park-like setting for the community and our employees to enjoy together."

Commissioners asked if Lane Partners would consider including less parking, at a ratio of 1 to 1.75 parking spaces per 1,000 square feet. The project is currently planning for a ratio of 2 spaces per 1,000 square feet. Lane Partners were receptive to several requests from the commissioners, such as including pickleball courts and a regulation sports field.

The project will return to the Menlo Park City Council in late February or early March. ■

*Email Staff Writer Cameron Rebosio at crebosio@almanacnews.com.*

## NOTICE TO BIDDERS

1. Notice is hereby given that the governing board ("Board") of the Portola Valley School District ("District") will receive sealed bids for the following project:

**Portola Valley School District  
District Wide Asphalt Improvements Project  
Bid #: 14-02-28-2023-8150  
("Project" or "Contract")**

2. The Project consists of asphalt replacement, slurry and re-stripping of asphalt parking lots and paly areas at Corte Madera School and Ormondale School.
3. To bid on this Project, the Bidder is required to possess one or more of the following State of California contractors' license(s): **A**  
The Bidder's license(s) must remain active and in good standing throughout the term of the Contract.
4. To bid on this Project, the Bidder is required to be registered as a public works contractor with the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to the Labor Code.
5. Contract Documents will be available on or after February 10, 2023, for review at the District Facilities Office, and may be downloaded from the District's website, [www.pvsd.net](http://www.pvsd.net), using the "**Request for Proposals**" link ([https://www.pvsd.net/departments/businessoffice\\_finance/request\\_for\\_propos1als](https://www.pvsd.net/departments/businessoffice_finance/request_for_propos1als))
6. Sealed bids will be received until 1:00p.m., February 28, 2023 at the District Facilities Office, 4575 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, California 94028 at or after which time the bids will be opened and publicly read aloud. Any bid that is submitted after this time shall be nonresponsive and returned to the bidder. Any claim by a bidder of error in its bid must be made in compliance with section 5100 et seq. of the Public Contract Code.
7. All bids shall be on the form provided by the District. Each bid must conform and be responsive to all pertinent Contract Documents, including, but not limited to, the Instructions to Bidders.
8. A bid bond by an admitted surety insurer on the form provided by the District a cashier's check or a certified check, drawn to the order of the Portola Valley School District, in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the total bid price, shall accompany the Bid Form and Proposal, as a guarantee that the Bidder will, within seven (7) calendar days after the date of the Notice of Award, enter into a contract with the District for the performance of the services as stipulated in the bid.
9. A mandatory pre-bid conference and site visit will be held on February 16, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. at 4575 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, California. All participants are required to sign in front of the Corte Madera School Office. The site visit is expected to take approximately 45 minutes. Failure to attend or tardiness will render bid ineligible.
10. The successful Bidder shall be required to furnish a 100% Performance Bond and a 100% Payment Bond if it is awarded the Contract for the Work.
11. The successful Bidder may substitute securities for any monies withheld by the District to ensure performance under the Contract, in accordance with the provisions of section 22300 of the Public Contract Code.
12. The Contractor and all Subcontractors under the Contractor shall pay all workers on all Work performed pursuant to this Contract not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages and the general prevailing rate for holiday and overtime work as determined by the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations, State of California, for the type of work performed and the locality in which the work is to be performed within the boundaries of the District, pursuant to section 1770 et seq. of the California Labor Code. Prevailing wage rates are also available from the District or on the Internet at: <http://www.dir.ca.gov>.
13. This Project is subject to labor compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Labor Code section 1771.4 and subject to the requirements of Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations. The successful Bidder shall comply with all requirements of Division 2, Part 7, Chapter 1, Articles 1-5 of the Labor Code.
14. The District shall award the Contract, if it awards it at all, to the lowest responsive responsible bidder based on the base bid amount only.
15. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids and/or waive any irregularity in any bid received. If the District awards the Contract, the security of unsuccessful bidder(s) shall be returned within sixty (60) days from the time the award is made. Unless otherwise required by law, no bidder may withdraw its bid for ninety (90) days after the date of the bid opening.

# How to register for transitional kindergarten and kindergarten in local school districts

By Angela Swartz

Transitional kindergarten (TK) and kindergarten registration for the 2023-24 school year has either started or will soon be underway in local school districts.

All districts now offer TK programs, with some open to all 4-year-olds.

## Las Lomas Elementary School District

TK pre-registration for children who will turn 5 from Sept. 2, 2023 through Aug. 31, 2024 opened on Feb. 1.

Kindergarten pre-registration for children who will turn 5 on or before Sept. 1, 2023 opened on Feb. 1.

Go to [llesd-ca.schoolloop.com/reg](https://llesd-ca.schoolloop.com/reg) for more information.

## Menlo Park City School District

Registration began Feb. 1 for all new students (TK-8) living in the Menlo Park City School District (MPCSD) for the 2023-24 school year.

Families that complete the registration application for their kindergarten student within the month of February will have priority enrollment in their neighborhood school.

Current TK students will need to register as a "new student" for kindergarten.

Families interested in the Spanish Immersion program must attend one mandatory information meeting.

Meetings are set for the following dates:

■ Monday, Feb. 13, at 9 a.m.: on Zoom

■ Monday, Feb. 27, at 7 p.m.: District Office (TERC), 181 Encinal Ave. in Atherton

Call 650-321-7140 Ext. 5600 or email: [registrar@mpcsd.org](mailto:registrar@mpcsd.org) with any questions. Go to the district. [mpcsd.org](https://mpcsd.org) for more information.

## Portola Valley School District

Ormondale School at 200 Shawnee Pass in Portola Valley began its registration process on Jan. 9 for children entering TK and kindergarten. TK is open to children who turn age 4 on or before Sept. 1, 2023; kindergarten is open to those whose fifth birthdays fall on or before Sept. 1, 2023.

After complete online registration, parents or guardians must bring a hard copy of these forms to the school office the child will be attending to finalize registration.

Contact [registrar@pvsd.net](mailto:registrar@pvsd.net) with any questions. Register on [pvsd.net](https://pvsd.net).

## Ravenswood City School District

TK registration is open to



Magali Gauthier

Preschool teacher Tatiana Villalba watches her student, Dora, draw in the Spanish immersion program at Lower Laurel School in Atherton on Dec. 6.

Ravenswood City School District children who turn 4 by Sept. 1, 2023. The program is full-day.

Children who are age 5 by Sept. 1, 2023 can be registered for kindergarten.

Submit completed registration packet and required documents to the Student Services department (2160 Euclid Ave. in East Palo Alto), open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Registration information can be found at [ravenswoodschools.org](https://ravenswoodschools.org).

## Woodside Elementary School District

Registration for TK and kindergarten begins March 1 in the Woodside Elementary School District.

There will be a TK virtual orientation meeting on Tuesday, March 7, at 6 p.m.

To qualify for TK next year, children must be born between Sept. 2, 2018 and April 2, 2019.

The kindergarten virtual orientation meeting takes place on Tuesday, Feb. 28, at 6 p.m.

To qualify for kindergarten next year, children must be born between Sept. 2, 2017 and Sept. 1, 2018.

For more information, go to

[woodsideschool.us](https://woodsideschool.us).

## Preschools

Priority registration for Woodside Preschool, at 3195 Woodside Road in Woodside, ends on Wednesday, Feb. 15.

Woodside Preschool is open to all children 2 years and older. Priority is given to families that live in Woodside Elementary School District boundaries.

For more information, contact Lisa Dayeh at [Ldayeh@woodsideschool.us](mailto:Ldayeh@woodsideschool.us).

Apply at [woodsideschool.us/preschool](https://woodsideschool.us/preschool).

The MPCSD's Early Learning Center has already begun enrolling students for the next school year. Applications received after Jan. 9 will be considered as spaces become available.

Children must be 3 years old by Sept. 1, 2023 and must be fully potty-trained.

The school has two campuses: ELC Laurel at 95 Edge Road in Atherton and ELC Oak Knoll at 1895 Oak Knoll Lane in Menlo Park.

Apply at [district.mpcsd.org/earlylearning](https://district.mpcsd.org/earlylearning). ■

Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at [aswartz@almanacnews.com](mailto:aswartz@almanacnews.com).

## Frank Michael Sowerwine

April 25, 1966-Nov. 20, 2022

Long-time Alameda resident Frank Michael "Mike" Sowerwine passed away at home after a valiant six-year battle with ALS on November 20, 2022. He was 56.

Mike was born in New York City to David and Heide Sowerwine and spent much of his early childhood in Indonesia and Honduras, something he attributed to giving him a worldly view.

When he was 13, both parents remarried. Heide married Jerry Vriesenga and David married Haydi, expanding the number of siblings he had from one (his sister Jenny) to seven (Todd, Jeff and Stacie Vriesenga, and Tony, Nelt "Ed", and Matthew Curci).

Mike moved from Menlo Park with his Dad and his new combined family to Salinas for a few years. He played varsity soccer, ran track, and participated in the Boy Scouts, graduating from Salinas High in 1984. During his high school summers, Mike lived with Heide and Jerry in Hawaii, working the pineapple fields alongside Todd. He attributed the personal balance he found in his life to being raised by two loving but different sets of parents.

Mike graduated from UC Davis in 1989 and joined the forensic accounting firm HSNO, where he enjoyed assisting people and businesses for over 30 years. He earned his CPA license and became a respected partner in the firm.

In 1996, Mike married Jennifer Mansfield and had two children, Owen and Kate.

After some years as a single Dad, Mike met Amy Roizen in 2013. Diagnosed with ALS in 2017, he proposed while on a bucket list trip to Africa, and they married soon after, blending their five children between them — Owen, Kate, and Amy's sons Marcus, Tanner, and Will.

Even after diagnosis Mike continued to travel, with visits to South Africa and Uganda, Slovenia and Croatia and return visits to Honduras and Hawaii.

Mike was a longtime Giants season ticket holder. Even when bound to a wheelchair he managed to get to Giants games. As late as this past summer fraternity brothers honored him with a tribute on the jumbotron.

Mike retired in 2019, due to the limitations of ALS. Even as his voice, strength and mobility declined, Mike's spirit remained strong and his mind sharp. Committed to improving the lives of people and families living with ALS and finding a cure for this disease, Mike participated in a clinical study and became a generous donor to several ALS research and charity funds.

Mike was gregarious and fun-loving, an extraordinary chef and entertainer and a devoted Dad, husband, son and brother, a trusted confidante, and a true and loyal friend.

He is survived by his wife Amy, all four of his parents, all seven of his siblings, and all five of his children and a number of nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held at the beginning of April.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Michael Sowerwine ALS Research Fund, UC Davis, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, 4900 Broadway, Suite 1150, Sacramento, CA 95820.



PAID OBITUARY

## CRIME BRIEFS

continued from page 6

### Door smashed and bedroom ransacked in Portola Valley home burglary

Someone smashed a glass door to break into a home on the 400 block of Golden Oak Drive in Portola Valley on Wednesday, Feb. 1, according to a San Mateo County Sheriff's Office press release.

At about 7:50 p.m. the home's burglary alarm went off but the burglars were gone by the time police arrived. The master bedroom was ransacked. The broken door will cost about \$5,000 to repair, but the homeowner doesn't know the value of stolen goods.

In July, there was a residential burglary on the 200 block of Golden Oak Drive. The burglar also broke a glass door to get inside.

Police ask that anyone with information about the

Feb. 1 incident to call the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office Anonymous Tip Line at 800-547-2700.

—Angela Swartz

Like us on  
**facebook**  
[facebook.com/  
AlmanacNews](https://facebook.com/AlmanacNews)

**LAWSUIT**

*continued from page 5*

writing that they would “not be in substantial compliance” by Jan. 31 and that they will be “prohibited from rejecting any (affordable) housing development” based on the Housing Accountability Act. The city reportedly did not submit a response.

“Because the City has not adopted a sixth revision of its housing element, and its statutory deadline has passed, the City is out of compliance with the Housing Element Law,” the petition states.

The City Council approved

**COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

*continued from page 6*

with arts and culture, education or seniors and youths experiencing food insecurity.

The Rotary Club of Menlo Park often awards grants in the \$3,000 to \$7,500 range, but organizations can apply for grants of up to \$10,000. Applications are due by Feb. 27 at 5 p.m. Information is available at [menloparkrotary.org](http://menloparkrotary.org).

**Menlo Park Kiwanis Club collects warm clothing for Ukraine**

Menlo Park’s local Kiwanis Clubs sent nearly 100 new and used warm coats, boxes of children’s pajamas and clothing that club members gathered to provide help to Ukrainians.

The donations from the Menlo Park Kiwanis Club was combined with donations from other Kiwanis Clubs across the Peninsula. Through these efforts, led by the San Carlos Kiwanis Club, almost 600 pounds of clothing were sent to Ukraine, with another 600 pounds waiting to be sent. The clothing was sent to Nova Ukraine, a Ukrainian relief group.

— Cameron Rebosio

its draft housing element in November, launching a 30-day public review period before the document was forwarded to the state for review. Council members have said that they expect that Palo Alto, like almost every other city, will be required to make some revisions to its plan and resubmit it before getting an approval, a process that typically takes months.

Palo Alto’s plan focuses much of the city’s future growth in commercial and industrial areas in the south end of the city, around San Antonio Road and Fabian Way. The strategy banks

of rezoning these areas for residential use and constructing about 2,000 new dwellings at 290 sites in this area.

Other strategies call for building housing at public parking lots, encouraging accessory dwelling units and increasing allowed density in areas near transit.

The petition from Keith Diggs of Yes in My Backyard and Dylan Casey, executive director of the California Housing Defense Fund asks Santa Clara County Superior Court for a writ of mandate requiring the city to adopt its new Housing

Element in accordance with the state schedule. They also request a declaration finding that the city is out of compliance with the Housing Element Law “from Feb. 1, 2023, until the City lawfully adopts a sixth revision of its housing element that substantially complies with the Housing Element Law.”

“It is unacceptable that most Bay Area cities have failed to come up with plans to address the ongoing housing crises,” Casey said. “We cannot begin to fix our housing problems when local governments respond to clear state directives

by dragging their feet and looking for loopholes to avoid their responsibilities to provide needed housing growth. We hope these lawsuits will help get cities back on track.”

The petitioners are also asking that the court order the city to rezone sites according to the accelerated schedule and that it be barred from relying on code provisions to disapprove of housing projects or make such projects infeasible. ■

*Email Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner at [gsheyner@paweekly.com](mailto:gsheyner@paweekly.com).*

**Gina Marie Alexander**

Gina Marie Alexander, 63, of Menlo Park, passed away on December 20th, 2022 at Stanford Hospital surrounded by loved ones. Gina was born in Ottawa, Canada and moved to Menlo Park with her family in 1972 where she resided for the rest of her life. A graduate of Woodside High School, she spent many years doing volunteer work and working in the customer service industry. A resident of a close-knit neighborhood in Menlo Park, Gina will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her. Gina was a deeply devoted daughter to her father Ronald Alexander, who preceded her in death in May 2017, and her mother Carmelia Alexander, who passed away in February 2000. She is survived by her brothers Dohn and Paul, as well as many loving friends and extended family. In lieu of flowers or gifts, those wishing to make a donation in Gina’s memory can do so at The Buxton National Historic Site & Museum, Children’s Health Council, or a charity of their choice.



PAID OBITUARY

**Ruth Shavel**

*February 1, 1932 – January 9, 2023*

Ruth Liebes Shavel, 90 years young, passed away peacefully on January 9, 2023, in Dallas, Texas. She is survived by five daughters, and Louise Spadia Beckham who Ruth always considered one of her own. In addition Ruth is survived by 14 beautiful grandchildren, 14 great grand children and her cousins Sidney and Linda Liebes, who were like a brother and sister to her.



A fourth-generation Californian, she was born on February 1, 1932, in San Mateo, and always proclaimed the Bay Area to be her home. In 2019, after 87 years living on the peninsula, she courageously moved her life to Dallas, Texas to be near her family. At a young age, she married Philip Lilienthal, and they had two daughters, Marjorie Lilienthal Ornelas (Victor Ornelas), Judy Lilienthal Leask (James Leask). They divorced and she married Allan Cohn Jr. in 1955, adding to the family Elizabeth Cohn Klein (William Klein), Nancy Alane Mathews (James Mathews), and Sally Cohn-Berche (Jean-Francois Berche). Allan passed away in 1977. She later married Larry Shavel and became step-mother to Carolyn Shavel and David Shavel. She was predeceased in death by Larry in 2014, and by her brother, Lloyd Liebes Jr. in 2017.

Ruth committed much of her free time to community services and volunteered many hours at local schools, The Children’s Health Council, The Samaritan House, and Puente. In 2019, Puente honored her with the Outstanding Volunteer Award at its Fall Harvest Celebration.

Ruth appreciated hiking, gardening, cooking, puzzles, traveling, and the symphony. She never let anything slow her down, and even traveled on a memorable river cruise in France with her daughters last April. She was always ready to go somewhere new but held onto the family tradition of attending the annual family summer vacation in Blairsden, California.

Our mom was a kind, caring and giving person who always put the needs of her family before others. She took on life’s challenges with courage, dignity, grace, and gratitude. Ruth was a source of inspiration to us all and will be deeply missed by everyone whose lives she touched. She instilled in us the importance of family, hard work and doing what is right. She felt there was always room for improvement and wanted things to be better for all. Ruth was a true role model.

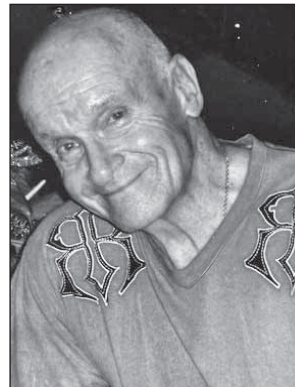
In lieu of flowers, the family request donations to be made to Puente de la Costa Sur in Pescadero, CA. A celebration of life will take place on May 13, 2023 at Twin Pines Lodge, Belmont CA, from 11 am to 1:00 pm. May she rest in peace and always be remembered for the giving, caring person she was in her lifetime.

PAID OBITUARY

**Michael Stanley Putterman**

*1938 – December 18, 2022*

Michael Stanley Putterman, known to most as Coach, passed away on December 18, 2022. As I think back on my dad’s life, I think about all the things he loved. Travel, the Woodside Fire Board, The Bay Club, running marathons, but most of all his family and friends. His love of life was contagious and to know him was to love him. He touched so many lives in his 84 years, and as his daughter I couldn’t be prouder and more honored to have called him dad. To everyone who has been a part of my dad’s life, thank you. You all were his greatest joy.



Dad, we will love you always and miss you forever, but will continue to smile because that is what you would insist upon.

My mom, Diane and I would ask that in lieu of flowers, you donate to a charity of your choice in his honor.

PAID OBITUARY



Today’s local news & hot picks

Fresh news delivered daily

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

## OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include **Leo Dreyer**, 88, an Atherton resident, on Jan. 11; **Ruth Liebes Shavel**, 90, a former Atherton resident, on Jan. 9; **Hiroko Mukuda**, 96, a Menlo Park resident, on Jan. 8; **Katharine “Kay” Wallace Thompson**, 96, a Woodside resident, on Dec. 30; **Nancy Williams Sallaberry**, 67, a Menlo Park resident, on Dec. 18; **Michael Stanley Putterman**, 84, a Woodside resident, on Dec. 18; **Marguerite Crabités Kramer**, 91, a former Atherton resident, on Nov. 22; and **Frank Michael “Mike” Sowerwine**, 56, a former Menlo Park resident, on Nov. 20.

To read the full obituaries, leave remembrances and post photos, go to Lasting Memories at [almanacnews.com/obituaries](http://almanacnews.com/obituaries).



Teachers and parents gather in support of Portola Valley Elementary School District teachers during a Nov. 17 school board meeting.

Courtesy Tim Sato

## Katharine Wallace Thompson

July 23, 1926 – December 30, 2022

Katharine “Kay” Wallace Thompson, aged 96, and a fifth generation Californian, passed away with family by her side in her Woodside home of almost fifty years. Kay had a delightful sense of humor and was widely recognized as extraordinarily kind, thoughtful, and gracious. She had legions of friends, old and new, from multiple generations and all walks of life.

Kay grew up in San Francisco and always remained proud of her class from Miss Burke’s School, although it should be noted that much of her pride stemmed from being the ringleader of a bunch of particularly mischievous girls, many of whom remained close friends throughout her life. Kay went on to matriculate at the University of California at Berkeley where she joined Kappa Alpha Theta and forged bonds of loyalty to the University that shaped her life. She was a member of the California Society of Pioneers and the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America.



In June of 1947, Kay married Revett Wallace, who was also born and raised in San Francisco. They established their home in Palo Alto and their lives revolved around the activities of their four busy daughters and many civic activities.

Kay found time to volunteer for Family Services, co-founded Youth Concerts, was President of the Mother’s Club at Castilleja and a Stanford Hospital Pink Lady for over thirty years. In San Francisco, she worked with the SF Symphony, the SF Landscape Show and for forty-seven years as a member of Achievement Rewards for College Scientists “ARCS”. As the President of Town and Country Club, of which she was a member for almost 60 years, Kay donned a hard hat and oversaw the extensive earthquake renovation of the Club’s building on Union Square.

But Kay’s true volunteer love was for Cal and her beloved Golden Bears. Her initial volunteer role was as the first woman trustee member of the University of California Berkeley Foundation Board. Elected in 1981, in the very early days of the Board’s creation, Kay held leadership roles in several important fund-raising campaigns. She was also the recipient of several awards, including the Foundation’s highest honor, the Chancellor’s Award, in recognition of her decades of service to Cal. Kay’s unwavering devotion to the Cal Football program ultimately

resulted in her becoming the first woman invited to join the previously all-male San Francisco Grid Club for the Club’s weekly lunches with the Head Football Coach. At 96, she cheered on the Bears from the stands when they beat Stanford only forty days before she died.

Inspired by the work of Kay’s great-uncle, Edwin Cooper van Dyke, who was a prominent entomologist and Cal faculty member in the early twentieth century, Kay and Revett endowed the Wallace Atrium in the Life Sciences Building, familiar to many as home to a giant dinosaur skeleton. In addition, Kay was a long-time member of the Council of the Friends of the Bancroft Library and the Board of the Berkeley Library.

Kay regarded as unacceptable the notion that a talented young person could be denied an education at Cal due to financial constraints. She supported The Achievement Award Program, which provides direct financial aid to a diverse group of students who would not be able to attend Cal without this assistance. Kay always took the time to learn the students’ stories and become part of their lives.

It gave Kay endless pleasure to share her beloved home and garden with the many people of all ages who passed through it. She was interested in everyone, and everyone considered her a close friend. Her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were the fortunate beneficiaries of her love and attention. Grammie’s special gatherings of family and friends for Christmas and Easter were never missed. They were the most cherished of gatherings and created wonderful memories.

Kay was predeceased by her husband Revett, her second husband Morley Thompson, and her brother William Shaw. She is survived by her daughters, Katharine “Vandy” O’Reilly, Derith “Derry” MacBride (Thomas), Elizabeth “Betsy” Dixon (Donald), and Sarah Wallace (Harry Martin). She is also survived by ten grandchildren, Tobin O’Reilly, Matt O’Reilly, Melanie MacBride, Katie MacBride, Peter Dixon, Bayley Dixon McKenna, William Dixon, Andrew Dixon, Sara Martin, and James Martin, and ten great-grandchildren.

A private celebration of Kay’s life will be held this Spring. Donations in her memory may be made to The Cal Fund at [Give.berkeley.edu/CalFund](http://Give.berkeley.edu/CalFund).

## TEACHERS

continued from page 1

members for standing firmly for their values and are grateful for the parent and community support we received during this process. We look forward to continued collaboration with the district and will continue to advocate for our educational professionals.”

Sato told The Almanac last month that teachers have worked incredibly hard over the last several years, particularly during the pandemic. The district was one of the first schools to reopen for in-person learning and teachers remained resilient during wave after wave of COVID-19 sub-variants, he said.

“What we need the district to understand is that what we’re asking for is in the best interest of our students,” said Sato, who teaches at Corte Madera School. “You best support them by supporting teachers

who provide them incredible instruction.”

Teachers complained that their performance-based compensation structure has left their salaries trailing behind those of neighboring districts. Base salaries in the district start at \$64,108, and teachers can earn up to \$132,969. The Menlo Park City School District (MPCSD) starts at \$70,832 and tops out at \$140,477. Zarea noted that MPCSD teachers work three extra days per year and 15 extra minutes per day, which is one of the reasons for their higher base salary.

Among the other complaints from teachers was a proposal by the district to add 30 minutes to the end of their school days. Parents and community members also called out the district for distributing allegedly “union busting” materials. ■

Email Staff Writer Angela Swartz at [aswartz@almanacnews.com](mailto:aswartz@almanacnews.com).

## ABUSE REPORTING

continued from page 12

both sides,” Chao said.

To combat racial bias, Chao and her colleagues designed a universal screening system, in use at Stanford Medicine Children’s Health since 2019, which evaluates every time a child younger than 6 years old has an injury sustained in a private home. The electronic medical record automatically sends an alert to the organization’s child abuse team. Pediatricians and social workers with specialized abuse-detection training check the medical record for other indications of abuse. If the medical record shows any red flags, the staff who admitted the patient to the emergency department or hospital is alerted to consider if further examination or a Child Protective Services report is warranted.

This more equitable method of screening injured children helps to safeguard against decisions made primarily by medical providers’ gut feelings, Chao said.

She is also working with Epic, the nation’s largest electronic medical record company, to include an automated child abuse screening tool in its system. The tool will be tested at several medical institutions later this year.

“Everyone means well here, but the consequences of getting these reports wrong are pretty dire in either direction. If we don’t recognize bias and always chalk it up to something else, we can’t fix the problem in a thoughtful way. Now, I hope we can recognize it and work toward a solution,” Chao said. ■

Email Staff Writer Sue Dremann at [sdremann@paweekly.com](mailto:sdremann@paweekly.com).

PAID OBITUARY

# Think you're juggling a lot? Try being at the Game of Throws circus-arts festival

Attendees from around the globe visit Gunn High School to showcase juggling, balancing tricks and more

By Zoe Morgan

From newcomers tentatively trying their hand at juggling for the first time to professionals managing to keep seven balls in the air at once, Gunn High School's juggling festival last month drew people of all ages and skill levels.

The Game of Throws (a play on the hit TV show "Game of Thrones") brought hundreds of people from the region and around the world to Gunn's gymnasium in Palo Alto for circus arts workshops, demonstrations and friendly competitions. Professionals on hand showcased for attendees of all ages everything from cigar box juggling and lassoing techniques to 20 tricks with a baseball cap.

Led by Gunn Japanese teacher Matt Hall, who has been juggling internationally for two decades, this was Game of Throws' fourth iteration and the first one since the pandemic hit. It was hosted from 2018 through 2020 at Palo Alto High School, where Hall previously worked as the student activities director, Hall said.

Zachariah Strassberg-Phillips, a 2017 Paly grad, has come to every one. Strassberg-Phillips remembers walking into Hall's homeroom class on the first day of his freshman year in 2013, surrounded by other nervous students and seeing his new teacher beaming at the front of the room.

"His way of breaking the ice is to give us a full 'Cirque Du Soleil' level (juggling) show," Strassberg-Phillips said. "I just remember being so flabbergasted by it and being like, 'Wow, I need to be a part of this.'"

He decided to join the juggling club that Hall led, which at the time was mostly comprised of seniors. After they graduated, Strassberg-Phillips spent his sophomore year recruiting new students to rebuild the club.

The first Game of Throws was held the year after Strassberg-Phillips graduated, but he's made sure to attend each one. This year, friends from the juggling and unicycling club that he built at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, came to Palo Alto for the festival.

The positive community that exists among jugglers was a theme that came up repeatedly



Devin Roberts

Colorado resident Troy Bartelson balances a club on his head during the Game of Throws festival at Gunn High School in Palo Alto on Jan. 21.

for festival attendees. Michael Karas, a professional juggler from New York City who performed at Saturday night's gala, said that part of what drew him to juggling is the openness of the community.

"Everyone loves teaching each other new tricks, new ideas," Karas said. "None of it is held very close to the chest. It's very free sharing."

Hall said that juggling stands out among the many hobbies he has taken up throughout his life, a list that includes break dancing, aikido, BMX and surfing.

"I've been a part of all these different subcommunities and subcultures," Hall said. "Certainly I would say juggling is the most positive, the most giving, sharing."

Hall's own juggling career includes winning the silver medal at the 2003 International Jugglers' Association Championships and performing in various countries, including Australia, Denmark, Germany, Israel and Mexico. But at the end of the day, Hall added, teaching is his vocation and he enjoys getting to share his juggling hobby with his students.

Gunn High School junior Anastasia Slyusar was among the juggling newcomers who decided to come to the festival. Slyusar is in one of Hall's Japanese classes and attended Gunn's lunchtime juggling club

once or twice last semester, but said that it was at Game of Throws that she gained confidence juggling three balls. For Slyusar, part of what she's enjoyed about juggling so far is being able to focus and get into a rhythm.

"It's just a state where you're having fun doing something that's requiring a lot of attention," she said.

Game of Throws included options for people to participate at all levels. Saturday night's gala show featured

11 elite performers, many of whom are professional jugglers, Hall said. During the day on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 20-22, there were free workshops covering a wide range of juggling skills. Also available was a "Construction Zone" staffed by Paly and Gunn students, where anyone could pick up one of the myriad props on hand and get instructions on how to use it.

Sunday afternoon featured a "juggling Olympics" where attendees competed in various

challenges, including juggling seven balls, hugging a partner and juggling behind each others' backs and doing situps with a club balanced on your head.

Roughly 450 people attended the festival, with 550 turning out for the Saturday gala, Hall said.

Gunn sophomore Nicky DeVincentis, who volunteered to work at the registration table, started out juggling his freshman year but has been more drawn to the diablo, also known as the Chinese yo-yo, where an hourglass-shaped prop is spun and thrown using a string connected with two sticks.

"You can do all these really cool tricks and it's so dynamic," DeVincentis said. "I think that part is my favorite."

Kathryn Carr and Janna Wohlfarth, both professional jugglers, hadn't ever met in person before last weekend but said they had followed each other online for years and were excited to cross paths. Wohlfarth lives in Germany, while Carr resides in Maryland. The two took time on Sunday afternoon to record themselves juggling hats together. Both said that they enjoy performing for others and inspiring audiences with their tricks.

"It's very playful and it's fun to share that sense of play with people," Carr said. "And it can be very beautiful as well." ■

Email Staff Writer Zoe Morgan at [zmorgan@paweeekly.com](mailto:zmorgan@paweeekly.com).



Devin Roberts

Inside the Gunn High School gym during the Game of Throws circus arts festival in Palo Alto on Jan. 21.

**EDUCATOR HOUSING**

*continued from page 11*

organization that because the districts don't own the units, it is unclear if construction bond funds can be used to pay for it, even though its bond measure listed employee housing as a potential use of the money.

"We have essentially purchased access to a set number of units," Austin wrote in an email. "There is still room for debate if this meets the standard to utilize bond funds."

If the district's lawyers determine that bond funds would be appropriate to use, the board could revisit the funding source in the future, Austin said. He noted that districts are relying on their own legal teams to work through the details of the agreement, which means that there can be different interpretations of the law.

Mountain View Whisman, on the other hand, has decided to use its bond funds. A major difference is that the district has already used bond money to pay for its own teacher and staff housing project, which is currently being built in Mountain View. In that case, the school district also doesn't own the land, but rather will have a 55-year ground lease with the developer. Superintendent Ayinde Rudolph told this news organization that his district's lawyers have said that it can use bond proceeds for both staff housing projects. The important part is that the district retains access to the units for the 25-year life of the bond, Rudolph said, a requirement that the district's lawyers believe the projects meet.

**Will the school districts now be acting as a landlord for their employees? Who's actually going to be managing the units?**

The plan is not for school districts to handle the day-to-day operations of the apartment complex, a role that Simitian said it was clear districts did not want to take on. Mercy Housing Management Group will instead be acting as the property manager on the site, Hollywood said.

**Who will have access to the units? What's required to qualify?**

There will be several requirements to rent the units. First, at least one member of the household has to be employed by a participating school district. Second, the total household income can't exceed 140% of the AMI, Hollywood said. Households also must earn a minimum of 60% of the AMI, Pearson said. Santa Clara County's 2022 AMI is \$168,500 for a family of four. Those



Rendering by Van Meter Williams Pollack LLC

Santa Clara County's proposal for 231 Grant Ave. calls for 110 apartments for teachers and other employees of area school districts.

numbers are updated annually.

To determine eligibility, the income of all eligible household members — including partners, spouse and roommates — will be included, not just the pay of the school employee, Hollywood said.

The plan is for 39 units to be set aside for households earning less than 80% of the area median income, currently \$134,800 for a family of four, according to a draft of a regulatory agreement between the county and the developers.

**How much money do educators make?**

That depends on the school district. In Palo Alto, teachers earn roughly between \$76,000 and \$154,000, depending on education and years of experience. Mountain View Whisman pays teachers roughly between \$75,000 and \$134,000. In the Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District, it's from \$97,000 to \$183,000. Los Altos offers teachers between \$64,000 and \$118,000. Ravenswood pays teachers between \$63,000 and \$141,000. In some districts, additional pay is available for certain degrees or certifications.

It's also not just teachers who will qualify for the apartments. Various other school employees earn substantially less than teachers. A bus driver in the Mountain View Whisman School District earns between \$53,000 and \$72,000. A librarian technician earns from \$46,000 to \$62,000.

**How much are the units going to cost to rent?**

Rents will be set based on a household's income and the size of their unit, and will be updated annually, Pearson said. The developers plan to use rental rates set by the state and federal government for affordable-housing projects, which are specific to each county and are updated yearly.

The idea is that rent shouldn't exceed 30% of a household's income, Simitian said. He estimated that rents might be \$800

to \$2,500 below the going market rate, but stressed that it's still somewhat of a moving target, because the future rental market isn't certain.

**How will residents be picked?**

A lottery process will be used if more people apply than there are units available, Hollywood said. How the lottery will be run is still being developed in accordance with fair housing laws, Pearson said.

**How big are the units? How was that decided?**

There will be 24 studios, 61 one-bedroom apartments and 25 two-bedroom apartments, Pearson said. The distribution of unit sizes was decided based in part on the results of a survey, Hollywood said. A spokesperson for Mercy declined to release the survey results.

Palo Alto Unified conducted a survey of its staff in fall 2022 and received 292 responses. The results showed that 7% of respondents wanted a studio, 34% a one bedroom and 60% a two bedroom.

**How much parking will be on the site?**

There will be 113 vehicle parking spaces on site, Hollywood said. Bicycle parking also will be available.

**How long can residents stay in their apartment? When do they have to move out?**

According to Hollywood, individual districts will have the ability to set term limits on how long an employee can stay in an apartment. Whether districts will set those limits and how they would work is still to be determined, Hollywood said.

If a tenant stops working at a participating school district, they would have to move out, but how long they would have to do so isn't yet finalized, Hollywood said. The same applies if a household's income increases and exceeds the limit.

**What if a district can't fill their units? Do they lose them?**

Again, the specifics aren't yet

locked in, but Hollywood said that a district would not permanently lose access to the unit. The plan is to look for a qualifying employee in another district. When the next vacant unit in that district becomes available, it will be offered back to the first district, Pearson said.

**You mentioned that Meta contributed \$25 million to gain access for south San Mateo County districts. How does that work?**

Meta has reserved 32 units for staff in certain San Mateo County schools. The priority order for the units is split into two time periods: until the end of 2029 and from 2030 onward, according to a grant agreement between Meta and Santa Clara County.

Through 2029, 22 units will be reserved for Ravenswood City School District employees or staff at nonprofit schools, including preschools, within the geographic boundaries of the Ravenswood district. If not enough applicants come forward, the second priority will be for staff in the Menlo Park City School District, Las Lomas Elementary School District or at Menlo-Atherton High School.

The remaining 10 units will have a roughly inverse allocation. Staff in the Menlo Park

City School District and Las Lomas Elementary School District, as well as at Menlo-Atherton High School, Tide Academy, East Palo Alto Academy and the Sequoia District Adult School will get first priority. Second priority will be for Ravenswood employees or staff at nonprofit schools within their boundaries.

Meta currently pays part of the rent for 22 school employees living in an apartment complex at 777 Hamilton Ave. in Menlo Park. Once the Grant Avenue project opens, the plan is for these households to get priority to shift to the new building, said Anu Natarajan, Meta's housing initiative lead.

Starting in 2030, all 32 units will have the same priority system. Ravenswood staff, as well as staff at nonprofit schools in their area, will have first priority. Second priority will be for staff in the Menlo Park City School District and Las Lomas School District, as well as employees at Menlo-Atherton High School, Tide Academy, East Palo Alto Academy and the Sequoia District Adult School.

If at any time there aren't enough applicants to fill the units, the units would be offered to those working in public safety professions, which would include police officers, firefighters and nurses, according to a draft of a regulatory agreement between the county and the developers. If there still aren't enough applicants, the units would be offered to employees of "public-interest nonprofit organizations," the agreement draft states.

Because of Meta's contribution, the San Mateo County districts won't have to contribute financially to gain access to their units. ■

*Email Staff Writer Zoe Morgan at [zmorgan@paweekly.com](mailto:zmorgan@paweekly.com).*

**THE ALMANAC OPEN HOMES**

**LOS ALTOS**

**4016 Villa Vera** **\$1,798,000**  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 3BD/2BA  
Intero Real Estate 650-440-5076

**MENLO PARK**

**2327 Olympic Ave** **\$3,488,000**  
Sat 1:30-4:30/Sun 12:00-3:00 3BD/2.5BA  
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

**PALO ALTO**

**4149 El Camino Way (C)** **\$895,000**  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 2BD/2BA  
JLee Realty 650-857-1000

**3122 David Avenue** **\$2,800,000**  
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 3BD/2BA  
Compass 650-269-3422

**316 Ramona Street** **Call for price**  
Sat 1:30-4:30/Sun 11:00-2:00 3BD/2.5BA  
Compass 650-960-5363

*Legend: Condo (C), Townhome (T).  
Agents: submit open homes at [AlmanacNews.com/real\\_estate](http://AlmanacNews.com/real_estate)*



Courtesy Harold Schapelhouman

Menlo Park Firefighters measure and mark the levee failure along the San Francisco Bay in the Mosley Slew in February 1998.

**FLOOD**

*continued from page 5*

and the San Francisquito.

One of the first reports was a house that had lifted from its foundation in the flood and was floating down the road, coming to a stop in the fork of a tree. Another resident said that she was trapped on the second floor of a home, with three feet of water blocking her escape route and debris from the flood hitting her house.

Soon, Schapelhouman said, an embankment along Bay Laurel Drive collapsed into the creek, covering the 1900 block of University Avenue in rushing

water and flooding Highway 101's southbound lanes.

Auto dealerships and apartment buildings alike flooded. High-density apartments in East Palo Alto experienced flooding on lower floors and parking lots along O'Keefe Street on subterranean floors filled up "as if they were swimming pools," according to Schapelhouman.

The ladder truck being used to evacuate residents eventually stalled out from water damage, but not until 325 residents had been evacuated. The flooding caused the ladder truck's electrical system to short out, causing the siren to go off until

firefighters went underwater to disconnect the truck's batteries.

School buses arrived at day-break to evacuate the residents to temporary shelter, after they waited on higher ground.

Following the floods, Menlo Park's city manager didn't declare a local emergency which, according to Schapelhouman, meant that residents along the damaged Bay Laurel Drive didn't get assistance to pay for repairs. The region as a whole experienced \$40 million in damages. ■

*Email Staff Writer Cameron Rebosio at crebosio@almanacnews.com.*



Courtesy Harold Schapelhouman

Repair work is done along Bay Laurel Drive in Menlo Park in February 1998.

# Employment

**Organizational Development Manager**

Transcontinental Pet Movers, LLC. seeks an Organizational Development Manager to resolve problems in HR, administration, management, and sales; design company's procedures and policies; conduct trainings and assessments of performance; contribute to marketing campaigns; prepare sales presentation by studying consumers' behavior. Requirements: Bachelor's degree in Sociology, or Psychology, or Human Resources. \$93517/yr. Resumes Attn.: W. Shi, 3723 Haven Ave, Suite 101, Menlo Park, CA, 94025.



**Today's local news & hot picks**

**Fresh news delivered to your inbox daily**

**Sign up today at AlmanacNews.com/express**

**To place an ad or get a quote, contact Kevin Legarda at 650.223.6597 or email digitalads@paweekly.com. The advertising deadline is Friday at noon.**

## Public Notices

**STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME**

The following person(s) has/have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name(s). The information given below is as it appeared on the Fictitious Business name statement that was filed at the County Clerk-Recorder's Office.

ZEN-SATION  
File No.: M-278101

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

1.) Zen-Sation, located at 86 A 88Th St. Daly City, CA 94015, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):

JUANA CORDERO  
1655 Sweetwood Drive  
Daly City, CA 94015

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 08/09/2018

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 25 2023.

(ALM Feb 10, 17, 24 and Mar 3, 2023)

WPV-READY

WPV-CERT

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
File No.: M-293260

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

1.) WPV-READY, 2.) WPV-CERT, located at 808 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028.

Registered owner(s):  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS IN COMMUNITIES, INC.

808 PORTOLA ROAD  
PORTOLA VALLEY, CA 94028

This business is conducted by: a Corporation.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 08/26/2019

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 25 2023.

(ALM Feb 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2023)

**JO'S CLEANING SQUAD FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No.: M-293230

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

1.) Jo's Cleaning Squad, located at 3645 Haven Ave, 5110, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Registered owner(s):  
JO'S CLEANING SQUAD LLC  
3645 Haven Ave Apt # 5110  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

CA  
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.

Registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 20 2023.

(ALM Feb 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2023)

**MENLO BOTANICA FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

File No.: M-293279

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

1.) Menlo Botanica, located at 75 Arbor Rd, Ste J, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Registered owner(s):  
LIVING ART LLC  
2900 Hearth Pl, Apt 143  
Santa Clara, CA 95051  
CA

This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/16/2022

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on January 26 2023.

(ALM Feb 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2023)

**To place a legal notice visit AlmanacNews.com/legal\_notices/**

Visit

## Lasting Memories

An online directory of obituaries and remembrances. Search obituaries, submit a memorial, share a photo.

**Go to: AlmanacNews.com/obituaries**

# Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## A Tuscan reverie

Pamela Walsh Gallery presents a collection of Italy-inspired paintings by Andrew Faulkner

By Sheryl Nonnenberg

If all this cold and wet weather has made you pine for warmer climes, consider a visit to the Pamela Walsh Gallery in Palo Alto, where the work of Marin-based painter Andrew Faulkner is on view. This solo exhibition, the third for Faulkner in this gallery, is made up of 20 oil-on-canvas paintings that resulted from a trip to Italy last year. “*Tuscan Light*,” a landscape series that will take you vicariously to sunny Italy, is on display through March 4.

Walsh, who is celebrating three years in her Ramona Street space, said that the idea for the show was conceived last summer when she learned that Faulkner was traveling to Italy in order to study with famed Spanish colorist Carlos San Millán. “It was just an idea,” she said. “In concept, you hope that the idea generates creative inspiration that will ultimately become paintings worthy of an exhibition. It doesn’t always work out that way, but when it does, it is exhilarating.”

Faulkner, in remarks at the exhibition opening, said that Italy has always held a special place in his heart. A childhood trip with family ignited his interest, which led to a stint as a foreign exchange student in Rome when he was in high school. The opportunity to study with Millán, known for his mastery of color and abstracted landscapes — in a 1,000-year-old villa in Tuscany — was too good to pass up. When asked what the biggest takeaway was from the workshop, Faulkner replied, “Think more, paint less.” How this translated into the paintings in this series is “pausing for more considered strokes and color mixing choices.” In addition, he began using larger palette knives. “This has simplified some of my larger color areas.”

Walking around the gallery, there is no doubt that these are views from Tuscany, both in Florence and the countryside. Recognizable sites like the Ponte Vecchio bridge, Brunelleschi’s Duomo cathedral, the Campanile of Giotto and the Uffizi Gallery are represented in the glorious, golden light

that is so characteristic of this region. The artist also traveled into the outlying countryside, where rolling hills and cypress trees are hallmarks of this celebrated wine-growing landscape. Faulkner worked in plein air but did not create the paintings on site, instead utilizing his skills as a graphic designer to make preliminary digital sketches.

“I had a design studio for 30 years and Adobe Software was one of my largest clients,” said Faulkner. “I became an expert in using creative digital tools.” Most of the pieces in the show were sketched digitally and then painted in oils. Upon his return from Italy, all 20 paintings were executed in a three-month period. Said Walsh, “There is a freshness to his approach and palette that was definitely emboldened by his trip to Tuscany.”

That boldness is evident in Faulkner’s treatment of the Ponte Vecchio (“Ponte Vecchio Revisited”). Yes, there is depiction of the famous span in its entirety, but then he hones in on just a small portion of the structure for a close-up, enlarged view. He explained that this was a method of “deconstruction” born out of curiosity. “I am always looking for ways to abstract the landscape and distill a sense of light to its most base level.” The result is like adjusting a camera lens to see one area in more detail, while the surrounding area becomes blurred. All of this is rendered in lush strokes of ochre for the structure that are countered by cool tones of blue and green for the waters of the river Arno.

“I think color is like a chemistry set. If you add too much or too little into a mixture, it can throw it out of balance. My work is all about experimenting with colors, light/dark, cool/warm, bold/subtle,” Faulkner said of his color choices.

That experimentation is on full view in “Tetti” (rooftops), where mainly rectangular blocks of color create, in the sparest manner, structures that abut and overlap each other. The warm oranges and yellows are offset and balanced by areas of aqua and turquoise, all leading the eye to a pale blue sky. The artist made reference to the



Courtesy Pamela Walsh Gallery

The “*Tuscan Light*” show at Pamela Walsh Gallery features 20 paintings by artist Andrew Faulkner that capture scenes from his travels to Italy, where he studied with famed Spanish colorist Carlos San Millán.

“earthiness” of the country, as he has depicted in “*Cipressi*” and “*Sul Lago*.” But he is clearly not out to make literal representations of these scenic places, as can be seen in several paintings that are totally abstract like “*Luccicare (Shimmer)*.” Often, however, there is just enough of a familiar landmark, like the steeple in “*Lucia della Citta*,” to root you in this atmospheric setting.

Back in Florence, a tourist destination that is usually crowded at all times of the year, Faulkner chose to depict a tranquil scene on a street leading to the Duomo. In “*Passeggiata*” (a casual stroll usually taken in the evening), a solitary figure strides towards the cathedral. Flanked by buildings rendered

loosely in tones of burnt orange (with an occasional pop of blue), the man is blissfully alone and all is still and quiet under the Tuscan sun. It’s a charming scene and unusual for Faulkner, who rarely includes figures in his landscapes. “I thought this man added a sense of scale and some movement to the piece,” he said. Look carefully at the right side of this painting and you will see a crudely incised drawing of a chair. It is not your imagination but, said the artist, a signature of sorts. “It represents the primitive stroke a child would make, embracing the primitive nature of innocent and imperfect marks.”

Faulkner said in an email interview that he has really embraced the idea of travel

providing a focus for a body of work. “As a contrast to the creamy/warm light of Tuscany, I am considering a trip to Japan to see what sort of color palette could be developed.”

Walsh believes that the leap of faith she took in offering Andrew Faulkner a show, before even seeing the paintings, paid off nicely. “There is some magic that he has conjured to transport you to a place,” she said. And what a lovely place to be transported to.

“*Tuscan Light*” is on view through March 4 at Pamela Walsh Gallery, 540 Ramona St., Palo Alto. [pamelawalshgallery.com](http://pamelawalshgallery.com). ■

Email Contributing Writer  
Sheryl Nonnenberg at  
[nonnenberg@aol.com](mailto:nonnenberg@aol.com).



Courtesy Pamela Walsh Gallery

The paintings “*Luce della Citta*,” left, and “*Piccolo Universo*” are part of the “*Tuscan Light*” show at Pamela Walsh Gallery.

# A towering achievement

Local teens' art helps welcome visitors to East Palo Alto on new water tower mural

By Heather Zimmerman

Residents and passersby near the intersection of Clarke Avenue and E. Bayshore Road in East Palo Alto have a colorful new view to enjoy. A recently unveiled mural now marks the area — one of the entrances to East Palo Alto — with vibrant, stylized drawings celebrating local culture and history. And it was a community project in both design and creation.

Muralist and art instructor Richard Muro-Salazar led 20 students ages 16 and up in creating the piece through a mural apprenticeship program offered by EPACenter, an arts center for youth in East Palo Alto.

The mural was installed on Jan. 26 on an elevated water tower adjacent to a pedestrian overpass and Highway 101. Not only can pedestrians and drivers enjoy the new art, but so can the residents of the nearby Light Tree affordable housing complex, whose input was also part of the design process.

“The mural came about with the city of East Palo Alto and also the residents of Light Tree apartments. They wanted a mural to represent the community on the water tower, since it was going to be facing the freeway. So we wanted to be able to create something beautiful for everybody to be able to see,” Muro-Salazar said.

Students shared ideas for the design, which incorporates everything from a representation of the Baylands to a bountiful harvest, representing local agriculture and the many cultures that live in East Palo Alto, according to Muro Salazar. The tech industry is represented by a circuit board and old-school monitor morphing into a laptop. Tying together the scenes of nature, agriculture and tech is a bicycle rider, popping a wheelie.

“A lot of the students said that the bike culture is embedded in East Palo Alto and a lot of kids really enjoy bike riding. So we wanted to have a female representation of a bike

rider going through the mural, like really powering through,” Muro-Salazar said.

The mural is called “EPA Past, Present and Future.” Since the artwork is installed on a circular water tower, what would be a linear progression from nature to tech becomes more of a cycle, with branches and leaves from the “nature” section reaching out to touch tech, and representing the possibilities of addressing climate change through tech, Muro-Salazar said.

Fittingly for some of its subject matter, the mural itself was created digitally, with students using drawing apps. Muro-Salazar helped students combine their drawings into a unified piece, giving them some learning experience in digitally designing large-scale murals.

The mural's final design was printed on vinyl wrap and affixed to the water tower. Government safety rules don't allow the use of paint on water towers, Muro-Salazar said, but printing the design on vinyl wrap may extend the art's longevity.



Magali Gauthier

Part of the mural “EPA Past, Present, & Future” depicts fresh produce and chickens in East Palo Alto on Jan. 26, 2023.

Cristopher, a 17-year-old student who worked on the mural, is planning to pursue a career in the visual arts. Although his focus is in animation, the mural apprenticeship gave him experience working digitally, and also working on a team with other creative individuals.

“I learned how to use different apps, different techniques. The app I was using before to draw was not really good. So I learned to use this new app. It was pretty cool. I learned new techniques, like how to draw on the device,” he said.

“(I learned) how creative people can be — just like some of the ideas that the other students had were really creative that I never would have thought of,” he added.

“EPA Past, Present and Future” is located near the intersection of Clarke Avenue and E. Bayshore Road in East Palo Alto. For more information about EPACenter and its current programs, visit [epacenter.org](http://epacenter.org). ■

Email Arts & Entertainment Editor Heather Zimmerman at [hzimmerman@almanacnews.com](mailto:hzimmerman@almanacnews.com).



## OPEN HOUSE

SAT & SUN 2/11 & 2/12

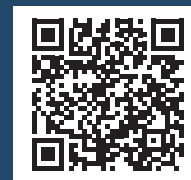
SATURDAY 1:30-4:30PM  
&  
SUNDAY 12PM-3PM

2327 OLYMPIC AVENUE  
MENLO PARK



\$3,488,000 | 3 Bd | 2.5 Bth  
[2327Olympic.com](http://2327Olympic.com)

SCAN THE QR CODE  
FOR MORE DETAILS



OR VISIT US AT  
[DELEONREALTY.COM](http://DELEONREALTY.COM)

### REAL ESTATE SEMINAR

## Challenges And Opportunities With Selling In The Current Real Estate Market



February 16, 2022  
6:00 - 8:00 PM



ShowPlace Icon Theatre  
2575 California St. #90, Mountain View



Scan to RSVP or  
Call 650.543.8500

Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.488.7325 | [michael@deleonrealty.com](mailto:michael@deleonrealty.com)  
中文諮詢請聯繫 Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | [DELEONREALTY.COM](http://DELEONREALTY.COM) | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224



# Food & Drink

## The gift of chocolate

From vegan truffles to salted bourbon caramels, find your fill of Valentine's Day treats at Peninsula chocolatiers

By Kate Bradshaw

It's almost Valentine's Day, and while there's no shortage of chocolates from name-brand companies dotting the aisles of local grocery store chains, the Peninsula is home to a number of small businesses focused on the craft of making chocolate. Here are 10 chocolatiers around the region where you can find Valentine's Day gifts for a special someone or satisfy your sweet tooth at any time of year.

### Alegio Chocolate, Palo Alto

Palo Alto's Alegio Chocolate distinguishes itself for its global flavors, drawing on founder Claudio Corallo's background in coffee cultivation in Africa and Latin America. Many options available online come in bars with unique flavor combinations, like 70% chocolate with crystallized orange peels or crystallized ginger, or grapes in pear distillate.

Alegio Chocolate, 522 Bryant St., Palo Alto; 650-324-4500, [alegio.com](http://alegio.com). Instagram: [@alegio\\_chocolate](https://www.instagram.com/alegio_chocolate).

### Fleur de Cocoa, Los Gatos

Fleur de Cocoa, a French patisserie and chocolate maker, offers hand-crafted chocolates made in small batches, so flavors may vary from week to week. Among the chocolates served are the "Monkey Barr" made with dark chocolate and banana; "Chloe" made with white chocolate, violet and blackcurrant ganache; and "Paris," dark chocolate with a signature tea ganache.

Fleur de Cocoa, 39 North Santa Cruz Ave., Los Gatos; 408-354-3574, [fleurdecocoa.com](http://fleurdecocoa.com). Instagram: [@fleur.de.cocoa](https://www.instagram.com/fleur.de.cocoa).

### Go to Chocolate, San Carlos

San Carlos-based wholesale chocolatier Go to Chocolate has a wide selection of unique chocolate products, including a collection of vegan chocolate offerings and fruit- and flower-based gel and ganache fillings. These include: apricot truffles in dark chocolate, agave truffles, white chocolate truffles with lemon zest and cinnamon infused cream, rose petal gel in dark chocolate and an avocado mint meltaway. They don't have a storefront you can visit, so the best way to pick up their goods is to

place an online order or catch them at the College of San Mateo farmers market held on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Go to Chocolate, 765 Old County Road # A, San Carlos; 650-339-1900, [gotochocolate.com](http://gotochocolate.com). Instagram: [@gotochocolate](https://www.instagram.com/gotochocolate).

### Shekoh Confections, Palo Alto

Shekoh Moossavi of Shekoh Chocolates in Palo Alto trained at P...cole Valrhona and adds global flavors to her chocolate craft. Visitors can customize their boxes in person or online. Chocolates come in brightly colored mirror glazes and include flavors like Grand Marnier, saffron, mezcal, orange blossom, bergamot and yuzu in addition to desert-inspired combos like s'mores and milk 'n cookies.

Shekoh Confections, 2305 El Camino Real B, Palo Alto; 650-384-6322, [shekohconfections.com](http://shekohconfections.com). Instagram: [@shekohconfections](https://www.instagram.com/shekohconfections).

### Snake & Butterfly, Campbell

Campbell's Snake & Butterfly is an organic chocolatier specializing in caramels and truffles in innovative flavors and bright colors, along with single-origin chocolate bars. Flavors include bacon caramels, Mexican coffee truffles, blueberry balsamic truffles and salted bourbon caramels. They also sell treats like peanut butter cups and mixed nut turtles.

Snake & Butterfly, 191 East Campbell Ave., Campbell; 408-508-4788, [snakeandbutterfly.com](http://snakeandbutterfly.com). Instagram: [@snakeandbutterfly](https://www.instagram.com/snakeandbutterfly).

### SWEET55, Half Moon Bay and Palo Alto

Swiss chocolatier SWEET55 offers intricately decorated chocolates at its two shops in Half Moon Bay and Palo Alto, including specialty confections highlighting chocolates from different parts of the world like the African Nights chocolate, which comes with a mocha ganache made with Sao Tome 75% chocolate, caramel and a dark shell, while the California Republic chocolate is made up of dark ganache, olive oil, Meyer lemon and rosemary flavors. While the original chocolate shop is in Half



Photo by Michelle Le

Above: Co-owner Adams Holland fills the display case with candy at Timothy Adams Chocolates on Feb. 6, 2018. Left: A heart-shaped chocolate at Sweet55. Photo by Magali Gauthier.



Moon Bay, last year owner Ursula Schnyder opened a shop at Palo Alto's Town & Country Village.

SWEET55, 855 El Camino Real Suite 123, Palo Alto, 225 CA-1 Suite 104C, Half Moon Bay; 650-618-6525, [sweet55.com](http://sweet55.com). Instagram: [@sweet55swiss](https://www.instagram.com/sweet55swiss).

### Sweet Shop, Los Altos

For more kid-friendly fare, consider the candy store Sweet Shop, tucked away in a residential corner of Los Altos offering bulk gummy and sour candies alongside chocolate items like malt balls. As an added bonus, 5% of proceeds go to local schools.

Sweet Shop, 994 Los Altos Ave., Los Altos; 650-941-7467, [sweetshoplosaltos.com](http://sweetshoplosaltos.com). Instagram: [@sweetshoplosaltos](https://www.instagram.com/sweetshoplosaltos).

### Timothy Adams Chocolates, Palo Alto

Bursting with vivid pinks and blues and a signature running rabbit logo, Timothy Adams Chocolates has chocolates adorned with beautiful decorations and packed with flavor. Many chocolates are single-origin and come with unique flavors like a sour cherry marzipan, absinthe and cognac. The shop offers chocolate and champagne tastings, boxes to go and workshops teaching visitors how to make chocolate bonbons.

Timothy Adams Chocolates, 539 Bryant St., Palo Alto; 415-755-8923, [timothyadamsschocolates.com](http://timothyadamsschocolates.com). Instagram: [@timothyadamsschocolates](https://www.instagram.com/timothyadamsschocolates).

### tinyB Chocolate, South San Francisco

Chocolatier Renata Stoica is offering Brazilian brigadeiros — bite-size fudgy truffle balls — made with sweetened condensed milk, semi-sweet chocolate, butter and cocoa powder and with flavor blends including pistachios, almonds and coconut. The chocolate shop is also selling Valentine's Day kits to make your own brigadeiros.

tinyB Chocolate, 1 S Linden Ave. Unit #5, South San Francisco; 415-854-0344, [tinybchocolate.com](http://tinybchocolate.com). Instagram: [@tinybchocolate](https://www.instagram.com/tinybchocolate).

Email Associate Digital Editor Kate Bradshaw at [peninsulafoodist@embarcaderopublishing.com](mailto:peninsulafoodist@embarcaderopublishing.com).

Dig into food news. Follow the Peninsula Foodist on Instagram @peninsulafoodist and subscribe to the newsletter at [almanacnews.com/express/foodist](http://almanacnews.com/express/foodist) to get insights on the latest openings and closings, learn what the Foodist is excited about eating, read exclusive interviews and keep up on the trends affecting local restaurants.

# WE ARE HERE FOR YOU.



## AND BECAUSE OF YOU.

Help support local journalism and the dedicated people behind the headlines.



**Magali Gauthier**  
VISUAL JOURNALIST

### Hear from visual journalist, Magali Gauthier

I'm Magali Gauthier and I'm the staff visual journalist for Embarcadero Media, the small local news organization on the Peninsula that covers news for the Palo Alto Weekly, the Mountain View Voice, The Almanac, and Redwood City Pulse.

During the recent string of storms in early January, our newsroom covered power outages, downed trees and flooding across all our coverage areas, from Mountain View to Woodside. On some days, I was on the ground with reporters at the San Francisquito Creek speaking with local residents about how floods had impacted their homes and what they were doing to protect them from further damage. At the same time, other reporters were in touch with city officials and public works departments to give you all the most up-to-date news on power outages and impacted roadways. On other days, I was driving around Woodside and Portola Valley, in constant communication with reporters about downed trees and street closures to photograph and film. All the information and visuals we gathered were then sent to our editors who were updating stories online. It was a really collaborative and time-consuming effort. But we knew it was important to tell and show our readers how current events were impacting them as quickly as possible.

This type of localized and extensive coverage would not be possible without our members' support. Countless people in our newsroom took part in bringing it to you. If you want to see more stories that provide you with information that helps you make decisions about your everyday life, please consider becoming a member.

The Almanac

Palo Alto  
Weekly

RWC  
PULSE

Mountain View Voice

## SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM

You can also subscribe for one year by mailing a check for \$144 to us at 450 Cambridge Ave., Palo Alto 94306.

JOIN AT

[www.almanacnews.com/join/](http://www.almanacnews.com/join/)



# Perfection in West Menlo Park

COMPASS



## 1141 Cotton Street, Menlo Park

4 Bed | 3.5 Bath | 3,150 SF | Offered at \$5,788,000

- Wonderful remodel on one of west Menlo Park's best streets!
- Hand-hewn hardwood floors, high ceilings in every room, detailed crown molding and wainscoting with dazzling lighting everywhere.
- Stunning all-white gourmet chefs kitchen and family room combination with high-end stainless steel appliances.
- Formal living and dining room Almost one-quarter acre with front patio, parterre, rose gardens, and very private rear yard with barbecue center, playground.
- Highly regarded Menlo Park School District.
- Just a quick walk or bike ride to downtown shops and restaurants.

**Open House**  
Saturday | 1-4 pm & Sunday | 11 am - 2 pm

Your advocate in every real estate transaction.

## Sean Foley

REALTOR®  
650.207.6005  
sean.foley@compass.com  
DRE 00870112



Compass is the brand name used for services provided by one or more of the Compass group of subsidiary companies. Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01079009. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.