The Almanac

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Despite Alpine Inn's efforts, overflow parking problems persist

By Malea Martin

After years of struggling to find enough space for its patrons to park, leading to frustrated neighbors as cars spilled out into surrounding streets, the Alpine Inn in Portola Valley is starting to make headway in freeing up some space in its parking lot by having its employees park in a nearby town-owned lot.

But even with this solution in place, it appears there's still not room for everyone: More than 70 cars were parked along the shoulder of Arastradero Road leading up to the Alpine Inn when this news organization observed the road on Thursday, Aug. 3. Some were encroaching on the traffic lane, with half of their vehicle over the white road striping, which public safety officials say is creating a hazard.

Ever since the Alpine Inn underwent major renovations in 2019, the already popular restaurant has seen a surge in customers, especially on warm summer days.

Neighbors first made their voices heard about parking issues in 2021, when they told The Almanac that cars were parking along the shoulder of Golden Oak Drive across from the Alpine Inn when the restaurant's lot was full.

According to neighbors at the time, the situation presented major safety issues, as cars coming down the road were forced to cross the double yellow line to pass parked cars. Those living nearby said motorists were also making dangerous U-turns on the Golden Oak Drive hill in order to park, as well as walking across busy Alpine Road to get to the restaurant, which doesn't have any crosswalks or pedestrian lights.

Now, a few years later, Woodside Fire Protection District Fire Marshal Don Bullard said there's an even bigger safety concern happening on nearby Arastradero Road.

"I've gotten several complaints from residents that live in Portola Valley that drive Arastradero

See **ALPINE INN,** *page 17*

Courtesy Jean Paul Coupal

A sign warning people not to park on Golden Oak Drive near the Alpine Inn in Portola Valley in summer of 2023. An Alpine Inn employee patrols the spot.

Legal expert: Menlo Park could fight high-rise project in court

Under builder's remedy, N17 plans massive mixed-use complex at old Sunset Magazine campus on Willow Road

By Cameron Rebosio

The soaring high-rise development proposed at the former Sunset Magazine headquarters in Menlo Park is sparking concern among citizens and city officials alike, with an expert saying the monolithic building project could end up in court.

The dense project proposed by N17 Development features four buildings, two of them housing residential units, to replace the single-story former Sunset Magazine campus at 80 Willow Road, near the Palo Alto border. The tallest building would rise 326 feet, taller than the 305-foot Statue of Liberty and only 4 feet below most modern definitions of a skyscraper.

"My jaw hit the floor when I learned about it and I thought it was a typo," Mayor Jen Wolosin said. "I understand the concerns in the community and I'm one of those concerned residents."

The building's preapplication was filed under SB 330, commonly known as the builder's remedy law. Builder's remedy goes into effect when a city has not adopted a compliant housing element, or a document defining opportunity sites to build housing and methods to achieve state-mandated housing goals.

According to Christopher Elmendorf, a professor at UC Davis specializing in property and land-use law, builder's remedy limits the city's authority to deny an affordable housing project or hamper a development after a preapplication is submitted. Any project that has at least 20% of its units designated affordable for lower-income households, or 100% of units designated for moderate-income households, cannot be restricted by zoning or the city's general plan.

While the preapplication submitted to Menlo Park doesn't specify how many units will be affordable and at what income level, the proposal meets other requirements of builder's remedy. The Housing Accountability Act says that mixed-use developments with at least two-thirds of the square footage designated for residential use can fall under builder's remedy. Despite including retail, hotel rooms, offices and a 226-foot-tall building for laboratories and research, N17's project has 148,400 square feet of non-residential space and approximately 1,232,100 square feet of residential area, well over two-thirds of the project.

"The proposal is wildly out of scale with what our community has been planning for housing growth and we've been working very hard on the housing element to distribute housing thoughtfully throughout the city," Wolosin said.

Still, Menlo Park has some paths for objecting to the preapplication for 80 Willow Road. According to Elmendorf, builder's remedy projects are still subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and health and safety standards. If the project is found infeasible in either of these categories, it is still possible to deny the proposal.

One other path that some cities have taken is to go through

See **HIGH RISE,** *page 11*

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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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Magali Gauthier

Jimmy Lim lunges to hit the ball while playing pickleball at Mitchell Park in Palo Alto.

Survey: Atherton residents overwhelmingly support adding pickleball court to Holbrook-Palmer Park

By Michaela Seah

A temporary pickleball court may be coming to Holbrook-Palmer Park for a six-month trial. The idea got overwhelming support in a survey the town of Atherton sent to residents in April asking whether they'd approve of the addition of a pickleball court to the town's only park.

The survey was discussed at the July 19 Atherton City Council meeting, and town staff directed to return in September with a plan and cost analysis.

The survey highlighted the many ways a pickleball court could be implemented, such as converting one of the six tennis courts into a pickleball court or converting a tennis court into a multi-sport court. The survey also gave the community an opportunity to give the council guidance on the decision.

See **PICKLEBALL,** *page 18*

Tick population rises after wet winter

Up to 20% more than in 2019, Bay Area Lyme Foundation says

By Malea Martin

Ticks are always something to watch out for in the Bay Area, but this year warrants some extra vigilance. Recent sweeps in Portola Valley and the greater Bay Area indicate the population of disease-carrying arachnids is on the rise, which experts believe is tied to last winter's intense rainy season.

The Bay Area Lyme Foundation, founded in 2012 and headquartered in Portola Valley, periodically conducts tick sweeps at locations throughout the Bay Area, including in Portola Valley's Windy Hill Preserve.

The foundation's most recent sweep was in March, and while the data hasn't yet been finalized, Executive Director Linda Giampa said early estimates indicate a 10-20% increase in ticks compared to the foundation's last sweep in 2019.

"It was much easier to collect the ticks than it had been in 2019," Giampa said. "And it was a huge rainy season, so we know that leads to more ticks."

Not only are there more ticks this year, but tick season will likely last a lot longer, Giampa explained, because ticks love moisture. Typically, the number of ticks begins to wane by August or September — but not this year.

"Because of the abundance of rain, things stayed greener for longer," Giampa said. "Even Windy Hill stayed green until fairly recently. You'll get more ticks the greener that it is, and the more moist it is in the area."

This year, the Bay Area Lyme Foundation partnered with researchers from Northern Arizona University and Colorado State University to conduct the tick sweeps, a surprisingly rudimentary process.

"You have a white felt piece of fabric, you tie it onto a long pole, the fabric lays down, and you walk on the paths of all of these places and you drag the felt along the sides of the paths," Giampa said of the sweep process. "Then you take that fabric and you pick off all the ticks you find. ... You put them in jars and categorize them."

While counting the number of ticks is rather simple, what's more complicated is determining the proportion of ticks that are carrying diseases. Those findings will be published next year, Giampa said, and will help

See **TICKS,** *page 19*

North Fair Oaks stabbing victim leaves behind two children

By Malea Martin

The woman who was fatally stabbed in North Fair Oaks in an apparent act of domestic violence left behind two children, according to a GoFundMe page set up for the victim's 17-year-old daughter, who was also injured in the attack.

A woman called 911 around 12:30 a.m. on July 30, screaming for help and saying someone was trying to kill her, according to Sgt. Javier Acosta of the Sheriff's Office. Deputies found two women with stab wounds at a home in the 3200 block of Fair Oaks Avenue in unincorporated North Fair Oaks. They were both taken to Stanford Hospital, where one woman died of her injuries.

Screenshot courtesy GoFundMe

Yesenia Lopez Hernandez

The deceased victim was identified as 40-year-old Yesenia Lopez Hernandez of Redwood City, according to the San Mateo County Coroner's Office.

Hernandez was "the victim of her life partner who ended her life out of jealousy," wrote her daughter, 17-year-old Yenifer Lopez, according to a GoFundMe page created to help raise funds for the family, which had raised more than $36,000 as of Aug. 9.

"Right now I'm in the hospital trying to recover from several wounds caused by a knife by the same person that killed my mother, when I try to defend her," Lopez wrote, according to the GoFundMe page. "I appreciate your help, since my 5-year-old brother is now my responsibility, since my family does not have enough resources to face this expense charge."

The suspect, identified as Jose Uriarte-Martinez, 44, of Redwood City, was taken into custody. He is being held without bail on suspicion of murder, attempted murder and child endangerment, among other charges, at the county's Maguire Correctional Facility in Redwood City.

"I'm trying to get the help from you guys to raise funds and repatriate the body of my mother," Lopez wrote, according to the GoFundMe.

There is help available to anyone in a dangerous situation. The National Domestic Violence Hotline is at 1-800-799-7233, and locally, there's the San Mateo County Domestic Hotline at 650-312-8515 for immediate assistance and support.

The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office collaborates with Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse (C.O.R.A.), which offers 24/7 support and can be reached at 1-800-300-1080.

The Sheriff's Office is asking anyone with information related to the incident to come forward and call or email Det. Antonio Baggetta at 650-740-9149 and baggetta@smcgov.org, or Detective Piper at 650-363-4062 and Jpiper@smcgov.org, or via the San Mateo County Anonymous Tip Line at 1-800-547-2700. ■

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

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Sue Dremann

Police investigate a shooting in which four people were shot at Fordham Street in East Palo Alto in 2022.

Four men indicted in 2022 gun battle at East Palo Alto park

1 man died, 3 were injured, in shootout that traumatized families at busy Jack Farrell Park

By Sue Dremann

The San Mateo County Criminal Grand Jury has indicted four men in connection with a gunfight at East Palo Alto's Jack Farrell Park in May 2022, which resulted in one man's death and injuries to three other people, East Palo Alto police Chief Jeff Liu said in a statement on Aug. 9.

Miguel Bracamontes, 21, Luis Mariscal, 38, both of East Palo Alto, Bobby Williams, 49, of San Francisco and Michael Tyrone Darrell McNack, 20, of Union City were indicted on Aug. 4 for numerous charges and enhancements including but not limited to assault with a deadly weapon (firearm) and discharge of a firearm with gross negligence.

"The evidence in the case does not establish who was acting in self defense and who was not, therefore, (there's) no charge of murder," Liu said in a follow-up text message.

Witness statements obtained through investigations, grand jury proceedings and forensic evidence identified the men as the four individuals who participated in the gunfight between two groups at Jack Farrell Park on May 17, 2022. There were three volleys of gunfire totaling 33 shots, Liu said at the time.

A 34-year-old East Palo Alto resident, Ralph Fields Jr., was killed and three adult men survived their shooting injuries. Fields was struck in the chest but was breathing when an officer arrived and applied pressure to his wound. However, Fields died in an ambulance on the way to the hospital, police said. Fields was a relative of Las Vegas

See **GUN BATTLE,** *page 11*

COMMUNITY BRIEF

County hosts listening sessions on community needs

San Mateo County will begin a countywide series of listening sessions to gather input on community needs in four priority areas.

Residents are encouraged to share their opinions concerning children and families, housing and homelessness, emergency preparedness and mental health.

The series will be held in communities across the Peninsula. Live interpretation and small group discussions will occur in English, Spanish, Cantonese, and Mandarin at each session and in Tagalog in Daly City and San Mateo.

The listening sessions and online survey results will directly inform County leaders as they prioritize funding from the Measure K sales tax, which provides local funds for local needs.

The first listening session was held on Wednesday, Aug. 9, in El Granada. No advance registration is required for attendance.

A listing of all upcoming sessions is available online at smcgov.org.

—Embarcadero Media staff

Company in alleged 'play-to-pay' scheme with former community college chancellor files damage claim

By Malea Martin

After the San Mateo County Community College District filed a lawsuit earlier this year against several construction companies for an alleged "pay-to-play" scheme, Allana Buick & Bers (ABB) has filed a claim alleging intentional economic harm and damage to its reputation.

"False accusations by Board Trustee Richard Holober and SMCCCD employees have resulted in significant damage to the company's reputation, contractual business relationships, and deprived ABB of substantial property interests," said an Aug. 8 statement from ABB.

SMCCD filed a lawsuit against five companies in February for "fraud, bribery and kickbacks." The district alleged that former Chancellor Emeritus Ron Galatolo led the scheme. Galatolo was charged with 21 felonies in April 2022 for misuse of public funds during his time with SMCCD.

Screenshot from court filing

Ron Galatolo, right, with one of the district's construction contractors during a trip to the Middle East using district funds.

ABB is one of five companies that the district sought damages and relief from in the lawsuit, filed in San Mateo County Superior Court. The suit alleged that more than $1 billion of taxpayer money was used to fund construction projects and improvements across the college district's three campuses, and the bids for those projects were largely pre-determined by Galatolo to benefit the companies named in the suit.

The lawsuit also alleged that Galatolo received benefits, gifts and free construction projects on his own properties in return for awarding contracts to the companies for district projects.

"Defendants knew that the benefits and gifts they gave to Galatolo and other college employees were illegal but made them anyway in order to secure massive construction contracts," the filing stated.

But according to ABB's claim, these "false accusations" by the district "have resulted in significant damage to the company's reputation, contractual business relationships, and deprived ABB of substantial property interests."

ABB CEO Karim Allana called it "a smear campaign, pure and simple."

The February lawsuit alleges that Galatolo pressured the committee responsible for choosing the winning vendor of a solar project at Cañada College to have ABB come out as the top scorer, even though another company scored higher, according to the filing.

Allana claims that the solar project "was awarded long before I had a personal relationship with Ron Galatolo or with any public official alleged to have acted improperly."

"It's impossible for us to have influenced contracts with officials before we had a personal relationship with them, and it's absurd to allege as much when these officials did not have authority over these contracts," Allana wrote in the statement.

According to the February lawsuit, Galatolo also allegedly traveled on an international vacation with Allana using district funds while claiming to be on an official business trip. The pair allegedly traveled from Dubai to Bali on the district's dime, alongside former vice chancellor Jose Nuñez. Nuñez brokered a deal with San Mateo County prosecutors to plead no contest to two felonies for participating in the scheme. Former district administrator, Jing Luan, also allegedly joined for parts of the trip and assisted in the scheme.

The district's law firm, Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy LLP, told this news organization in February that the firm will not comment on active litigation and is "committed to conducting all business with the highest level of integrity in alignment with our code of conduct." ■

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

State Sen. Josh Becker moves his office to West Menlo Park

By Cameron Rebosio

State Senator Josh Becker has moved his district office from San Mateo to West Menlo Park in an effort to provide a more centralized location for his constituents.

Sen. Becker represents State District 13, which spans the Peninsula from Daly City to Año Nuevo State Park. Becker said that the move to 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas was motivated by a desire to improve his constituents' access to in-person services.

The new location is in the commercial strip of unincorporated San Mateo County that is also home to Lulu's on the Alameda, Avanti Pizza and the Dutch Goose. For over 15 years, 3525 Alameda also housed The Almanac newsroom and offices. That location turned out to be especially convenient on a June day in 2000, when then-Vice President Al Gore dropped by for a surprise presidential campaign visit to Lutticken's deli, located right next door.

Becker's office plans to hold an open house at the new location later this year. This move comes following the 2021 redistricting of state senate districts. Becker's team said that after a couple of redistricting periods, it's best to reassess district offices. They describe the new location as a more accessible facility and being more centralized based on the new boundaries.

"Enacting legislation in Sacramento is a significant part of (representing constituents)," Becker said. "But ensuring that the residents of SD 13 have access to constituent services is equally important." ■

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

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Lawmakers express 'strong' concern over proposed toll hikes on Bay Area bridges

Group of California representatives say SB 532 would result in drivers possibly paying around $9.50 to cross just one bridge by 2025

By Bay City News Service

At least seven California representatives have expressed "strong" concern over proposed state legislation that would raise tolls on a number of Bay Area bridges, saying this would unfairly impact mostly lower-income residents.

In a letter addressed to Gov. Gavin Newsom and the state Senate and Assembly leaders, U.S. Representatives Mark DeSaulnier, D-Walnut Creek, and Anna Eshoo, D-Menlo Park, pointed out that the toll hikes outlined by the Safe, Clean, and Reliable Bay Area Public Transportation Emergency Act or Senate Bill 532 would result in Bay Area drivers possibly paying around $9.50 to cross just one bridge by 2025.

SB 532 proposes to raise tolls by $1.50 on seven Bay Area bridges in 2024, and if passed would implement the fourth such toll hike on the region's bridges in six years. The revenue from this raise would be transferred to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for allocation to transit operators that provide service within the Bay Area and are experiencing a financial shortfall.

However, analysis of bridge toll users has shown that these costs are unfairly being borne in part by low- to moderate-income, car-dependent Bay Area residents who must commute across bridges because they cannot afford to live near where they work, the lawmakers said.

"We're concerned that this legislation will disproportionately impact our constituents and low-income communities who depend on driving for their transportation to and from work, and ultimately does not provide long-term, sustainable solutions for some of the operating issues of the Bay Area public transit agencies," the letter read.

The lawmakers also cited data from bridge toll transactions showing that around 59 percent of the toll payers on the Bay Area bridges come from just three East Bay counties — Alameda with 27.5%, Contra Costa County with 19.7%, and Solano with 11.8%.

On the San Francisco Oakland Bay Bridge alone, where over 31 million toll transactions occurred in one year, 52% of the toll payers came from Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Additionally, the percentage of bridge drivers originating from Contra Costa, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties has increased since 2015, and now accounts for almost 31 percent of toll transactions, the lawmakers said in the letter.

Unpaid toll violations are yet another indicator of the disproportionate impact of toll hikes on vulnerable communities, according to the lawmakers. Four of the five zip codes with the most unpaid toll violations are majority non-white, have higher rates of limited English-speaking households, and have higher rates of poverty than the Bay Area as a whole, and four of them are located in Contra Costa and Solano Counties.

"The impacts on all constituents in the Bay Area must be considered. Many employees now have the advantage to do their work from home. There are others, the working people of the Bay Area, that don't share this advantage, and the proposed toll hike comes straight out of their wallets," the letter further stated.

Alongside DeSaulnier and Eshoo, five other lawmakers indicated their opposition to the bill, including U.S. Representatives John Garamendi, D-Walnut Grove; Barbara Lee, D-Oakland; Linda Sanchez, D-Whittier; Eric Swalwell, D-Livermore; and Mike Thompson, D-St. Helena.

The lawmakers concluded their letter by laying out a number of asks for the proponents of SB 532, including a cost-benefit analysis of the impact of the proposed increase in bridge tolls on the average daily driver of these affected Bay Area bridges; a plan for independent oversight of both the distribution of funds by MTC to the Bay Area transit agencies and the usage of funds by Bay Area transit agencies; and an analysis of which transit agencies will receive support from these funds, and their areas of service, compared to the drivers that pay the tolls.

The Bay Area Council, a business-sponsored public-policy advocacy group has said it is siding with DeSaulnier, Eshoo and the other lawmakers in opposing SB 532.

"Before yet again asking motorists to dig deep and pay more in tolls, let's have a complete and honest review of our region's transit system, and ensure that we are delivering on reliability, efficiency, safety and connectivity among the 27 operating agencies," Bay Area Council President and CEO Jim Wunderman said in a statement. ■

PROPOSED ZONING CHANGES FOR THE HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE

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The City of Menlo Park is proposing zoning changes to the Downtown, residential areas around the Downtown, and commercial areas of the city to implement the 2023-2031 Housing Element and encourage affordable housing development. Please join the upcoming meetings to learn more and share your feedback.

La Ciudad de Menlo Park está proponiendo cambios de zonificación en el centro de la ciudad, las áreas residenciales alrededor del centro de la ciudad, y las áreas comerciales de la Ciudad para implementar el Elemento de Vivienda 2023-2031 y fomentar el desarrollo de viviendas asequibles. Únase a las próximas reuniones para obtener más información y compartir sus comentarios.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Planning Commission, Monday, Aug. 14 at 7 p.m.
- City Council, Tuesday, Aug. 22 at 6 p.m.

Join the meetings in the City Council Chambers, 751 Laurel St. or on Zoom.

PRÓXIMAS REUNIONES

- Reunión de la Comisión de Planificación lunes 14 de agosto a las 7 p.m.
- Reunión del Concejo Municipal martes, 22 de agosto a las 6 p.m.

Únase a las reuniones en las Cámaras del Concejo Municipal, 751 Laurel St. o en Zoom.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- menlopark.gov/housingelement
- Call 650-330-6702

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Supervisor calls on Caltrans to prioritize Atherton following pedestrian death rate investigation

Project to increase safety for students walking to Adelante Selby school is a priority, Supervisor Dave Canepa says

By Malea Martin

A county leader is speaking out about the disproportionate number of pedestrian deaths along El Camino Real in Atherton following an investigation by NBC Bay Area, which reported that Atherton's pedestrian death rate is three times higher than some neighboring cities.

In a July 25 letter, San Mateo County Supervisor David Canepa urged the state Department of Transportation "to prioritize the town of Atherton's Adelante Selby Spanish Immersion School Safe Route to Schools project," in light of NBC's report, which found that between 2011 and 2020, Atherton had a disproportionately high pedestrian death rate per 100,000 residents.

Data from the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration analyzed by NBC found that Atherton had 4.34 deaths per 100,000 residents. The statewide average was just 2.59, and the rate in neighboring Menlo Park is even lower at 1.23.

"Currently, most of the 730 students attending Adelante Selby Spanish Immersion School live in the North Fair Oaks community of San Mateo County and are required to cross (El Camino Real) at Selby Lane to get to school," Canepa wrote in the letter. "El Camino Real (SR 82) is a major north/south arterial corridor serving the various communities along the Peninsula and is a major barrier to pedestrian mobility, according to Atherton's One Bay Area Grant 3 application."

Canepa called on Caltrans to prioritize this $3.1 million grant project.

"This is an equity project that should be approved immediately to spare future deaths along the corridor," Canepa wrote. ■

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

Natalia Nazarova

Crosswalk on El Camino Real in Atherton near Isabella Avenue.

Portola Valley begins interviewing candidates for town manager

By Malea Martin

The Town of Portola Valley has kicked off its internal process to hire a new town manager, according to town officials.

During a special closed session meeting, held from around 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 2, the Town Council "interviewed candidates and provided negotiating direction to its labor negotiators," Assistant Town Manager Corie Stocker told The Almanac.

"Following these negotiations, the council will consider a contract for the new town manager at an upcoming regular meeting," she added.

Stocker said there were no reportable actions taken at Wednesday's closed session meeting, and that at this time, any further information about the candidates or the process is confidential.

Portola Valley's town manager role has been in flux since February, when former Town Manager Jeremy Dennis announced his resignation after seven years on the job. Dennis is one of a number of Portola Valley staffers who have left their posts this year, leaving the town hall with some gaping holes. Town staff members have a lot on their plates at the moment, as the town continues to try to get a compliant housing element accepted by the state.

Dennis said at the time that he wasn't sure where he would land next, but was looking forward to spending more time with his aging extended family. According to his LinkedIn page, he's now working as a local government and land-use consultant as well as a part-time interim housing manager for the city of Campbell.

Public Works Director Howard Young is serving as the interim Portola Valley town manager while he continues to head the public works department. ■

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

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HIGH RISE

continued from page 1

the court system. According to Elmendorf, several cities have gone to court to argue that despite not being approved by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), the city's housing element was, in fact, compliant.

"HCD has taken the position, which I think is wrong, legally, that a city's housing element is not compliant until the city receives the letter from HCD saying that housing element's compliant," Elmendorf said. "I think a housing element is compliant or not from the moment it was last adopted or amended."

Despite voting to resubmit a modified housing element at a June 27 City Council meeting, members elected to not adopt the latest version. The council most recently adopted a housing element at a Jan. 31 meeting, just making the state's Jan. 31 deadline.

"We're not asking for re-adoption at this time," city staff said at the June 27 meeting.

Wolosin emphasized that Menlo Park had not missed any deadlines, and had submitted all required documents on time to HCD. Builder's remedy information has been added to an FAQ about the housing element on the city's website at menlopark.gov/housingelement.

Michelle Le

The longtime home of Sunset Magazine at 80 Willow Road in Menlo Park is the site of proposed development of dense high-rise buildings.

"This cycle of the housing element is unlike any previous cycle," Wolosin said. "The state has kind of ramped up its expectations and enforcement arm, and most cities are struggling with their housing element. I feel like we put forth a good-faith effort and I'm hoping it'll be met favorably by the state."

Cities around the Bay Area have been struggling to get their housing elements approved, with Mountain View and Redwood City the only ones on the Midpeninsula with compliant and approved housing elements. Portola Valley, Palo Alto, Woodside and Atherton are all working to address problems on rejected housing elements.

According to Elmendorf, Menlo Park officials would have to argue that even though HCD denied certification of the housing element, the city was actually in compliance as of the last date of adoption.

Elmendorf said that precedent on an argument like the one Menlo Park may have to make is a "mixed bag." He cited a recent case in Clovis where the state Court of Appeals determined that courts should defer to the judgment of HCD about whether a housing element is compliant, but some older precedents say that if the city checked all the boxes, its housing element is legally compliant despite HCD's determination.

On Aug. 7, YIMBY Law filed a lawsuit against the city of Redondo Beach over its rejection of a builder's remedy project of 2,700 homes.

There are three possibilities if Menlo Park takes the project to court, Elmendorf says. If the city checked the boxes of the housing element, it can win, but courts could also defer to HCD or have "a battle of experts" in which the court reviews the housing element.

Wolosin said that the city of Menlo Park will hold a community forum once officials have more information to work with.

"I understand this is bringing up a lot of anxiety in residents, for good reason," she said. "It's a shocking proposal, but I think there's a lot left that we don't know yet."

Another possibility for the gargantuan development is simple, Elmendorf said: compromise.

"Even if the developer has the right to do something, you know, there may be very good reasons for them to reach an accommodation with the city," he said.

> 'This is orders of magnitude beyond what is reasonable.'
>
> JEN WOLOSIN, MENLO PARK MAYOR

The project is still in the preapplication stages, but in the meantime, Menlo Park continues to work with HCD on the most recently submitted housing element, which has not yet been approved or denied.

"The council's been committed to getting a really good housing element together," Wolosin said. "There's a community consensus that this is not reasonable ... to me this is orders of magnitude beyond what is reasonable." ■

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

GUN BATTLE

continued from page 6

Raiders' wide receiver Davante Adams, who grew up in East Palo Alto.

The park, located in the 2500 block of Fordham Street, was full of children and families, who ran for cover.

"Numerous children were traumatized by being forced to experience the gunfight in a public park while the children were playing," Liu said.

The shooting prompted residents to ask the city to install security cameras at the park. Mothers Against Murder, a local nonprofit organization, offered a $10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the alleged murderer. The city partnered with agencies to provide trauma services to residents, as did the Ravenswood City School District.

East Palo Alto police, city officials and faith leaders pleaded with the community to come forward with information about the shooting.

Police a week later arrested two people in connection with the shooting on outstanding warrants, but their names weren't released pending further investigation.

Bracamontes, Mariscal and Williams were in jail for separate charges at the time of the indictment. McNack was arrested at his Union City home by the United States Marshal Service on Aug. 8. He was turned over to East Palo Alto Police detectives, who booked him into the San Mateo County Jail, Liu said.

"The East Palo Alto Police Department and the East Palo Alto community extend our gratitude to the San Mateo County District Attorney's Office, Atherton Police Department and United States Marshal Service for their vital partnership and tireless work on this investigation.

"Additionally, we would like to thank our very own East Palo Alto Police personnel for their unwavering dedication to completing this investigation amid their already extensive caseloads and their mission to hold every gunman accountable for their decision to fire guns in a park full of kids," Liu said.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is urged to contact the East Palo Alto Police Department at 650-853-3160 or by sending an anonymous email to epa@tipnow.org or an anonymous text or voicemail to 650-409-6792. ■

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

Cameron Rebosio

Attendees dance with delight at Menlo Park concert

Menlo Park's Summer Concert Series is drawing to a close, but residents are still having fun dancing the evening away at the shows. The attendees on Aug. 2 at Fremont Park grooved to the sounds of Curley Taylor, a zydeco band.

There are a few more shows in the city-sponsored series: Tebo Muzik, a soul and funk band playing at Karl E. Clark Park, located at 313 Market Place, on Aug. 11; The Sun Kings, a Beatles tribute band, on Aug. 12 at Fremont Park, at the corner of Santa Cruz Avenue and University Drive; and Busta Groove, an R&B and motown band, on Aug. 18 at Karl E. Clark Park.

—Cameron Rebosio

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California needs thousands of nurses, but leaders can't agree on how to fill jobs

By Kristina Hwang

Ashley Hooks always planned to retire at Lakewood Regional Medical Center, where she has been a nurse for 12 years. But now, Hooks said, staffing issues are so bad and burnout so severe that she's rethinking how she wants to spend the rest of her career.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, the number of nurses at the hospital dropped from just below 500 to 330 according to her union's roster, said Hooks, who is 53.

"It wasn't even this difficult during the height of the COVID pandemic," she said.

Hooks' stress reflects pressure many California nurses are under because of steep understaffing that she and others say is driving many professionals out of the industry.

According to the Hospital Association of Southern California, nursing vacancy rates among local hospitals exceed 30%. Prior to the pandemic the average vacancy rate was 6%.

"Within the last year and a half or so, it's really gotten worse," Hooks said.

Now the Legislature is looking at several ideas to address the nursing shortage by bringing more early-career nurses into the field. But so far, the groups with most to gain — or lose — are at odds over how to solve the staffing problems afflicting California's health care workforce.

Labor organizations and hospitals want nursing schools to prioritize certain applicants for admission, such as people who already have experience in the industry.

"We don't have enough nurses entering the system as opportunities are opening up for them to leave the system," said Peter Sidhu, a nurse and executive vice president of United Nurses Associations of California/Union of Health Care Professionals.

But the schools say that won't help them graduate more nurses. They need more faculty and more hands-on training opportunities to increase class sizes.

Hospitals and unions say they don't have much time to waste. Estimates show California faces a shortage of about 36,000 licensed nurses, according to the UC San Francisco Health Workforce Research Center on Long-Term Care.

Preliminary data from a statewide survey conducted in 2022 shows nurses cut back on the number of hours worked per week since 2020, and nearly half the workforce reports symptoms of burnout, said Joanne Spetz, director of the Institute for Health Policy Studies at UC San Francisco, who has studied nursing workforce issues for more than a decade.

More nurses, even those as young as 35, are thinking about leaving the profession entirely or retiring within the next two years, and half of the workforce had at least one patient die of COVID-19, Spetz said.

"There is a lot of trauma in the nursing workforce," Spetz said. "The numbers are not good."

Union-backed bills for nursing shortage

Labor advocates say the nursing shortage creates a vicious cycle. The nurses on shift wind up doing more work. They get burned out and flee the industry, worsening the problem.

Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and the United Nurses Associations of California/Union of Health Care Professionals turned their attention to the state's community college system, where graduates can earn degrees to become nursing assistants, licensed vocational nurses or registered nurses. Both groups say community colleges offer the most affordable and efficient way to earn a nursing degree.

One of their ideas aims to help high school students get into nursing schools faster. Another would give entry-level workers the chance to move into more skilled and higher paid positions like nursing.

Sidhu's union is sponsoring a bill that would create a pilot program for high school students who take extra classes to have preferential admission into a community college nursing program.

A second measure, which is co-sponsored by SEIU and the California Hospital Association, would require community colleges to set aside 15% of enrollment slots for health care workers looking to further their education with a more advanced degree. They say helping current workers get higher-paying jobs within health care will help with retention.

"When we talk to our hospital members, workforce issues are the number one thing that keep them up at night," said Jan Emerson-Shea, spokesperson for the California Hospitals Association. "We also hear from employees that they've tried getting into community college programs, but because they're so impacted, it can take them three, four or five years to get into the program."

California colleges skeptical of union bills

But community college and some university nursing school leaders contend neither bill will boost the number of graduates. Nursing programs are full, they say, and the proposals do nothing to expand the number of admission slots.

"These bills come up and I wonder who on earth would propose something like this to impact the community colleges without getting our input," said Tammy Vant Hul, south region president of the California Organization of Associate Degree Nursing Program Directors.

Vant Hul is also dean of nursing at Riverside City College, the second largest community college nursing program in the state. High school students would not have completed enough prerequisites to apply directly to a nursing program, much less be guaranteed admission, Vant Hul said, and existing health care workers already get additional points during the admissions process.

The problem isn't generating career interest in nursing; it's creating more spots, program leaders say.

Karen Bradley, president of the California Association of Colleges of Nursing, said nursing programs have an overabundance of competitive applicants.

"We have not had a dip at all in enrollment in my program. I have a waiting list," said Bradley, who is also dean of California Baptist University's nursing program. "Every dean is going to tell you that they have a waiting list or enough qualified applicants that they turn away students."

About 14,000 new students

See **NURSES,** *page 19*

George Abbott

January 9, 1932 – February 9, 2023

George B. Abbott passed away peacefully with family and friends by his side, due to complications of Parkinson's, shortly after his 91st birthday.

Born in St. Louis, Missouri, George received his B.A. Economics /Math, Phi Beta Kappa, from Colorado College in 1953 and received his MBA from Stanford University in 1955.

After graduating from Stanford, George worked for W.R. Grace in San Francisco where he traveled to Guatemala and Honduras auditing the company's coffee plantations. He also was a co-owner in the Abbott & Gibb Dodge-SIMCA dealership on Main Street in Los Gatos. In 1961, he joined Hewlett-Packard, where he held a variety of financial positions, first as a cost accountant in the Microwave Division. From 1969 to 1971 he served as region admin manager in the Eastern Sales Region in Paramus, New Jersey. In 1972 George became Director of Corporate Internal Audit. A 25-year position he held until retiring from HP in 1997.

George's frequent travel with HP led him to serve on Pan Am's Commercial Account Advisory Board to develop and enhance Business Air Travel. He was a member and past president of the Bay Area Institute of Internal Auditors.

George and his family visited HP facilities around the world. After retirement, he continued traveling to family's vacation homes in Lake Tahoe and Pacific Grove. For many decades, he was an avid supporter of both Stanford's football and men's basketball teams, along with attendance at the AT&T golf tournaments at Pebble Beach.

George married Susan Sommerich in 1957. They had three sons: Michael, James, and Thomas. In 1983, he married Judith Eastwood. At the time of his death, they had been married 39 years.

George leaves behind his wife, Judy; his brother Bill (Jeanette) Abbott; sons Jim (Kelly) Abbott and Tom (Jennifer) Abbott; six grandchildren: Christopher, Kevin, Karlee, Kyle, Ryan, and Christine Abbott and four great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son, Michael in 2007.

A celebration of life in his honor will be held on September 02.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, George's memorial gifts be sent to: Monterey Bay Aquarium, 886 Cannery Row, Monterey, CA 93940-1085.

PAID OBITUARY

Patricia Ann Woropay

March 14, 1927 – July 29, 2023

Patricia Ann "Pat" Woropay, passed away on July 29, at her home in Thousand Oaks, CA at the age of 96. She was born in Hamtramck, Michigan on March 14, 1927 to Arthur and Eleanor Wilhelm.

In 1950 she married Henry Woropay, and shortly thereafter Henry was drafted into the Army and served in the Korean War. Once Henry returned, they relocated to California, raising three children in the Bay Area.

Pat had a fulfilling 37 year career as a Sr. Systems Specialist at Southern Pacific Railroad. Pat loved traveling around the world with Henry. She will truly be missed by all who crossed the path of her wonderful life.

She is survived by her three children Elinor, Hank, and Ward. She is also survived by her seven grandchildren and one great granddaughter. Pat was preceded in death by her husband Henry, siblings Virginia, Richard, Rosemary, Thomas, and is survived by brother Robert.

Her Memorial Mass will be held on Saturday, August 12, at 10 AM at St. Pius Church, 1100 Woodside Road, Redwood City, CA, with her burial to follow at Skylawn Memorial Park in San Mateo. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the American Cancer Society or a charity of your choice.

PAID OBITUARY

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

George Abbott, 91, a resident of Menlo Park who was director of corporate internal audit for Hewlett-Packard Company for 25 years, enjoyed world travel and avidly supported Stanford University's football and men's basketball teams, on Feb. 9.

Marlene Anderson, 91, a resident of Menlo Park who was an avid tennis player, pianist, voracious reader, painter and crocheter and had a passion for social justice and women's rights, on Feb. 24.

Noreen Eldredge, 98, a former resident of Woodside who ran her own company, NT Biochemical Services Inc., and also worked for MAST Immunosystems Inc., was active in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and was an avid reader, boater, walker and world travel, on July 28.

Skip Light, 78, a former resident of Palo Alto and more recently Redwood Estates who worked first as a mental health professional, then as a construction superintendent and finally as a photographer, and who was known for his sense of humor and love of cooking and baking for family and friends, on July 23.

Gerald W. Smith, 92, a resident of Atherton who was a counselor for more than 60 years, authored two books, led workshops for couples, had a talk show, "Talk It Over," was an open-water swimmer and truly engaged with the people around him, on July 21.

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

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Jane Withers Fox

November 23, 1926 – June 3, 2023

Our dear Mother passed away peacefully on June 3, at age 96. Jane was born and raised in Denver Colorado, by the late Matilda B. and Dr. Sanford M. Withers. She attended Lindenwood College for 1 semester before marrying Lt. Shirl Fox, of Salt Lake City, Utah, in June of 1945. After Shirl finished his WWII military service, Jane and Shirl lived in Salt Lake City while Shirl finished his undergraduate degree. The couple then moved to San Francisco, where Shirl attended dental school, and Jane worked to support them. Jane and Shirl moved to the Peninsula to work and start a family. As the children matured Jane went to work as an administrative professional. She worked in the medical library at the Veteran's Hospital in Palo Alto until her retirement.

Shirl passed away in 1981, and Jane married Bill Hunt in 1987. Jane and Bill enjoyed traveling together, especially visiting her daughters and grandchildren living on the east coast. They lived in Menlo Park until they moved to the Eskaton Senior Living Community in 2014. Bill passed away in 2018. Jane remained at Eskaton until her death.

Jane was a lifelong volunteer. Among her many activities, she served as a "Pink Lady" at Bay Area hospitals and helped in her daughter's schools. She was active in the Camp Fire Girls program, as a leader and subsequently on the Board of the San Francisco Council of Camp Fire Girls. After her retirement, she served on the Altar Guild at Holy Trinity Church in Menlo Park, and with Bill, as a Docent at the Filoli Center in Woodside.

Jane's hobbies included cooking, gardening, sewing and knitting for herself and her family, and making needlepoint art.

Jane is survived by her daughters Sue Gaston (Jim) of Carmichael, CA, Louise Fox of San Francisco (Mats Andersson), and Kate Fox (Jack Smith) of Davidsonville, Md., and her sister-in-law Linda Fox of Salt Lake City. She also is survived by grandchildren Jenny Gaston, Brian Gaston (Holly), Julia, Charlie and Robert Smith; two great grandchildren, many nieces and nephews and their children, and her companion, Gene Schrepel.

A memorial service will be held at Trinity Church in Menlo Park at 1:00 pm on August 19. Burial of her and Shirl's ashes will be in the memorial garden at Trinity after the service, followed by reception in celebration of life.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations be made in her name to the Trinity Church Alter Guild, 330 Ravenswood Avenue, Menlo Park, Ca, 94025 (https://www.trinitymenlopark.org/page/give), or to Filoli Center, 86 Cañada Road, Woodside, CA 94062 (https://filoli.org/support/ways-to-give/).

PAID OBITUARY

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Dr. Diana Koin

Dr. Diana Koin passed away at her home in Portola Valley, California on July 20, 2023 following a lengthy battle against cancer. She is survived by her loving husband Bill Vermeere, her adoring sister Janet Dampeer, her beloved daughter Helen Wolter, her long time step kids Janie and Forey Duckett and John Vermeere, son-in-law Rob Levin, niece Nicole and her daughter Annabel, grandchildren Theo, Isabel, Claire, Camille, Lila, and Quincy. She was predeceased by her daughter Kate.

Diana was born and raised in Denver, Colorado where she excelled in academic pursuits due to her curiosity of the world. Always a trailblazer, she chose to attend medical school as one of only five women in a class of 100 students. Following her graduation from the University of Colorado School of Medicine she created a free clinic for the elderly in Denver, Colorado. She felt that working with the elderly was an honor and was intrigued with the fascinating biological phenomenon of aging. Subsequent to her Fellowship in Geriatrics in Oregon she moved her family to California where she remained throughout the remainder of her life.

Dr. Koin loved working with the elderly, spending much of her professional life at the US Department of Veterans Affairs; she felt that they provided among the best geriatrics care in the country. For many years, she managed the hospital-based Home Care Program at the Veterans Administration's Hospital of Menlo Park and Palo Alto while serving as the National Chairperson for their Home Care Quality Assurance Program. She became Director of the Veterans Administration Center nursing home in San Francisco, and Chief Medical Officer for California's Veterans Home in Yountville. In later years she served as Medical Director for The Sequoias in Portola Valley, California. Throughout her career, Diana was known for her pioneering work in the field of elder abuse, becoming a leader in the field that wasn't fully recognized until she named the issue in research papers which became known as the King Lear Syndrome.

Due to her experience with the lack of geriatric training in the United States, Dr. Koin always worked to expand further training of elder care becoming an Assistant Clinical Professor of Gerontology at Stanford Medical School and Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine at University of California, San Francisco where she trained other doctors caring for our elders with compassion and thoughtfulness.

As much as she enjoyed her professional work, her personal life was always filled with many pursuits that piqued her interest. She treasured her family and her friendships; she worked to ensure that those she cared about were scheduled into her busy life. Her inquisitiveness led her to travel the world exploring as many regions as possible. Her love of literature and classical music were always present in the house with books spilling over, too. She was a true foodie who enjoyed California's spoils whole heartedly, who always experimented with new recipes and restaurants alike. She was a devoted patron of the arts in the San Francisco area, Portola Valley, and Napa Valley. After retiring she thoroughly enjoyed being a docent at the Cantor Museum and Anderson Collection at Stanford University as well as continuing her legal contributions by testifying as an expert witness for elder abuse cases.

Her warmth and big heart expressed itself often with her wry humor, her indomitable spirit, as well as her willingness to take in family members' random animals if their life circumstances changed. She was loved and admired by many, and she is already deeply missed.

There will be a Celebration of Life on Oct. 7, 2023 in Portola Valley. Please contact family members for details.

Instead of flowers, please consider a donation in her memory to either Doctors Without Borders or to a classical music program of your choice.

PAID OBITUARY

Critics pan state's justification for threatening Stanford University professor over data contract

By John Fensterwald / EdSource

In its first public statement on the issue, the California Department of Education last week defended its right to pursue a breach of a data partnership agreement against a Stanford University education professor for participating in a lawsuit against it.

CDE's rationale failed to persuade numerous critics and attorneys who are challenging the agency's action in court; they say the department's defense ignored the harm to the public by restricting independent researchers' use of state data.

"It seems pretty clear that a state agency here is trying to hold public data hostage to coercive demands on researchers' free speech rights," said John Affeldt, managing attorney for Public Advocates. This public interest law firm has filed successful lawsuits against CDE over several decades including the landmark Williams case, which guarantees that low-income schools are equipped with adequate facilities, sufficient textbooks and well-trained teachers.

CDE has threatened to fine Thomas Dee, a prominent education researcher, up to $50,000 and to seek other sanctions against him and potentially the John Gardner Center for Youth and Their Communities at Stanford, where Dee is a faculty adviser. The conflict was the subject of legal wrangling last week in Alameda County Superior Court.

The department is alleging Dee violated a data partnership contract by filing a brief for the plaintiffs in an unrelated lawsuit, Cayla J. v. CDE, the State Board of Education and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond. The lawsuit contends the state and its leaders collectively mismanaged remote learning during COVID, disproportionately harming the state's neediest students. Dee's brief, documenting dramatic student enrollment declines in California during the pandemic, used public data that was widely reported, including by EdSource.

The nonprofit law firm Public Counsel and the San Francisco law firm Morrison and Foerster, representing the plaintiffs, are seeking a judge's order protecting Dee from CDE's reprisal. They argue that the department's standard contract restriction that bans researchers who signed a data partnership contract from participating in lawsuits "adverse to CDE" violates researchers' free speech rights. And, by denying Cayla J. and other student plaintiffs the ability to hear expert testimony from a willing witness, the department is violating their rights as well.

Judge Brad Seligman didn't rule on Public Counsel's motion last week. He invited more arguments and scheduled a full hearing later in August.

Working 'for or on behalf of CDE'

The California Attorney General's Office defended the department's position in a brief it filed in the case last week. Deputy Attorney General Elizabeth Lake wrote that Dee and other researchers who agree to participate in a data partnership become authorized representatives who perform research studies "for or on behalf of CDE" to improve instruction.

In the course of doing research, researchers will "discover previously unknown defects and deficiencies." Researchers who then use that knowledge "to profit by testifying as an expert witness in litigation" would violate the terms of the data partnership and have the effect of "chilling CDE's incentive" to enter into research partnerships, Lake wrote.

What they should be doing, Lake continued, is to "work cooperatively with CDE through publishing papers, engaging in public dialogue and developing further research questions."

But researchers and public interest attorneys say the actual impact of the litigation restriction is to strong-arm researchers. They charge that the state's attempts to exert control over how researchers use education data are unconstitutional.

"CDE's justification for blocking experts from testifying makes no sense," said Michael Jacobs, a partner with Morrison and Foerster. "The only 'chilling' going on here is the state's effort to intimidate experts into silence."

Nothing in the statute on data partnerships cited by CDE says that a research organization must be in a fiduciary role, acting in CDE's interests, Jacobs said. Nor does it say that a research organization cannot be adverse to the department, or anything about barring researchers from testifying in litigation against it, he said.

"The state can't conscript independent researchers into its testifying ranks by dangling access to taxpayer-funded data as an inducement to toe their line," Jacobs said.

Dee didn't toe the line, although he said he hadn't foreseen a problem with submitting his brief, because he hadn't intended to use any of the data that the Gardner Center collected through its data partnership; its research on pre-pandemic student achievement in alternative high schools was not relevant to his Cayla J. brief, he said.

But Dee was critical of the state in the brief about the department's failure to address learning challenges during the pandemic. Partly because of its comprehensive data capacity, "the state is in a unique position to provide leadership" for academic recovery, he wrote, but hasn't exercised it, relying instead on local control.

Second Stanford professor pressured

A second prominent Stanford education researcher and professor at the Graduate School of Education, Sean Reardon, did feel the chill. Faced with a similar threat from CDE — a potential $50,000 fine, the rescinding of data he had obtained and the loss of future access to state data — he declined to submit a brief to the Cayla J. case.

Reardon was among 15 researchers who had signed a massive, multi-year data partnership agreement through the Learning Policy Institute, where he is also a senior research fellow. LPI, a Palo Alto-based nonprofit education research organization, is headed by retired Stanford Graduate School of Education Professor Linda Darling-Hammond, who is also an advisor to Gov. Gavin Newsom and president of the State Board of Education. The disputed clause in the data partnership contract prohibiting litigation against CDE would also shield the state board.

Reardon would have been asked to testify about the Education Recovery Scorecard, the learning loss research that he co-authored. It too relies on publicly available data from California and 39 other states, and, Reardon said, does not use any data provided to the LPI for its research project.

Jacobs and Public Counsel cited Reardon's experience as evidence for Judge Seligman to prevent CDE from taking punitive action against Dee for testifying in the Cayla J. case.

Morgan Polikoff, associate professor of education at the USC Rossier School of Education, said he appreciates the dilemma that colleagues like Reardon face. He personally is starting a new research center at USC focusing on school districts in Southern California. "There is a chance we may want access to state data; the way the state is acting, if you are critical of the state, they could be vindictive in the future," he said.

"It's absolutely ridiculous for the state to be in the role of policing what academics can say in court cases; it's antithetical to academic freedom," he said. "And because these court cases are typically brought on behalf of the most underserved students, it undermines access to quality education for the very students the state claims it cares most about."

Working around CDE

Heather Hough said that as the executive director of PACE, an independent research center led by faculty at Stanford, University of Southern California, and Universities of California at Davis, Los Angeles and Berkeley, she's been aware of the litigation clause. She said it has already deterred partnership agreements. "I know it's a reason why some universities and organizations just won't sign it," she said.

"The contract language is part of a larger culture in California — a hesitancy around making data available, around sharing evidence. It's especially problematic because California's policy framework is dedicated to the idea of continuous improvement," she said. But that cannot happen if the state and independent researchers are unable to turn out "a lot of research evidence and data analysis about what's working under what conditions."

In response to an onerous process of getting data from CDE, PACE helped found a new data alliance, the CORE Data Collaborative. Since 2015, it has enabled districts to share student data and respond more openly and quickly to questions, Hough said. It encompasses 1.4 million students in 93 districts and charter school organizations.

"I think CDE has gotten better over time," Hough said, "but it's still not easy to get data access, so we created a completely different approach."

It's difficult to know for sure, but CDE's litigation restriction in data partnership agreements appears rare, if not unique, for education agencies in California and nationwide.

Education researchers EdSource contacted said they aren't aware of similar clauses. Tyrone Howard, a professor of education in the School of Education & Information Studies at UCLA, and the current president of the American Education Research Association, a national research society founded in 1916, said the organization is currently surveying members and may issue a statement. But the word from people he has spoken with is, "No, this sounds completely foreign to us."

"I did not know that there were so many stipulations when it comes to accessing data from CDE," he said. "I was shocked. It really caught me off guard."

If this provision remains, he said, "you're going to see a lot of researchers who will think twice before they engage in important work that helps the state, helps the students across the state of California."

Amy Palmer, deputy secretary of the Government Operations Agency, which oversees more than 150 agencies and departments in California, said GOA doesn't know whether any of the state agencies have a similar provision, because each is responsible for creating its own data partnerships.

Responding to EdSource's inquiry, representatives of both the California State University and the University of California said their contracts for data partnerships contain no similar restriction banning researchers from involvement in litigation. The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing reported it patterned its data-sharing agreement after CDE's but that the agreement is now under review and will likely be updated.

"It is too early to tell what the review will yield, but your story raises interesting issues that we will look into," said Mary Vixie Sandy, the commission's executive director.

California is 20 years behind states like Texas and Florida in terms of making education data accessible, Hough said. "We don't have a big research and analytics department. We rely on independent researchers to do that work."

California is trying to catch up by establishing the California Cradle-to-Career Data System, an initiative Newsom announced in his first term. If built as Newsom envisioned, it will link disparate data systems from preschool through higher education,

See **DATA CONTRACT,** *page 17*

ALPINE INN

continued from page 1

Road when they're coming home from work," Bullard said. "They run into these obstacles where people are parking on Arastradero Road (and) they're not inside the white line on the shoulder. They'll park there and then they'll just open up their doors into the traffic. It can become a big safety issue."

Alleviating the issue

Alpine Inn owner Lori Hunter said that in order to free up more room in its parking lot for customers, the restaurant is working with the town of Portola Valley to have its employees park in the lot at Ford Field, which is about three-quarters of a mile away on Alpine Road. Employees will then be shuttled up the road to the Inn.

Though a formal agreement is still in the works with the town, Hunter said her employees are already starting to use the lot and "it seems to be working."

"We've done everything we can to encourage (our staff) to carpool as much as possible," Hunter added. "We're making some progress on that, too. All in all, we're really happy with where we are with it."

Interim Town Manager Howard Young said Portola Valley staffers are currently reviewing the Alpine Inn's application to rent spaces in the lot, which will cost the restaurant $100 per day. In the meantime, the town has granted Alpine Inn employees temporary access so that parking overflow can begin to be alleviated as soon as possible. Young added that the Inn's employees will only take up a portion of the lot, so those accessing Ford Field will still have plenty of spaces.

But the parking issue along Arastradero Road isn't solved yet. Resident Jean Paul Coupal, who lives on Golden Oak Drive and was part of the contingent of neighbors who first spoke out about parking issues in 2021, said the Ford Field lot "is not enough to cover the overflow that goes on Arastradero, and (those) who go ahead and park on our street."

Coupal said he doesn't blame Alpine Inn for the situation. He would like to see the town do more to address the issue by putting up signs to at least deter people from parking on his street, Golden Oak Drive.

Coupal opined that, given how much tax revenue Alpine Inn generates for the town, the parking issues "should demand fast action, for the benefit of everybody."

Town Manager Young said that adding signage on Golden Oak is "something that we're analyzing," adding that the area "is a public right of way."

Magali Gauthier

Parked cars line the edge of Arastradero Road by Alpine Inn on the evening of the restaurant's 170th anniversary celebration in 2022.

As far as managing the precarious parking on Arastradero's shoulder, Fire Marshal Bullard said that part of the road is technically in Santa Clara County's jurisdiction, meaning that addressing the issue will likely require some cross-jurisdictional collaboration.

"Midway across that bridge on Arastradero, it changes county line(s) into Santa Clara County," Bullard said. "That's where everybody's parking."

Bullard said he plans to set up a meeting with the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office to talk about the situation.

Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer Deputy Felicia Segura said in an Aug. 8 email that the office's West Valley Division had not been made aware of the issue.

"Now knowing that there are public concerns in this area, we will ensure to monitor the area and ensure drivers and pedestrians remain safer while on or near the roadway," Segura said. "I highly encourage anyone from within the community to come forward regarding any related issue so that the Sheriff's Office can address it immediately." ■

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

DATA CONTRACT

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with connections to financial aid and state health and social service agencies and departments. Parents and teachers will be able to explore data through a public portal, and researchers and advocacy organizations should be able to collect data from multiple sources in ways they could only imagine before.

What the multi-department data partnership contracts will look like will become an important issue, including whether CDE's litigation restriction will continue as a hindrance and deterrent for researchers, Hough said. The issue has been raised to the cradle-to-career staff and governing board, but nothing has been decided, said Hough, who serves on an advisory committee.

A Newsom administration spokesperson declined to say whether the governor has a view on CDE's contract clause barring litigation and whether it should be included in cradle-to-career partnership agreements.

At some point in the coming months, though, Newsom will have to make his position clear. ■

This story was originally published by EdSource.

Public Notices

THE VDG GROUP
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-294940
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) The VDG Group, located at 1268 Balboa Ave, Burlingame CA 94010.
Registered owner(s):
VIDAL GRAUPERA
1268 Balboa Ave, Burlingame CA 94010
Burlingame, CA 94010
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 09/01/2003
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 31 2023.
(ALM Aug 11, 18, 25 and Sep 1, 2023)

ARTFUL WALLS
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-294773
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Artful Walls, located at 3 Grove Court, Portola Valley, CA 94028, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
CRYSTAL LINN CIANCUTTI
3 Grove Court
Portola Valley, CA 94028
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 July 13 2023.
(ALM Jul 21, 28, Aug 4 and 11, 2023)

SHIPLEY ESTATE MANAGEMENT
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-294920
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Shipley Estate Management, located at 3435 Alameda De Las Polgas, Menlo Park, CA 94062, San Mateo County. Mailing Address: 2995 Woodside Rd #400-403 Woodside, CA 94062.
Registered owner(s):
TODD M SHIPLEY
3435 Alameda De Las Polgas, Menlo Park, CA 94062
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 07/01/2005
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 28 2023.
(ALM Aug 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2023)

SABORES DEL PERU
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-294815
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) SABORES DEL PERU, located at 1986 Euclid Avenue, Apt 3, East Palo Alto, CA,94303, San Mateo County
Registered owner(s):
FABIOLA ADRIANA IBERICO PALMER
1986 Euclid Avenue, Apt 3, East Palo Alto, CA, 94303
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above on 07/10/2017
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 18 2023.
(ALM Aug 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2023)

THE SAAVY TRAVELER
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-294830
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) The Saavy Traveler, located at 238 Carmel Ave El Granada, CA 94018, San Mateo County. Mailing Address: PO BOX 2632, El Granada, CA 94018
Registered owner(s):
NICOLE LOURENCO
238 Carmel Ave
El Granada, Ca 94018
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 July 19 2023.
(ALM Jul 28, Aug 4, 11 and 18, 2023)

LA COCINA DE ANGY
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-294896
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) LA COCINA DE ANGY, located at 109 FLORIDA AVE SAN BRUNO, CA 94066.
Registered owner(s):
ANGELICA ROMERO GUTIERREZ
109 FLORIDA AVE SAN BRUNO, CA 94066
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 July 26 2023.
(ALM Aug 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2023)

COUSCOUS MOGADOR
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-294874
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) COUSCOUS MOGADOR, located at 104 GILBERT AVENUE MENLO PARK CA 94025.
Registered owner(s):
FATEHA ID BOUBRIK
12 PALM CIRCLE ROAD
WOODSIDE, CA 94062
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 July 24 2023.
(ALM Aug 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2023)

SOLIVANA WELLNESS SPA
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-294752
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) SoliVana Wellness Spa, located at 1922 El Camino Real, Redwood City, CA, 94063. San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
INNER LIGHT WELLNESS LLC
1401 21ST STREET SUITE R
SACRAMENTO, CA 95811-5226
CA
This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company.
Registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 10 2023.
(ALM Jul 21, 28, Aug 4 and 11, 2023)

The Almanac is adjudicated to publish in San Mateo County.

- Fictitious Business Name
- Name Change
- Notice of Bulk Sale
- Legal Summons
- Abandonment of Fictitious Business Name
- Partnership Withdrawal or Dissolution
- Petition to Administer Estate - Probate Hearing
- Trustee Sale

The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm. Visit AlmanacNews.com/legal_notices/
For assistance email LegalNotices@AlmanacNews.com.

Tesla sued in federal court over its electric vehicle battery range claims

Lawsuit in California court alleges company grossly overvalued how far the cars could travel on a single battery charge

By Katy St. Clair

A lawsuit seeking class-action status on behalf of three owners of Tesla vehicles in California was filed this week, alleging that the company grossly overvalued how far the cars could travel on a single battery charge.

The federal suit, Porter et al v. Tesla, filed Aug. 2 in the Northern District of California, names three plaintiffs, including James Porter of Petaluma. If the case is granted class action status, anyone in the state who purchased certain models would be covered under the suit.

The suit is seeking monetary damages and a court order barring Tesla from making false claims about its vehicles' range.

Tesla has discontinued its communications department and did not respond to a request for comment. CEO Elon Musk did a similar thing at X Corp., formerly Twitter, where media inquiries are now automatically responded to with a poop emoji.

Plaintiffs allege that Tesla falsely advertised the ranges of its cars and "grossly overvalued" the range when selling them to customers, in some instances stating ranges that were 26 percent over the actual average range.

"The electric vehicle's range is one of the most important features that consumers generally consider when purchasing an electric vehicle," reads the complaint, which alleges that Tesla "preyed" on this fact and intentionally mislead consumers in an effort to sell more cars.

The suit also alleges that once customers noticed that their range was below what the company advertised and made service appointments to correct whatever was wrong with their car, Tesla would cancel their appointment and "would explain that their electric vehicle was performing as intended."

"As a result of unfair, deceptive, and/or fraudulent business practices in advertising grossly overestimated range statistics for its electric vehicles to consumers, Tesla purchasers, including Plaintiffs, were harmed," reads the complaint. ■

PICKLEBALL

continued from page 5

Of the 401 responses, 78% said that they approved of pickleball options being added to Holbrook-Palmer.

The most popular suggestion was to convert one of the existing tennis courts into a temporary pickleball court for six months. The trial pickleball court would be on court one and will only be open to pickleball players from 9 a.m. to noon every day of the week, with additional hours from 4-7 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The biggest concerns brought up in the July 19 meeting were the possible noise disturbance and if the pickleball court would cause conflict with tennis players or the culture of Holbrook-Palmer Park.

On Sept. 20, the topic will come back before the council for a decision, with staff expected to provide information about the cost of installing noise baffles, among other things.

Pickleball is played on a smaller court than for tennis and the net is about 2 inches shorter in the middle. To play pickleball on a standard tennis court, the net must be adjusted and removable border markings, such as tape, must be added to mark the smaller court.

Despite the growing popularity of the sport in the Bay Area, there are no public pickleball courts in Atherton, with the closest being at Nealon Park on Middle Avenue in Menlo Park. ■

Magali Gauthier

Mingxia Zhang prepares to hit the ball while playing pickleball at Mitchell Park in Palo Alto.

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

NURSES

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enrolled in nursing programs during the 2020-21 school year, according to the Board of Registered Nursing's annual school report. That's about 1,000 fewer students than the previous two years due to smaller class sizes, but schools across the state received more than 55,000 applications, a 10-year record.

The bills' sponsors say they have spoken with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, which has not taken a position on any of the workforce bills.

Separate from the bills, United Nurses Associations of California/Union of Health Care Professionals lobbied for a $300 million investment over five years to double the state's nursing school capacity. It was included in the state budget Gov. Gavin Newsom signed earlier this summer.

The details of how the money will be spent have not been decided, Sidhu said, but it could be used to increase faculty salaries and overcome other factors that limit class sizes.

More room needed for California nurse trainees

Representatives for nursing programs say the money will be helpful, but they're worried about other bottlenecks that they say prevent them from enrolling more students.

Lack of nursing faculty caps class sizes, for instance, with potential educators instead choosing to make more money working in health care. They also say hospitals are not offering enough opportunities for their students to get hands-on training.

"As we move forward with the nursing shortage, clinical placements are an issue. So many hospitals kind of downsized their willingness to bring on students during the pandemic, and those spots never came back," said Linda Zorn, legislative chair for the California Organization of Associate Degree Nursing and executive director of economic and workforce development for Butte-Glenn Community College District.

A third proposal in the Legislature attempts to clear that hurdle by guaranteeing clinical placement spots for community college students. A mix of opponents are fighting the bill, including hospitals, four-year universities and some community college advocates who say it will take spots away from other students and overwhelm nursing staff.

"Some hospitals aren't big enough. They can't take on hundreds of students. They have 25 beds," said Sarah Bridge, senior legislative advocate for the Association of Health Care Districts, which represents primarily small, rural hospitals in the state

During the 2020-21 school year, the most commonly cited reason by nursing schools for decreasing class sizes was "unable to secure clinical placements," according to the Board of Registered Nursing's annual school report, in part due to workforce challenges resulting from the pandemic. The report states that more than 15,000 students were impacted by restricted training spots compared to roughly 2,200 students during the 2018-19 school year.

Bridge said many small and rural hospitals also are teetering on the edge of a financial crisis. It costs about $7,000 to train one student, not including the salary cost of nurses who supervise students. Multiply that by the number of student trainees accepted and some hospitals can't foot the bill, Bridge said.

Zorn said nursing schools know they have to be sensitive to how many students get sent to any one hospital, which is part of the reason many are skeptical of the bill. The number of student training spots recently has been limited by the profession's thinly stretched workforce.

"It can close down the rural hospitals if you don't have the correct staffing," Zorn said.

Leaders from four-year degree programs also say the proposal would displace their nursing students in favor of community college students.

The bill sponsors say the intent of the legislation is to create more training capacity, not to displace existing students, as some critics have claimed, said Eric Robles, legislative director for United Nurses Associations of California/Union of Health Care Professionals.

"If hospitals are getting bailouts, I would sure hope everybody believes our nurse workforce needs a bailout too," Robles said. "And that bailout can come through strengthening the pipeline, growing the workforce and maintaining the workforce." ■

This story was originally published by CalMatters.

TICKS

continued from page 5

the foundation further its core mission: Making Lyme disease easy to diagnose and simple to cure.

"Tick-borne diseases, and Lyme disease in particular, cause complex, multi-system health issues with devastating consequences," the foundation's website states.

According to the Mayo Clinic, early symptoms can include fever, headache, extreme fatigue, joint stiffness, muscle aches and pains, and swollen lymph nodes. Without treatment, symptoms can worsen and have serious impacts on infected people's quality of life.

The foundation's work stretches further than its Portola Valley headquarters, funding Lyme disease research across the nation. Giampa said the foundation works directly with top Lyme doctors across the United States and has granted $25 million to Lyme disease research.

But the organization also offers resources close to home: Giampa encouraged anyone living in Portola Valley or nearby communities to come visit the Bay Area Lyme Foundation headquarters at 884 Portola Road to learn more about how to check for ticks and prevent tick-borne disease.

Giampa recommended that after hiking, outdoor enthusiasts should always check themselves and their dogs for ticks. She also recommended that folks place their clothes in a hot dryer for 20 minutes after returning from a hike, which will kill off any hiding ticks.

Giampa said any questions can be directed to the foundation in person or over the phone at 650-530-2439.

"That's what we're here for," she said. ■

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

Courtesy Bay Area Lyme Foundation

There are a number of diseases that can be transmitted from ticks to humans, including Lyme disease.

Town of Atherton
Planning Commission, August 23rd, 2023
REGULAR MEETING, 6:00 P.M.
This is meeting is held virtually and
in-person at the Council Chambers
80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA 94027

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Atherton Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider the projects as listed below during their regular meeting.

This meeting will be held in-person and via teleconference pursuant to Government Code section 54953(e) to provide the safest environment for staff and the public while allowing for public participation. The public may participate in the Planning Commission Meeting via Zoom Meeting or by attending in-person in the Council Chambers at 80 Fair Oaks Lane, Atherton, CA 94027.

Town of Atherton is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom Meeting.

Topic: Atherton Planning Commission Regular Meeting Time: August 23rd, 2023, 06:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
https://ci-atherton-ca.zoom.us/j/84150249099

Meeting ID: 841 5024 9099
One tap mobile
+13017158592,,84150249099# US (Washington DC)
+13052241968,,84150249099# US

Find your local number:
https://ci-atherton-ca.zoom.us/u/kgIcVN4cq

Remote Public Comments:

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

Email:
planningcommission@ci.atherton.ca.us

Projects under Public Hearing:

A. Request for a **Lot Line Redesignation** for a proposed new residence with the front facing northwest as opposed to the southeast, at **80 Coghlan Lane**, zoned R1-A (APN 070-040-600 / Permit LLR23-00001)

CEQA: The proposal has been determined to be exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to CEQA Section 15304, Minor Alterations to Land

A copy of the Planning Commission staff report and application materials can be found online, by **Friday, August 18th, 2023**, here: https://www.ci.atherton.ca.us/641/Agendas-Minutes

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that said application is set for hearing by the Planning Commission at its meeting on **August 23rd, 2023, at 6:00 PM** in-person and via teleconference accessible through the above-described information, at which time and place all persons interested may participate and show cause, if they have any, why the projects listed in the public hearing section should or should not be approved.

IF YOU CHALLENGE the listed projects in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Commission at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Planning Commission decisions are appealable by any aggrieved person to the City Council within 10 days of the date of the decision. If you have any questions on the item please contact If you have any questions on the item please contact Radha Hayagreev, Senior Planner, (408)796-4370 at rhayagreev@ci.atherton.ca.us or directly to the Planning Commission at planningcommission@ci.atherton.ca.us

Any attendee who wishes accommodation for a disability should contact the Building Division at (650) 752-0542 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Date Posted: August 11, 2023

ATHERTON PLANNING COMMISSION
/s/ Radha Hayagreev
Radha Hayagreev, Consulting Senior Planner

A feast for the soul

TheatreWorks' 20th anniversary New Works Festival serves up readings of four unique new plays

Courtesy Kevin Berne

Through the New Works Festival, TheatreWorks has been helping shepherd the development of new plays and musicals for 20 years. Seen here is the cast of "My Mother's Lesbian Jewish Wiccan Wedding," written by "Come From Away" duo Irene Sankoff and David Hein and presented in the 2017 New Works Festival.

By Karla Kane

For the 2023 edition of TheatreWorks Silicon Valley's annual New Works Festival, the Tony Award-winning company is cooking up generation-spanning stories and offering audiences a healthy helping of tasty tales.

"The theme is 'Feed Your Soul,'" said TheatreWorks' newly appointed Artistic Director and longtime Director of New Works Giovanna Sardelli. That theme refers not only to the fact that some of the plays in this year's festival are set in the kitchen, and all four works involve food-centric moments in some way, Sardelli explained, but also because feeding the soul "is what theater does." And the New Works Festival, she said, "feeds the soul of theater."

The festival, which for two decades has been nurturing new projects and giving audiences a glimpse behind the artistic-development process, will be back at Palo Alto's Lucie Stern Theater Aug. 11-20. When putting together this year's slate, Sardelli said she found herself torn between two intergenerational, kitchen-set shows, unable to decide which to include. "Then I realized I want to do both," she said. "They're in dialogue with each other in a beautiful and interesting way."

Courtesy Marques Walls

Actor and activist Shakina presents a special performance Aug. 18 as part of the New Works Festival.

Minita Gandhi's dark comedy "Nerve" (running Aug. 13 and 19 at 3 p.m.) centers on a family with a matriarch "whose love language is cooking, who is losing the ability to cook, and how this changes her relationship with her family, her daughter, and herself," she said. Gandhi's play calls for recipes being cooked on stage and served to the audience.

In Bess Welden's "Madeleines," running Aug. 17 at 7 p.m. and Aug. 20 at 3 p.m., two sisters from a family grapple with the loss of their mother — an avid baker — and the surprising secrets that come to light regarding a beloved Passover recipe.

Also on the docket this year is a musical commissioned by TheatreWorks: Min Kahng's "Happy Pleasant Valley: A Senior Sex Scandal Murder Mystery Musical," playing Aug. 12 at 8 p.m., Aug. 16 at 7 p.m. and Aug. 19 at 8 p.m.

"It's all the fun you can have in a theater: singing, murder, multigenerational conversations around sex. I mean come on!" Sardelli said.

Theatreworks has a long relationship with Kahng — fans will recall his highly regarded "Four Immigrants: An American Musical Manga" — and the commissioned new show, directed by Jeffrey Lo, was partially written during a TheatreWorks artist retreat.

Courtesy Faryn Borella

Playwright, composer and lyricist Min Kahng's new musical "Happy Pleasant Valley: A Senior Sex Scandal Murder Mystery Musical" will receive a reading at the New Works Festival. The musical was a commission from TheatreWorks.

"I grew up on 'Murder She Wrote,' reading Sherlock Holmes, Agatha Christie," Kahng told this news organization about his love for the whodunit genre. "I always wanted to musicalize it but I knew it would be difficult. That format works great for a chapter book but might not lend itself to song so easily."

Back when he was working on "Four Immigrants," he read an article on the rise of sexually transmitted disease outbreaks in retirement communities. "Somewhere, those ideas met," he said. "I felt that could be a compelling backdrop for a murdery mystery." At the 2019 artist retreat, at which he gave donors a sneak peek, "I could sense the energy was really delighted, maybe even shocked a little bit, but in a fun way. That encouraged me," he said.

"Happy Pleasant Valley," staged at the New Works Festival with a cast of nine, follows a senior-community resident who's slept with several men who've died mysteriously soon after. Her granddaughter, a 20-something influencer who's in hot water after making ageist remarks, teams up with grandma to help rehab her public image.

"My mom lives in a senior apartment complex so I am borrowing some of the relational dynamics — although there's no sex scandal that I am aware of," he noted with a laugh. "The social dynamics are kind of like high school or college all over again. A group of strangers living together, different personalities clashing," he said. "It's been an interesting thing to observe and learn from her experience."

He called the musical sound a "hodgepodge" of genres and influences.

"What I try to do is reflect the popular music of a character's formative years," with 1960s and '70s-style songs from the senior citizens meeting contemporary pop sounds from the younger folk. However, "sometimes you just gotta have fun and go where different scenes want you to go," he said.

The festival's fourth entry, Michael Gaston's "Low Expectations" (running Aug. 15 at 7 p.m. and Aug. 19 at noon) is directed by Sardelli herself (Sardelli and Gaston met while attending New York University's graduate acting program). The play is semi-autobiographical, blending truth and fiction.

"Part of it is telling interesting stories from his career as an actor, as well as a family dynamic he needed to examine," Sardelli said, "then there's a story within a story ..."

The piece also features an original score by Daniel Pearce, who'll perform it live.

Two special fundraising events will also be held in conjunction with the festival. On Aug. 11, playwrights David Henry Hwang and Rajiv Joseph (both Pulitzer Prize finalists whose work has been produced at TheatreWorks, with Sardelli serving as one of Joseph's longtime collaborators) will be in conversation, following a dinner party including Hwang, Joseph and all the festival's featured writers. "They'll be sharing stories from their lives in the theater," Sardelli said. "Nothing is better than writers asking each other questions."

Courtesy Bjoern Kommerel

Actor/writer Minita Gandhi's "Nerve" will receive a reading in the New Works Festival. The play calls for recipes being cooked on stage and served to the audience.

On Aug. 18, Shakina, the transgender artist and activist who was part of the very first New Works Festival that Sardellli helmed back in 2014, will return to TheatreWorks for an evening of songs and stories from her new musical "5 & Dime," based on the play "Come Back to the 5 & Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean," with music by Dan G. Sells, book by Ashley Robinson and lyrics by Shakina, followed by an after-party with drinks and dancing.

"She's just one of the finest storytellers I know in musical theater," Sardelli said. On stage prior to the show (included for ticket holders), Shakina will also be in conversation with Michelle Meow for the Commonwealth Club of California.

And Aug. 20 at noon, the festival writers will participate in a meet-the-artists panel, discussing their creative processes and bringing new works to life.

The festival comes at a time of transition for the company, as Sardelli takes over for former Artistic Director Tim Bond, who left in July to head the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

"It wasn't anything I expected but when it happened I thought, 'I am so glad I am here. I love this theater. I know this theater,'" Sardelli said. "It makes really good sense, and I think both theaters are going to do what we can to uplift each other," she said of potential future collaborations with Bond. "I'm excited for him, excited for me, and excited for both theaters." ■

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

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley's New Works Festival runs Aug. 11-20 at Lucie Stern Theater, 1305 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. More information is available at theatreworks.org.

Worth a Look

Courtesy Filoli

Pianist Tamir Hendelman and vocalist Tierney Sutton will perform jazz standards in a concert at the Community School of Music and Arts. Courtesy Palo Alto Jazz Alliance.

Once Upon a Summertime

If your ears are craving some classic vocal jazz, look no further. The piano and vocal duo of Tierney Sutton and Tamir Henderson will be bringing a seasonally driven repertoire of jazz standards and hits from the Great American Songbook to the Peninsula on Aug. 13. This intimate concert, presented at the Community School for Music and Arts Tateuchi Hall, will celebrate summer and pay homage to many legendary composers and their classic works. This show is presented by the Palo Alto Jazz Alliance, a local group dedicated to promoting and supporting local jazz musicians and educators.

Sunday, Aug. 13, 2:30 p.m. at the Community School for Music and Art Tateuchi Hall, 230 San Antonio Circle, Mountain View. Tickets are $15-$60. pajazzalliance.org. (AJ)

Author Thien Pham

Food is so much more than sustenance: it's a key ingredient of culture, family and community, and in Thien Pham's new book, it's the keeper of powerful memories. Pham's young adult graphic novel, "Family Style: Memories of an American from Vietnam," is based on his childhood immigration to the United States with his family. Linden Tree Books hosts an afternoon with Pham in conversation with local author Randy Ribay on Aug. 12, where Pham discusses how certain foods and flavors became interwoven with his family's immigration journey to the U.S. Guests can also enjoy treats from local restaurant The Pho Cabin at this event.

Aug. 12, 1 p.m. at Linden Tree Books, 265 State St., Los Altos. lindentreebooks.com. (HZ)

Fine Art in the Park

Los Altos Rotary holds its annual art festival Aug. 12-13. Fine Art in the Park offers the chance to meet over 150 juried artists who will be on hand displaying and selling work in a variety of media, including paintings and sculpture, glass, wood, textiles, jewelry and other wearable art. The event also features live music and entertainment throughout the day. And if browsing all that art gives you an appetite, there's a variety of food and drink, such as crepes, falafel and shawarma, plus dishes from local favorites Chef Chu's and Armadillo Willy's, along with beer and wine.

Aug. 12-13, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. at Lincoln Park, 199 University Ave., Los Altos. Admission is free. rotaryartshow.com. (HZ)

San Francisco Shakespeare Festival

In need of some drama? Perhaps a little dose of romance, or some magic to spice things up a bit? San Francisco Shakespeare Festival will be journeying down the Peninsula to the local kingdom of Menlo Park as a part of their festival this year to present "Cymbeline," one of Shakespeare's final plays. This production is centered around a romance between characters Posthumus and Imogen, and chronicles the many ways in which their union is put to the test in a classic Shakespearean blend of drama, comedy, tragedy and romance. This free show is suitable for all ages and has a 90-minute run time, without an intermission.

Preview Aug. 12; opens Aug 13. All shows take place Saturdays and Sundays at 6 p.m. through Aug. 27 at Red Morton Park, 1120 Roosevelt Ave., Redwood City. Tickets are free. sfshakes.org. (AJ) ■

— Briefs by Akhil Joondeph and Heather Zimmerman

Back in the spotlight

Peninsula musician Tom Jackman returns to performing after a career-threatening injury

By Akhil Joondeph

Courtesy Tom Jackman

Musician Tom Jackman has learned a new way of playing guitar after an accident damaged three of his fingers.

Acoustic renditions of classic tunes by the Rolling Stones, Johnny Cash and Bill Withers are set to charm audiences at Freewheel Brewing Co.'s Redwood City location on Friday, Aug. 11. Few listeners would likely be able to guess that the performer of those songs, local singer and guitarist Tom Jackman, was playing one of his first solo shows after a career-threatening injury.

Jackman, an avid guitarist and singer known to perform frequently at local bars, restaurants and other Bay Area venues has made a name for himself as a talented musician and engaging performer. When Jackman suffered an accident that cost him three of his fingers, he said he believed any hopes of keeping his performing career alive seemed lost.

"I thought I'd never play again," Jackman said. "Even after I went through surgery to reattach my fingers, I had no mobility. I really thought it was all over."

Spoiler alert: it was indeed not all over. Jackman said after some time away from music, he eventually joined forces with friend and fellow musician Greg Costanzo, forming the group 17 Fingers, a reference to Jackman's incomplete set of digits.

"He (Costanzo) reached out to me and he said, 'Hey, I've been thinking about playing more acoustic guitar,'" Jackman said. "He was like, 'I know you like to perform. How about we get together and I play guitar for you and sing backup vocals while you sing?' That was a great way for me to get back out there and get music back into my life."

Jackman said that while he was playing with Costanzo, he tried many different ways to return to guitar playing, including playing left-handed, switching to using a slide guitar and engineering specialized guitar parts that might make playing easier. However, according to Jackman, none of these workarounds felt right. It was a chance inspection of a legendary country musician's guitar technique that, according to Jackman, gave him the inspiration to return to the guitar.

"When you learn classical guitar, you're always taught to press straight down so your fingers are perpendicular to the strings, and I really couldn't do that very well," Jackman said. "By chance I saw Dolly Parton on TV. I saw a close up of her hands, and she has very long fingernails. She can't play with ... proper technique because her long fingernails prevent her from doing that, so she plays with her fingers at an angle. And I thought, 'By golly, Dolly can do it. What's stopping me?'"

And Parton's technique proved to be instrumental in Jackman's return to music.

"I started actively pursuing that technique, and I just started progressing very rapidly," Jackman said. "I'm playing most of the old songs that I used to do before, now. It has been fabulous. ... I know Dolly Parton is aware that she inspires thousands and thousands of people, but I'm sure she could never guess how she inspired me."

While he has rehabilitated his own playing rapidly, Jackman said rebuilding the connections with local venues that he lost in his year of injury has proven to be a challenge.

"I'm trying to establish myself again by going to the old places I used to play at and look for new places to play," Jackman said. "Even in the best of times, trying to maintain a relationship with these booking agents is difficult. After a year of absence, it has been even harder. But I am trying to rebuild these relationships and build new ones so I can get back to where I was - playing three shows a week, most weeks."

Though certainly filled with challenges, this experience of re-learning his guitar playing has given him a more positive outlook on life, Jackman said

"I said to my wife on the way to hospital after the accident that my life was over," Jackman said. "Luckily, I got past that ugly mindset fairly quickly and was able to just start saying, 'Okay, you're not a victim. You can figure out a way to do the thing that you love.' I believe in my positivity a little bit more now."

As Jackman returns to music, he said he hopes he is able to cultivate the same sense of communal joy that he was able to at his live shows before his injury.

"Playing music just makes me happy," Jackman said. "That's why I do it. And if I can share it and get some feedback, that's just a beautiful feeling when you're getting positive energy back from your audience. It's just fun to play. And I love getting to do that and share my joy with real live audiences. That's why I do what I do." ■

Email Editorial Intern Akhil Joondeph at ajoondeph@paweekly.com.

Jackman will be performing on Friday, Aug. 11 from 7-9 p.m. at Freewheel Brewing Company, 3736 Florence St, Redwood City. Attendance is free and not ticketed. facebook.com/TomRJackman/events facebook.com.

Food & Drink

'BARE' necessities

Lauded San Francisco brewery Barebottle brings locally inspired beers and natural wines to a new Menlo Park taproom

Story by Zack Fernandes | Photos by Devin Roberts

Barebottle Brewing Company, the lauded San Francisco brewery, has arrived in Menlo Park, adding to the Peninsula's vibrant craft beer scene. The brewery's new taproom is serving its wide range of locally inspired beers and natural wines at the Springline mixed-use development on Oak Grove Avenue. The Peninsula taproom is Barebottle's fourth location, and the second one south of San Francisco.

Barebottle's Menlo Park taproom is a bright and airy 3,000-square-foot space, its entrance flanked by cozy outdoor sofas and chairs. Inside, customers sit at long, tall communal tables typical of the beer hall aesthetic, while accents like sleek, shiny tap handles set against a colorful tile backsplash give everything a modern feel. For mirth and merriment, Barebottle has thoughtfully added pinball machines in the back of the space.

Behind the bar, customers can find over 20 of Barebottle's beers on draft, ranging from light, crisp lagers to fruited sour ales and stiffer options like double IPAs and a barleywine. Nonalcoholic beverages, like sparkling hop water, a ginger-hibiscus soda and blueberry pomegranate kombucha — all made by Barebottle — are also available, as are Argentinian empanadas from San Francisco caterer Pampa BBQ. Customers can also bring their own food or even order pintxos and other Spanish-inspired fare from tapas restaurant Canteen, which will bring the food over to the taproom from its space next door.

Barebottle — though new to the Midpeninsula — has a storied history in its home city of San Francisco, where it was co-founded in 2016 by Ben Sterling, Lester Koga and Michael Seitz — a trio of business school classmates turned homebrewing enthusiasts who took their hobby professional with a brewery and taproom in San Francisco's Bernal Heights neighborhood. From there, the company's steady growth eventually led to another taproom in Santa Clara in 2020 and an outdoor beer garden in San Francisco's Salesforce Park in 2022.

For the team at Barebottle, opening yet another location on the Peninsula was a no-brainer. "The Peninsula has been an area of focus for us. We had this hypothesis that there's an underserved community here," Seitz said. As businesses began closing their doors at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic — including Barebottle's brand new Santa Clara taproom (which had only been open for less than two months) — the brewery would have a chance to test that hypothesis.

With their taprooms sitting empty, Barebottle spun up a home delivery beer club on the Peninsula to keep its suds flowing to customers. "We got over 400 people to sign up ... I think I did over 5,000 individual deliveries during the pandemic," Seitz said. It was through these deliveries that Seitz would meet enthusiastic customers curious about whether Barebottle would continue to expand on the Peninsula. "And so that really piqued our interest and got us looking," Seitz added. The arrival of the Springline development, with its convenient location next to the Menlo Park Caltrain station and opportunity for an outdoor beer garden, proved to be just what Barebottle was looking for.

While Barebottle brews a wide range of beer styles, they say their beers are representative of an underlying philosophy: to make the types of locally inspired craft beers they grew to appreciate as homebrewers, and later, homebrew contest judges. In fact, each can of Barebottle beer includes a recipe that homebrewers can use to replicate their favorite of the brewery's beers in 5 gallon batches should they desire.

The brewery's flagship IPA — the Muir Woods IPA — is perhaps the best example of Barebottle's philosophy, coming to existence through collaboration with the local homebrewing community. "I went out to my homebrew club here in San Francisco and I said, 'Guys and gals, make us the best version of an IPA that's evocative of Muir Woods,'" Koga said. The contest yielded a range of contenders, but a citrusy, hazy, pine-tinged beer proved to be a favorite, and it evolved into the Muir Woods IPA now served across Barebottle's taprooms.

Where some brewers may be content to seek out local herbs, fruits or flowers to give their beer a sense of place, Barebottle is also considering an often overlooked beer ingredient: water.

"Brewing water has a huge impact on the types of beers you can make," said Seitz, adding that the mineral composition of local water supplies adds to the unique qualities of beer in celebrated beer-brewing cities like Dublin, Ireland, or Pilsen in the Czech Republic. The Bay Area's own water supply, which mostly includes water from the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in Yosemite National Park, is of a similarly soft mineral composition (containing lower amounts of calcium, magnesium, and other minerals) as the water in Pilsen, according to Seitz. "We feel uniquely suited to make a beer that celebrates that water," said Seitz. The end result is Hella Hetchy, a beer Barebottle calls a "Yosemite-style pilsner," brewed as an homage to the clean, crisp pilsners of the Czech Republic, with a spotlight on the high-quality local water supply that makes the beer possible.

Above: Taproom guests can enjoy a game of pinball while sipping on Barebottle's brews. Top: Each can of Barebottle beer includes a recipe that homebrewers can use to replicate their favorite of the brewery's beers in 5-gallon batches.

Though Barebottle considers themselves a beer company first and foremost, they haven't been able to ignore the call of another significant local ingredient — wine grapes. "It was just a natural progression of getting into another beverage that we deeply love," said Koga, who notes that the Barebottle team's love of wine predates their foray into beer making. After noticing that groups of customers visiting their taprooms would often have at least one member who didn't drink beer, Barebottle took advantage of a 2019 change in California law that allowed them to serve their own wine in addition to beer in the same taproom.

But Barebottle's winemaking philosophy differs from its beer-making one in a significant way: They don't add any yeast to aid fermentation. This hallmark of natural winemaking, known as native fermentation, relies instead on the wild yeasts that already reside on the grape skins. Barebottle says that producing in this manner allows them to deliver a more interesting glass of wine to their customers, in part because of the more complex fermentation characteristics of wild yeast as compared to the cultivated yeast strains widely used in conventional winemaking. "That's texture, that's body, that's flavor that you can't get from just pure pitches of yeast," said Koga. "We kind of love that wild element of it because it gives you a more interesting character."

"Great wine is made in the field. So as a winemaker, your job is to find the best grapes," Koga said, noting that Barebottle has looked to farmers and vineyards across California — in Anderson Valley, Livermore, and Santa Barbara, among others — for their supply of grapes. And though they do make wine from two classic California grapes, chardonnay and pinot noir, Barebottle says they also enjoy making wines from the less popular grape varietals grown in the area.

"We procured a barbera and a primitivo from Amador County," Koga said. "I think these old vine Italian varietals are really fun and really cool." To drive home the point, a sign in the Barebottle taproom describes the character of the barbera as "like untangling yourself from a backyard blackberry thicket."

Barebottle also offers a number of experiences and events for customers to book via their website. A pair of happy hour experiences let you taste through a series of beer styles, wines and even coffee, while aspiring homebrewers can learn the art of brewing directly from the Barebottle team. Finally, just in time to enjoy the late-summer weather, Barebottle will add an outdoor beer garden in Springline's plaza, with beers served from a vintage Citrôen bus retrofitted as a beer stand. Barebottle says the beer garden in the plaza will be ready by the end of September. ■

Email Contributing Writer Zack Fernandes at hello@zackfernandes.com.

Barebottle Brewing Company,
550 Oak Grove Ave., Suite B,
Menlo Park; 650-714-0506,
Instagram: @barebottle.
Open Monday-Wednesday from noon to 10 p.m., noon to 11 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and noon to 9 p.m. Sunday.

A Coastside original gets revived

Half Moon Bay family of restaurateurs has brought back Original Johnny's diner with a revamped menu and nods to the eatery's history

By Stephanie Gerson

Half Moon Bay locals know that 547 Main St. has always been a diner. Throughout the years, the corner restaurant space has been home to a few different establishments and cycled through various owners, always serving traditional diner-style breakfast and lunch.

Vacant since fall of 2022, the new owners of the space — the restaurateurs behind It's Italia, another downtown Half Moon Bay eatery — are bringing back a beloved institution for Coastside residents and visitors, simultaneously retaining a piece of Half Moon Bay history while putting their own modern twist on things. Seventeen years after its closure, Johnny's is back.

The story of the downtown eatery dates back to the 1960s, when Half Moon Bay resident John Evan and his wife Fiorina oversaw the construction of the original building. John became the namesake of the restaurant, and they settled on the name Original Johnny's, serving classic diner breakfast and lunch dishes.

The family business was passed down to John and Fiorina's son Steve Evan, who operated the restaurant with his wife Ilva up until 2006. Under Steve and Ilva's ownership, the restaurant was known for its pies that were popular with locals.

The restaurant's new co-owner, Betsy del Fierro, moved to Half Moon Bay in 1997 and was a regular at Original Johnny's.

"The whole community would come in and enjoy a good breakfast and homemade lunch," del Fierro said. "It was where the community gathered."

After the Evan family closed Original Johnny's in 2006, local restaurant owner Bill Gevas took over and relocated his restaurant Main Street Grill in the space. The milkshakes, patty melts and classic menu items from Original Johnny's lived on, and Gevas brought the jukebox from Main Street Grill's original location with him. The eatery, which debuted in Half Moon Bay in 1983, unexpectedly closed last August after the building's landlord did not renew the lease, according to the Half Moon Bay Review.

Del Fierro understood the impact of the loss of this longtime business on the community and wanted to take on the challenge of reviving the restaurant. Given her prior experience running It's Italia since 1997 and her cherished family memories at Original Johnny's, she signed the lease in September 2022 and began updating the space and menu.

"We wanted to honor the original and pay homage to the Evan family who built this iconic diner and let this be a metaphor for all of these other families who live in Half Moon Bay," del Fierro said.

A passionate and dedicated team is essential when assuming the undertaking of renovating and reimagining a decades-old restaurant. Del Fierro's two restaurants involve all members of her family: Her husband George serves as co-owner while daughters Maile and Camille are the executive chef and general manager. Growing up immersed in the restaurant industry helped del Fierro's daughters develop the skill sets to operate restaurants despite a lack of formal culinary training, she said.

"Watching their skill sets blossom as a parent has been a thrill," del Fierro said.

While del Fierro says operating two restaurants is both "scary" and "thrilling," it has its benefits. It's Italia marked its 25th anniversary last year, and with so many years behind it the Italian restaurant runs like a machine, del Fierro said. Since the eateries are just a block away from each other on Main Street, staff at Johnny's can always grab ingredients or kitchen supplies from the It's Italia kitchen if needed. The greatest challenge for the family was overcoming the long wait times to obtain proper permits for Johnny's, which delayed their opening date for four months. Adjusting to breakfast service was another hurdle for del Fierro.

Courtesy Johnny's

The diner's menu features a blend of new dishes and returning favorites from the Original Johnny's menu.

"I thought I was going to retire, but I find myself at 4 in the morning making pancakes," del Fierro said about her new routine, which now involves making ricotta cheese from scratch for Johnny's lemon ricotta pancakes.

The menu features a blend of new dishes and returning favorites from the Original Johnny's menu and stays true to diner-style cuisine. Del Fierro obtained some original recipes from Steve and Ilva Evan as a way to carry on their legacy. The restaurant is still in its soft-opening phase, with new items added to the menu every week.

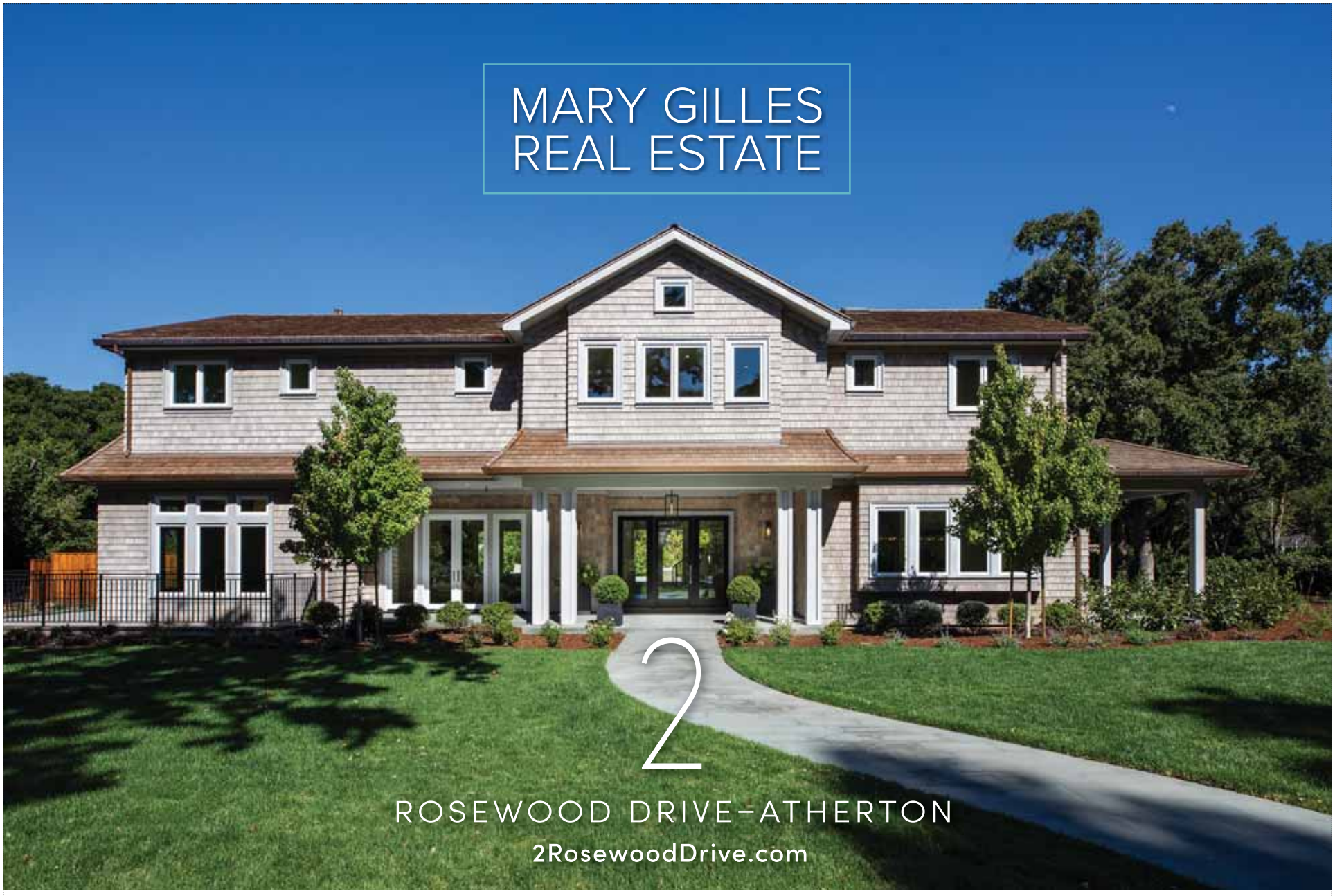
Currently, the breakfast menu includes lemon ricotta pancakes, bruleed French toast, eggs Benedict, chilaquiles, an omelet, a breakfast plate and a fried egg sandwich. Lunch offerings include a fried chicken sandwich, pastrami melt, hot dog, smash burger, grilled cheese, cobb salad and a poached chicken plate. A diner meal would not be complete without shakes and sweet treats: A chocolate sundae, banana split, root beer floats, milkshakes and scoops of ice cream are on the dessert menu. In memory of Ilva Evan, slices of rotating pie flavors also earned a spot among the dessert options.

An abundance of farms on the Coastside means the produce featured in dishes at Johnny's only travels a few miles before it's added to salads and omelets. Del Fierro used the network of farms with which she developed professional relationships when she opened It's Italia to source ingredients for the Original Johnny's menu. Half Moon Bay-based farm Daylight Farms provides fresh herbs that are sprinkled atop dishes like Johnny's Chilaquiles, while the artichokes featured in the Sister's Omelet are sourced from Cabrillo Farms in Moss Beach.

Half Moon Bay-based designer Kristi Will dreamed up the crisp and colorful interior design for Johnny's with the hope of keeping some original elements from the building's prior tenants while giving the restaurant some much-needed modernization. Will kept the blue leather booths from Main Street Grill, brightened up the space with custom white wallpaper decorated with Johnny's hummingbird motif and installed blue mosaic tiling inspired by Half Moon Bay's beaches. Black-and-white checkerboard flooring and yellow leather diner-style chairs give Johnny's the nostalgic diner aesthetic that del Fierro was looking for. The space has been transformed, but locals can still sit at their favorite booth and reminisce about dining at Main Street Grill and Original Johnny's. In a nod to the Evan family, the Original Johnny's sign was salvaged and now hangs outside the entrance as a piece of Half Moon Bay history. ■

Email Food Editor Stephanie Gerson at sgerson@almanacnews.com.

Johnny's, 547 Main St., Half Moon Bay.
Instagram: @johnnyshmb.
Open 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.



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