

The Almanac

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

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Bracing for new battles

Facing climate change, longtime environmental groups make plans to ensure a brighter future

By Sue Dremann

Imagine the Bay Area without the San Francisco Bay. Imagine, too, the Santa Cruz Mountains crisscrossed by freeways bringing hundreds of thousands of commuters who are living cheek by jowl along the coasts of San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties to the flatlands to work each day.

These hypothetical scenarios nearly became a reality. In the 1950s and 1960s, post-World War II planners, developers and land speculators had designs to create a sprawling Los Angeles-type metropolis: at one point even planning to decapitate San Bruno Mountain to use for landfill to build near the San Francisco Bay.

But residents with the foresight to understand the devastation of

unbridled growth and exploitation fought back. Sixty years ago, 27 residents formed the Committee for Green Foothills (now Green Foothills) to advocate for the protection of the mountains and bay that all residents enjoy today.

Three other environmental organizations that expanded those early efforts to protect local habitats, both wild and urban, also passed milestone anniversaries in 2022: The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and Environmental Volunteers both celebrated 50 years and Canopy celebrated 26 years.

Now each is taking on a new threat: climate change, working to evolve along with the threats that could damage the

See **ENVIRONMENT**, page 12



Veronica Weber

A southward view of the Santa Cruz Mountains at the Monte Bello Preserve, natural lands preserved by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District for decades.

Wild weather brings widespread power outages and road closures in Atherton, Menlo Park

High winds cause problems throughout Midpeninsula as blustery winter storm knocks over trees, power lines

By Angela Swartz

Power outages affected thousands in neighborhoods throughout the Midpeninsula starting on Tuesday, Feb. 21, as high winds swept relentlessly through the region. In Atherton, several roads were closed after downed trees and a vehicle hit two different utility poles.

Pacific Gas & Electric's outage map showed sizable swaths of Menlo Park and Atherton without electricity Tuesday into Wednesday. Portions of East Palo Alto, Redwood City,

Woodside, Portola Valley, Palo Alto, Stanford and Mountain View also suffered power outages. By 6 p.m. Tuesday, over 52,000 customers were without power in San Mateo County, the utility company reported.

A suspected live wire on University Avenue led East Palo Alto police to block the roadway between Purdue Avenue and Bayfront Expressway. They advised the public at around 5 p.m. to take alternate routes due to the road closure, which prevented access to and from the Dumbarton Bridge via University Avenue, police said.

PG&E placed preliminary blame for many of the outages on the weather.

A tree hit a utility pole on Selby Lane in Atherton, closing traffic in both directions from Austin Avenue to Logan Lane, according to a police news bulletin.

Alameda de Las Pulgas was closed in both directions at Stevick Drive because another tree fell and blocked a driveway, according to Atherton police. Laburnum Road was closed in both directions between Catalpa Drive and Magnolia Drive because a tree was blocking

the roadway. James Avenue was closed in both directions at Heather Drive because of a downed tree.

Fallen tree limbs had also blocked a portion of El Camino Real at Atherton Avenue in Atherton on Tuesday, according to Ryan Molinari, who was driving through the area.

A car hit a power pole on Marsh Road, closing it in both directions from Middlefield Road to Fair Oaks Avenue, according to a 1:50 p.m. news bulletin on Feb. 21. By 6:10 p.m., Marsh Road had reopened.

Power was out for about 3,500

PG&E customers in central Atherton on Tuesday, along with roughly 1,000 customers around Valparaiso Avenue where Sacred Heart Schools, and Menlo School are located. About 1,900 were without power near Marsh Road.

The Atherton library was offering limited service Tuesday afternoon due to the power outage, and closed on Wednesday, as were the town administrative offices.

In East Palo Alto, multiple outages affecting more than

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Local News

MENLO PARK | AThERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Magali Gauthier

Swimmers work out at Burgess Pool in Menlo Park on Feb. 15. Three companies are vying for a contract from the city to run operations at Burgess Pool and the new pool under construction in Belle Haven's Menlo Park Community Center.

Meet the companies competing to operate Menlo Park pools

Burgess Pool and new Menlo Park Community Center open for operating requests

By Cameron Rebosio

Three companies are vying to run operations at Burgess Pool and the Menlo Park Community Center. The City Council will decide which company to award the contract at an upcoming meeting.

The companies who responded to the city's Request for Proposals (RFP) to find viable candidates include Team

Sheeper, which has run the municipal pool program for years, along with two newcomers. Here are the three companies and what they plan to offer.

SOLO Aquatics

SOLO Aquatics is a Menlo Park-based swim coaching program that currently operates out of Burgess Pool under a subcontract agreement with

Team Sheeper. The company has submitted several proposals to operate Burgess Pool over the years.

SOLO Aquatics' pitch calls for both pools open from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day of the year. SOLO plans to offer several programs in its schedule, including therapy swim, open swim, lessons for children and adults, lap swim,

See **POOLS**, page 8

Menlo Park murder suspect back in court after COVID delays

Francis Wolke on trial for killing Kathy Hughes Anderson in 2018

By Cameron Rebosio

The trial of 30-year-old Francis Wolke, accused of murdering retired Atherton town arborist Kathy Hughes Anderson, is back on as of Feb. 22, following days of delays due to COVID-19. The trial was in progress last week, with both sides making opening statements and prosecution witnesses testifying when it was put on hold starting Feb. 16, after prosecutor Connie O'Brien tested positive for the virus.



Francis Wolke

Wolke's attorney, Connie O'Brien, said in her opening statement on Feb. 14 that her client was driven to murder by a desire to engage in cannibalism. Cincinnati resident Wolke pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity at a hearing in November 2020.

San Mateo County District Attorney Stephen Wagstaffe said that cannibalistic behavior does not play a role in the prosecution's case against Wolke.

According to Wagstaffe, Menlo Park resident Hughes Anderson was stabbed through the eye with a pencil, causing hemorrhage. The prosecution

does not know why Hughes Anderson was chosen as the victim.

Wagstaffe said there is no question about who committed the murder, but rather if Wolke's mental state was competent enough to face the murder charge.

In February 2021, doctors tasked with determining whether Wolke was sane at the time of the fatal stabbing in Hughes Anderson's Menlo Park home in December 2018 returned with split conclusions. One doctor concluded that the defendant was sane and the other concluded that he was not.

Hughes Anderson was found in her Valparaiso Avenue home after Daniel Baggett, an ex-tenant, had visited the house. While there, he told *The Almanac* in 2018, he came across Wolke in the house with blood on him. Baggett detained Wolke in the house at knife-point until police arrived and found Hughes Anderson's body.

The trial was continued to Wednesday, Feb. 22. One juror also tested positive for COVID-19 and is being replaced by one of four alternate jurors, according to the DA's office. ■

Andrea Gemmet contributed to this report. Email Staff Writer Cameron Rebosio at crebosio@almanacnews.com.

Atherton council considers annexing school land to add more housing

The town will continue to explore developing the Gilmore House into multifamily housing

By Angela Swartz

After reviewing a plan from residents with suggestions for how to encourage developing housing in town, the Atherton City Council directed staff to consider annexing unincorporated San Mateo County land that could host multifamily housing during a Feb. 15 meeting.

The main piece of land being considered is an open field in the back of the Adelante Selby

Spanish Immersion School property, behind the parking lot, at 170 Selby Lane.

"It's a little more than an acre parcel and absolutely appropriate to consider putting housing on for school staff," said Council member Rick DeGolia.

Mayor Bill Widmer is also supportive of the idea. Since part of the school is already in Atherton, the town already provides services to the property. He suggested it be rezoned for 20 units per acre.

"I think it's a very viable thing," he said.

The need to plan for housing comes from a state mandate to plan for the development of 348 new housing units, per its 2023-31 Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA). The council scrambled to approve a plan to send to the state Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) by the Jan. 31 deadline, fearing fees, lawsuits and the threat of the state taking over

development in town.

The council is exploring more options for housing, but won't make any changes to its plan, called a housing element, until the state weighs in on its draft, expected to be around 60 days after its Jan. 31 submission.

The town would need to file an application through the San Mateo Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) to annex land.

Council member Stacy Miles Holland was skeptical

of the idea.

"How long does annexing take?" she said. "Annexing sounds very exotic and interesting but it doesn't seem like it's going to get us compliant in our next round (with HCD)."

Ultimately the decision to build housing would be up to the Redwood City School District, which runs the elementary school. The Almanac has reached out to the district to

See **ATHERTON HOUSING**, page 18

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State offers \$30M in funding for Bay Area electric vehicle charging projects

Applications accepted through March 10

By Olivia Wynkoop/Bay City
News Foundation

Electric vehicle charging station construction projects that are ready to break ground in the Bay Area can receive their share of \$30 million in incentive funds, the California Energy Commission announced.

In efforts to strengthen the state's EV charging station network, energy officials have allocated funds to shovel-ready projects in 30 counties around the state. Projects in all nine counties of the Bay Area are eligible for funding.

Funds stem from the state's Golden State Priority Project, which is an initiative to expedite fast-charging station infrastructure in low-income and tribal communities.

CEC Commissioner Patty Monahan said the money is meant to "fill the gap" in areas with few places to charge EVs,

and ultimately make it easier for all Californians to switch to cleaner transportation.

"This new model is designed to deploy charging infrastructure swiftly and equitably to make sure every EV driver feels confident they can refuel, and that need is especially critical in rural, low-income and tribal communities," said Monahan.

Businesses, community organizations and public entities with construction projects in disadvantaged communities are encouraged to apply by March 10. Site locations can include airports, gas stations, universities, public transit hubs and other places accessible to the public.

Awardees will receive rebates to purchase and install up to 20 fast chargers per site, at \$100,000 per connector.

More information on the initiative can be found on the project's webpage at calevip.org. ■

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CRIME BRIEFS

Burglary reported in Atherton

Someone broke into a home on the 200 block of Polhemus Avenue in Atherton on Feb. 16, according to a police news bulletin. This is the second home burglary reported in the town this year.

Police responded to a residential alarm around 8 p.m. and found that someone had smashed a glass door and rummaged through a master bedroom closet. There is no estimate on the value of the stolen belongings.

Police said the possible suspect car is a silver Audi sedan. Atherton Police said there was about a 10-minute delay before the alarm company notified police of the alarm. Residents are asked to consider having their alarm systems monitored for free by its dispatch center by calling 650-688-6500.

The only other residential burglary of the year took place on the same block of Polhemus Avenue on the evening of Friday, Jan. 13.

Police ask anyone who lives around Polhemus Avenue to check their surveillance video and report any possible leads to 650-688-6500.

—Angela Swartz

Police arrest six for allegedly buying minors alcohol

Menlo Park police officers and agents of the California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) arrested six people for allegedly furnishing alcohol to minors in an undercover operation, officers announced on Sunday, Feb. 19.

In the operation, a minor would stand in front of a liquor store under the supervision of law enforcement and ask adults to buy them alcohol because they cannot.

Officers arrested and issued citations to adults who agreed to purchase the minor alcohol.

The operation was funded by an ABC grant as part of the police department's Alcohol Partnership Program.

—Bay City News Service

Community college board taps Skyline president as interim chancellor

Search continues for permanent replacement to lead San Mateo County college district

By Angela Swartz

The San Mateo County Community College District Board of Trustees plans to vote on appointing Skyline College President Melissa Moreno as interim chancellor at a meeting Wednesday, Feb. 22, after The Almanac's Wednesday afternoon press deadline.

The district has been searching for a permanent chancellor and named three finalists in November, a list that did not include Moreno.

Mike Claire has filled the role since 2019 (and took on the role permanently in May 2020), when he stepped in for disgraced chancellor emeritus Ron Galatolo. Galatolo exited the district before being charged with 21 felonies in April for misuse of funds during his leadership of the district.

If appointed, Moreno would begin her interim role on April

1. Claire plans to stay on until June 30 to help Moreno with the transition, according to the email from board President Lisa Petrides. During the transition, Claire's responsibilities will shift from day-to-day management to assisting Moreno with his institutional knowledge, relationships and projects, Petrides said.

"Having served as Skyline College's president since August of 2020, Dr. Moreno brings an extensive record of accomplishment in the world of higher education," Petrides said. "Over a period of 13-plus years serving as a member of adjunct faculty to serving as a college vice president at Santa Barbara City College, Dr. Moreno established herself as a visionary leader tasked with creating opportunities that



Melissa Moreno

strengthen a college district's ability to better serve students."

While president of Skyline in San Bruno, she introduced the Peoples College Initiative, which focuses on antiracism and equity in an effort to "disrupt the participatory governance practices to enable the power of the people and uniquely center the voices of faculty, classified professionals, managers and students," she said.

Moreno is a lawyer and earned a juris doctorate from Santa Barbara College of Law. She holds a bachelor's degree from University of California at Santa Barbara.

She worked at Santa Barbara City College for over 13 years, serving in faculty and administrative roles.

Chancellor search process

The district formed a chancellor screening committee made up of trustees,

community members, faculty, classified employees, administrators and students. It also hired Community College Search Services to carry out the process.

The finalists for chancellor named in November were: Santanu Bandyopadhyay, president at Modesto Junior College in the Yosemite Community College District; Bradley Davis, chancellor of the West Valley-Mission Community College District in Santa Clara; and Rowena M. Tomaneng, president at San Jose City College in the San Jose-Evergreen Community College District.

Davis told The Almanac that he was offered the position in January but declined it and is no longer a candidate. The West Valley-Mission Community College District issued a press release on Jan. 19 that Davis would remain with the South Bay district.

"I was open to exploring the opportunity because the district is in my hometown, I've been a Foster City resident for 25 years," he said. "In the end felt the position wasn't the right fit for me."

"Understanding our national reputation in the world of higher education, we will reopen the search process with an open

mind, and solely focused on finding the best candidate for our district," board President Petrides wrote in at Feb. 17 email to district staff. "Dr. Moreno is exactly the leader we need at this point to take us forward at this moment in time."

Contract details

The employment agreement with Moreno, which the board will review, runs from April 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, or until appointment of a permanent chancellor, whichever occurs first.

Her annual compensation is set for \$350,000. The board would retain the right to increase her annual salary during the term of the agreement.

Moreno would receive 225 hours of vacation annually, and can cash out up to 10 days of vacation annually. She would receive one day per month of sick leave, and the same health and welfare benefits, including post-retirement medical benefits, as are generally provided to management personnel of the district, according to the proposed contract. ■

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

Ex-chancellor's hearing on public corruption charges reset for March 22

By Angela Swartz

Following a series of delays, former San Mateo County Community College District Chancellor Ron Galatolo is due in court on corruption charges on March 22 at 9 a.m. for a preliminary hearing, according to the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office.

The hearing date, which was set on Feb. 15 has been repeatedly delayed thanks to a dispute over whether emails obtained from Galatolo's former attorney can be used against him in court.

San Mateo County Judge Jeffery Finigan, after several hearings, ruled on the

discovery of emails seized from Galatolo's former attorney's office by law enforcement, said District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe in an email.

The San Mateo Daily Journal reported that in January, a judge ruled that email evidence taken from the office of Stephen Pahl, Galatolo's former lawyer, would be admissible in the case against Galatolo. His lawyer is seeking a review of the judge's decision in the state Court of Appeals, Wagstaffe said.



Ron Galatolo

"The Court of Appeals, a bit to our surprise, decided they will take a look at it," Wagstaffe told the Daily Journal.

In April 2019, the DA's Office received a "whistleblower" complaint of alleged public corruption against members of the executive leadership team of the college district.

Galatolo is charged with allegedly awarding construction projects to vendors from whom he received "multiple valuable gifts," including tickets to concerts and sporting events, and international travel. Prosecutors also allege that Galatolo failed to disclose that he received "numerous valuable" gifts from construction firms that had business

with the community college district. Elected and public officials are required annually to file a Form 700, also known as statements of economic interest.

In a separate legal action, the San Mateo County Community College District filed a lawsuit on Feb. 8 against five construction companies for "fraud, bribery, and kickbacks," alleging that they engaged in a pay-to-play scheme led by Galatolo.

Galatolo pleaded not guilty to all 21 felony charges leveled against him on June 30, 2022. His initial arraignment was on April 27, 2022.

Jose Nuñez, the former vice

chancellor of facilities, who also faced corruption charges, struck a deal with the DA's Office in January 2022. As part of his plea bargain, Nuñez will testify at Galatolo's trial. Sentencing of Nuñez will take place after he has testified, Wagstaffe said.

Nuñez was on administrative leave last year, but he is no longer employed with the district, said district spokesperson Ana Maria Pulido.

Galatolo remains out of custody on \$150,000 cash bail. He is represented by Charles J. Smith. ■

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

Half Moon Bay mass shooting suspect pleads not guilty

Judge's gag order prevents prosecutors, defense, from discussing case against Chunli Zhao, who is accused of committing worst mass shooting in San Mateo County history

By Cameron Rebosio

Chunli Zhao, the man accused of shooting eight people and killing seven in Half Moon Bay, pleaded not guilty in a Redwood City courtroom on Feb. 16.

Zhao, 66, is charged with

seven counts of murder, one count of attempted murder, plus gun enhancements on each charge and special circumstances on the counts of murder.

"I have never heard anything but a not guilty plea on a murder case," San Mateo County District Attorney Stephen

Wagstaffe said.

Two separate shootings on Jan. 23 took place at farms in Half Moon Bay over an alleged workplace dispute. Zhao was taken into custody "without incident" outside the San Mateo County Sheriff's coastside satellite office and allegedly had a semi-automatic

weapon in the trunk of his car.

At Feb. 16's court proceeding, Zhao also gave up his right to a speedy preliminary hearing and is being held without bail. The case was continued to May 3 to set a date for a preliminary hearing.

Presiding Judge Elizabeth Lee on Feb. 10 granted the

defense request for a gag order, precluding prosecutors, the defense attorneys, the defendant and the Sheriff's Office from discussing the facts of the case with the media. ■

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

San Mateo County task force to investigate farmworker living conditions

Board of Supervisors authorizes funding for housing those displaced by shootings

By Thomas Hughes/
Bay City News Foundation

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors last week allocated \$750,000 to provide long-term temporary housing for those displaced by two mass shootings at farm sites in Half Moon Bay in January, and the county has also established a task force to investigate living conditions of its farmworkers.

The focus of the task force is to try to improve living conditions by identifying farm operators who are not in compliance with state and local regulations that impact the health and safety of farmworkers and their families, according to the county.

County regulations require farm operators to have permits if at least five people are

living on-site.

County Executive Mike Callagy said earlier this month that there are 18 such farms in the county, but the number of unpermitted locations has not been determined. The task force will be made up of members of the county's Departments of Planning and Building, Environmental Health, Agriculture/Weights and Measures, County Attorney's Office and the District Attorney's Office.

At its Feb. 14 meeting the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved funding from the American Rescue Plan meant to pay for housing for the next year for the 38 people displaced by the shootings, but left another \$750,000 of the estimated \$1.5 million cost unfunded, with the goal of seeking private donations

to cover the rest.

Some of the cost could be mitigated by contributions from the owners of the farms where the shootings took place, as the residences have been red-tagged for code violations. The county health code requires property owners in unincorporated areas to pay up to three months in temporary housing costs in such an event. Property owners within Half Moon Bay city limits are required to cover up to two months.

"We will voluntarily seek those, but I always say that we've got the best law office in the state and if necessary, we'll utilize them to recover those damages," Callagy said.

Supervisor Noelia Corzo said the task force should not be used to force people living in substandard conditions to become unhoused, and cited

what could become escalating costs if the county truly confronts how many people are potentially living in such conditions. She said there needs to be more examination of the root cause of the housing issues facing farmworkers in the county.

Supervisor Ray Mueller, who represents District 3 where the displaced farmworkers were living, said the concerns were valid and the county was working with state and local partners to try to identify housing solutions, including what he called "mercy centers" that could provide temporary housing if code violations are found to the point of causing displacement.

A \$42.8 million state grant awarded Wednesday will bolster the effort to find long-term housing solutions for low-income residents in the county, although just 18 of the 212 units

will be dedicated to farmworkers, according to a news release from the county.

The grant announced Wednesday will contribute funding to 212 units for low-income residents in Burlingame, Daly City and Moss Beach.

"This award is a major step forward to improve the lives of families and farmworkers on the Coastside," Mueller said in a statement.

Callagy said at the board's meeting Tuesday that it is the county's goal to encourage farm operators to come forward and work with the county on improving living conditions for workers.

"It's those bad actors that live in the shadows that don't want to come forward that if we find we will bring them into compliance," Callagy said. ■

POOLS

continued from page 5

Masters and time set aside for several swim teams. In its application, SOLO also said that it saw opportunities to include adapted aquatics, water fitness, aquatic personal training, aquatic therapy including aquatic rehabilitation, and aquatic physical therapy in its program.

One 10-week summer camp would be offered, with morning

and afternoon sessions teaching water polo and swimming. SOLO's proposed fees for both pools are largely the same as the current fees set by Team Sheeper to use Burgess Pool, and have different price points depending on the programs.

The Swimming Swan

The Swimming Swan organization currently operates several pools. The company provides services in Wisconsin,

Florida, San Diego, Los Angeles and Gilroy.

The Swimming Swan plans to operate the pool for a total of 64 hours each week in spring, fall and winter. The pool would alternate opening at 10 a.m. and 7 a.m., and close at 8 p.m. every day except Sundays, when it would close at 6 p.m. In the summer, the company offered to keep the pools open 96 hours a week, opening at 6 a.m. and closing at 8 p.m. every day except Sunday, when the pool

would close at 7 p.m.

The Swimming Swan would offer lap and open swimming, three levels of swim team programs, multiple youth camps, Masters swim, Aqua Fit classes and private and group lessons. The company also plans to keep its fees for using the pool largely similar to Team Sheeper's current rates.

Team Sheeper

Team Sheeper has operated Burgess Pool since 2006 and has been coaching in Menlo Park since 1993. Team Sheeper has also operated Rinconada Pool in Palo Alto since 2017, and run the Belle Haven Pool that closed in 2021 for renovation and will reopen as the Menlo Park Community Center (MPCC) later this year.

Team Sheeper plans to have Burgess Pool open from 6 a.m.

to 8 p.m. on weekdays and from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends, closing at 5 p.m. during the summer months. The plan is for the MPCC to be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays except during the school year, when it will be closed from 1-4 p.m. The pool would be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends, and until 5 p.m. during the summer.

Team Sheeper plans to have programs including lap swim, open swim, swim lessons, Bridge Youth Program, Camp Menlo, Aqua Fit, Aqua Wellness, youth teams, a life-guard certification course and the Menlo Masters. Team Sheeper plans to keep its fees in the same range as they are currently priced. ■

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



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Magali Gauthier

Burgess Pool in Menlo Park is a popular spot for lap swimmers.

New hospitality program aims to teach culinary skills to those with disabilities

Nonprofits Ada's Cafe, AbilityPath partner in new commercial kitchen to expand training, job options

By John Bricker

Over the past decade, dozens of employees have found empowerment working behind the coffee counter at Ada's Cafe, a Palo Alto nonprofit that aims to give work opportunities to people with developmental disabilities.

For longtime employee Charlie Foley-Hughes, whose mother founded the cafe at 3700 Middlefield Road in 2014, working there has provided him an opportunity to learn various aspects of the food business from serving coffee, sandwiches and soups and interacting with customers to assisting with catering.

Foley-Hughes, 34, takes special pride in his ability to make and serve lattes he pours and decorates with microfoam.

"I love the food, I love our cafe, and I love the Palo Alto community," he said.

And now, thanks to a collaboration with another local organization serving people with disabilities, the cafe is preparing to broaden its scope.

As early as the end of this year, pending permitting and logistics, Ada's plans to expand its catering operations and production of jam, granola and dog biscuits at the nonprofit AbilityPath's commercial kitchen located near the cafe.

Kathleen Foley-Hughes, Ada's founder and executive director, said she has been interested in collaborating with AbilityPath for about a decade, because Ada's Cafe often hires people taking living skills classes through the organization.

During the pandemic, she met with AbilityPath CEO Bryan Neider to discuss how the two nonprofits might be able to work together. She described that meeting as "Ada's pandemic pivot."

After that initial meeting, plans to renovate the unused commercial kitchen at AbilityPath's Middlefield Road campus into an efficient catering space took shape over the next two years as Ada's and AbilityPath worked

See **ADA'S CAFE**, page 11



Magali Gauthier

AbilityPath student Many Wadera, right, spreads icing on a sugar cookie in a living skills class led by employment trainer Anna Rose Gosling in Redwood City on Feb. 14.



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Redevelopment plan raises hopes, anxieties at Buena Vista Mobile Home Park in Palo Alto

Residents face prospect of temporary displacement as Housing Authority prepares to build apartment complex, replace existing homes

By Gennady Sheyner

Residents of Buena Vista Mobile Home Park know perfectly well what it feels like to have their lives upended by events beyond their control.

In 2017, Palo Alto's sole mobile home park, at 3980 El Camino Real, was on the verge of being razed and converted into a luxury housing complex when the city and the county stepped in to buy it, thus preventing the displacement of nearly 400 residents. Since then, the Santa Clara County Housing Authority and its property management partners have been undertaking the long and arduous work of upgrading utilities, bringing homes up to code and making sure all households have leases that comply with all relevant regulations.

Now, the residents are preparing for a more dramatic change. On Feb. 13, the Housing Authority unveiled to the Palo Alto City Council its plan to redevelop the entire park, which involves replacing old homes — also known as coaches — with new ones and constructing a three-story apartment building at the western portion of the site. In the coming months, members of each Buena Vista household will be meeting with consultants to discuss their particular needs and desires. They will then have the option of temporarily relocating to make way for construction or leaving for good.

Some residents have already left since the park was saved. The park's population is down from 400 to 270, and the number of households has dwindled from 117 to 75, which includes 60 homeowners and 15 renters, according to Flaherty Ward, the Housing Authority's director of real estate. By redeveloping Buena Vista, the agency plans to address long-standing concerns voiced by residents about the park's inadequate infrastructure.

"When the utilities are impacted or the gas line has to be shut off, that impacts them," Ward said. "And residents have consistently shared these concerns with us. And ultimately, the answer to these concerns is redeveloping the park."

While some upgrades have already taken place, the scope of the next phase of improvements is far more ambitious. The Housing Authority plans to demolish the 10-studio motel near the center of the property, which has been vacant for the past two years, and



Magali Gauthier

The Santa Clara County Housing Authority plans to replace homes in the Buena Vista Mobile Home Park at 3980 El Camino Real with new ones.

replace all the utilities.

"Everything needs to be pulled out: the gas, the sewers, the water. Everything needs to be pulled up and redone. It's difficult to do with brand new coaches on site," Ward said at the council meeting. "A lot of the coaches are several decades old and they can't survive that kind of move."

But while everyone can get behind equipping Buena Vista with safe and reliable utilities, some residents are concerned about what the project will mean for them in the near term. Josefina Martinez, who has lived at Buena Vista for the past 16 years, told this news organization that most of her neighbors would prefer to stay where they are and many are anxious that once they are relocated, they'll end up in a unit with less space for themselves and their families, she said.

Her son, who used to live in a residence on the El Camino Real side of the park, is among the Buena Vista residents who have already been relocated by the Housing Authority as part of its recent efforts to bring all units up to code. The new unit, Martinez said, is only about half the size of the original one.

"They had to get rid of tables, chairs and other furniture because they couldn't fit it," Martinez, 69, said through a translator.

Martinez has two daughters, a son and six grandchildren who live at Buena Vista. She wants to remain in the community. One of her granddaughters, Jessica Guzman, was part of a group

of residents who attended the Feb. 13 hearing to learn more about the redevelopment proposal. Guzman, 21, shared with the council her concerns about ending up in a unit that is too small to accommodate her family's growing needs. A student, Guzman said she expects to live with her family at Buena Vista for at least another two years.

"My mom always told me I can come back home, but my home might not be suitable for me to live for months and months if the size is too small or if there's too many people who are already living there," Guzman told the council. "These kids are going to grow up and some will have to stay home longer than necessary and that's the reality."

For others, like Buena Vista resident Javier Solano, the primary concern is schools. Solano, 52, has two children who currently attend Barron Park Elementary School. His wife also works at the school.

Solano told this news organization that his biggest issue with the plan is uncertainty over whether his children would be able to continue to attend Barron Park. He is hardly alone in this regard. According to Shana Segal, member of the Palo Alto Unified School District Board of Education, 71 children from Buena Vista currently attend Barron Park Elementary, Fletcher Middle and Gunn High schools. Speaking for herself, and not as a board representative, she urged the Housing Authority to "mitigate the impacts of this

plan on our families and provide transportation to each and every student."

Solano said many residents are still learning about the Housing Authority's plans for redevelopment and relocation of residents. He did not hesitate, however, when asked if he'd want to return to Buena Vista after the park's renovation.

"Absolutely," he said.

But the Housing Authority assumes that some people will reach a different decision and choose to go elsewhere. Since it took over Buena Vista, the agency had seen an annual turnover rate of about 5-10% at the property, which is comparable to the turnover rate in its broader real estate portfolio. The main difference, however, is that the Housing Authority has not been leasing out the vacated spaces at Buena Vista, said Nathan Ho, strategic communication assistant at the Housing Authority.

The units are being kept vacant for two reasons, he said. First, the Housing Authority is trying to decrease demand on the park's aging infrastructure — particularly the gas, electric and sewer lines — which is past its useful life. Second, when a resident leaves the park, their investment required to make the unit rentable again is often higher than what the residence is worth, he said.

Ho said that between six and eight households have been leaving each year. When that happens, the Housing Authority buys the residence and provides a modest

relocation payment.

"It's important to note that our intention is to get the occupancy back up to 2017 levels after the redevelopment is complete," Ho said in an email.

The Buena Vista project poses some unique challenges for the housing agency, said Preston Prince, who took over as its chief executive officer in 2020. As part of its agreement from six years ago, the agency is tasked with improving infrastructure, bringing all households up to code and, at the same time, preserving it as an affordable-housing community that would remain available to all present residents.

"Expectations are really high," Prince said in an interview.

He emphasized that in pursuing the redevelopment, the agency is "thinking about the families first and foremost in our approach." The Housing Authority has already held two community meetings about its proposed redevelopment and plans to hold more in the coming months. It has partnered with the company Associated Right of Way Services, which is advising each household about its options. And it is seriously thinking about factors such as assistance with transportation and schools, services that Prince said are important in making sure that Buena Vista remains the strong community that it is today.

"We believe in the kids, we believe in the parents. We are really wanting to create the space where they get to make the choices about their lives as they move forward," Prince said.

Even so, each household will have to make some tough choices in the coming months, as the redevelopment plan shifts from concept to reality. Ward said in her presentation that homeowners will have three options: purchase a new residence at Buena Vista, sell their existing home to the Housing Authority and rent an apartment in the new building; or sell their residence and request a relocation assistance payment so that they can move elsewhere. Renters will have to decide whether they want to live in the new apartments or receive relocation assistance.

"Why we're offering this is because we do believe that not all families will want to stay while their new unit is being built, and perhaps they don't want to live with the compliance requirements of an affordable-housing community," Ward said at the Monday meeting, noting that the mobile home park was largely unregulated before the Housing Authority purchased the property.

While the agency hopes residents will make their decisions by the end of March, the agency's plans for the new apartment

See **MOBILE HOMES**, page 11

ADA'S CAFE

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together on designing the new kitchen.

“While our participants and staff work in commercial kitchens, that doesn’t mean we necessarily know how to design and build one to meet the needs of a very robust catering business and social enterprise that Kathleen had in mind,” Nieder said.

Funded through private donations and grants from Santa Clara County, the new kitchen will provide space for AbilityPath’s independent living skills classes and will enable Ada’s to provide opportunities for those who want to build their experience in the culinary arts and hospitality industry.

Peter Foley-Hughes, Charlie’s twin brother who helps run the cafe, said that demand for Ada’s jam, granola and dog biscuits has become greater than the shelf space available at the cafe. Once production ramps up in the new commercial kitchen, the nonprofit plans to distribute the products locally and sell them online.

“Those are three pre-packaged products that would do well, hopefully, on the shelves of other stores, because of the mission



Magali Gauthier

AbilityPath student Many Wadera, right, creams together sugar and butter in a living skills class led by employment trainer Anna Rose Gosling, left, in Redwood City on Feb. 14.

behind how it’s being produced,” he said.

These products support a local nonprofit, but they also stand on their own as high-quality, Kathleen Foley-Hughes said. Ada’s staff collaborates with Common Roots Farm in Santa Cruz to source fruit for their jam,

she said, and when the cafe hosted a blind taste test in November 2022 for regular customers, Ada’s jam won handily.

“We were very excited about that,” she said.

Increasing production of these pre-packaged products will create job opportunities for people who

can only work limited hours or who are not ready to work in a retail environment, said Kathleen Foley-Hughes.

Before the brick-and-mortar cafe opened in 2014, she started Ada’s as a volunteer project in the Palo Alto Unified School District to provide vocational

training for her son, Charlie, and other people with disabilities, including traumatic brain injuries, Down syndrome and autism spectrum disorders. The nonprofit also conducts research on how to improve workplaces for people with disabilities and on hiring, training and empowering people with disabilities in the commercial food service industry.

Ada’s currently operates its food business in a commercial kitchen in Mountain View, but the nonprofit has struggled in recent years due to increased rent and rising food costs. Kathleen Foley-Hughes said the nonprofit could eventually move all of its operations into the new commercial kitchen at AbilityPath, pending on how the two organizations share the space.

“We’re figuring out how we can best work together logistically,” Peter Foley-Hughes said.

Nieder said the goal is for those who train in the kitchen to be able to eventually work in Ada’s Cafe, corporate cafeterias or find other culinary opportunities,

“It’s a very robust approach to culinary training and services,” he said. ■

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MOBILE HOMES

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building remain somewhat hazy. The layout that the Housing Authority presented to the council this week shows a C-shaped structure on the west side of the property, its back facing the rest of the park. And while these plans were only intended to show the proposed massing (the actual building has not yet been designed), some council members and community advocates took issue with the drawing and urged the Housing Authority to make sure that the apartment complex and the mobile homes remain integrated as a single community.

Winter Dellenbach, a Barron Park resident who was at the forefront of the battle to save Buena Vista from redevelopment, urged the agency to include shared playground space and other amenities for all residents of Buena Vista, regardless of whether they live in mobile homes or apartments.

“Buena Vista is a community and changes there must foster its community,” Dellenbach told the council. “It’s one community. We can’t diminish it, we can only improve it.”

Palo Alto City Council members agreed and requested that the housing authority explore other approaches for the new building, including having several smaller apartment buildings instead of

one large one. Council member Pat Burt suggested that the site plan include more open space and recreational amenities. He and council member Julie Lythcott-Haims also suggested that the new building be reconfigured so that they face the mobile homes, which would help maintain a sense of community.

“We wouldn’t want to add an apartment building that looks like it just came from outer space and landed in the park,” Lythcott-Haims said. “I think it’s really important when we’re constructing housing for humans, particularly when we’re constructing low-income housing, to try to make sure that it affords the possibility for the sort of continuation of community rather than just some sort of governmental building.”

Prince said in an interview that when it comes to designing the new building and improving the broader area, the Housing Authority will pay close attention to the concerns and wishes of its residents. The concept, he said, “is that all owners can remain owners and all renters will have a place in the future multifamily building.”

“As we talk about residents over the next two months, we’ll find out a little more. Maybe we’ll have more land to work with and maybe we won’t,” he said.

But while the many details


are yet to be hammered out, city and county officials expressed cautious optimism about the latest redevelopment plan. Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian, who played a pivotal role in preserving Buena Vista, acknowledged at the Monday meeting that it’s taken longer than it should have for the Housing

Authority to get to this point. The new redevelopment proposal, he said, is “only the beginning of the conversation.”

“Done right, the Housing Authority’s plan for redevelopment can actually increase the number of affordable housing units, upgrade the living environment for all who call Buena

Vista home and preserve the sense of community that is unique to Buena Vista,” Simitian said. “Which is to say, it is important to get this right.” ■

Email Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner at gsheyner@paweekly.com.



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ENVIRONMENT

continued from page 1

environments they worked so hard to save.

Each has filled a different niche in protecting the Peninsula's natural environment, from advocacy to land held in trust, the greening of the urban forest and environmental education.

The period in history when three of these organizations were formed was marked by a new awareness of environmental issues. In the 1960s and 1970s, Americans were engaged in fervent activism sparked by the lingering Vietnam War, civil rights issues for Black Americans and women and other upheaval. A new "back to nature" ethic took hold as a generation sought to connect with its natural roots.

Marine biologist Rachel Carson in 1962 published her groundbreaking book "Silent Spring," about pollution's ecological damage, which arguably sparked the modern environmental movement. The first march for the environment took place nationwide on Earth Day in April 1969, and former President Richard Nixon created the Environmental Protection Act and signed the Clean Air Act, both in 1970, and signed the Clean Water Act in 1972 in response to growing environmental concerns. All were part of the awakening that also roused Bay Area residents to take action to save their own piece of paradise for future generations.

Now, 50 years later, here's how each of the four Peninsula organizations is adapting to address new threats brought on by climate change.

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District: Preserving land in perpetuity

Inspired by a February 1970 editorial by then-Palo Alto Times reporter Jay Thorwaldson (who later became the Palo Alto Weekly's editor), Palo Alto resident Nonette Hanko and other residents of the Palo Alto Civic League created the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, which went on to obtain funding for land acquisitions through a property tax.

"I told her environmentalists needed to do what they did in the East Bay in 1933 — the depth of the Great Depression — and form a park district and buy the land at fair market value, in order to safely preserve it in perpetuity," Thorwaldson said in a February 2019 Palo Alto Weekly interview.

One of the group's first fights



Magali Gauthier

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District headquarters in Los Altos.

was to save Coyote Hill, a wildlife area on the southwest corner of Foothill Expressway and Page Mill Road, from development in the early 1970s.

At the time, a 530-acre proposal for high-density housing in the lower foothills was working through the city approval process, and San Mateo County officials were ignoring or unable to control development and logging interests.

District supporters put Measure R, the "Room to Breathe" initiative, on the November 1972 ballot in Santa Clara County for a property tax of 10 cents per \$100 of assessed value. It passed with 67.7% of the vote. The first land acquisition: a tiny 90-acre parcel in 1974 that became Foothills Open Space Preserve.

Today, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is a hugely influential district that also encompasses San Mateo County, with more than 20 open space preserves. In 2004, the coast to ridgeline from Montara to the San Mateo-Santa Cruz county line officially became the district's Coastside Protection Area.

The district has acquired more than 65,000 acres of land ranging from marshlands to mountains and forests to grasslands, protecting multiple flora and fauna habitats that anyone can visit for hiking, biking and other outdoor activities.

"They are there for people's mental, physical and social welfare and for the slew of ecological benefits" such as protection of endangered and protected species, said Ana Ruiz, Midpen's general manager.

The vital connection between people and their environment became even more apparent during the early phases of the COVID-19 pandemic. Midpen's open spaces saw a 200% increase in visitors.

"This was one of the few places in a moment of desperate need; this was one of the few places where people could go to leave their home and decompress,"

she said.

People often confuse Midpen with the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), a nonprofit land trust that receives funding from private individuals and foundations. POST was formed in 1977 by Midpen after the district found it difficult to solicit donations and get land from property owners. Many people felt there was no need to provide the district with additional funding or land donations since the district already received monies through the tax, said Mike Williams, the district's real property manager.

POST acquired the land and held it until it could be transferred to an appropriate agency for management, such as the Golden Gate National Recreation Area or San Mateo County Parks. Midpen also acquired many of these properties and manages 19,000 acres of land through its partnership with POST.

On Dec. 10, Midpen's board of directors approved the purchase of 6,300 acres of the coastside Cloverdale Ranch property from POST, the largest single land

purchase in the agency's 50-year history.

How climate change will impact the organization's work

Over the years, Midpen has also increased its land management practices. Public affairs specialist Ryan McCauley said the district's lands store tens of millions of tons of carbon in plants and soils (through the process of carbon sequestration), which keeps carbon out of the atmosphere.

"The greenbelt that Midpen has preserved along the crest of the Santa Cruz Mountain range also provides a refuge for health and well-being, a cooler and greener place to escape above the smog belt," he said.

Midpen has adopted multiple programs to help make its lands more resilient to the effects of climate change, including adopting a Climate Action Plan in 2018, with goals to reduce administrative greenhouse gas emissions 20% below the 2016 baseline by 2022, 40% by 2030 and 80% by 2050.

The district also developed a Wildland Fire Resiliency Program in 2021 to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires that could threaten large trees that store the most carbon, he said.

On the bay side, the Ravenswood Bay Trail project raised the boardwalk and bridge across sensitive salt marsh wetland habitat. The project also improved climate change resiliency by constructing "refugia islands," which are built higher to provide wildlife with a safe space during high-tide events, and transition zones that

provide dense native vegetation for marshland species during high-tides.

"Midpen is committed to several wildlife connection projects. As the changing climate affects natural ecosystems and habitat for native species, ranges are compacted for wildlife connectivity. Midpen is engaged in the Highway 17 Wildlife and Trail Crossings and the Badger and Burrowing Owl Habitat Study," he said.

The district also plans to replace its fossil-fuel vehicles and maintenance equipment over time.

"Some progress has already been made on that front, with new electric vehicles and patrol trucks that can use renewable diesel," he said.

Canopy: Growing the urban forest

In the early 1980s and 1990s, Palo Alto's street trees were deteriorating. Drought, pavement encroachment, pollution and aging along with a dearth of resources for their care were rapidly shrinking the urban forest.

So in 1993, the city created a Tree Task Force for a two-year study of Palo Alto's urban forest. The findings noted multiple benefits from the urban trees and recommended a program to plant and maintain trees and to educate the public.

Three years later, members of the task force planted the sapling from those recommendations, Canopy Trees for Palo Alto. Now called Canopy, the nonprofit organization has planted thousands of trees in the urban forest. The verdant canopy has expanded from Palo Alto to include East



Veronica Weber

The sun starts to set over the foothills near Matadero Creek Trail at Stanford.



Veronica Weber

East Palo Alto Mayor Lisa Gauthier joins Canopy volunteer Uriel Hernandez, second from right, and Teen Urban Foresters Eric Perez, center, and Karen Downs, far right, as they plant a valley oak tree at King Park in East Palo Alto during a Martin Luther King, Jr. event on Jan. 21, 2019.

Palo Alto, Belle Haven, Menlo Park and North Fair Oaks and Mountain View. In recent years, Canopy has emphasized greening underserved communities as well as continuing its work in Palo Alto.

Canopy helped Palo Alto craft a tree-protection ordinance for two native oak species and California redwoods, and it created an interactive online “tree plotter” that provides the location of each tree, the species and other important information. Canopy offers community tree planting opportunities, maintenance, workshops, tree walks and other educational and volunteer opportunities.

The organization has embarked on a South Palo Alto Tree Initiative, having planted more than 500 trees there.

“More than 6,000 trees have been planted in the urban environment. Twenty-five percent of all street trees in East Palo Alto have been planted by Canopy and volunteers. That’s moving the needle,” Executive Director Catherine Martineau said.

How climate change will impact the organization’s work

Ensuring an extensive urban-tree canopy is crucial for combating climate change, easing extreme heat events and the urban heat island effect, Martineau said.

“This is one of the reasons Canopy has been consistently advocating for the protection of existing trees and increasing the tree canopy cover rate in neighboring communities, especially frontline communities where it

is low, about 10-15% vs. about 40-45%,” Martineau said in an email.

Urban trees are one of the most powerful nature-based climate solutions, Martineau said. The tricky part lies in the Bay Area’s needs to address the housing crisis. While people need housing, housing needs space; people need trees and trees must compete for the same space.

Conversations about how to achieve a balance, taking into consideration the variety of existing conditions across communities in the Bay Area, are rare or siloed, she said.

“This is one thing Canopy tried to address by advocating for and participating in the creation of an Urban Forest Master Plan for the city of East Palo Alto, adopted by City Council last April,” she said.

Trees provide myriad benefits. In addition to climate-related benefits such as carbon sequestration and natural air conditioning against a hotter climate, trees provide other environmental benefits such as habitat for native wildlife and stormwater runoff retention.

“And the public health benefits of urban trees are obviously among the most valuable. New research keeps establishing a causal relationship between the lack of urban trees and decreased physical and mental health, and this separately from urban heat mitigation,” Martineau said.

Climate change also threatens local urban trees. Most trees planted in the urban matrix in the region are non-native species such as southern magnolia and Liquidambar, common street

trees in Palo Alto that need supplemental irrigation to grow and survive.

Canopy has been advocating for planting drought-tolerant trees. As the urban forest slowly evolves to a climate-adapted mix of species and the city replants and replaces its trees, water conservation measures in the landscape should prioritize tree retention, she said.

Palo Alto’s urban forestry section has been planting a majority of native oaks in the last 10 years. Canopy was instrumental in having the city hire an urban forester who knew how to work with native tree species, she said.

Public trees represent about 10% of the overall urban forest in Palo Alto; the rest are on private property, Martineau said.

Education programs are crucial and will continue to remain so to help residents learn the value of their trees and how to maintain — and retain — them. As the footprint of homes and commercial structures expand to fill in lots, trees are sometimes removed despite regulations.

Martineau noted that not all native trees are appropriate. Coast redwoods for instance are not native to the valley floor and need fog and water. Even in the natural environment, their range is shifting north as fog patterns are changing due to climate change, she noted.

“This said, there are not enough drought-tolerant native species in our region to satisfy all urban-tree-site configurations. A diversity of size, shape, deciduous, evergreen and other attributes, such as rooting and branching structure, is needed. This is why Canopy has an interest in various efforts to modify the palette of tree species used around here,” she said.

Green Foothills: Generations of advocacy

Since its inception, Green Foothills has helped preserve a greenbelt of more than 185,000 acres of open space in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

A group of concerned Palo Alto and Los Altos activists organized after the city of Palo Alto and Stanford University partnered to develop a research and development park in the early 1950s. The residents lost the battle and the city approved building Stanford Industrial Park (now Stanford Research Park) in 1951. The residents pushed on, however, to keep the foothills from being marred by commercial development.

Twenty-seven members of the original open space group organized in May 1962 to preserve the foothills, calling themselves the Committee for Green Foothills, renamed Green Foothills in 2020, according to a history of the organization.

Among its founders were Palo Alto Altans Gary and Betty Gerard, George Hogle and Lois Crozier-Hogle, former Palo Alto Mayor Kirke Comstock and his wife, Dorothy, Karl and Ruth Spangenberg and novelist Wallace Stegner.

Alice Kaufman, Green Foothills’ policy and advocacy director, said the organization’s greatest achievements included its work on the statewide Proposition 20, which voters passed to form the California Coastal Commission.

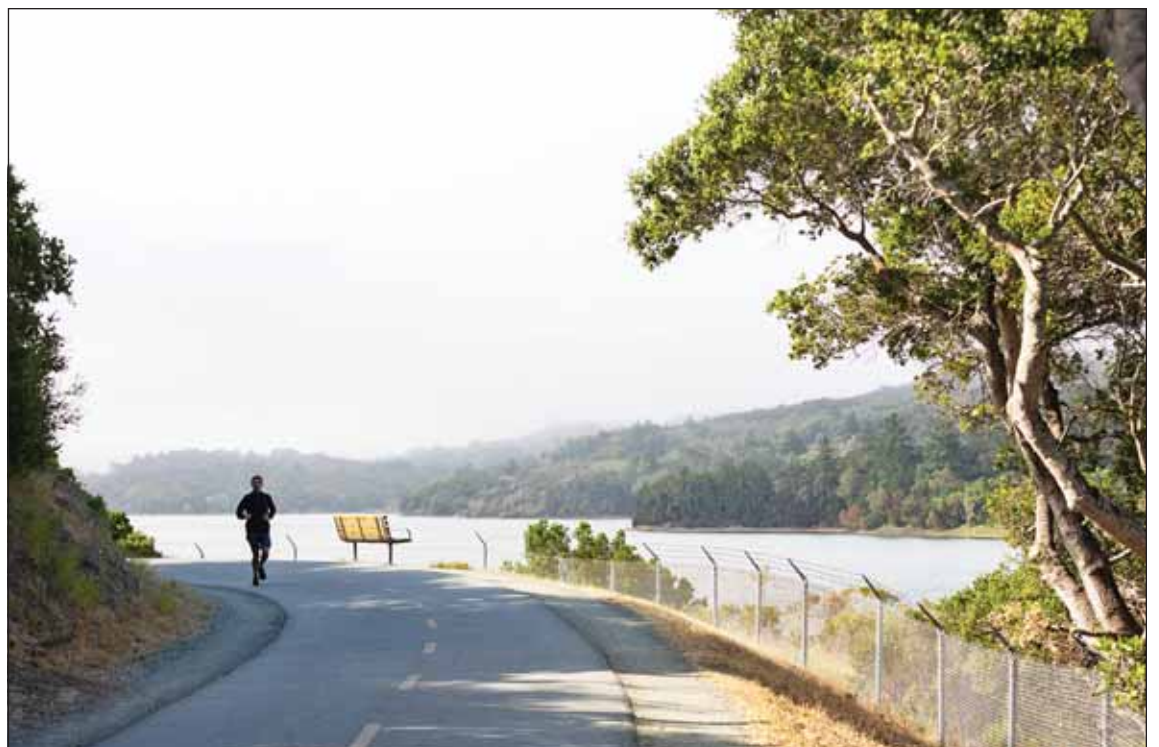
“It really paved the way in 1976 for the San Mateo County coastal protection initiative Measure A to protect the rural nature of coastal farmland from coastal development. It prohibited off-shore oil drilling,” she said.

The initiative kept the San Mateo County coast from turning into another Malibu, covered over with development and with beach access limited to the ultra-wealthy, she said.

Green Foothills also fought to keep Caltrans from building a massive freeway bypass through sensitive wildlands and historic ranches as a go-around to the dangerous Devil’s Slide on state Route 1. The campaign took 25 years. In 1996, a countywide initiative, Measure T, mandated Caltrans to build a tunnel rather than the freeway bypass, she said.

In recent years, Green Foothills joined other environmental organizations and won a lawsuit

See **ENVIRONMENT**, page 14



Magali Gauthier

A runner on a path around the Crystal Springs Reservoir in San Mateo County on July 12, 2021.

ENVIRONMENT

continued from page 13

to protect the salt marshes in Redwood City from development under the Clean Water Act. And Green Foothills and other environmental groups have also fought multiple development proposals in Coyote Valley, an open space area south of San Jose.

How climate change will impact the organization's work

One of the impacts of climate change that affects Green Foothills' work in particular is related to linking wildlife corridors. The organization has been working for decades to protect wildlife habitat and especially the corridors and linkage areas that allow animals to migrate to new habitat areas in order to find food and mates, Kaufman said in a follow-up email.

"The increased fragmentation of our open space by development and freeways is a huge challenge for many species' survival. What climate change will do is create even more of a need for animals (and plants) to be able to migrate because food and water may no longer be available in the places where it used to be and the habitat that animals rely on may no longer provide the resources it once did," she said.

That's an oversimplification, she added, but at the least, a major impact of climate change is that many animals will need to have larger ranges simply in order to survive, Kaufman said.

Two of Green Foothills' major advocacy campaigns focus on this issue of wildlife connectivity, she said.

The Santa Cruz Mountains are an island of wildlife habitat surrounded by a sea of



Veronica Weber

The EcoCenter at the Palo Alto Baylands.

development, and there are only two functioning linkages for animals to move in and out of the mountain range: Coyote Valley and Juristac, which is just south of Gilroy. Both of those areas are under threat of development that could severely impair their functionality as wildlife movement corridors.

"We need to protect both Coyote Valley and Juristac for the survival of our local population of mountain lions (recently identified as a candidate for listing under the California Endangered Species Act), as well as the health of many other species that need those linkages," she said.

Environmental Volunteers: Creating future advocates

Land and tree preservation can fall by the wayside, despite current efforts, if people don't see the value in them. That's why a group of local women formed Environmental

Volunteers in 1972.

Just at the time when groups such as Green Foothills and the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District were gaining traction, people who were also concerned about preserving the San Francisco Bay's estuary for future generations created hands-on programs for local children. Since that time, youth have attended field trips to the bay to experience, learn and enjoy all that the baylands have to offer and to grow up to take care of it, said Elliott Wright, board member at Environmental Volunteers and executive director of Hidden Villa, an open space and farm in Los Altos Hills.

The nonprofit has brought nature to more than 565,000 children since its inception, instilling sensory experiences of nature that stick for a lifetime, Wright said.

The group revitalized the historic Sea Scout building in the Palo Alto Baylands Nature Preserve to create the EcoCenter,

a place for learning.

Environmental Volunteers brings nature education to classrooms; offers small-group hikes and field trips; and takes children out to a variety of natural habitats from chaparral to forests to the ocean to explore and experience pockets of nature where they might not regularly have access.

The "Let's Go!" Field Fund, a transportation fund launched in 2011 through a grant from the Environmental Education Funders Consortium, takes low-income K-12 students on affordable and safe bus trips to explore tide pools, redwood forests, grasslands and marshlands, places where they might not have access.

How climate change will impact the organization's work:

Wright said Environmental Volunteers has a new weather and climate program to address the world's new environmental threats.

Its Sprout Up program brings college students into first- and second-grade classes to lead an eight-week program of song, rhyming and activity-based lessons.

"If we want to empower the next generation, we have to give them building blocks," he said, noting the basics are taught in elementary school and middle school students learn more advanced scientific concepts.

Those lessons are particularly valuable when combined with themes such as the baylands and foothills, which are vulnerable to sea-level rise and wildfires, respectively.

"There are threats to water; there are threats to wildlife; there are threats to people," he said, so teaching skills where people can take climate-smart

actions into their homes, their yards and their communities will help reduce climate change.

"Climate science education has to stay hands on; it won't be an app. The future of science education and nature education is direct, hands-on education," he said.

As the climate continues to change the environment and ecosystems, children and residents living in economically challenged communities, particularly edging San Francisco Bay, will be the most vulnerable to flooding, pollution and other disasters. Environmental Volunteers is reaching out to diversify not only who it serves but also who volunteers, knowing that people of all ages in these communities must have an active stake in how they can shape and help their environment, Wright said.

Diversity is the future

Diversification, inclusion and equity are issues that all of these groups said are among the most challenging they will face as climate and communities change.

"Access to open space is a matter of health. Having access to nature is a matter of life and death," said Martineau, Canopy's executive director.

Building development and gentrification are realities that aren't going away, said Kaufman of Green Foothills.

"It's not OK to simply gentrify in our cities. People have to have access to nature near their homes. When we started, we tried to prevent all of the hillsides from being swallowed in development. Our work still also has to be about bringing nature into our spaces, and it is going to be a challenge to do that as we continue to build up cities," she said.

Ruiz of Midpen Open Space recalled a saying she heard from an Amah Mutsun leader, a member of a local Indigenous tribe that often collaborates with the organization: "Whatever you do today is going to affect people seven generations out," he told her.

That expression resonated with Ruiz.

"Every decision you make today will have ramifications that will affect people further out than you ever imagined. To go for the quick win at that moment or that year, you have to think about the environmental implications going forward. Otherwise, people seven generations out are going to have to bear that burden," she said. ■

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



Sammy Dallal

Executive Director of Environmental Volunteers Elliott Wright, behind, and volunteer Bobbi Callison paddleboard along the Baylands Preserve in Palo Alto on Jan. 9, 2020. A king tide is a term used to describe the predicted highest high-tide and lowest low-tide events of the year.



Courtesy Leah Worthington

Downed trees on Klamath Drive in Menlo Park on Feb. 21.

WIND

continued from page 1

7,279 customers began in three waves throughout Tuesday afternoon.

Stanford and surrounding foothill areas had 3,366 customers without power. The core campus outage area stretched from the east side of the Oval west to Stanford Avenue. Much of the campus bordering Sand Hill Road to Page Mill Road, bounded by Junipero Serra Boulevard, were also without power. Pockets of the interior campus had been spared.

Stanford and Lucile Packard Children's hospitals and Stanford Shopping Center did not lose power.

A wind advisory was in effect from Tuesday afternoon through midday Wednesday, according to the National Weather Service. Gusts of over 60 mph were reported on the region's higher peaks.

The city of Menlo Park asked people to report downed trees by calling 650-330-6780 during business hours. An advisory from the city warned of downed power lines and trees due to high winds, and asked residents to put their garbage and recyclable bins in an enclosed area to avoid debris blowing around and potentially causing injuries.

The city of Menlo Park reported several intersections where outages were affecting traffic lights on Tuesday: Ravenswood Avenue at Laurel Street; Middlefield Road at Ringwood Avenue; Willow Road at Hamilton Avenue and Sand Hill Road at Oak Avenue. Ravenswood Avenue was



Magali Gauthier

Crews work to remove fallen trees on El Camino Real near the intersection with Fair Oaks Lane and Atherton Avenue in Atherton on Feb. 21.

closed between Laurel Street and Alma Street after a downed tree took down a power line. The repairs and tree removals were being done by PG&E and on Wednesday, the city did not have an estimate for when the street would be reopened.

Other Menlo Park street closures include Crane Street between Menlo Avenue and Live Oak Avenue, O'Keefe Street between Willow Road and Arnold Way, McKendry Drive between Blackburn Avenue and Robin Way and Riordan Place at Coleman Avenue.

Menlo Park recieved 16 calls for downed trees and 27 calls for tree issues between 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21 and 9 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 22, the city reported. PG&E said that power outages peaked Tuesday night with 62,000 customers affected across the Peninsula.

A basketball game scheduled for Tuesday night at Menlo-Atherton High School was

moved to Sequoia High School in Redwood City because of a power outage, according to M-A Athletics' Twitter account.

Palo Alto Weekly and Almanac staff contributed to this report. ■

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

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include **Eleanor Ross Crary**, 94, an Portola Valley resident, on Dec. 24; **Earl Ratcliff Jr.**, 76, a Portola Valley resident, on Dec. 8; and **Mark Quinn Constantz**, 68, a former Menlo Park and Portola Valley resident, on Sept. 24.

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

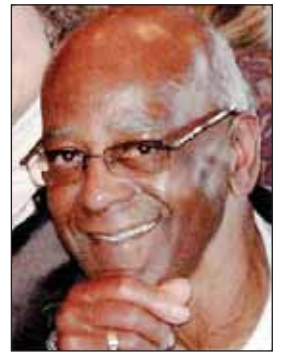
Earl Ratcliff, Jr.

Earl Ratcliff, Jr. has passed, age 76. A celebration of life service will be held February 26, 2:30 PM., Valley Presbyterian Church, 945 Portola Rd., Portola Valley 94028. The service will be in person, as well as live streamed on the church's YouTube channel. A complete obituary will be published soon.

In lieu of flowers, the family offers options for donations, or one's charity of choice.

Valley Presbyterian Church <https://www.valleypreschurch.org/>

The Earl Ratcliff, Jr. Performing Arts Fund www.eastside.org/giving/support.html. Note fund in memo space online or on check Fully tax deductible questions: ellen@eastside.org



PAID OBITUARY

Mark Quinn Constantz

September 16, 1954 – September 24, 2022

Mark Quinn Constantz, 68, passed away in Redwood City on September 24th, 2022 of complications related to respiratory health. He is survived by his daughter Elizabeth and her husband, son-in-law Andrew Kassen of San Jose, brothers Robert B. Constantz Jr. M.D. of Simi Valley, James E. Constantz of Portola Valley, and Brent R. Constantz, also of Portola Valley, as well as three sister-in-laws, and ten nieces and nephews. He was the son of Dr. Robert and Mrs. Kate Constantz of Portola Valley. Mark was preceded in death by the love of his life, his wife Caroline H. Constantz, who he met and married when they were students at the University of California at Davis.



Mark attended Ladera Elementary School for K-5th grade, Portola Valley School for 6th – 8th grades, Woodside High School (Class of 1972), and the University of California at Davis in Studio Art. He further obtained two Master's Degrees in Painting and in Sculpture, and briefly taught art at San Jose State University and sold his paintings to earn a living. He held successful displays of his works at well-established galleries. He later earned a Masters in Library Science from the University of California at Berkeley. Mark's professional life was as a medical librarian for San Mateo County. Mark was honored as an outstanding employee by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors in a Courthouse Ceremony.

During his formative years Mark was very active in competitive swimming at Ladera Oaks Swim and Tennis Club in Ladera under Coach George French, going to swimming practice daily. He swam on Woodside High School's swim team and held records in the back stroke. His true passion was always his artwork from his earliest days. In High School he branched out into film as well and produced short and animated films. At Davis, Mark studied under Wayne Thiebaud and Richard Diebenkorn, as well as other renown artists.

He was a doting father to his daughter Liz and played an equal parental role in partnership with his wife Caroline in raising her to become an outstanding and accomplished young woman. Mark was known for his sense of humor, both in his original cartooning as well as his routines at stand-up comedy clubs. He could keep any dinner party fully entertained with jokes and funny stories, as well as drawings.

The family interned Mark's ashes at Skylawn Cemetery on Friday February 24 in a private ceremony.

PAID OBITUARY

Disappeared without a trace

Alice Ku never returned from her 2019 trip to Taiwan. Was she murdered?

By Sue Dremann

When local tutor Alice Ku went to Taiwan with her husband in November 2019, she fully expected to return to her job working with students in Palo Alto, Mountain View, Sunnyvale and Cupertino.

But Ku, of Mountain View and formerly of Palo Alto, vanished without a trace. To date, no one — her family, employer, students or husband — has heard from Ku, despite their numerous attempts to contact her by phone, email and SMS text. Her cellphone and laptop use and financial transactions have all ceased.

Police in Taiwan, Republic of China, say Ku, then 36, was murdered, but they have not found her body, a murder weapon or traces of what happened to her.

They say they have other evidence, based largely on cyber data and her husband's inconsistent statements. Taiwanese authorities have issued an arrest warrant for her husband, Harald Herchen, a prominent Silicon Valley inventor who owns multiple patents.

But Taiwanese officials can't extradite him because the U.S. doesn't have formal diplomatic relations with the country, and therefore has no extradition treaty, a predicament that Ku's family attorney, Andrew Watters, said must change.

Herchen remains free and

lives in Los Altos, according to court documents filed in a civil lawsuit for wrongful death her family has filed against him.

He allegedly told Ku's brother that he spent a substantial sum of money trying to find her, according to an email he reportedly sent to the brother, George Ku. But under oath during a deposition, he admitted he hadn't looked for her at all, Watters said in a court declaration.

Ku's family, meanwhile, offered \$1 million Taiwan dollars as reward for any news on Ku, to no avail. Her disappearance was reported by major news channels in Taiwan.

With no other recourse, Ku's parents and her brother filed a wrongful death lawsuit against Herchen in Santa Clara County Superior Court on Jan. 12, 2021. Herchen's attorney, Louis F. Doyle, maintains there's no evidence that Herchen was involved in Ku's disappearance.

Ku's trip to Taiwan to see her parents

The story of Ku's disappearance began on Nov. 23, 2019, when she and Herchen flew to Taiwan for a business trip of his. Photographs show nothing out of the ordinary: the couple standing against the backdrop of verdant mountains and a waterfall; Ku at a botanical garden; Ku posing along a walkway that winds through towering canyon walls.

A self-portrait of Ku captured her applying mascara before a mirror in the hotel bathroom. It is the last known photograph of Ku, and it was taken on the morning of her disappearance.

Ku was to take a train from the city of Hualien that morning, Nov. 29, to visit her parents at their home in Yangmei, near Taipei. Herchen said in his deposition that he dropped her off at the train station.

Herchen claimed that the last time he heard from Ku was when she sent him an email on Nov. 30. In the email, of which this news organization obtained a copy, Ku noted that Herchen would be going to his sister's wedding. The couple had planned to leave Taiwan on Dec. 1, but Ku asked him to postpone her return until Dec. 7. He responded that he would change the date for Ku's flight and would meet her in the airport lounge when he returned to Taiwan between 9:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. "like last time."

Herchen changed Ku's reservation on Dec. 1 and departed Taiwan, a police investigation showed.

He flew back to meet her on Dec. 7, but she never contacted him. He returned home on Dec. 8, he said during a Dec. 18, 2019, interview with Watters.

But Ku's parents, Weichiao Ku and Pi Lien Kuo, say they didn't know their daughter was coming; they didn't even know she was married, George Ku stated in his Dec. 22, 2022 court declaration.

Ku never arrived at her parents' home. The family didn't learn that Ku had disappeared until early in December 2019, George Ku said. The parent of one of Ku's students contacted one of her sisters, Grace, to report that Ku had missed several tutoring sessions, which had never happened in the several years that they had known Ku.

On Dec. 9, 2019, after being unable to reach his sister, George Ku and another sister filed a missing persons report with the Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety, the city in which they thought she lived. They learned that Ku had not lived at her Sunnyvale apartment for six months.

Watters tracked Ku's address to an apartment on Wright Avenue in Mountain View. On Dec. 12, 2019, George Ku and Watters went to the apartment looking for his sister. A sign on the door read "Welcome Home, Alice. I love you," but the apartment building manager said



Courtesy the Ku family

Local tutor Alice Ku disappeared while on vacation in Taiwan in 2019.

she hadn't been there for some days.

George Ku and Watters learned from neighbors that his sister lived at the apartment with an older man, identified as Harald Herchen, a German-born, Canadian citizen who was 62 at the time, 23 years older than his sister. Herchen mostly lived at a home in Palo Alto, the neighbors said. It was the first time the family had heard of the marriage, George Ku said.

Herchen, when contacted by George Ku, said that his wife often accompanied him on business trips and would stay a few extra days. Ku was looking into tours during the Taiwan trip, and he claimed that she had also contacted him by email and had a SIM card allowing her to make local telephone calls. She also had used one of his credit cards, Herchen said.

A different story

Watters, who works out of San Mateo, and San Jose attorney Todd Davis, were hired by George Ku to initially to handle conservatorship of Ku's estate, but they have uncovered multiple alleged factual inconsistencies in Herchen's story leading them to believe that Ku was murdered and that he was involved in her death.

Watters and George Ku interviewed neighbors who said that Ku and Herchen often fought

— loudly — about money and that she had threatened to end the marriage. They also reportedly argued about a pregnancy.

The couple met through an online escort service, which Herchen said in a deposition that he used for sex. Their relationship had overlapped with Herchen's then-marriage to his second wife, Melissa Yu.

She died from cardiac arrest due to obstructive sleep apnea in June 2017, according to a Santa Clara County Medical Examiner report. The medical examiner noted multiple bruises on Yu's body but didn't conclude what their cause was.

George Ku said their parents never had plans to see their daughter in November or December 2019. His sister had not contacted them about the visit, and they didn't know she was in Taiwan. She had never been to their new home near Taipei and wasn't familiar with the area, he said.

It was also out of character for Ku to linger without her husband during these trips, despite Herchen's indication that she had done so in the past. Taiwan customs and immigration records found no evidence that Ku ever stayed behind for a few days when accompanying Herchen on business trips to the country, according to Taiwan police.

Herchen also claimed that Ku had sent him an email at 10:01

See **WITHOUT A TRACE**, page 17

TOWN OF WOODSIDE 2955 WOODSIDE ROAD, WOODSIDE, CA 94062 NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Annual Reporting for the Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2022

Development of the Town of Woodside Climate Action Plan (CAP) was required as mitigation in conjunction with adoption of the Town of Woodside's General Plan Mitigated Negative Declaration in 2012. The CAP outlines a program to achieve targeted greenhouse gas emission reductions. The Annual Report for the CAP documents the Town's progress in implementing the measures identified in the CAP, and highlights measures still requiring attention.

This notice advises members of the public that the Town's sixth Annual Report was accepted by the Town Council on **February 14, 2023**, and is available for a **30-day Public Review Period** between **February 25, 2023** and **March 27, 2023**. The Annual Report is available for public review by appointment at the Woodside Planning and Building Counter, Woodside Town Hall. The Annual Report is also available on the Town website at: <https://www.woodsidetown.org/planning/climate-action-plan>. For more information, contact Sage Schaan, AICP CEP, Planning Director, at (650) 851-6790.

Written comments may be submitted during the Public Review Period at the address indicated below:

Town of Woodside
P.O. Box 620005
2955 Woodside Road
Woodside, CA 94062

Or to Sage Schaan at: SSchaan@woodsidetown.org

WITHOUT A TRACE

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a.m. on Nov. 30 — a so-called “proof of life” email — that showed she was still alive after Herchen left her at the train station. But Watters, who has expertise in cyber-related matters, said the unique IP address connected with that email belongs to the hotel where Herchen was staying that same evening — after he claimed to have sent his wife to visit her parents.

Investigators from the Taiwan Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB) of the Taiwan National Police Agency confirmed the IP address belongs to the hotel where Herchen testified in a deposition that he was staying in alone on Nov. 29, according to a Nov. 22, 2022, court declaration by Li Tsung Su, the Taiwan Criminal Investigation Bureau lead investigator in Alice Ku’s case.

After police collected hotel check-in records, CCTV footage, cellphone communications records, email login and internet surfing records, they found that statements made by Herchen allegedly didn’t match the evidence, Su said.

“It’s highly believe(d) that defendant Harald Herchen was involved in homicide and in violation of Article 271 of our Criminal code,” he wrote.

The Criminal Investigation Bureau is roughly the equivalent of the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, Yang Chi Lee, director of international criminal affairs for the agency, said in a Nov. 22, 2022, court declaration.

“The defendant claims to have taken Alice Ku to the Hualien train station on Nov. 29, 2019. Our investigation determined that the signals for Alice’s cellular telephone appear in Hualien but do not appear near the train station at that time,” he said.

Ku’s internet login history of her email abruptly stopped on Nov. 29, 2019, which is inconsistent with her use pattern, the detective said. Ku and her sister Josephine had exchanged text messages nearly every day in November 2019, but the messages from Ku abruptly

ended, according to police investigators.

Despite Herchen’s claim of receiving an email from Ku on Nov. 30, the email was actually dated Nov. 29, 2019, and the time stamp was at 3:01 p.m., according to Lee.

“We have determined, based on our investigation including the above-referenced facts, that: Alice Ku is dead and is the victim of a homicide; that Alice Ku was killed on or before November 29, 2019, and that Defendant Harald Herchen is a suspect in that homicide,” he said.

Given the “critical inconsistencies” between the collected evidence and Herchen’s statements, behavior and testimony under oath, the Criminal Investigation Bureau issued a warrant for Herchen’s arrest for homicide on Dec. 28, 2020.

“The warrant is outstanding and the Defendant is wanted for questioning due to his involvement and his absence in Taiwan court. We continue to investigate this case through information provided by foreign law enforcement including the FBI, which has been actively assisting us and the American Institute in Taiwan (the de facto United States embassy in Taiwan),” Lee said.

Watters said in a December email to the FBI’s Director Christopher Wray that the agency’s field office has been unresponsive to his requests for follow-up on the case. The San Francisco Field Office did not respond to requests for comment made by this news organization nor for confirmation that it was investigating the case.

Watters said that despite Herchen’s claim that Ku had used one of his credit cards, Copy Factory produced information showing that Herchen allegedly paid for an order with Ku’s credit card after her disappearance.

Ku’s last two phone calls the evening of Nov. 28, 2019, to tutoring clients, were from a Wi-Fi network, according to phone records.

After Ku’s Nov. 29 disappearance, Herchen left a single voicemail for her on Dec. 7, but he made no other calls to her.

There were no outgoing calls from Ku’s phone after her disappearance, Watters said.

Watters also noted that Herchen contradicted statements he made to George Ku in an email. Herchen told George Ku on Jan. 9, 2020, that he “spent considerable sums in getting Alice to come back,” but under oath he later admitted that he hadn’t done anything to try to find her.

Herchen’s attorney denied the allegations against his client.

“Plaintiff has no direct evidence — NONE. Plaintiff’s ‘key evidence’ is speculation and conjecture. Harald Herchen had nothing to do with Alice’s disappearance,” Louis Doyle wrote in a Feb. 8 email.

Doyle sought to have the civil lawsuit dismissed, but Superior Court Judge ??Socrates Manoukian rejected the motion and the trial could move forward, he ruled on Dec. 28, 2022.

“In this court’s opinion, the evidence submitted by the parties presents a triable issue of material fact with regard to whether Decedent’s disappearance is the result of (caused by) defendant Herchen’s conduct. While the court would agree that speculation and conjecture is insufficient to establish defendant Herchen’s liability, evidence of defendant Herchen’s untruthfulness here in multiple instances creates more than just a weak issue of fact,” Manoukian wrote.

The civil trial could begin in early fall.

Watters said he is driven to get justice for Alice Ku. Ku’s car, a dark red Honda Civic, was still parked in its stall at the Mountain View apartment complex when Watters visited in December 2019.

“It was caked with a thick layer of dust. The windshield had a thinner layer of dust, but still thick enough that the car had not been moved in at least a couple of months. Tutoring books were visible in the back seat, and the brakes appeared rusty from lack of use,” Watters said. ■

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

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)

CONNIE’S SLEEPY MUNCHKINS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-293438

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

1.) Connie’s Sleepy Munchkins, located at 2442 Gloria Way East Palo Alto CA. 94303, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
CONSUELO GOMEZ-OLGUIN

2442 Gloria Way
East Palo Alto CA. 94303

This business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 02/13/2023.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 13 2023.

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

LAXMI HOSPITALITY LLC
LA QUINTA SAN FRANCISCO AIRPORT NORTH
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-293276

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

1.) Laxmi Hospitality LLC, 2.) La Quinta San Francisco Airport North, located at 20 Airport Blvd South San Francisco CA 94080, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
LAXMI HOSPITALITY LLC

1011 S Atlantic Ave Compton CA 90221
Compton CA 90221

This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/26/2023

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

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

GIFTED SUPPORT SERVICES
GIFTED SUPPORT CENTER
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-293460

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

1.) Gifted Support Services, 2.) Gifted Support Center, located at 205 E 3rd Ave, Suite 201, San Mateo, CA 94401, San Mateo County.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/26/2023

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

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

GIFTED SUPPORT SERVICES
GIFTED SUPPORT CENTER
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-293460

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

1.) Gifted Support Services, 2.) Gifted Support Center, located at 205 E 3rd Ave, Suite 201, San Mateo, CA 94401, San Mateo County.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/26/2023

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

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

Registered owner(s):
GIFTED SUPPORT PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES INC
205 E 3rd Ave, Suite 201
San Mateo, CA 94401
CA

This business is conducted by: a Corporation.

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 February 15 2023.

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

CHASE ACE HARDWARE
PACIFIC MANOR ACE
PACIFIC MANOR HARDWARE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-293420

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

1.) Chase Ace Hardware, 2.) Pacific Manor Ace, 3.) Pacific Manor Hardware, located at 451 Oceana Blvd., Pacifica, CA 94044, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
D & D VENTURE GROUP, INC

329 N Almenar Dr
Greenbrae, CA 94904
CA

This business is conducted by: a Corporation.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 01/01/2023

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on February 10 2023.

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

The Almanac is adjudicated to publish in San Mateo County.

• Fictitious Business Name

• Abandonment of Fictitious Business Name

• Name Change

• Partnership Withdrawal or Dissolution

• Petition to Administer Estate - Probate Hearing

• Notice of Bulk Sale

• Legal Summons

• Trustee Sale

The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm. Visit AlmanacNews.com/legal_notices/

For assistance email LegalNotices@AlmanacNews.com.

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JLee Realty 650-857-1000

PALO ALTO

914 Celia Drive **\$3,298,000**
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/2BA
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

PALO ALTO

3722 Carlson Circle **\$3,288,000**
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 4BD/3BA
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

WOODSIDE

930 High Road **\$7,988,000**
Sun 1:00-3:00 6BD/5.5BA
Coldwell Banker Realty 650-400-2933

Legend: Condo (C), Townhome (T). Agents: submit open homes at AlmanacNews.com/real_estate

Retail theft ring smashed after statewide attacks on Apple stores

Prosecutors identify about \$1M in stolen merchandise, including items stolen from Palo Alto

By Sue Dremann

A criminal complaint indicates that thefts from the downtown Palo Alto Apple store that occurred last summer were part of a series of brazen thefts at Apple stores throughout the state that resulted in a loss of about \$1 million in merchandise. Eight people have now been linked to the thefts.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta's office said eight people were arrested and indicted on multiple felony charges. They each face one charge of conspiracy to commit retail theft and organized retail theft,

14 counts of grand theft and a count each of special allegations of aggravated white collar crime and theft of merchandise valued at more than \$100,000, according to a Jan. 31 legal complaint filed in Yolo County Superior Court.

The individuals allegedly entered the stores and stole merchandise in total worth about \$1 million in iPads, laptops and other devices, Bonta said during a Feb. 9 press conference. The Palo Alto Apple store at 340 University Ave. was targeted on Aug. 21, 2022. The Pleasanton Apple store at 1 Stoneridge Mall Road was hit on Aug. 5,

2022. The heists took place as customers and store employees looked on.

Other thefts by the group occurred in Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco and Yolo counties between Aug. 2, 2022, and Jan. 27, 2023.

The person behind the Palo Alto theft was identified as Leo David Smith. The other seven defendants in the statewide case are Aron Thomas, Marques Fields, Michael White, David Nesterenko, Mikhail Moroz, Maksim Pazyuk and Rubina G.

Yoder (Pazyuk).

Smith, Fields, White and Thomas individually or in concert allegedly entered the stores during 15 incidents and stole electronic devices, which were allegedly fenced in Sacramento.

Stolen items were tracked to Nesterenko's home. He and Moroz, who are neighbors, work for and sell Apple products to IMAX Prices LLC, a company based in Sacramento that is owned and operated by the Pazyuks, according to the legal complaint.

Palo Alto retailers have experienced multiple thefts by groups of individuals over the

past few years, with thousands of dollars in merchandise being ripped out of the stores while customers and employees were present. This mode of theft has largely replaced earlier "smash and grab" thefts where groups of 30 to 40 people descended on stores, usually after hours, smashed windows and entered en masse to clear out the stores of expensive clothing, jewelry, electronics and handbags. Apple's stores have been especially targeted. ■

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

ATHERTON HOUSING

continued from page 5

ask about its potential interest in developing staff housing at the site but did not get a response prior to its Wednesday press deadline.

Council member Diana Hawkins Manuelian said she reached out to the school but didn't get very far in her discussions. She suggested looking at Fifth Avenue as a place for additional housing, but other council members said land on that stretch doesn't fit with the character of Atherton.

City Manager George Rodericks said that the town should begin a discussion about annexing the school but he doesn't think it's going to impact the housing element's certification.

"It's still a little speculative," he said.

Response to resident plan

In an 11-page letter, the resident advocacy group Atherton Housing Coalition asked the council to remove from the housing element 23 Oakwood Blvd., near the home of Golden State Warriors star Steph Curry, which the owner wants to develop into townhouses. The group also wants changes to the council-approved

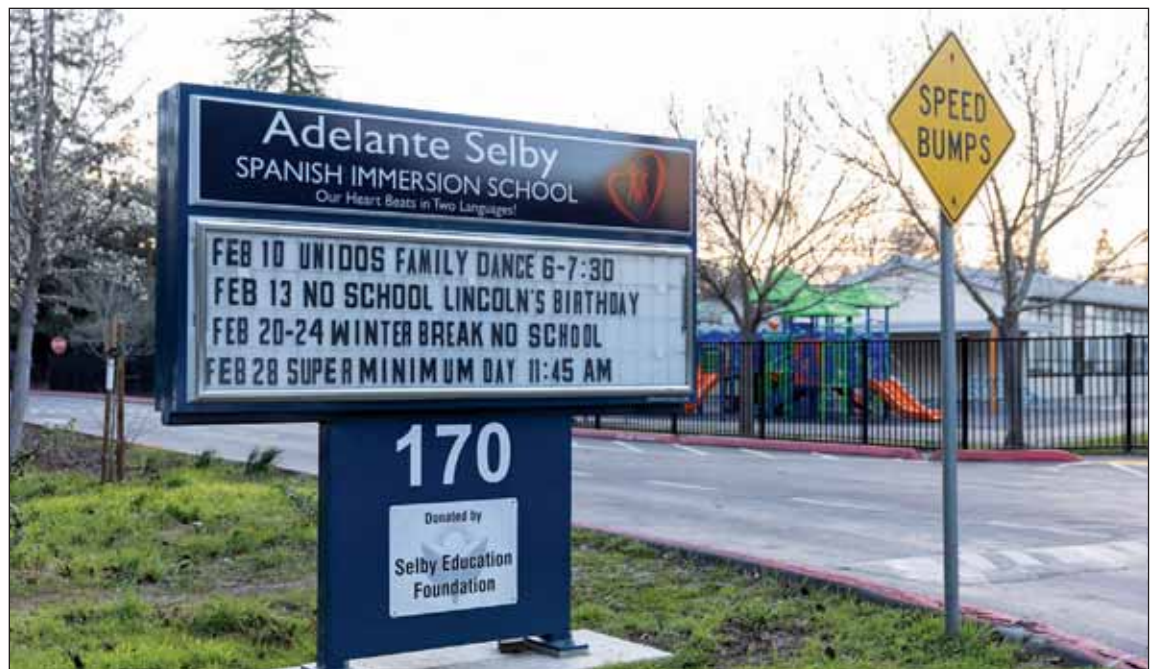
element such as adding public land owned by the town and the Menlo Park Fire Protection District.

The town will continue to explore developing the Gilmore House in Holbrook-Palmer Park for multifamily housing. The council directed staff to notify residents who live near the home that it could be developed into multifamily housing.

DeGolia has expressed concerns that the town could lose the park to Stanford University if it tries to build housing on the site, as it would go against restrictions in the deed giving the Holbrook-Palmer property to the town for use as a public park. The coalition disagrees.

"Any housing located on the premises will be built as a replacement for the Gilmore House and will be an incidental use featuring high quality architecture which will not interfere with the primary use and enjoyment of the park," the group wrote.

Widmer said he didn't want to notify all properties under consideration because it could incite opposition from residents at locations that aren't necessarily going to be part of the plan. He referenced residents who live along the El Camino Real corridor who wore red shirts at previous



Magali Gauthier

The Atherton City Council is debating a plan to annex unincorporated land behind Adelante Selby Spanish Immersion School and zone it for multifamily housing in hopes of getting its state-mandated housing element approved.

meetings that read "#Not Going Anywhere" in opposition to a plan to upzone their properties to allow for higher density housing.

Widmer said the Gilmore House site could be a good spot for housing people with disabilities or seniors.

Another site under consideration, and recommended by the coalition, is to rezone the fire department's 28 Almondal Ave. property to the PFS (public facilities school) designation. The coalition suggests building four workforce housing units there.

The fire department bought 28 Almondal Ave. in 2017 for \$4.6 million, according to Zillow and The Almanac's archives. The property currently has a single family home on a 0.9 acre lot. It sits next to Fire Station 3. A 2017-28 San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury report was somewhat critical of the district's decision to purchase the property, noting that a recent report had recommended

that Station 3 should be relocated to the west, not expanded at its current location.

Rodericks said the fire district is discussing developing housing at the site as part of its labor discussions. The fire district could also offload the property to the town.

He said workforce-only housing could be considered exclusionary by HCD though.

The council nixed the idea of developing the town's corporation yard, a small strip of land owned by the town along the train tracks that's used for storing equipment.

With town setbacks, the developable land on the site would be just 35 feet wide by 200 feet long, said Rodericks. Equipment would need to be moved to the park.

Picketing ordinance

At the same meeting, the council approved an ordinance that limits targeted picketing outside of homes within 300 feet of a

home. There will also be a \$1,000 fine for violating the ordinance. After a verbal warning, if a person continues to violate the ordinance, they will be guilty of a misdemeanor.

The ordinance came about after organized protests in front of a home on Carolina Lane this winter.

It's unclear what the picketers were protesting. The resident said he was targeted by the "unhinged" protesters because of a court case involving a relative.

The council considered an earlier version of the ordinance in January. The homeowner asked for the town to add a clause that would allow for misdemeanor charges because he feared the fine and distance limits would not be enough to deter the protest organizer. ■

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



Almanac file photo

Property at 28 Almondal Avenue in Atherton is owned by the Menlo Park Fire Protection District.



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Shakespeare ON STRINGS?

Marionette master Ronnie Burkett stages the comedy 'Little Willy' at Stanford

By Karla Kane

Puppet shows may have the reputation of being children's entertainment, but in the hands of Canadian puppeteer Ronnie Burkett, puppetry is an art form that holds a lot of appeal for grown-up audiences as well. A longtime master of performance, craftsmanship and design, he'll bring another show featuring his Daisy Theatre to Stanford's Bing Studio March 1-4, this time presenting "Little Willy," a bawdy, original take on William Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" (for ages 16 and up). In an email Q&A with this news organization, Burkett introduces a few favorite characters, shares how an encyclopedia changed his life, and discusses why puppetry can be a "miraculously freeing experience."

(The Q&A has been edited for space and clarity.)

The Almanac:

Can you please share how you first got into puppetry?

Ronnie Burkett:

When I was 7 years old, my parents had bought a set of the World Book Encyclopedia. One day I was pestering my mother while she was making lunch, and she told me to go look at the books. So I sat on the floor and pulled out a random volume; it was "P." It opened to a two-page article on puppetry and I was hooked. My mother called me for lunch, I closed the book, and from that day onward I was smitten with puppets. The family joke for years was that if only the P volume had fallen open to plumber or psychiatrist or anything else.

The Almanac:

Why do you love puppetry, in particular? What makes it special?

Burkett:

I think the initial appeal of puppetry for me was an art form that allowed me to play in all the areas of expression that interested me; storytelling, sculpting, drawing, acting, making things. That certainly holds true to this day, but I've also realized that puppetry — as a solo performer — allows



Courtesy Stanford Live

Canadian puppeteer Ronnie Burkett's Daisy Theatre presents a comic show about a production of Shakespeare's "Romeo & Juliet," starring marionettes that Burkett designed and created.

me to shrink the larger world to a manageable scale for me to reflect on or satirize or comment on my often confounding fellow humans. And unlike the restrictions of the human theater, puppetry allows me to play any character I can imagine, regardless of age or gender, be they human, animal or fantasy. It's a miraculously freeing experience for any actor.

The Almanac:

Can you tell us a bit about the process of designing and creating the puppets? What's the most challenging aspect? The most fun?

Burkett:

Each of the marionettes are individually designed full size on paper, front and profile views. I don't use stock body patterns, and this bespoke approach allows each

character to have their specific posture. From these drawings, patterns are made for the limbs and transferred to wood, which is then carved, jointed, sanded and painted. The marionette heads are made from a papier-mache pulp, either as direct sculptures or cast from molds. There are so many parts to creating a marionette, and an important aspect is the controller to which the strings are attached. Every puppeteer has their favorite kind, and mine is quite specific to my needs in performance. I suspect the most challenging aspect of creating a puppet is finding the character through stance, movement, sculpture and costuming so it reflects who that character is before it even speaks. But of course that's

See **SHAKESPEARE**, page 21

A RAKE'S PROWESS

Last-minute sub makes for a devilishly good bad boy in West Bay Opera's 'Don Giovanni'

By Michael J. Vaughn

If there's anything opera fans love more than onstage drama, it's backstage drama — and last week, West Bay Opera had a doozie. A week before opening night, the singer who was supposed to play the title role in Mozart's "Don Giovanni" came down with pneumonia.

After a few harried calls and referrals, they located a replacement, John Allen Nelson, giving a recital in Baltimore. Nelson, who had performed the role a few times before, was soon on a flight to the West Coast, reviewing PDFs of the Giovanni score. After three entire rehearsals, he was ready to hit the stage.

The good news is, sometimes a replacement does a pretty amazing job (just ask Brock Purdy). From note one, it was apparent that Nelson possesses a baritone as smooth as liquid silver, and the proper mixture of charisma and child-like glee to portray one of opera's favorite bad boys. Also, in the opening sword fight, he succeeded in not actually stabbing anyone, which is important.

The even better news is, the rest of West Bay's cast offers an excellent and intriguing buffet of voices, beginning with Leporello, Giovanni's servant. Antonio Azpiri's baritone is a little earthier than Nelson's, which makes a fine complement in their many scenes together. He

also projects a nebbishy put-upon quality that serves whenever his boss throws him under the bus. Azpiri's performance of the famed List Aria — a statistical rundown of Giovanni's thousands of conquests — is funny and magnificent.

Playing Donna Elvira, the dumped woman who will not go away, Shaina Martinez deploys a forceful, agile soprano that befits Elvira's vows of vengeance. She does a lovely job with the final-act aria, "Mi tradi," in which Elvira describes the anguish of loving and hating at the same time. She also makes the most of Elvira's timely "blocking" entrances, arriving just in time to warn off Giovanni's latest target.

The most delicious singing comes from Michelle Drever as Donna Anna, whose father falls to Giovanni's sword in the opening scene. Drever has a powerful lyric soprano, but also the ability and taste to control her dynamics when the moment calls for it.



Courtesy Otak Jump

Notorious womanizer Don Giovanni (John Allen Nelson, left), seen with his servant Leporello (Antonio Azpiri), is about to face his comeuppance in West Bay Opera's "Don Giovanni."

She produces high pianissimos that seem to still the air around her. Skill and vocal intelligence came together in "Non mi dir," a justly famous aria in which Anna

explains to her fiancé the depths of her grief. The results are exquisite and heart-rending.

See **DON GIOVANNI**, page 21

SHAKESPEARE*continued from page 20*

the fun of the entire process too. Personally, I'd have to say that I enjoy painting the heads and faces the most, and costume design is always great fun.

The Almanac:

Do you have any particular favorites amongst your characters?

Burkett:

In The Daisy Theatre cast, there are three characters who are my "go to" characters, simply because I know them so well and can pick any of them up and start improvising. There's Schnitzel, a little fairy who longs to get their wings and fly, who is unabashedly adorable and a huge audience favorite. And Mrs. Edna Rural from Turnip Corners, Alberta, is another favorite. Edna is a prairie farm widow who tells the most hilarious and tender stories. And then there's Esme Massengill, a vain, drunken has-been actress well past her prime. Esme is unapologetically vile, and so much fun to perform.

The Almanac:

How did you decide to take on "Romeo and Juliet"?

Burkett:

I've been performing The Daisy Theatre for a decade now, so I know the characters very well. A

few years ago, I decided to do a loosely improvised version of "A Christmas Carol" starring the Daisy characters called "Little Dickens," and it's become a great seasonal hit. I've always been a bit in the closet about my love for Shakespeare, so in "Little Willy" I decided to let the Daisy cast of characters muddle their way through a very loose and ridiculous telling of "Romeo and Juliet." My main goal was that it be more Daisy Theatre than Shakespeare, and that it would still work as a Saturday date-night show for an audience who weren't Shakespearean experts. It's quite silly and very funny and bawdy, and I made a marionette of The Bard himself, who appears in the show.

The Almanac:

Anything else you think readers who are unfamiliar with your work should know?

Burkett:

This is definitely theater for adults, so get a babysitter and leave the kids at home.

"Little Willy" runs March 1-4 at 8 p.m. at Bing Studio, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. Tickets are \$50. More information is available at <https://live.stanford.edu>. ▣

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

DON GIOVANNI*continued from page 20*

As for that fiancée, Don Ottavio, Eric Levintow has a fine lyric tenor but falls prey to occasional hesitations. Ottavio is a problematic character to begin with — he stomps around declaring vendettas without really achieving anything — but he absolutely needs to believe in himself. Soprano Sarah Benzinger sometimes fails to catch the zest of the peasant bride Zerlina, but she seemed to recover with "Vedrai carino," the ultra-sweet aria in which Zerlina forgives her groom Masetto for his jealousy.

In truth, of course, Masetto was one Elvira interruption from being cuckolded. Bass-baritone Joshua Hughes plays the unlucky groom with a pugnacious, Bronxian handling of the Italian text, and uses his gangly frame to great comic effect, especially when Giovanni is beating the crap out of him.

Hughes also played Anna's slain father, The Commendatore, in a double-casting taken from Mozart-era practices. Stage director Richard Harrell also used a

traditional approach to the cemetery scene, which was gratifying to see. There's really nothing creepier than a statue coming to life, but for some reason directors feel the need to mess with it. Giovanni's final descent (spoiler alert) into hell, on the other hand, is pretty high-tech, featuring a stage-height projection of the Commendatore drenched in flames (triple creepy!). Still, if they want a 100 on the test, I'm going to need a gust of smoke or a burst of flash powder as Giovanni runs into the fiery depths. Just don't burn down the theater.

The projections by Peter Crompton and Frederic O. Boulay were particularly effective, filling the stage with old-world landscapes and churches that gave the action ultra-realistic backgrounds. They included small touches of animation: flickering candles, shifting beams in God-light clouds. Callie Floor's costume designs were highlighted by Giovanni's black leather traveling clothes and Donna Anna's elegant black skirt.

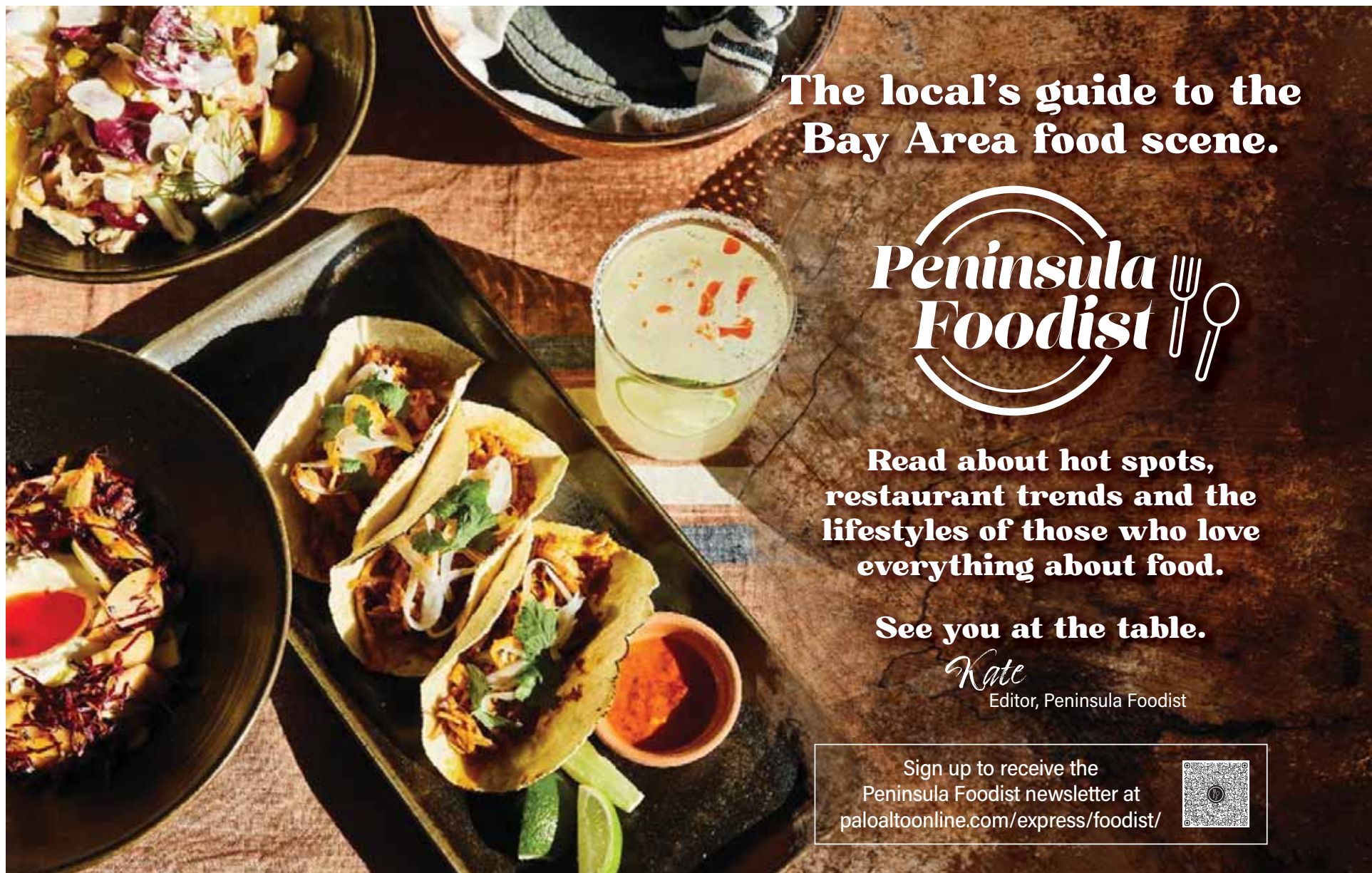
José Luis Moscovich's orchestra began the overture with a few small flubs (almost like a car starting in the cold) but was perfect the rest of

the afternoon. Moscovich conducted with a distinct sense of propulsion, which maintained an air of tension throughout the opera. I also enjoyed the ingenious move of placing several musicians in a two-tiered platform in the stage-right wings.


A masterful opera reveals new ideas with every viewing. This one came with Leporello's opening aria, "Voglia far il gentiluomo," which I realized resembles Figaro's "Se vuol ballare" from The Marriage of Figaro. Both arias feature servants complaining about their bosses (revolution being a constant presence in Mozart's works). In the final act, when the composer has Giovanni's house-band playing excerpts from Mozart's previous operas (and Leporello comically complaining), they include, voila! "Se vuol ballare."

West Bay Opera presents Don Giovanni, Feb. 25, 8 p.m. and Feb 26, 2 p.m. at Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. \$35-\$92, Proof of vaccination and masking required. wbopera.org or 650-424-9999. ▣

Email Contributing Writer Michael J. Vaughn at michaeljvaughn@hotmail.com.




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Food & Drink

From pandemic pods to

Pints of Joy

Sunnyvale 'mompreneurs' bring innovative Indian dessert-inspired ice cream to the Peninsula

By Kate Bradshaw

Sunnyvale residents Ketki Dandekar and Arshiya Shaikh had built a friendship around their shared backgrounds long before the pandemic hit. Both women worked in the finance technology industry, their kids had gone to the same preschools and elementary schools, and they shared a nostalgia for the Indian desserts they grew up with.

So their families were a natural fit to go into a "pod" together during the pandemic, especially after both women lost their jobs.

"Everybody needed a playdate," Dandekar says. To brighten up their families' days, she made ice cream. And it was a hit.

It was then that the seeds were planted for what would become the two women's new business: an ice cream parlor called Pints of Joy.

"We used to go for these long walks around Sunnyvale talking about it," Shaikh says. They shared the idea with friends and family and had them start testing flavors.

"We were overwhelmed with the positive response," she says.

It took some experimentation to figure out how to make their ice creams the perfect consistency; to iron out how much sugar goes into maintaining the soft consistency of the ice cream, and what ingredients are needed to emulsify and stabilize it. They don't use eggs in their ice creams and offer a number of creamy dairy-free options.

They used their business backgrounds to avoid overspending as they conducted their experiments. "We never saw this as a hobby," Dandekar says. "We had very diligent ideas and processes right from the start. ... Otherwise it's too many trials and errors, and at the end of one year, you're like, 'Where did the money go?'"

What makes Pints of Joy different from other ice cream shops is its commitment to high-quality ingredients and flavor innovations inspired by Indian desserts like gulab jamun, deep-fried dough balls soaked in sweet syrups; falooda, a beverage made with rose syrup, vermicelli and sweet basil seeds; and malai kulfi, flavored with cardamom, saffron and rose water, Shaikh says.

The gulab jamun ice cream, for example, contains chunks of the doughnut-like dessert, while the rabdi flavor is an eggless ice cream flavored with cardamom and saffron, spices that are in the traditional North Indian treat.

"We tapped into a niche where people were looking for really good-quality stuff. I think that's been brought about in coffee and other foods, but probably was missing in the dessert space," Dandekar says.

Sunnyvale had been missing a gathering spot centered around desserts, Shaikh adds. They opened their first retail spot about two years ago serving only pints of ice cream at 157 E. Fremont Ave., across the street from Fremont High School. But they soon realized that serving pints was limiting their sales. Many of their flavors were so different from what customers are used to that without offering samples or scoops, people weren't as willing to purchase whole pints of the new flavors.

That changed when they opened their new location along El Camino Real in Sunnyvale in



Photos by Magali Gauthier

Co-owners Ketki Dandekar, left, and Arshiya Shaikh, sit in their new Sunnyvale shop. Pints of Joy features Indian dessert-inspired ice cream flavors in pints and by the scoop.



November. Their blueberry lavender flavor, which people were hesitant to purchase in pint form, has since become a bestseller. They also offer a range of other flavors, including dark chocolate and orange, sesame peanut brittle and cookies and cream.

They plan to continue to offer new flavors with the changing seasons and maintain a variety of flavors. Over the holidays, they debuted a Biscoff cookie flavor that was so popular they decided to keep it, and a cherry, vanilla and chocolate flavor for Valentine's Day. They're also hoping to add other ice cream-dessert combinations in the future, including affogatos, brownies and waffles.

"When we were conceptualizing this place, we wanted to come

up with a spot where people can come with their family and enjoy desserts of different kinds ... We see that happening now and it's so fulfilling," Shaikh says.

Pints of Joy, 717 E El Camino Real #6, Sunnyvale; 408-475-6333, Instagram: @pintsofjoyicecream. ■

Email Associate Digital Editor Kate Bradshaw at peninsulafoodist@embarcaderopublishing.com.

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**Andrea
Gemmet**
EDITOR

The **Almanac**

A message from our Editor, Andrea Gemmet

I'm Andrea Gemmet a news editor for Embarcadero Media, a 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.

It was a typically busy Tuesday afternoon in June when one of my reporters called to tell me the power had gone out in Emerald Hills and she planned to take her laptop to a coffee shop to finish working. We were still on the phone when she realized a wildfire had broken out.

In that moment, our conversation shifted. Smoke was in the air, firefighters were racing to the scene and she needed to evacuate. As she and her family scooped up their dogs and headed to safety, the rest of the newsroom team sprang into action. There was no telling how fast or how far the fire would spread, and we wanted to make sure the rapidly changing news about road closures and evacuation areas reached our readers as quickly as possible.

Being familiar with the steep, narrow, and winding roads in the area, I was worried about the havoc a large-scale evacuation might cause, and had been frantically posting emergency information on our social media channels in an attempt to reach as many people as possible.

As the Edgewood fire spread, our reporters worked the phones, our visual journalist hurried to the scene and I ended up grabbing a notebook and heading a press conference at Woodside Fire Protection District's Station 19. On the way there, I called friends to tell them that they were in the evacuation zone and needed to leave.

After more than a decade as the editor of the Mountain View Voice and more recently, The Almanac, it had been a while since I'd been out covering a fire. I vividly remembered being a pregnant reporter, eyes stinging and throat raw from the smoke as I walked all over Woodside on the sweltering day in August 2002 when wind-blown embers spread a six-alarm fire that started on the grounds of the Fleishacker estate. Once the flames were quenched, I covered the efforts to make Woodside, Portola Valley and Emerald Hills more fire-resistant and better prepared for the next wildfire.

As journalists from this community, the work isn't always easy. These stories affect us, our families, and our neighbors. Yet, it gives us the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of local issues, and a responsibility to enhance our reporting with context. We wouldn't be able to do that without the ongoing support of our members.

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1950 Menalto Avenue, Menlo Park
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OMAR KINAAN
650.776.2828 LICENSE# 01723115



1952 Menalto Avenue, Menlo Park
OFFERED AT \$3,495,000

OMAR KINAAN
650.776.2828 LICENSE# 01723115



11331 Entrada Place, Los Altos
OFFERED AT \$5,995,000

GARY CAMPI
650.799.1855 LICENSE# 00600311



1911 Colleen Drive, Los Altos
OFFERED AT \$3,595,000

GARY CAMPI
650.799.1855 LICENSE# 00600311



14 Sunkist Lane, Los Altos
OFFERED AT \$4,995,000

GARY CAMPI
650.799.1855 LICENSE# 00600311



27360 Elena Road, Los Altos
OFFERED AT \$1,350,000

TOM MARTIN
408.314.2830 LICENSE# 01272381



12 Vineyard Hill Road, Woodside
OFFERED AT \$18,500

CHRIS IVERSON
650.450.0450 LICENSE# 01708130



150 Josselyn Lane, Woodside
OFFERED AT \$7,500,000

JESSICA LONERGAN
650.683.0117 LICENSE# 02192575



111 Hillside Drive, Woodside
OFFERED AT \$2,200,000

CHRIS IVERSON
650.450.0450 LICENSE# 01708130



1759 West Selby Lane, Redwood City
OFFERED AT \$2,798,000

JOHN SHROYER
650.787.2121 LICENSE# 00613370



3010 Greenoak Court, San Mateo
OFFERED AT \$2,899,000

QUINN COTCHETT
650.703.8031 LICENSE# 02122487



22823 High Street, Hayward
OFFERED AT \$579,950

GABRIEL DE ARMERO
650.996.3711 LICENSE# 01243346



480 Fern Road, Pescadero
OFFERED AT \$995,000

JAKKI HARLAN
650.465.2180 LICENSE# 01407129



320 Water Lane, Pescadero
OFFERED AT \$3,195,000

JAKKI HARLAN
650.465.2180 LICENSE# 01407129