

# The Almanac

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

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## Nature puts on a wildflower show after rainy winter

Find the best local parks and hillsides to enjoy spring's vibrant displays

By Sue Dremann

Dazzling displays of wildflowers are blanketing vast areas of California, often in places where aficionados say they haven't seen them before. The kaleidoscopic colors of orange California poppies, deep blue lupine and fields and hillsides of gold have been called a superbloom. It's nature's great gift after months of pounding rain.

News reports and social media posts since mid-February have captured in photos the miles and acres of brilliance in Southern California that have lured thousands of people.

Now, Northern California residents are getting a glimpse of the colors of spring. Will the Bay Area also experience a superbloom? Well, not exactly. But it will be a very good year, some land managers told this news organization.

The difference? Northern

California doesn't experience "superblooms" in the true sense of the word, with acres and even square miles of showy flowers, said Dana Page, natural resources program coordinator for Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation.

"Technically, superblooms are unique to desert landscapes in the southwestern United States. It will not be like the superblooms in Southern California," she said. A superbloom occurs when a high number of wildflower seeds that are dormant in desert soils for a long period of time germinate after an unusually wet rainy season and all bloom at about the same time. Such floral explosions are relatively rare.

The best wildflower displays ironically often occur in nutrient-poor habitats such as deserts and on serpentine soil, where there is far less competition



Magali Gauthier

See **WILDFLOWERS**, page 16

A mix of wildflowers grow on serpentine soil at Stulsaft Park in Redwood City.

## Atherton police are reviewing arrest after videos circulate of officer pinning down M-A student

Police were called after student reportedly pushed, threatened school staff member

By Angela Swartz

The Menlo-Atherton High School community is expressing shock and calling for accountability after Atherton Police Department officers were filmed pinning down and arresting a student at a bus stop across from the Atherton campus on Friday afternoon, April 28. Atherton police told The Almanac the encounter is under administrative review.

Videos, including one shared by the Instagram account @thahoodnews has gotten thousands of views and show two students being handcuffed, and

one being held down by officers, at Middlefield Road and Oak Grove Avenue around 3:30 p.m. on Friday. Commenters question the actions of police and express outrage over their handling of the encounter.

Student newspaper the M-A Chronicle interviewed witnesses, including the sibling of the student who was pinned to the ground. The sibling told the Chronicle that their brother was injured during the incident.

"They tried to put (him) in cuffs, but he felt like he wasn't in the wrong and told the police not to touch him," junior Mahki Tippins, who witnessed the incident, told the M-A Chronicle.

"Then, next thing you know, they have him on the ground, and more and more police officers start showing up. ... I started recording for our safety. Then, (the second student) was detained because he didn't move when he was told."

In one video, you can hear the student who is pinned to the ground yelling: "Get off me! Get off me! My hernia, my stomach." A student can be heard in the background saying: "Hold on. He had surgery."

Atherton Police Cmdr. Dan Larsen said police are conducting an administrative review of the incident. He said police were dispatched to the high school

after a student was reported to have pushed a school administrator against a wall and yelled homophobic slurs at him.

Atherton police said in a Wednesday, May 3, news bulletin that school officials took a water gun away from the student earlier in the week and he was in the school office asking for the water gun to be returned.

"The student then physically assaulted a school administrator by pushing them into a cubicle wall, tried to push the administrator's glasses off their face, spit on them, and called them derogatory homophobic slurs," according to police. Police received several 911 calls

about the incident in the office, the news bulletin said.

Prior to officers' arrival, the student left the campus and went to a bus stop in the 500 block of Middlefield Road, police said.

"Rather than cooperate, the subject walked away from police and resisted," Larsen said in an email. "The officers on scene grabbed the subject's shirt to prevent his escape and the subject continued to pull away and fell to the ground. Once on the ground, the officers placed him into handcuffs. Charges are being filed against the subject

See **POLICE VIDEO**, page 9

INSIDE

SPRING HOME + GARDEN DESIGN

VIEWPOINT 19 | ARTS 21 | FOOD 24





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# Local News

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Michelle Le

Westbound traffic on Ravenswood Avenue waits for a Caltrain to pass during the evening commute.

## Tired of train horns, Menlo Park and Palo Alto advance plans for 'quiet zone'

Zone would cover four crossings in Menlo Park, one in north Palo Alto

By Gennady Sheyner

Palo Alto and Menlo Park residents who live near the railroad tracks have a common headache: blaring train horns.

Sounding the horn is a loud ritual that train engineers are required to perform when they approach an intersection with local roads, starting at a quarter-mile before the crossing. And it's one that hundreds of residents in the two cities are hoping will soon come to an end.

Josh Orenberg, a Palo Alto resident at the apartment

complex at 101 Alma St., spoke for many of his neighbors when he spearheaded a petition last year called, "Stop the incessant disturbance of the peace that is the train horn!" It received 238 signatures.

"For some it interrupts their sleep and for others it interferes with activities requiring focus," states the petition, noting that the disruption occurs "countless times a day and is completely unnecessary" because of the existing gate and median at the intersection of Alma and El Camino, near the Palo Alto Avenue rail crossing.

The outcry has been even louder in Menlo Park, where the City Council discussed on Tuesday, April 25, everyone's preferred solution: the creation of "quiet zones" that would snuff out the horn noise. The following night, the Planning and Transportation Commission in Palo Alto similarly took up the subject.

According to Peter Meyerhofer, a consultant with the firm Kimley-Horn and Associates, which is advising both cities, train horns are currently required by the Federal

See **TRAIN HORNS**, page 17

## Fire district plans to expand Atherton station, not build housing

Board's decision takes Almedral Avenue site out of town's housing element

By Angela Swartz

One more potential site for residential growth has been nixed from Atherton's eight-year housing plan, taking another option off the table as the town plans for the development of 348 new housing units under its state-mandated housing element update.

The Menlo Park Fire Protection District unanimously passed a resolution on April 18 to reiterate that its 0.9-acre property at 28 Almedral Ave. is intended for expansion of Fire Station 3, not other uses like housing, as the Atherton City Council has suggested it could be in the future. The town had put forward that the lot could accommodate four to six units of housing.

"(The) property isn't big enough for meaningful impact on their overall housing element," said fire board Vice President Gary Bloom during the April 18 meeting.

The fire district uses the site, which it purchased in 2017 for \$4.6 million, for storage. Bloom noted that it did demolish a swimming pool on the property that had green algae growing in it, which was a concern brought up by the City Council.

At the Dec. 20 board meeting, the board approved a contract to construct an auxiliary building with parking located behind Fire Station 3 and on a portion of the 28 Almedral Ave. parcel, according to a fire district staff report.

After purchasing the property

in 2017, district staff prepared several reports with suggestions on how to use the space. These included staff housing to reduce commutes and increase after-hours availability; the construction of an auxiliary building with expansion of parking; improving the existing residence and renting it out at fair market value; moving the CERT coordinator's office to the house as well as allowing the Atherton Disaster and Preparedness Team (ADAPT) to use the house for meetings; and allow for future expansion of Fire Station 3.

Watch the Menlo Park Fire District board meeting at [youtube.com/MPFPD](https://www.youtube.com/MPFPD).

**Next steps for Atherton housing element**

The town's housing element, which has been rejected by the state twice, will next be discussed by the council at a May 17 meeting.

On April 19, the council provided feedback on a set of criteria that could be used by the City Council in determining whether a property could be included as an opportunity site in its housing element plan. The council narrowed the list of criteria to seven and required any potential opportunity site to meet at least six of seven items on the list.

The opportunity site criteria requires that the property:

- Is within a quarter-mile of El Camino Real.

See **FIRE DISTRICT**, page 7

## Faced with possible closure, Flegel's asks for the community's help

Furniture store has been a mainstay of downtown Menlo Park for nearly 70 years

By Cameron Rebosio

Flegel's furniture store has been an institution in Menlo Park's downtown for 69 years, but now it's facing possible closure and asking for community help.

The business was started by married couple Arthur and Cleora Flegel in 1954 and passed down through

three generations of the Flegel family, to the couple's son Marc and now grandson Brian. The Flegel's storefront was on Menlo Park's Santa Cruz Avenue for 65 years before it moved to a location near Kepler's Books on El Camino Real in 2019. The store recently pivoted away from selling display furniture toward a more a custom approach, relying on

the expertise of the interior designers Flegel's has on staff.

Flegel's is urging customers to support the business as it faces dire financial straits, and set up a GoFundMe on April 27 to keep its operations afloat.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, third-generation owner Brian Flegel said he was planning the grand re-opening party for the store. The store

was hit by supply chain issues that stopped him from being able to produce the custom furniture that customers wanted, he said.

He instead began selling display furniture, even though the company was geared toward custom pieces.

"From the micro to the macro, I couldn't get (supplies)," Flegel said. "I couldn't get a

sofa made because nobody had any foam ... I couldn't get a recliner made because nobody had any access to the mechanisms for the recliner to work."

Due to these issues, Flegel's faces the possibility of shuttering. There is no set date for the shutdown yet, but Flegel said that he is beginning the closure

See **FLEGEL'S**, page 17

# Serial killer gets back-to-back life sentences in 1970s murders

John Arthur Getreu committed 'horrible, monstrous act,' family of victim Leslie Perlov tells court

By Sue Dremann

*Editor's note: This article contains graphic descriptions of violence.*

A serial killer who murdered a law librarian in the 1970s received a life sentence for her death, a Santa Clara County Superior Court judge decided on Thursday, April 27.

John Arthur Getreu, 78, received the prison sentence after pleading guilty in January to the brutal strangulation murder of Leslie Marie Perlov on Feb. 13, 1973. Her body was found near what is now the Stanford Dish hiking area.

He also will serve his term consecutively with another life sentence handed down in November 2021 in San Mateo County Superior Court for the March 25, 1974, murder of Janet Ann Taylor. Both women were 21 years old when they were found strangled in open areas on Stanford University land. Getreu was charged with first-degree murder and an attempted rape enhancement in the Perlov case.

This is the third case for which

Getreu was convicted and sentenced related to strangling and sexually assaulting or attempting to assault young women. In 1963, he strangled and raped 15-year-old Margaret Williams, a U.S. Army chaplain's daughter, outside of a dance in Germany. Their fathers served on a military base. Getreu, who was 18 at the time, was convicted of those crimes and spent about six years in a German prison out of a 10-year sentence.

Getreu eluded identification for 45 years until advanced DNA forensics led to his arrest. For the nearly half-decade while he freely lived his life, the families of both women were greatly anguished, waiting for justice for their daughters and siblings.

Justice came slowly. Getreu was first arrested on Nov. 20, 2018, in Perlov's case and was charged in Taylor's death in May 2019. The trial in Taylor's case dragged through the courts until his September 2021 conviction, but Perlov's family was spared the same ordeal after he changed his plea to guilty of all charges this past January.

Getreu remained devoid of emotion during his sentencing

hearing on April 27, as he had throughout all other court proceedings. He looked down or stared ahead with the same dispassionate demeanor of someone waiting for a dental appointment.

Now he is old and bald with a white beard, glasses and hearing aids. His many court appearances were punctuated by continuations of his hearings due to bouts of poor health and hospitalization. No one from his family came to see him in the courtroom. He said nothing during his appearance, which he attended remotely through a jail video feed.

But the voice of his victim would not be silenced, Perlov's sister, Diane Perlov, said in an eight-minute victim's family statement that she read in front of the judge. It was the second time since Getreu's arrest that she addressed the court.

"Leslie fought ferociously for her life. Leslie was stripped of her life and of her voice. But I am here," Diane Perlov said, and Leslie's voice was there too, she said.

"Feel our strength and feel our fury," she said.

Leslie was the older sister by 14 months. People often mistook them for twins, Diane Perlov said.

"She was my protector, my role model and my hero. What I missed immediately and most were the times we would laugh so hard that no sound would come out," she said.

At 21 years old, Leslie Perlov would say that "we had all the time in the world," her sister said. She wanted to be an attorney who would help others. She wanted to be the first female president of the United States. Instead, Getreu strangled her with a scarf — one that belonged to Diane Perlov and that Leslie Perlov had borrowed that day.

The trauma still envelopes her. "I cannot walk alone in the woods. After work, I will not walk through the deserted parking garage. I won't let anyone touch my neck," she said.

Their mother declined grief counseling, saying that her daughter's death "has left an open wound that will never heal," Diane Perlov said. Their mother died before her

See **SERIAL KILLER**, page 18

## Atherton City Council OKs \$70K in repairs for Holbrook-Palmer Park playground

By Angela Swartz

There will be nearly \$70,000 in fixes to the older children's play structure in Holbrook-Palmer Park in Atherton. Town staff said work can begin once materials are delivered and the repairs should be completed by the start of summer, said City Manager George Rodericks.

During a routine inspection of the playground on Feb. 15, staff noticed "significant deterioration" in several supports on the play structure for children ages 5-12, according to a staff report. The play structure was subsequently taped off and closed for safety.

The Atherton City Council voted at an April 19 meeting to fund the repairs while considering redesigning the playground area as part of the upcoming capital improvement program.

The council allocated \$65,045 to fund the play structure repair with fir beams or posts, including a contingency of \$5,000. In addition to the structural supports needing repair and/or



Angela Swartz

The playground for older children, ages 5-12, is temporarily closed in Atherton's Holbrook-Palmer Park because the structure has deteriorated.

replacement, there were other damaged and rusted parts to be replaced.

Because the replacement parts are structural beams and posts, the play structure must be completely disassembled and reassembled for installation.

Vice Mayor Diana Hawkins-Manuelian raised the possibility

of buying an entirely new play structure for about the same price as repairs.

Public Works Director Robert Ovadia said that installing it would cost twice as much as a new playground's cost (around \$70,000). He recommended a more involved conversation with residents

before deciding whether to replace it completely after making the fixes necessary to reopen the playground.

"Our playground is not as nice as our neighboring communities," said Council member Stacy Miles Holland, who has a toddler. "Whatever gets it back on the ground working the fastest is the best, and simultaneously, I wholeheartedly think we need to be reevaluating our playground for the future because it's not consistent with the rest of the neighborhood."

At the same meeting, the council also approved funding and awarding a contract to Brightview Landscape Services for about \$95,000 to replace the existing asphalt pathway in the park between the pedestrian bridge and the park entry with a decomposed granite path.

Council members also gave the green light to direct \$70,000 to landscape improvements to the event garden. ■

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

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# Xerox donates its pioneering Palo Alto Research Center to SRI in Menlo Park

By Cameron Rebosio

Xerox donated its pioneering Palo Alto Research Center (PARC) to Menlo Park-based SRI International to collaborate on new innovations, the company announced.

“Some of the world’s most defining innovations have been fueled by research from pioneering talent at both SRI International and PARC,” said David Parekh, chief executive officer of SRI International in a statement.

In a statement on April 24, Xerox said that the donation will allow the company to focus on digital and IT services. PARC was founded in 1970, and over the years the research center has been at the forefront of many

key developments that built Silicon Valley, including the first personal computer, the graphical user interface, the laser printer and Ethernet.

“This decision allows both Xerox and PARC to focus on delivering innovations and solutions that align with their own strengths and capabilities. With this arrangement, PARC’s deep tech innovations will be sustained by SRI while allowing Xerox to simplify and optimize its operations and focus solutions on the continued evolution of hybrid work,” said Steve Bandrowczak, chief executive officer at Xerox.

Nonprofit research institute SRI has also been an innovation giant, from its role in the development of internet precursor ARPANET, invention of the

computer mouse and remote surgery. SRI said that the donation will allow it to collaborate with Xerox on further research.

The staff of PARC will be moving to SRI, and Xerox will maintain a majority of the patents. Xerox will also have a preferred research agreement with SRI and PARC.

“For decades, SRI and PARC have played central roles in the Silicon Valley innovation ecosystem,” said Parekh. “Through this combination, two Silicon Valley leaders will build on their own legacies and together create the next set of technological breakthroughs that will transform our world.” ■

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

## CRIME BRIEFS

### Fire causes \$300K in damage to Menlo Park house

A fire at a house on the 1800 block of White Oak Drive in Menlo Park on April 26 caused an estimated \$315,000 in damages, but caused no injuries, according to the the Menlo Park Fire Protection District. The home is located about a block away from Oak Knoll Elementary School.

The fire was reported at 12:56 p.m., and started in the home’s kitchen. It was mostly contained to the open-concept kitchen and family room, said Fire Chief Mark Lorenzen. The fire migrated to the attic and some shingles on the roof caught fire, he said.

Six engines responded to the call and firefighters were on the scene for about two hours.

—Cameron Rebosio

### Suspect arrested in Portola Valley burglary

A 34-year-old East Palo Alto man was arrested on April 28, for allegedly breaking into a Portola Valley residence, the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office announced.

At 5 a.m., deputies responded to reports of an unknown person forcing entry into a home on Westridge Drive.

When deputies arrived on the scene, they located the suspect in the resident’s garage and arrested him.

Deputies consider this case to be an ongoing investigation. Anyone with more information on the burglary can call the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office Anonymous Tip Line at 800-547-2700. ■

—Bay City News Service

# Driver charged in fatal wrong-way crash on Interstate 280

Constellatia Martin faces vehicular manslaughter and other felony charges

By Bay City News Service

A 24-year-old Campbell woman has been charged with vehicular manslaughter and other felonies for a wrong-way crash that killed a woman and injured her son on Interstate Highway 280 in Woodside on April 22, the San Mateo County District Attorney’s Office said Friday, April 28.

Constellatia Martin is accused of the crash reported on the afternoon of April 22 on southbound Highway 280 near Woodside Road.

The county coroner’s office has identified the woman who died as 54-year-old San Francisco resident Eden Palmer.

Prosecutors said Martin was driving a Ford Fusion north

in the southbound lanes of the highway when she collided head-on with a BMW carrying Palmer and her 16-year-old son.

Martin then allegedly ran from the collision and authorities found her naked and lying down in a grassy area 150 yards away. She screamed bizarre statements, had red and watery eyes and rapid speech, and refused to take any sobriety tests before she was taken into custody. A blood sample taken later is still pending results, according to the District Attorney’s Office.

Martin made her initial appearance in court on April 27, but did not enter a plea. The case was continued to May 11 and she remains in custody on no-bail status, prosecutors said. Her defense attorney was not immediately available to

comment on the case.

A GoFundMe account created for the family of Palmer in the wake of the fatal crash had raised more than \$86,000 as of April 28.

The GoFundMe page said Palmer was driving her teenage son to a soccer match and that the family dog also died in the crash.

“Eden was a beloved wife, mother, friend, community volunteer and force for anyone who ever needed anything. It’s time for us to honor Eden and rally around her family as they need our support,” the account says.

Her 16-year-old son “suffered massive internal injuries and while making a miraculous recovery, he will have a lifetime of care needs,” the GoFundMe account says. ■

## FIRE DISTRICT,

continued from page 5

- Is adjacent to, or across from, existing commercial or retail development (such as restaurants, stores, service industry and businesses).

- Is adjacent to or across the street from other existing residential multifamily housing.

- Has readily available access to infrastructure and utilities.

- Does not present a need to mitigate existing environmental hazards.

- Allows for privacy buffers between adjacent properties, such

as setbacks, height limitations, landscape screening, fencing, and ingress/egress.

- Includes a letter of interest from the property owner in support of the proposed development.

“From a practical perspective, this narrowed potential sites to interested property owners along the west side of El Camino Real that are directly across from neighboring jurisdiction properties (i.e. Menlo Park, Redwood City or county),” according to an April newsletter from City Manager George Rodericks.

The council is set to consider

the criteria again on May 17.

The Atherton Planning Department will discuss the state Department of Housing and Community Development’s feedback letter to the town on its latest iteration of the plan, which relies heavily on backyard accessory dwelling units.

The town expects to adopt and certify its second iteration of the housing element for submission to the state sometime in early fall 2023, according to Rodericks. ■

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

# Man detained by police after he allegedly hurled items at passersby on El Camino

Police previously asked him to clean up trash he had scattered around his bus

By Sue Dremann

Palo Alto police chased down and detained a man on Wednesday, April 26, after he allegedly threw objects at passersby from his trash-covered bus on El Camino Real near Stanford University, Palo Alto police Lt. Brian Philip said.

Police had contacted the man

on April 25 and asked him to clean up his parking space after multiple people called the police to alert them to a bus and a large amount of debris littering the street around the vehicle. A photo of the bus, taken by a Palo Alto resident and posted on the site NextDoor, shows it surrounded by a host of items, including a small refrigerator, a step ladder,

shoes and plastic buckets, both on the street and sidewalk. It's parked across from the Palo Alto Unified School District administrative building and Palo Alto High School.

On April 25, Palo Alto officers, in addition to asking the man to clean up the mess, marked the bus with a 72-hour tow-away notice, Philip said.

The next day, officers responded to two separate calls reporting that the bus's occupant was throwing items at passersby. None were injured. During the first call, at 10:54 a.m., the man rode away from officers on his bicycle, Philip said.

Police responded to the location

again at 12:34 p.m. The man, who is in his 40s, ran from the police. Officers chased him and detained him without incident about five blocks away. Police transported him to a hospital for mental health treatment.

The city's Public Works crews have cleaned up the area, securing any valuables in the man's bus, police said.

The situation of people living in their cars has been a subject of debate for years in Palo Alto and surrounding cities. Palo Alto began enforcing parking time limits for people who were using parking spaces as permanent locations in 2017. At the time, the city requested Santa

Clara County social service caseworkers to do outreach to the vehicle dwellers to assess their status and direct them to resources.

In Mountain View, the city began enforcing its rules banning oversized vehicle from all but 3 miles of its roads at the beginning of October 2022. The regulation is the result of a settlement reached last year between the city and RV dwellers after voters in 2020 supported an ordinance prohibiting RVs from parking on any streets less than 40 feet wide or with a bike lane — the majority of the city's roads.

RV and car dwellers in the area have said that more affordable housing, not regulation, is needed. ■

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

## Public Notices

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

File No. M-291259

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

APOLO DAYCARE

450 Bell St  
East Palo Alto CA 94303  
FILED IN SAN MATEO COUNTY ON:  
06/02/2022

REGISTRANT'S NAME(S):

MARIBEL AGUILAR TORRES

450 Bell St  
East Palo Alto CA 94303  
THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY An Individual.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County on April 05 2023.

(ALM Apr 21, 28, May 5 and 12, 2023)

ALPINE OPTOMETRY  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: M-294148

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

1.) Alpine Optometry, located at 3130 Alpine Road, Suite 220, Portola Valley, CA 94028.

Registered owner(s):

FARIBA LESSANI

1120 Russell Avenue  
Los Altos, CA 94024

This business is conducted by: an Individual. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 12/14/2010

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 27 2023.

(ALM May 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2023)

ASPIN  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: M-293894

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

1.) Aspin, located at 1194 Manzanita Dr.

Pacifica, CA 94044, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):

BRANDI BISHOP

1194 Manzanita Dr.

Pacifica, CA 94044

This business is conducted by: an Individual. 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 March 31 2023.

(ALM Apr 21, 28, May 5 and 12, 2023)

WHISKEY HILL THUNDER

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: M-293709

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

1.) Whiskey Hill Thunder, located at 650

Whiskey Hill Road, Woodside, CA 94062, San

Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):

WILLIAM A. ALFANO III

650 Whiskey Hill Road

Woodside, CA 94062

RICHARD C. ALFANO

650 Whiskey Hill Road

Woodside, CA 94062

This business is conducted by: a General Partnership.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 03/01/2008

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on March 16 2023.

(ALM Apr 14, 21, 28 and May 5, 2023)

APOLO DAYCARE AND PRESCHOOL  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: M-293924

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

1.) Apolo Daycare and Preschool, located at 450 Bell St East Palo Alto CA 94303, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):

MARIBEL AGUILAR TORRES

450 Bell St

East Palo Alto CA 94303

This business is conducted by: an Individual. Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 04/06/2022.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 05 2023.

(ALM Apr 14, 21, 28 and May 5, 2023)

FEATHERHAUS  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: M-293960

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

1.) Featherhaus, located at 846 Murchison

Drive, Millbrae, CA 94030, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):

FEATHERHAUS LLC

846 Murchison Drive,

Millbrae, CA 94030

CA

This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/18/2018

This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on April 06 2023.

(ALM Apr 14, 21, 28 and May 5, 2023)

CHECK THE CHIP  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No.: M-294087

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

1.) CHECK THE CHIP, located at 1139 San

Carlos Ave, Suite #305, San Carlos, CA 94070,

San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):

CHECK THE CHIP, INC.

2100 Geng Road, Suite 210

Palo Alto, CA 94303

DE

This business is conducted by: a Corporation.

Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 03/10/2023.

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

(ALM Apr 28, May 5, 12 and 19, 2023)

To place a legal notice visit [AlmanacNews.com/legal\\_notices/](http://AlmanacNews.com/legal_notices/)

The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm.

For assistance email [LegalNotices@AlmanacNews.com](mailto:LegalNotices@AlmanacNews.com).

## Latest statewide snow survey shows plenty of snow still in Sierra Nevada

Number reflects average snow melt of about 12 inches over past month

By Bay City News Service

The state's latest snowpack measurements are in and the results won't shock anyone who spent the winter in storm-wracked California — there's still a huge amount of snow in the Sierra Nevada.

The California Department of Water Resources released its snow survey data Monday, May 1, after conducting a manual measurement at Phillips Station in El Dorado County and

compiling information from its network of 130 snow sensors throughout the state.

The manual measurement shows 59 inches of snow with a snow-water equivalent of 30 inches, which is 241% of average for Phillips Station on May 1, according to DWR.

The sensors show the statewide snowpack's snow-water equivalent at 49.2 inches, or 254% of average for this date.

"The snow water equivalent measures the amount of water

still contained in the snow-pack and is a key component of DWR's water supply run-off forecast," DWR officials said in a news release Monday.

According to DWR, only three other times in history have the survey results eclipsed 200% — in 1952, 1969 and 1983 — although data from those years isn't as comprehensive as the current numbers.

The statewide number

See **SNOW**, page 9



## PUESTOS VACANTES EN EL COMITÉ DE FINANZAS Y AUDITORÍA

La Ciudad busca candidatos para cubrir dos puestos vacantes en el Comité de Finanzas y Auditoría. Ayude a informar de forma oportuna, clara y detallada sobre la situación fiscal de la Ciudad a la comunidad en general.

### COMITÉ DE FINANZAS Y AUDITORÍA

- Revisar el proceso de información financiera
- Revisar los resultados de los informes anuales financieras
- Revisar los resultados de las auditorías financieras
- Revisar el proceso de selección de auditores
- Formular recomendaciones de política al Consejo Municipal

Desarrollando líderes dentro de la comunidad

### REQUISITOS DE ELEGIBILIDAD

- Aplicar antes de las 5 p. m., viernes 12 de mayo
- Debe ser residente en Menlo Park
- Mayor de 18 años
- Comprometerse a asistir a las reuniones trimestrales

### PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN

- Visite [menlopark.gov/commissions](http://menlopark.gov/commissions)
- Escriba a [jaherren@menlopark.gov](mailto:jaherren@menlopark.gov)
- Llame al 650-330-6620

**POLICE VIDEO**

*continued from page 1*

for battery on a school official and a hate crime. What was captured on video is the tail end of the incident.”

The student has yet to be charged, said San Mateo County District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe Wednesday afternoon, May 3.

In an email sent to students on Sunday, April 30, M-A Principal Karl Losekoot said: “What I can share is that our site administrators did call for police department support due to an interaction with a student that escalated to the level that our site team felt concerned for their safety, as there was physical contact made against one of our site leaders along with several verbal threats made towards that staff member.”

Losekoot said that the rumor that site administrators



Michelle Le

Menlo-Atherton High School's Black Student Union planned a protest on May 3.

contacted police because a student was in possession of a water gun is false.

“On Friday, countless water guns were confiscated from students, and not one of those

school site interactions resulted in a call for police assistance from our site administrators,” Losekoot said. “As educators, trained in the vocation of supporting students, the idea of

calling for police department support is something that we absolutely do not take lightly. It is always the final option when all attempts to de-escalate a situation are not producing the desired result, and there is a clear threat to the safety of our students and/or staff.”

The M-A Chronicle reported that a group of students planned a protest during lunch on Monday, May 1. Menlo-Atherton's Black Student Union announced a demonstration on campus was set for 4 p.m. Wednesday. “Join the Black Student Union in peacefully protesting police brutality and use of excessive force,” said a post on the group's Instagram account.

The video can be viewed on YouTube at [tinyurl.com/ma-arrest](https://tinyurl.com/ma-arrest). The M-A Chronicle credits Mahki Tippins, Linda Gabele, Louise Gabele, one anonymous student, and the

sibling of the student pinned down for the videos.

A Change.org petition by the Menlo-Atherton Black Student Union has been created called “End Police Brutality in Sequoia Union High School District.” As of the afternoon of May 3 it had garnered over 400 signatures. ■

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

**POLICE CALLS**

**MENLO PARK  
April 19-25**

**Violence related**  
Alpine Road/Junipero Serra Boulevard, 4/19, 9:14 a.m.; assault

**Theft related**  
Burglary ..... 1  
Grand theft..... 3  
Petty theft..... 6  
Stolen property ..... 1

**Vehicle related**  
Driving w/ suspended license..... 1  
Hit and run..... 1  
Vehicle accident/injury ..... 1  
Vehicle accident/noninjury..... 2

**Alcohol or drug related**  
Possession of controlled substance... 1  
Drug activity ..... 2

**Miscellaneous**  
Adult Protective Services referral .... 1  
Brandishing weapon..... 1  
Found property..... 1  
Mental health evaluation ..... 2  
Missing person..... 1  
Possession of prohibited weapon..... 1  
Property for destruction..... 1  
Threats..... 2  
Warrant arrest ..... 3

**SNOW**

*continued from page 8*

released Monday reflects an average snow melt of about 12 inches over the past month, which is a slower pace than normal for April and is attributable to below average temperatures earlier in the month as well as

increased cloud cover during that period, according to DWR.

The data will help water managers and reservoir operators anticipate the amount of spring and summer runoff they can expect to move through the state's massive water storage and delivery systems as temperatures warm and cloudy skies

give way to sunshine. The information is vital to drinking water districts, farmers, cities and flood control systems, especially in vulnerable and already flooded regions like the San Joaquin Valley and communities along the Central Coast like Pajaro.

“The snowpack will not

disappear in one week or one month but will lead to sustained high flows across the San Joaquin and Tulare Basins over the next several months and this data will help us inform water managers and ultimately help protect communities in these regions,” said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. ■



# health MATTERS

**Saturday, May 20  
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Focus on what matters most—your health.**

Register today for Health Matters—Stanford Medicine's free community health event—held outdoors on the medical school campus. Learn about the latest scientific advances in longevity, mental health, and using food as medicine from faculty experts in a series of engaging Health Talks. Visit our Health Pavilion for interactive demonstrations, health and wellness resources, food trucks, giveaways, and more.



**Learn More and Register**  
[healthmatters.stanford.edu](https://healthmatters.stanford.edu)



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- Advertising in India West
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**TOWN OF WOODSIDE  
2955 WOODSIDE ROAD  
WOODSIDE, CA 94062**

**PLANNING COMMISSION  
MAY 17, 2023 6:00 PM**

The public may observe and participate in Planning Commission meetings using remote public comment options or attending in person. Planning Commissioners shall attend in person unless remote participation is permitted by law. The Planning Commission may take action on any item listed in the agenda.

<b>Join Zoom Meeting:</b>	<b>Meeting ID:</b> 860 6847 2736
<b>One tap mobile</b> +16699009128,86068472736 +12532158782,86068472736	<b>Weblink:</b> <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86068472736">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86068472736</a>
<b>Dial by your location</b> +1 669 900 9128 +1 253 215 8782 +1 346 248 7799 +1 301 715 8592 +1 312 626 6799 +1 646 558 8656	<b>Remote Public Comments:</b>  Meeting participants are encouraged to submit public comments in writing in advance of the meeting.  <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:sharper@woodsidetown.org">sharper@woodsidetown.org</a>

**PUBLIC HEARING**

1. 308 Olive Hill Lane GRAD2022-0003  
Adam Bittle, Architecture Allure Planner: Sarah Filipe, Associate Planner

Presentation and approval, conditional approval, or denial of a Grading Exception for site grading in excess of 1,500 cubic yards. On March 24, 2021, a Formal Design Review application (ASRB2020-0026; XMAX2020-0013) was approved for a proposal to construct a new single-family residence with an attached garage, two detached ADU's, accessory structure/office, swimming pool, fencing, vehicle gate, and associated site improvements. The Formal Design Review project did not include more than 1,500 cubic yards of site grading, or cuts or fills in excess of 8-feet, and therefore did not require approval of a Grading Exception. The project is currently under construction. The revised project proposal includes additional site grading in excess of 1,500 cubic yards to accommodate changes to the septic design and play/lawn area, and a new tennis court, which requires Planning Commission approval of a Grading Exception (GRAD2022-0003).

The project is Categorically Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15304, which includes grading of previously disturbed areas.

2. 367 Old La Honda Road XSET2023-0001  
Chelsea Edgerton, Butler Armsden Architects Planner: Melanie Olson, Assistant Planner

Presentation and approval, conditional approval, or denial of a proposal, requiring Formal Design Review (ASRB2023-0005) to demolish an existing single-family residence, detached garage, pool house/Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU), barn, and shed, a construct a new single-family residence, detached garage, detached ADU, and associated site improvements. The proposed single-family residence would be within the minimum required 50-foot front setback, which requires Planning Commission approval of a Setback Exception (XSET 2023-0001).

The project is Categorically Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15302, replacement or reconstruction; and Section 15303, new construction of one single-family residence and accessory structures.

2. 348 Raymundo Drive VARI2023-0002  
Stuart Schonberger and Carmen Dicinque Planner: Melanie Olson, Assistant Planner

Presentation and approval, conditional approval, or denial of a Variance to minimum Natural State requirements for a proposed 5,700 square foot equestrian fenced turn-out area that would be located on the southeast section of the property adjacent to a barn that is under construction. On August 9, 2021, a Formal Design Review application (ASRB2021-0017) was approved for a proposal to construct a detached garage, a horse barn with a loft, site retaining walls, and associated site improvements. The current project includes the minimum amount of Natural State required, including areas that are being restored to Natural State, therefore the proposed equestrian turnout area requires Planning Commission approval of a Variance to Natural State requirements (VAR2023-0002).

The project is Categorically Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15303(e), new construction or conversion to small structures including fences; and Section 15304, minor alterations to land that may include the addition of an equestrian turn-out.

THE APPLICATION MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW BY CONTACTING SARAH FILIPE AT [SFILLIPE@WOODSIDETOWN.ORG](mailto:SFILLIPE@WOODSIDETOWN.ORG). OR MELANIE OLSON AT [MOLSON@WOODSIDETOWN.ORG](mailto:MOLSON@WOODSIDETOWN.ORG).

**COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

**Atherton Sounds of Summer Concert Series coming in June**

A summer concert series is coming to Atherton Thursdays in June, beginning June 1. The town is working with the library to bring residents music every Thursday throughout the month from 5 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at the Atherton Town Center, 80 Fair Oaks Lane.

Here are the planned nights:

- June 1 — Jazz Night Featuring Five Ten Music
- June 8 — Cook'n Fenny Combo
- June 15 — Mercy and The Heartbeats
- June 23 and 30 — Premiere movie screening

Go to the town's website for more information.

— Angela Swartz

**Facebook users can apply for share of class action lawsuit settlement**

Facebook users who had accounts between May 2007 and December 2022 can apply for their share of a \$725 million class-action settlement.

The Menlo Park-based Meta, Facebook's parent company, agreed to the settlement after facing allegations in 2018 that the social media website shared the user data of up to 87 million users with Cambridge Analytica, a data analytics firm used by the Trump campaign. Meta did not admit wrongdoing, but chose to settle in December 2022.

Users can go to [facebookuserprivacysettlement.com](https://facebookuserprivacysettlement.com) and apply for a portion of the settlement by Aug. 25. It is unknown how much money each party in the settlement will receive. The deadline to opt out or object to the settlement is July 26, and the final approval hearing will take place on Sept. 7. ■

— Cameron Rebosio

**Anastasia Diane Rutenberg**

May 16, 1943 – April 19, 2023

Anastasia passed away peacefully in her home in Woodside, CA very early on Wednesday, April 19th, 2023. She was born in Long Beach, CA on May 16, 1943 to Theodora Andersen, and Charles Anderson. She graduated from Burlingame High School, and worked at the Burlingame Wells Fargo; where she met her beloved husband Harvey Rutenberg. They married on October 3, 1971, and raised their two daughters together. Anastasia worked for some



30 years with Harvey at their family business; Anastasia's Coin Laundry. Ann was on the auxiliary for the Children's Hospital at Stanford, and they were both on the board at Sequoia Hospital. She loved many horses in her lifetime, most recently Bleu. And, so many cats & dogs. She loved to travel, play bridge with her friends, go to the movies, and practice yoga. She traveled the world with her mom, and sister, Linda. She wasn't a cook though. So many amazing meals with great company at so many restaurants. Numerous Jewel Balls were always so fun with mom, dad & family friends. She was predeceased by her parents, and Harvey. Anastasia is survived by her two daughters, Taren Diane Tyler, Jocelyn Anastasia Rutenberg-Semke, her "much older sister" Linda Schenck," her grandchildren Katelonne Diane Tyler, Wade Edward Tyler, Michael Kenneth Maar, and Gabriel Harvey Edward Semke; as well as two great grandchildren; Alison & Kayne Dykstra, many nieces & nephews, her horse Bleu & many wonderful friends.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations that will go to funding the boarding & care of Bleu. Contact: Jocelyn (650) 619-6070.

PAID OBITUARY



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# 1161 SHERMAN AVENUE MENLO PARK



## GORGEOUS CUSTOM HOME IN WEST MENLO

This superb 5-bedroom, 3-bathroom home, a custom new construction by Supple Homes in 2014, offers an exceptional location along with nearly 2,600 square feet of living space filled with luxurious finishes and modern amenities. Warm, welcoming interiors make you feel at home from the minute you step inside, with a 2-level floorplan that is both spacious and intimate. Guests may gather around the living room fireplace before making their way to the dining room for a meal catered from the chef's kitchen. Entertainment options continue into the backyard that boasts a large patio, hot tub, and lawn. And at the end of the night, retire to comfortable bedrooms such as the upstairs primary suite with a spa-like bathroom, and a downstairs bedroom with ample privacy. Topping it all off is a sought-after address in West Menlo that is within a stroll of great restaurants including the iconic Dutch Goose, and a short bike ride or drive to downtown Menlo Park and Palo Alto, freeways and public transportation, parks, Stanford, and top-ranked schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

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Listed at \$4,498,000

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303 ATHERTON AVENUE  
ATHERTON



## RENOVATED COLONIAL MASTERPIECE IN SOUGHT-AFTER ATHERTON

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## WILDFLOWERS

continued from page 1

from grasses, and non-native weeds haven't adapted to the challenging conditions, unlike in a fertile grassland.

But even if the Bay Area doesn't have the conditions for the kind of displays currently taking place in areas such as Lancaster, a sandy-soil area west of Bakersfield known for spectacular California poppies, or in Carrizo Plain National Monument east of San Luis Obispo, there are still plenty of locations where one can find fields of beautiful flowers.

Soils such as serpentine, a generally nutrient-poor, metamorphic rock known for its greasy-feeling, green-gray appearance, often produce endemic species — plants that are found only in that location or on that soil type and nowhere else. They can also produce some of the best wildflower displays due to low competition from weeds.

The Midpeninsula has serpentine outcroppings in a number of easy-to-access areas: Stulsaft Park and Edgewood Nature Preserve in Redwood City and Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve at Stanford; and in some Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District preserves.

"There's a bunch of endemic species that you only find on serpentine: jewelflower; dot-seed plantain. It's a food source for the larvae of the San Francisco Bay checkerspot (an endangered butterfly)," Page said.

Some of the best wildflower carpet spots are, ironically, along U.S. Highway 101, Page said. The same is true along Interstate Highway 280 in Redwood City and Woodside, where orange poppies and purple owl's clover are blanketing the hillsides.

The Loop Road at Cañada College also has road cuts covered in California poppies, which are also visible from Farm Hill Boulevard in Redwood City for those who would like to see flowers but who have limited mobility or prefer drive-by flower watching.

Page said people looking for carpets of wildflowers can try Grant Park near Mount Hamilton, where there are fields of meadowfoam flowers near the entrance. Coyote Ridge Trail at Coyote Lake Harvey Bear Ranch Park is another hot spot, she said.

Ryan McCauley, a spokesperson for Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, said this year's wildflower season was delayed by the late rains and cold spells.

In many district preserves, there are some flowers in the grassland areas, but "unfortunately native and invasive



Magalil Gauthier

Brodiaea is in bloom at Stulsaft Park in Redwood City.

grasses sprouted higher," he said.

"It's a weird alchemy for what makes a great bloom: rainfall, cold and vegetation. We are not seeing the big springtime blooms we are used to," he said.

But as the weather warms up this week, there could be more blooms in the next week or two.

#### Wildflower viewing: It's not just a spring thing

McCauley noted that wildflower blooms also come in waves, and while there might not be as many spring flowers, more — and different types — will bloom from May through the summer.

As California poppies fade, pink-flowered farewell to spring and white or yellow butterfly lilies bloom, followed by fragrant tarplants.

Nor should one simply stick to meadows to find flowers. In summer, a walk in the Ravenswood Open Space Preserve in East Palo Alto, the Palo Alto Baylands Nature Preserve and at Shoreline Park in Mountain View may reveal marshland flowers such as hairy gumweed, a small, fragrant shrub with many sticky-centered, sunflower-like yellow flowers; bee plant; the lavender-tinted California aster; and alkali heath.

Forests, too, are great wildflower-hunting spots.

"The Santa Cruz Mountain region is a biodiversity hot spot. There are a lot of different types of flowers. I liken it to a treasure-hunt trail; there's a smattering of different species wherever you go," McCauley said.

Midpen is still dealing with storm damage and many trails remain closed, so it's wise to check for trail conditions on the district's website before setting out, he said.

There are plenty to find along trails in woodland habitats, from drier oak woodlands to

redwood forests, such as trillium, the deep-red plumes of warrior's plume, and fetid adderstongue, a tiny but smelly bloom found at Huddart Park in Woodside that is one of the first blooms to emerge each season in late January and February.

#### Exploring near and far

Joining a wildflower walk is also a good way to find choice spots. Stanford's Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve is only open to the public through docent-led tours, and it has visitor restrictions (more information can be found at [jrpb.stanford.edu/visit](http://jrpb.stanford.edu/visit)). Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve also offer guided hikes and are a good way to learn more about the flowers. Peninsula Open Space Trust, which owns large areas of coastal land, has a wildflower walks guide to some of the best flower viewing on its lands.

For those seeking to travel a bit further, try one of the California State Parks, such as Big Basin Redwoods State Park or Henry W. Coe State Park. Henry Coe, which is in the mountains south and east of San Jose, has everything from white milkmaids to columbine, owl's clover and more. Short wildflower walks of less than 2 miles and less than two hours take place every Sunday from mid-March through Memorial Day weekend.

Mount Diablo State Park in Walnut Creek is having a very good year, said Laura Kindsvater, senior communications manager for Save Mt. Diablo. This year, the cold spring and abundant rainfall meant the flowering season came a bit later, but Mount Diablo also has a hugely diverse elevation range, which means that even when flowers have dried up at lower elevations, it's common to find flowers at the summit in June and maybe later in the summer, she said.

"There's a huge diversity of



Magalil Gauthier

California buttercups can be seen at Monte Bello Open Space Preserve in Los Altos.

flowers. Mount Diablo has 10% of the plant species in California," including plants other than flowers, she said.

The group's annual wildflower walks are sold out, but they have a blog post with information on where to view wildflowers in the park, Kindsvater said. Learn more about the flowers at [save-mountdiablo.org](http://save-mountdiablo.org).

Last week, Redwood City's Stulsaft Park had a hillside of native grasses and wildflowers: California poppies, blue dicks, tidytops, goldfields, blue-eyed grass, divaricate phacelia and other native plants.

Wherever one goes to enjoy the flowers, McCauley and Page said that flower lovers should heed some simple rules: Don't pick the flowers — it's against state law — and stay on the trails.

Tromping on flowers to get that perfect photo or portrait will damage the wildflower fields and make them less abundant in future years.

A flower needs to mature and to disperse its seeds. If you're trampling and laying on the flowers, you're impeding the development of seeds and their future germination, which create the flowers we all love, Page said.

Wildlife also depends on many of these plants as food and habitat sources, McCauley said.

"If the plants are trampled, there will be no bees; pollinators rely on the flowers. They serve a really important ecological role," he said.

Here's a list of a few accessible local spots for wildflower viewing, along with links to illustrated plant lists:

#### Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve

10 Old Stage Coach Road, Redwood City. A 467-acre grassland and woodland preserve and education center. Tidytops, California poppies, Brodiaea and owl's clover visible on the Clarkia Trail. Parking is limited. [smcgov.org/](http://smcgov.org/)

parks/edgewood-park-natural-preserve | Docent-led wildflower tours available through June | Plants list: [bit.ly/3Hm8xsK](http://bit.ly/3Hm8xsK).

#### Foothills Nature Preserve

11799 Page Mill Road, Los Altos Hills. Owned by the city of Palo Alto. The 1,400-acre preserve has rugged chaparral, woodlands, fields, streams and a lake. Recent flowers: lupines, California poppies, mule's ears and fiddleneck. \$6 parking fee. [tinyurl.com/52f22thz](http://tinyurl.com/52f22thz) | Plants list: [tinyurl.com/ywakptra](http://tinyurl.com/ywakptra).

#### Huddart County Park

1100 Kings Mountain Road, Woodside. 973 acres, forested slopes, steep canyons and meadows. Many forest wildflower species. Monkeyflower, warrior's plume, milkmaids, common star lily. [smcgov.org/parks/huddart-park](http://smcgov.org/parks/huddart-park) | Plants list: [tinyurl.com/4c7m6a9c](http://tinyurl.com/4c7m6a9c).

#### Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve

4001 Sand Hill Road, Woodside. Approximately 1,190 acres; private preserve owned by Stanford University with oak/madrone woodlands, grasslands and redwoods. Native wild onion, warrior's plume, woodland madia and larkspur. Accessible only through docent-led tours, October through the end of May. The tours book quickly. [jrpb.stanford.edu/visit](http://jrpb.stanford.edu/visit) | Plants list: [bit.ly/3nalmPW](http://bit.ly/3nalmPW).

#### Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

More than 65,000 acres of protected lands. Grassland, woodland and forest flowers. Recent hot spots: Skyline Ridge, Sunny Jim/Horseshoe Loop Trails; Monte Bello, White Oak/Stevens Creek Trails; Sierra Azul, Mount Umunhum Trail; and La Honda Creek, Grasshopper Loop Trail. Check website for trail closures due to storm damage. Guided hikes | [openspace.org](http://openspace.org).

See **WILDFLOWERS**, page 17

**WILDFLOWERS**

*continued from page 16*

**Palo Alto Baylands Preserve**

2500 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto. 1,940 acres in Palo Alto and East Palo Alto. Marshlands and grasslands species, including gumplant and aster. [tinyurl.com/537rsv8t](http://tinyurl.com/537rsv8t) | Plants list: [tinyurl.com/57uubstp](http://tinyurl.com/57uubstp).

**Peninsula Open Space Trust**

POST has acquired and protected more than 86,000 acres of land, including many Coastside locations where wildflowers can be found. To learn more, visit [openspacetrust.org](http://openspacetrust.org) and also check out their hiking map. Plants: Visit [calflora.org](http://calflora.org) or the [inaturalist.org](http://inaturalist.org) app to find flowers at individual open space areas and parks.

**Ravenswood Open Space Preserve**

End of Bay Road, East Palo Alto. 376 acres of wetlands. In summertime, there is the showy-flowered gum plant and other flowers. [openspace.org/preserves/ravenswood-preserve](http://openspace.org/preserves/ravenswood-preserve) | Plants list: [tinyurl.com/2bcd5f4b](http://tinyurl.com/2bcd5f4b).

**Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation**

The county has created an interactive map for the public to find wildflower hot spots. The mapping tool allows users to see the types of blooms visible along each trail and their approximate location. Recommended parks to view wildflowers: Stiles Ranch Trail at Santa Teresa

County Park and Calero, Coyote Lake Harvey Bear, Almaden Quicksilver, and Joseph D. Grant parks. [tinyurl.com/m9kcvu6](http://tinyurl.com/m9kcvu6) | Plants: Visit [calflora.org](http://calflora.org) or the [inaturalist.org](http://inaturalist.org) app to find flowers at individual county parks.

**Shoreline at Mountain View Park**

3070 N Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View. 750-acre parkland includes wetlands and trails with wildflower species. [bit.ly/3Hkniwe](http://bit.ly/3Hkniwe) | Plants list: [tinyurl.com/3679cxsx](http://tinyurl.com/3679cxsx).

**Stulsaft Park**

3737 Farm Hill Blvd., Redwood City. A rugged, 42-acre park with dense woodland and open fields. Home to Crystal Springs fountain thistle, Marin dwarf flax and Franciscan onion, three endangered and threatened plant species. [tinyurl.com/b9knth4w](http://tinyurl.com/b9knth4w) | Plants list: [inaturalist.org/places/stulsaft-park](http://inaturalist.org/places/stulsaft-park).

**Wunderlich County Park**

4040 Woodside Road, Woodside. 942 acres of steep, mixed forest and meadowland. Redwood forests, open meadows, and oaks and madrones. Wildflowers include warrior's plume, monkeyflower, Tritelia, western heart's ease and pink honeysuckle. [smcgov.org/parks/wunderlich-park](http://smcgov.org/parks/wunderlich-park) | Plants list: [inaturalist.org/places/wunderlich-county-park](http://inaturalist.org/places/wunderlich-county-park). ■

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**TRAIN HORNS**

*continued from page 5*

Railroad Administration to sound at volumes of 96 to 100 decibels, which is roughly equivalent to a power tool or a honking car. The aim is to be “loud enough to catch attention,” he said.

To eliminate the requirement, communities can create quiet zones by installing infrastructure that makes rail crossings so safe that the horn is no longer necessary. Exactly what type of infrastructure depends on the intersection, with busier areas typically requiring greater fixes.

“By adding the infrastructure, we’re doing an analysis that shows that a particular crossing or set of crossings are safer with these added improvements than they were previously, when the horn was sounding,” Meyerhofer said.

Both cities are eager to create quiet zones, an amenity that Menlo Park residents have been requesting for several years. If plans move forward, their shared quiet zone would stretch for 1.5 miles. In Menlo Park, it would include four crossings: Encinal Avenue, Glenwood Avenue, Oak Grove Avenue and Ravenswood Avenue. In Palo Alto, it would cover the city’s northernmost crossing, Palo Alto Avenue.

Menlo Park residents pushed the council on Tuesday to advance the quiet zone effort. Amy Mushlin, who lives near the Glenwood Avenue crossing, said that she and her fellow advocates represent just a “tip of the iceberg” when considering the number of residents who would benefit from the improvements. The city’s plans to build housing near transit would make the quiet zones even more valuable.

“There are a lot of us here along the corridor,” Mushlin said. “And more are coming on board soon.”

But while both Palo Alto and Menlo Park are seeking the same outcome, their journeys toward quiet zones will be drastically different, according to the Kimley-Horn analysis. Menlo Park’s infrastructure, according to the study, is poised to be costlier, more complex and take longer to implement than Palo Alto’s.

Part of the reason is the sheer number of crossings: The former has four; the latter one. But just as critical is the level of improvements that would be required to bring these crossings to a “quiet zone” standard. Consultants from Kimley-Horn concluded that the only feasible improvement in Menlo Park that would facilitate a quiet

zone is the installation of four quadrant gates at the crossings with sensors that detect the presence of vehicles to make sure they are not trapped on the tracks.

According to staff and consultants, having cross streets adjacent to the tracks — Alma Street, Merrill Street, Garwood Way — means that a cheaper alternative such as raised medians would not be sufficient.

“Closing or converting streets to one-way also does not appear feasible without further, extensive study and outreach,” Hugh Louch, Menlo Park’s assistant director of Public Works, wrote in a report. “Four quadrant gates have exit gates in addition to entrance gates, eliminating the ability for wrong-way driving.”

For Menlo Park, the chief barrier is cost: Installing quadrant gates at all four crossings would cost more than \$8 million, according to Kimley-Horn.

The council is also considering moving ahead with quadrant gates at just two of the four crossings: Ravenswood and Oak Grove avenues, which have the highest risk scores, according to the FRA. Because the federal agency considers the average risk of all crossings in the proposed quiet zone and not the individual risk at each crossing, installing gates at these would reduce the score for the entire area, allowing the city to qualify for a quiet zone, according to the report.

While local proponents of quiet zones strongly backed this approach, the high cost of installing even two sets of quadrant gates gave council members pause. Council member Drew Combs said that when discussing potential quiet zones in the past with community advocates, he was assured that the project would cost the city a few hundred thousand dollars. The new price tag, he noted, far exceeds that estimate.

“This has never been sketched out as part of city’s priorities and goals,” Combs said during the April 25 discussion. “It came up as a result of resident advocacy, and I think it’s valid.”

“It’s valid if you’re talking about a \$600,000 project. But at some point, if you’re talking about an \$8.2 million project, I think at some point we have to ask ourselves how does this fit into larger goals and is this equitable?”

His council colleagues generally agreed. While they lauded the aim of establishing a quiet zone and acknowledged the high community interest, both Mayor Jen Wolosin and council member Betsy Nash said they want to have this conversation in the context of

the city budget. Council members hope to cover some of the costs through grant funding. Even if the city were to receive a grant, however, staff expect the implementation of a quiet zone to take several years.

Palo Alto, by contrast, faces a far more direct path to a quiet zone. Kimley-Horn has determined that the Palo Alto Avenue intersection would not need quadrant gates installed to qualify as a quiet zone. The city would merely need to raise and extend an existing median so as to create a barrier that keeps cars from swerving onto the tracks. Meyerhofer said the raised median has to be about 8 inches, high enough to discourage the driver of a standard vehicle from going over it.

“The good news is that this type of improvement is much, much cheaper than putting a four-quad gate system in and essentially does the same purpose,” Meyerhofer said.

Ripon Bhatia, senior engineer at Palo Alto’s Office of Transportation, said the cost of raising the median would be about \$150,000. He also suggested that staff plans to explore in the future the prospect of adding quiet zones around the three busier rail crossings south of Palo Alto Avenue: Churchill Avenue, Charleston Road and East Meadow Drive.

The Planning and Transportation Commission strongly supported moving ahead with the median modification and establishment of a quiet zone. Vice Chair Bryna Chang and Commissioner Allen Aiken both said that the project would benefit many people for a relatively low cost.

“This is clearly of interest to a lot of people, and it seems like the benefit far outweighs the costs,” Aiken said. “Let’s go for it.”

Commissioner Cari Templeton agreed.

“Yes, this sounds awesome! I hope the council will do it,” she said.

Both the Menlo Park council and the Palo Alto planning commission acknowledged during their respective discussions that even with the proposed improvements, the “quiet zone” wouldn’t be totally quiet. Bells would still ring when the gates come down and train engineers would still have the option of blaring the horn in the interest of safety — they just won’t be required to do so.

“What we’re offering is not a quiet zone but a less loud zone,” Combs said. “I think it’s important that we understand that.” ■

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**FLEGEL’S**

*continued from page 5*

process. Still, he hopes that the store can gather support from the community and remain open.

Flegel says that there’s sentimental value to a store that has existed for so long. He hopes the store has meaning to the community through the pieces that they’ve sold over the years.

“Hopefully, it’s made some lasting effects on how people are currently living in Menlo Park or Palo Alto or Atherton,” Flegel said. “Maybe they’ve just had more dinner parties because their dining table’s perfect for the space, and their chairs are comfortable enough to sit on for long periods of time and have an extra bottle of wine.”

Flegel’s is a founding member of the Menlo Park Design District, a conglomeration of local businesses, mostly along

Santa Cruz Avenue, that aim to support each other and create a design hub in Menlo Park.

Flegel says that he does not expect the GoFundMe to save his business, but hopes that the community will come into the store and support it. It cites “insurmountable debt” and asks for help to pay its bills and staff.

“It’s sort of like a Hail Mary, like a rallying cry,” Flegel said.

The store may have to take on a new form, possibly focusing on design from their Redwood City warehouse and shuttering the storefront in Menlo Park, but Flegel said that he doesn’t know what form Flegel’s will take in the future.

“I’m more than likely going to have to close this store,” Flegel said. “The glimmer of hope is becoming even more design-driven.”

Flegel’s GoFundMe has a goal of \$350,000 and can be found at [gofundme.com/f/help-save-flegels-design](http://gofundme.com/f/help-save-flegels-design). ■

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**Brian Flegel**

# Ex-janitor faces sexual assault charges at the Palo Alto VA hospital

Onofre Salas-Lozano allegedly forced a subordinate employee against her will

By Sue Dremann

A man who worked for a janitorial services company servicing the Palo Alto Veterans Administration Hospital has been indicted on charges of aggravated sexual abuse, sexual abuse and making false statements to a federal

agent during an investigation, prosecutors said.

Palo Alto resident Onofre Salas-Lozano, 40, appeared in federal court in San Jose on April 28 to face the three-felony-count indictment, according to the United States Attorney's Office and the Department of Veterans Affairs' Office of

the Inspector General have announced. He pleaded not guilty.

Salas-Lozano and the female victim worked for a janitorial services company that cleans the Palo Alto VA Hospital. He allegedly used force and fear to cause the victim to engage in a sex act at the hospital on July

2, 2021. Salas-Lozano was the victim's direct supervisor. He is also charged with lying to a VA Office of the Inspector General special agent during an investigative interview by claiming he never had sexual intercourse with the victim. He was arrested after an investigation by the VA Inspector General's Office and the VA police.

The first two charges each carry a maximum penalty of life imprisonment. The third count, which charges Salas-Lozano with making a materially false statement in a

federal investigation, carries a maximum penalty of eight years in prison. He also faces a maximum of \$750,000 in fines if convicted of all three charges.

Salas-Lozano was arraigned in federal court in San Jose on April 28 before U.S. Magistrate Judge Nathanael M. Cousins. He remains in custody and was set to appear in court for a detention hearing on May 3, after The Almanac's press deadline. ■

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## THE ALMANAC OPEN HOMES

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<b>153 Toyon Road</b>	<b>\$6,750,000</b>
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	650-485-3476
<b>303 Atherton Avenue</b>	<b>\$15,488,000</b>
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30	7BD/8.5BA
DeLeon Realty	
	650-900-7000

### CUPERTINO

<b>10950 Kester Dr</b>	<b>\$1,788,000</b>
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DeLeon Realty	
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<b>225 Gloria Circle</b>	<b>\$4,988,000</b>
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Coldwell Banker Realty	
	650-400-2933

### MOUNTAIN VIEW

<b>275 Chiquita Avenue</b>	<b>\$1,880,000</b>
Sat/Sun 1:00-4:00	2BD/2BA
The Agency	
	650-996-0123
<b>905 Camille Lane (T)</b>	<b>\$1,788,000</b>
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### PALO ALTO

<b>873 Oregon Avenue</b>	<b>\$2,698,000</b>
Sat/Sun 1:00-4:00	3BD/2BA
Coldwell Banker Realty	
	650-917-7961
<b>1425 Dana Avenue</b>	<b>\$5,950,000</b>
Sun 1:00-3:00	4BD/4.5BA
Christie's International Sereno	
	650-303-5511

### PORTOLA VALLEY

<b>177 Alamos Road</b>	<b>\$7,495,000</b>
Sat 2:00-4:00/Sun 1:00-3:00	1BD/2BA
The Dreyfus Group, Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty	
	650-485-3476
<b>700 Westridge Drive</b>	<b>\$7,925,000</b>
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Coldwell Banker Realty	
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### SAN CARLOS

<b>4020 Amaranta Avenue</b>	<b>Call for price</b>
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Compass	
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<b>3403 Cherry Avenue</b>	<b>Call for price</b>
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30	4BD/4BA
JLee Realty	
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DeLeon Realty	
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Sat/Sun 1:30-4:00	4BD/3.5BA
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Legend: Condo (C), Townhome (T).  
Agents: submit open homes at [AlmanacNews.com/real\\_estate](http://AlmanacNews.com/real_estate)

### SERIAL KILLER

continued from page 6

daughter's killer was found.

Craig Perlov, Leslie Perlov's younger brother, said that his eldest sister was "the brightest of the three of us," graduating from Stanford University in three years.

"She was cruelly taken by this horrible, monstrous act. The only modicum of justice we could have would be in this court today," he said.

Diane Perlov asked Judge Hanley Chew to sentence Getreu to life in prison without the possibility of parole and that he should serve his sentences consecutively. She argued that Getreu should be denied parole because of special circumstances: Getreu murdered three women and raped and threatened to kill a Palo Alto teenage girl in 1975 who was a member of his Explorer Scout troop.

Getreu's crimes "were premeditated. They were brutal and they were painful," Diane Perlov said.

Deputy District Attorney Matt Braker told the court: "There is no reason for mercy or mitigation to the sentence. She was 21 years old when she was murdered. She was intelligent, ambitious, kind and compassionate. She was someone committed to make

the world better."

She went to the spot where she was killed — near what would be known as the Stanford Dish — to prepare a landscape painting she planned as a gift to her mother, he said.

Chew, in sentencing Getreu to life in prison, could not do so without the possibility of parole. By law, Getreu had to be sentenced under guidelines in place at the time of the crime.

"I know nothing will make up for the loss of your sister. I hope what the court has done here will bring some solace," Chew said.

**'She was cruelly taken by this horrible, monstrous act. The only modicum of justice we could have would be in this court today.'**

CRAIG PERLOV, BROTHER OF LESLIE PERLOV, ON HIS SISTER'S MURDER

Outside of the courtroom, Diane Perlov said that she was satisfied that her sister's killer is unlikely to be freed again, but even the possibility creates unease. She might have to testify during Getreu's parole hearing.

"It just really pleases me that we finally got justice. I will follow this case to make sure he can't get parole — to make sure he never gets to hurt another girl," she said.

In a press release issued Thursday afternoon, District Attorney Jeff Rosen said:

"The long nightmare of John Getreu is over. I hope this brings some measure of peace to the loved ones of the people he preyed upon. And I hope that I never have to say his name again." ■

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



## FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE VACANCIES

The City is seeking applicants for two vacancies on the Finance and Audit Committee. Help support the delivery of timely, clear and comprehensive reporting of the City's fiscal status to the community at large.

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- Committed to attending quarterly meetings

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- Email [jaherren@menlopark.gov](mailto:jaherren@menlopark.gov)
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## To reduce inequality, local school districts need to merge

**A**cross San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties, eight households hold more wealth than the entirety of the bottom 50%. The wealthiest 10% of households own two-thirds of all investable assets in the counties. These disparities are immense and they are intentional. They are the result of decades of racist policy enacted at the federal, state, and county level that robbed marginalized communities of the opportunity to build wealth.

While there are many drivers of this inequality, one of the largest, and most within our power to resolve, is the disparity in resources allocated to predominantly minority elementary and middle school districts and those allocated to predominantly white districts. We must merge them.

Starting in the Great Depression, the federal government created the Federal Housing Administration in order to ensure the loans of home buyers to buy homes with mortgages and lower down payments, allowing them to build wealth as the value of that home grew. However Black, Asian

### GUEST OPINION

American and Pacific Islander (AAPI), Hispanic and Jewish communities were excluded due to racist judgments of their credit-worthiness. The FHA didn't insure houses owned by Black people in white areas or those of white people living in Black areas.

As a result, East Palo Alto became 82% Black. Predatory mortgages for Black families strained personal finances and with it the demand of city services, resulting in a much denser, much poorer neighborhood right next door to white families whose wealth was growing exponentially.

This disparity was compounded by local school districts borders drawn to reflect the communities carefully crafted by redlining, correlating strongly with wealth. We gave the rich white kids schools recognized state- or country-wide for incredible academics and arts programs while we left Ravenswood School District without enough money to update its facilities. Through improving local schools, we

increased property values throughout the Menlo Park City School District (MPCSD) enrollment area, with the value of the average home increasing from over \$500,000 to about \$4 million in Menlo Park between 1998 and 2023, leaving behind homes in East Palo Alto, with values rising from under \$500,000 to under \$2 million over the same time period.

This inequality is one we perpetuate every day we refuse to advocate for integration. We can start to resolve San Mateo County's racist past and present by tying MPCSD's quality to Ravenswood's, merging the districts into one. Through a merger we would be ensuring equal funds for all students, and equal education regardless of race or class. We would be forcing ourselves to commit to the future of East Palo Alto by tying it to our own. By merging school districts we will be raising the property value of East Palo Alto homes by ensuring home ownership in East Palo Alto comes with incredible schools.

There are a litany of logistical issues that could plague this potential merger. Merging

school districts is not simple. MPCSD and Ravenswood are financed through different models. We already have the court-ordered Tinsley Program to give a few minority students access to public schools in MPCSD. White flight poses a risk, with some parents opting to send their kids to local private schools instead of public ones.

Yes, some parents will take their kids out of public schools and send them to private ones. But, if our wealth is built on racist exclusion, why are we comfortable with it on our community? We have enough money in Menlo Park. Even with a few defections, our school districts will be well funded.

Effective integration must be total. Ravenswood School District faculty and administration cannot be subsumed into MPCSD faculty and administration. They should have an equal position in the new district. Not doing so would risk further failing to serve the needs of the kids in East Palo Alto. Attempting to merge districts alone also risks simply gentrifying East Palo Alto.

Merging school districts is not an easy proposition. But, to fixate on these logistical concerns instead of the merits and morals of a merger would be to ignore the issue and to avoid considering the structural inequities at the heart of our community and our willingness to perpetuate them for our own benefit. A failure to pledge ourselves to anything but equality is to condemn us all. An abdication of responsibility or interest is an indictment of our character and an affront to the entrepreneurial spirit and liberal morals we profess. Real change requires more than a yard sign stating all are welcome. It requires votes, it requires meetings, it requires pressure, and it requires money. We must merge our school districts not because it is the easy thing to do but because it is the necessary thing, the right thing. ■

*Henry Donald is a freshman at UC Berkeley majoring in American Studies and a resident of Menlo Park where he attended Laurel and Encinal elementary schools, Hillview Middle and Menlo-Atherton High schools.*

### LETTERS

Our readers write

#### Amid talk of quiet zones, Caltrain train horns are always blaring

The missing information in The Almanac is that there are almost 100 trains a day, blaring horns. In rush hours, there are times when horns are heard constantly, with only a few minutes of silence between them. Multiply the number of trains by 16 blares in this short span to get an idea of constant loud noise.

*Mickey Bright Griffin  
Alma Street, Menlo Park*

#### San Mateo makes the right move ditching ICE

On April 11, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 to pass an ordinance that will stop all cooperation with ICE in our county. The San Mateo County Coalition for Immigrant Rights (SMCCIR) was instrumental in bringing

about this important ordinance.

I work with Pacifica Social Justice and we are proudly part of this Coalition. The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors showed its support for the immigrant community by passing this ordinance. Basically the ordinance prevents any county agencies from using county funds to assist ICE in any

way that involves immigration law, including transfers, arrests, communication and access to non-public property.

The ordinance continues the county sheriff's policy from 2021 and makes it part of law. Forty people on Zoom and 16 people in person spoke in favor of the ordinance. Many shared their own stories of the impact

of deportation on their lives. No one spoke against it.

Unfortunately, Supervisor Ray Mueller is petitioning for an amendment to exclude some convictions from this new law. This will unnecessarily weaken the new law. His rationale is based on misinformation and fear mongering. He is exploiting people who have survived tragedies to criminalize and

penalize everyone.

San Mateo County would join many municipalities across the state and country that are committed to being a welcoming place for all — one where immigrant families can stay together and residents can access services without fear of discrimination or deportation.

*Julie Starobin  
Pacifica*

### What's on your mind?

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

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

Letters should be no longer than 300 words.

You can also submit a longer piece of 450 to 600 words for consideration to publish as a guest opinion column.

Questions? Email [editor@AlmanacNews.com](mailto:editor@AlmanacNews.com), or call 650-223-6537.

*The* Almanac

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# Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

## AN EPIC JOURNEY

CROWDFUNDED MUSICAL PRESENTED IN STAGED READING AT THE PEAR, ON THE HEELS OF RECENTLY RELEASED CAST ALBUM

By Karla Kane

Tales of the Trojan War — especially “The Iliad” and “The Odyssey” by Homer — have been captivating audiences for millennia, with each generation finding new ways to interpret and be inspired by the stories of its Bronze Age heroes. “Aristos,” a poignant musical with local ties, is one of the latest works of art to breathe new life into the epic cycle.

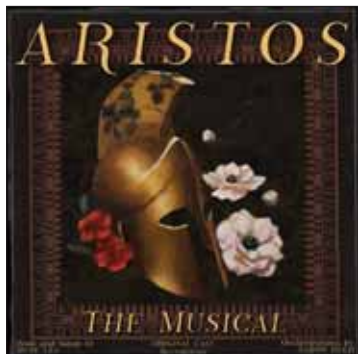
With its original cast album recently released and a staged reading at the Pear Theatre set for May 7, “Aristos” has undergone a bit of an epic journey of its own since its origins in a Stanford

University dormitory, weathering a pandemic pivot and fostering a devoted fan base along the way.

“It’s honestly been wild and overwhelming. This is something that just started with me and Aaron (orchestra and choral composer Aaron Reed) in a dorm lobby late at night, pounding away at a piano,” writer/composer Muse Lee said. “Now it’s people putting ‘Aristos’ lyrics on their fan art for their favorite shows; people saying ‘Aristos’

helped them come to terms with their queer identity and helped them come out; people saying they never liked musical theater but they like this.”

The show, with its pop/rock score and classical influences, explores the relationship between the glorious-but-doomed Greek warrior Achilles and his beloved, the prince Patroclus.



Courtesy Aristos

The recently released original cast album for “Aristos,” recorded while the show was being developed virtually, features voice talents from seven different nations.

Lee first fell under the spell of these stories in childhood, scrawling “Odysseus rocks!” on binders and reenacting adventures on the playground.

“These characters have always been there with me and almost grew up with me,” he said. “The ways I would express

those stories have very much grown up with me, too.”

He majored in English and was involved with theater but new to musicals when he began his “Aristos” collaboration with Reed in 2019. A Stanford class had reignited his “Iliad” love, and Madeline Miller’s novel “The Song of Achilles” was also an early influence. Reed, a physics major, came to the project as an experienced jazz pianist and percussionist but was also new to writing for musical theater.

They came up with their first “Aristos” song — an Achilles/Patroclus duet — on a whim, and, realizing they had something special, decided to expand the project, putting a call out over social media to recruit interested participants.

Sydney Cook, a Palo Alto teen who was a freshman in high school at the time, first stumbled upon “Aristos” via Instagram.

“It was so exciting watching the process of a show that was actively growing and developing, which is something I’d never seen before,” Cook said. “The work they were doing was fundamentally shaping the musical.”

The team held a workshop reading at Mountain View’s HaoExpression dance studio. There, “Aristos” earned the admiration of founder Hao Bach-Thai Lueckhoff, who has remained an important advisor, and whom Lee refers to as the show’s “patron goddess.”

“I thought this should be known by a larger audience,” Lueckhoff said of the project, which caught her attention with the beauty of its music, and the strength of the writing.

A cast of local youth performers, including Cook, had been about to stage a premiere performance at HaoExpression in the spring of 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic canceled those plans, but the loyal community that sprung up around “Aristos” kept the faith.

Lee, Reed and crew took the



Courtesy Lawrence Dillon/Aristos

A still from the music video for “O Icarus,” the second single from the “Aristos” album. The video, made in collaboration with filmmaker Lawrence Dillon, was released in February.

show virtual, gaining thousands of online followers, crowdfunding \$3,500 to fund elements such as remote recording equipment and hiring assistant mix engineers; opening up auditions to people across the globe, regardless of experience (the album boasts a roster spanning seven nations); and working through countless hours of Zoom rehearsals, video shoots, edits and social media engagement.

“None of us really had experience with making a musical, let alone putting together a musical completely remotely and online,” Lee said. “I think that’s why we committed to doing this. We really didn’t know what we were getting into. That gave us the courage to try.”

The show itself has gone through many drafts, all of which have been open and visible to participants and fans at every stage, culminating with the album’s release.

“It’s been very much a DIY, figure-it-out-as-you-go process,” Lee said. That process

was challenging, yet in some ways liberating.

“We were forced into this space with so many limitations but in some other ways I think that sort of took limitations away from us, because there is so much of theater that is historically not accessible, that shuts out different groups of people. It’s an especially sensitive topic for the group of people we’re working with, telling the story of a queer romance with so many trans participants of color, for example,” he said. “The fact that we were able to put this production online entirely remotely meant that just by the nature of the form of this we were having to take away a lot of traditional barriers to accessibility.”

For Reed, it also meant a shift from writing arrangements for the instruments he had at hand and teaching songs by ear to preparing sheet music and diving into the world of virtual orchestration, while working to combine individual remote

See **AN EPIC JOURNEY**, page 22



Courtesy Muse Lee/Aristos

Aaron Reed, Ryan Lehto and Mimi Nguyen rehearse at HaoExpression in 2020.



Courtesy Aristos

After the pandemic upended the planned 2020 debut performance of Aristos, the production moved online. Seen here is a virtual table read for the show held in 2021.

## AN EPIC JOURNEY

continued from page 21

recordings into a cohesive whole.

"It was an entire new set of skills that I had to pick up along the way, and I am a much, much better musician for it," he said. "I brought my experience to the table and tried to adapt dynamically to what's going on, and it's so much more motivating to try new things and throw things against the wall when you know there's someone who's listening ... As artists and creatives, I feel like we've pushed each other to grow a lot, even as we also discover ourselves."

Lee concurred. "The love of our community and the support of all this co-learning that we're doing with our peers and collaborators here, that's all something that has really bolstered my confidence as an artist."

"Aristos" has attracted attention from the academic world as well. In 2021, the California Classical Association made it the focus of its spring conference, followed by a residency and presentation at Harvard University's Center for Hellenic Studies, where Lee was appointed a visiting artist.

Finally offering a live performance in Mountain View feels like coming full circle.

Cook, who was to play the adult Patroclus in the canceled HaoExpression production, was cast as Young Patroclus on the album and will portray the character of Briseis at the Pear.

Cook's continued involvement is especially meaningful to Lee, who sees growth as one of the show's themes.

"We're seeing them finally able to be on stage and get to be a part of this show as a senior, as somebody who's going off to college, who is so self-assured in their theater path," Lee said. "They know this is what they want to do, and they're just so full of conviction and passion."

For the "Aristos" community, the May 7 performance will be yet another way to prove ancient stories can still resonate powerfully today.

"Aristos," at its core, is a story about human connection that outlives loss, war, and even fate," Cook said. "I don't think there's anything more inspiring than that."

A staged reading of "Aristos" will take place Sunday, May 7, at 7 p.m. at the Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida St., Mountain View. Tickets are \$10. More information is available at [thepear.org](http://thepear.org). ■

Email Contributing Writer Karla Kane at [karlajkane@gmail.com](mailto:karlajkane@gmail.com).

## ARTS BRIEFS



Courtesy Nico Iliev/Stanford Live

Miguel Anggelo takes on multiple personas in his gender-bending cabaret show "LatinXoxo."

## LatinXoxo

Venezuelan performing artist Miguel Anggelo uses the art form of cabaret, drawing on dancing, singing and visual arts in his show "LatinXoxo." Through songs in both English and Spanish and storytelling, the gender-bending piece tells a coming-of-age story as Anggelo takes on various characters to portray the stifling family expectations he grappled with in his youth and his growth into his true queer identity. In the show, Anggelo "peels back an onion layer of personas, strip teasing 'Latin lover' clichés, and

reckoning with the tragic death of his homophobic and disapproving father," according to his website.

May 5-6, 8 p.m. at The Studio at Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. Tickets are \$50. [live.stanford.edu](http://live.stanford.edu).

## Silicon Valley Open Studios

Showing that art is truly all around us, Silicon Valley Open Studios showcases the works of over 300 local artists throughout the region, over three consecutive weekends, kicking off May 6-7. Now in its 36th year, the event features studios as far north as Daly City, as far west as Pacifica and Half Moon Bay, and as far south as Gilroy, but fortunately, no one has to plan for an epic road trip to enjoy it all. Each weekend highlights a different region, with Coastsides studios open May 6-7; Midpeninsula studios on May 13-14 and South Bay studios on May 20-21. Visitors can check out ceramics, glass, jewelry, sculpture, paintings, photography, fiber art, woodworking, mixed-media works and more, plus speak with the artists about their work. From quiet residential studios to downtown communal

workspaces and galleries, Open Studios offers a fun tour of the Bay Area's creative spaces. The event's website offers an interactive map and pages highlighting each artist's work, along with when and where to find them.

May 6-7, 13-14 and 20-21, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. each weekend. Admission is free. For more information, visit [svos.org](http://svos.org).

## Walker &amp; Royce

Electronic duo Walker & Royce have been crafting their unique sound for over a decade. The title of their 2017 debut LP almost seems a prescription for listeners — with its playful energy bouncing out of driving beats, "Self Help" is an enticing call not just to dance but to revel in it. Walker & Royce kicked off 2023 with release of their EP, "Just What the World Needs," featuring a pair of tracks highlighting guest artists: the almost meditative "Same Way Down," with laidback vocals by Mindchatter and the comparatively more frenetic "Outer Space" anchored with vocals by VNSSA.

May 5, 8 p.m. at The Guild, 949 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. Tickets are \$45. [guildtheatre.com](http://guildtheatre.com).

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**HeadsUp.org****Emerson: (650) 424-1267  
Hacienda: (925) 485-5750**

### Harker Summer Programs

**Los Altos**

Harker summer programs for preschool-grade 12 children include opportunities for academics, arts, athletics and activities. Taught by exceptional, experienced faculty and staff, our programs offer something for everyone in a safe and supportive environment. Register as soon as possible.

**Harker.org/Summer****(408) 553-5737**

### Pinewood School

#### Summer Festival of Learning

**Palo Alto**

Pinewood's two- or four-week program offers half-day or full-day options in both academic and enrichment classes designed to meet the needs of a variety of students. Specialized teachers and small academic classes maximize the summer school experience for grades K-8. Our curriculum emphasizes academic achievement as well as participation in the arts, technology and athletics.

**Pinewood.edu/SummerPrograms**

### STANFORD EXPLORE: A Lecture Series on Biomedical Research

**Palo Alto/Bay Area**

Explore biomedical science at Stanford through lectures from Stanford professors and graduate students about diverse topics in biomedical science including bioengineering, neuroscience, immunology and other topics. July 10-28 Registration begins March 1st.

**Explore.Stanford.edu**

### Summer@Stratford

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**StratfordSchools.com/Summer****(650) 493-1151**

## ARTS, CULTURE + OTHER CAMPS

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**Camp.Integem.com****(408) 459-0657**

### City of Sunnyvale

**Mountain View**

Offering 90+ camps for ages 2-17 featuring traditional, art, dance, sports and STEM camps. Camps begin June 12 and go through Aug. 11. Check out swim lessons and recreation swim at two aquatic facilities with lessons starting in June.

**Sunnyvale.ca.gov/Activities****(408) 730-7350**

### Community School of Music and Arts

**Bay Area**

50+ creative camps for grades K-12! Drawing, Painting, Ceramics, Sculpture, Musical Theater, Summer Music Workshops and more! One and two-week sessions; full and half-day enrollment. Financial aid offered.

**Arts4All.org****(650) 917-6800 ext. 0**

### Curiosity Lab

**Palo Alto**

Offering Outdoor Nature Exploration Camps along the magnificent San Mateo coast. Mornings we are on a trail, exploring tide pools, climbing over boulders or at the beach. Afternoons are play, splash in a creek, build a sand castle, do an art project or just bask in the sun. Ages 5-11.

**TheCuriosityLab.com****(650) 823-2939**

### Dance Connection

**Palo Alto**

Dance, play, and grow this summer at Dance Connection! Our Summer Dance Camps and Intensives feature all styles of dance for ages 4-18 and all levels of experience. Learn ballet, tap, jazz, musical theater, hip-hop, acro, contemporary and more in a fun and focused environment. Our camps include fun themes, snacks, outdoor activities, arts & crafts and tons of FUN!

**DanceConnectionPaloAlto.com/Dance-Connection-Event-Calendar/Summer-Dance-Camps****(650) 322-7032**

### Medaka no Gakko Camp

**Palo Alto**

Experience the joy and fun of this 3-week day camp (June 19 – July 7) celebrating Japanese-American culture through art, music, crafts, sports, literature, cooking, language, and interactive demonstrations. Campers learn from dedicated teachers providing an enriching, hands-on curriculum. K-6 graders of all backgrounds welcome.

**MedakaNoGakko.org****MedakaNoGakkoPaloAlto@gmail.com**

### Oshman Family JCC Camps

**Bay Area**

At J-Camp, we build a spirited community where campers are immersed in joyful camp activities and develop meaningful relationships with others while engaging in individual personal growth for incoming grades K-10.

**OFJCC-JCamp.com****(650) 223-8622**

### Riekes Center

**Stanford**

Explore all your interests this summer with Riekes Summer Camps! Enrolling now for camps in Nature, Creative Arts, and Fitness. There's something for every camper! For ages 5-18 with locations across the Peninsula.

**RiekesSummerCamps.org****(650) 364-2509**

## ARTS, CULTURE + OTHER CAMPS

### Stanford Jazz Workshop

**Palo Alto, Atherton**

Stanford Jazz Workshop week-long jazz immersion programs for young musicians in middle school (Giant Steps Day Camp, starts July 10), high school (Jazz Camp, starts July 16 or July 23), and adults/advanced teens (Jazz Institute, July 30). All instruments and vocals. On the Stanford campus!

**StanfordJazz.org****(650) 736-0324**

### Ventana School Summer Camp

**Bay Area**

Keep your child inspired all summer long! Campers will be immersed in engaging experiences with exciting weekly themes to boost their creative confidence and stimulate their minds! (Epic Experiments, Powerful Performers, Master Chef Junior, Inspirational Artists, and Wonderful Water). Open to students who will have completed K-5th grade by the summer.

**VentanaSchool.org/  
SummerCamp2023****(650) 948-2121**

## ATHLETICS

### Bald Eagle

**Stanford**

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**BaldEagleCamps.com****(888) 505-BALD**

### Maccabi Sports Camp

**Mountain View**

Maccabi Sports Camp is an overnight Jewish sports camp. We welcome campers entering grades 3-11 with programs dedicated to building strong character and Jewish community through sports.

**MaccabiSportsCamp.org/wp****(415) 997-8844**

### Spartans Sports Camp

**Mountain View**

Spartans Sports Camp offers a wide variety of sports and academic enrichment camps for kids entering grades 1-9. Experienced staff ensures everyone has fun. Daily on-site swimming is offered for all camps. Camps run weekly from June 12th - July 28th at Mountain View High School. The camp is run by MVHS coaches and student-athletes and all proceeds benefit the MVHS Athletic Department. Lunch and extended care are available.

**SpartansSportsCamp.com****(650) 479-5906**

### Stanford Water Polo Camps

**Palo Alto**

New to water polo or have experience, we have a camp for you. Half day or full day options for boys and girls ages 7 and up. All camps provide fundamental skills, scrimmages and games. Session 1 – June 12-15. Session 2 – June 19-22.

**StanfordWaterPoloCamps.com****(650) 725-9016**

Please check directly with camps for updates and offerings. To advertise in print and online, call (650) 326-8210.

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# Food & Drink

## A GROWING trend in Peninsula eateries

### Where to go to adopt new plants and enjoy garden dining

By Kate Bradshaw

You don't need to be outdoors to enjoy nature on the Peninsula. Local eateries have developed a flair for displaying their green ideals and aesthetics with floral decor. And these days, as the spring wildflower season beckons residents to parks and nature preserves, these eateries are flexing the flower power to create a lush outdoor vibe in indoor settings.

Here are seven restaurants and cafes teeming with green that pride themselves on thriving plant life.

#### Little Green, Redwood City

Little Green cafe revels in its Etsy-driven cottagecore aesthetic, with a plant bar, textile arts, pop-up vintage clothing shop, cozy armchairs and a coffee counter.

Redwood City resident Sharon Grant partnered with Michael Bell, a Loma Mar resident and former manager at S'Bastian's Coffee in Redwood City, to launch Little Green, a plant, coffee and gift shop in Redwood City.

Grant previously ran a succulent business, creating plant arrangements at farmers markets and for tech companies' team-building programs.

When the pandemic hit, she connected with S'Bastian's,

which hosted an artisan market. "Between their coffee and that artisan market ... the business did great," she says. "We would daydream about if we had a place of our own."

So when a favorite building she'd admired for years posted a for lease sign, she inquired about the space. "I just thought, 'What the heck?'" she says.

That space is now their current location at 1101 Main St., a former car dealership and showroom. Working with a San Mateo County program offering free counseling for small businesses, they launched their business and opened their doors last June.

Coffee drinks include espresso-based beverages and coffees made with Red Bay Coffee. Teas come from Lovey's Tea House in Pacifica. Pastries are provided by Cocola Bakery. They also offer chagaccinos, a beverage made with coffee and chaga mushrooms.

"We want this to be a place where people can come and relax, get together again, shop small again and support other vendors and makers that are trying to make unique items," she says.

The plant bar offers live music on Saturday mornings and has an upcoming "Yo Momma!"



Devin Roberts

The interior of Mazra, a Mediterranean restaurant in San Bruno with a second location opening in Redwood City.

pop-up market for Mother's Day shopping on May 7 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. A Mother's Day-themed workshop on how to make succulent-planted teacups has already sold out.

"People are really excited to see someplace like this," Grant says. *Little Green A Plant Bar, 1101 Main St., Redwood City; 650-704-1838, Instagram: @littlegreenaplantbar.*

#### Bloomsgiving, Mountain View

Jessica Han quit her full-time job in early 2020 to focus on starting a plant store. She studied flower-arranging techniques in Paris and had spent nearly a decade working toward opening a flower shop and cafe, doing flower arrangements for events and small weddings and hosting succulent terrarium workshops at corporate offices and malls.

Launching a brick-and-mortar business during the pandemic brought uncertainty, she says, and some months were better than others. Plus, two months after opening the store, she had her first child.

"It has definitely been a very exciting and challenging time to juggle being a new store owner and new parent. I am so glad we are here and I hope that we can be a part of the community for many years," she said in an email.

Bloomsgiving offers a wide variety of plants, from low-light and beginner-friendly varieties to ones that are 6-foot-tall or that require more maintenance. The coffee menu includes drinks such as the Bloomsgiving espresso tonic, made with iced espresso, rose and orange, and the rose

matcha latte, made with matcha from Uji, Japan, and served with rose syrup.

"I'm most proud of being a store that can provide people with not only plant advice but also a specially-crafted drink," she says. "I love hearing people say this store is a combination of everything they love, because it really is a reflection of everything I love." *Bloomsgiving, 301 Castro St., Mountain View; 510-688-8224, Instagram: @bloomsgiving.*

#### Mazra, San Bruno

For Saif Makableh, chef and owner of Mazra, which operates in San Bruno and has a second location in Redwood City in the works, having plants as part of the restaurant's experience is important because it helps create a calming atmosphere, among other reasons.

"The natural greenery adds a sense of freshness and vitality to the space, making it more inviting and enjoyable for diners. Additionally, plants help improve indoor air quality by filtering out pollutants and releasing oxygen, creating a healthier environment for our diners to enjoy their meals," he said in an email. "Lastly, incorporating plants into our restaurant aligns with our commitment to sustainability and our desire to connect our diners with nature and the environment."

The restaurant worked with Zarco Gardening and Landscaping in San Mateo to design and select plants, including ferns, succulents, air plants and olive trees.

To provide both visitors and plant life with natural light,

they are planning to add a large skylight in the Redwood City restaurant's dining room, Makableh adds. Their menu includes kebabs and shawarma plates and wraps, falafel and other traditional Mediterranean fare.

"We are proud to have plants as an integral part of our restaurant's design and ambiance," he says. "We believe that the presence of plants enhances the overall atmosphere of our restaurant and reflects our commitment to providing a welcoming and sustainable dining experience."

*Mazra, 504 San Bruno Ave. W., San Bruno, 650-225-9027; Instagram: @eatmazra.*

#### Flora, Los Altos

This lounge in downtown Los Altos recently opened in the home of the former BariBar and offers food, drinks and happy hour specials from 4 to 6 p.m. daily and all evening on Tuesdays, plus Sunday brunches from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. True to its name, Flora has green walls and plants cozied up in corners and alongside cushy couches and chairs, plus little nods to the theme like a cactus-shaped lamp.

With indoor and outdoor seating, Flora has craft cocktails like the Peru-inspired "Miraflores," made with pisco, passion fruit, pineapple, hibiscus and egg white, and the "Papiazucar," made with rye whiskey, montenegro, amaro nonino and a Grand Marnier rinse.

Shareable menu items include lamb birria tacos and Korean barbecue wings, while mains include a pesto and fig flatbread, halibut and yucca root stew, pork belly sliders and lomo saltado. For dessert, pumpkin churros, a



Devin Roberts

Etan restaurant features lush plant life throughout its indoor and outdoor spaces.

chocolate tres leches cake, passion fruit cheesecake and a vegan brownie served with vanilla ice cream and caramel sauce are all on offer. Sunday brunch items include a breakfast burrito, chicken and waffles and paninis, plus bloody mary and mimosa drink options.

*Flora, 388 Main St., Los Altos; Instagram: @floralosalto.*

### Ettan, Palo Alto

Open since February 2020, this Palo Alto restaurant offers lush plant life throughout its indoor and outdoor spaces alongside innovative Cal-Indian cuisine. Ettan means “breath” in Sanskrit, and its founder has fittingly brought a breath of fresh air into the restaurant with its plant life.

Ettan was rebuilt from the bones of the former Vietnamese restaurant Three Seasons, which closed following a kitchen fire. Guiding the aesthetics of the restaurant has been founder and co-owner Ayesha Thapar, an Atherton resident who has spent about half of her life in India and worked in internet marketing, real estate development and fashion.

She told the Peninsula Foodist in 2020 that she aimed to “create an iconic space for Silicon Valley... but not in any way, shape or form (to be) intimidating.”

Dangling planters hang alongside chandeliers and lanterns from the atrium, and large pots holding plants of all textures border the restaurant’s patio. Los Angeles-based Schoos Design told Architectural Digest that they wanted to emulate Ettan’s unique dining experience in the design.

Two-Michelin-starred chef and co-owner Srijith Gopinathan is behind the restaurant’s menu, which includes meat and seafood like lamb chop and black cod, as well as dishes like chicken biryani and the Ettan salad with mixed greens, avocado, grapes, pumpkin seeds and fermented curry leaf chutney. Desserts include dishes like early citrus (avocado ice cream with olive oil cake, citrus milk and candied pecan) and tender coconut (kheer, mango sorbet, almond and cardamom). Ettan also serves Sunday brunch in addition to its nightly dinner menu.

*Ettan, 518 Bryant St., Palo Alto; 650-752-6281,*

*Instagram: @ettanrestaurant.*

### Son & Garden, Menlo Park and Palo Alto

With its newest location in Palo Alto, Son & Garden has become a destination brunch spot for the social-media savvy — an extravagant collection of flowers

decks out the restaurant’s walls and ceilings at its Menlo Park and Palo Alto locations.

The breakfast menu includes a collection of omelets, scrambles, Benedicts and griddle offerings, plus a bibimbap bowl with fried chicken, fried egg, asparagus, bell peppers, kimchi and spinach, while the lunch menu offers sandwiches, salads and burgers. Among them are the “My Son!” burger, made with a grilled Wagyu beef patty, bacon jam, bacon, fried egg and cheese and served on a brioche bun, and the grilled cheese panini with eggs, three kinds of cheese, caramelized onion and bacon jam. Instagrammable brunch cocktails include the “Cloud 9” made with Lillet Blanc, Dolin Blanc and pineapple sparkling wine and served with a cotton candy cloud and edible butterfly. The restaurant also offers specialty tea sets by reservation.

*Son & Garden, 1195 Merrill St., Menlo Park, 650-665-7963;*

*535 Bryant St., Palo Alto,*

*650-304-3903.*

*Instagram: @sonandgarden.*

### Feast & Floral at Salvaje Wine Bar, Palo Alto

Feast and Floral is a grazing table and floral design business at Salvaje Wine Bar in Palo Alto. Menlo Park resident and Palo



Devin Roberts

Hanging plants dangle alongside lamps and chandeliers at Ettan in Palo Alto.

Alto High alum Ashley Higashi creates boards, boxes, “grazing tables” and floral arrangements. She and her sister started the business in 2019, catering for private and corporate events. When the pandemic hit, they pivoted toward small boards and snack boxes. As time passed and demand grew for larger cheese and charcuterie boards, they teamed up with Salvaje in Palo Alto and opened a brick-and-mortar space at the wine bar last year.

“It’s a perfect match: cheese and charcuterie and wine,” Higashi said in an interview with the Peninsula Foodist in 2022.

Plants are abundant inside and out at Salvaje, where patrons

can dine on smaller boards and natural wine. They also sell grab-and-go cheese and charcuterie boxes, flower arrangements, houseplants and succulents, in addition to gifts like cheese board accessories and specialty foods. Feast and Floral also offers private catering and holds events at Salvaje, including an upcoming Mother’s Day weekend DIY flower bar.

*Feast & Floral, 369 Lytton Ave., Palo Alto; 650-313-3616,*

*Instagram: @feastandfloral. ■*

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



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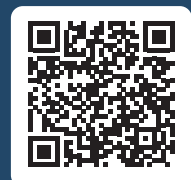
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