

The Almanac

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

AUGUST 25, 2023 | VOL. 58 NO. 51



WWW.ALMANACNEWS.COM

Here's what's new at local schools this year

Districts tout pre-K expansion, steady enrollment and facility upgrades as students head back to class

By Malea Martin

School administrators across south San Mateo County have a unified message to share with the community: This year is about getting back to business academically.

"Curriculum will be, finally, front and center," said Roberta Zarea, superintendent of the Portola Valley School District. "In the previous years, it's been the pandemic and a lot of work around that."

While COVID-19 is still very much among us, dealing with it has become second nature for educational institutions as they enter their fourth school year with the virus circulating. What was once a constantly shifting target that took up massive amounts of staff time — both for teachers and district officials — is now settling into the background, school officials told The Almanac ahead of the first day of school.

The majority of schools in

Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside started back on Aug. 16, with others kicking things off a week later on Aug. 23, and a few as late as Aug. 29. Between new class offerings, state-of-the-art facilities upgrades, and program expansions, students will have more academic opportunities at their fingertips than ever before, and district administrators are eager to welcome them back.

Facilities upgrades

Some schools have brand new buildings to unveil to students this year, while others are in the midst of construction, but nearly every district has facilities upgrades on the mind in a post-pandemic world.

Thanks to the Measure Z bond supported by voters in 2018, students in the Portola Valley School District will get to explore multiple brand new academic spaces when school starts

See **SCHOOLS**, page 16



Lizzy Meyers

Ario stops to pose for a photo on his first day of kindergarten at Las Lomas Elementary in Atherton on Aug. 16.

Costco parking lot becomes playground for theft-by-distraction

Police confirm three incidents in Redwood City, say there's 'no merit' to rumors about seven muggings

By Sue Dremann

Jewelry thieves who use distraction to steal, primarily from elderly people, appear to be targeting the Costco parking lot in Redwood City.

Thieves approached victims on Aug. 11 and 17 in the store's parking lot at 2300 Middlefield Road and engaged in "thefts by false pretenses," Redwood City police Lt. Nicholas Perna said by phone on Monday, Aug. 21.

In the first incident, the victim was approached by an unidentified Hispanic woman who gave her a fake gold necklace. In the process of doing so, she stole the real gold necklace the victim

was wearing. The victim noticed this after she arrived home, the police said in a press release.

In the second incident, a woman approached an elderly man as he was getting into his car on Aug. 17 at 3:06 p.m. and told him "I want to give you a kiss." While she attempted to plant the smooch, she removed a gold chain from his neck, according to the police.

The woman was described as Middle Eastern, 5-foot-7-inches tall, with straight black hair tied up in a bun. She wore a floral dress. A black SUV was possibly associated with the crime, the police said.

The incidents don't qualify

as robberies since there was no threat of violence or use of force.

Rumors on social media that seven muggings occurred at the Costco parking lot "have no merit," Perna said.

Both cases are being actively investigated by the Redwood City police.

"We'd like to remind folks to be mindful of their belongings when being approached by people they don't know. There is a common criminal scam where suspects approach victims and offer them free jewelry while stealing the victim's actual jewelry. The suspects often target

See **THEFT**, page 9



Magali Gauthier

Thieves have been targeting shoppers in a Costco parking lot, police confirm.

INSIDE

FALL ARTS PREVIEW 18 | FOOD & DRINK 23

Read up-to-the-minute news on AlmanacNews.com

PALO ALTO WEEKLY *39th Annual*

MOONLIGHT Run & Walk

Presented by City of Palo Alto

COMING TO PALO ALTO BAYLANDS ON THE EVENING OF
SEPTEMBER 29TH

HALF MARATHON 10K 5K

Sponsored by



**Stanford
MEDICINE**



CITY OF
PALO ALTO

**Palo
Alto
Weekly**



**Palo Alto
online**

CORPORATE SPONSORS

WealthArchitects



KAISER PERMANENTE



deleon
REALTY



**Stanford
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**

**WILSON SONSINI
FOUNDATION**

**Chan
Zuckerberg
Initiative**

EVENT & COMMUNITY SPONSORS



HOUSE OF BAGELS



CONNOISSEUR
COFFEE CO.



CRUDDY SUN



SHOBEES
California Restaurants



PIZZA
HEART



BANK OF THE WEST
A trade name used by BMO Harris Bank N.A.



PRINT TO INSPIRE LLC
Print with quality in mind.



HARKER



THE STRIKERZ
COM



Kiwanis
Palo Alto



OSHMAN
FAMILY
JEWISH
COMMUNITY
CENTER



Agile
PHYSICAL THERAPY

Registration is now open: PaloAltoOnline.com/moonlight_run

The Palo Alto Weekly Moonlight Run & Walk is a benefit event
for local nonprofits supporting kids and families.





823 PAULSON CIRCLE MENLO PARK



SOPHISTICATED LIVING IN A SOUGHT-AFTER NEIGHBORHOOD

The peaceful Linfield Oaks neighborhood plays host to this inviting 4-bedroom home that offers a captivating blend of style and sophistication. Spanning nearly 2,400 square feet over 2 levels, the home boasts abundant natural light and meticulous design, showcasing the signature craftsmanship of builder SummerHill Homes. The modern layout includes large communal areas, dual automatic fireplaces, and a chef's kitchen with top-tier appliances, while comfortable bedrooms are highlighted by the primary suite with a spa-like bathroom. Entertain and unwind in the inviting backyard that features a large patio with a built-in grill and fire pit, and enjoy the convenience of a 2-car garage with an EV charger. Adding the finishing touch is an outstanding location just moments from both downtown Menlo Park and Palo Alto, close to beautiful parks and numerous commuting options, and with access to top-ranked schools (buyer to verify eligibility).

OPEN HOUSE: SATURDAY & SUNDAY 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

823Paulson.com

Listed at \$3,150,000

Listed by the DeLeon Team • 2.5% Commission Paid to Buyer's Agent • Waived if DeLeon Buyer's Agent

Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 精通中英文和粵語 | Equal Housing Opportunity
Managing Broker: Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | DELEONREALTY.COM | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224

Join us in Palo Alto FOR A BareBONE OPEN HOUSE

**PALO
ALTO**

**FRIDAY
SATURDAY
& SUNDAY**

**SEPTEMBER
8, 9 & 10**

Don't miss the opportunity to visit a BONE Structure home currently under construction and experience our incomparable technology.



Scan me! Or register online at:

BONEstructure.ca/EVENTS

BONE
STRUCTURE®



YOUR HAVEN, REIMAGINED

INNOVATE TOWARDS NET ZERO. INVEST IN A FUTURE YOU WILL BE PROUD TO BUILD!

The BONE Structure® patented building system combines the advantages and durability of a steel post-and-beam structure with a high-performance thermal envelope, offering superior seismic, fire and moisture resistance. Discover the unprecedented precision, architectural freedom, energy efficiency and comfort of a BONE Structure custom home.

BONEstructure.ca

San Francisco & The Bay Area Napa Valley Los Angeles Malibu Vancouver Toronto Montreal

Local News

MENLO PARK | AHERTON | WOODSIDE | PORTOLA VALLEY



Courtesy Partisan Arts

What's ahead for the fall arts season

Galactic is the perfect name for a band that contains such multitudes within its sound. For over a quarter a century, the New Orleans-based band has infused the irresistible funk style of its hometown in a sound that touches a wide variety of genres, from blues, hip-hop and alternative pop to retro numbers with hints of Motown. The band is set to bring some of that New Orleans vibe to **The Guild Theatre** on Sept. 22. The band's deep funky style, driven by jazz-tinged horns, complex drumlines and a rumbling groove of the bass, effortlessly morphs to spotlight the talents of many collaborators, including Irma Thomas, Mavis Staples, Macy Gray, Boots Riley and Boyfriend. Joining the lineup in recent years is vocalist Anjelika "Jelly" Joseph. Hailing from New Orleans herself, Joseph previously fronted fellow NOLA band, the Original Pinettes, an all-female brass band, and also appeared on "American Idol." Sept. 22 at The Guild Theatre, Menlo Park. \$68-\$133. guildtheatre.com.

See what's in the lineup for local galleries, concerts, theater companies and author events in our **Fall Arts preview on page 18**.

Atherton rejects injury claim by M-A student arrested at bus stop

Incident followed altercation with school administrator in April

By Malea Martin

The Town of Atherton denied a claim by a Menlo-Atherton High School student alleging he suffered substantial injuries after being pinned to the ground by Atherton police at a bus stop in April.

The town rejected the teen's claim during a special meeting on Aug. 10, according to Atherton Police Cmdr. Dan Larsen.

Larsen said the Atherton Police Department has no new comments to make at this time.

Atherton Police Department officers were filmed pinning down and arresting the student at a bus stop across from the high school on April 28. Videos taken by bystanders have since gone viral on social media, racking up thousands of views.

Atherton police previously told this news organization that officers were dispatched to the high school after the student reportedly pushed a school

administrator against a wall and yelled homophobic slurs at him.

In the claim, filed on June 28 by the student's attorneys John Burris and Christopher Dean, the incident is described from the teen's perspective.

According to the claim, in the week leading up to the arrest incident, students at Menlo-Atherton High School were playing a game using pool noodle-like water guns, which were confiscated by school administrators. The student, referred to in the claim as K.C., was waiting at a bus stop with friends when he learned that his peers had their water guns returned to them.

K.C. went to the school's office to retrieve his water gun, but according to the claim, Vice Principal Stephen Emmi instructed staff not to give it to him.

"When minor K.C. tried to retrieve his property, vice

See **INJURY CLAIM**, page 10

Tree services company fined \$72K after 'horrendous' wood chipper accident in Menlo Park

Employee Jesus Contrerez-Benitez, a 47-year-old Redwood City father, died in October

By Donovan Growney

Tree services company F.A. Bartlett, whose employee died last year after being pulled into a wood chipper while on the job in Menlo Park, now faces five citations and fines amounting to \$72,500 from the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal/OSHA).

The citations are related to a tragic incident in which 47-year-old Jesus Contrerez-Benitez, who was a Redwood City resident, died while feeding branches into a wood chipper in the 900 block of Peggy Lane in Menlo Park's Suburban Park neighborhood.

In its April citations, Cal/OSHA stated that F.A. Bartlett had failed to ensure that the numerous unsafe actions that Contrerez-Benitez took were

corrected. Video evidence shows that not only did Contrerez-Benitez feed the chipper alone that day, which is against instructions from the manufacturer, but was also positioned in the wrong spot, which put him out of reach from a control lever that could have stopped the machine.

According to Cal/OSHA, F.A. Bartlett acted irresponsibly by failing to ensure the locking system, that could have prevented unauthorized use of the wood chipper, was equipped to do so.

F.A. Bartlett is contesting the citations, claiming that the company is not liable for Contrerez-Benitez's actions that day.

In a letter to Paul Guiriba, associate safety engineer at the California Department of Industrial Relations, Scott Prohett, corporate safety

director at F.A. Bartlett, said that a supervisor conducted a safety briefing with the crew less than an hour before the fatal accident.

In a separate letter to Guiriba, Prohett wrote that in addition to completing a Chipper Specialist Certification Program, Contrerez-Benitez had been given safety training with the chippers seven times between 2016 and 2019.

David G. Marren, vice president of safety and regulatory affairs at F.A. Bartlett, referenced Bartlett's stance on the incident in a letter to Cal/OSHA District Manager Barbara Kim: "Bartlett Tree Experts fully recognizes the horrendous nature of this accident, and is highly sensitive to the fact that a valued person lost their life. As such, we have fully cooperated with Cal OSHA during its investigation,



Via GoFundMe

Jesus Contrerez-Benitez died last year after being pulled into a wood chipper while on the job in Menlo Park.

while simultaneously reviewing all pertinent internal safety processes, and taking every possible measure to help all affected team members begin to heal."

F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert

Company, which is headquartered in Stamford, Connecticut and has an office in Portola Valley, could not be reached for comment at the time of filing this report. ■

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)

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)

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)

EVOLVE
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No.: M-294867
The following person (persons) is (are) doing business as:
1.) Evolve, located at 8 Crocus Ct., Menlo Park, CA 94025, San Mateo County.
Registered owner(s):
YVONNE FULCHIRON SCHMIDT
8 Crocus Ct., Menlo Park, CA. 94025
This business is conducted by: an Individual.
Registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name(s) listed above.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk-Recorder of San Mateo County on July 24 2023.
(ALM Aug 18, 25, Sep 1 and 8, 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)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Case No.: 23-CIV-03400
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: Zahra Hemmatian filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
ZAHRA HEMMATIAN to ZARA HEMMATIAN
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING: 10/04/2023, 9:00 a.m., Dept MC, Southern Branch: Hall of Justice and Records, Redwood City, CA of the Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, located at 400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063.
A copy of this ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county:
ALMANAC
Date: 08/02/2023
Jonathan E. Karesh
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
(ALM Aug 18, 25, Sep 1 and 8, 2023)

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

Established 1965

The Almanac

Serving Menlo Park,
Atherton, Portola Valley,
and Woodside for over 50 years

NEWSROOM

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

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

Audience Engagement Editor
Jamey Padojino, 223-6524, jpadojino@almanacnews.com

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

Arts & Entertainment Editor
Heather Zimmerman, 223-6515,
hzimmerman@almanacnews.com

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

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

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

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

Embarcadero Media Staff Writers
Sue Dremann, 223-6518

Emily Margaretten, 223-6517
Malea Martin, 223-6516
Zoe Morgan, 223-6519
Gennady Sheyner, 223-6513

Editorial Intern
Michaela Seah, mseah@almanacnews.com

Contributors Kate Daly, Maggie Mah

DESIGN & PRODUCTION

Design and Production Manager
Kristin Brown, 223-6562

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

ADVERTISING

Display Advertising Sales 223-6570

Real Estate Manager Neal Fine, 223-6583

ADVERTISING SERVICES

Advertising Services Manager
Kevin Legarda, 223-6597

Sales & Production Coordinator
Diane Martin, 223-6584

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

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

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

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

■ **Advertising:** (650) 854-2626

■ **Submit Legal Notices:**
AlmanacNews.com/legal_notices/

■ **Submit Obituaries:**
AlmanacNews.com/obituaries

The Almanac (ISSN 1097-3095 and USPS 459370) is published every Friday by Embarcadero Media, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558. Periodicals Postage Paid at Menlo Park, CA and at additional mailing offices. Adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation for San Mateo County. The Almanac is delivered to homes in Menlo Park, Atherton, Portola Valley and Woodside. However, in order to continue delivering you the news you depend on, we encourage you to become a paid subscribing member. Go to AlmanacNews.com/subscribe to start supporting The Almanac today.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Almanac, 3525 Alameda de las Pulgas, Menlo Park, CA 94025-6558.

Copyright ©2023 by Embarcadero Media. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is strictly prohibited.

The Almanac is qualified by decree of the Superior Court of San Mateo County to publish public notices of a governmental and legal nature, as stated in Decree No. 147530, issued November 9, 1969.

To request delivery, or stop delivery, of The Almanac in zip code 94025, 94027, 94028 and the Woodside portion of 94062, call 854-2626.



CRIME BRIEFS

Man found with gunshot wounds near library

Police responding to a report of shots fired found a wounded man outside the East Palo Alto City Hall and Library about 8:30 p.m. Aug. 17.

ShotSpotter, an acoustic gunshot detection system, registered at least five shots in the area of 2415 University Ave., police said.

The man found there, who suffered gunshot wounds to his upper torso, was taken to a local hospital, where he was listed in stable condition, police said in a statement Friday.

“Early indications are the shooting was not related to any activities at the City Hall or Library,” police said.

Anyone with information about the case is asked to call Acting Commander Sheryl Boykins at 650-853-3160 or send an anonymous email to epa@tipnow.org or an anonymous text to 650-409-6792.

—Bay City News Service

Two homes burglarized in Atherton

Two private residences in Atherton were hit with burglaries within a roughly 24-hour span over the weekend. Police say it’s currently unknown if the incidents are related.

See **CRIME BRIEFS**, page 11

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Menlo Park VA celebrates 100 years

On Aug. 19, the Menlo Park Veterans Affairs Health Care System celebrated 100 years of serving veterans in a celebration in Menlo Park that included speeches by Rep. Anna Eshoo and Rep. Kevin Mullin.

“I will always work to not only support the VA but all it represents, the veterans and their families,” said Eshoo. “I believe that every American that has worn a uniform to defend our country should have the health services, the opportunities, and the care that they have really truly earned.”

The event to celebrate the centennial of the health care system, which provides primary care and specialty health services to veterans, featured live music, activities and an air show by the California Air National Guard’s 129th Air Rescue Wing, which is stationed at Moffett Field. Overall there were about 750 guests in attendance, according to a press release.

—Michaela Seah

Fixin’ San Mateo County receives grant from Grove Action Fund

Local grassroots organization Fixin’ San Mateo County (FxSMC) announced on Aug. 21 that it was the recipient of a grant from the Grove Action Fund.

The Grove Action Fund is a social welfare nonprofit — affiliated with the Grove Foundation — that provides financial support for organizations involved in advocacy work.

Fixin’ San Mateo County aims to enact civilian oversight of the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office, and said that the grant funding will help it with both its operating costs and community outreach efforts, according to a press release. “We are grateful for the Grove Action Fund’s commitment to independent oversight of the (county) Sheriff’s Office,” said FxSMC Board Chair Jim Lawrence.

The grant funding was part of a notable week for Fixin’ San Mateo County, which was highlighted by its Fixin’ SMC summer celebration. The fundraising event at the Half Moon Bay Brewery brought together over 60 people and raised more than \$2,500 through its auction.

FxSMC is endorsed by 50 local elected officials, the city councils of East Palo Alto, Half Moon Bay, Portola Valley, Redwood City and San Mateo, and the North Fair Oaks Community Council, which together represent a third of the county population, as well as by a coalition of 28 community organizations.

Back in September 2022, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously in favor of establishing a subcommittee to research oversight models, and in November of the same year, the board voted to proceed with an ordinance that would incorporate both a civilian board and an inspector general — all of which were recommended by FxSMC.

Learn more about Fixin’ San Mateo County at fixinsmc.org.

—Embarcadero Media staff

Employment

The Almanac offers
employment advertising.

The deadline is Sunday at 11:59 pm.

Visit AlmanacNews.com/employment_ads/.

For assistance email LegalNotices@AlmanacNews.com.

Menlo Park council debates big boosts to city's building density

Zoning changes needed to get state-required housing element OK'd could allow for up to 100 units per acre

By Cameron Rebosio

Menlo Park moved forward with zoning changes to drastically increase building density, as required by the state, at an Aug. 22 City Council meeting.

Menlo Park's housing element was resubmitted to the California Department of Housing and Community Development in June, after being sent back for revisions in April. Since the housing element was not certified by the Jan. 31 deadline earlier this year, the city now has until Jan. 31, 2024 to adopt the zoning changes. If the city does not meet the deadline, the housing element risks being decertified even if the state approves it.

City staff suggested a higher base density for eight zoning districts throughout the city, mostly concentrated around downtown Menlo Park. The proposed zoning would more than double the existing housing density allowed in downtown from 25 units per acre to 60. That could go up to 100 units per acre after density bonuses that developers can receive.

The zoning changes are meant to remove barriers to developing affordable housing in the city.

Residents came out largely

in support of moving affordable housing projects forward. Julianne Hansen, an eighth-grader, spoke about a fifth-grade teacher who had talked about her struggles with housing in Menlo Park.

"It made me sad that the people in our community who do so much for the next generation, which is my generation, get less than people who don't contribute as much," Hansen said. "And that if we just let people that are more wealthy come into Menlo Park, then there will be no diversity."

Olivia Grimes, policy intern at the Housing Leadership Council (HLC), a housing advocacy organization, said that the HLC supports increasing base densities to at least 100 units per acre and up to 250 units per acre after density bonuses.

The affordable housing overlay (AHO) is a density bonus that aims to ease barriers to affordable housing, allowing bigger and taller affordable projects beyond what is otherwise allowed for market-rate housing projects.

Grimes said that an AHO of 150 units per acre is just a start to create a compliant housing element. "Menlo Park needs to promote both 100%

affordable housing and mixed-income market-rate housing, these things can't come at the expense of each other," she said.

Projects within a half-mile of a transit stop fall under another type of density bonus offered under state law that allows unlimited density and up to 33 feet of additional building height if the development is entirely affordable housing. Projects with so-called 'unlimited density' are still limited by height and development parameters, however.

Housing big enough for families was also critical to the Menlo Park City Council's discussions. A "step up floor area ratio (FAR)" aims to encourage incentivize developers to not create projects of entirely studios or one-bedroom units, but to include two- and three-bedroom units. This benefit would allow for increased density if a development that is at least half residential includes either 50% or more units of two bedrooms or larger, or is entirely for-sale units.

Jackie Sebring, a Menlo Park resident and teacher, said that she is the recipient of a below-market-rate home. She shared concerns about the future of the city if the housing supply remained stagnant.

"Our school district demographer has told us that we can expect fewer kindergarteners with younger siblings in the future because young families can't afford to live here until their kids are older," Sebring said. "And so we need to plan for housing that families can live in."

Heights would also change drastically in the proposed new zoning regulations. One zone, called Station Area East that encompasses Cafe Borrone and Kepler's books, will allow up to 10 stories. Council member Drew Combs said he wanted to make sure that 10-story buildings would not be allowed next to existing one- or two-story apartment buildings and homes in the area.

Resident Brittany Baxter cited the Redfin analysis of Menlo Park, saying that the city's median single-family home price is \$3.46 million. According to Baxter, in order to afford a median-priced home in Menlo Park, a household will need to make \$876,000 per year.

A recent report by the Silicon Valley Association of Realtors found that San Mateo County requires the highest minimum qualifying income in the state. A buyer would need annual

income of \$504,400 to purchase a median-priced home at \$2.01 million.

The Sharon Heights shopping center could also experience vertical growth, doubling its current 30-foot height limit to 60 feet. Combs suggested that the shopping center would likely be redeveloped and should therefore have an allowable height of 80 feet, like Willow Village.

Willow Village is a Meta development east of U.S. Highway 101 that includes community amenities, offices and residential complexes up to 80 feet tall. Combs said that it was "shocking" that 30 feet was ever the height limit for Sharon Heights Shopping Center.

"We get credit for doubling because (the maximum height) was set way lower than it should have been there," Combs said. "And way lower than what we have said is okay at the other end of the city."

City staff took direction from the council and will study both 60- and 80-foot height limits. The proposed zoning changes will return to the City Council at a future date after being reviewed by the Menlo Park Planning Commission. ■

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

Developer swaps out plans for smaller apartments with five-story builder's remedy project in Menlo Park

Hoover Street site seeks to use loophole to skirt city's regulations

By Cameron Rebosio

Architects pulled a two-story apartment building proposal in Menlo Park in order to submit another, much larger plan that skirts the city's rules using a loophole called builder's remedy.

The preapplication was submitted by the Oakland-based Baran Studio Architecture for a

single-family lot at 1305 Hoover St. Located close to downtown, the site is surrounded by one and two-story houses and apartment buildings. A use permit was approved last October for demolishing the existing one-story home and constructing a two-story apartment complex. That project was withdrawn, and another plan was submitted under builder's remedy, this

time for a much larger project.

Under builder's remedy, cities and towns that missed the Jan. 31 deadline for getting a housing element accepted by the state could be required to approve any project that has 20% of its housing units designated as affordable for low-income households or 100% deemed affordable for moderate-income households, even if the project exceeds the zoning and general plan density requirements, according to state law.

Menlo Park's housing element was resubmitted to the California Department of Housing and Community Development in June, after it had been sent back for revisions in April.

The new project for the Hoover Street site are for a five-story complex. The plans show a 50-foot tall building with a total area of nearly 25,000 square feet. The 7,000-square-foot lot has no parking spaces designated. According to the city of Menlo Park, there will

be 19 units in the development.

While the city is processing the application, it has not seen movement since mid-March due to a lack of essential information, according to a response to the application from Associate Planner Fahteen Khan. Baran Studios has not submitted information about materials or paid the required permit processing fees. Khan's response said that the application does not adhere to several Menlo Park zoning regulations, including the amount of land area per dwelling unit, minimum open space, building height and parking standards.

80 Willow

Menlo Park's other builder's remedy application is the controversial proposal for a high-rise development at 80 Willow Road in the Linfield Oaks neighborhood. Developer N17's plans call for 800 residential units, an approximately 90,000-square-foot hotel, 8,400 square feet of

retail and 280,000 square feet of office space spread over four buildings. The project's tallest building at the corner of Middlefield Road and Willow Road would rise 328 feet high, even taller than the Statue of Liberty.

The site currently holds a sprawling complex of one-story offices originally built for Sunset Magazine's headquarters. ■

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



Cameron Rebosio

A builder's remedy project seeks to replace the house at 1305 Hoover St. in Menlo Park with a five-story apartment building.

LEHUA GREENMAN



"Ohana means family. Family means no one gets left behind or forgotten."

650.245.1845 COMPASS

After Maui fires, Menlo Park man walks 100 miles to raise funds for family in Lahaina

By Malea Martin

When 21-year-old Menlo Park resident John Marc Bautista heard that Lahaina was on fire, he immediately thought of his family.

Bautista has 15 relatives who live, or have lived, in Lahaina. It started with two of his uncles who moved to Maui around 50 years ago and raised their families there. Now, multiple generations of Bautista's extended family call Lahaina home.

"That was also my favorite place to be in the world. I would go visit them every summer," Bautista said. "So it's pretty devastating to hear everything that happened. Thankfully, they're completely safe. But they have

lost everything."

Bautista said the fire claimed the homes of his grandmother, both his uncles and a couple of cousins. Some of his family members worked in the restaurant business and the restaurants they worked at were destroyed by the fire.

"They've lost their homes and their jobs," he said.

As an act of solidarity with his family and to raise awareness about the devastation in Lahaina, Bautista decided to embark on a 100-mile walk beginning on Aug. 12.

"I walked over the course of 58 hours," Bautista said. "I went from Menlo Park, up Skyline, down to Highway 1 to San Gregorio, walked all the way up Highway 1 through Pacifica and

ended up in San Francisco."

As Bautista's walk started to draw attention, he encouraged people to donate to a GoFundMe set up by a friend of his cousin, from which all proceeds will go directly to Bautista's family members on the island. Bautista estimates that the awareness raised by his walk brought in around \$15,000 to the fund, which had raised more than \$70,000 as of Aug. 17.

"I started off like, if I can hit \$1,000, that'll be pretty great," Bautista said. "Then I was like, well, if I can hit \$10,000, that would be amazing. Then it just became, let's try to get the word out and raise as much money as possible."

Bautista called the 100-mile walk one of the hardest things



Courtesy John Marc Bautista

John Marc Bautista walked 100 miles to raise funds and awareness for the Lahaina fire, which impacted his extended family.

he's ever done, but he said every step was worth it.

"Family is the most important thing. That's why I did this walk, to show support for my family," Bautista said. "My family and all the people of Lahaina will be suffering for the next couple of

years, so I think it's important to continue to think of them in the future, not just right now after it's all happened." ■

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

Palo Alto police arrest Berkeley carjacking suspects at Stanford Shopping Center

By Gennady Sheyner

Tipped off by a newly installed license-plate-recognition system, Palo Alto police on Tuesday, Aug. 15, arrested a group of men at Stanford Shopping Center who they say were involved in an armed carjacking in Berkeley.

The police department was tipped off by a newly installed license plate recognition camera that a stolen vehicle has entered the city at about 12:47 p.m. on Aug. 15, according to a news release from the department. The vehicle, a black Corolla, was stolen at gunpoint in Berkeley the day before by three men armed with a black semi-automatic handgun, police said.

While looking for the vehicle, Palo Alto police received another alert from the camera system at 1:04 p.m. Tuesday, showing that the Corolla was near Stanford Shopping Center. Patrol officers and undercover officers ultimately found it in a parking stall on the east side of the mall. It was backed up into the parking spot next to another vehicle, a white Infinity G-37, and the occupants of the two cars were having a conversation, according to the police.

The two cars pulled away as soon as they saw marked police cars approach and they drove together through the parking lot of Stanford Shopping Center, toward El Camino Real. As they reached the Pistache Place exit, officers pulled over both vehicles.

Police said the driver of the stolen Corolla tried to flee by driving up onto a sidewalk but then crashed into the passenger side of an occupied police car that was blocking the way.

Police said both vehicles had "minor damage" and no one was injured.

Over the course of the investigation, police found a loaded semi-automatic Glock handgun with a high-capacity magazine on the back seat of the Corolla, according to the news release.

Palo Alto officers also learned from the Berkeley Police department that the vehicle that had brought the carjacking suspects to the scene of the crime was a white Infinity. And they discovered that the gun

was reported as stolen from Fresno at some point over the past few weeks.

Palo Alto police booked the driver of the Corolla, a 19-year-old San Francisco resident, for six felonies: vehicle theft, possession of a stolen vehicle, carrying a loaded firearm, carrying a concealed firearm, convicted felon in possession of a firearm, and convicted felon in possession of ammunition, as well as one misdemeanor of resisting arrest for attempting to drive away from the vehicle stop.

Police also booked the passenger, a 20-year-old Oakland resident, on a charge of possession of a stolen vehicle.

Police credited the new camera system, which went live in late

July, with facilitating the arrests. The Palo Alto City Council approved the installation of automated license plate recognition cameras last year, and six have already been installed. The police department plans to install another 14 in the coming weeks, according to the news release.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call the Palo Alto Police Department's 24-hour dispatch center at 650-329-2413. Anonymous tips can be e-mailed to paloalto@tipnow.org or sent via text message or voice mail to 650-383-8984. ■

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

OBITUARIES

Local residents who died recently include:

Alice Kwai Yuen Meyers, 92, a longtime Palo Alto resident who grew up in Hawaii, worked as an executive secretary for the Army at Moffett Field and enjoyed Chinese brush painting, volunteering at the library and senior center, growing orchids and traveling, on July 29.

John Walter Glynn Jr., 82, who lived in Atherton, co-founded Lamoreaux, Glynn & Associates, founded Glynn Capital Management in 1983 and for decades taught courses on venture capital and entrepreneurship in

MBA programs at the University of Virginia, Stanford and Cambridge universities, on July 26.

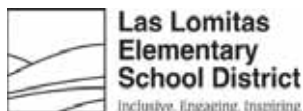
Wendy Margaret Wood, 61, grew up in Menlo Park, taught skiing in Lake Tahoe and Whistler, British Columbia, worked in catering in San Francisco, and co-founded a senior lifestyles newsletter in Florida before moving back to Menlo Park to care for her parents, on July 4.

Marian Rae Mooney Gex, 90, a longtime Palo Alto resident and school psychologist who was an active member of the American

Association of University Women, was passionate about literature and cinema, and supported the Sierra Club, Planned Parenthood and the American Civil Liberties Union, on June 23.

Mary Lou McCourt, 91, a Palo Alto resident who worked for the Palo Alto Veterans Administration and Stanford University, ran her own word-processing business and enjoyed jewelry making, garage sales and bowling, on Oct. 16, 2022.

To read full obituaries, leave remembrances and post photos, go to LastingMemories.atAlmanacNews.com/obituaries. ■



LAS LOMITAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be part of the agenda for the Regular Board Meeting to be held on Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at 7:00 PM, in person and via Zoom webinar.

The public may participate in person at:
La Entrada Middle School Atrium
2200 Sharon Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025

SUBJECT: Assurance of Compliance: Pupil Textbook and Instructional Materials

The public will have an opportunity to comment on the availability of textbooks and instructional materials to students in the Las Lomas Elementary School District (LLESD). The Governing Board will be asked to adopt a Resolution (later in the meeting) stating that the LLESD has complied with the requirements of Education Code.

Repair work prompts a lane closure on another section of Highway 84

The two-lane route is down to one lane of traffic along two stretches in Woodside

By Malea Martin

One lane of traffic will be closed along a portion of State Route 84 through the rest of the month and into September, Caltrans announced over the weekend.

The transit agency said crews started repairing pavement along the stretch of the highway between Old La Honda Road and State Route 35 as of Monday, Aug. 21. The one-way traffic control will be in effect Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m., and the roadwork is expected to be completed sometime in September, according to Caltrans.

“Caltrans understands this highway traffic control may impact the daily commute for residents who live near Woodside and Portola Valley,” the agency said in an Aug. 19 statement. “Crews will assist residents with access as needed. Residents living near the road work should expect some



Angela Swartz

A stretch of Highway 84 was shut down after a landslide took out part of the roadway in March. This section of the road, pictured here in May, has since been reopened to one-way traffic. A separate section of Hwy 84 will also be reduced to one-way traffic until September.

noise due to the grinding, but Caltrans will monitor the noise levels and adjust (the) schedule if needed.”

Caltrans advised the public to plan for possible delays and consider alternate routes.

This is not the only road closure that Highway 84 commuters are contending with. A bit further north, crews continue to

work on repairs between Foxhill and Portola roads following the March landslide, which prompted a full closure of Highway 84 for months. That portion of the two-lane highway reopened to one-way traffic in late July.

For the latest updates on highway conditions, residents can check the Caltrans Quickmap at quickmap.dot.ca.gov. ■

THEFT

continued from page 1

the elderly,” the department said in the press release.

Another type of theft by distraction occurred in the same Costco parking lot in Redwood City recently. On Aug. 10, a pair stole three credit cards from a woman’s purse as she was loading groceries into her car, according to a police media report. One person approached and distracted her, while the second, a man, entered her car and stole her credit cards.

These types of crimes have been occurring throughout the Bay Area over the last two years, at least. Typically, the pattern is as follows: A woman approaches an elderly female, gives her a compliment and offers to give her a piece of jewelry; then as she starts to slip a bracelet or necklace onto the victim’s wrist or neck, she snatches the victim’s jewelry and takes off.

At least three such incidents occurred in Palo Alto in 2022. In one incident, a woman in her

80s was accosted by a couple in Palo Alto when the thief attempted to rip a ring off her finger. The woman, who was using a walker, was in the 700 block of Channing Avenue in Palo Alto at about 4:15 p.m. when a large, black, four-door sedan pulled up beside her.

A female passenger asked the woman for directions to a grocery store before getting out of the car to continue the conversation. The woman told the victim she resembled her mother and wanted to give her a piece of her mother’s jewelry.

The woman took the victim’s hand off the walker and slipped a bracelet onto her wrist, then tried to pull a ring off her finger. The victim had bruising on her fingers as a result of the incident.

The police are seeking tips on any Redwood City cases. Anyone with information may call the tip line at 650-780-7110. ■

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

Want to get news briefs emailed to you every weekday?

Sign up for Express, our daily e-edition.



Go to AlmanacNews.com to sign up.

Premier Senior Living In the Heart of Burlingame

Enjoy all of the luxuries of modern living, in a community designed to provide individualized support for each unique need.



Schedule a tour today!
650-552-4002
thetrousdale.org/daily



Proud member of the **ESKATON** family

Assisted Living, Independent Living with Service and Memory Care

1600 Trousdale Drive, Burlingame, CA 94010 • License #415601015 • Equal Housing Opportunity



TOWN OF WOODSIDE
2955 WOODSIDE ROAD, WOODSIDE, CA 94062

PLANNING COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 6, 2023 6:00 PM

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

Join Zoom Meeting:

One tap mobile
 +16699009128,86068472736
 +12532158782,86068472736

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128
 +1 253 215 8782

Meeting ID: 860 6847 2736

Weblink: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86068472736>

Remote Public Comments:

Meeting participants are encouraged to submit public comments in writing in advance of the meeting. Members of the public participating remotely may comment on items during the hearing.

Email: sharper@woodsidetown.org

PUBLIC HEARING

4. 125 Northridge Lane ASRB2023-0008; XMAX2023-0003; X2DR2023-0001
 Leo Li, LeL Design Planner: Sarah Filipe, Associate Planner

Presentation and approval, conditional approval, or denial of an application for Formal Design Review (ASRB2023-0008), to demolish an existing single-family residence, detached garage, swimming pool, and accessory structures; and, construct a new multi-level single-family residence with a partial basement, attached Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU), Junior Accessory Dwelling Unit (JADU), attached garage, swimming pool, tennis court, shed, and associated site improvements; a Maximum Residence Size Exception (XMAX2023-0003) to exceed 4,000 square feet; and, a Second Driveway Exception (X2DR2023-0001) to relocate an existing second driveway.

The project is Categorically Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15303(a), which includes a single-family residence and Section 15303(e), which includes accessory structures.

5. 303 Grandview Drive VARI2023-0004
 Carrie Lukatch Planner: Sarah Filipe, Associate Planner

Presentation and approval, conditional approval, or denial of an application for a Variance (VARI2023-0004) to allow a generator to be located within the required front yard setback to serve an existing main residence for emergency purposes.

The project is Categorically Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15303(e), which includes accessory structures.

THE APPLICATION MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW BY CONTACTING SARAH FILIPE AT SFILIFE@WOODSIDETOEN.ORG



Michelle Le

A student at Menlo-Atherton High School filed a claim alleging Atherton police injured him when taking him into custody at a bus stop in April.

INJURY CLAIM

continued from page 5

principal Emmi physically blocked him, causing minor K.C. to bump into him," the claim alleges. "Frustrated that he was not allowed to have his water 'gun' even though his friends had been given theirs, minor K.C., who suffers from a mental impairment, became emotionally distressed and shouted at Vice Principal Emmi."

The student left the office and headed back to the bus stop, according to the claim, and at some point, Emmi called the police.

"Due to his mental impairment, minor K.C. has an Individualized Education Program (IEP), under which school staff are directed to contact on-site counselors to de-escalate and check on minor K.C. whenever he has an emotional disturbance episode," the claim states. "School staff are not supposed to contact the police in response to an episode."

K.C. was still waiting for the bus with two friends when Atherton police officers approached them, the claim says. A police officer allegedly told K.C.'s friends to leave, but the student asked them to stay out of fear. An officer then handcuffed one of the friends while other officers grabbed K.C.'s shoulder, the claim says.

"This scared minor K.C. since he does not like to be touched, so he stated, 'Please don't touch me' while putting his hands up and backing away," according to the claim. "The officer then slammed minor K.C. onto the ground."

The student recently had hernia surgery, so this caused him extreme pain, according to the claim.

"He began to cry and beg the

officer to stop, telling him that he was hurting him," the claim states.

The officers then lifted the student up and dragged him to a police car, according to the claim, which caused him more physical pain. K.C. asked officers why they were arresting him, the claim says, but the officers didn't answer. The minor was taken to the police station and picked up by his grandmother 15 minutes later.

The claim alleges that the Atherton Police Department officers' assault, battery and negligence caused the student to sustain substantial injuries, including significant stomach pain, back pain and abrasions.

"Minor K.C. did not pose a threat of serious injury or harm to any of the officers in this incident," the claim states. "The Atherton Police Department officers' actions were unreasonable, unlawful and unnecessary."

Atherton police said in a May 3 news bulletin, released a few days after the initial incident, that the student "physically assaulted a school administrator by pushing them into a cubicle wall, tried to push the administrator's glasses off their face, spit on them, and called them derogatory homophobic slurs."

Atherton Police Cmdr. Larsen told this news organization in an email at the time that the minor "walked away from police and resisted" before he was arrested.

"Charges are being filed against the subject for battery on a school official and a hate crime," Larsen said at the time. "What was captured on video is the tail end of the incident." ■

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

Menlo Park Monthly Market Report
 July 1, 2023 - July 31, 2023

TOP 10 SALES*				
1. \$11,100,000 1205 Johnson Street	2. \$8,071,234 941 Menlo Oaks Drive	3. \$6,700,000 775 Oak Knoll Lane	4. \$6,000,000 760 Olive Street	
5. \$5,200,000 2001 Camino A Los Cerros	6. \$4,425,000 530 Central Avenue	7. \$4,400,000 1161 Sherman Avenue	8. \$4,150,000 2105 Montorey Avenue	9. \$4,120,000 4 Sowe Court
			10. \$3,198,000 1189 Woodland Avenue	

<p>ACTIVE LISTING</p> <p>July: 57 June: 67 ↓ 15%</p>	<p>AVERAGE SALES PRICE</p> <p>July: \$3,651,852 June: \$3,461,538 ↑ 5%</p>	<p>AVERAGE SALES PRICE/SQ FT</p> <p>July: \$1,368 June: \$1,479 ↓ 8%</p>
<p>PENDING LISTING</p> <p>July: 30 June: 25 ↓ 20%</p>	<p>AVERAGE SOLD DAYS ON MARKET</p> <p>July: 34 June: 21 ↑ 62%</p>	<p>MONTHS OF INVENTORY</p> <p>July: 2.60 June: 2.10 ↑ 24%</p> <p><small>If no further listings/contracts were to enter the market, the area would be SOLD OUT of residential real estate in the number of MONTHS shown</small></p>
<p>SOLD LISTING</p> <p>July: 22 June: 32 ↓ 31%</p>	<p>SALE/LIST PRICE</p> <p>July: 100.80% June: 103.10% ↓ 2%</p>	<p>30 YEAR MORTGAGE RATE</p> <p>July: 6.98% June: 6.84% ↑ 2%</p> <p><small>6/28/2023 6.84% 7/26/2023 6.98% Source: Bankrate</small></p>

*Source: MLS Listings for Single Family Properties | Townhomes | Condos

Making A Move?

Sellers Start Here: RossettiMarketValue.com

Buyers Start here: RossettiHomeFinder.com

3525 Alameda De Las Pulgas Suite C Menlo Park, CA Phone: 650-854-4100

Gail Antoinette Rossetti
 Founder | CEO | Broker
 License #01179344

Portola Valley finds a new town manager

Sharif Etman will be officially appointed at the Aug. 23 town council meeting

By Malea Martin

The Portola Valley Town Council is slated to appoint Sharif Etman as the new town manager, following a nationwide search to fill the top job at town hall.

Etman has served in a variety of roles with Peninsula governments during his career, most recently as interim assistant administrative services director in Redwood City. Previously he worked for the City of Los Altos, the City of Campbell and the San Mateo County Human Services Agency. Etman also previously served as executive director and chief financial officer for Rebekah Children's Services, a mental health provider in Santa Clara County.



Sharif Etman

"We are thrilled to welcome Sharif to Portola Valley," Town Mayor Jeff Aalfs said in a statement. "With his years of experience across multiple government

functions, including community engagement, we are confident that his arrival will help us move forward as a community. I know that Sharif is eager to meet all of his new local partners and learn more about our unique and beautiful Town."

Etman's hiring will fill a vital gap in the town's staff, which has been without a permanent town manager for months. Former Town Manager Jeremy Dennis announced his resignation in February after seven years on the job, and is one of a number of Portola Valley staffers who have left the town in the past year.

"I am excited for this opportunity, and I look forward to connecting with our community, our town council leaders,

and our dedicated staff and volunteers," Etman said in the statement. "Portola Valley has always prided itself as a wonderful place to live and work and I am confident that we can solve our challenges and embrace new opportunities together."

Mayor Aalfs acknowledged and thanked the town staff members for their dedication over the past few months, despite the town's vacancies.

"Their unwavering commitment and tireless efforts have not only kept our operations running smoothly but have also showcased the remarkable strength of our team," Aalfs said in the statement. "Despite the challenges that come with transitions, our staff has risen to the occasion, demonstrating

their exceptional professionalism and dedication to our community. Their hard work during this interim period has not gone unnoticed, and I am proud to lead a town with such a resilient and devoted team."

While the search for a new town manager was conducted, Public Works Director Howard Young served as interim town manager. Young will return to his role as public works director, staff confirmed.

Etman's salary will be \$255,818 annually, according to town documents. The Town Council was set to vote on the appointment at an Aug. 23 meeting. ■

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

Local teacher housing project breaks ground in Palo Alto

Over 100 affordable apartments will be available to school staffers from south San Mateo and north Santa Clara Counties

By Zoe Morgan

Tossing ceremonial shovels of dirt, an educator housing project more than five years in the making officially broke ground in Palo Alto on Tuesday, Aug. 22.

First proposed by Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian in January 2018, 110 apartments reserved for teachers and staff from multiple school districts are now expected to be completed in the summer of 2025.

Local elected officials, school district leaders, representatives from the project's developers and others gathered on Aug. 22, for a ceremony at the site, located at 231 Grant Ave., across the street from the Palo Alto Courthouse.

The county office building that formerly occupied the property has been demolished and the land sits empty, ready for construction to commence.

Simitian told the crowd at the event that the beneficiaries

of the project won't just be the educators who will live in the units; students will benefit by getting more time to interact with their teachers, who won't be enduring multi-hour commutes each day.

"In ways that we can only just imagine today, it isn't about a hundred units," Simitian said. "It's about the opportunity to be there for kids who so urgently need that time and attention."

The apartments will be a mix of studios and one- and two-bedrooms, and will be offered at rents that are affordable for school employees making 60-140% of the area median income, according to a press release from Santa Clara County and Mercy Housing and Abode Communities, the nonprofit developers working on the project.

The Palo Alto Unified, Mountain View Whisman and Los Altos school districts are participating, as well as the Foothill-De Anza Community

College District.

Some south San Mateo County districts, including the Ravenswood City School District which serves Menlo Park and East Palo Alto, are also eligible to take part in the project as a result of a \$25 million grant from Meta, formerly known as Facebook.

The Mountain View Los Altos Union High School District (MVLA) originally expressed interest in the project but decided earlier this year not to take part, citing the conditions of participation and the district's comparatively stronger funding situation, according to a February letter that Superintendent Nellie Meyer sent to the county and developers.

Depending on education level and longevity, teachers in the high school district make between roughly \$102,000 and \$193,000, according to a salary schedule posted online.

As a result of MVLA leaving

the project, the Los Altos School District picked up the 12 units that the high school district would have received, for a total of 24 units.

Mountain View Whisman and Foothill-De Anza will each get 12, while Palo Alto Unified will have access to 29. The districts each paid \$50,000 per unit.

Meta's contribution meant that another 32 apartments are being set aside for south San Mateo County districts. The final apartment will be reserved for a property manager.

The project is being funded through a variety of sources. In addition to the money from the school districts and Meta, Santa Clara County donated the land and contributed additional funds and the city of Palo Alto donated money. The San Francisco Housing Accelerator Fund and Century Housing Corporation are also providing financing.

With construction currently

expected to be completed in the summer of 2025, Simitian told this news organization that the plan is to begin the leasing process in the spring of that year so that staff can move into their new homes in time for the 2025-26 school year.

Los Altos teachers' union president and sixth grade teacher Chris Hazelton spoke at Tuesday's ceremony about the impact that the project will have on his colleagues.

When Hazelton and his husband were starting out as teachers, they both worked two jobs to be able to afford to live in the area. He argued that providing affordable housing will help local districts attract and retain qualified teachers.

"By making this investment in housing for educators, our community is showing how valuable these essential workers are," Hazelton said. ■

Email Staff Writer Zoe Morgan at zmorgan@paweekly.com.

CRIME BRIEFS

continued from page 6

On the evening of Friday, Aug. 18, a home on the 200 block of Greenoaks Drive was burglarized. According to a police statement, the suspects entered the residence by smashing a rear master bedroom window and proceeded to rummage through the residence.

Then about one day later, on Aug. 19, a home on Adam Way was burglarized in a similar

manner: Suspects entered the residence by smashing a master bedroom window in the back of the house and then rummaged through the residence, police said in a statement.

No further information about either incident was available, but police encourage anyone who lives in the area and has any information to contact the Atherton Police Department at 650-688-6500. Police also asked residents to check their surveillance

cameras for suspicious activity.

According to Atherton Police Cmdr. Dan Larsen, both incidents are still being investigated and it's currently unknown if they're related.

—Malea Martin

Grass fire triggers traffic alert near Marsh Road

Firefighters on Tuesday evening battled a grass fire along U.S. Highway 101 near the

Marsh Road exit, north of Willow Road in Menlo Park.

At 5:41 p.m. on Aug. 22, the California Highway Patrol issued a severe traffic alert for northbound Highway 101. Two of the right lanes were blocked and motorists were advised to expect delays and to use alternate routes to avoid the area.

The fire was first reported at 5 p.m. and four fire engines were on the scene at around 5:40 p.m., according to FireDispatch.com.

All lanes on 101 were reopened by 6:15 p.m., according to 511.org and firefighters ended their response to the grass fire shortly before 6:30 p.m., according to information available on PulsePoint.

—Andrea Gemmet

express
Sign up today at
AlmanacNews.com/express

WE'RE PROUD TO BRING OUR READERS SOME OF THE BEST JOURNALISM IN THE STATE.

The annual **California Journalism Awards** competition, which celebrates excellence in reporting, design, photography and multimedia recognized our Peninsula team with **17 awards** in the following categories:

- Arts & Entertainment Coverage
- Coverage of 2022 Elections
- Coverage of Business and the Economy
- Coverage of Youth and Education
- Editorial Comment
- Feature Photo
- Feature Story
- In-Depth Reporting
- Inside Page Layout & Design
- Investigative Reporting
- Land-Use Reporting
- News Photo
- Newsletter
- Open - Investigative Reporting
- Profile Story
- Video Journalism

HERE'S WHAT SOME OF THE JUDGES OF THE 2022 CALIFORNIA JOURNALISM AWARDS ARE SAYING ABOUT OUR WORK —

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

— First Place, Investigative Reporting

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

— Second Place, Coverage of Business and The Economy

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

— First Place, Coverage of Local Government

Please help support the local journalism and the award-winning team that is driven by the desire to bring you fresh, original reporting.

We couldn't do it without you.

The **Almanac**

SUPPORT LOCAL
JOURNALISM

CIA
CALIFORNIA
JOURNALISM AWARDS





OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY 8/26 & SUNDAY 8/27: 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM

SATURDAY
& SUNDAY

20 PALOMAR OAKS LANE
REDWOOD CITY



\$3,688,000 | 4 Bd | 4.5 Bth
20PalomarOaks.com

823 PAULSON CIRCLE
MENLO PARK



\$3,150,000 | 4 Bd | 2.5 Bth
823Paulson.com

182 MELIA LOOP
MOUNTAIN VIEW



\$2,588,000 | 3 Bd | 2.5 Bth
182MeliaLoop.com

SATURDAY
ONLY

3887 LA SELVA DRIVE
PALO ALTO



\$3,288,000 | 4 Bd | 3 Bth
3887LaSelva.com

1655 GRANT ROAD
MOUNTAIN VIEW



\$1,888,000 | 4 Bd | 3 Bth
1655Grant.com

SUNDAY
ONLY

848 NASH ROAD
LOS ALTOS



\$6,738,000 | 5 Bd | 4.5 Bth
848NashRd.com

SCAN THE QR CODE
FOR MORE DETAILS



OR VISIT US AT
DELEONREALTY.COM

PROUDLY
SERVING
SILICON VALLEY

DELEONREALTY.COM

ESTATE
SALE

13850 PASEO DEL ROBLE DRIVE
LOS ALTOS HILLS

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
AUGUST 26 & 27, 2023
10 AM - 1 PM

6 SARGENT LANE
ATHERTON

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 2 & 3, 2023
10 AM - 1 PM

REAL ESTATE
Seminar/Livestream

Introducing the Dynamic Agent Network

FIND YOUR DREAM HOME – WHEREVER IT MAY BE.



Sign up today!



Thursday, September 7, 2023
5:30 - 6:30 PM Seminar/Livestream
6:30 - 7:30 PM Q & A



ShowPlace ICON Theatre
2575 California Street #90
Mountain View, CA 94040

Scan the QR code to RSVP or Call 650.543.8500

Michael Repka, DRE #01854880 | 650.488.7325 | michael@deleonrealty.com | Equal Housing Opportunity
中文諮詢請聯繫 Audrey Sun, DRE #01933274 電話: 650.785.5822 | DELEONREALTY.COM | DeLeon Realty, Inc. | DRE #01903224

Dramatic rescue of toddler trapped in bank vault marks its 20th anniversary

Retired Menlo Park fire chief recalls the grueling operation to free 2-year-old Daniella Sevilla

By Michaela Seah

It has been 20 years since the Menlo Park Fire Protection District made national headlines by saving a little girl who was accidentally trapped in a bank vault.

Maria Sevilla worked for Washington Mutual Bank on Woodside Road in Redwood City and had just picked up 2-year-old daughter Daniella from day care on Aug. 14, 2003. She walked into the vault without knowing that the toddler had followed her inside, then exited and closed the electric-powered steel door. Shortly after, there was a power outage that made it impossible

to open the vault for the next 12 hours. Realizing that her child was trapped inside the vault, Sevilla immediately called the fire department.

Retired Menlo Park fire Chief Harold Schapelhouman, now the fire district's historian, was division chief of special operations at the time, and recalled the grueling five-and-a-half-hour rescue. When first responders arrived at the scene, it was clear that the department needed outside help and specialized equipment, he said.

"The only reasonable options were to either to wait out the 12-hour timer, or to try and penetrate the reported 20-inch thick

steel-reinforced concrete wall. Our plan was to use a commercial 12-inch drum drill to create a hole, or tunnel, for the child to ultimately crawl through," he said.

The plan to drill a hole in the vault was simple, but required a lot of precaution. The vault was not temperature-controlled, the box lockers inside it were in danger of tipping over and harming the toddler, and the lack of information about the electrical system of the wall made the process difficult, he said. The rescue task force had to borrow the drill from Lombardo Diamond Concrete Coring Inc.

After 40 minutes of carefully



Courtesy Peter Mootz

From left, Menlo Park fire Capt. Ben Marra and firefighters Roy Trester, Ross Frazee and Matt Menard work to free a toddler trapped in a bank vault on Aug. 14, 2003.

working to install a camera into the vault, Sevilla was able to see her daughter.

"Maria was relieved but concerned about seeing her daughter sleeping naked on the vault floor; the warm temperature had prompted the child to strip off all her clothing," Schapelhouman said.

"Maria called Daniella's name, she awoke, only to see a light, (on a) dark 2-inch circular camera head, strangely with her mother's voice, looking back at her. She started to call for her mother but also became upset as to why she wasn't there in person, as her mother worked to both calm and explain to her what was occurring."

When the drill breached the vault walls, the hole was fitted with a rubber mat and K-Y Jelly lubricant to make it easier for the

toddler to pass through. Sevilla called out to her daughter and was armed with two stuffed animals to coax her through the makeshift tunnel. After the pair was reunited, Daniella was sent to Kaiser Hospital to be checked out.

Despite gaining national attention at the time, the pair have not surfaced in public again. Sevilla had declined interviews from Good Morning America and the Oprah Winfrey Show at the height of the interest in the rescue, Schapelhouman said.

"Many of us agreed it would be great to meet or hear from Daniella if she was so inclined," he said. "At the very least, we all hope she and her mom are doing well." ■

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

20th ANNIVERSARY 2023

SATURDAY
SEPT
16th

Presented by

Rotary
Menlo Park

63, 43, 33
MILE RIDES

+ 12 MILE
FAMILY
RIDE

TOUR de MENLO

the scholarship ride

- Fully supported with water, rest stops & SAG
- 7am-10am start, Menlo Park
- All proceeds go to Rotary need-based scholarships
- Learn more about Rotary

MORE INFO/REGISTER: TOURDEMENLO.COM

Menlo Park

WEST VALLEY CONSTRUCTION SINCE 1958

MOHR-FRY RANCHES

SABA

SBM FITNESS customized fitness care for you

THE DAILY JOURNAL

SAND HILL

The Almanac

LINMAX TRADING & INVESTMENT COMPANY

KCM INVESTMENT ADVISORS

State Farm Emily Chapman, Agent

Forum

TEAM TARLTON

D.R. JOHNSON & COMPANY

Sutter Health Palo Alto Medical Foundation We Plus You

Lawyers Title

PARKLINE

SIGNATURE DEVELOPMENT GROUP

THE FOG

JOHN L. FLEGEL ATTORNEY AT LAW

MENLO MANAGEMENT COMPANY

OVATION REAL ESTATE

PRESIDIO BAY

BOHANNON The Bohannon Foundation

Revolutions in Fitness

KENSON VENTURES REAL ESTATE

PELEGO ELECTRIC BIKES MENLO PARK California

OVATION REAL ESTATE

STANFORD PARK HOTEL

John Glynn

August 23, 1940 – July 26, 2023

John Walter Glynn, Jr. of Atherton, California, and Charlottesville, Virginia, died on July 26, 2023, at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. He had been vacationing with his family in Nantucket.

John was born on August 23, 1940, the loving son of Dorothy Ann and John Walter Glynn. He grew up in Kansas and Virginia. He graduated from Hampton High School in 1958, the University of Notre Dame in 1962, the University of Virginia School of Law in 1965, and the Stanford Graduate School of Business in 1970. In 1974, he co-founded Lamoreaux, Glynn & Associates, and he founded Glynn Capital Management in 1983. For decades, John taught courses on venture capital and entrepreneurship in MBA programs at the University of Virginia, Stanford, and Cambridge. John and his wife, Barbara, established the Glynn Family Honors program at the University of Notre Dame and the John W. Glynn Jr. Law and Business Program at the Darden School of Business.

John is survived by his beloved wife of 57 years, Barbara; his daughters, Jacqueline Brandin of Menlo Park, Alexandra Rowe and son-in-law, David, of Shreveport, Louisiana, Elizabeth Clarke and son-in-law, John, of Houston, Texas; his son, David Glynn and daughter-in-law, Massimilliana of San Francisco; his grandchildren, Katherine Brandin, Margaret Brandin, Emily Rowe, Elizabeth Rowe, Caroline Rowe, J.W. Glynn, III, Francesca Glynn, Alessandra Glynn, and Isabel Clarke; his sister and brother-in-law, Linda and David Hutchinson of Allison Park, Pennsylvania; his nieces, Shannon Crockett of Silver Spring, Maryland, Morgan Gosey of Allison Park, Pennsylvania and nephew, David Hutchinson of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Maddsie and Charlie, Retrievers. We remember with gratitude the kind care of John by his nurses at Serenity Care and The Key, most especially Hazel Cunanan, Corozon and Rolando Santiago, Siu Fonua. We thank Norma and Andy Guevara for their support over the years. With deep and abiding gratitude for the support of John's colleagues at Glynn Capital.

A celebration of John's life will take place on Friday, August 25, at 2pm at St. Ignatius Church, 650 Parker Ave. in San Francisco, followed by a reception at the San Francisco Golf Club. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to a charity of your choice.

PAID OBITUARY

Crackdown leads to 120 traffic citations in Menlo Park, Atherton and Redwood City

By Sue Dremann

A countywide traffic-safety enforcement initiative led to 120 citations in three cities — Redwood City, Menlo Park and Atherton — in just one day, Aug. 15, according to a police press release.

Motor officers part of San Mateo County's Saturation Traffic Enforcement Program (S.T.E.P.) patrol different cities on different days to root out hotspots of dangerous motorist behavior.

This was the sixth deployment of a collaborative effort to increase traffic safety and awareness in spots notorious for trouble throughout San Mateo County in 2023. According

to the press release, 16 traffic officers from various law enforcement agencies across San Mateo County participated in the crackdown.

Officers have seen a variety of bad driver behavior in recent years, including an uptick during and after the pandemic.

"Since COVID-19, violations have been especially for using cell phones," Burlingame police Corporal Joe Morell said.

During the recent enforcement, 52 citations were for cell phone use; 20 were for failure to stop at a stop sign, he said.

Here's a breakdown of the other citations:

- Failing to stop at a red light: 13

- Failing to obey a posted sign: 10
- Unsafe speed: 9
- Seat belt violation: 4
- Driving without a driver's license: 3
- Illegal window tint: 3
- Driving without vehicle insurance: 2
- Object obstructing the driver's vision: 2
- Expired registration: 2
- Blocking an intersection: 1
- No front license plate: 1

In addition, one person was arrested for driving with a suspended driver's license.

"The participating officers remained committed to making a high volume of traffic stops in this coordinated saturation

effort while maintaining the highest levels of community awareness and professionalism. The San Mateo County Police Chiefs and Sheriffs Association, and the California Highway Patrol, have all committed to this important safety initiative. These planned multi-agency saturation deployments will continue throughout San Mateo County in 2023," the press release said.

Police agencies participating in San Mateo County's S.T.E.P. include those across Atherton, Belmont, Brisbane, Burlingame, California Highway Patrol, Colma, Daly City, East Palo Alto, Foster City, Hillsborough, Menlo

Park, Pacifica, Redwood City, San Bruno, San Mateo County Public Safety Communications, San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, San Mateo police, and South San Francisco police.

The program has been in effect for 15 years and takes place once a month. The departments choose different cities each month and work cooperatively to reduce the violations and improve safety on the road, Morrell said.

The enforcement program will continue for the foreseeable future. ■

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

Caltrain to pilot the nation's first electric-battery powered train

Train will charge as it runs along electrified tracks, then use battery power in the non-electrified corridor from San Jose south

By Bay City News

Caltrain leaders announced Aug. 17 that the transit agency has received money to purchase and pilot a bi-level dual electric and battery-powered train, the country's first.

The California Transportation Commission approved a funding allocation for one Stadler battery-equipped electric train and related maintenance and charging facility upgrades to help with the transition to fully electrified service and expand zero

emission service to non-electrified tracks. Stadler is Caltrain's electric train manufacturer.

The commission approved the allocation of funds from an \$80 million award from the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) for one battery-equipped electric multiple unit train, or BEMU train, and the associated research and development.

The funds will allow Caltrain to operate zero-emission trains on both electrified service areas of the corridor as well as the portion of the corridor from Tamien

Station in San Jose to Gilroy, which, at present, does not yet have overhead electrified lines.

As a battery-equipped train, the Stadler will charge while the train runs on overhead power in the electrified service areas and then use battery charge to travel "off-wire" on non-electrified track areas.

Without this BEMU train, Caltrain would have to use diesel trains in the non-electrified corridor.

The funding award from CalSTA also covers the cost of testing at the Transportation

Test Center in Colorado and upgrades to the San Jose Central Maintenance Facility and Gilroy layover and station area to facilitate charging and maintenance.

After additional testing and certifications from regulatory agencies, the train will go into operations. The 4-car vehicle consists of three passenger cars and one battery-head, which houses the battery and power equipment.

"Silicon Valley has a reputation for first of its kind innovations, and our transportation

sector is no different," San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan said. "This project will pave the way for Caltrain to retire their diesel fleet and operate a fully zero-emission service for future generations."

Carl Guardino, vice chairperson of the commission, called the unanimous decision "electrifying both figuratively and literally."

It will "improve the lives for tens of thousands of daily commuters and ... show the way for other transit systems throughout the country," he said. ■

Bill proposing Bay Area bridge toll increase gets shelved

Critics argued that legislation would unfairly impact low-income residents

By Olivia Wynkoop

A bill proposing a temporary toll increase for Bay Area bridges to fund public transportation has been shelved, its authoring legislators said Monday, Aug. 21.

State Sen. Scott Wiener and Assemblymember Lori Wilson, D-Suisun City, said in a joint statement that State Bill 532 has taken a pause. They will instead focus their efforts on developing strategies for more transit funding for the next legislative session.

If passed the bill would have raised tolls by \$1.50 on seven Bay Area bridges for five years, starting in 2024. The estimated \$180 million in revenue would have been used to sustain funding for Bay Area transit agencies as federal emergency resources dry

up post-COVID-19 lockdowns.

The bill was intended to give agencies enough time to continue services until they find a stable source of funding, which could potentially come in the form of a regional ballot measure in the future.

"While there was not enough time to reach a consensus on how to solve this looming problem, we made substantial progress on a solution," Wiener said. "I will continue to make transit operations funding a major priority, and I look forward to continuing those discussions into the fall."

The pause comes after multiple California representatives expressed concerns about the legislation unfairly impacting low-income residents and that it would not provide sustainable solutions for public

transportation agencies in the long-term.

The Palo Alto City Council discussed SB 532 at its Aug. 14 meeting. Council members considered a resolution drafted by city staff, which — while not directly opposing SB 532 — certainly threw some shade at it. SB 532 "would bypass the voters to levy a bridge toll increase on the commuters who can least afford it," it stated.

Mayor Lydia Kou, who is running for the state Assembly, launched a petition drive opposing the bill.

"I don't believe that nickel and diming people who are just trying to travel or get to work is the right way to 'bail out' public transportation agencies," Kou's petition stated.

The full City Council opted not to take a stance on the bill, voting

unanimously to simply "monitor" the bill.

Wiener and Wilson said that, in response to the opposition, they will collaborate with Bay Area legislators in a working group to determine which transit funding proposals to pursue in the next legislative session. Potential proposals include state budget allocations, temporary toll increases and the regional transit funding measure, among other ideas.

"Increasing tolls can be a significant burden to Bay Area commuters who are already dealing with high cost of living, inflation and other expenses. From an equity perspective, tolls can have substantial repercussions especially for those where public transit is not a viable option," Wilson said.

"We need to ensure there is accountability and verifiable data

collection so that our proposed solutions are evidence-based and defensible to those being asked to bear the burden of this investment. I look forward to facilitating these discussions along with Senator Wiener in the Fall with interested members of the Bay Area Caucus," she added.

The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency said in a statement on social media that it found the pause "very disappointing" and a "blow" to their efforts to preserve Muni service.

"But we're going to keep fighting for the hundreds of thousands of people who rely on Muni every single day," agency officials stated. "We can't afford to lose transit." ■

Palo Alto Online Staff Writer Gennady Sheyner contributed to this report.

Stanford Health Care resident physicians say wages, conditions untenable

By Sue Dremann

Resident physicians at Stanford Health Care have a very serious grouse: They say their working conditions are so strained that some of the doctors must work second jobs after putting in 80 hours a week at Stanford Hospital, and others can no longer afford an apartment, a union representative said this week.

The resident physicians, or “house staff,” voted to join the Committee of Interns and Residents (CIR-SEIU) union in May 2022. The doctors held a demonstration on July 21, 2023, to shed light on what they claim has been a difficult series of months of bargaining without a resolution.

The union claims that Stanford Health Care has routinely engaged in stalling tactics at the table, deliberately ignoring the basic needs of their residents despite making a \$788 million profit.

Meanwhile, the doctors say skyrocketing housing, food and child care costs are piled on top of existing educational debt, which, on average, is around \$250,000 for medical school graduates.

“We are hopeful that Stanford will bargain in good faith. Our goal is to come away with a fair contract — one with the salaries and housing stipends we need to be able to live and work in Palo Alto,” said Simran Kaur, former obstetrics and gynecology resident and a current complex

family planning fellow, who is a member of the bargaining team.

“Over the past several months we have taken large-scale action and have shown Stanford that residents are struggling in real, material ways right now. We will continue to (put) pressure until we receive what we deserve,” Kaur said.

The union negotiations include more than 1,300 resident physicians who work at other Stanford and non-Stanford sites across the Bay Area, including the outpatient clinics in both Redwood City and Emeryville.

Kaur said union representatives have laid out members’ predicaments to Stanford.

“While bargaining, we have repeatedly heard heartbreaking stories about how residents are

copied with our working conditions and compensation. One family had to move out of the apartment and start living out of a van; other residents would sleep in their cars during night shifts because there was no access to a call room,” Kaur said.

“After working 80 hours per week in the hospital another resident had to get other jobs on the side to afford their rent,” Kaur said.

Stanford disagreed with the union’s characterization of the negotiations. Its bargaining team is committed to bargaining in good faith and has continued making steady progress on reaching an agreement through its proposals and discussions with CIR/SEIU, the Stanford Health Care said in a statement.

“Throughout this process we continue to reinforce our commitment on a number of important topics: from prioritizing highly competitive wages, benefits and increased housing and moving allowance, to ensuring the safety of our house staff if they are too fatigued to drive home at the end of their shift.

“To date we have reached several tentative agreements with CIR/SEIU on a number of topics, and we look forward to continuing our important conversations and making further progress at our upcoming sessions,” Stanford said. ■

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

SCHOOLS

continued from page 1

on Aug. 29. At Corte Madera School, there’s a new atrium wing specifically for middle school students.

“The atrium actually frames Windy Hill,” Superintendent Zarea said. “The architect built it so that you can look out and see Windy Hill in the background. So it really integrates the beauty and nature of Portola Valley.”

On the fourth and fifth grade side of Corte Madera’s campus, there’s a new science wing with a deck that looks out into the school’s frog pond, “a special preserve for nature here in Portola Valley,” Zarea said.

Both Corte Madera and Ormondale schools have new play structures ready for kids to get their energy out during recess, as well as new fields. Ormondale will also unveil a new STEAM center.

Campuses in the Las Lomas Elementary School District, where classes began Aug. 16, are in the final stages of receiving a “complete face-lift” with facilities modernizations, said Communications and Community Engagement Coordinator Kelli Twomey. Those renovations should finish up by the end of this school year, she said.

“It’s retrofitting the buildings, replacing roofs and then replacing infrastructure and systems within the buildings,” Twomey said. “All of it’s funded from bonds, from the support of our community, and all of it’s going to enhance the educational environment for our students and our teaching staff.”

Ravenswood City School District, which came back Aug.

16, has also made the most of local bond measures and is in the final stages of renovating Cesar Chavez Ravenswood Middle School.

“Our students will be able to move into brand new classrooms and our first two-story building in our school district when we come back from winter break,” said Ravenswood Superintendent Gina Sudaria. “We’re really excited about the community support and for it to come into fruition, about making our middle school a true hub for all students in our community.”

Expanding pre-kindergarten opportunities

Menlo Park City School District, which started Aug. 23, spent the summer getting classrooms ready for the littlest kids on campus, the transitional kindergarteners (TK).

MPCSD already had a TK program at Laurel School last year, but starting this year, all elementary schools in the district will

See **SCHOOLS**, page 17



Photos by Lizzy Myers

Miss Tuers’ colorful first-grade classroom (above) includes neatly organized bins of school supplies (bottom right), on the first day of school at Las Lomas Elementary. Bottom left: Kindergarten students get acquainted on the first day of school at Las Lomas Elementary.





Photos by Devin Roberts

Students and parents arrive on bikes, above, and chalk art greets students, below, on the first day of school at Oak Knoll Elementary in Menlo Park on Aug. 23. Top right: Transitional kindergarten teacher and Oak Knoll alum Melanie Vea meets her students on the first day of school.



SCHOOLS

continued from page 16

welcome TK students to campus. “It has taken a lot of time and planning, but we’re excited about the program,” said Superintendent Kristen Gracia. “We’re also tapping into and partnering with Newton Center, which runs our after (school) care here in the Menlo Park City School District. They’re also providing TK aftercare, so that’s an expansion of their program as well.”

As the state ramps up its requirements for schools to provide pre-kindergarten programs, local districts are largely ahead of the curve, offering TK sooner and to younger kids than they’re

obligated to currently. By the 2025-26 school year, local educational agencies are required to make TK available to all children who will have their fourth birthday by Sept. 1 of the school year, according to state law.

For schools that already have TK programs in place, children are eligible this school year if they turn 5 years old between September 2, 2023, and April 2, 2024.

Woodside School District, which welcomed students back on Aug. 16, was among the first to implement a TK program over a decade ago, according to Superintendent Steve Frank. That program is still going strong, and will be following state age guidelines going into this next school year.

Las Lomitas Elementary School District saw a big surge in TK enrollment last year, and continues to increase going into the 2023-24 year, Twomey said. The district had 58 TK students enrolled last year and is expecting 79 this year.

Portola Valley School District also expanded its TK program last year, inviting all kids who turn 4 by Sept. 1, well ahead of the state requirement to do so.

“This year is our second year, but we are really proud of that program,” Superintendent Zarea said. “We have a brand new TK teacher as well, to replace a teacher who retired.”

Ravenswood similarly started offering TK to all 4-year-olds beginning last year, Superintendent Sudaria said.



Courtesy Joy Shen

Students enter a classroom at Belle Haven Elementary School on the first day of school on Aug. 16.

“It’s really just building upon that and making sure every member of our community knows that if your child is 4, they can start school immediately in Ravenswood,” Sudaria said. “We have the capacity and we have the staffing to support TK expansion.”

Enrollment and beyond

Other than the schools where TK is seeing a big lift, district administrators reported little change in overall enrollment numbers this year.

“We’re pretty stable,” said Portola Valley School District Superintendent Zarea. “That’s actually encouraging because for a while, especially during lockdown and the pandemic, there was a dip. Now it seems like we’re back up to where we were prior to the pandemic, and the numbers are pretty stable.”

Sequoia Union High School

District, which welcomed students back to campus on Aug. 16, also reported stable enrollment going into this school year. The district is unveiling a few new classes this year: Film as Literature and Music Theory Fundamentals at Menlo-Atherton High School, and a Kinesiology career technical education class at East Palo Alto Academy.

Sequoia Union is entering a new LCAP (Local Control and Accountability Plan) cycle, a tool that school districts use to set goals and plan for the future. District Public Information Officer Arthur Wilkie said communication and meeting people where they are will be the district’s biggest priorities going forward. ■

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

IN A NEW LIGHT

Fall arts season offers gateway to imaginative new worlds

By Akhil Joondeph and Heather Zimmerman

On tap for the fall is a huge variety of experiences that will transport audiences to new places, as well as some familiar spots that are favorites for a reason.

From interactive digital art to sonic landscapes of dreamy folk and Americana or high-energy funk, or jazz, classical or alternative; a musical adaptation of a classic children's book or a new look at a century-old real-life mystery; a graphic novel about ghostly realms or a book with a reasoned approach to political discourse, the arts always have the ability to offer fresh, new perspectives.

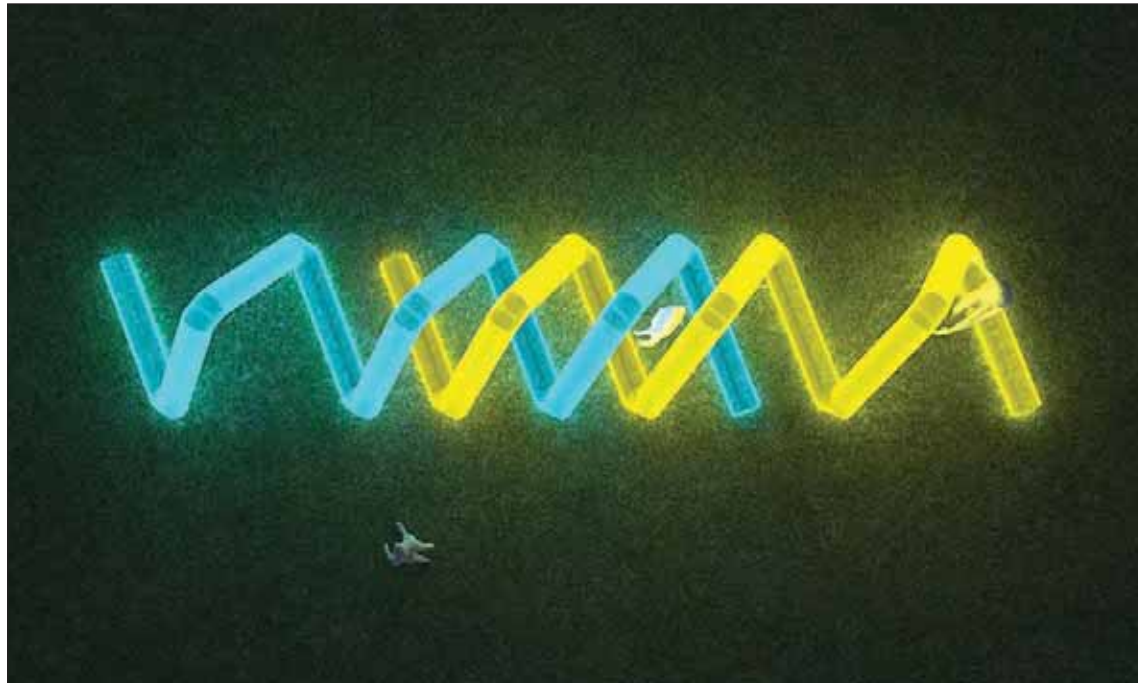
This fall offers the perfect chance to tap into new worlds inside an installation, on a canvas, a stage, or together as a crowd at a concert. Here's a look at what's coming up in the Peninsula art scene this fall.

For continuing coverage, check almanacnews.com/arts, subscribe to our Weekend Express email (sign up at almanacnews.com/express) and peruse and/or submit event listings at almanacnews.com/calendar.

Music

Earthwise Productions: DaShawn Hickman band featuring Sacred Steel (Aug. 25); Tuck and Patti (Sept. 8); Will Bernard and Beth Custer Duo CD release party jam (Sept. 10); Amendola Vs Blades, Eric Persons Quartet (Sept. 17); David James's GPS performs Mission Rebel No. 1 (Sept. 24); Dan Bern (Oct. 8); Young Dubliners (Nov. 11); Anat Cohen Duo (Nov. 17 early and late shows). eventbrite.com/o/mark-weiss-dba-earthwise.

The Fox Theatre: Legends of Motown Old School Tribute (Sept. 9); Lupita Infante (Sept. 15); Anup Jalota Live in Concert (Sept. 23); Rock the Fox with Queen Nation and Sona (Sept. 29); Sweet Caroline Neil Diamond tribute starring Jay White (Oct. 14); Jade Kwan SHINE Gospel Charity Concert 2023



Courtesy the artist/City of Palo Alto

SPOTLIGHT: This fall, a visit to downtown Palo Alto will bring some totally new experiences: whether it's searching for hidden messages from the sea in an environment teeming with virtual underwater life, or strolling through an orchard of trees that react to your presence, or cloud watching with an AI.

Code:ART, the city of Palo Alto's digital arts festival, returns for its third edition, Oct. 12-14 with a series of seven interactive installations throughout the downtown area. The biennial festival highlights innovative artwork that taps into visitors' imaginations and explores ideas about humans' relationship with both the digital and real-life worlds. Oct. 12-14, 5-10 p.m. at various downtown Palo Alto locations. Seen here is a rendering with an overhead view of "Helix Seats," an interactive inflatable installation by Pneuhaus. cityofpaloalto.org. (HZ)

(Nov. 4); James Garner Tribute to Johnny Cash (Nov. 16); Zack Tabudlo (Nov. 17); Beatles vs. Stones: A Musical Showdown (Nov. 18); Carpenters Legacy: A Christmas Portrait (Dec. 10). foxrwc.com.

The Guild Theatre: Tainted Love (Aug. 25); The Headhunters (Aug. 26); The Love Handles (Sept. 9); Dengue Fever (Sept. 14); Bebel Gilberto (Sept. 15); The Purple Ones (Sept. 16); Marcy Playground (Sept. 17); Earth to Table farm workers benefit with Malo, Juan Escovedo All Stars and others (Sept. 19); The Baseball Project (Sept. 21); Galactic (Sept. 22); The Beat Farmers (Sept. 28); Sierra Hull (Sept. 30); Grateful Shred (Oct. 5); Ranger Trucco (Oct. 6); The War and Treaty (Oct. 8); John Cruz (Oct. 12); One More Time: A tribute to Daft Punk (Oct. 13); Anytila (Oct. 14); Michelle Branch (Oct. 15); The Wallflowers (Oct. 19-21); The Mother Hips (Oct. 27); Deer

Tick (Oct. 28); Midnight North (Nov. 10); Petty Theft (Nov. 17); Watchhouse (Nov. 18); Cool Water Canyon (Nov. 25); Moonalice (Nov. 30). Berlin

holiday show (Dec. 2). guildtheatre.com.

Shoreline Amphitheatre: 50 Cent, Busta Rhymes and Jeremih (Sept. 2); Kidz Bop

Live (Sept. 9); Pentatonix and Lauren Alaina (Sept. 12); Lights on Festival with H.E.R., Jazmine Sullivan, PartyNextDoor, Don Toliver and Toosii (Sept. 16-17); Jason Aldean with Mitchell Tenpenny, Corey Kent and Dee Jay Silver (Sept. 28); The All American Rejects with New Found Glory and The Get Up Kids (Sept. 29); Ne-Yo, with Robin Thicke and Mario (Oct. 4); Trippie Redd (Oct. 6). mountainviewamphitheater.com.

Stanford Live: Tash Sultana (Aug. 25); REZZ with Dr. Fresch, Ivy Lab, SFAM (Sept. 15); Joshua Redman Group (Sept. 22); LADAMA (Sept. 29); The Avett Brothers (Sept. 24); Billy Strings (Oct. 6-7); Emanuel Ax (Oct. 8); Hiromi (Oct. 11); Carminho (Oct. 12); Joe Russo's Almost Dead (Oct. 13); Gretchen Parlato and Lionel Loueke (Oct. 14); Nano Stern Sings Victor Jara (Oct. 15); Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra (Oct. 18 and Dec. 8); Lizzie No (Oct. 21); Sundays with the St. Lawrence (Oct. 22); Junction Trio (Oct. 29); Gregory Maqoma (Oct. 26); RL Grime Presents: PLAY™ live with JAWNS, 33 Below (Oct. 27); John Summit (Nov. 3); Roy Hage (Nov. 11); "American Railroad" with Silkroad Ensemble with Rhiannon Giddens (Nov. 15);

SPOTLIGHT: Music@Menlo's three-week summer festival has wrapped up for the year, but this fall, the chamber music organization is hosting a performance that's part of a festival taking place statewide. The inaugural California Festival brings together over 50 organizations from around the state to celebrate new music. As part of the festival, the **Sitokovetsky Trio** returns to **Music@Menlo** on Nov. 3 for a program highlighting "Etched in Smoke and Light," a new work they commissioned from composer Julia Adolphe in 2022. Nov. 3, 7 p.m. at St. Bede's Church, Menlo Park. \$30-\$65. musicatmenlo.org. (HZ)



Courtesy Vincly Ng/Blue Ocean Arts

FALL ARTS PREVIEW

Coco in Concert (Nov. 19); Storm Large: Holiday Ordeal (Dec. 8-9); Rob Kapilow's What Makes It Great? Dreaming of a Jewish Christmas (Dec. 9); Davina and the Vagabonds (Dec. 10); A Chanticleer Christmas (Dec. 14). live.stanford.edu.

Bay Choral Guild: Majestic Masses: Schubert Mass in G and Mozart Mass in C minor (Nov. 17-18) baychoralguild.org.

California Bach Society: Mass in B Minor (Oct. 13-15); The Christmas Story (Dec. 1-3). calbach.org.

Community School of Music and Arts: Quadre: The Voice of Four Horns (Sept. 16); The Anderson Brothers Play Gershwin (Sept. 30); CSMA Fundraising Gala (Oct. 7); Juanito Pascual Trio (Oct. 21); Axel Schmidt: The Well-Tempered Clavier Book II (Nov. 4); Clerestory: A Many Splendored Thing (Nov. 18); Merit Scholars Holiday Concert (Dec. 9). arts4all.org.

Filoli: Hip-hopera with Babatunde Akinboboye (Aug. 30); Blues and folk night with Mya Byrne (Sept. 10). filoli.org.

Ives Collective: Fall Salon Series: Fauré's Piano Quintet No.2 in C Minor, Op.115 (Sept. 17); Fall Collective: Fauré and Brahms (Sept. 22). ivescollective.org.

Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts: Ascendo Foundation presents "Robert Schumann's Monumental Works" with pianist Andrew

Truong (Aug. 26); Ascendo Foundation presents "Classical Splendor Unveiled," a concert of young musicians (Aug. 27); Jazz at the Ballroom presents "Accentuate the Positive" concert of songs from the great American songbook (Sept. 8); Nova Vista Symphony presents "Nature and Youth: Schumann and Bruch" (Sept. 16). mvcpa.com.

Music@Menlo: California Festival: A Celebration of New Music, with a performance by The Sitkovetsky Trio (Nov. 3). musicatmenlo.org.

Oshman Family JCC: Seraph Brass: A Splendid Evening of Brilliant Brass (Sept. 28); The Maccabeats (Dec. 3). paloaltojcc.org.

Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra: Senior orchestra concert (Nov. 12 and Dec. 18); Sinfonia orchestra concert (Nov. 19); Debut orchestra concert (Nov. 20). pacomusic.org.

Palo Alto Philharmonic: Baroque concert (Sept. 9); Melodic Impressions: Boulanger, Mozart, Schumann (Oct. 21); Fall chamber concert (Nov. 4); Paris to Prague: paphil.org.

Peninsula Women's Chorus: A Candlelit Homecoming (Dec. 7 and 9). pwchorus.org.

Ragazzi Boys Chorus: Light and Love (Dec. 2); Winter Recital 2023 (Dec. 9). ragazzi.org.

Redwood Symphony: Romeo and Juliet (Sept. 23); Halloween Family Concert (Oct. 29); Scheherazade (Nov. 18). redwoodsymphony.org.



Courtesy Scott Lasky/Palo Alto Players

SPOTLIGHT: Roald Dahl's classic novel about a young girl with telekinetic abilities will come to life on stage this fall with the **Palo Alto Players'** presentation of "**Matilda the Musical.**" This staging of Tony Minchin's Tony Award-winning musical will be directed by Janie Scott, a seasoned director of local productions. Featuring talented performers of all ages, this production has appeal for audience members both young and old, offering youngsters a dramatic adaptation of a classic children's book and older audiences a dose of nostalgia for a childhood favorite story. Seen here are Palo Alto Players actors Brigitte Losey, left, Araceli Grace, center, and Randy Lee. Sept. 8-24 at the Lucie Stern Theatre, Palo Alto. \$30-\$57. paplayers.org. (A)

San Francisco Early Music Society: Ensemble Mirable (Sept. 29); El Mundo: Archivo de Guatemala (Oct. 27). sfems.org.

Schola Cantorum: I Was Glad: Leonard Bernstein's "Chichester Psalms and Shawn Kirchner's Songs of Ascent"

(Oct. 29); Peace on Earth (Dec. 17). scholacantorum.org.

Comedy

The Guild Theatre: Sebastian Marx (Sept. 20); San Francisco Stand-Up Comedy Competition

Finals (Sept. 23). guildtheatre.com.

Oshman Family JCC: Why Not? Lessons on Comedy, Courage and Chutzpah with Mark Schiff (Nov. 19). paloaltojcc.org.

See **IN A NEW LIGHT**, page 20



Courtesy Joey Moro/Dorset Theatre Festival

SPOTLIGHT: In 1926, Agatha Christie, near the height of her career, presented readers with a shocking puzzle that still hasn't been solved to this day. The British mystery author simply disappeared and turned up 11 days later without much explanation. **TheatreWorks** opens its season with "**Mrs. Christie,**" Heidi Armbruster's play about a Christie fan who believes she has finally cracked the case of where the famed writer was and why. The show unfolds with parallel storylines that merge the past and present, and enlist a little help from one of Christie's most famous sleuths. TheatreWorks' new artistic director, Giovanna Sardelli, helms the production. She directed the show's world premiere at Dorset Theatre Festival, shown here with actors Mary Bacon, left, and Sevan Greene. Oct. 4- 29 at the Mountain View Center for Performing Arts, Mountain View. Tickets start at \$30. theatreworks.org. (HZ)



Courtesy New Frontier Touring

SPOTLIGHT: Acclaimed singer and songwriter **Dan Bern** will be coming to Palo Alto Oct. 8, hosted by local presenter **Earthwise Productions.** Bern's signature style, blending elements of classic rock, folk and pop, has been likened to that of Bruce Springsteen and Bob Dylan, and his prolific songwriting appears to know no bounds, with over 1,000 songs to his name. This concert promises to bring the best of Bern's songwriting prowess and musical expertise to the Palo Alto community. Oct. 8, 7-9:30 p.m. at Mitchell Park Community Center, Palo Alto. \$17.69. eventbrite.com. (AJ)



Courtesy Chris Hardy/Smuin Contemporary Ballet

SPOTLIGHT: Celebrated for its innovative performances, **Smuin Contemporary Ballet** kicks off its 30th anniversary season with “Dance Series I,” featuring “Salsa ‘til Dawn,” a world premiere by Darrell Grand Moultrie, along with James Kudelka’s “The Man In Black” paying tribute to the music of Johnny Cash, and “Tutto Eccetto il Lavandino (everything but the kitchen sink)” by Val Caniparoli. The pieces draw influences from various dance styles, expanding upon the idiom of ballet and challenging the orthodox, in classic Smuin fashion. Smuin artists Ben Needham-Wood (top) and Christian Squires are seen here in “Tutto Eccetto il Lavandino.” Sept. 21-24 at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, Mountain View. \$25-\$84. smuinballet.org. (A)



Courtesy the artists

SPOTLIGHT: The exhibition “**Boom Oaxaca**,” opening Sept. 16 at the **Palo Alto Art Center**, draws on the cultures of California and Oaxaca, Mexico, highlighting newly commissioned works by artists with Oaxacan roots: Narsiso Martinez and artists’ collective Tlacolulokos. Originally organized by the Fresno-based cultural arts center Arte Américas, the show explores issues the indigenous people of Oaxaca face through pieces in a variety of media. The works came about in part through interviews with community members in the Central Valley who have cultural connections to Oaxaca and California and touch on topics such as maintaining culture and the right to healthy, culturally appropriate food. The art center holds a special opening night celebration on Sept. 22. Shown here is “Empeño,” a painting by Tlacolulokos. Sept. 16-Dec. 9 at the Palo Alto Art Center, Palo Alto. cityofpaloalto.org. (HZ)

IN A NEW LIGHT

continued from page 19

Stanford Live Comedy at the Bing: Ivan Decker (Sept. 28); Mike Vecchione (Nov. 10). live.stanford.edu.

Theater and opera

Fuse Theatre: Cabaret Night (Aug. 26) fusetheatre.org.

Los Altos Stage Company: “Significant Other” (Sept. 7-Oct. 1); “Elf The Musical” (Nov. 30-Dec. 23). losaltosstage.org.

Oshman Family JCC: theatre dybbuk’s “The Merchant of Venice (Annotated), or In Sooth I Know Not Why I Am So Sad” (Sept. 9). paloaltojcc.org.

Palo Alto Players: “Matilda The Musical” (Sept. 8-24); “The Wizard of Oz” (Nov. 3-19). paplayers.org.

The Pear Theatre: “Noises Off,” (Sept 8-Oct. 10); “District Merchants” and “William Shakespeare’s The Land of the Dead,” (running in repertory Nov. 17-Dec. 10). thepear.org.

Peninsula Youth Theatre: “Judy Moody & Stink: The Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad Treasure Hunt” (Oct. 6-7); “The Elves and the Shoemaker” (Nov. 3-4); “Elf The Musical” (Nov. 11-19). pytnet.org.

Stanford Live: Manual Cinema’s Frankenstein (Nov. 4-5)

Teatro Nahual: “Los cuernos de mi marido/My Husband’s Horns” (Oct. 14). mvcpa.com.

TheatreWorks Silicon Valley: “Mrs. Christie” (Oct. 4-29); “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” (Nov. 29-Dec. 24). theatreworks.org.

Upstage Theatre: “Be More Chill” (Oct 20-23). upstagetheater.net.

West Bay Opera: Madama Butterfly (Oct. 13-22). wbopera.org.

Series I (Sept. 21-24); Abhinaya Dance Company presents “A Tale of Friendship and Miracles” (Sept. 29-Oct. 1). Western Ballet’s “The Nutcracker” (Dec. 1-3); Smuin Contemporary Ballet’s The Christmas Ballet (Dec. 7-10). mvcpa.com.

Oshman Family JCC: Bridgman Packer Dance “Ghost Factory” (Oct. 21). paloaltojcc.org.

Stanford Live: Sankai Juku (Oct. 7-8); Akram Khan’s Jungle Book reimagined (Dec. 2-3); El Niño: Nativity Reconsidered (Dec. 13)

Film

Stanford Live: “Wu Tsang’s MOBY DICK; or, The Whale” (Nov. 8) live.stanford.edu.

Silicon Valley Jewish Film Festival: Most screenings held online, with select special screenings and events held in Mountain View, Palo Alto and Atherton. Oct. 15-29; svjff.org.

United Nations Association Film Festival: Various venues in Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Stanford and San Francisco. (Oct. 19-29). unaff.org.

Visual Arts

Cantor Arts Center: Kenneth Tam: All of M (through Nov. 12); Beyond Here: The Judy and Sidney Zuber Collection of Latin American Photography (Aug. 9-Jan. 28); Morris Hirshfield Rediscovered (Sept. 6- Jan. 21); Imvuselelo: The revival (Sept.

Dance

Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts: Smuin Contemporary Ballet Dance



Courtesy Prater Day

SPOTLIGHT: Modern Americana sensation **Lizzie No** will bring her unique brand of alternative rock to **Stanford Live** on Oct. 21. The singer-songwriter, harpist and guitarist who rose to acclaim with the 2017 release of her debut album “Hard Won,” has enjoyed both popular and critical success in the ensuing years. Her second and most recent album, “Vanity,” showcases her songwriting talent and storytelling skill as she embodies a wide range of characters within the album’s tracks. Oct. 21 at The Studio, Stanford. \$25-\$35. live.stanford.edu. (AJ)

FALL ARTS PREVIEW



Courtesy the artists

SPOTLIGHT: Bridgman | Packer Dance, the critically acclaimed duo of Art Bridgman and Myrna Packer, is set to bring their latest work, **“Ghost Factory”** to Bay Area audiences Oct. 21 at the **Oshman Family JCC**. Bridgman and Packer are known for their inventive integration of dance performance and technological innovation; this production features live performance juxtaposed with projected video imagery depicting the deserted factories of Johnson City in upstate New York. The accompanying audio and visual installation, “Places With Hidden Stories,” further elaborates upon the stories of Johnson City residents, as well as Palo Altans, finding common threads in the histories of both towns. Oct. 21, 7 p.m. at Schultz Cultural Arts Hall, Palo Alto. \$25-\$50. eventbrite.com. (A)

27-Jan. 21); museum.stanford.edu.

Anderson Collection: Convergence (through Aug. 27); Color Shift (Correctional Overlay) (through Aug. 27); Sam Francis Centennial (Sept. 16-March 3). anderson.stanford.edu/programs-exhibitions.

Pacific Art League: Abstraction Group Show (Sept. 8 - 26); Lonnie Zarem: Footprints of the Ephemeral (Sept. 8 - 26); Fall &

Winter Landscapes (Oct. 6 - 26); GayLynn Ribeira - Connection: A Modern Look (Oct. 6 - 26); 102nd Anniversary Show (Nov. 11-Jan. 16); pacificartleague.org.

Qualia Contemporary Art Gallery: TAI Xiangzhou: Kunlun Mountain (through Sept. 8); qualiacontemporaryart.com.

Palo Alto Art Center: Boom Oaxaca: Conversaciones de Campo a Campo (Sept. 16-Dec. 9); cityofpaloalto.org.

Los Altos History Museum: Drip; Dry; Flood: Orchard Water Management (through Oct. 8); Building the Future: A Visual History of the Architecture of Silicon Valley (through Oct. 22); losaltoshistory.org.

Fung Collaboratives Art Kiosk: Berkay Burden (through Oct. 1); Pilar Aguero-Esparza (Oct. 7 - Nov 12.); Virginia San Fratello.: Liquid Sol (Nov. 18-Jan. 1); fungcollaboratives.org.

Pamela Walsh Gallery: Under the Big Black Sun (through Sept. 2); Don Scott Macdonald (opens Sept. 9); Myles Bennet (Oct. 22-Dec. 9); pamelawalshgallery.com.

Gallery House: Autumn Breeze (Aug. 30-Oct. 29); Ambience (Nov. 1 - Jan. 7); galleryhouse.art.

Gallery 9 Los Altos: Judi Keyani (Sept.); Maria Pazos (Oct.); Ayelet Gal-On (Nov.); gallery9losaltos.com.

Bryant Street Gallery: Neal Novak (Aug.-Sept.); bryantstreet.com.

Community School of Music and Arts Mohr Gallery: The Wild Places: Greetings from Caddo Lake (through Sept. 17); arts4all.org.

Djerassi Resident Artists Program: Sculpture hikes (through Nov. 27); walking meditation and sound immersion sculpture tour (Aug. 26); Artful Harvest fundraising dinner and special group show (Oct. 22). djerassi.org.

The Foster Museum: Selected works by watercolor painter Tony Foster; thefoster.org.

Portola Gallery: Works by local artists. portolaartgallery.com.

Viewpoints Gallery: James Ong (September); Georges Gomez (October); Deborah Shea (November); Jan Grady (December). viewpointsgallery.com.

The Main Gallery: “Eat, Play, Love” with featured artist Valerie Lauterbach. (through Sept. 10); themaingallery.org.

Palo Alto Festival of the Arts: Aug. 26-27; paloaltochamber.com.

Kings Mountain Art Fair: Sept 2-4; kingsmountainartfair.org.



Courtesy the author

SPOTLIGHT: Studio Ghibli fans, a perfect book talk may be coming your way. Acclaimed author **Remy Lai** will come to **Books Inc. in Palo Alto** Sept. 13 to discuss her most recent graphic novel, “Ghost Book.” The story, inspired by Chinese mythology, follows the adventures of teenager July Chen, who is able to see and communicate with ghosts. As she navigates the realm of the undead and befriends a ghost boy, July’s life is turned upside down. Lai is featured in conversation with local graphic novelist Nidhi Chanani. Sept. 13, 7 p.m. Books Inc., Palo Alto. booksinc.net. (A)

Mountain View Art & Wine Festival: Sept. 9-10; mountainview.miramarevents.com.

Great Glass Pumpkin Patch: Sept. 30-Oct. 1 at the Palo Alto Art Center. greatglasspumpkinpatch.org.

Author events

Books Inc. Palo Alto: Sheetal Sheth and Meena Harris, “Always Anjali” (Aug. 26); Remy Lai, “Ghost Book” (Sept. 13); Chris Negron, “The Last Super Chef” (Sept. 16); book sinc.net.

Books Inc. Mountain View: Eduardo Briceno, “The Performance Paradox” (Sept. 8); Andrew Joseph White, “The Spirit Bares Its Teeth” (Sept. 14); booksinc.net.

Kepler’s Books: Jennifer Lynn Barnes with Tamara Ireland Stone, “The Brothers Hawthorne” (Sept. 8); Marcie Bianco, “Breaking Free: The Lie of Equality and the Feminist Fight for Freedom” (Sept. 13); Susan Lee Romance Panel, “The Name Drop” (Sept. 16); Ava Reid with Allison Saft,

See **IN A NEW LIGHT**, page 22

Petipa Awards Gala

Featuring the U.S. debut of forgotten Petipa work

SEPTEMBER 23

5:30 PM • ONE NIGHT ONLY

PETIPA
HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Scan to read the Spotlight

60th Kings Mountain Art Fair

Art Fair

Fine arts under the redwoods

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Sept. 2, 3, & 4
10am - 5pm

Kids' activities
Food & beverages

Proceeds benefit
KM Fire Brigade &
Elementary School

13889 Skyline Blvd.
Woodside, CA

kingsmountainartfair.org

FALL ARTS PREVIEW

IN A NEW LIGHT

continued from page 21

“A Study in Drowning” (Sept. 19); Heather Cox Richardson, “Democracy Awakening: Notes On The State Of America” (Oct. 5); keplers.org.

Linden Tree: Minh Lê and Chan Chau, “Enlighten Me” (Sept. 20). lindentreebooks.com.

Oshman Family Jewish Community Center: Cocktails and Cookbooks with “Forest Feast” Author, Erin Gleeson (Nov. 11); paloaltojcc.org.

Mountain View Library: Jeff Selingo, “A Year Inside College Admissions” (Aug. 30); Lidia Bastianich, “Life, Love, Family, and Food” (Sept. 7); Pete V. Brett (Sept. 13); Adam Alter, “Anatomy of a Breakthrough: How to Get Unstuck When It Matters Most” (Sept. 20); Amor Towles (Sept. 27); Ann Leckie, “Translation State” (Sept. 28); John Irving (Oct. 26); mountainview.libcal.com.

Palo Alto Library: Josiah Ober, “The Civic Bargain: How Democracy Survives” (Nov. 9); paloalto.bibliocommons.com. ■

Email Editorial Intern Akhil Joondeph at ajoondeph@almanacnews.com and Arts & Entertainment Editor Heather Zimmerman at hzimmerman@almanacnews.com.



Courtesy Mimsy Moller

SPOTLIGHT: Political discourse on social media isn't exactly famous for being rational or calm, but somehow such a voice did end up reaching many eager readers via Facebook. Historian and Boston College professor of history **Heather Cox Richardson** took to her Facebook page to discuss the 2019 impeachment proceedings for Donald Trump with a measured approach, giving historical context along the way. She eventually brought her writings to a Substack newsletter, called “Letters from an American.” She is the author of numerous books about U.S. history and **Kepler's Books** presents Richardson on Oct. 5 in conversation with journalist Angie Coiro talking about her most recent book, “Democracy Awakening: Notes On The State Of America,” which looks at ways to pull back from the brink of authoritarianism. Oct. 5, 7 p.m. at Foothill College, Los Altos Hills. \$10-\$50. keplers.org. (HZ)

Worth a Look



Courtesy the artist

Baritone Babatunde Akinboboye performs hip-hopera, a unique blend of hip-hop and opera, at Filoli's Summer Stage series.

Hip-Hopera with Babatunde Akinboboye

Nigerian-American singer Babatunde Akinboboye offers an unlikely musical combo: Hip-hop and opera. A talented musician with a diverse repertoire, Akinboboye promises to bring harmony to this unorthodox genre pairing. A baritone with extensive experience performing in opera, Akinboboye is known for his charismatic and entertaining stage presence and powerful vocals. This concert is a part of Filoli's Summer Stage series, bringing live entertainment to the picturesque gardens all season long. Bring a blanket, grab a drink at the Bluebird Bar and enjoy a beautiful summer evening as you listen to a unique musical performance.

Aug. 30, 5:30-7 p.m. at Filoli Historic House & Garden, 86 Cañada Road, Woodside. Tickets are \$65-\$150. filoli.org.

DaShawn Hickman

Vocalist and pedal steel guitar maestro DaShawn Hickman will bring his unique twangy, blues-inspired sound to Palo Alto this weekend. Hickman, an established performer, brings his newest work to this concert, centering the pedal steel in his arrangements and showcasing the instrument's signature sound and versatility. Hickman will be joined by Wendy Hickman on vocals and percussion, Vicki Randle on percussion and Scott Amendola on drums. Local presenter Earthwise is organizing this concert, one of many in the presenter's stellar fall lineup.

Aug. 25, 8 - 10:30 p.m. at Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road Palo Alto. Tickets are \$20. eventbrite.com.

Palo Alto Festival of the Arts

This weekend, Palo Alto's University Avenue will transform into an art lover's paradise; colorful paintings will adorn the street, live music will fill the air and vendors showcasing myriad artistic styles will line the road. The Palo Alto Festival of the Arts returns to downtown Palo Alto this year, celebrating its 40th anniversary festival and showcasing a plethora of talented local creatives. In its 40-year history, the festival has offered unique programs, most notably its Italian Street Painting features. Each year, celebrated chalk artists bring their imaginative work to the festival, showcasing this rarely-seen artistic medium on the streets of Palo Alto.

Aug. 26-27, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on University Avenue, Palo Alto. Attendance is free. paloaltochamber.com. Read more about the festival at almanacnews.com/arts. ■

— Briefs by Akhil Joondeph

On target business solutions.

Hyper local.

Mass reach.


Advertise with us.

The Almanac

We'll help you build your brand and grow your business.

Email advertise@
embarcaderoPublishing.com



 embarcadero media

Food & Drink

Five of the newest eateries around the Peninsula and beyond

From a Portola Valley taqueria to new additions at State Street Market, these restaurants offer new options

By Stephanie Gerson

New eateries have opened across the Peninsula and South Bay over the past few weeks, specializing in a wide variety of cuisines. Santa Clara has landed the first local outpost of the popular Korean barbecue restaurant Baekjeong, while a new taqueria has replaced a longtime Portola Valley eatery. Palo Alto's California Avenue has gained a new tapas restaurant and bar, while its downtown area is now home to a Sunnyvale Turkish restaurant's second location. In Los Altos, State Street Market has gained two new vendors.

Sekoya, Palo Alto: Steve Ugur, co-owner of San Mateo Italian restaurant Pausa Bar & Cookery, has opened a new restaurant on California Avenue. The restaurant's soft opening was in early August, officially opening Tuesday, Aug. 15. Sekoya's chef de cuisine Jason Johnson's prior experience includes stints at Chez TJ, Wayfare Tavern and Quince, according to a press release. The menu focuses on California-inspired small plates, with offerings ranging from Thai snapper crudo and housemade Parker House rolls to skewers, prime bone-in ribeye for two and caviar service. Erik Rivera, former bar manager of San Jose's Dry Creek Grill, created Sekoya's drink menu, which features specialty cocktails such as the Sekoya Slushy,

a vodka-based drink with hints of honeydew melon, as well as a wine and beer list.

The restaurant's name pays homage to the California native Sequoia tree and is also the Turkish word for redwood, a nod to Ugur's Turkish roots, according to the press release. There are natural, wooden accents throughout the space, including a "tree table" reserved for special dining experiences. Both indoor and outdoor seating options are available, including patio dining, communal tables, bar and lounge seating and the terrace for private events.

417 California Ave., Palo Alto. Instagram: @sekoyapaloalto.sekoyapaloalto.com.

Baekjeong, Santa Clara: Popular Korean barbecue restaurant chain Baekjeong, Korean for "butcher," opened its first location in Los Angeles in 2012, expanding to seven locations throughout California and New York. Baekjeong opened its first Bay Area location at Westfield Valley Fair on Aug. 16.

Offerings include a wide selection of Korean eats, from bibimbap and kimchi stew to nearly 20 different cuts of meat, such as short rib, pork belly and ribeye. The drinks menu includes a large wine list, including Korean wines, plus beer, mocktails and cocktails like the Dwaenjang Old Fashioned (fermented soy-infused Kikori whiskey, Angostura bitters, Benedictine and jalapeños). If you want to

snag a reservation, get in line: The next available one as of press time is Sept. 19.

2855 Stevens Creek Blvd. Suite 1808, Santa Clara; 650-910-6328, Instagram: @baekjeongkbbq.baekjeongkbbq.com.

Meyhouse, Palo Alto:

Meyhouse started as a Sunnyvale pop-up before it landed a brick-and-mortar location in the same city. Now the Turkish eatery has expanded to downtown Palo Alto, offering a more refined and contemporary approach than its Sunnyvale outpost. The restaurant's name references Istanbul meyhane cuisine, deriving from the Farsi words mey and khāneh, which translate to "wine" and "house." Meal service at Meyhouse is designed to be leisurely and shareable; the menu includes a selection of cold and hot mezes, such as oven-fried eggplant and grilled octopus, as well as fresh fish cooked to order and live-fired meats. The expectation is that diners start with cold dishes before moving to cooked items.

Along with serving raki, the national drink of Turkey made with thrice-distilled grapes, drink offerings include the Pepper and Flower cocktail made with a tequila-mezcal blend, peppers and marigold amaro. Seasonal cocktails will be available as well.

To create a live music ambiance, Meyhouse includes a music venue designed in collaboration with SFJAZZ to bring



Courtesy Sekoya

Sekoya, a new restaurant on California Avenue, focuses on California-inspired small plates.

various international performers to the restaurant.

640 Emerson St., Palo Alto; Instagram: @meyhouserestaurant.meyhouserestaurant.com.

State Street Market 2.O, Los Altos:

Los Altos's State Street Market relaunched in the spring, unveiling a new lineup of food vendors including burger spot Konjoe, Orenchi Ramen, Little Sky Bakery and The Penny Ice Creamery. Earlier this month, the food hall announced the addition of two more vendors: The Good Salad and Bibo's NY Pizza. The Good Salad, an eatery specializing in customizable salads, opened its first location in 2021 in Santa Clara and opened this month inside State Street Market. The salad spot also plans to open in Palo Alto later this year.

San Jose-based Bibo's NY Pizza, a pizzeria bringing East Coast-style pizza to the Bay Area, will also land in Los Altos at the end of this month, serving traditional pizza slices, wings, calzones, cannolis and more.

170 State St., Los Altos; Instagram: @statestreetmarket.statestreetmarket.com.

Jalisco's Grill, Portola Valley:

The small town of Portola Valley rarely sees changes in its limited restaurant scene. For the most part, the family-owned restaurants in town have been operating for decades and remain in the neighborhood due to their loyal customer base of Portola Valley residents. But the recent closure of a nearly 50-year-old cafe made room for a new casual eatery to take its place.

The restaurant space at the corner of Alpine and Portola roads formerly belonged to Portola Cafe Deli Pizza Burgers, which closed in July. The family-run cafe and Portola Valley staple opened in 1976 and was known for its expansive breakfast and lunch offerings including pizza, burgers, sandwiches, wraps and coffee drinks. Jalisco's Grill opened in its place in late July, offering casual Mexican fare.

Jalisco's Grill has a small menu featuring burritos, tortas, quesadillas, huaraches and gorditas. Breakfast offerings include chilaquiles, breakfast burritos and huevos a la Mexicana. Horchata and agua de jamaica, a hibiscus tea, are on the drinks menu.

3 Portola Road, Portola Valley; 650-863-8412. Open daily from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. ■

Email the Peninsula Foodist at peninsulafoodist@almanacnews.com.

Dig into food news. Follow the Peninsula Foodist on Instagram @peninsulafoodist and subscribe to the newsletter at almanacnews.com/express/foodist to get insights on the latest openings and closings, learn what the Foodist is excited about eating, read exclusive interviews and keep up on the trends affecting local restaurants.



Courtesy Meyhouse

Palo Alto's new Turkish restaurant Meyhouse is the the second location for the eatery. Its original location is in Sunnyvale.



Courtesy The Good Salad

The Good Salad, which offers customized salads, opened in August in Los Altos's State Street Market.

94027

ATHERTON



PRIVATE SETTING ON JUST OVER ONE ACRE LOT

76 ALMENDRAL AVENUE
ATHERTON

- / Built by Pacific Peninsula Group in 2010
- / Three levels with 6 bedrooms, office, and 6.5 baths
- / 1-bedroom, 1-bath guest house with kitchen
- / Approx. 11,284 sq. ft. (buyer to confirm)
Home: 10,011 sq. ft.
Garage: 705 sq. ft.
Guest House: 568 sq. ft.
- / Attached 3-car garage
- / Recreation room, bar, customized wine cellar, theatre, and fitness center
- / Separately fenced pool and spa, outdoor shower and cold plunge, loggia with barbecue center, custom playground

Offered at \$24,995,000

CentralAthertonEstate.com

COMPASS



GULLIXSON.COM

GULLIXSON

BRENT 650 888 4898
DRE 01329216
BRENT@GULLIXSON.COM

MARY 650 888 0860
DRE 00373961
MARY@GULLIXSON.COM

The Gullixson Team is ranked #5 small team in the nation and #1 Compass small team in the nation in RealTrends report of the Top Residential Real Estate Professionals. (June 2022)

Compass is a RE broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License #01527235. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.