

The Almanac

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

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Menlo Park school district's new wellness ambassadors are friendly, furry and four-legged

Five puppies join inaugural therapy dog program to help address growing mental health crisis in American children

By Leah Worthington

The bell rings, and classroom doors swing open, unleashing a flood of students into the hallways of Hillview Middle School.

Duke, one of the newest additions to the Menlo Park campus, is also on his way to class. It's only 11 a.m., but he's already been to two other district schools, and his day is just beginning. He plows through the halls, gracefully accepting outstretched hands and seemingly unfazed by the thundering stampede of feet and obstacle course of swinging backpacks. Restless and chatty after a morning of state testing, the students smile at Duke as he weaves through the crowd, some pausing to scratch his head or call out hello.

In an environment driven by deadlines and assessments, to-do lists and grades, Duke — with his droopy teddy bear-face and shaggy, golden coat — is a welcome sight.

The year-old goldendoodle is one of six dogs newly “employed” by the Menlo Park City School District. Technically

certified as social-emotional learning dogs, Duke and his fellow furry colleagues — Millie, Patches, Cali, Sunny and Fiona — comprise the inaugural class of the district's recently launched PAWZitivity program, operating on all five of the K-8 district's campuses.

“Honestly, it's super emotional and rewarding,” said former Superintendent Erik Burmeister, who championed the program from the beginning. “To see that this spark of an idea has come to reality — it warms my heart.”

PAWZitivity, which appears to be the only program of its kind along the Peninsula, dovetails with an ongoing effort to address a mental health crisis among the nation's students. In 2020, the Centers for Disease Control reported a significant upsurge in mental health-related emergency visits for children under the age of 18. That same year, the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Children's Hospital Association declared a state of emergency in children's mental health and called for more funding and resources for



Devin Roberts

Eclair interacts with Hillview Middle School sixth grader Sonia on May 17. Eclair's family wanted to donate her services to the Menlo Park City School District, which planted the seeds for the creation of the PAWZitivity program.

treatment and prevention.

District Wellness Coordinator Chris Arrington described growing rates of anxiety and suicidal ideation among his own

students, existing trends that were only exacerbated by forced social isolation over the last few years, thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Mental health was definitely trending in a certain direction,” said Arrington, who also

See **AMBASSADORS**, page 10

Portola Valley facing higher price for police services

The town has signed three-month contract extension with the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office

By Angela Swartz

Facing a potentially large increase in costs for contracting with the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office for police services, the Portola Valley Town Council voted 5-0 to extend the current contract to Sept. 30, at a cost of \$373,461, while town officials negotiate.

The proposed contract

includes about a \$852,739 increase over the previous one, due the cost-of-living increases and operational costs that were not previously passed on to the town. Its current contract, approved in 2018, was set to expire on June 30. Services in the current contract include, according to the town's website: one patrol deputy 24 hours a day; a shared deputy with the

town of Woodside; traffic and parking enforcement services; special event security detail; criminal investigations, including detectives; and a radar trailer.

For the 2022-23 fiscal year, which began July 1, 2022, the town is paying about \$1.49 million for Sheriff's services. Its 2018-2023 contract totaled around \$6.3 million.

The Sheriff's Office has provided law enforcement services for the town since before its incorporation in 1964, and under contract since 1983. The terms of the agreements between Portola Valley and the Sheriff's Office typically have been three to five-year terms.

In early 2022, the council appointed Mayor Jeff Aalfs and Vice Mayor Sarah Wernikoff

to serve as the Sheriff Contract Subcommittee.

On April 26, the Sheriff's staff presented the Town Council with background on the new proposed contract. With increased costs likely coming, staff asked about a potential contract extension to give the council and community time

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**Andrea
Gemmet**
ALMANAC EDITOR

The **Almanac**

A message from our Editor, Andrea Gemmet

I'm Andrea Gemmet, a news editor for Embarcadero Media, a small local news organization on the Peninsula that covers news for the Palo Alto Weekly, the Mountain View Voice, The Almanac and Redwood City Pulse.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Local News

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Katherine Lin

Sang Joon Lee and Jon Martinez compete in the PAUSD Special Olympics at Gunn High School in Palo Alto.

Special Olympics brings students together for sports and smiles

200 students compete in Palo Alto track and field meet

By Katherine Lin

Under sunny skies, Saraswathi Tiruchinapally, a senior at Mountain View High School, joined over 200 other special education students at Gunn High School's athletic field on Friday, May 19, to test her sports skills in the Palo Alto

Unified School District Special Olympics track and field event.

This was her second year participating, and Tiruchinapally had just successfully completed a mile run, for which she "felt grateful," she said.

With a big grin, Tiruchinapally described how her mom had come to cheer for her while she ran.

"It makes me feel joy," she said.

The event, sponsored by the school district in partnership with Special Olympics Northern California and the Community Advisory Committee for Special Education in Palo Alto, brought together over 200 special

See **SPECIAL OLYMPICS**, page 15

Citing costs, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley postpones world premiere of musical slated to open this summer

By Heather Zimmerman

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley announced this week that it's postponing the world premiere production of the new musical "Alice Bliss" that had been set to run July 12 through Aug. 6 at the Lucie Stern Theatre in Palo Alto.

The company cited high costs and the continuing impact of the pandemic as factors in the decision.

"TheatreWorks has a rich legacy of fostering new works and we give our professional 'all' when we bring these stories to

the stage, augmenting additional costs with added funds from a variety of sources, including our own reserves. However, since the pandemic we have experienced various revenue losses, mostly due to subscription attrition — a trend experienced by theatres nationwide. As such, we find we cannot do justice to 'Alice Bliss' at this time and have made the extremely hard decision to postpone this production to the future. We feel it is prudent, both to ensure that this show receives the first outing it deserves and to ensure that TheatreWorks maintains

its own fiscal stability in the coming months and years," said TheatreWorks Silicon Valley's Executive Director Debbie Chinn in a press release.

"Alice Bliss" is a musical set in upstate New York about a teenager who tries to hold her family together while her father has gone to fight in the Iraq War. The show is based on the novel by Laura Harrington with book by Karen Hartman, music by Jenny Giering and lyrics by Adam Gwon.

TheatreWorks partnered with

See **THEATREWORKS**, page 7

Almanac journalists honored for election coverage, land-use and local government reporting in statewide competition

By Andrea Gemmet

Almanac journalists won accolades for their work in this year's California Journalism Awards, announced in May. The statewide competition sponsored by the California Newspaper Publishers Association (CNPA) honors work published in 2022.

Reporter Angela Swartz won first place for local government coverage for her story, "Massive" public records request escalates battle over Portola Valley's housing element." The competition judges commented, calling it a "great story, well told. This piece had RHNA numbers explained, NIMBYism on parade, attorneys and former elected official behaving badly — just great work."

Swartz shared first place for youth and education coverage with colleagues Zoe Morgan and Leah Worthington for "So long, early birds: To combat teens' sleep deprivation, California schools must start their days later." Judges called it a great story that was easy to read.

The regional story was published in The Almanac as well as its sister publications, the Mountain View Voice, Redwood City Pulse and Palo Alto Weekly. The entry was credited to the Palo Alto Weekly, which competes in a larger print circulation division than The Almanac.

Cameron Rebosio and Swartz both placed in the election coverage category, with Rebosio taking second for her series "Menlo Park's Measure V puts the future of zoning in the public's hands."

Rebosio also contributed to the Portola Valley election coverage led by Swartz, which took third place for a six-story series, "Controversy surrounds Portola Valley Town Council race." Contest judges commented that both submissions from

The Almanac were impressive.

"Great reporting, highlighting different aspects of the issue, with a consistent layout and writing tone throughout the entirety of the series," said judges about the Portola Valley coverage.

A series of stories by Swartz, Rebosio and Lloyd Lee on the battle over building teacher housing on the Flood School site in Menlo Park was awarded third place in the digital competition for land use reporting. Judges commented, "Land use stories are really about people. Your stories show that. This is the kind of local story that brings home to readers what changes in zoning and law mean to differing groups, to homeowners, to would-be renters, to teachers. And any story that reminds readers that teachers often can't afford to live where they teach does the community a valuable service."

Visual Journalist Magali Gauthier won second place in the highly competitive open competition for video with her piece on the new state composting law, in an entry credited to the Mountain View Voice. The story covers the impacts of SB 1383, and includes a Q&A on what the law changes for residents on a practical level.

In its competition, the CNPA separates daily and weekly newspapers. It also pits dailies and weeklies against each other in several circulation divisions. The Almanac competed in the 4,301 to 11,000 circulation division, which included sister publication the Pleasanton Weekly. In the digital competition there are just three divisions statewide, designated by the site's number of monthly unique visitors. The Almanac and its sister news sites all compete in the second-largest category for 100,001-400,000 monthly visitors. ■

Email Editor Andrea Gemmet at agemmet@almanacnews.com.

Sacred Heart Prep graduates its largest class in its 125-year history

By Angela Swartz

Sacred Heart Preparatory (SHP) graduated 171 students at its 125th commencement ceremony on the evening of Friday, May 26. It is the school's largest graduating class in its 125-year history.

Graduates from the class of 2023 will attend at least 84 different schools: at least 72 students will study in California, and at least 98 will study out of state, including one going out of the country, according to a school press release. Last year, the school awarded 154 diplomas.

Twenty-three students earned recognition by the National Merit Scholarship program; seven were finalists and 16 were commended. Thirty-one students committed to play college sports and one will attend the U.S. Naval Academy.

Valedictorian Paul Fong told his classmates that despite navigating the COVID-19 pandemic since freshman year, he has been "guided by what we have learned these four years: let us see opportunities, not obstacles, to fulfilling our mission of love and service."

This year's event was held at Sacred Heart's football field, where diplomas were presented by Marnie Marcin, chair of the Board of Trustees; Richard A. Dioli, director of schools; Jorge Reyes, assistant principal, curriculum and academics; and Jason Armstrong, assistant principal for athletics.

Dioli, Principal Jennie Whitcomb, Valedictorian Paul Fong, Salutatorian Nic



Courtesy Sacred Heart Preparatory

On May 26, Sacred Heart Preparatory in Atherton held a ceremony for the largest graduating class in the school's history.

Nikcevic, and science teacher Mike Judge gave speeches.

The school awarded "Blue Ribbons" to students who were nominated and elected by the faculty and ratified by the administration. Blue Ribbons are the highest honor given by SHS to graduating seniors and reflect outstanding achievement in academics and standards of character in the fulfillment of one or more of the school's guiding Goals & Criteria.

Graduates receiving a Light Blue Ribbon, for embodiment

of a particular goal, were awarded to: Olivia Braccia, Margaret Purcell, and Paul Fong for Goal I — A personal and active faith in God; Martin Freeland, Tristyn Girouard and Kelly Shen for Goal II — A deep respect for intellectual values; Catherine Byrne, Manuel Fuentes and Elsie Ragatz for Goal III — A social awareness which impels to action; Madeleine Chai, Luke Maxwell and Alexandra Medina for Goal IV — The building of community as

a Christian value; Chiara Libraro, Maya Moffat and Rycklon Stephens for Goal V — Personal growth in an atmosphere of wise freedom; Julia Birdwell, Alexander Lourdes Medel, Nic Nikcevic and Epeli Pahulu each received a Dark Blue Ribbon, for embodiment of the values implicit in a Sacred Heart education. ■

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Ravenswood district teachers to get 4% raise

By Angela Swartz

Come July 1, teachers in the Ravenswood City School District will see raises of slightly over 4%, under a contract approved by the school board on May 25.

The 2023-24 school year contract for the Ravenswood Teachers Association runs through June 2024. The new base salary begins at \$65,926, up from \$63,360 this school year, and maxes out at \$147,180, up from the current \$141,451. The increase will cost the district about \$830,000, according to a staff report.

"We are excited about the 4.05% increase to the career ladder (salary schedule)," said union President Ronda White in an email. "These steady yearly increases allow Ravenswood to be competitive with our neighboring districts, and teachers can make a professional wage for the work that we do on a daily basis for our students and family."

The agreement assumes a 4.5% increase in state funding for next school year. The specific amount has not yet been determined by the state. Should the actual amount exceed the state forecast, which is currently over 8%, the parties agreed to revise the agreement to align with the final state number.

Other recent teacher salary increases

In May, the Menlo Park City School District, the school board approved a new teacher contract, which included 5% raises and a 1% one-time bonus. Base pay is now \$74,374, up from \$69,708 in the previous contract. Starting next school year, the maximum

pay will be \$151,926 (up from \$140,477) in the district, which enrolls about 2,700 students at schools in Atherton and Menlo Park.

After 15 months of negotiations, the Portola Valley Teachers Association reached an agreement with the Portola Valley School District this spring, with an average salary increase of 20%.

Base salaries begin at \$82,130 and teachers can earn up to \$153,886 for the 2023-24 school year. The district's prior contract started teachers at \$64,108, and teachers could earn up to \$132,969. ■

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Established 1965

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Kate Daly

It might not look like much yet, but the newly landscaped median across from the Woodside Road Park & Ride should mature into “a mosaic of color.”

Landscaping project transforms an eyesore median on Woodside Road

By Kate Daly

After about a decade of dreaming and discussing, Woodside has a more welcoming appearance near the Interstate 280 overpass, thanks to the collaborative efforts of the town, community organizations, residents and hired experts.

For years, the median across from the Caltrans Park & Ride lot on Woodside Road has been an eyesore, filled with weeds and litter. Now, after many, many meetings and nearly \$165,000 spent, the 97-foot long patch of dirt has been landscaped.

So far it looks like some piles of rocks and a little greenery. But according to Woodside Landscape Committee member Peggie MacLeod, who has been involved in the planning process all along, “It can take a couple of years before you get what the designer wanted ... a mosaic of color.”

Kikuchi & Kankel Design Group went with low maintenance, drought-tolerant native plant choices that could grow up

to several feet in height. MacLeod says they include emerald carpet manzanitas, frangula and brilliant white cistus that are being irrigated underground by a new “state-of-the-art, water-wise” drip system.

She identifies several challenges: there was no water at the site, “mountains of soil” needed to be removed and added, plus Caltrans required the work be done at night so it wouldn’t disrupt traffic as much. The latter added greatly to the expense.

The Woodside Community Foundation helped raise funds from dozens of individual donors and groups such as the Woodside-Atherton Garden Club for the Woodside Beautification and Safety Project. The foundation teamed up with the Town of Woodside to cover the extra nighttime labor costs.

The town is responsible for the median’s upkeep, which is estimated to run between \$1,000 to \$3,000 a month, according to foundation President Marsha BonDurant. ■

THEATREWORKS

continued from page 5

Saratoga’s Montalvo Arts Center in 2021 to host a residency to help develop the show, following a similar process that works typically go through for the company’s New Works Festival, though due to the pandemic, the piece ended up being developed as a stand-alone project.

The company’s next production, “Steel Magnolias,” will continue as planned, opening early next month. Robert Harling’s show about a close sisterhood of women in a small Southern town runs June 7 through July 2 at the Mountain View Center for Performing Arts.

“Alice Bliss” does not yet have a new production date, according to CBCO PR/Marketing, which handles publicity for TheatreWorks. Those with tickets for “Alice Bliss” have four options: convert their tickets into passes for TheatreWorks’ New Works Festival, taking place Aug. 11-20; exchange the tickets for a performance of “Steel Magnolias;” donate the value of the tickets to the company or get a full refund.

For more information visit theatreworks.org or call the box office at 877-662-8978. ■

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

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Atherton City Council will hold a public hearing to consider adoption of an amendment to Section 8.20.140 related to abatement of public nuisances.

Join Zoom Meeting:

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Remote Public Comments:

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

Email: asuber@ci.atherton.ca.us

Description: The City Council is considering amendments to Section 8.20.140 related to the abatement of public nuisances. The purpose of this Ordinance amendment is to give the Town the option of recovering attorney’s fees for costs associated with nuisance abatement. The ordinance must be compliant with Gov. Code, § 38773.5.

A copy of the City Council staff report and draft Ordinance can be found online, by Friday, June 16, 2023 here: <https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/641/Agendas-Minutes>

The proposal has been determined to be exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to CEQA Section 15308, Actions by Regulatory Agencies for protection of the Environment.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that said application is set for hearing by the City Council at its meeting on **June 21, 2023 at 6:00 PM** via in-person and teleconference accessible through the above-described information, at which time and place all persons interested may participate and show cause, if they have any, why the amendments should or should not be approved.

IF YOU CHALLENGE any actions taken to adopt an Ordinance amendment to Section 8.20.140 in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing.

If you have any questions or would like to submit comments on the item please contact Anthony Suber, City Clerk at asuber@ci.athertonca.us or 650-752-0529 or contact George Rodericks, City Manager, at grodericks@ci.atherton.ca.us or 650-752-0504. Any attendee who wishes accommodation for a disability should contact the Building Division at (650) 752-0542 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Date Published: June 2, 2023

Date Posted: June 2, 2023

ATHERTON CITY COUNCIL

/s/ Anthony Suber

Anthony Suber, City Clerk

Portola Valley to pay more for interim town attorney to fill vacancy

Catherine Engberg of Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger to fill in for former Town Attorney Cara Silver

By Angela Swartz

The Portola Valley Town Council has hired Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger to serve as the town's interim law firm for the next six to eight months following the departure of Town Attorney Cara Silver, who stepped down on May 22. Silver was one of several key town officials who departed in recent months amidst a contentious process for finalizing a state-mandated plan for creating more housing.

The Town Council voted 5-0 on Wednesday, May 24, to hire firm partner Catherine Engberg as interim town attorney while the town searches for permanent

counsel. The San Francisco-based firm is charging the town higher rates than its previous legal counsel, Jorgenson, Siegel, McClure & Flegel, which worked for Portola Valley for decades.

The council also approved a \$25,000 contract with its former law firm to help the transition.

Engberg, who received her law degree from Stanford University, has been with Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger since 2002. She has served as city



Catherine Engberg

attorney for Half Moon Bay and deputy city attorney for Saratoga and Orinda, according to her firm biography.

Jorgenson, Siegel, McClure & Flegel provided legal services to the town from 1996 until Silver's departure. Silver became town attorney in 2017 and tendered her resignation on April 21.

The Town Council held two closed session meetings, on April 28 and May 11, to discuss the matter, and appointed a subcommittee of council members Judith Hasko and Mary Hufty to prescreen the applicants. On May 11, the Town Council interviewed three candidates for an interim role.

Shute, Mihaly, & Weinberger may have a legal conflict related to a client at 880 Westridge Drive, the address of a home built in 1957 for the late Bill and Jean Lane of Sunset Magazine fame, which sold for \$16 million in 2021. The town will be represented by other counsel on such matters, if needed, according to a staff report.

Staff also notes that due to high legal service activity this

fiscal year due to litigation, state-mandated housing plans, the California Environmental Quality Act, and other legal matters, the current budget for legal services will need to be amended. Staff will bring back a budget amendment at a future council meeting for consideration.

Rates are higher with the new firm. Silver's firm charged \$275 per hour for general services, while the new firm charges \$340. Interim Town Manager Howard Young said these are market rate prices, but the town hopes to negotiate better rates when it signs on a permanent town attorney.

Engberg is also a licensed civil engineer.

Silver's departure

Silver was among a group of key town staffers who have left since the start of the year. Silver noted that it's a difficult time to work for a local government.

Portola Valley Town Manager Jeremy Dennis left his role

on March 17. Public Works Director Howard Young is filling the position on an interim basis while he continues to head the Public Works Department. Assistant Town Manager Melvin Gaines left in January to become the city manager in East Palo Alto. Town Clerk Melissa Thurman resigned on March 20. She is now serving as the city clerk for Los Altos.

"Many changes are coming down the pipeline and under-resourced cities are struggling to understand the breadth and impact of them," Silver said in April. "Communicating and implementing change is even more difficult. Portola Valley has an amazing town staff with expert knowledge in their subject fields. My hope is that community debate on these issues will leverage that expertise in order to comply with state mandates in a way that respects town values — I know it can be done." ■

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

Noisy pool heaters force Menlo Park council to confront its own rules on ditching gas-powered appliances

New community center's pool heaters are environmentally friendly electric, but too loud for city's nighttime decibel limits

By Cameron Rebosio

Residents of Belle Haven are no strangers to noise pollution, but the Menlo Park City Council is taking steps to bring the noise down, starting by denying the Menlo Park Community Campus the ability to exceed nighttime noise regulations of 50 decibels.

The council unanimously upheld the denial of a permit to exceed nighttime noise levels caused by the use of electric heat pumps at its May 23 meeting.

Construction of the pool at the Menlo Park Community Campus (MPCC) in the 100 block of Terminal Avenue was approved in 2021 and the City Council decided that its facilities would be all-electric. But there was a problem: the sound of the electric heat pumps for the pool are expected to exceed nighttime noise limits. On April

24, the Planning Commission denied an application for the MPCC to exceed the nighttime noise limit of 50 decibels, but the City Council had the option to overrule that denial.

Residents came out to the City Council meeting with concerns about the effect of the noise pollution on the surrounding Belle Haven neighborhood, particularly since the area is already impacted by high noise levels from sources such as the U.S. 101 freeway and a PG&E substation.

"We take an issue with how the project has marginalized and dismissed our community," Belle Haven resident Donald Mendoza said, who spoke from a Zoom account under the name "Belle Haven Library." "The project has treated the Belle Haven community as kind of an afterthought."

One proposed solution would

be to build a 7-foot high wooden fence with a vinyl inner layer to mitigate the noise levels, bringing the noise down to 49 decibels, just beneath the limit, for the nearest homes. The fence would cost the city about \$200,000 and be built along the residential property line, past the PG&E substation.

Combs asked about how the city's regulations limited noise and also banning new gas-powered pool heaters could affect residents, when the city itself is having difficulty doing it.

"I always say the government should ... impose a rule on itself, and go through that whole process before it imposes a rule on residents," Combs said.

Combs said he was looking to the City Council and himself for not seeing the problem earlier, after the money had already

See **POOL HEATERS**, page 14

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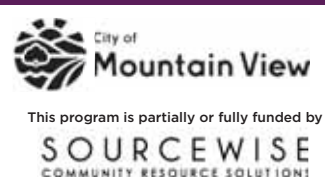
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POLICE SERVICES

continued from page 1

to make decisions, determine additional funding sources or consider reduced staffing.

Council member Mary Hufty wondered what it would look like to pursue police services outside of the Sheriff's Office.

Interim Town Manager/ Planning Director Howard Young said with such short of notice, it would take a year to even solicit proposals for other policing services.

Resident Dave Cardinal noted that the Sheriff's Department provides all the town's police protection and residents are pretty interested in safety.

"They've just offered us a three-month extension on a very sweetheart deal," he said. "Now there's some discussion about whether we should go hire our own police force or do something insane. I'm just confused about what people think they're

going to accomplish by wailing and gnashing of teeth over the extension."

Another resident urged the council to involve the community in negotiations. Young said that the town plans to host a Q&A session for residents with Sheriff's Lt. Mark Meyers.

If resolved, the Sheriff's Office will have to take a new proposed agreement to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, which will take six to eight weeks for approval. This means the town will have to have a contract agreement settled with the Sheriff's Office for the council to vote on by the end of July, Young told the council. By June 15, the town needs to let the Sheriff's Office know if it intends to continue hiring it for police services. ■

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

CRIME BRIEFS

Menlo Park doctor sentenced for child porn possession

A Menlo Park doctor was sentenced May 24, in federal court to two years in prison for possessing child pornography.

Joseph Andrew Mollick, 60, had pleaded guilty in January to one count of possession of child porn, according a news release on Wednesday from U.S. Attorney Ismail J. Ramsey and Homeland Security Investigations Special Agent in Charge Tatum King.

An oncologist hematologist affiliated with several Bay Area hospitals, Mollick admitted he used the social media app Kik in August 2019 to upload child porn involving a girl having sex with a man.

Prosecutors allege he also possessed at least 2,000 images and videos of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct on his personal laptop.

He was sentenced to two years in prison by U.S. District Judge Vince Chhabria. The judge also ordered 60 months' supervised release after his prison term, and fined him \$25,000.

Mollick was indicted by a federal grand jury in November 2021, charging him with one count possession of child pornography.

—Bay City News Service

Strong-arm robbery in Atherton

Atherton police are looking for two people who forcibly removed a \$6,000 necklace from a woman on Sunday afternoon, May 28, in Atherton before fleeing the scene, according to a police news bulletin.

The robbery took place on the first block of Holbrook Lane, which is near Middlefield Road, at 2:34 p.m. The woman suffered minor scratches to the back of her neck, according to Cmdr. Dan Larsen.

Police described the suspects as a Hispanic man wearing a black T-shirt and Hispanic woman.

The suspects were likely driving a white or silver BMW X3 SUV with no front plate and a covered rear plate, according to police.

Police are asking anyone with information on the incident to contact the Atherton Police Department's Dispatch Center at 650-688-6500.

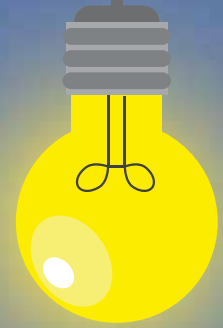
—Angela Swartz

Burglary reported at Atherton home

Atherton police reported on May 31 that a home on DeBell Drive was entered through an unlocked door sometime between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on May 30. The burglar reportedly took jewelry, a wallet with a drivers license and credit cards, and cash. Police had no suspect information.

—Andrea Gemmet

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During our **2023 Spring Membership Drive**, we were incredibly fortunate to receive a generous offer from a supporter like you. They pledged to match all new memberships and one-time contributions, and we were overwhelmed by the response from our readers, both members and non-members alike. Thanks to their enthusiastic participation, the impact of their contributions has been doubled.

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AMBASSADORS

continued from page 1

oversees the district dog program. “The pandemic just sped it along a little bit, just opened the floodgate. Because now everyone was trapped in their home, and they no longer had relationships.”

Long in the making, PAWZitivity is now in its early stages. Duke and Millie were introduced to their schools at the end of March, while the other three started a couple of weeks later. Still, Arrington is pleased with what he’s seen so far.

“A stupid dog can make you smile,” he said. “Just being there, being present...Those make a difference.”

Building a program from scratch

The seed for PAWZitivity was planted more than three years ago, in the form of a burly and doe-eyed chocolate lab named Eclair.

In 2019, Eclair was getting ready for a career change. A trained service dog, she ended up in the hands of a family with kids in the Menlo Park district who wanted to donate their dog’s services to a school. The timing was fortuitous: Burmeister, intrigued by something he’d read about therapy animal programs in school settings, had already been looking into the idea.

“Eclair’s family reached out to us, and I said, ‘Oh my gosh, I just happen to be researching this issue,’” he recalled.

Launching the pilot with Eclair took more than a year and significant prep work,



Devin Roberts

Menlo Park City School District psychologist Chris Arrington walks PAWZitivity program pup Duke through the halls of Hillview Middle School in Menlo Park.

including changing the board policy on animals in school, getting permission slips signed by parents, and designating a teacher as the dog’s on-campus handler. Then, just a month into Eclair’s tenure, COVID hit, shutting down all in-person operations and putting the test run on indefinite hold. Only in fall 2021, with school back in session, was she able to resume her classroom duties — much to the students’ delight.

Data from preliminary surveys found that Eclair helped students manage anxiety, stress and social conflicts. Parents reported similar

benefits, as well as easing the transition for kids new to the district and helping them overcome fears around dogs. On particularly stressful days, 73% of students and 62% of parents said Eclair helped motivate them to go to school, according to data shared by district Communications Officer Parke Treadway.

Burmeister had already envisioned an expanded program, and early success with Eclair fueled his dream.

“It wasn’t until the pandemic where we thought, ‘Gosh, wouldn’t it be great if we had a dog available to each

campus?’” he recalled.

Through the 2022 Spring Auction, the Menlo-Atherton Park Education Foundation was able to secure a starting sum of just over \$120,000, enough money to support five dogs for the next few years, including supplies, training and insurance. (The dogs themselves cost \$10,000 each.)

That’s when Arrington first got involved. “(The superintendent) said, ‘Okay, this is what we want to do. I have the money — go figure it out,’” said Arrington, who runs the program with Treadway. “I had to figure out, where do you find dogs?”

Word of mouth led them to 4 Pawz Strong, a Michigan-based organization that trains and supports social-emotional learning dogs for educational settings. 4 Pawz has placed

over 100 dogs in Michigan schools, but MPCSD was its first out-of-state client.

Last year, the California-bound puppies underwent intensive training, earning a variety of certificates through the American Kennel Club, and making regular visits to hospitals and schools. By the end of six months, all the dogs could reliably obey basic commands, behave politely around strangers and other animals, and stay cool in chaotic or distracting situations.

Meanwhile, Arrington and his advisory team worked out the details of the program at home. They put out a call for staff members interested in hosting one of the dogs and vetted a handful of interested applicants before selecting the final six, himself included, who underwent their own training.

Finally, two months ago, the puppies flew halfway across the country to meet their new families and start their new campus jobs. Though the transition is going well, Arrington, who independently adopted and paid for Duke, is mindful that humans and dogs alike are still going through an adjustment period.

“People think they came, and they’re, like, ready to go! No — they’re still puppies,” he said. “They’re still learning. They’re still figuring this out.”

Laughing, he added: “It’s like having a newborn again.”

A day in the life

The dogs are, in many ways, like any other district employee.

Each morning, Monday through Friday, they commute to one of the district’s five campuses where they bounce from classroom to classroom, according to a predetermined schedule. (Duke floats between different campuses with



Devin Roberts

Duke waits in a classroom for students to arrive at Hillview Middle School on May 17.



Devin Roberts

Eighth grader Avery pets Patches in the Hillview library.

Arrington.) Though the dogs live full-time with their host families, other trained staff members and even students assist with the day-to-day maintenance and care. The idea is to get the dogs moving around campus to give as many kids as possible the opportunity to interact with them.

The dogs' responsibilities, while limited, are by no means small: They're expected to make the rounds of their assigned classrooms, greeting and sitting with the students, while refraining from any unseemly behavior, like barking, licking or jumping — in other words, acting like puppies.

But the line between work and play is carefully maintained. The dogs know that once they're strapped into their red service vests, it's time to work.

On Thursday morning, after stopping by Encinal and Laurel schools, Duke rides with Arrington over to Hillview. The third period bell rings, and he's off to eighth grade science, trotting calmly by Arrington's side through the shouting throngs of middle schoolers. He's greeted warmly by teacher Susan Arrington, who's Chris Arrington's wife and, by extension, Duke's mom. But he doesn't jump or lick her face — he's still in his vest after all.

Duke stands patiently by the door as the class streams in, nearly every student bending down to give him an affectionate rub. It's obvious: Everyone loves Duke.

"Hi Dukes Dukey," one student coos.

As Susan Arrington collects homework and launches into a discussion about the opioid epidemic, Duke weaves through the desks, moving slowly from one outstretched hand to the next.

Some students wave or call him over, others hardly glance as he passes. He lingers for a minute or two, before wandering off again.

She described Duke's uncanny ability to seek out the students who could most benefit from some puppy love.

"I find that he sits under their desk," she said. "And then I'll be like, 'I think you need it!'"

Chris Arrington said he's observed a similar experience among the students he sees in his role as school psychologist.

"Some of my therapy kids want nothing to do with the dog. The dog's in the room, but they're not even paying attention," he said. "Others are burying their heads in the dog, and I think I've heard things that they've never told me."

There are rules, of course. The dogs aren't allowed to play while they're working — no fetch or tug-of-war. And the students know not to get too distracted or they risk having the dogs removed. Arrington has also been proactive about reaching out to parents whose kids have dog allergies or phobias.

So far, however, the issues have been minimal, and the reception has been "overly positive," Arrington said. Already he's started hearing from other districts along the Peninsula curious about bringing a similar program to their own schools.

Thursday is a busy day for dogs at Hillview: On the other side of campus, Patches meanders around the library, while Eclair lounges in the corner of a sixth grade English class.

The students have nothing but good things to say about their canine companions. One described the comfort of confiding in a dog: "They don't talk, they're just listening," she said.

"If we're stressed about a test,



Devin Roberts

Eclair gets a pat on the head during a sixth-grade English class at Hillview Middle School on May 17.

they're there so we can take a break and go pet them," another sixth grader chimed in.

For his part, Arrington hopes the program will continue long into the future, with many more cycles of dogs down the line. Still, he isn't one to overstate their abilities.

"Schools, businesses can be incredibly sterile," he said matter-of-factly. "It's not, like, a miracle the dog is here. They're just adding a little bit of humanity to school."

Burmeister agreed.

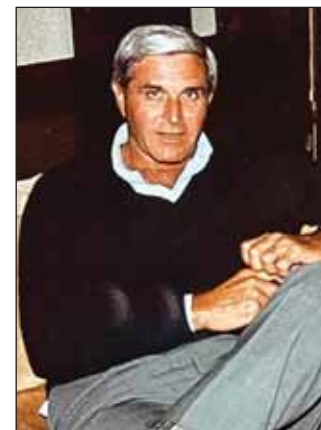
"Do I believe it's a panacea?" he asked. "No. But I do believe it's one really helpful tool in a series of tools that help students regulate their emotions and bring a greater sense of wellness, positivity, and happiness to the school environment." ■

Email Contributing Writer Leah Worthington at worthingtonleah@gmail.com.

Robert Campbell McGibben Jr

Feb. 28, 1937 – May 7, 2023

Bob was a 3rd generation San Franciscan, born at Children's Hospital on February 28, 1937. His youth was spent in Menlo Park under the loving eye of his grandfather, who instilled in Bob a sense of confidence, a zest for life and a quick wit. In the mid-fifties Bob was drafted into the army. While stationed in Georgia, Bob had the enviable opportunity of serving twice as a marshal at the Masters Golf Tournament at Augusta.



He was also introduced to local jazz bands and developed a lifelong passion for music. After his military service he spent time in Reno as a disc jockey, playing jazz and accumulating a vast collection of vinyl records, which he later donated to Stanford University.

Bob graduated from The New York Institute of Finance in 1961. He then began his successful career, launching Robert McGibben, Inc. at the Pacific Stock Exchange. Bob was active in his community, serving on the Menlo Park Fire Department Board of Directors, and later serving as a volunteer guide at the Monterey Bay Aquarium and as a marshal at the Poppy Hills Golf Course. Bob was a lifelong sports fan, a master of crossword puzzles, a voracious reader of history and novels, especially spy thrillers. He loved entertaining family and friends, hosting dinner parties and sharing his vast collection of music.

Our Modern day Renaissance man shared his passions with everyone. His friends and family knew him to be forever intelligent, optimistic, compassionate and generous.

Bob died peacefully in his sleep at home in Carmel, surrounded by his loving family, on Sunday, May 7.

Bob is survived by his loving wife and life partner of 43 years, Joan; his three sons Tom (Baiba), Rob, Ian (Kerin), and his daughter Kirsty Romer (Jeff); nine grandchildren: Mackey, Alex, Kiley, Patrick, Donovan, Travis, Dominic, Sebastian and Nate; nephews Erik and Peter Berridge and their families; in-laws Kristina Stone and Richard Berridge; former spouse and mother of his four children, Diana Jackson, and his best pal and dog, Kodi.

A celebration of his life will be held at a later date. Donations may be made to Doctors Without Borders (donate.doctorswithoutborders.org) or the Monterey Bay Aquarium (montereybayaquarium.org/join-give-ways-to-give/honor-a-loved-one) in memory of Bob McGibben.

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Dorothea Emily Collins

March 12, 1933 – April 25, 2023

Dorothea passed away on April 25, 2023, after a short illness.

Born in 1933 in Boston, Massachusetts, Dorothea and her mom, Dorothy, moved to the home of her Grandparents after the passing of her father when she was three. Her grandparents treated her like she was their own child. She grew up in a house filled with loving aunts and uncles and is fondly remembered by her cousins as “Bunny”, which was given to her as a small child.

Since Bunny was the oldest, she did a lot of babysitting for her cousins. They all remember her reading them stories. Most of all they remember her singing voice. Broadway music was her favorite and throughout the years she performed in several local musicals, once singing at the Boston Pops.

In 1954, Dorothea graduated from Regis College in Weston, MA. Upon graduation she became a teacher, a career that would last her over 35 years.

In 1960 Dorothea married Robert “Bob” James Collins, also of Boston and bought a small house in Westwood, MA. Within a year, their first son, Robert Joseph was born, followed 17 months later by the birth of their second son, Daniel John. The new parents had little time to settle in when Bob’s company transferred him to Michigan. A year and a half later he was transferred to New Jersey and in 1967 the whole family packed up and drove Dorothea’s Oldsmobile 98 convertible to California. After a few years in the San Francisco Bay Area, the lifelong Bostonians decided that not having snow in the winter and humidity in the summer was great, and even though other promotions in other places were offered to Bob, they never accepted them.

In 1968, Dorothea became a librarian and English/Drama teacher for the K-8 Menlo Park City School District. She would teach there over the next 21 years, almost all of that time at Encinal School in Atherton. She loved her job and the great co-workers she had: Jean Christ, Pat Hubbard, Evelyn Grandinetti, Paula Chidachimo and so many others. She fondly recalled the several times she was selected by the graduating 8th grade class to be their commencement speaker.

In 1969, Bob and Dorothea bought a house on Holly Avenue in Menlo Park. With a large backyard and a pool it became a summer and entertainment area for her friends and neighbors. The Dallmars and the Jorgensons would come for a dip and drinks on hot days. The Ellisons were always invited for holiday dinners and the Sassons and their kids could frequently be found in the pool.

When both Dorothea and Bob retired in 1990, they traveled extensively. They took cruises to several places including through the Panama Canal and the South Pacific. They took a course in Italian and went on a tour, the highlight of which was going to the small village of Nusco where Dorothea’s grandmother has been born. Those years were also spent entertaining their first grandchild, Carolyn, who moved with her parents, Robert and Cheryl, to a house around the corner from them in 1993. Carolyn spent endless hours picking up apples and splashing in the pool.

In 2013, three years after Bob passed, Dorothea moved to Santa Rosa to be closer to her son, Robert. She moved to Villa Capri, a beautiful assisted living facility, where she struck up a friendship with Mary Lou Delany. Dorothea and Mary Lou were inseparable. If you couldn’t find one of them all you had to do was go to the other’s room where they were always watching TV together. Their friendship was especially important in 2017 when the Tubbs Fire destroyed Villa Capri and a large portion of Santa Rosa. Both Mary Lou and Dorothea lost everything they owned on that October night. Fortunately, they were both able to relocate together to another assisted living within a week and less than two years later they came back to a newly rebuilt Villa Capri.

Dorothea is survived by her son, Robert, his wife Cheryl and their daughter Carolyn of Santa Rosa, and son Daniel, his wife Barbara and daughters Rachel and Emily of West Des Moines, IA.

PAID OBITUARY

Renovations delay Stanford Theatre reopening into the summer

Venue’s projected June reopening now anticipated to take place later

By Heather Zimmerman

Fans of classic movies will have to wait a bit longer to catch their favorites back on the big screen. Vintage movie palace the Stanford Theatre announced on social media on Tuesday, May 30, that it will likely reopen in July or August rather than June, as initially projected.

Additional work on the venue’s heating and air conditioning systems, plus other improvements have delayed the theater’s full reopening, according to the social media post. The announcement was also shared on the theater’s website.

The downtown Palo Alto theater briefly reopened in summer 2022 for three months with a program that highlighted a variety of classic films. But renovations undertaken while the theater was shuttered during the pandemic shutdown had not yet been completed — in particular improvements



Magali Gauthier

The Stanford Theatre, seen here in May 2020, recently announced that due to ongoing renovations, its reopening is likely to take place later this summer, rather than June as expected.

to the HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) systems — leading the theater to close once again in the fall. The ongoing construction also scrapped plans last December for the theater’s popular annual screening of the 1946 holiday

favorite “It’s a Wonderful Life.” For more information, visit the Stanford Theatre’s website at stanfordtheatre.org. ■

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

embarcadero media

Join our team!

We’re looking for talented, highly motivated and dynamic people

Mountain View Voice Beat Reporter

The Mountain View Voice is an award-winning community news organization covering the vibrant city of Mountain View in the heart of Silicon Valley. The Voice has been honored by the California Newspaper Publishers Association in recent years with multiple awards for reporting and photojournalism. We pride ourselves on providing our readers with insightful, accurate and unbiased news about our diverse community.

As a full-time reporter for the Mountain View Voice, you will be responsible for establishing productive relationships with sources, seeking out stories of interest and importance to our readers, and reporting on breaking news in our circulation area. As part of our collaborative newsroom, you will cover regional stories that are also published in Embarcadero Media’s other Midpeninsula news outlets, the Palo Alto Weekly, The Almanac and the Redwood City Pulse.

The ideal candidate will have a bachelor’s degree, at least one year of professional reporting experience, a thorough knowledge of AP style, excellent communication and organization skills, and be familiar with the Mountain View area. Fluency in written and spoken Spanish is a big plus. The salary range is \$21-\$26/hour, depending on experience.

For more information, go to tinyurl.com/MVBeatReporter.



450 Cambridge Avenue | Palo Alto | 650.326.8210

PaloAltoOnline.com | TheAlmanacOnline.com | MountainViewOnline.com

RWCpulse.com | TheSixty.com

POOL HEATERS

continued from page 8

been spent on the machinery.

“In theory, we didn’t exercise a similar restriction or limitation (on noise levels) for ourselves with our own heating equipment, which is, again, why we’re here,” Combs said.

Building another sound wall along Highway 101 from Marsh Road to Willow Road is also under discussion, and the City Council recommended that city staff pursue the project, which would be done in conjunction with Caltrans. Combs requested that the city look into extending the wall project farther so that it protects most of the residences along the highway.

The City Council opted to move forward with both the noise-muffling wooden wall for the pool heater, and uphold the denial of a permit for the pool heaters to exceed the nighttime noise limit, meaning the facility will not be allowed to run the heaters overnight, on a unanimous vote. The council also gave direction to staff that they should pursue the highway sound wall in upcoming budget discussions.

“Even if we’re just at 50 decibels or 49 decibels, (residents) are having a lot of impact from noise,” Mayor Jen Wolosin said. ■

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

San Mateo County Supervisors seek ways to reduce deadly fentanyl overdoses

By Thomas Hughes

Deaths from fentanyl overdoses in San Mateo County have gone up in recent years and show further signs of increasing, public health officials told the county Board of Supervisors at a study session on the issue Tuesday, May 30.

Representatives from the county Health Department gave the board an update on the trends of opioid use in the county over the past several years and the state of the county today for opioid deaths, which have been driven in recent years by fentanyl use that is thought to be both intentional and accidental, and that is impacting children as young as 10 years old.

A current trend that is troubling health officials is the

mixture of fentanyl and stimulants, a phenomenon that they said was driving a fourth wave of addiction trends since 1996, the year OxyContin was introduced as a synthetic opioid.

"It is definitely assured that youth use and youth death will increase and I believe that the continued use of mixing opioids with stimulants, primarily meth, will also grow, and that has huge implications as far as the treatment because it's very difficult to treat this combination," said Dr. Scott Morrow, the county's health officer.

In 2017, 90 people died in the county from non-prescription or "illicit drug" overdoses. About 10% of those deaths involved fentanyl. In 2021, 120 people died from such overdoses, with 50% of those attributed

to fentanyl use, according to Morrow.

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is prescribed for extreme pain, often after surgery or during cancer treatment. It is extremely potent and can be deadly in very small amounts. It is 50-100 more powerful than morphine, according to the National Institute of Drug Abuse.

In addition to abuses of prescriptions, fentanyl powder manufactured in China and base ingredients shipped from China to Mexico are increasingly finding their way into street drugs, often combined with other drugs or innocuous substances without the user knowing, according to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency and U.S. Department of Justice.

County health officials recommended that the board continue to invest in prevention and harm reduction tools, increase the use of a suite of continuum of treatment services, and invest in expanded data gathering and monitoring. Department representatives also recommended supporting state and federal legislation that address the issue, including the state's Senate Bill 641, which would make drugs like naloxone available to several locations, like schools and libraries, for free.

"This is not an epidemic of long term, chronic street users," said Mary Taylor Fullerton, a Behavioral Health and Recovery Services division representative.

"One pill can kill. One dusting of that fentanyl can be a lethal dose that someone's

mixed into a substance that someone's obtaining unknown, it can cause overdose death. And so this is why we're here talking about fentanyl, because fentanyl poisoning is happening, it is happening in our community, and it is a national crisis," Fullerton said, echoing the language of a public awareness campaign supported by state lawmakers.

Fentanyl is often compressed into counterfeit pills that look real, according to the county Health Department and the DEA.

State lawmakers held a hearing last week during which they heard more about the crisis, which has seen statewide overdose deaths attributed to the drug rise from 786 in 2018 to 5,961 in 2021. ■

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

continued from page 5

education students and 175 staff members from 15 schools across Palo Alto, Mountain View, Atherton and Menlo Park.

"Look at the smiles," event co-organizer Roxanne Koopman, an adapted physical education teacher, said. "They're all inspired to do their best."

The athletes opened the event by walking onto the field as the Gunn High School marching band played their fight song. There were speeches from various school district officials, but the highlight was Ilona Haukioja, a student at Walter Hays, leading everyone in the Special Olympics' athletes' oath: "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

This was the eighth year of the district's Special Olympics event. When Angel Sheridan joined the district as an adapted physical education teacher, she knew she wanted to start a Special Olympics program. In a previous job, she had loved how the program helped students.

Since she started the Palo Alto Unified Special Olympics program, she has seen how it's boosted confidence and how students improve year after year. For some, it is the first time that they're part of a team or wearing the school's sports uniform.

"You can see how psyched" the students are, she said.

Yonatan Naven, a junior at Gunn High School, has participated for four years. He ran the mile in a little over 9 minutes on Friday, he said, but he prefers sprinting in the 100 meter race.

One of Sheridan's students

is Sang Joon Lee. Sheridan has known Lee, now a senior at Gunn High School, since he was in second grade and has watched him grow and take on new challenges.

As Lee got ready to run in the 1-mile race Friday, the crowd was abuzz about whether he would be able to beat his personal record.

When he broke his record with an 8 minute and 2 second mile, the crowd erupted.

"(The) cheering helps," he said modestly.

That seemed to be a shared sentiment among many of the athletes, who appreciated both the chance to shine and the support they felt from others.

Tiruchinapally described the track and field event as a "very fun experience."

"I like when they cheer me on and when I deserve a medal," she said. ■

Email Editorial Intern
Katherine Lin at klin@paweekly.com



Steven Maradona and Mariana M. compete at the PAUSD Special Olympics at Gunn High School in Palo Alto.

Katherine Lin



Ilona Haukioja leads the athlete oath at the PAUSD Special Olympics at Gunn High School.

Katherine Lin



Leah Zepeda and Ilona Haukioja participate in the PAUSD Special Olympics.

Katherine Lin

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Portola Valley Horse Fair

About 500 people attend's the Portola Valley Trails & Paths Committee's interactive Horse Fair on May 20 at Town Center. There were carriage rides, miniature horses, face painting, the chance to listen to a horse's heartbeat, a petting zoo with chickens and goats, and roping skills, along with lunch from the Los Tolucas food truck. The event was on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic and

because of an outbreak of the equine herpesvirus.

Atherton Police Activities League announces \$30K in scholarships

The Atherton Police Activities League (PAL) has awarded six high school seniors \$5,000 each, for a total of \$30,000, for college this fall, according to a press release.

Recipients are:
 ■ Aiden Deffner of Menlo School. He plans to attend Johns

Hopkins University majoring in computer science and plans to continue with graduate school with a degree in security informatics.

■ Rycklon Stephens Jr. of Sacred Heart Schools, Atherton. He plans to attend University of California at Berkeley and continue his football career with hopes of going into the NFL. He plans to major in economics and own his own business.

■ Siana Barker of Menlo-Atherton High School. She plans to attend Louisiana State University where she would like to create a clothing brand that

uses more sustainable materials to decrease the issue of over-consumption in the fashion industry.

■ Ada Yi Jue Cai of Menlo-Atherton High School. She plans to attend New York University to pursue a career in either international relations or international business and a minor in journalism.

■ Mohammed Amir Khabaza of Menlo-Atherton High School. He plans to attend University of California at Merced to study computer science and work in underserved communities providing technology to children without access.

■ Helena Warner of Menlo-Atherton High School. She plans to attend University of California at Berkeley and study art history. She strives to pursue a career as a storyboard artist or a museum curator to spread her love and appreciation of art to wider audiences spanning generations.

The league is a nonprofit that partners with the community, youth, and the police to support scholarships, recreational activities and outreach programs. The PAL works in partnership with the Atherton Police Department each year to identify local students who attend one of the three high schools in Atherton and are eligible to apply for the scholarships.

To date, PAL has given out over \$270,000 in scholarships over the years.

For information on PAL Scholarships, contact Jennifer Frew, Atherton Police Dept. PAL Coordinator, at jfrew@ci.atherton.ca.us.

M-A hires Brian Mansell as head coach of varsity boys soccer

Menlo-Atherton High School Athletic Directors Paul Snow and Steven Kryger have hired Brian Mansell to be the new head coach of the varsity boys soccer team, according to a press release.

"I'm honored to be a part of such a great school and program in a community and area that I had the privilege of working and coaching in," he said in a statement. "I'm looking forward to the opportunity to help mentor and lead the program to success both on and off the field."

Mansell joins the M-A soccer program from his previous head coaching role with the South San Francisco girls varsity soccer team, leading them to consecutive CCS Finals in 2020 and 2021, winning CCS in 2021. He has also spent time coaching boys varsity soccer at Hillsdale High, Archbishop Riordan High School and Sacred Heart Cathedral in San Francisco.

Mansell grew up in Newark,

where he played soccer. He is the founder and executive director of local youth soccer club, San Mateo County FC, where he is also the head coach of the club's U17 Boys Program. He has been involved in youth soccer in the area for more than 25 years.

Before beginning his coaching career, Mansell was an All-Conference goalkeeper at De Anza College in Cupertino and played on the 1994 unbeaten state championship team. He finished his collegiate career at San Francisco State University after short professional trials in Switzerland and France.

He played four years in the United States International Soccer League from 1992-95.

Record 31 Sacred Heart student athletes to play collegiate sports

For the 17th consecutive year, Sacred Heart Preparatory in Atherton will send 15 or more student athletes to play intercollegiate sports. The Class of 2023 is sending 31 student-athletes to play in 12 sports at 26 colleges.

"Our athletes' dedication in both the classroom and in their respective athletic program is unmatched," said SHP Assistant Principal for Athletics Jason Armstrong. "The fact that we are sending 31 athletes to play at the collegiate level from what is a relatively small school — with just 171 graduates in the SHP class of 2023 — makes this an even more impressive feat."

Twelve of SHP's varsity sports programs were named Central Coast Section (CCS) Scholastic teams. The school's teams won 11 league championships and earned 20 CCS Playoff berths, which is a school record.

"Each of these student-athletes carries a sense of teamwork, dedication, sportsmanship and community — dynamics that are foundational to the athletics experience here at Sacred Heart," said Armstrong. "We wish them the best in their future playing careers and know they will continue to uphold everything we stand for as SHP Gators."

Portola Valley's Sue Crane and Gary Nielsen given lifetime achievement awards

Portola Valley town government recognized former Town Council members Sue Crane and Gary Nielsen with the first ever Founders' Award for Lifetime Contributions to the Town of Portola Valley on May 10. This award recognizes the cumulative civic engagement

See **BRIEFS**, page 17



Town of Atherton

Town Administrative Offices
 80 Fair Oaks Lane,
 Atherton, California 94027
 650-752-0500

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Atherton City Council will hold a public hearing to consider the proposed Fiscal Year 2023/24 Operating and Capital Improvement budget for adoption.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/506897786>

Meeting ID: 506 897 786

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,506897786# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 506 897 786

Remote Public Comments:

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

Email: asuber@ci.atherton.ca.us

Description: The City Council is considering resolutions for the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2023/24 Operating and Capital Improvement Budget (CIP). This also includes resolutions for adopting salaries and benefits for unrepresented staff, approving the Fiscal Year 2023/24 Salary Schedules and Classifications, and the FY 2023/24 Appropriations Limit. The Council will discuss and provide feedback on the proposed Operations and CIP budget, revenues, expenditures, capital projects, salaries and benefits. There is a recommendation to the Council to adopt resolutions for FY 2023/2024 Operating and Capital Budget, FY 2023/2024 Salaries and Benefits Schedules, FY2023/2024 Gann Limit Appropriations, and Town Master Fee Schedule. **A copy of the City Council staff report and draft Ordinance can be found online, by Friday, June 16, 2023 here: <https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/641/Agendas-Minutes>**

The proposal has been determined to be exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to CEQA Section 15308, Actions by Regulatory Agencies for protection of the Environment.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that said application is set for hearing by the City Council at its meeting on **June 21, 2023 at 6:00 PM** via in-person and teleconference accessible through the above-described information, at which time and place all persons interested may participate and show cause, if they have any, why the amendments should or should not be approved.

IF YOU CHALLENGE any actions taken to adopt an Ordinance amendment to Section 8.20.140 in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing.

If you have any questions or would like to submit comments on the item please contact Anthony Suber, City Clerk at asuber@ci.athertonca.us or 650-752-0529 or contact George Rodericks, City Manager, at grodericks@ci.atherton.ca.us or 650-752-0504. Any attendee who wishes accommodation for a disability should contact the Building Division at (650) 752-0542 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Date Published: June 2, 2023

Date Posted: June 2, 2023

ATHERTON CITY COUNCIL

/s/ Anthony Suber

Anthony Suber, City Clerk

BRIEFS

continued from page 16

and leadership of longstanding volunteers in the town.

During a Town Council meeting, Mayor Jeff Aalfs recognized the two with award plaques, followed by a reception.

“The ceremony and reception filled the room to capacity with members of the Town Council, town staff, and many members of the community and families who came out to show their appreciation for the honorees and their contributions to the town,” according to a town newsletter. “We can’t say enough about the decades of service both of these amazing people have dedicated to creating a thriving community. We are grateful they have led our community through both great and difficult times and have been a guiding light to us all.”

Crane, who served on the council from 1982 to 1990, moved to Portola Valley as the town was being incorporated in 1964.

She volunteered as a pottery teacher in the Portola Valley schools. She also played an integral role in purchasing the land to create the Town Center and played a key role guiding the general plan in 1979.

“Our community benefited greatly from her work with our

schools, open spaces, library, The Sequoias and celebrating our important community anniversaries,” the newsletter states.

Nielsen began volunteering with the town in 1969 as a director of the now-dissolved Los Trancos County Water District. He served on the Town Council from 1992 to 2000.

“In his over 50 years of volunteerism he has had significant contributions in the creation of our current Town Center, protected and educated citizens about our open spaces, guided land use and financial health and served as our police commissioner,” according to the newsletter.

—*Angela Swartz*

Menlo Park Boy Scouts honor veterans on Memorial Day

Boy Scout troop 206 based in Menlo Park spent Saturday morning, May 27, planting flags at the Golden Gate National Cemetery in Colma as an annual tradition to honor veterans who served in the U.S. military, according to Carrie Rassbach. The flag-planting ceremony is a tradition done each year in preparation for Memorial Day. Scouts gathered and placed hundreds of flags all over the cemetery.

—*Almanac staff*

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

Theodore Clarence Carlstrom, 90, an attorney and longtime Palo Alto resident who served in the U.S. Army and clerked for a state Supreme Court justice, on May 12; **Jacob Pierce**, 40, a vintner and alum of King’s Academy and University of California at Santa Barbara who co-founded a technology start-up, on May 19; **Elizabeth Jeanne Doyle**, 98, a Los Gatos resident who graduated from Mills College but had attended Stanford University and served as majorette in the Stanford Band, on May 6; **Joan Hancock**, 91, a longtime Palo Alto resident and artist who painted the Country Sun mural and opened Blue Skies Studio in the 1980s, on May 14; **Tze Leung Lai**, 77, a professor of statistics at Columbia and Stanford universities who grew up in postwar Hong Kong, founded the Financial and Risk Managing Institute in 2012 and was a longtime member of Mountain View Chinese Christian Church, on May 21; **Charles O. Probst** (previously named Reese J. Probst), 34,

born in Mountain View and grew up in Palo Alto, graduated from Gunn High School and worked as a nursing assistant at Stanford Hospital and later as a pharmacy technician in Mountain View and Palo Alto, on May 19; **Robert Campbell McGibben Jr.**, 86, a former Menlo Park Fire Protection District board member, was a third-generation San Franciscan who spent his youth in Menlo Park with his grandfather, served in the U.S. Army, worked as a DJ in Reno, graduated from The New York Institute of Finance and launched Robert McGibben, Inc. at the Pacific Stock Exchange, on May 7; **Dorothea Emily Collins**, 90, born in Boston, a longtime teacher and librarian in the Menlo Park City School District who graduated from Regis College and had a teaching career that lasted over 35 years, much of it at Encinal School in Atherton, on April 25.

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

Public Notices

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
File No. M-290602
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):
4-GOOD FOUNDATION
217 Camino Al Lago
Atherton, CA 94027, San Mateo County
FILED IN SAN MATEO COUNTY ON:
03/23/2022
REGISTRANT’S NAME(S):
THE DAVID AND HEIDI WELCH FOUNDATION
217 Camino Al Lago
Atherton, CA 94027
CA
THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY A Corporation.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County on April 24 2023.
(ALM May 12, 19, 26 and Jun 2, 2023)

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
File No. M-290266
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):
J&J NAILS SALON
120 Park BLVD
Millbrae, CA 94030
FILED IN SAN MATEO COUNTY ON:
02/16/2022
REGISTRANT’S NAME(S):
LY THUYEN THI
1938 OSAGE AVE
Hayward, CA 94545
DUONG HA KY
532 Tyrella Ave #28
Mountain View, CA 94043
THIS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED BY A General Partnership.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk Recorder of San Mateo County on May 17 2023.
(ALM May 26, Jun 2, 9 and 16, 2023)

BOOKKEEPING SERVICES, INC.
CYPRESS CONSTRUCTION & REPAIRS, INC.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-294234
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Bookkeeping Services, Inc., 2.) Cypress Construction & Repairs, Inc., located at 3000 Sand Hill Road, 1-250 Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
DAVID BIDER, INC.
3000 Sand Hill Road, 1-250 Menlo Park, CA 94025
CA
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
Registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 08 2023.
(ALM May 19, 26, Jun 2 and 9, 2023)

PACIFIC RIM HI-TECH CONSULTING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-294135
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Pacific Rim Hi-Tech Consulting, located at

640 Hobart Ave. San Mateo, CA 94402, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
BOB HIROSHI SATO
640 Hobart Ave.
San Mateo, CA 94402
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 April 26 2023.
(ALM May 26, Jun 2, 9 and 16, 2023)

VILLA VISITATION APARTMENTS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-294318
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) VILLA VISITATION APARTMENTS, located at 141 SAN FRANCISCO AVE. BRISBANE, CA 94005, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
MARCO P. GUALCO, TRUSTEE, MARCO P. GUALCO AND SANDY E. RIVERS REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST, TRUST
141 San Francisco Avenue #5
Brisbane, CA 94005
SANDY E. RIVERS, TRUSTEE, MARCO P. GUALCO and SANDY E. RIVERS REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST, TRUST
141 San Francisco Avenue #5
Brisbane, CA 94005
This business is conducted by: a Trust.
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 May 15, 2023.
(ALM May 26, Jun 2, 9 and 16, 2023)

FLEX-IT MEDIA
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-294061
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Flex-It Media, located at 605 Willow Road STE 213 Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County. Mailing Address: 1259 El Camino Real, #251, Menlo Park, CA 94025.
Registered owner(s):
DENNIS TRUMAN LUND
605 Willow Road STE 213
Menlo Park, CA 94025
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 April 18 2023.
(ALM May 19, 26, Jun 2 and 9, 2023)

PARTRIDGE/KENNEDY APARTMENTS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: 294300
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Partridge/Kennedy Apartments, located at 817 Partridge Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County
Registered owner(s):
PENINSULA VOLUNTEERS PROPERTIES INC.
800 Middle Avenue
Menlo Park, CA 94025
This business is conducted by: a Corporation.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 10/15/1961
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on May 12 2023.
(ALM May 26, Jun 2, 9 and 16, 2023)

OCEANA SMOG TEST ONLY CENTER
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-294271
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Oceana Smog Test Only Center, located at 100 Milagra Drive, Pacifica, CA 94044, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
KING CHIU YU
1130 Noriega St
San Francisco, CA 94122
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 May 10 2023.
(ALM May 19, 26, Jun 2 and 9, 2023)

CRUMB CORNER BAKING COMPANY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-293929
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Crumb Corner Baking Company, located at 299 Franklin St Unit 457, Redwood City, CA 94063.
Registered owner(s):
CARTER JACK GREEN
299 Franklin St Unit 457
Redwood City, CA 94063
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 April 06 2023.
(ALM May 19, 26, Jun 2 and 9, 2023)

SUMMIT CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS, INC.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-294278
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
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Registered owner(s):
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3000 Sand Hill Road, 1-250 Menlo Park, CA 94025
CA
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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 May 10 2023.
(ALM May 19, 26, Jun 2 and 9, 2023)

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File No.: M-294336
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(ALM May 26, Jun 2, 9 and 16, 2023)

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- Legal Summons
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- Partnership Withdrawal or Dissolution
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An open letter to students on mental health

It's easy to rationalize that everything is OK; we need to hear from youth who know otherwise

By Dave Cortright

GUEST OPINION

My whole life I have struggled with depression, anxiety and — at my lowest — suicidal ideation. When I was a kid, some mornings I'd need to lie down on the couch before I could muster up the energy to walk the remaining 15 feet to the kitchen. In high school, I diagnosed myself with mononucleosis because I was so chronically fatigued and desperately wanted a reason why. In retrospect, both were depression symptoms.

Exacerbating this has been the outward appearance that I had everything necessary for a happy life: smart, tall, handsome, academic success, an athlete, a musician ... As comedian Gary Gulman observed, "What have you got to be depressed about?!"

It was bad enough to be suffering, but even worse to feel isolated because I didn't feel safe sharing; I was sure no one would understand and I thought I'd be judged harshly. For me it wasn't worth the risk. A tenuous connection was better than the possibility of ostracism.

When I was a high school sophomore, my brother was a senior. Our whole family attended the annual year-end awards ceremony, in which he completely dominated: student-athlete of the year, math student of the year, science student of the year, overall student of the year ... I can't even remember them all. If they had one, he'd've also walked away with the "most awards" award.

I wanted to be happy for him. And on one level, I was. But on a deeper level, I was terrified. I saw where the bar had been set and

feared what would happen if I didn't do the same. I believed I needed to be the best to be worthy of love and belonging. (Two years later I also won Student of the Year. But Jim Carrey was right: That wasn't the answer.)

To be clear, my family loved me. It wasn't explicitly abusive, but there was emotional dysfunction and neglect. Within our extended family, I felt the displays of affection were perfunctory and performative. I know now that my mom grew up in an alcoholic household; they all did their best at the time with the capacity they had. But when I was a kid, this was all I'd known. Without much life experience or perspective, it was natural to believe I was the broken one.

Our system of achievement and performance ranking can impinge on the self-esteem of any student, even high-achievers like myself. If you believe your place on the planet is contingent upon delivering results, there is pervasive low-level anxiety. You're always one slip from the humiliation of mediocrity.

Here's what I wished I had known when I was a student. Just because you don't feel secure expressing your true feelings with family or friends doesn't mean the whole world is that way. There are people who will understand, listen and won't judge or shame. Someone who can be what Peter Levine calls "an empathetic witness."

They might not know you well, but that doesn't mean they are uncaring or indifferent. Some of us have been there in the

depths of despair and ultimately found someone who helped us through it. Now we are doing our best to pay it forward — to "be the person we needed when we were younger." The things you hide inside due to embarrassment, fear or shame do not make you bad or broken. Rather, they make you human. I wish I could tell my teenage self that you don't need to suffer in silence; you never need to go through this alone.

Kids living in poverty have more mental health issues than the middle class. But it can be even worse for kids in high socioeconomic communities like Palo Alto. The data forms a U-shaped curve. When your parents and seemingly everyone around you are high-achieving, it can feel like a nonnegotiable requirement to fit in.

Here's what I wished I had known when I was a student. ... There are people who will understand, listen and won't judge or shame.

DAVE CORTRIGHT, SANTA CLARA COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD MEMBER

This is plainly and painfully obvious in the Palo Alto schools' California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS). One-third report no caring adult relationships at school. One in five feel school is not safe — you've been harassed or bullied. One-quarter experience social-emotional distress or chronic sadness/hopelessness.

One in six have contemplated suicide. These are not isolated results: previous reports are in the same range, even pre-COVID. This is an ongoing travesty — a community crisis. If we don't take action, it will become our new baseline.

I see abundant resources being thrown at this problem, yet students are still struggling. What we're doing is clearly not working. In product development, we're taught: "Know your customer." It strikes me that we really don't know our customers when it comes to student mental health.

So please, tell us. Tell us your struggles. Tell us what prevents you from getting support. We want to help, so tell us what truly would help. And equally, tell us what isn't helpful.

I have some ideas we could use to seed the discussion (offer all classes pass/fail, peer support groups, Adverse Childhood Experiences screening, mentors, coaches ...), but I don't have the answers — the collective "you" does.

My hope in writing this is to inspire and empower you. I invite you to step up, unify your voices and tell us what you need. You need to speak up, and you need to keep speaking up. Because if you're not, it's all too easy for the adults to rationalize that everything is OK; that we're doing the best we can. As the CHKS data proves, everything is *not* OK. We can — and must — do better.

Dave Cortright is a member of Santa Clara County's Behavioral Health Board and a NAMI peer mentor. He welcomes your mental health story or feedback: <https://bit.ly/PASMH>. ■

Employment

Technology Product Mngr (Data/Platform)

Technology Product Manager Quicken, Inc. has an opening in Menlo Park, CA. Technology Product Mngr (Data/Platform): contribute to product roadmap, plan for cross-team dependencies & lead initiatives. Remote work may be permitted within Menlo Park area. Salary range: \$160,000 to \$200,080 per year. Submit resume (principals only) to: HR@Quicken.com Must include recruitment source + full job title in subject line. EOE



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LETTERS

Our readers write

Merging school districts is a good idea

I liked reading the headline, "To reduce inequality, locale school districts need to merge" in the May 5 issue!

During the time that I served on the Redwood City Elementary School District Board of Trustees (1974-1988), we struggled with one of the lowest revenue limits in San Mateo County. Ravenswood Elementary District was also at the bottom of the list. During that time our Superintendent Kenneth Hill suggested that all elementary districts within the Sequoia Union High School District (Belmont, San Carlos, Redwood City, Woodside, Portola Valley, Las Lomitas, Menlo Park, Ravenswood) should merge, creating one

large unified K-12 district.

As a result, all elementary school children would have the same resources (revenue limit) spent on them, no matter where they lived. I appreciated the concern expressed in the guest opinion by Henry Donald and want to thank him for his good idea. Ravenswood merging with Menlo Park would be a good start to a larger unified district.

To further the idea, local school boards would need to begin the discussion about the advantages and disadvantages of such a move, etc. It could be a model for other California districts that also suffer from inequitable funding.

Thanks for including his opinion on your editorial page. I don't hold out much hope for interest in the idea to be overwhelming, but it certainly needs to be considered. Mr. George writes that merging districts is not easy, but is

necessary and the right thing to do.

Margaret Marshall,
Redwood City

SB 9 cannot increase affordable housing

Senate Bill 9's take over of local zoning authority has hardly produced any new housing. It is time to recognize that the lack of housing here is due to the high cost of land, construction and infrastructure needed to support it.

But housing could be built within commute distances to outlying areas where housing costs are 1/3 the cost here. Highways and rail transit could be improved and built to speed commuters to these less costly housing areas. HSR funds could be re-prioritized to first build from city centers out instead of through vacant farm land.

Ed Kahl,
Whiskey Hill Road, Woodside

Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



Out in the gardens

Woodside's Filoli estate hosts a weekend of performances and special events to kick off Pride Month

By Karla Kane

June is LGBTQ+ Pride Month, and Filoli Historic House & Garden in Woodside is marking the occasion with a whole slew of Pride-themed performances, installations and more.

"It's such a joyful time," Filoli's marketing manager Dani Hielscher said. The venerable organization held its first Pride festivities in 2019 as part of a staff-driven initiative and has since made it a cherished annual tradition.

"Celebrating people and celebrating our community is a core of who we are," Hielscher said, adding that honoring Pride Month also ties fittingly into both Filoli's past and its current mission. When Filoli's last private owner Lurline Roth bequeathed the estate to the National Trust for Historic Renovation in the 1970s, it was her intention for it to become a "center for

horticulture and culture." And historically, she said, the estate's previous owners had a tradition of welcoming diverse performers and visitors into the space.

Filoli Pride kicks off this year on Friday, June 2, with "Dragtopia" — a glamorous and campy after-hours evening of fun, including drag performances by The Screaming Queens and The Rice Rockettes in the ballroom; an appearance by Cheer SF; and a poolside dance party with DJ Bear Mittens. A pop-up shop will also offer gender-inclusive high-heel shoes by Lidia Talavera ("Dragtopia" is sold out as of press time, but waiting-list sign-ups are available).

Throughout the weekend of June 3-4 (included with general admission), visitors can catch a variety of special events, including Drag Queen Storytime for kids, Mexican folk dance by Folclorico Colibri, the SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom

Band, a sound bath from Banyan Tree Women's Collective, and informational tables from local organizations including the San Mateo County Pride Center and PFLAG, LGBTQ Youth Space, and Reach and Teach at the Pool Pavilion. Queer-owned-and-operated Little Green Cyclo will offer gourmet Vietnamese street food in the Grove, while Pride-themed cocktails (and mocktails) will be available from the Bluebird Bar.

The long-running drum ensemble Queer Taiko will return to offer two performances on Saturday, June 3, at the Ballroom Terrace. The group, which keeps up a busy concert schedule around the Bay Area, has been a part of Filoli Pride since its very first year.

"It's a beautiful space. It was a new Pride celebration when they first approached us, hoping that it would be annual, and we wanted to support that," founder Kristy Oshiro said.

Taiko, a style of Japanese drumming, has ancient roots but has only existed in its contemporary ensemble form for less than a century, they said. The Hawaii-raised Oshiro, who uses they/them pronouns, started drumming as a 9-year-old, as part of a youth group affiliated with a local Zen Buddhist temple. For as long as they can remember, they were captivated by the powerful sound and feeling of the taiko drums.

"I was always drawn to it and I just never stopped," said Oshiro, who founded the Oakland-based Queer Taiko a decade ago.

"I really wanted to create a safe space for everyone to be able to learn taiko, specifically because I identify as queer, trans and nonbinary," they said. Queer Taiko is a way to "build community and visibility through something that

I love."

While the opening weekend is packed with special events, some features of Filoli Pride will continue all month. Artwork from the San Francisco-based Queer Ancestors Project, which offers art workshops to young, queer artists in printmaking, writing and queer history, will be displayed in the house, which will also host a Pride scavenger hunt; and products by queer vendors will be featured in the Clock Tower Shop.

Of course, central to any Filoli visit is an exploration of its gorgeous grounds and floral displays. Throughout June, the historic home will feature colorful, Pride-themed flower arrangements by Nigella SF, and visitors can follow a "rainbow walk" on the nature trail, stopping to learn about the colors and design of the Pride flag along the way. Rainbow ribbons of remembrance and Pride flags will also decorate the grounds and buildings.

The annual Pride celebrations have received an "overwhelmingly positive response," Hielscher said, and have also been a way of reaching new audiences as well. The goal, she said, is to send a clear message of inclusivity.

"You're welcome here, you belong here, and you're celebrated here," she said. "We're just so excited to welcome everyone."

Filoli is located at 86 Cañada Road, Woodside and regular open hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. General admission is \$34 for adults, \$24 for children 5-17 (children under 5 are free). Friday night's Dragtopia is currently sold out; email learning@filoli.org to be added to the waitlist. More information is available at filoli.org/visit/pride/. ■

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



Courtesy Krishna Farol-Schenck/Filoli

Above: Drag Queen storytime is held on the Garden House Lawn. Top: Folclorico Colibri performs Mexican folk dance at Filoli's Pride weekend. Photo courtesy Kathy King/Filoli.

Worth a Look



Courtesy chuffmedia

Singer-songwriter supergroup boygenius headlines the final day of the Re:SET music festival at Frost Amphitheatre on June 4.

Re:SET Bay Area

The headliners pick the lineups at this weekend-long music festival making its debut — in part — at Frost Amphitheater June 2-4. The inaugural Re:SET Bay Area offers a more personalized take on a music festival with three days of performances featuring three different headliners who each curated the lineup for the day they'll be taking the stage. Art rockers LCD Soundsystem headline the June 2 show, joined by evocative electronic artist Jamie xx (of The xx); gritty UK rock band IDLES; rapper Big Freedia, a trailblazer in bounce music; and experimental instrumentalist and composer L'Rain. The second day, June 3, sees singer-songwriter Steve Lacy headlining, supported by artists who draw on an array of genres, with downbeat R&B/electronic musician and producer James Blake, quirky chillwave singer Toro y Moi and high-energy rocker Foushée. Re:SET concludes June 4 with singer-songwriter supergroup boygenius at the top of the bill, and featuring fellow indie-focused acts Clairo, Dijon and Barteels Strange. In addition to Stanford, the festival is taking place in two other places simultaneously, with the lineups rotating between three cities at a time. While LCD Soundsystem kicks off Re:SET in the Bay Area, Steve Lacy and boygenius will be launching the festival in Los Angeles and San Diego, respectively. Audiences at Re:SET Bay Area can also enjoy food served up from local restaurants and vendors.

June 2-4, 4 p.m. each day at Frost Amphitheater, Stanford. Tickets start at \$129.50 per day (\$99.50/day tickets sold out as of press time). live.stanford.edu.

Fifty Years of Fine Art in Los Altos

Gallery 9 was founded in Menlo Park in 1970, but three years later, found its home in Los Altos. That appears to have been quite a good move, as the art cooperative is now celebrating half a century in Los Altos with "Fifty Years of Fine Art in Los Altos," an all members' show, kicking off with a reception on June 2. Named for the number of its founding members — nine — the gallery now boasts a membership of more than triple that figure, with about 30 artists who work in a variety of media, including painting, sculpture, printmaking, jewelry, photography, ceramics and weaving. Some of Gallery 9's earliest members still belong to the gallery and show their work.

Reception takes place June 2, 5-8 p.m. at Gallery 9, 143 Main St., Los Altos. The all-members' show runs through June 25. gallery9losaltos.com.

Magical Music and Motion Concerts in Palo Alto

A summer of music and movement returns to Magical Bridge Playground in Palo Alto. The inclusive playground's sensory-friendly concert series kicks off this Friday with the lively beats of James Henry House of Samba Kids. This interactive event focuses on using rhythm, percussion instruments and drums as tools for audiences to express themselves. The weekly concert series runs every Friday through Aug. 25 and features a variety of music, with local kids' favorites like Andy Z (June 16) and Noise Lab (July 21) as well performances from groups such as San Francisco Ballet (July 28) and Palo Alto Players (Aug. 4).

June 2, 6 p.m. at Magical Bridge Playground Palo Alto, 3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. Free. magicalbridge.org. ■

Mostly smooth sailing in West Bay Opera's 'Dutchman'

Wagner's challenging score rocks the boat, but lead voices make just the right splash

By Michael J. Vaughn

West Bay Opera's production of Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman* is a bit like an old muscle car: a little rough around the edges, but equipped with a powerful engine.

Just to rip off the Band-Aids, let's start with the complaints. The strings have a hard time keeping up with young Wagner's challenging score, notably in the overture and the first act, leading to a few off notes. Stage director Ragnar Conde doesn't fully succeed in fighting off the static nature of Wagner's libretto. Even the act three chorus scene, suitably rowdy and festive, is bedeviled by timidity in the vocal parts. And although the combination of projections and sets provide some striking images, Peter Crompton's design sometimes seemed cluttered, as if it were attempting to deliver too many messages all at once.

There now. Feel better? Let's head on to the good stuff. Tenor Salvatore Atti provides immediate vocal pastries with his lovely lyric reading of "Mit Gewitter und Sturm aus fernem Meer," a simple and sweet song to his faraway beloved. Whereupon he drifts off to sleep (because he's a terrible night watchman), and continues to drowse through the arrival of a ghostly ship with flame-red sails and black masts (vividly portrayed through projections by Peter Crompton and Frederic O. Boulay). Disembarking from that ship is a figure in black, *The Flying Dutchman*, and it's then that the fireworks begin.

I saw baritone Robert Balonek last month in the brief role of Angelotti in Opera San Jose's "Tosca," and I know I wasn't the only one who wished he had more stage time. Here, he opens with thunder, lightning and a superbly rich voice that delivers the depth of a bass-baritone. The Dutchman's opening monologue is a 6/8 *Allegro molto agitato*, "Wie off in Meeres tiefsten Schlund," that uses the orchestra to play the part of a frightening seastorm. Balonek sang of his curse with such fervor I wondered if he could maintain such energy through the rest of the opera. (FYI, the Dutchman has been cursed by the devil to sail the world's oceans for all eternity, but every seven years he's granted a single day on land to find a woman who will remain faithful to him till death.)

The Norwegian captain Daland (baritone Joshua Hughes) is spooked by the mysterious new

arrival, but when he discovers the man is filthy rich and interested in marrying his daughter Senta, he's thrilled. It's quite a coincidence that Senta just happens to be obsessed with the *Flying Dutchman*, in a Swiftie fangirl sort of way. Soprano Meredith Bloomfield, just as powerful a singer as Balonek, relates the tale of the Dutchman to her sailor's-wife cohorts, giving a wide-eyed fascination to her performance, and declares that she means to be the instrument of the poor man's salvation.

And then, of course, the Dutchman himself walks through the door, already having won the promise of Senta's hand in marriage. This entrance is made magic by Balonek's Eastwoodian presence and a thick silence, broken only by a few beats from the timpani. What follows is a seminar in how to fall in love on purpose in 15 minutes. The match of the two strong voices is divine, particularly in the duet cadenzas, completely unaccompanied, the singers signaling each other with facial expressions and nods. The dance of the Dutchman and Senta is an exquisite scene, and a prefiguration of what Wagner would carry to incredible extremes in "Tristan und Isolde."

I always feel a bit sorry for whoever plays Erik, Senta's soon-to-be ex-boyfriend. I'm sure he's an excellent huntsman, and great at barbecues, but it's clear that Senta has a missionary complex and you're just not going to win a pity contest with a guy who's been damned to spend all eternity sailing the seven seas. Tenor John Kun Park can always console himself with the fact that he possesses a fine lirico spinto, and gets to sing Erik's (predictably foreboding) *Dream Narration*, the most advanced composition in the opera.

The backstage men's chorus did an excellent job of providing the disembodied voices of the ghost ship crew (with sound designer Giselle Lee) as they terrorize the wedding feast. Also (Spoiler alert!), the projections accomplish what few productions manage, sending the suicide Senta off to the heavens to be with her finally liberated Dutchman.

8 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday at Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. \$35-\$92. wbopera.org, 650-424-9999. Masks required. ■

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

Food & Drink

SIX POP-UP SPOTS ENRICHING THE PENINSULA'S DINING SCENE



Offerings range from Mexico City-style tacos in Redwood City to yakitori at local breweries

By Kate Bradshaw

Across the Peninsula, food trucks and pop-ups are, well, popping up all over the place. From yakitori-grilled skewers prepared at local breweries to regionally ranked tacos in a Redwood City parking lot, there's an abundance of good food being made outside of traditional restaurant spaces on the Peninsula. Here are five pop-ups and a food truck to consider scoping out.

OKIBIYAKI KIKUCHI, VARIOUS LOCATIONS

This yakitori charcoal grill pop-up by 25-year restaurant veteran Yuji Kikuchi specializes in grilled meat and vegetable skewers cooked up at local breweries, including Alpha Acid Brewing, ShaKa Brewing and Steel Bonnet Brewing.

In 2022, Kikuchi started catering and making bento boxes. About four months ago, he began working with breweries to offer pop-up grilling.

"Most of what motivates me is that I get overwhelmed with compliments from my customers," he

said in an Instagram message.

The meat menu consists of momo shio, or chicken thigh, with salt on the skin; pork belly with onion; salted gizzard; tsukune, a chicken-pork meatball with yakitori sauce; and hatsu, salted chicken hearts. Veggies include grilled king oyster mushrooms with garlic soy sauce, seared fried tofu with a citrus soy sauce, and grilled shishito peppers. The menu also includes a gua bao bun, served with a chicken and pork meatball and purple cabbage coleslaw, mozzarella onigiri — a cheese-stuffed rice ball — and a lamb chop marinated in rice bran.

The pop-up's mission is to offer "delight in every bite that's both healthy and delicious," according to its website.

Okibiyaki Kikuchi, Instagram: @okibiyaki_kikuchi.

GIBRALTAR GEMS, HALF MOON BAY

Gibraltar Gems pops up at Jettywave Distillery in Half Moon Bay Friday through

Sunday and the first Thursday of each month.

The weekend Mediterranean restaurant is the latest by chef Jose Luis Ugalde, who with his wife Liam Durkee ran Coastside eateries Cafe Gibraltar and Chez Shea for years. The couple sold the restaurants to spend more time with their children, and Ugalde went to work as a chef at Oracle.

When COVID-19 hit and the need for on-site office lunches evaporated, he was sent home from work. One of his children got a job at Jettywave Distillery, which didn't serve food at the time. Due to the state's pandemic policies that were in place, the distillery wasn't able to open to customers without serving food. So he offered to prepare some meze platters to allow the distillery to serve customers. Since then, the menu has continued to develop and expand, and the restaurant is open primarily on weekends while Ugalde



Above: Stuffed figs with goat cheese, topped with a balsamic glaze, are served at Gibraltar Gems in Half Moon Bay. Courtesy Kimberly Weaver. Top: Skewers from Okibiyaki Kikuchi, a pop-up restaurant, are grilled at various Peninsula breweries. Courtesy Okibiyaki Kikuchi via Instagram.

See **POP-UP SPOTS**, page 22

POP-UP SPOTS

continued from page 21

continues to cater during the week.

“The way it’s going, everybody’s happy,” he said.

One thing he wants to highlight is the seasonality of the Mediterranean menu. On the current menu is a mesquite-grilled local king salmon, served with freekeh, arugula, tamarind and a moonshine glaze, as well as beef, chicken or cauliflower skewers served with lemongrass and coconut rice and crisp Asian salad. The menu also includes bobotie, a South African dish made with layers of cooked meat, curry and other seasonings and cooked with an egg custard topping. They also offer an antipasto platter with marinated beets, mozzarella, olives and roasted vegetables and mushrooms. The dessert menu includes a cherry-berry cobbler, flourless chocolate cake and a lemon blueberry tart. And there are often new specials depending on what’s available, Ugalde said.

Gibraltar Gems, weekends at Jettywave Distillery, 155 Broadway, Half Moon Bay, Instagram: @gibraltargems.

EL PAISA BY LOS ALEGRES, REDWOOD CITY

Situated in the parking lot in front of Outdoor Supply Hardware near the Redwood City Costco, El Paisa by Los Alegres offers Mexico City-style tacos to busy shoppers. The food truck recently joined Off the Grid, and its tacos were recently ranked among the top in the Bay Area by the San Francisco Chronicle.

Led by Jose Lasandro and Rudy Morales, the food truck opened about six months ago, according to Lasandro’s nephew, Gerardo, who was helping with the cooking during a recent visit. Taquerias are a family business for Lasandro, who says he learned the craft from his father in Mexico City. With 20 years of experience himself, he says that working to open the taco truck in the U.S. has meant being on a long waitlist, dealing with permits and bureaucracy, and having to build up a customer base from scratch.

While it helps that Redwood City has a significant Mexican population, he says, that means he’s also been having to compete with a lot of other taquerias in town. He says they’re working to stand out with their friendly service and menu, which offers al pastor, lengua, quesabirria and suadero tacos, burritos, and papas locas, among a range of other Mexico City-style dishes. I ordered the fish tacos, which included juicy fish pieces placed atop warm corn tortillas loaded

with purple cabbage, red peppers, tomato and a piquant chiptle sauce.

“We make everything from scratch. Everything is fresh,” Lasandro said. “We have a lot of passion for the business.”

El Paisa by Los Alegres, 2110 Middlefield Road, Redwood City, Instagram: @elpaisabylosalegres.

Open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday.

OCEAN MALASADA COMPANY, SAN MATEO

The family-run Ocean Malasada Company holds weekly pop-ups at Takahashi Market in San Mateo. According to a spokesperson, the malasada makers have had connections to the market since the company was started by couple Randy and Dee Santos in San Francisco in 2016, using flavors made with ingredients purchased from the market — for instance, the crumble is made with School



Kine cookies, a Hawaiian brand. Their malasadas are hand-rolled and come in a wide range of flavors, such as guava, lilikoi, sweet cream, matcha and Nutella. Ocean Malasada Company also posts a preorder link on its Instagram account. *Ocean Malasada Company at Takahashi Market, 221 S Claremont St., San Mateo, Fridays from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Instagram: @oceanmalasadaco.*

NACHOZ, SANTA CLARA

Nachoz, a pop-up offering homemade nachos, sets up shop at Taplands in Santa Clara from 4-9 p.m. every Thursday, with other weekly pop-ups in San Francisco and San Jose. San José resident Anthony Vallarta said he started the business during the pandemic as a side hobby, and the venture took off.

A longtime fan of nachos who had a hard time finding ones he liked, Vallarta says he cuts and

fries his own chips, marinates and cuts the meats, and tops the nachos with his wife’s homemade cheese sauce recipe — which the couple has refined over the past 12 years since they made their first homemade nacho cheese sauce for a Super Bowl party.

“These are not your average nachos,” he says.

Among the nacho varieties on offer have been smoked brisket, pulled pork, Philly cheesesteak, tri-tip, chicken, chorizo, and carnitas nachos. Additional toppings include a spicy jalapeño cheddar sauce and white cheese sauce. Vallarta says he’s working to get a food truck up by the end of the year.

Nachoz at Taplands Thursdays from 4-9 p.m., 1171 Homestead Road, Santa Clara, Instagram: @ournachoz.

MANGIA, PACIFICA

Started by two sisters last May, Mangia offers farm-to-table pop-up brunch and cocktails. They’ve



Above: Grilled cauliflower with peanut sauce is served at Gibraltar Gems in Half Moon Bay. Courtesy Kimberly Weaver. Top: The fish tacos from El Paisa by Los Alegres are topped with colorful vegetables and served on a humble paper plate. Photo by Kate Bradshaw. Left: Ocean Malasadas Co. offers weekly pop-ups at Takahashi Market in San Mateo. Courtesy Ocean Malasadas Co.

so far worked with Pacifica locations like Table Wine and A Grape in the Fog. For Mother’s Day, they offered a brunch box for two with items including quiche, potato salad, pickled vegetables, a “sort-of-Waldorf” salad, a crumble with farmers market berries, and fermented hot sauce. They also sold a pastry box with a curry scone, chocolate banana bread, a lemon bar, a

panettone cookie, seasonal jam and homemade butter. All of its ingredients are sourced locally and made in-house. Check their Instagram for the latest updates. *Mangia, Instagram: @mangiabrunchpopup.* ■

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

Kerwin
Cowperthwaite
Group

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