

The Almanac

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

JULY 7, 2023 | VOL. 58 NO. 44



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Celebrating July 4th at the Woodside Junior Rodeo



Lizzy Myers

Rodeo contestants ride through the arena during the Grand Entry at the 71st annual Junior Rodeo in Woodside on July 4. See more photos on page 12.

State budget proposes funds for Black history museum in East Palo Alto, senior housing in North Fair Oaks

Sen. Josh Becker said spending plan includes about \$10M for projects in his Peninsula district

By Gennady Sheyner

After grappling with a \$30.7-billion deficit, California lawmakers approved last week a budget that includes additional funding for

child care and climate change initiatives and struggling public transportation agencies.

The \$311.7-billion budget also includes \$10 million for various local projects in the Peninsula district represented by Sen. Josh

Becker, D-Menlo Park, a list that includes \$2 million for a permanent Black history museum in East Palo Alto; \$1 million for an affordable senior-housing project that is being developed by the Palo Alto-based nonprofit

Alta Housing in North Fair Oaks; and \$1 million to bolster protection for mobile home parks in a flood-prone section of Redwood City, Becker announced Wednesday, June 28.

The new Domini Hoskins

Black History Museum would be constructed on land owned by the Ravenswood City School District and would be part of a broader redevelopment of the

See **STATE BUDGET**, page 16

INSIDE

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- Coverage of Youth and Education
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- Feature Story
- In-Depth Reporting
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- Investigative Reporting
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HERE'S WHAT SOME OF THE JUDGES OF THE
2022 CALIFORNIA JOURNALISM AWARDS ARE SAYING ABOUT OUR WORK —

An inquiry into the accidental death of an electrical worker, finding significant culpability on the part of Palo Alto. The level of well-documented detail was exceptional, especially given the lack of cooperation from a range of rejected sources. Meticulous work.

— First Place, Investigative Reporting

Comprehensive. Balanced and readable article that fully explains, with well-chosen quotes, the reasons for the city's and the business owners' views on a development of interest to residents.

— Second Place,
Coverage of Business
and The Economy

Great story, well told. This piece had RHNA numbers explained, NIMBYism on parade, attorneys and former elected official behaving badly — just great work.

— First Place, Coverage of Local Government

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The **Almanac**

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Local News

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Magali Gauthier

Engineers at NASA Ames in Mountain View test out the space agency's first robotic moon rover on June 28. Dubbed VIPER, it's slated to study lunar ice on a mission next year.

Engineers test out NASA's first robotic moon rover at Ames in Mountain View

The rover is set to head to the moon in late 2024

By Malea Martin

NASA's first-ever robotic moon rover is preparing to head to space next year to study lunar water ice, and engineers at Ames Research Center in Mountain View are busy getting it ready to make the voyage.

Engineers tested out the rover on June 28 at NASA Ames, carefully guiding it down a

landing ramp just like it will eventually do on the moon. The NASA robot is called VIPER (Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover), and will use an Astrobotic-made lander to get from the rocket to the moon once it lands. The mission is slated for November 2024.

Astrobotic Mission Director Hahna Alexander told this news organization that

engineers must practice navigating all the things that could possibly go wrong while the rover egresses the rocket upon reaching the moon.

"We can stack a couple of different worst cases — things like various slopes, whether or not the ramp lands in a minor crater, or if one of the ramps gets stuck between a large

See **MOON ROVER**, page 15

Teaching the other half of American history

Two Atherton teachers work to put women back into AP U.S. history lessons

By Michaela Seah

Two longtime teachers at Sacred Heart Preparatory in Atherton are petitioning the College Board to add an Advanced Placement class in U.S. Women's History which would include a new AP test on the subject.

Kirsten Kelly and Serene Williams first started teaching a women's history class

at Sacred Heart a decade ago. Then, they received a grant from Harvard University's Schlesinger Library to add some women-authored readings to the existing advanced placement (AP) U.S. government class, as all the required readings determined by the College Board were written by men.

"Women were only a sidebar of information," Kelly said. "Even in the Bay Area, highly

educated people only know those five or six women they learned about."

After conducting research to add more material for the AP U.S. Government class, they realized that women's history needed to be its own class and got to work creating a curriculum.

The petition, which is being promoted by Kelly and Williams

See **HISTORY**, page 8

New state law makes it easier to purge 'whites-only' language from property deeds

How to find and remove outdated and illegal racial restrictions

By Ann Galvan

When Leslie Wambach was house hunting on the Midpeninsula in 2003, she thought she had discovered the perfect home in the perfect neighborhood. The house in the residential community of Ladera was surprisingly affordable compared to most others in the area, and the neighborhood was scenic, rural-feeling and close to the conveniences of neighboring Portola Valley. But then she discovered something that gave her pause: The property deed contained restrictions from an earlier era prohibiting anyone who wasn't "Caucasian or white race" — except for "domestic servants of any race" — from owning or occupying land in the neighborhood.

Although these types of covenants were outlawed in 1948 and are no longer enforceable, its presence on her property deed raised concerns about the origins of these racial restrictions and their possible hurtful impact on residents today.

"You know, it really made my family question whether or not we should be moving to Ladera at the time," Wambach said. "When you see something like that out of the blue, you're just really taken aback and you really don't know, well ... why is it there? How did it get there?"

She and her family ultimately moved into the neighborhood.

"Given how hard it is to find the right home for your family around here at a price you can afford, we decided, 'OK, we're going to move forward,'" Wambach said. "But I said to myself, 'You know, I'm going to try to see at some point if we can do away with this.'"

In 2020, nearly two decades after moving into her home, Wambach and her neighbors petitioned the state and successfully had the racist language removed from all 534 property

deeds in Ladera. This required the arduous task of collecting notarized signatures from two-thirds of all property owners named on the deeds, or about 700 people.

Since then, California has taken steps to remove racist language from its property deeds. In July 2022, a new state law went into effect requiring all counties to locate and redact property deeds containing racist language. The law also allows anyone who finds language in a property deed that prohibits the sale of that property to someone because of their race to require the county to remove it.

Over the past 12 months, counties across the state have been working to put processes in place to purge property deeds of these covenants.

San Mateo and Santa Clara counties are using optical character recognition to convert scanned or photographed text images into digital text that can be edited and searched, and Santa Clara County has teamed up with Stanford University to use AI to find and remove the racist language. Both counties are on track to review and remove racist language from all official land documents — which number in the tens of millions — by the end of 2027. In addition, some individual property owners in both counties have petitioned to have their deeds amended.

The existence of unlawful covenants is widespread on documents throughout the state because, until now, there has been no process in place to remove the outdated language. These types of deeds were pervasive enough at one time that title companies now provide a written blanket disclaimer to homebuyers that their property documents "may include" racist language if the property was recorded with any type of

See **PROPERTY DEEDS**, page 14

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NEWSROOM**Senior Editor**

Andrea Gemmet, 223-6537,
agemmet@almanacnews.com

Staff Writers

Cameron Rebosio, 223-6536
Angela Swartz, 223-6529

Audience Engagement Editor

Jamey Padojino, 223-6524, jpadojino@almanacnews.com

Home/Real Estate Editor Linda Taaffe,
223-6511, ltaaffe@almanacnews.com

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Heather Zimmerman, 223-6515,
hzimmerman@almanacnews.com

Features Editor Julia Brown, 223-6531,
jbrown@almanacnews.com

Food Editor Kate Bradshaw, 223-6527,
kbradshaw@almanacnews.com

**Audience Engagement Assistant
Editor/Visual Journalist** Magali Gauthier
223-6530, mgauthier@almanacnews.com

**Audience Engagement Assistant
Editor** Zoe Morgan, 223-6519, zmorgan@almanacnews.com

Embarcadero Media Staff Writers

Sue Dremann, 223-6518
Avery Luke, 223-6533
Malea Martin, 223-6516
Zoe Morgan, 223-6519
Gennady Sheyner, 223-6513

Editorial Intern

Michaela Seah, mseah@almanacnews.com

Contributors Kate Daly, Maggie Mah

DESIGN & PRODUCTION

Design and Production Manager
Kristin Brown, 223-6562

Designers Linda Atilano, Paul Llewellyn,
Mary Watanabe, Doug Young

ADVERTISING

Display Advertising Sales 223-6570

Real Estate Manager Neal Fine, 223-6583

ADVERTISING SERVICES

Advertising Services Manager
Kevin Legarda, 223-6597

Sales & Production Coordinator
Diane Martin, 223-6584

The Almanac is published every Friday at
**3525 Alameda De Las Pulgas,
Menlo Park, CA 94025**

■ **Newsroom:** (650) 223-6525
Newsroom Fax: (650) 223-7525

■ **Email news** and photos with captions
to: Editor@AlmanacNews.com

■ **Email letters** to:
Letters@AlmanacNews.com

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Courtesy photo

A heritage tree fell in Holbrook-Palmer Park over the weekend.

Massive oak tree topples in Atherton park

By Angela Swartz

A massive heritage oak tree, cordoned off with caution tape for months in Atherton's Holbrook-Palmer Park, fell during the weekend of June 30.

The tree, a *Quercus lobata* or Valley Oak located close to the entrance to the park, is on its side. The town's logo is based on this species of tree, according to Town Arborist Sally Bentz-Dalton.

Removal was set to begin on Thursday morning, July 6, according to City Manager George Rodericks.

"We were aware that it (the tree) was leaning heavily and

may be in declining health," he said in an email. "We taped it off to keep its perimeter clear."

Workers will be saving a section of the trunk for possible reuse, he said.

The 52" in diameter tree was infected with *Ganoderma* fungi, a wood-decaying fungus, according to Bentz-Dalton.

"There was a request in for this tree to be pruned to lighten the weight on the lean side," she said in an email. "The weight of the new foliage along with the lean and decay are why the tree failed at the trunk." ■

Email Staff Writer

Angela Swartz at aswartz@almanacnews.com.

Cal Fire conducts 'historic' prescribed burn at Filoli Estate

By Angela Swartz

CAL Fire CZU conducted two prescribed fires in San Mateo County on Friday, June 30, to reduce fire danger in the area. The first took place on 5-acres of the face of the San Andreas Dam west of Interstate 280 near San Bruno. The second was on 20-acres of grassland at Filoli Estate in Woodside, according to a county news alert.

"The historic prescribed fire at Filoli Historic House & Garden has begun," said Cal Fire CZU in a June 30 Instagram post. "We say 'historic' because this is the (first) time we've burned at this location in recent decades. It's been a moist (and) foggy year

so we're excited to pull this off and help protect San Mateo County."

Filoli Historic House and Garden remained open during the burns. Both prescribed burns were completed by 1:30 p.m. June 30, according to Cal Fire spokesperson Cecile Juliette.

"Both fires went very well," she said.

Smoke was visible from Woodside, Belmont, Burlingame, Emerald Hills, San Carlos, Devonshire, San Bruno, and parts of Highway 280 in San Mateo County. There was extensive fire equipment on scene, according to the alert. ■

Email Staff Writer

Angela Swartz at aswartz@almanacnews.com.

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Environmental Protection Agency invests more than \$50M to protect San Francisco Bay

Millions allocated to Santa Clara and San Mateo counties for cleanup and wetlands improvements

By Sue Dremann

San Mateo and Santa Clara counties will receive millions of dollars in grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as part of a nearly \$52 million funding allocation to protect San Francisco Bay, including to restore 8 acres of transitional habitat at the Regional Water Quality Control Plant in Palo Alto and to construct the first shoreline horizontal levee on the bay using nature-based solutions.

The announcement came during a June 28 event in Oakland that included the U.S. Rep. Barbara Lee and project grantees. The 24 selected projects will help protect and restore wetlands and water quality, build climate change resilience, and

increase environmental benefits with a focus on underserved communities in the nine Bay Area counties.

San Francisco Bay is a designated “estuary of national significance” under the federal Clean Water Act. The bay and its tributary streams, situated in an urban area with more than 7 million people, provide crucial fish and wildlife habitat as part of the larger Bay-Delta Estuary, the EPA said in a statement.

The project for Palo Alto’s baylands will be funded through a \$4.3 million grant to the San Francisco Estuary Partnership. The grant will be used to promote planning and design, implementation and monitoring of nature-based solutions as opposed to hard construction in communities across the San

Francisco Bay area.

“Approximately \$2.1 million will be used for construction of the Palo Alto horizontal levee project. The city of Palo Alto is providing \$3.2 million in matching funds. Some of the remaining EPA grant funds will go to a local community-based organization, Nuestra Casa, for associated community stewardship and monitoring activities,” the Estuary Partnership stated in an email.

Another nonprofit, the San Francisco Estuary Institute, received \$7.6 million in grants. One grant will address high-priority pollution data gaps through information collection and modeling to improve PCB and nutrient management for San Francisco Bay. A second grant will fund pilot sediment

reuse projects to help restore several acres of tidal marsh, transition zones and riparian habitat in the watersheds of the Petaluma River, Rheem Creek and Lower Adobe Creek, and Stevens Creek; the latter two are in Santa Clara County.

Palo Alto-based Acterra: Action for a Healthy Planet received \$358,708 to create climate change resilience in two underserved communities of San Mateo County. The Belle Haven and North Fair Oaks neighborhoods will receive training, community-led vulnerability assessments, and a feasibility analysis for nature-based solutions that enhance water quality and climate justice.

Other projects throughout both counties received sizable grants. Santa Clara Valley Water

District received a \$3.8 million grant to support the design and permitting to reconnect San Tomas Aquino and Calabazas creeks to the former salt ponds. The effort will restore approximately 1,800 acres of tidal marsh and enhance 50 acres of fresh/brackish marsh.

The district will also receive \$3 million to support cleanups of trash in encampments, debris and hazardous pollutants in nine Santa Clara County creeks, with the expected result of

2,000 tons of trash removed and 4,000 square feet of creek-bank rehabilitated.

In a statement, Valley Water said the Calabazas San Tomas Aquino Creek Marsh Connection project is expected

See **BAY PROTECTION**, page 11

Menlo Park budget gap grows to \$1 million

Mayor: ‘Drawing down reserves is not a long-term strategy’

By Cameron Rebosio

The Menlo Park City Council approved a \$76.1 million budget with a \$1 million deficit for the coming fiscal year at a June 27 meeting in a 3-0 vote with Vice Mayor Cecilia Taylor and Council member Drew Combs absent.

The city is planning for \$76.1 million in expenses and only \$75.1 million in revenue, causing a \$1 million deficit, up slightly from \$0.96 million when the council discussed it last month. Part of shortfall can be attributed to the city paying down its pension liability. City staff plan to balance the budget using the \$36 million general fund reserve, but the City Council is still searching for ways to increase revenue that would allow Menlo Park to avoid drawing down its reserves.

Environmental Quality Commission member Jeff Schmidt encouraged the council to approve money for the Urban Forest Master Plan, which he says focuses on reducing the disparity in the number across neighborhoods. The plan focuses on the Belle Haven neighborhood where air quality has consistently been the worst in Menlo Park and has the highest rate of asthma among residents, three times higher than that of other neighborhoods.

“It’s asthma and air quality as key issues, it’s a heating and cooling issue, it’s a quality of life issue, and finally, it’s a climate

issue.” Schmidt said. “So with a small investment, it has multiple benefits.”

Concern about the deficit swirled during the meeting, with Mayor Jen Wolosin worrying about the future of the city’s general fund.

“We’re either going to need to make some big cuts, or we’re gonna need to find more revenue, or some combination of the two, because drawing down reserves is not a long-term strategy,” Wolosin said.

She said that when looking to cut items from the budget, they would be “painful expenses” since the city has obligations to budget items that maintain safety and the quality of life in Menlo Park. The cuts would likely come from “fun things that we as residents like to have in our city.”

One of the reasons the council is struggling to make ends meet is the loss of revenue from Menlo Park’s Utility User Tax (UUT) which was struck down by a class-action lawsuit. In April, a San Mateo County Superior Court judge issued a tentative ruling that Menlo Park failed to make the necessary findings to continue legally collecting the tax from residents. The council failed to make findings in 2016, 2018 and 2020 showing that the tax was vital to the city’s financial health, which it was required to do, according to the court. The city also has an initial estimate of \$4.5 million in refunds it must make

to residents who paid UUT in those years.

Wolosin suggested that city staff pursue a community survey on what services residents would be willing to sacrifice or what methods of generating revenue they would be willing to support. City staff is looking into an increased transient occupancy tax (TOT), which is currently 12%, by 1% to 3.5% to match those of other cities in the Bay Area. The revenue from the higher hotel tax could bring in an additional \$875,000 to \$3 million annually, according to a June 13 staff report.

Wolosin said that in a survey, she’d be interested in asking residents their thoughts on introducing an updated UUT and Council member Maria Doerr said the same. The council held off on specifying what questions should be a part of the survey, since only three of the five members of the City Council were present for the meeting.

Removed from the Menlo Park Police Department budget was a startup cost of nearly \$285,000 for Flock license plate reader cameras. The cameras were to be installed at several locations around the city and include gunshot detection. Doerr said she was interested in looking into Flock cameras, as residents had reached out to her about the perceived benefits of the cameras, such as identifying thieves. Doerr said that the cameras come at a lower cost than hiring one

new police officer. The Flock contract will come back to the City Council for a future study session.

The updated budget included revisions from the June 13 meeting, including a salary schedule amendment for a 3% pay increase for the Police Officers’ Association and Police Sergeants’ Association, which began July 2. City staff also added an extension of the rate

assistance pilot program for utility bills including trash and water service, through June 30, 2024. Through the rate assistance program residents can receive a monthly discount for trash pickup and water rates if they’re enrolled in the PG&E CARE program. ■

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

REAL ESTATE Q&A

by Monica Corman

Do You Have a Shake Roof?



Dear Monica: We just got a Notice of Nonrenewal from our insurance carrier because we have a wood shake roof. We got a new composition roof two years ago and are not in a Wildland Fire area. Is this a new standard? Stephen G.

Dear Stephen: Yes, wood shake roofs are considered fire hazards wherever they are located and insurance companies are ceasing to cover them. Cities have made requirements for building new shake roofs more stringent than before. If homeowners know they might lose fire coverage, these roofs will be less popular.

If you change your roof from wood to composition, let your insurance company know and send them paid receipts and photographs of your home to support this.

Contact me at monica@monicacorman.com: Office: 650-465-5971, COMPASS. WSJ Nationally Ranked. Real Trends Bay Area Top 100 Agents

Gov. Newsom touts aircraft, satellites, AI investments for wildfire season

By Olivia Wynkoop

As California braces for peak wildfire season, Gov. Gavin Newsom joined state fire officials Thursday, June 29, to highlight new fire suppression equipment and technology and also remind residents that wildfires are still inevitable despite record rain and snow levels.

Newsom said that Californians are living in a “new reality” where past predictive models are no longer indicators of how to prepare for wildfire seasons. In the past four years, the state faced two historically damaging wildfire seasons and two moderate seasons, he said.

“We’re here mindful that we need to do things differently,” Newsom said at a news

conference in Nevada County.

Newsom said after recently adding 1,350 new fire crew positions, the state also plans to beef up its fleet of suppression tools, like Firehawk helicopters, which are equipped with night vision.

The state is also deploying new intelligence systems that use infrared technology, accessing more satellites and adding 100 mountaintop cameras, among other methods to better map and predict fire movement.

It’s tempting to think that this winter’s historic rain and snow levels means California’s wildfire season this year will be mild. But it’s a lot more complicated than that, said Cal Fire Director/Fire Chief Joe Tyler.

Tyler said that across California, the number of fires decreased in the early season due

to winter rains. But rainfall has also made new vegetation spring up, which is now dried up and ready to burn as temperatures get hotter.

Not to mention, dead vegetation from years of drought still lingers in state forests, which does not go away in just a single year of good rainfall levels, he said.

“Wildfires are a fact in California. It’s not a question of if, it’s a matter of when that fire is going to strike,” Tyler said. “It’s extremely important that we are all prepared as we enter the holiday weekend and throughout the 2023 fire year.”

Nancy Ward, director of the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services, said that this year, California is best positioned to fight fires out of

anywhere in the country, due to strong partnerships and extensive preparation.

Ward added that the state has allocated hundreds of millions of dollars toward community hardening practices via the Listos California program, which has prepared over 1 million Californians for disasters in less than a year of outreach work.

“While California may lead in the uniqueness of disasters, we do have the benefit of the best trained, the best equipped and the most tested first responders anywhere in the world,” she said.

During Thursday’s news conference, Cal Fire helicopter program Chief Pilot Benjamin Berman introduced the department’s newest aerial resource in its fleet — the S70i Cal Fire Hawk. Outfitted by United Rotorcraft, the aircraft will provide a 300% increase in fire suppressant capacity and a 30% faster response time to delivering fire suppressant. It is suitable for wildfire response both day and night, as well as air rescues and vegetation management without additional configuration, he said.

Cal Fire has secured an additional 24 firefighting aircraft to improve their response efforts due to a \$74 million allocation from the state.

“Ground crews from Cal Fire and our interagency and local government partners control, contain and extinguish wildfires,” Berman said. “But the Cal Fire Hawk behind us provides them the essential tools in achieving that objective.”

Nevada County Supervisor Lisa Swarthout said recent Cal Fire investments will make a significant difference between life and death during wildfire season. In May, the county accepted a \$1.7 million Cal Fire grant that will reduce fuels along evacuation routes and wildland urban interface.

“The historic investment from the state of California has allowed Cal Fire to create the largest firefighting force in our state’s history, and for this, we are very grateful,” Swarthout said.

Residents can find educational information on how to reduce wildfire risks at their local fire station or by visiting fire.ca.gov/prepare. ■

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BY THE WOODSIDE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held for the Woodside Fire Protection District Board of Directors to consider enacting the following proposed ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE WOODSIDE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ADOPTING THE 2022 CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE (BASED ON THE 2021 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE), INCLUDING APPENDICES B, BB C, CC, D, L AND P ONLY, WITH LOCAL AMENDMENTS, ADOPTING THE 2021 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE CODE, INCLUDING APPENDICES A THROUGH D ONLY, ADOPTING FINDINGS SUPPORTING THE LOCAL AMENDMENTS, ADOPTING A FINDING THAT THE ORDINANCE IS EXEMPT FROM REVIEW UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT, AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 12.

The proposed ordinance is also identified as Fire Code Ordinance 13-2023.

All interested persons are invited to attend the Public Hearing and be heard on this matter. The Public Hearing will take place on July 25, 2023, at 7:00 PM at 808 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028. This meeting will be conducted in a hybrid format, and the public may also attend this meeting virtually. Details on participating by Zoom or other virtual format will be available on the published July 25, 2023 agenda for the Board of Directors meeting.

SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE: Every three years, new editions of the state building codes are published. The new codes and local amendments reflect changes in technology, fire safety techniques, and the building industry. These codes became the minimum standards for the State of California on January 1, 2023. The proposed ordinance also reflects local amendments with more restrictive building standards reasonably necessary because of local climactic, geological, or topographical conditions. By adopting the proposed ordinance, the Woodside Fire Protection District will be enforcing a code that is consistent with state regulations. Under state law, after the first reading of the title of the proposed ordinance, which occurred on June 13, 2023, the District is required to hold a public hearing before the proposed ordinance is adopted (Government Code § 50022.3). After the hearing, the Board of Directors may amend, adopt, or reject the proposed ordinance.

CEQA DETERMINATION: The Board of Directors will consider adopting a finding that the proposed ordinance is exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

All interested parties are encouraged and invited to submit written comments regarding the proposed environmental finding and/or the merits of the proposed ordinance prior to the hearing or participate in the public hearing. Reasonable accommodations will be made to individuals with disabilities. To submit comments electronically, please forward them to djbullard@woodsidefire.org. To submit comments via U.S. Mail, please forward them to the Woodside Fire Protection District Fire Marshal to arrive no later than 5:00 p.m. one day prior to the meeting at the following address: 808 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028.

Please note that any challenge of the proposed action in court may be limited to addressing only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence submitted to the Woodside Fire Protection District Fire Marshal at, or prior to, the public hearing.

The proposed Fire Code Ordinance 13-2023 is available for review online at <https://www.woodsidefire.org/board/meeting-agendas/2023>. A certified copy of the proposed Fire Code Ordinance 13-2023 is also available upon request by contacting the District Office, at (650) 851-1594, 808 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028. Copies of the 2022 edition of the California Fire Code, the 2021 edition of the International Fire Code, the 2021 edition of the International Wildland Urban Interface Code, and all associated appendices and referenced codes and materials, are on file at the District Office, 808 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028 and are available for public inspection.

Run Dates: July 7, 2023 and July 14, 2023

HISTORY

continued from page 5

as well as a team of students, has garnered over 1,600 signatures as of July 3. The team plans to promote the class at events such as the annual National Council for the Social Studies conference and the annual American Historical Association conference.

High school students can earn college credits by taking AP classes and scoring well on the standardized test that accompanies the course.

Their proposed curriculum has an intersectional lens that includes lessons about women of color, reproductive rights and LGBTQ+ figures. Because of this, there are concerns that the proposed class could face pushback from

Republican-led states like Florida, where courses such as AP African American studies are being restricted from being taught at schools.

Williams and Kelly said they are undeterred.

“A lot of people are focusing on the aversions, but there is a big interest and I think that we will persevere,” Williams said.

“It’s unbelievable that in 2023 women are not half of the historical curriculum,” Kelley said. “They have always been half of the human experience and historical narrative.”

The petition and information about the proposed curriculum are online at womenshistoryinhighschool.com. ■

*Email Editorial Intern
Michaela Seah at mseah@almanacnews.com*



Courtesy Kristen Kelly

Sacred Heart Preparatory teachers Kirsten Kelly, left, and Serene Williams have been working to create a curriculum for an advanced placement U.S. women’s history class.



YOUR NEW HOME AWAITS

121 PARK AVENUE
PALO ALTO



\$4,488,000 | 5 Bd | 4.5 Bth
121ParkAve.com

1120 MAY BROWN AVENUE
MENLO PARK



\$3,988,000 | 3 Bd | 3 Bth
1120MayBrown.com

1321 HARKER AVENUE
PALO ALTO



\$7,988,000 | 5 Bd | 4.5 Bth
1321Harker.com

1546 COUNTRY CLUB DR
LOS ALTOS



\$5,988,000 | 5 Bd | 4 Bth
1546CountryClub.com

10888 MAGDALENA ROAD
LOS ALTOS HILLS



\$6,988,000 | 5 Bd | 5 Bth
10888MagdalenaRd.com

50 CRESCENT DRIVE
PALO ALTO



\$11,988,000 | 5 Bd | 4.5 Bth
50CrescentDr.com

69 YALE ROAD
MENLO PARK



\$8,488,000 | 5 Bd | 7.5 Bth
69Yale.com

95 WISTERIA WAY
ATHERTON



\$6,988,000 | 5 Bd | 4 Bth
95Wisteria.com

1932 EMERSON STREET
PALO ALTO



\$11,650,000 | 6 Bd | 6 Bth
1932EmersonStreet.com

848 NASH ROAD
LOS ALTOS



\$6,988,000 | 5 Bd | 4.5 Bth
848NashRd.com

3887 LA SELVA DRIVE
PALO ALTO



\$3,500,000 | 4 Bd | 3 Bth
3887LaSelva.com

1161 SHERMAN AVENUE
MENLO PARK



\$4,498,000 | 5 Bd | 3 Bth
1161Sherman.com

89 ALEJANDRA AVENUE
ATHERTON



\$10,988,000 | 42,600 Sq. Ft. Lot
89Alejandra.com

537 THAIN WAY
PALO ALTO



\$1,698,000 | 2 Bd | 2 Bth
537Thain.com

11 HILLTOP DRIVE
SAN CARLOS



\$2,088,000 | 4 Bd | 3 Bth
11HilltopDR.com

303 ATHERTON AVENUE
ATHERTON



\$15,488,000 | 7 Bd | 8.5 Bth
303AthertonAve.com

300 SAND HILL CIR. #103
MENLO PARK



\$1,998,000 | 4 Bd | 3 Bth
300SandHillCir.com

360 EVERETT AVE. #5A
PALO ALTO



\$2,688,000 | 3 Bd | 3 Bth
360Everett.com

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📍 861 Newell Place
Palo Alto

📍 94 Wisteria Way
Atherton

🕒 Saturday, July 15
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

🕒 Sunday, July 16
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

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Portola Valley resident's lawsuit over town's environmental reviews is on hold until fall

Dispute is over studies supporting town's housing element

By Angela Swartz

A Portola Valley resident's threatened lawsuit against the Town Council and Planning Commission if they don't rescind their votes approving environmental studies for the town's housing and safety plan, has been delayed until at least Sept. 11.

The Town Council voted 3-0 in closed session during its June 27 meeting, with Vice Mayor Sarah Wernikoff absent and Council member Mary Hufty abstaining, to extend a so-called tolling agreement, which establishes a deadline for the parties to negotiate before a plaintiff will file suit

to enforce legal rights. The tolling agreement originally lasted into June.

The threatened litigation by PublicSafety4PVNow, a company controlled by Lloyd "Rusty" Day, challenges the council's approval of the environmental review and zoning code amendments and seeks to have a "privileged and confidential" settlement discussion between Day and town officials. The Town Council submitted its latest iteration of the state-mandated housing element in May, around the time the lawsuit was threatened.

The town is required to come up with housing and safety

element plans to submit to the state every eight years, which were on due Jan. 31. This latest round includes an obligation to plan for much more new housing than in years past, and San Mateo County municipalities have struggled to submit plans that meet the stricter state requirements. Portola Valley's housing element has yet to be accepted by state housing officials.

Resident Dave Cardinal offered to help donate to a town legal defense fund to "make sure we don't need to cave to bullies," during the June 27 meeting.

In a May 4 letter to the Town Council and town attorney, Day,

claimed that the environmental review conducted by the town, called an initial study/mitigated negative declaration, is "deficient in numerous important ways." PublicSafety4PVNow wants the town to undertake a full environmental impact report to assess the significant adverse environmental impacts that changes to municipal code and the elements themselves would have on wildfire risks, geology and transportation, the letter said.

"Given the catastrophic impact in recent years of the fires on the Coffey Park, Paradise, and Marshall communities, as well as countless others, it is essential

that the wildfire impacts be thoroughly studied in accordance with CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) to avoid a similar disaster," according to the letter, written by Silicon Valley Law Group on behalf of PublicSafety4PVNow. "We believe that it would be beneficial if the parties had the opportunity to further discuss the issues raised in this letter to avoid any need for litigation to enforce the applicable CEQA requirements." ■

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

With sensors in classrooms, Ravenswood district joins Stanford air quality study

Wildfire smoke endangers children's health and learning

By Angela Swartz

After the hazy skies and unhealthy air quality during recent fire seasons, Ravenswood City School District classrooms and common areas were outfitted with sensors last week as part of a five-year Stanford University study. Researchers hope to better understand the indoor air quality of K-12 schools to help mitigate the health impacts of wildfire smoke.

The project, "Creating Clean Air Spaces across K-12 Schools in California," will look at areas across the state at high risk of exposure to wildfire smoke, including Ravenswood. The study began June 26 and is

expected to wrap up on June 25, 2028. The school board gave the go-ahead to participate in study at a June 22 meeting.

Currently, information on indoor air quality and temperature in schools are not routinely collected, according to Jessica Yu, a postdoctoral fellow for the Climate and Energy Policy Program. Yu's research focused on best practices for protecting vulnerable populations from the health impacts of wildfire smoke.

"Our hope is to work with superintendents and facility managers to create evidence-based guidelines on school operations during high smoke days," she said in an email. "Should schools close during

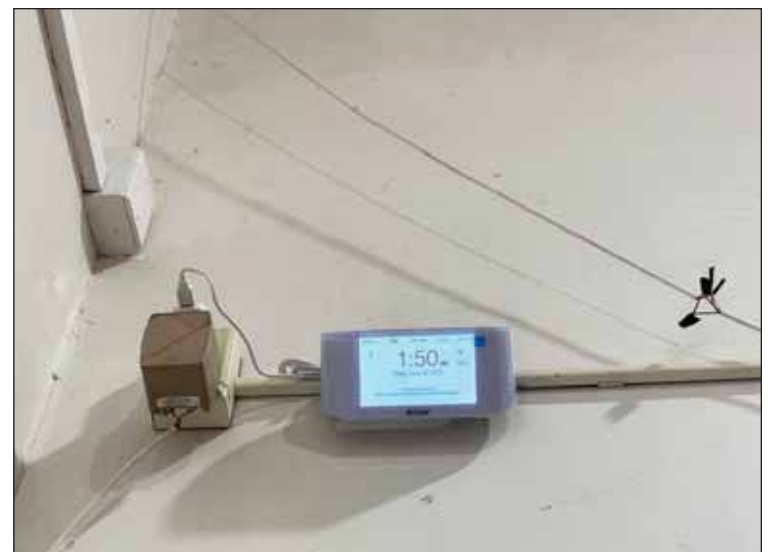
a wildfire smoke event? From a health perspective, where should students go?"

Classroom air quality came center stage during the COVID-19 pandemic when students returned to school, with officials hoping to use high quality Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems to reduce virus spread.

Researchers plan to compare the indoor air quality at schools to the homes of schoolchildren.

"Our overall aim is to make the case to policymakers for significant capital investment in upgrading HVAC equipment and installing portable air filters across Californian schools," Yu said.

The Stanford Center for



Courtesy Jessica Yu

An air quality sensor at Los Robles-Ronald McNair Academy in East Palo Alto.

Innovation in Global Health put out an informational sheet in 2018 that notes that wildfire smoke contains fine, inhalable particles, as well as dangerous levels of heavy metals and other toxins.

"It may be as much as 10 times more dangerous for kids than other forms of air pollution," the resource notes. "Wildfire smoke can increase emergency room

visits for asthma and upper respiratory infections in kids. It can also reduce immune function, lead to cardiovascular and lung diseases later in life, and create long-term

cancer risks. Since air pollution levels are also associated with reduced school performance, improving schools' air quality doesn't just help protect kids' health — it also safeguards their learning."

How the study will work

The researchers will link indoor air quality data from AirVisual Pro Indoor Sensors

from schools with household survey data.

Yu and her team will ask families about protective behaviors during smoky days, negative experiences, health effects from wildfire smoke, residents' sources of knowledge about wildfire smoke and poor air quality, and indicators of overall household well-being.

Stanford will also ask: How do residents learn about wildfire smoke and poor air quality?

Participant involvement in this research study is strictly voluntary and provides confidentiality of research data, according to researchers.

In addition, Stanford will gather information on the schools, including classroom size and HVAC age.

Long term, Ravenswood is likely to be able to keep the air quality sensors, according to the district. ■

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

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

David Lindsey Elder, 75, a resident of Atherton who co-founded Atherton Capital, served on the local Boy Scouts board, never missed a Stanford football game and was a musician, poet and humorist, on April 12.

Kathleen Joynes, 74, a resident of Palo Alto who was a fashion and textile designer and teacher, a reading tutor, and lover of nature and spending time with family, on June 13.

Barbara Goodman Kessler, 91, a resident of Los Altos who taught private clarinet lessons out of her home, developed courses in the application of

existential philosophy at community colleges, was a marriage, family and child counselor, and enjoyed travels to Europe with her husband, on June 18.

Jeanne E. Kirby, 94, a San Jose resident formerly of Portola Valley who worked for Stanford Research Institute and Ormondale Elementary School, was an avid reader and library volunteer, on June 18.

Laurie Lacob, 65, a resident of Woodside who worked in strategic communications and film production, volunteered for the Ronald McDonald House and Stanford Cancer Council, adored adventure travel and trips with her children and grandchildren, on June 19.

Constance Joy Reist, 78, a Palo Alto resident who taught P.E. and science at Jane Lathrop Middle School, loved everything from world travel to ballroom dancing to English riding, and was an active member of New Beginnings Community Church, on June 6.

Carolee White, 84, a Palo Alto resident who traveled the world, volunteered with the Junior League and Peninsula Volunteers, was a devoted wife, sister, mother and friend and whose grandchildren were her greatest joy, on June 22.

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

Eva Kastan Grove, longtime local philanthropist and social worker, dies at 87

She and late husband Andy Grove, former CEO of Intel Corporation, created the Grove Foundation

By Angela Swartz

Eva Kastan Grove, a local philanthropist who co-founded the Grove Foundation, died on May 31 after a short but fierce illness, according to her family.

The Los Altos Hills resident was born in Vienna, Austria to Selma and Karl Kastan on Nov. 28, 1935. She and her family fled to Bolivia in 1938 after Kristallnacht — when Nazi leaders unleashed a series of violent riots against the Jewish people in Germany, Austria and their neighbors.

The family later immigrated to the U.S. where they settled in Queens, New York.

Grove graduated from Hunter College in New York City with a bachelor's degree in pre-social work in 1958. Eva earned her master's in social work from Columbia University.

She married Andy Grove, a refugee from Hungary, in 1958. They moved to California, where her husband earned a Ph.D. in chemical engineering from University of California at Berkeley. He later became the third CEO of Intel Corp.

Her life was dedicated to giving back, according to daughter Karen Grove.



Courtesy Karen Grove
Eva Grove

She was inspired by her parents and guided by the motto of her alma mater: "The Care of the Future is Mine," according to her family. She started the Eva Kastan Grove Fellowship at Hunter College, which provides mentorship, professional development, and a financial award to students who are committed to public service, public policy and human rights.

In 1986, Andy and Eva founded the Grove Foundation with a board that included themselves and their two daughters, Karen and Robie. At this time, the cornerstone of the foundation was

to support service organizations similar to the ones that aided Andy and Eva as immigrants to the U.S. Over the years, the couple observed that people of color, people with disabilities and LGBT people did not receive the same treatment or have access to the support they received, which led to a shift in funding priorities.

Now, the foundation intentionally funds the most marginalized communities to lead the work and adapts the way the foundation operates its grant-making processes and reporting to center around the needs of change-makers. It raised \$30 million in 2020, according to filings.

As a social worker in Santa Clara County, she facilitated adoptions. A local Planned Parenthood chapter, where she volunteered, gave her the Golden Speculum Award. She tutored immigrants to prepare them for their citizenship interviews. She canvassed, marched, wrote postcards, op-eds and letters and served on the board of her beloved Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC), according to Karen.

When asked about her religion she would say, "Recycling," and her final wish was to be

composted so that she could turn to soil for a forest and "become part of the world again," Karen said.

She was a skier, a hiker, a biker and a baker who specialized in adding raisins to just about everything.

"She touched us with her quirky approach to daily life: her prolific use of her label maker, her collection of jams, her example of dancing at every occasion and her spirit of participation, which included a competitive game of musical chairs on a beach last August," Karen said. "She didn't win the game, but she was surely the crowd favorite."

Eva was preceded in death by her husband, Andy, in 2016. She

is survived by her two daughters and six grandchildren. She leaves behind old friends, her neighbors on Garland, her walking companions, her card playing pals, the staff of her foundation and her extended family, according to her daughters.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that people rinse their containers before recycling or use them for leftovers. Memorial donations may be made to the Immigrant Legal Resource Center.

An online remembrance page has been set up for Eva at tinyurl.com/EvaGroveMemorial. ■

Email Staff Writer

Angela Swartz at aswartz@almanacnews.com.

BAY PROTECTION

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to be the first creek-marsh connection project in the south San Francisco Bay.

"The establishment of this new tidal marsh could have a positive impact upon water quality in the future by creating a natural filtration system. The results of this project should have positive impacts on all the communities in Santa Clara County," Valley Water stated.

The nine creeks that will be cleaned up include Berryessa Creek, Coyote Creek, Guadalupe Creek, Guadalupe River, Los Gatos Creek, Lower Silver Creek, Saratoga Creek, Thompson Creek and West Branch Llagas Creek.

"Although these creeks may not be in Palo Alto, Valley Water believes both of these projects could provide benefits to all communities that share the bay, as pollutants are prevented from entering the bay and causing negative impacts to water quality," the district stated.

City-County Association of Governments San Mateo is receiving \$3.4 million to support continued efforts to reduce trash entering San Francisco Bay. It

will fund a regional workgroup to develop standard methods to evaluate the effectiveness of trash reduction measures in waters connecting the bay.

San Mateo County will also receive \$404,400 to support purchasing, installing and maintaining a large trash-capture device capable of removing about 3,500 gallons of trash per year from the North Fair Oaks community. The project will also develop an education-and-outreach program with a local youth-engagement program.

In addition, the Sphere Institute received \$3 million to support design, permitting and initial implementation costs for creating new tidal marsh and transition zone habitats to support shoreline resilience at a park along the Burlingame shoreline in San Mateo County.

In Santa Clara County, the city of San Jose received \$419,002 to help teach San Jose high schoolers about watershed protection and support preparedness for climate change-related natural disasters, instilling resilience and environmental stewardship in the next generation of young adults.

Funding for these projects comes from EPA's San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement

Fund, a competitive-grant program focused on restoring impaired watersheds, reducing polluted runoff, and building climate-change resilience around San Francisco Bay. The federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law expanded the fund's mandate to increase equity and access to federal funding and climate resilience support for underserved communities. Since its inception, the fund has invested more than \$120 million through more than 80 on-the-ground projects in the nine Bay Area counties. ■

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

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Celebrating July 4th with roping, riding and pageantry at Woodside



Above: Decked out in red, white and blue, a past member of “rodeo royalty” waves to the crowd at the Woodside Junior Rodeo on the Fourth of July. Below: A young cowboy practices roping at the rodeo.



By Angela Swartz | Photos by Lizzy Myers

Locals gathered on the Fourth of July for the 71st Woodside Junior Rodeo, sponsored by the Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County.

Along with traditional rodeo events, it featured pony rides, a petting zoo, a mechanical bull and a barbecue.

“Come out to support and cheer on a new generation of cowgirls, cowboys, and everyone in between for a day of rodeo action and western family activities!” organizers said before the event.

The grand entry procession featured the Mounted Patrol Color Guard, contestants and rodeo royalty from years past. Musician Sophia Claire performed the national anthem.

For more on the event, go to mpsmc.org/rodeo. ■



Left: Wilder Cramer enjoys the festivities at the 71st annual Junior Rodeo in Woodside. Above: The audience sings along to the National Anthem.

de Junior Rodeo



Above: Anna Hall rides the mechanical bull. Left: Sofia Claire kicks off the rodeo by singing the National Anthem.



Above: Madison leans against a fence and watches the junior girls pole bending competition. Below: Children pet sheep and other farm animals at the rodeo's petting zoo.



Right: Contestants kick up dust as they practice ahead of their events at the Junior Rodeo on July 4.



PROPERTY DEEDS

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restrictions as to who could own the property or what changes could be made to it.

Purging racist language from property deeds

Louis Chiaramonte, assistant county clerk-recorder in Santa Clara County, said roughly six to eight residents in the county have come forward to amend their property deeds since July 2022 when the law went into effect. In San Mateo County, 12 property owners have come forward to redact covenants, according to Mark Church, assessor-county clerk-recorder and chief elections officer in San Mateo County.

While the number of property owners taking the initiative to remove the language themselves has been relatively low, real estate attorney Lexi Purich Howard said this could be due in part to the way the law was written. Assembly Bill 1466, signed by Governor Gavin Newsom in September 2021 as part of a package of 31 housing bills passed by the state, requires that county recorders establish programs to identify unlawfully restrictive



Federica Armstrong

A group of volunteers from the Ladera community gather at Laderaland playground on June 17, with a copy of the amendment striking racist language from the community covenants originally signed in 1950. From left: Linda Arrillaga, Dolores McQuilkin, Mia Clark, Blake Sandy, Nancy Wilson, Leslie Wambach and notary Salvador Avizar.

covenants in property records. It also requires title and escrow companies as well as real estate brokers to notify buyers about the existence of covenants in their property deeds and to assist buyers wanting to remove the language.

The law establishes guidelines for removing restrictive language, but each county has the flexibility to develop its own process on how to achieve this.

This means the effectiveness of the law relies largely on how

well local jurisdictions implement the program, Purich Howard said.

“The state says, ‘do this’, but there’s so much county independence, which is really good and necessary in some ways, and in other ways, it makes it very hard to get things done at the legislative level, because someone is always saying, ‘Well, sure, that works for Los Angeles County, but not for Del Norte,’” Purich Howard said.

Realtor Denise Welsh, a broker associate at Christie’s International Sereno in Los Altos who serves on the board of the Silicon Valley Association of Realtors, said under the new law, homebuyers must be provided with a written disclaimer that the property documents “may include” a restrictive covenant.

“So you’re told even before you read it that anything like that is supposed to be disregarded,” Welsh said. The disclaimer also informs buyers about the availability of modification forms from their county should their property deeds include such covenants.

But even with this disclaimer on deeds, Welsh said the covenants can be hard to find. Property deeds are often copied multiple times and stored on microfiche, which can be difficult to read due to print quality. As a result, many people do not bother, she said.

“The quality of the prints is lost,” she explained.

Ladera resident Sonoo Thadaney-Israni, who was among those who petitioned to have her community’s property deeds amended, said she was surprised to see racist language in her property deed when she was purchasing her home in 1991, but amending the document didn’t cross her mind at that time. She and her husband, who had immigrated to the U.S. from



Federica Armstrong

Residents of the Ladera community hold the 348 page document that removes race restrictions from the protective covenants and subdivision plan. Over 70% of Ladera homeowners signed it.

India, were more concerned about fitting into a community where they were among “a tiny minority of people of color” than in removing dated language.

“There was a racist history in the background, but I didn’t really pay that much attention to it because, yes, that’s the past,” she said. “This is the present. We were moving forward to the future.”

is involved in Santa Clara County’s process.

Working through documents from the 1920s over the past year, the office has gone through 396 books that are about 600 pages each and include over 230,000 images total, he said. The county is on pace to review 4 million documents annually for the next five years, according to the Restrictive Covenant Modification Program implementation plans outlined on its website.

Once a document with unlawful language has been located, the turnaround time for redacting it is fairly fast, Chiaramonte said. The document can be amended and recorded in the Official Records Index within two weeks. All deeds with restrictive covenant modifications are identified in the index with the letters “RCMO.”

Santa Clara County also has partnered with Stanford University, Chiaramonte said. Using AI technology, Stanford University is going through images from the 1920s up to the early 1970s to train datasets to help the optical character recognition (OCR) check for unlawful language in images.

The rise of racial covenants

Racially restrictive covenants first appeared in home deeds at the end of the 19th century, and were designed to stop racial, ethnic and religious minority groups from purchasing or occupying homes.

These covenants varied in scope, ranging from broadly excluding “non-Caucasian” groups to explicitly singling out specific races, nationalities, religions, and even individuals with disabilities. While many groups could be included, Black Americans

‘It took a village. We had quite an operation going.’

LESLIE WAMBACH,
LADERA RESIDENT

Sorting through millions of documents

Processing applications from homeowners requesting that restrictive language be removed from their property deeds is just one part of an elaborate process to amend documents statewide under California’s Restrictive Covenant Modification law.

For counties, removing restrictive language starts with reviewing millions of official documents.

In Santa Clara County, it means going through an estimated 24 million documents and 84 million images, including some that date back to 1850. In San Mateo County, it means reviewing 25 million documents in the official records, according to the counties’ websites.

In Santa Clara County, after a document has been flagged by the review team and approved for redaction by the county counsel, it is sent back to a reviewer and recorded, which completes the process.

“We do have a very high volume (of documents),” said Chiaramonte, the clerk who

See **PROPERTY DEEDS**, page 15

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PROPERTY DEEDS

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were often the main target of covenants.

“Originally, restrictive covenants were part of this bigger package of restrictions that were placed on houses to sell them,” said Rachel Brahinsky, associate professor of urban studies and politics at the University of San Francisco. “Things like, keep your fences under 6 feet or 4 feet, everything has to be painted a certain color, you can’t have chickens — which was often an anti-immigrant thing.”

Eventually these covenants expanded to include certain types of groups of people, she explained.

In Palo Alto, housing restrictions existed in neighborhoods throughout the city. When the Southgate neighborhood was subdivided in 1923, for example, all properties carried deed restrictions specifying that no persons of African, Japanese, Chinese or Mongolian descent were to use or occupy the houses, according to “Palo Alto: A Centennial History,” published in 1993 by Ward Winslow and the Palo Alto Historical Association.

The Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce in 1920 called for a “segregated district for the Oriental and colored people of the city,” although a resolution was never created, according to the 2023-31 housing element report by the city of Palo Alto.

“It was about making markets predictable. Making it so that someone could build a house and have a good chance at knowing they were going to sell it, and that meant sometimes making it the right size so that it could fit into a certain kind of expectation of the community around it. And sometimes it meant saying ‘whites only’ because that’s what the community either wanted, or what the developers thought that community might want,” Brahinsky said.

That’s how racial covenants were introduced to Ladera, according to Wambach.

Ladera, she explained, was initially established as a housing cooperative by the Peninsula Housing Association in the 1940s, but the association struggled to secure financing from the Federal Housing Administration to finish developing the community.

“No one would give them financing, and it is said that it is largely connected to the fact that they were refusing to include, you know, this non-white race ban,” Wambach said. “Basically the lenders were

San Mateo County residents interested in finding and removing racial covenants from their property deeds can find more information at tinyurl.com/smacre-covenants.

Santa Clara County residents can find information at tinyurl.com/scc-covenants

saying, ‘We’re not giving them financing.’”

In 1948, the association voted to add a quota requirement to their deeds stating that individuals who were “not of the Caucasian race” were prohibited from using or occupying residential lots if the proportion of their race in Ladera exceeded the proportion of that race to the entire population of California.

Ultimately, the quota requirement was not enough to appease investors, and the co-op sold to a developer who insisted on implementing race restrictions, Wambach said.

These covenants, along with other discriminatory housing practices like redlining and mortgage lending bias, have greatly contributed to the persistence of the racial wealth gap faced by Black Americans and other non-Caucasian groups, Brahinsky said.

One community’s quest to rewrite racist housing restrictions

This racist language remained on Ladera’s property deeds for decades without much discussion, until George Floyd was murdered by a Minneapolis police officer in May 2020, sparking national discussions on racial equality.

The Ladera community was horrified, and the residents wanted to confront the racial discrimination embedded in their property deeds, Wambach said.

The Ladera Community Association sent out a survey and received responses from more than 250 property owners expressing distress over the covenants.

“That’s when we realized that, ‘Wow, this not only is important, this is still hurting people. This is still harming new residents coming here,’” Wambach said.

At the time when Ladera residents decided to remove the racial covenants from their property deeds, there was no formal process in place.

After exploring various options, they decided to pursue

a formal amendment to their property deeds. It required the efforts of many people over many weeks.

A group of residents launched a signature drive during the neighborhood’s first Pride Parade celebrating the LGBTQIA+ community in August 2021, and set up signing tables in driveways and at the recreation center.

“We wanted to make it very easy for our residents to come in and sign,” Wambach said.

The process included volunteer teams who vetted potential signers, a core signing team that was at every event, driveway hosts, a phone bank team, and people who dropped flyers on doorsteps. A notary also was present at every signing to verify the signatures.

Wambach estimated that there were 30-32 people volunteering. The volunteers also took donations from signers to cover the cost of the notary.

“It took a village,” Wambach said. “We had quite an operation going.”

The signing campaign well-exceeded the required 700 signatures, and in November 2021, Ladera residents successfully amended their property deeds to remove the racial restrictions. The amended deeds read:

“By provisions outlined in this document the Ladera Community has formally acted to remove the Race Restriction that previously comprised this subsection, and by so doing asserts that the Ladera Community supports diversity, equity, and inclusion.”

Now, for property owners in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties who do find questionable language they want to purge from their deeds, the process is fairly easy.

Residents can go online and fill out a Restrictive Covenant Modification form requesting an amendment to their deed. If the County Counsel verifies the existence of unlawful restrictions, the county will modify and record the documents free of charge. The review process can take up to 90 days.

Wambach is hopeful that the new bill will make it easier to find restrictive covenants in property records, but said she would like to see cooperation between counties and local communities to raise more awareness of the issue.

“You know, if there was some kind of effort of more collaboration, it might be easier than looking for needles in haystacks,” Wambach said. ■

*Email Editorial Intern
Ann Galvan at agalvan@paweekly.com*

MOON ROVER

continued from page 5

rock,” Alexander said. “We think about all these different sorts of wonky ways that we could potentially land, and we egress under those scenarios.”

NASA director of engineering and VIPER project manager Dan Andrews said the mission is a direct follow up to the LCROSS (Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite) mission that Ames developed and launched in 2009, which confirmed the presence of water ice on the moon’s polar regions.

“The VIPER mission is all about understanding that,” Andrews said. “So we’re going to drop this rover down in an area in the south pole and explore four different ice stability regions. We have models for how we think each of them will behave, but the beauty is we do the mission to see if we’re right or not.”

Once it dismounts, VIPER can go a maximum speed of 20 centimeters per second while traveling on the moon’s surface, and 10 centimeters per second while collecting scientific data. While this might sound slow compared to the four-wheeled vehicles humans are used to on Earth, the rover is actually four to five times faster than any of

those on Mars, Andrews said.

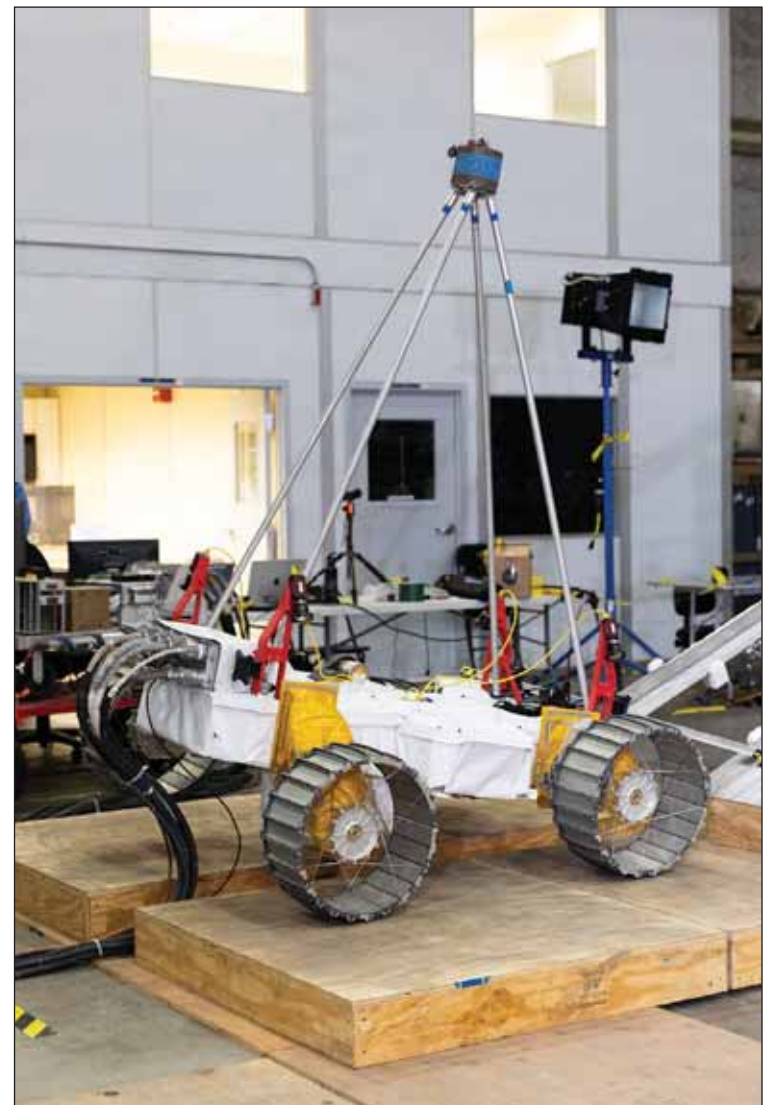
While the engineers testing out VIPER on June 28 were able to watch it move in real time, when the robot actually makes it to the moon, everything the navigators see will be coming through cameras.

“We actually practice doing this in another room,” Andrews said. “You can’t cheat. You have to see through the eyes of both the lander and the rover.”

Along with the ice-searching mission, VIPER is significant in that it’s NASA’s first robotic moon rover. Andrews said technology has advanced tremendously since the Apollo-era, allowing NASA to do more than just moon buggies. Meanwhile, the moon has come “back into great popularity,” allowing NASA to obtain the commercial resources to support these missions.

“Now the idea of going to what could be a really inhospitable area with a robotic rover seems like such an obvious thing to do,” Andrews said. “And it will help answer some of those foundational, early questions so that when humans get there, we’re going to be just that much better informed.” ■

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



Magali Gauthier

The Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover during a demo at NASA Ames in Mountain View on June 28.

STATE BUDGET

continued from page 1

site that involves tearing down the district's headquarters and building housing, Becker said. A brainchild of Carolyn Hoskins, the museum has long been seeking a permanent home. Most recently, it had been operating on a temporary basis in Redwood City, at the corner of Jefferson and Middlefield.

Becker also helped secure \$300,000 for the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center to support the PREP Fellowship Program, which is designed to

combat antisemitism and prepare teenagers for college. The funding was secured in collaboration with state Assemblymember Marc Berman.

Other projects that Becker had announced in his district include:

- \$300,000 to the city of Millbrae to support the Bayside Manor and Marina Vista Park projects.

- \$500,000 to San Mateo County toward creation of the 90 Mile Ohlone-Portola Heritage Trail Project.

- \$1.5 million to the Community Services Agency (CSA) of Mountain View, Los

Altos and Los Altos Hills to repair and repurpose an existing building at 204 Stierlin Road and pursue a secondary site for a food and nutrition center.

- \$200,000 to Redwood City and Redwood City Together for its Purposeful, Action, Creation and Engagement (PACE) program, which provides programs and mentorship to youths.

- \$2 million to plan and produce affordable housing for farmworkers in Half Moon Bay.

- \$1 million for a wastewater purification project in Burlingame.

- \$200,000 to support green infrastructure, including solar-powered streetlights, in Los Altos.

Becker, who chairs the Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 2 on Resources, Environmental Protection and Energy, touted the budget's allocations for climate initiatives, including more than \$2 billion for wildfire prevention and suppression and more than \$1.25 billion for energy



Magali Gauthier

State Sen. Josh Becker, D-Menlo Park, speaks to media about school reopenings at Barron Park Elementary in Palo Alto in 2021.

projects. This includes \$500 million for electric-vehicle chargers and other infrastructure to support a switch to carbon-free vehicles as well as \$500 million for building decarbonization, money that Becker said will

target lower-income communities and that will help residents invest in technology such as heat pump water heaters.

"There's some really significant investments in electric homes and buildings and transition to electric vehicles, as well as continuing the transition of our grid, which has been a priority of mine," Becker told this publication in an interview.

Becker said he is particularly pleased with the \$1.4 billion that the budget allocates for subsidized child care. The funding would effectively eliminate fees for families with incomes below 75% of the average median income. For families with incomes above 75% of AMI but who qualify for subsidized child care, the fees are capped at 1% of monthly income, he said.

The budget also provides some assistance to struggling public transit agencies that have seen ridership and revenues drop precipitously during the pandemic. Gov. Gavin Newsom had encountered significant resistance to his earlier plan to cut \$2 billion in public transit funding, a move that critics claimed would push public transit over a "fiscal cliff" and require significant service cuts.

The budget restores that funding and adds \$1.1 billion for transit operations, funding that would be taken from the state's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. In addition, the budget will give transit agencies the flexibility to spend \$4 billion in the state's Transportation and Intercity Rail Capital Program on operational expenses.

State officials are now considering raising bridge tolls to make up the balance.

"Unfortunately, it doesn't fully fill the gap in the fiscal cliff, which is why we're looking at other revenue sources, but it's a significant filling in of the gap," Becker said. ■

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

David Lindsay Elder

April 19, 1947 – April 12, 2023

David Lindsay Elder, entrepreneur, musician, poet, and humorist, passed away at age 75 on April 12, 2023 in Redwood City, CA, surrounded by his loving family.



Born on April 19, 1947, in Pontiac, Michigan, to Charles and Barbara Elder, Dave was a creative leader from the start. In high school, he was student body president and president of the student councils for the state of Oklahoma. He merged his love of music and entrepreneurship by booking bands for parties and performing in bands himself with his brothers and friends. At Oklahoma State University, he majored in Economics and Creative Writing.

After marrying his high school sweetheart, Karlene Alt, in 1969, he served in the Army and later attended Stanford Graduate School of Business. While there, he helped to start the Stanford Concert Network, bringing acts like Aretha Franklin and Van Morrison to Stanford for the first time. Upon graduating, he managed bands and opened the Music Annex, a recording studio. In the late 1970s, Dave began his 30+ year career in commercial real estate and specialty finance. That career took his family to Colorado and New York City, where he joined a real estate arm of a major investment bank. In the early 1990s, back in the SF Bay Area, Dave co-founded and was CEO of Atherton Capital, a specialty finance firm that grew to 12 nationwide offices. No doubt, Dave's quick wit and folksy humor, influenced by his "Okie" roots, put people at ease and contributed to his success.

Dave's lifelong love of boats created wonderful memories of family vacations towing a ski boat behind the family minivan to Lake Powell. When he didn't have a boat, he was "between boats." A season ticket holder, he never missed a Stanford football game. His love of writing continued, penning a poem for his "Special K" for each of her birthdays and their anniversaries. Karlene created a book of his poems, cherished by their children and grandchildren.

During his retirement, Dave delighted in traveling with Karlene and spending time with his children and grandchildren. When he wasn't on the golf course, he served on the local Boy Scouts of America board in Palo Alto. His love of music was ever present, constantly discovering new music and artists until he fell ill with Lewy Body Dementia.

Dave's family was the pride and joy of his life. He leaves behind his wife, Karlene, his daughter, Lorri Elder Dyner, and his son, Benjamin Elder, and their spouses Alex Dyner and Emily Elder. Also his beloved grandchildren, Asa Elder, Norah Elder, Benjamin Elder, Charlie Dyner and Caroline Dyner.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, September 2 at 10am at New Community Church in Menlo Park.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial donations be made to the Boy Scouts of America Pacific Skyline Council or the Lewy Body Dementia Association.

PAID OBITUARY

Carolee White

Carolee Mayo White passed away peacefully after a long struggle with dementia on June 22, 2023 with her family by her side. Carolee was born to parents Joe and Frances Mayo in Tooele, Utah in 1938. She graduated from the University of Utah as a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority and after college she moved to Mountain View, California. There she became a teacher and met her husband Howard J. White, III.



They married in 1962, and moved to Ladera to raise their three children: Marci, Michael and Michelle. Carolee was caring by nature and was an extremely devoted wife, sister, mother, grandmother and friend. She enjoyed traveling the world with family and friends, and loved to spend her summers relaxing at Lake Tahoe. You could often find her enjoying a game of tennis, dominos or bridge, reading a good book or simply going to lunch with her family and many good friends. She was a member/volunteer with Junior League and Peninsula Volunteers.

Mimi, the name given to her by her grandchildren, said that her life was abundantly richer with their arrival. Spending time with them and watching them grow was her greatest joy. She was always there to cheer them on, attend school performances and take them on many memorable family trips.

Carolee is preceded in death by her husband Howard, her parents and her brother Joe Mayo. She is survived by her sister Marilyn Mayo, her three children, Marci Coggins (Corey), Michael White (Julie), Michelle Dillabough (Gary) and seven wonderful grandchildren, Brady and Brian Coggins, Megan and Garrett White and Maddie, Matt and John Dillabough.

Carolee was incredibly blessed to be cared for by Angela, Delaila, Janet and Nancy for over five years. We are grateful for the love, kindness and dignity that they shared with her every single day.

A celebration of life will be held on August 15th at 11am at Menlo Church, 950 Santa Cruz Avenue, Menlo Park.

PAID OBITUARY

Longtime Ladera resident and Planned Parenthood advocate Shirley Sneath Kelley dies at 96

By Angela Swartz

Shirley Sneath Kelley, a longtime Ladera resident, exuberant supporter of sports and charities, died in her sleep on Easter Sunday, April 9, at The Sequoias in Portola Valley, her home of about 10 years. She was 96.

Raised in Hillsborough, Kelley graduated Stanford University, where she enrolled at age 16 after graduating from Burlingame High School.

She married Ryland Kelley, a future prominent real estate developer. Ryland Kelley helped create Ladera, a planned community of more than 525 homes, and the Ladera Shopping Center. Ryland Kelley and his brother, the late Bill Kelley, also were responsible for planning the Lindenwood neighborhood in Atherton.



Courtesy Bruce Kelley
Shirley Sneath Kelley

The couple raised their three sons in Ladera, where they ultimately spent about 50 years before moving into a guest house in Woodside. She moved to The Sequoias retirement community

when her husband died.

Shirley Kelley, who stood at 6-foot-2, was full of warm embraces and questions, and never without a signature fresh-picked flower in her hair and a striking smile, according to her son Bruce Kelley.

"I will miss my mom's spirit for life and current events and sports," Bruce Kelley said. "She was just a tremendous fan of people and teams and political figures, musicians she loved. ... She had a genuine enthusiasm for what people were up to."

After raising her three sons, Rich, Tom and Bruce, Shirley Kelley started a career at Stanford's Lively Arts in 1974. She later wrote features for The Almanac's sister publication, the Palo Alto Weekly, and she and her husband were among the founding shareholders in the Palo Alto Weekly.

After that, she embarked on a 20-year career as a development director, according to Bruce Kelley.

She was vice president of Planned Parenthood Mar Monte, one of the nation's largest Planned Parenthood chapters, from 1991 into the 2000s. The San Francisco Chronicle wrote that she is credited with helping grow her Planned Parenthood affiliate into the largest in the nation, as measured by its number of patients and budget size.

She also raised funds for the Positive Coaching Alliance and RENEW, an organization devoted to nurses. As a volunteer, she served on the Resource Committee of Families in Transition, a program to help immigrant families from Mexico get settled in Silicon Valley.

Her oldest son Rich played

in the NBA for 11 years, which led Shirley and Ryland to travel widely to games.

Even in her 80s and 90s, she could be spotted at a San Francisco Giants game, a blues show at Club Fox in Redwood City, or out at Rossotti's Alpine Inn, the place where she first drank beer as a teenager, Bruce said.

Shirley Kelley was preceded in death by Ryland, who died of cancer in 2014. She is survived by sons Richard Ryland Kelley of Woodside; Thomas Mirk Kelley of San Francisco; and Bruce Kibbee Kelley of Wilmington, New York; and grandchildren Sam Kelley of Woodside; Riley Kelley of Bend, Oregon; Rachel Kelley of San Francisco; and Neil Kelley of Nashville. ■

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

Governor, elected officials speak on 1-year anniversary of overturning Roe v. Wade

By Bay City News

Gov. Gavin Newsom and Bay Area elected officials spoke out on Saturday, June 24, marking the one-year anniversary of the overturning of Roe v. Wade.

"One year ago today, the conservative majority of the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the constitutional right to abortion care for women across this country - doing their best to erase decades of progress. But they underestimated the fight they were taking on," Newsom said in a statement.

"Millions of people will not sit back and watch as their freedom and fundamental right to choose are stolen from them.

Here in California, the right to abortion care is embedded in our constitution, and we're leading a coalition of twenty-two Governors to defend this right across our nation — putting women above extremist, minority views," Newsom said.

California is one of 20 states that has committed to protecting and expanding reproductive rights in the coalition Newsom mentioned.

As part of the Reproductive Freedom Alliance, governors supporting abortion rights have vowed to work together to prevent women losing access to the procedure and other forms of reproductive health care, like contraception.

Prompted by Newsom, the

alliance allows governors to frequently coordinate on how to safeguard abortion rights in their states — whether that be discussing budget decisions or upcoming bills introduced in state legislatures — and collectively respond to states pushing legislation that does the opposite.

Rep. Anna Eshoo, D-Menlo Park, said that since the decision, 14 states have banned abortion, many with no exceptions for rape and incest, and 12 additional states are working to enact restrictive abortion laws.

"Tens of millions of American women have been left desperate, confused, and fearful. Abortion bans are leading to life-threatening health complications such as

women being forced to continue high-risk ectopic pregnancies or contracting sepsis after being refused needed care," Eshoo said.

"Extreme abortion bans are an egregious assault on women," Eshoo said. "I've spent my entire adult life advancing the equality of women and girls and protecting and defending choice, and I will continue to do everything I can to restore this right. Everyone should have the freedom to control their own body."

First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom also spoke out Saturday.

"One year after SCOTUS's misogynistic decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, our commitment to reproductive freedom

remains steadfast: we will continue to ensure California is a safe haven for anyone who seeks contraception and abortion services," Seibel Newsom said.

Rep. Mike Thompson, D-St. Helena, also addressed the issue Saturday.

"In the wake of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade one year ago, we witnessed an attack on women's access to health care and the dire consequences that followed," Thompson said in a statement.

"Today, one year since Dobbs v. Jackson, I remain committed to ensuring that health care decisions are made by patients, their doctors, their families, and their faith," Thompson said. ■

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Sat 1:30-4:30 3BD/3BA
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

1120 May Brown Avenue **\$3,988,000**
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PALO ALTO

121 Park Avenue **\$4,488,000**
Sat/Sun 1:30-4:30 5BD/4.5BA
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

1546 Country Club Drive **\$5,988,000**
Sat 1:30-4:30 5BD/4BA
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

69 Yale Road **\$8,488,000**
Sun 1:30-4:30 5BD/7.5BA
DeLeon Realty 650-900-7000

95 Wisteria Way **\$6,988,000**
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Legend: Condo (C), Townhome (T). Agents: submit open homes at AlmanacNews.com/real_estate

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Woodside man charged with manslaughter in car crash that killed two on Highway 35

Prosecutors: James Morton Worthington lost control of car near Reids Roost Road after dinner and drinks at Alice's Restaurant in Woodside

By Bay City News Service

A 51-year-old man faces two counts of vehicular manslaughter and other charges for an alleged drunk driving crash on state Highway 35 near Woodside last month, San Mateo County prosecutors said Monday, July 3.

James Morton Worthington,

a Woodside resident, had dinner and drinks on June 21 with friends Henry Keating and Josh McGuigan at Alice's Restaurant, located on Highway 35, also known as Skyline Boulevard, according to the county District Attorney's Office.

The three then got into Worthington's sedan and allegedly drove on the winding

Skyline Boulevard at speeds of about 90 mph before Worthington lost control of the car in the area of Reids Roost Road and crashed head-on into a tree, causing the car to catch fire, prosecutors said.

Witnesses pulled Worthington, who was unconscious, out of the vehicle and he was taken to Stanford Hospital

with broken ribs and other injuries, while Keating and McGuigan were pronounced dead at the scene, according to the District Attorney's Office.

At the hospital, officers noted the smell of alcohol on Worthington, whose blood alcohol content was at .10% three-and-a-half hours after the crash, prosecutors said.

He made his initial appearance in court Friday, June 30, to face the charges of vehicular manslaughter and DUI and pleaded not guilty.

Worthington, whose defense attorney was not immediately available for comment, remains in custody on \$1 million bail and is set to return to court on Aug. 4 for a preliminary hearing. ■

Sutter Health vows to reopen shuttered therapy pool in San Mateo

Closure of Mickelson therapy pool in 2020 drew protests, county supervisor's attention

By Lydia Sidhom

Following backlash from the community, Sutter Health in San Mateo is reopening a warm therapy pool two years ahead of schedule.

In 2020, Sutter had announced that it was permanently closing the therapy pool located at the Mickelson Arthritis and Rehabilitation Center as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Mickelson therapy pool was historically used for short-term physician-prescribed physical therapy. It was also

available for "open access" for self-directed therapy, a service that was open to community members with a doctor's release for a monthly fee, according to a joint letter from state and local elected officials to Sutter Health CEO Warner Thomas in May.

Among the letter's signatories was San Mateo County Supervisor David Canepa, who has led the effort to reopen the pool since its closure. In February 2020, Sutter cut the open-access hours for community use.

According to the letter, the pool's closure has had

"devastating health effects on the elderly, chronically ill disabled and other vulnerable populations that for years depended upon the Mickelson pool to maintain their health, well-being and mobility."

Sutter anticipates that the pool will be ready for patients again in summer 2024, pending no unforeseen delays, according to a statement released June 28. They are currently in the process of applying for permits to start doing the necessary work needed to reopen the pool.

Advocates from the nonprofit Warm Water Wellness said they

had concerns about the extent to which the hospital plans to reopen the pool.

"We are delighted that Sutter has shortened the timeline for reopening the Mickelson therapy pool to early summer 2024," said Warm Water Wellness. "However, we are concerned that Sutter has not yet confirmed that the pool will be utilized for both physician-prescribed physical therapy and 'open access' self-directed therapy available to all community members as it was prior to the pandemic closure."

Sutter said they are currently working on operational details and will continue to post updates on the details of the pool's reopening at <https://vitals.sutterhealth.org/mickelson-center/>.

"We recognize that our patients and the community are eager to learn more specifics," said Sutter Health spokesperson Angeline Sheets. "We appreciate the community's patience and understanding as we strive to deliver comprehensive and accurate information to all those who are interested in utilizing the pool's services." ■

Public Notices

CONTRACTORS GIFT BOX
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-294499

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

1.) Contractors Gift Box, located at 530 Oak Grove Avenue, Suite 101A, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Registered owner(s):
ANTONIO NOLASCO

252 Hedge Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025
CYNTHIA J NOLASCO

252 Hedge Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025

This business is conducted by: a Married Couple.

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 June 02 2023.
(ALM Jun 23, 30, Jul 7 and 14, 2023)

HYPATIA'S CUISINE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-294660

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

1.) Hypatia's Cuisine, located at 2561 El Camino Real Redwood City, CA 94063.

Registered owner(s):
MILENE HYPATIA HANNER
655 Oak Grove Ave 668

Menlo Park, CA 94026

This business is conducted by: an Individual.

Registrant has not yet begun 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 June 26 2023.
(ALM Jul 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2023)

IN YOUR PLACE PET AND HOUSE SITTING
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-294597

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

1.) In Your Place Pet and House Sitting, located at 3639 Haven Ave C321, Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.

Registered owner(s):
GINA MARIE GREGA
3639 Haven Ave C321
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 June 15, 2023.
(ALM Jun 23, 30, Jul 7 and 14, 2023)

To place a legal notice visit
AlmanacNews.com/legal_notices/

Golden State Warriors owner divides and sells Atherton estate for \$41M

Pair of properties includes two homes and a basketball court

By Palo Alto Weekly staff

Two side-by-side properties on Atherton Avenue that were part of the estate of Golden State Warriors owner Joseph Lacob sold for a total of \$41 million on May 26, according to data from real estate database Multiple Listing Service.

The two separate transactions were among five Atherton properties that sold for between \$11.75 million and \$21 million during the last week of May, according to recorded sales transactions from MLS made public on June 26.

One of the estate's lots, a 1.03-acre parcel with a 3,691-square-foot home, according to Zillow, and blue-and-gold half-court with the NBA basketball team's logo emblazoned on it, was sold to A & E Venture Partners LLC for \$20 million.

The estate's other 1.1-acre parcel was sold to Lip-Bu Trust for \$21 million and includes a 10,355-square-foot custom-built Italian-style villa with stucco walls, a red-tiled roof, archways and fountains. There's also a temperature-controlled wine room, movie theater, walnut-paneled library, an outdoor pool and spa, and a dining pavilion with a fireplace and full kitchen surrounded by heritage olive trees, according to the property description from Compass real agents Mary and Brent Gullixson, who handled the sales transactions for both parcels.

The villa was built by developer Rafi Bamdad, known for meticulously designing elaborate spec homes in the area with price tags as high as \$110 million.

His homes have included features such as six hand-carved French limestone fireplaces, a

whiskey bar, an 11-seat theater, a 3,000-bottle wine cellar and elevators. For at least one project, he imported 150-year-old olive trees and more than 250 rose bushes.

Bambad reportedly sold the Atherton Avenue villa to Lacob for \$15.2 million in 2007. Lacob recently purchased another newly built Italian-style villa on 3.3 acres in Woodside from Bambad for \$40 million, according to The Real Deal, which reported on the transaction in February. The home was initially listed for \$110 million. ■

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World-renowned physicist Stanley Wojcicki dies at 86

Stanford University professor emeritus was a pioneer in the field of experimental particle physics

By Emily Margaretten

Stanley George Wojcicki, a preeminent physicist, Stanford University professor emeritus and inspirational father to three accomplished daughters, died of congestive heart failure at home in Los Altos on May 31, his wife, Esther Wojcicki, said. He was 86.

Wojcicki was a leading figure in the field of experimental particle physics, said Giorgio Gratta, chair of the physics department at Stanford University, where Wojcicki was a professor for 44 years before his retirement in 2010.

Born in Warsaw, Poland in 1937, at the cusp of World War II, Wojcicki's childhood was shaped by political upheaval.

"Stan led a dramatic life," Esther Wojcicki said.

During the war, his father, Franciszek Wójcicki, was exiled in London, while his mother, Janina Wanda Wójcicka, remained in Poland with their two young sons. Wojcicki's father returned to Poland when the war ended, but the family reunification was short-lived.

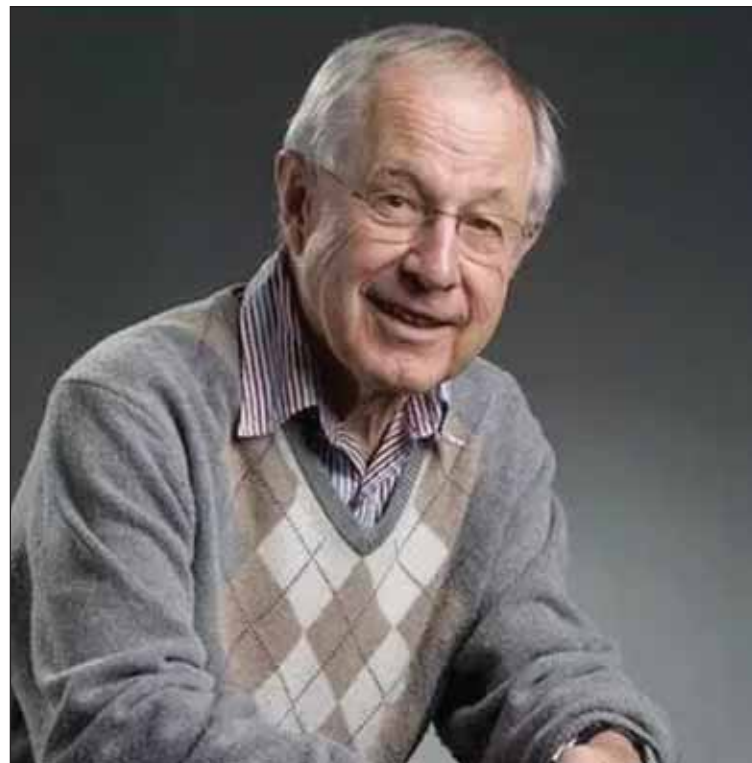
Wojcicki, his mother and brother escaped Poland when Communists came into power; they hid in a coal bin on a ship bound for Sweden in 1949, according to a SF Gate article. They eventually made it to the United States, but his father never joined them. Instead, he was imprisoned for five years for his opposition to the ruling party in Poland.

'He was not only a great scientist but also a very good leader.'

GIORGIO GRATTA,
PHYSICS DEPARTMENT CHAIR,
STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Despite not having much money, Wojcicki's mother prioritized her children's education. Wojcicki demonstrated a strong aptitude for mathematics and graduated from Gonzaga College High School at the age of 16. He received a scholarship from Harvard University and graduated Phi Beta Kappa when he was 20 years old.

Wojcicki initially thought he would pursue a career in engineering or medicine. But his interest in experimental



Courtesy Stanford University

Stanley Wojcicki, a professor emeritus at Stanford University, was a world-renowned physicist. He died on May 31.

particle physics launched with Sputnik, the world's first artificial satellite.

"I was already studying physics, but Sputnik steered me toward space, cosmology, the Big Bang and elementary particles," Wojcicki said in the SF Gate story.

By then, it was 1957 and Wojcicki had started his doctoral studies at University of California at Berkeley. It also was during this time that physics was undergoing an explosive growth of new discoveries. At Berkeley's Lawrence Radiation Laboratory, Wojcicki was studying particles called K-mesons, which are made up of subatomic particles or quarks.

"He was spending his time devising and executing experiments, trying to elucidate how fundamental forces make fundamental particles interact with each other," Gratta said.

"One of them has the whimsical name of 'strange' quark," Gratta continued. "Stan was one of the people pioneering some of the experiments that led to explaining how those things work and to what extent they are strange, like what does it mean for them to actually behave strangely?"

It also was during this time that Wojcicki met his wife, Esther Hochman, another U.C. Berkeley student. They married in 1961, the same year he obtained his doctorate.

In 1964, Wojcicki received a National Science Foundation

Postdoctoral Fellowship and took a position as a visiting scientist at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, in Geneva, which was followed by a visiting position at the Collège de France in Paris. In subsequent years, Wojcicki received a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship and an Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Senior Scientist award that brought him back to CERN.

Wojcicki returned to Berkeley's Lawrence Radiation Laboratory in 1965 and a year later accepted a position in the physics department at Stanford University, serving as the department chair twice and earning numerous teaching and research awards that continued even after his retirement in 2010. For instance, Wojcicki received the prestigious Bruno Pontecorvo Prize in 2011 and Panofsky Prize in 2015, both of which recognized his invaluable contributions to the field of experimental particle physics.

Humbled by these awards, Wojcicki was quick to point out the contributions of his colleagues at different institutions where, as a visiting scientist, he cultivated lifelong collaborations.

"He was not only a great scientist but also a very good leader who could put together experiments that needed very large groups of people and keep the thing together," Gratta said, comparing Wojcicki to an orchestra director who created

a harmonious whole out of many different moving parts.

Wojcicki's dedication to science was not always easy though. From 1985 to 1989, he took a leave from Stanford University to work on a federal project known as the Superconducting Super Collider (SSC) that was being built in Texas. Designed as the largest and most powerful particle accelerator in the world, the construction of the SSC was cut short by Congress in 1993 because of funding concerns.

Well-aware of this possibility, Wojcicki wrote a letter describing his hopes for the SSC while also recognizing — through his longstanding advisory roles with government agencies — that nothing should be taken for granted.

"He said something like, 'I'm very optimistic at this point that we're done. But for a long time, I found that with the government, nothing is done until it's really done,'" Gratta said.

Wojcicki at home and in the community

Despite these setbacks, Wojcicki never lost faith in the power of the scientific method to make the world a better place, something that he championed at home too, Esther Wojcicki said. At the dinner table, he always asked his daughters for proof about what they were talking about.

"I would say that he really influenced them to seek the truth, the scientific truth, and then to persist. Whatever it was you did, you wanted to make sure that it really happened and you didn't give up," she said, crediting this mindset to her children's professional success as well. (Susan Wojcicki is the former CEO of YouTube, Janet Wojcicki is an epidemiologist and professor of pediatrics at UCSF and Anne Wojcicki is the founder and CEO of 23andMe.)

Wojcicki was invested in the broader Stanford and Palo Alto community too. He volunteered as a coach for each of his daughter's soccer teams, and he and his wife hosted an annual barbecue swim party at their Stanford home for 20 years.

"We did a lot of entertaining," Esther Wojcicki said, laughing at the memory of so many physicists swimming in their pool.

Gratta similarly described the warm generosity of Wojcicki: "He was a wonderful colleague, very generous with

his time and willing to help," something that Gratta particularly appreciated as they had overlapping research interests.

Wojcicki continued to pioneer new experiments in the 2000s, turning his attention to elementary particles called neutrinos. He projected them through a particle accelerator, detecting different kinds of transmutations, Gratta said.

'Sputnik steered me toward space, cosmology, the Big Bang and elementary particles.'

STANLEY WOJCICKI, PHYSICIST

"By the time you detect the beam of neutrinos, some of them turned into some other type of neutrino. ... And this had a number of implications for general fundamental physics," he added.

Wojcicki's research took him to laboratories — like the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory near Chicago and Brookhaven National Laboratory in Long Island — so often that he gained the reputation as the department's most frequent flier.

"Stan logged more airline miles than anybody I know," Gratta laughed. "We also traveled quite a bit, but Stan was a class of his own."

The traveling paid off; his experiments with neutrino oscillations led to a number of discoveries that contributed to a more complex understanding of the Standard Model of Particle Physics, a scientific theory that describes the basic building blocks of the universe.

"He actually saw this entire arc in the field of physics, and he participated in all of it," Gratta said, referring to the totality of Wojcicki's career in experimental particle physics.

Wojcicki is survived by his wife, Esther; daughters Susan Wojcicki (Dennis Troper), Janet Wojcicki and Anne Wojcicki; and 10 grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at Stanford University in September. Donations in Wojcicki's memory can be made to the San Francisco Exploratorium, exploratorium.edu/support/give. ■

Email Contributing Writer
Emily Margaretten at
margarettene@gmail.com.

Artscene

PEOPLE AND PERFORMANCES IN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Art, activism and alternatives

'Earth' closes out Palo Alto Art Center's series on climate change

By Akhil Joondeph

Photographs of blazing wildfires and stylized depictions of natural disasters dot the walls of the Palo Alto Art Center's latest exhibition, "Earth." The third and final installment in the center's "Climate Connections" series, "Earth" is a celebration of the land and its gifts to humankind, and a warning to viewers of its fragility in the present day.

The "Climate Connections" series is an initiative by the Art Center to highlight artworks that address current climate catastrophe, as well as to support sustainable artistic and curatorial practices. The series' first installment, "Fire Transforms," focused specifically on local wildfires; the second exhibition, "Under Water," highlighted the many facets of the relationship between humanity and water. The series also runs in parallel to the city of Palo Alto's focus on sustainability within the community.

"The city of Palo Alto has a new sustainability plan," Palo Alto Art Center Director Karen Kienzle said. "Presenting this series was a really wonderful way to reinforce that focus on sustainability in our work ... and to really include the work of a wide range of artists working in this area. Studies have indicated that art can actually encourage discussions about climate change. These exhibitions provide a forum, a space to kind of think about climate issues and to talk about them through artwork."

And "Earth" aims to do just that: open questions surrounding sustainability, climate consciousness and our shared planet. Juror and co-founder of local nonprofit Art + Climate Action Jodi Roberts helped the Art Center select pieces to display as a part of "Earth," bringing her unique vision and curatorial eye to the process of presenting this exhibit.

"I didn't have a distinct agenda when selecting works for this exhibit," Roberts said. "I did find myself drawn to a huge variety of works. And one of the things that kept catching my attention were works that addressed the idea of the show, both in terms

of the materials used, and the messaging or the representation within the work. There are works that feature repurposed materials, innovative uses of technology, new forms of printing, new inks made from natural sources, some very historical work or works that were referencing historical precedents that were more ecologically or climate friendly and their materials or their processes. I was drawn to those fuller circles of production and concept and message. There's such a variety of works within the show, and that, to me, was actually really exciting."

Artist Federica Armstrong has a photographic diptych on display in the exhibition, highlighting the fires that have ravaged California's land in recent years. Full disclosure: Armstrong is an occasional contributor to *The Almanac* and its sister publications.

"It's two square images of the Carr Fire (that) happened in 2018, in the area of Redding in Northern California," Armstrong said. "I actually ended up going there assisting another photographer. ... I took these images while I was actually assisting him. The two pictures are from the very first afternoon I was up there: One is

a picture of a landscape with the railing in the front, it's basically just this very charred landscape with this glowing orange sun that we've now become unfortunately familiar with. The other image ... we took inside an actual small fire station again in the outskirts of Redding. This is a small volunteer fire station and it was just so ironic that you see this fire station that is actually burned down."

Armstrong said she chose the diptych format for this piece, with two juxtaposing images presented side-by-side, to question our desensitization to the destruction of regional fires.

"I feel in a way we've kind of become a little too accustomed to these kinds of images," Armstrong said. "The idea of the diptych is to show on one side how the landscape is affected, but also how human life is affected. It creates a dual vision. It's a moment of reflection."

Photographer Charlotta Hauksdottir also used nontraditional staging methods to reinforce her work's message and impact; Hauksdottir removed segments from an image of the Icelandic landscape she photographed, leaving a dark void in its place.

"The work that I have featured



Courtesy Palo Alto Art Center/Charlotta Hauksdottir

Charlotta Hauksdottir used nontraditional methods in her photography, removing segments of her image of the Icelandic landscape, leaving a dark void in its place.

in 'Earth' is a part of a series called 'Imprints,'" Hauksdottir said. "This particular one is called 'Erosion.' And because the landscape is eroding, I'm also cutting away part of it and just representing how nature is changing and how glaciers are disappearing."

Through shows like "Earth," curators and artists alike hope to utilize art's personal, human nature to nudge audiences and encourage reflection of the state of our climate.

"Art offers a totally different aperture for approaching the conversation surrounding climate change," Roberts said. "What's so great about a lot of these works is they're not incredibly didactic. They raise a lot of questions as opposed to providing statistics or analysis or conclusions. There's something so intensely personal and visceral about experiencing a work of art."

Armstrong echoed Roberts' sentiments, emphasizing the role art can play in helping us feel empowered to address problems

that may feel too large to tackle.

"Art is really a way to process what is happening," Armstrong said. "There is an exchange, there is a transformation, when we create art. There's something of us that is put in the final product. And I think that experience of seeing a problem, seeing a situation through somebody else's eyes, ... I think that that's really powerful. For problems that are very broad, like climate change, I think we feel very disempowered sometimes, because as individuals, maybe we don't feel that we can do a lot. But this idea of being informed and being transformed by the art of other people, I think that that's very important. And I think that's ultimately what art is about: it's about processing pain, processing difficult situations in a way that helps us elevate our suffering in a way and help us understand the complexities of issues a little bit better, even if we cannot really solve the problems themselves." ■

Email Editorial Intern Akhil Joondeph at ajoondeph@paweekly.com



Courtesy Palo Alto Art Center/Federica Armstrong

Photographer Federica Armstrong's diptych of shots from the 2018 Carr Fire highlight the fires that have ravaged California's land in recent years.

Worth a Look



Courtesy Filoli

Rock band Effie Zilch plays Filoli's Summer Stage series.

Effie Zilch and Miko Marks

Woodside's Filoli estate invites listeners to kick back at the property's meadow for a summer evening that's a little bit country and a little bit rock'n'roll. Bay Area-based retro-rockers Effie Zilch and country singer-songwriter Miko Marks perform Sunday, July 9, as part of Filoli's Summer Stage series. Effie Zilch — with its core duo of guitarist Steve Wyreman and Evanne Barcnas — and Marks are touring partners and sometime collaborators. Wyreman draws on a wide range of 1960s influences, from folk and roots to hazy psychedelic riffs, for a guitar-heavy sound rounded out by Barcnas' lightly country-inflected vocals. Marks' powerful vocals drive high-energy honky-tonkin' tunes and bluesy ballads.

July 9, 5:30 p.m. at Filoli, 86 Cañada Road, Woodside. Tickets are \$65. filoli.org (HZ)

Cartoon Jazz

Listen to some nostalgic tunes from the cartoons of your childhood, performed live by the Cartoon Jazz project, on Sunday, July 9. Created in 2003 for the Stanford Jazz Festival, the group specializes in a range of jazz tunes written by composer Raymond Scott; while these works were never intended to be a part of cartoons, then-Warner Brothers Music Director Carl Stalling became a big fan of Scott's work, and the rest is history. Get ready to groove along to iconic themes from cartoons featuring Porky Pig and Bugs Bunny at this outdoor concert. Food and drinks will be available for purchase, and the center's Oasis playground will entertain young guests. This concert is a part of the JCC's Summer on the Square series, with live music every other week at the center throughout the summer.

Sunday July 9, 4-5 p.m. at the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center Town Square, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. Tickets are free, or pay-as-you-wish. paloaltojcc.org (AJ).

Gamble Garden Second Saturday

Enjoy the beautiful July sunshine at Gamble Garden's historic grounds, which are sure to be buzzing with life as bees pollinate the summer blooms. The insects have also taken up residence within a special bee house that will be on display for the daring to peer inside as part of Gamble's Second Saturday event on July 8. The day's festivities include guided tours through the garden, honey tastings, arts and crafts activities, visits to the historic Elizabeth Gamble house and a Q&A table with a master gardener where visitors can get helpful tips to hopefully help save any struggling summer plants from their demise.

July 8, 10 a.m.-noon at the Elizabeth F. Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverley St., Palo Alto. Admission is free. gamblegarden.org (AJ).

44th Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival

The Los Altos Arts & Wine Festival returns to the city's streets this year, featuring a vibrant and diverse lineup of artists and myriad food and drink offerings. Over 200 artists will be displaying and selling their work as a part of the festival, working in media ranging from candles to collage. The festival's three stages, including one devoted solely to entertainment for children, will feature numerous local performing artists, including Sound Decision, The Country Cougars, Jazz Connection, Broadway Babies and Kids, House of Samba Kids and more. Wine will be available from Byington Vineyard, Domenico Winery, Page Mill Winery, Fogarty Winery and other local vineyards.

July 8-9, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Main and State streets, Los Altos. Admission is free. downtownlosaltos.org (AJ).

— Briefs by Akhil Joondeph and Heather Zimmerman.

Review: On a high note

With 'Falsettos,' The Pear offers outsized talent in an intimate space

By Karla Kane

The Pear Theatre isn't typically known for producing musicals, but after attending its new production of William Finn and James Lapine's Tony-winning "Falsettos," I would argue that it should be. Billed as the Mountain View theater company's first fully staged musical in its current location, the show offers outsized talent in an intimate space, and deserves bigger audiences.

"Falsettos," which premiered on Broadway in 1992, was adapted from two one-acts by Finn ("March of the Falsettos" and "Falsettoland"). The story, with its first act set in New York in 1979, revolves around the self-absorbed Marvin (played at the Pear by Tyler Savin), who has come out of the closet and left his long-suffering wife Trina (Jen Wheatonfox) and young son Jason (Russell Nakagawa) to be with his lover, Whizzer (the always fabulous Brad Satterwhite). His psychiatrist Mendel (Kyle Herrera), meanwhile, soon develops feelings for Trina that are definitely not professional. Despite the ongoing hurt and lingering resentment, Marvin still desires a tight-knit, happy family, even as he risks winding up all alone.

The "Four Jews in a Room Bitching" (as the opening number proclaims), plus Trina, are the nucleus of the story (and in fact the only characters in the first act). In the second act, audiences are also introduced to two more — Marvin's good friends and the "lesbians next door," Angie Alvarez as no-nonsense physician Charlotte and Leah Kennedy as hopeful caterer Cordelia. The presence of Charlotte and Cordelia is welcome, but their late addition means we don't get to know them as well as we'd like. However, they do serve as another example of how a family can grow and expand.

While much of the show is played for laughs, rooted in self-deprecating Jewish-American humor, and full of both witty lyrics and energetic physical comedy, it packs a true emotional punch, both from the relationship trials and tribulations as well as, in act two, the looming shadow of the AIDS crisis.

It's a challenging endeavor, entirely sung through, and asks a lot of its cast. With the guidance of director Janie Scott and vocal director Dario Johnson, the Pear ensemble is more than up to the task. I was blown away by the quality of the singing, especially when delivered in gorgeous harmony, such as during Satterwhite,



Courtesy Caitlin Stone-Collonge

Actors from left, Kyle Herrera, Jen Wheatonfox, Russell Nakagawa, Brad Satterwhite, Angie Alvarez, Leah Kennedy and Tyler Savin gather at a pivotal moment in The Pear's production of "Falsettos."

Savin, Alvarez and Kennedy's "Unlikely Lovers." Performances also shine in solo numbers, such as Wheatonfox's absolute tour-de-force "I'm Breaking Down" (I'll admit to being nervous she'd accidentally cut off one of her fingers, so furious is her way with a kitchen knife). Herrera, too, is wonderful in his role as the kindly, nerdy Mendel, and the sweet-voiced Nakagawa is adorable as little Jason, who forms warm bonds with his two pseudo-father figures, Whizzer and Mendel, while feeling estranged from his actual parents.

Part of the pleasure of a well-done musical comes from having live musicians, something that, unfortunately, is not always the case with smaller theaters. Happily, the Pear's "Falsettos" includes a crackerjack "teeny-tiny band," led by pianist Val Zvinyatskovsky, with percussionist Kyle Morgan, reeds player Asa Stern, and Ruiran Xun on synthesizer, providing a lush sound from just the four of them. In a sort of reverse orchestra pit, perched above the audience on a balcony, they deftly navigate Finn's complex score alongside the marvelous singing cast on stage below.

The Pear's black-box theater lends itself to flexible configurations, and in the case of "Falsettos" it's arranged with the performers in the center, with rows of seats on either side, basketball-court style (indeed, audience members sometimes feel like they're figuratively watching a sports match, and are sometimes literally, in the case of Whizzer and Marvin's racquetball games).

This style of staging keeps visual interest and energy, as one never knows where the action will next happen, although it also means at any given time, half the audience may be looking at the performers' backs and

losing bits of their words. It also adds to the sometimes startling intimacy of the production, with the cast singing just a few feet away from audience members' faces, and always offering a clear view of the rest of the audience on the other side.

The production, like its characters, has its flaws. The music, while delightful, overpowers the vocalists at times (especially, as aforementioned, while characters have their backs turned), and microphones occasionally cutting in and out don't help matters. Over-long, the show drags a bit, with one song blurring into another (make sure to stretch and refresh at intermission).

Set and props are cleverly minimalistic, in the first half especially, when several boards and blocks are constantly reconfigured to represent various furniture. More kudos to the cast, who also serve as well-choreographed stage hands, responsible for rebuilding their set every few minutes. As the plot unfolds and the characters mature, the props and set pieces become a bit more evolved as well.

When it was first written and performed, "Falsettos" was no doubt boldly modern, with its depiction of everyday gay life. And though times have changed, it still feels more fresh than retro. While it depicts a specific time, place and culture, its themes — personal growth, relationship complications, identity — are also universal. The funny, frank "Falsettos" shows us that family ties — both of blood and of choice — come with pain, but also great beauty.

"Falsettos" runs through July 23 at the Pear Theatre, 1110 La Avenida St., Mountain View. More information is available at thepear.org. ■

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

Food & Drink

How a San Jose firefighter became a granola guru



South Bay-based Paul's Firehouse Granola was inspired by hungry firefighters looking to refuel after a long shift

By Kate Bradshaw

Paul Marshall didn't know what he wanted to be when he grew up. At first, he thought maybe he'd be a professional soccer player. But after he transitioned from playing at Soquel High School to Cabrillo Junior College, he decided he should probably come up with a different plan.

So he signed up for a career planning class, and after an extensive survey, he was given three career suggestions: park ranger, police officer or firefighter. As part of the class, he had to complete a report on one of those careers, so he decided to interview the firefighters at the Scotts Valley Fire Department.

Marshall was quickly welcomed into the group of firefighters. He helped them cook dinner, which was interrupted when a 911 call came in about a woman who was experiencing shortness of breath.

Seeing the blend of professionalism and poise with which the firefighters talked to the woman, who was experiencing anxiety — while they bantered about ice cream flavors in the firetruck — was an experience that stayed with him, he said.

Later, a firefighter he interviewed told him, "I've been a firefighter for 25 years, and I love my career today as much as I did when I started."

At that point, Marshall said, "I knew what I was going to do."

He spent the next seven years working as a firefighter for Scotts Valley before eventually becoming a San Jose firefighter. It was there that he learned one of his fire station superpowers was cooking.

He'd grown up cooking at home — he recalls starting out baking desserts from his mom's three-ring "Betty Crocker"

binder before venturing into the world of entrees — and had collected cookbooks as a teen.

"I realized how happy I could make people by putting food in front of them," he said.

So he became one of the regular chefs at Fire Station 17 in San Jose. Within the fire department, there were a number of impressive chefs, along with a sense of friendly competition. But a frequent downside of life in a fire station was that their meals were frequently interrupted by fire alarms.

Going to respond to a fire can take several hours at a time, meaning that firefighters were often hungry on the job.

Around 2010, Marshall began making granola at his fire station. He added flavors he'd grown up enjoying, inspired by the trail mix his mom used to have around the house with flavors like cinnamon and cloves and nuts including cashews, almonds and peanuts, plus accents like dark chocolate and cranberry.

"It didn't take long before I came up with a granola I thought was really good," he said.

Soon he was making custom granola batches as gifts for firefighters' friends and family, and finding granola nuggets trapped in the seats of the firetrucks the team cleaned regularly.

About five years ago, he decided to get another opinion and took a batch to Whole Foods to ask for some feedback on his granola. It was a hit, and they offered to work with him to get his product into their stores.

Thrilled, he went home and thought about it, but decided he wasn't ready.

"There's all this stuff I don't have," he explained. "I don't have a logo, website, team or business plan."



Above: Retired firefighter Paul Marshall makes a batch of granola at a commercial kitchen in Campbell. Courtesy HB MEDIA.US. Top: Paul's Firehouse Granola features ingredients inspired by trail mix that Marshall enjoyed growing up. Courtesy Hannah Kaminsky.



Courtesy HB MEDIA.US

Paul Marshall retired from firefighting last year and is devoting himself full-time to his granola business.



Courtesy Hannah Kaminsky

Ice cream is topped with Paul's Firehouse Granola.

So he declined the offer but began taking his granola more seriously. He dug into designing a logo, building a website, testing out competitor granolas and figuring out packaging concepts. He also partnered with local athletes to serve as brand ambassadors for his granola, including Shane Desmond, Vivian Lo, Kaila Pearson, Leroy Thomas, Eamon Lucas, Lauren Ten Dam, Barbara Blackburn and Hans and Kelly Jorgensen. And he began working out of a commercial kitchen, spending late nights listening to '80s music and baking up granola batches.

"Something important to me is to make it perfect before I get it out there," he said.

Soon after one of his granola jars was sold at a charity auction, someone from Western Digital ordered hundreds of gift boxes for the holidays. Then, through a connection with an Airbnb guest, he started doing pop-ups at Williams-Sonoma. He also connected with Intuit and a program that supports small businesses to keep growing.

He retired from firefighting last year and is working on building the granola business full time now, currently serving a mix of individual and corporate customers while looking to expand the business and its team.

"I'm confident it's going to take me into the right direction," he said.

Paul's Firehouse Granola,
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We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Average results for water samples for the last four quarters have manganese levels of 53 ppb in well #1 and 143 ppb in well #2 (ppb=parts per billion). This is above the secondary drinking water standard, or secondary maximum contaminant level of 50 ppb.

Manganese concentrations above the standard may have an effect on taste and tend to leave black deposits in some plumbing systems.

What should I do?

- You do not need to use an alternative water supply (e.g., bottled water). There is no health risk.
- If you have other health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

What happened? What is being done?

O'Connor Water has been above the secondary standard for manganese for many years, and this has been described to members in the annual Report on Water Quality Measurements. Recent state regulations have imposed stricter requirements for complying with the secondary standard for manganese. The state has issued the company a citation for noncompliance. The state ordered the company to start quarterly monitoring in February 2012, and this monitoring is still ongoing at both wells. The state also required that manganese monitoring be continued quarterly and that the results of these tests be reported to all water consumers.

The Company has been working with State agencies and the City of Menlo Park to complete the planning of a manganese treatment facility and construction is well along at the Company's property.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this public notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this public notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

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